

**Department of Science and Technology (DST)**  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Government of India  
and  
**Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Argentine Republic (MINCyT)**  
Government of Argentina  
Indian- Argentine Scientific Research Program

**JOINT CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS**  
**2023**

In the framework of the India-Argentine scientific and technological cooperation, the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Argentine Republic (MINCyT) are glad to invite researchers and scientists to submit joint proposals for research projects carried out by scientists from both countries until **April 30, 2023**.

The aim of this program is to support the development of scientific and technological cooperation between Indian and Argentine researchers and to strengthen the scientific partnership between research groups from both countries by establishing bilateral research networks, enhancing research cooperation and promoting the exchange of knowledge between Argentine and Indian scientists.

***AREAS OF COOPERATION***

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of the Argentine Republic (MINCyT) provide financial support to joint research activities carried out by research groups in both countries. Indian-Argentine research groups are hereby invited to submit joint proposals for research projects in the following topics:

- a) Biotechnology
- b) Energy Transition

**FORMS OF COOPERATION**

Cooperation will consist in conducting joint research as well as mutual visits between laboratories for the purpose of facilitating the research.

Cooperation may also take the form of:

- Joint research activities in which interdependent subprojects of a single project are conducted in Indian and Argentine and laboratories.
- Complementary methodological approaches to a common problem.
- Joint use of research facilities, materials, equipment and/or services by cooperating scientists.
- Principal Investigators/ Co-Investigators and young researchers (PhD students and/or Post-doctorates) visits. \_\_\_\_\_

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Indian and Argentine collaborative research groups that submit a research project in the above cooperation areas are eligible.

Each research group must be led by a National Project Manager, who must be a member of an academic or research institution or a professor emeritus who is still conducting research at an academic or research institution. The led researcher should not be retired/ superannuation during the duration of the said project.

In addition, each research group must be composed of two (2) or more researchers, preferably young researchers.

Those directly involved in the organization of the call or in the evaluation of the projects, or their immediate family members, are not eligible for this call.

### **PROJECT DURATION**

Selected projects will have a duration of up to two years from the beginning of their execution, according to the schedule of this call.

### **PROJECT FUNDING**

Both parties will fund up to FOUR (4) joint research projects.

Both parties will make separate financial arrangements and provide funding to successful applicants in accordance with their own relevant regulations.

#### **a) Project Funding by MINCYT:**

MINCYT will fund each Argentine research group for up to a maximum amount in PESOS equivalent to USD 10,000 (US dollars) per project per year, to be disbursed in 2023 and 2024, subject to the internal funding provisions and subsequent funding reporting. Such amount will be paid in pesos, translated at the Banco de la Nación Argentina exchange rate prevailing at the time funding is approved.

This funding will be sent to the bank account of the institution designated by the Argentine Project Manager for management.

#### **Eligible Items for MINCyT Funding**

The funds provided by MINCyT are intended to cover the following costs:

- I. Consumables: spare parts, supplies, educational materials, bibliography.
- II. Project-related travel costs for working team members and invited researchers. Accommodation costs in the Republic of India for project members. As a general rule, trips may last up to 30 days.
- III. Publications.

IV. Minor equipment, joint seminars, workshops and outreach activities.

The funds provided by MINCyT will not cover the following costs:

- I. Technical assistance.
  - II. Fees.
- b) **Project Funding by DST:** The Department of Science and Technology will provide the funds for maximum of two visits per year (one for led/ co-led researcher and one for young researcher) upto 14 days. The funds for contingency upto Rs. 50,000 per year may also be considered.

**PROJECT SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

**a) Submission:**

*Projects must be submitted jointly and simultaneously by the respective Managers of the research groups in India and Argentina using a project application form. The national research groups of both parties should consult with each other prior to making the joint submission to the offices.*

*Applicants from each country must simultaneously send the completed project application form via email to the appropriate office in their country:*

Argentina Coordination Office	India Coordination Office
National Directorate for the Promotion of Scientific Policy <a href="https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ciencia/cooperacion-internacional">https://www.argentina.gob.ar/ciencia/cooperacion-internacional</a> Godoy Cruz 2320, Piso 4, Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires C.P.: C1425FQD E-mail: <a href="mailto:convocatoriasinternacionales@mincyt.gob.ar">convocatoriasinternacionales@mincyt.gob.ar</a>	Dr. Jyoti Sharma Scientist F International Cooperation Division Department of Science and Technology Ministry of Science and Technology Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi-12 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Sharma.jyoti@nic.in">Sharma.jyoti@nic.in</a>

## **b) Requirements:**

*The two forms submitted to the respective offices should be identical in terms of participants, project title, research content, work plan and expected research outcomes.*

*Only such forms as have no differences between them according to the above provisions and that have been duly completed, signed and timely submitted simultaneously at both offices in accordance with the provisions of this call will be valid and accepted.*

## **PROJECT EVALUATION**

*Submitted projects will be evaluated on the basis of various criteria considering the priorities established in this call, scientific quality, implication of the project for the social and economic development of the country, its applicability and the budgetary availability of the parties.*

Projects will be simultaneously evaluated by experts from both countries (India-Argentina) appointed by DST and MINCYT, respectively.

On a first stage, proposals will be evaluated at country level based on the following criteria:

- Project (creativity and originality, relevance of proposed goals and expected results, consistency between goals, methodology and work plan).
- Research Group (scientific and technological capacity and competence of the research group, training and education of human resources).
- Cooperation (relevance and timeliness of trips, desirability of the international cooperation and cooperation background).

After they are pre-evaluated and ranked by the experts appointed by each Party, proposals will be jointly evaluated for final ranking by an ad hoc Joint Indian-Argentine Evaluation Committee.

DST and MINCYT will decide which and how many projects will be funded and how much funding projects will be awarded based on the results of the evaluation and ranking process and considering any budgetary requirements and other constraints.

The evaluation process will be conducted on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Alignment with the program research topics set out above.
2. Significance (quantitative where applicable) of the problem addressed, and potential impact of the proposed approach to solve it. Proposals should address these issues explicitly and provide as much evidence as possible.
3. Scientific merit, with emphasis on the originality and novelty of the proposed research.
4. Clarity and quality of the research proposal itself – presentation of the topic, definition of research objectives, presentation of research methodology and detailed work program.
5. Feasibility of the research program.
6. Practical applicability of expected research results.
7. Extent of genuine collaboration between the Argentine and Indian research teams.
8. Level of involvement of young researchers (PhD students and/or post-doctorates).

The decisions of the Joint Argentine-Indian Evaluation Committee on the final selection of projects will be non-appealable and will be subsequently reconciled in a joint record.

### ***FINANCIAL REPORTING AND FINAL SCIENTIFIC REPORTS***

#### **a. Financial Reporting:**

The institutions to which each National Manager belongs will submit a financial report to DST or MINCYT, respectively as applicable.

The Argentine group shall submit a financial report certified by an accountant, as requested by the Administrative Area at MINCYT. These conditions will be specified and informed to the Argentine Project Manager at the time the grant is awarded.

The Indian group will submit the checklist duly signed by the competent authority of their institution/ ministry.

#### **b. Final Scientific Reports**

Annually followed by within two months after project completion, each National Manager will submit a final full scientific report to the MINCYT or the DST, as applicable.

An English version of the final scientific report of no less than 30,000 words must be submitted to both offices.

A Spanish version must be submitted to MINCYT in addition to the English version.

An English version (to be completed by the counterpart) must be submitted to DST in the [prescribed format](#) of the DST.

### ***COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS***

The results will be announced to the winners by a formal communication sent to the Project Managers by e-mail and on the DST and MINCYT web pages.

## **10. SCHEDULE**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Estimated Period</b>
Submission Deadline	30 April, 2023
Country-Level Evaluation Period	1 May – 31 July, 2023
Final Joint Selection	August, 2023
Communication of Results	August – September, 2023
Project Execution in Argentina – Start Date	September – October, 2023
Project Execution in India – Start Date	September – October, 2023

## **11. INFORMATION**

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons:

### **ARGENTINA:**

**For administrative inquiries:** [convocatoriasinternacionales@mincyt.gob.ar](mailto:convocatoriasinternacionales@mincyt.gob.ar)

**INDIA:** [sharma.jyoti@nic.in](mailto:sharma.jyoti@nic.in)

**Format for Application**  
(Proforma for Submission of Joint Projects Proposals – 2020)

**INDIA–ARGENTINA PROGRAMME OF  
COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY**

**A. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION**

1. Title of the Project:
2. Duration of the Project:
3. Main research/thematic area, of the project (Ref. field from subjects mentioned in call):
4. Field of science and technology covered by the Proposal (4 Keywords qualifying the scope of proposal)
5. Project Investigators (PI) and Collaborating Institutions:

	<b>Indian Side</b>	<b>Argentina Side</b>
Name of PI: Designation: Institution's Address: Tel: Mobile: Fax: E-mail: Date of Birth:		
Name of Co-PI Designation: Institution's Address: Tel: Mobile: Fax: E-mail: Date of Birth:		

**Other Research Team (including young researchers/ Ph.D. students):**

**B. TECHNICAL INFORMATION**

1. Abstract (max. 250 words)
2. Objectives of the Project (max. 4-5 in numbers)
3. Expected Major Outcomes:
4. Justification for collaboration & brief information about national and international scenario in the proposed area of research (max. one page)

5. Scientific & technical description of the project (up to 500 words)
6. Methodology
7. Plan of work

<b>Time Schedule</b>	<b>Responsibilities of Indian Research Team</b>	<b>Responsibilities of Argentina Research Team</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Year		
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year		



8. Infrastructural facilities related to the project activities available in the institutes where the project work will be carried out:

At the Indian Collaborating Institute	At the Argentina Collaborating Institute

9. Number of exchange visits required to achieve the Project Objectives (Year wise)

Period	India to Argentina		Argentina to India	
	Number	Duration	Number	Duration
1 <sup>st</sup> Year				
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year				
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year				

10. Expected results of this cooperation (e.g. joint publications, patents etc.). Are any of the expected results likely to have commercial value? (up to 150 words)

11. Research History of both PIs:

**Indian PI**

National Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

International Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

**Argentina PI**

National Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

International Projects (ongoing/ completed in last 5 years):

S. Nos.	Project Title	Funding Agency	Approved Budget	Status

12. Bio-data of Indian and Argentina investigators to be attached. [The description should highlight the expertise of the PI(s) and CO-PIs in the proposed field of work supported by citing relevant publications only (to be appended in about 2 pages only)]

### **C. ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

#### **Project Cost (Indian side)**

<b>Heads</b>	<b>First Year</b>	<b>Second Year</b>	<b>Third Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Exchange Visits (including VISA and Medical Insurance) Two visits/ year</b>				
<b>Contingency</b>				
<b>Overhead Charges</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

#### **Project Cost (Argentina side)**

<b>Heads</b>	<b>First Year</b>	<b>Second Year</b>	<b>Third Year</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Exchange Visits (including VISA and Medical Insurance)</b>				
<b>Contingency</b>				
<b>Overhead Charges</b>				
<b>Total</b>				

### **D. OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT**

1. Is this research currently being supported by other sources? YES NO If yes, please indicates the sources, amounts and periods of support.

Indian side	Argentina side

2. Has this project been submitted to other agencies for financial support? YES NO If yes, please indicate which agencies, and when.

Indian side	Argentina side

### Signatures of the Project Investigators & Co – investigators

**Indian**

**Argentina**

### 1. Declaration from the Heads of the Collaborating Institutions:

It is certified that

- i) the Institutions agree to participate in this Joint Research Project;
- ii) the Institutions shall provide infrastructure & necessary facilities for implementing the joint project;
- iii) the Institutions assume to undertake financial & other management responsibility for the part of the project work to be carried out at their institution; and
- iv) The back-up funding for manpower, consumable etc. is available to support this project.

Signature & Seal of the Head of the Institutions

**Indian**

**Argentina**

**ENDORSEMENT FROM THE HEAD OF  
INSTITUTION(TO BE GIVEN ON  
LETTER HEAD)**

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 
1. Certified that the Institute welcomes participation of Dr./Shri/Smt./Km. \_\_\_\_\_ as the Principal Investigator and Dr./Shri/Smt./Km. \_\_\_\_\_ as the Co-Investigator for the project and that in the unforeseen event of discontinuance by the Principal Investigator, the Co- Investigator will assume the responsibility for the fruitful completion of the project (after obtaining consent in advance from DST).
  2. Certified that the equipment, other basic facilities and such other administrative facilities as per terms and conditions of the grant, will be extended to investigator (s) throughout the duration of the project.
  3. Institute assures financial and other managerial responsibilities of the project.
  4. Certified that the organization has never been blacklisted by any department of the State Government or Central Government.

Name and Signature of Head of Institution

Date: .....

Place:.....

*REMARKS: In regard to research proposals emanating from scientific institutions/laboratories under various scientific departments the Head of the institution is required to provide a justification indicating clearly whether the research proposals falls in line with the normal research activities of the institution or not and if not, the scientific reasons which merit its consideration by DST.*

CERTIFICATE FROM THE  
INVESTIGATOR

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1. We agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the DST grant.
2. We did not submit this or a similar project proposal elsewhere for financial support.
3. We have explored and ensured that equipment and basic facilities will actually be available as and when required for the purpose of the project. We shall not request financial support under this project, for procurement of these items.
4. We undertake that spare time on permanent equipment will be made available to other users.
5. We have enclosed the following materials:

ITEMS	NUMBER OF COPIES
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- |     |  |                 |
|-----|--|-----------------|
| (a) | Endorsement from the Head of<br>One the Institution (on letter head)                             |                 |
| (b) | Certificate from Investigator  | One             |
| (c) | Certificate from Investigator regarding conflict of interest                                     | One             |
| (d) | Name and address of experts/institution interested in<br>One the subject/ outcome of the project |                 |
| (e) | Copies of the proposals  | Three hard Copy |

Date : .....

Name & Signature of  
Principal Investigator

Name & Signature Of  
Co-Investigator(s)

Place:.....

**DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**POLICY ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**FOR REVIEWER & COMMITTEE MEMBER**

**or**  
**APPLICANT or DST OFFICER ASSOCIATED/ DEALING WITH THE SCHEME/**  
**PROGRAM OF DST**

Issues of Conflicts of Interest and ethics in scientific research and research management have assumed greater prominence, given the larger share of Government funding in the country's R & D scenario. The following policy pertaining to general aspects of Conflicts of Interest and code of ethics, are objective measures that is intended to protect the integrity of the decision making processes and minimize biasness. The policy aims to sustain transparency, increase accountability in funding mechanisms and provide assurance to the general public that processes followed in award of grants are fair and non- discriminatory. The Policy aims to avoid all forms of bias by following a system that is fair, transparent and free from all influence/ unprejudiced dealings, prior to, during and subsequent to the currency of the programme to be entered into with a view to enable public to abstain from bribing or any corrupt practice in order to secure the award by providing assurance to them that their competitors will also refrain from bribing and other corrupt practice and the decision makers will commit to prevent corruption, in any form, by their officials by following transparent procedures. This will also ensure a global acceptance of the decision making process adopted by DST.

**Definition of Conflict of Interest:**

Conflict of Interest means "any interest which could significantly prejudice an individual's objectivity in the decision making process, thereby creating an unfair competitive advantage for the individual or to the organization which he/she represents". The Conflict of Interest also encompasses situations where an individual, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics, could exploit his/her obligatory duties for personal benefits.

**1. Coverage of the Policy:**

- a) The provisions of the policy shall be followed by persons applying for and receiving funding from DST, Reviewers of the proposal and Members of Expert Committees and Programme Advisory Committees. The provisions of the policy will also be applicable on all individuals including Officers of DST connected directly or indirectly or through intermediaries and Committees involved in evaluation of proposals and subsequent decision making process.
- b) This policy aims to minimize aspects that may constitute actual Conflict of Interests, apparent Conflict of Interests and potential Conflict of Interests in the funding mechanisms that are presently being operated by DST. The policy also aims to cover, although not limited to, Conflict of interests that are Financial (gains from the outcomes of the proposal or award), Personal (association of relative / Family members) and Institutional (Colleagues, Collaborators, Employer, persons associated in a professional career of an individual such as Ph.D. supervisor etc.)

**2. Specifications as to what constitutes Conflict of Interest.**

Any of the following specifications (non-exhaustive list) imply Conflict of Interest if,

- (i) Due to any reason by which the Reviewer/Committee Member cannot deliver fair and objective assessment of the proposal.
- (ii) The applicant is a directly relative# or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or personal friend of the individual involved in the decision making process or alternatively, if any relative of an Officer directly involved in any decision making process / has influenced interest/ stake in the applicant's form etc..
- (iii) The applicant for the grant/award is an employee or employer of an individual involved in the process as a Reviewer or Committee Member; or if the applicant to the grant/award has had an employer-employee relationship in the past three years with that individual.
- (iv) The applicant to the grant/award belongs to the same Department as that of the Reviewer/Committee Member.



- (v) The Reviewer/Committee Member is a Head of an Organization from where the applicant is employed.
  - (vi) The Reviewer /Committee Member is or was, associated in the professional career of the applicant (such as Ph.D. supervisor, Mentor, present Collaborator etc.)
  - (vii) The Reviewer/Committee Member is involved in the preparation of the research proposal submitted by the applicant.
  - (viii) The applicant has joint research publications with the Reviewer/Committee Member in the last three years.
  - (ix) The applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member, in contravention to the accepted norms and ethics followed in scientific research has a direct/indirect financial interest in the outcomes of the proposal.
  - (x) The Reviewer/Committee Member stands to gain personally should the submitted proposal be accepted or rejected.
- 

# The Term “Relative” for this purpose would be referred in section 6 of Companies Act , 1956.

### 3. **Regulation:**

The DST shall strive to avoid conflict of interest in its funding mechanisms to the maximum extent possible. Self- regulatory mode is however recommended for stake holders involved in scientific research and research management, on issues pertaining to Conflict of Interest and scientific ethics. Any disclosure pertaining to the same must be made voluntarily by the applicant/Reviewer/Committee Member.

### 4. **Confidentiality:**

The Reviewers and the Members of the Committee shall safeguard the confidentiality of all discussions and decisions taken during the process and shall refrain from discussing the same with any applicant or a third party, unless the Committee recommends otherwise and records for doing so.

### 5. **Code of Conduct**

#### **To be followed by Reviewers/Committee Members:**

- (a) All reviewers shall submit a conflict of interest statement, declaring the presence or absence of any form of conflict of interest.
- (b) The reviewers shall refrain from evaluating the proposals if the conflict of interest is established or if it is apparent.
- (c) All discussions and decisions pertaining to conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.
- (d) The Chairman of the Committee shall decide on all aspects pertaining to conflict of interests.
- (e) The Chairman of the Committee shall request that all members disclose if they have any conflict of interest in the items of the agenda scheduled for discussion.
- (f) The Committee Members shall refrain from participating in the decision making process and leave the room with respect to the specific item where the conflict of interest is established or is apparent.
- (g) If the Chairman himself/herself has conflict of interest, the Committee may choose a Chairman from among the remaining members, and the decision shall be made in consultation with Member Secretary of the Committee.
- (h) It is expected that a Committee member including the Chair-person will not seek funding from a Committee in which he/she is a member. If any member applies for grant, such proposals will be evaluated separately outside the Committee in which he/she is a member.

**To be followed by the Applicant to the Grant/Award:**

- (a) The applicant must refrain from suggesting referees with potential Conflict of Interest that may arise due to the factors mentioned in the specifications described above in Point No. 2.
- (b) The applicant may mention the names of individuals to whom the submitted proposal should not be sent for refereeing, clearly indicating the reasons for the same.

**To be followed by the Officers dealing with Programs in DST:**

While it is mandatory for the program officers to maintain confidentiality as detailed in point no. 6 above, they should declare, in advance, if they are dealing with grant applications of a relative or family member (including but not limited to spouse, child, sibling, parent) or thesis/ post-doctoral mentor or stands to benefit financially if the applicant proposal is funded. In such cases, DST will allot the grant applications to the other program officer.

**6. Sanction for violation**

**For a) Reviewers / Committee Members and b) Applicant**

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action as decided by the Committee.

**For Officers dealing with Program in DST**

Any breach of the code of conduct will invite action under present provision of CCS (conduct Rules), 1964.

**7. Final Appellate authority:**

Secretary, DST shall be the appellate authority in issues pertaining to conflict of interest and issues concerning the decision making process. The decision of Secretary, DST in these issues shall be final and binding.

**8. Declaration**

**I have read the above “Policy on Conflict of Interest” of the DST applicable to the Reviewer/ Committee Member/Applicant/ DST Scheme or Program Officer # and agree to abide by provisions thereof.**

I hereby declare that I have no conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant \*I hereby declare that I have conflict of interest of any form pertaining to the proposed grant \*

\* & # (Tick whichever is applicable)

**Name of the Reviewer/ Committee Member or Applicant or DST Officer**

*(Strike out whichever is not applicable)*

**(Signature with date)**