

Egypt-Russia

Cooperation Program for Scientific Research

Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF), Egypt

www.stdf.org.eg

&

Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR), Russia

www.rfbr.ru

Call for joint proposals

Cycle II (February 1, 2016)

I. Background:

The Russian Foundation for Basic Research (RFBR) and the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF) agreed to co-finance collaborative research projects. The common commitment in promoting collaborative scientific research laid its foundation in 13 May, 2013 by signing the MoU on the Establishment of an Egyptian-Russian Cooperation Program for Scientific Research. The indicative average funding is USD 20,000 from the Egyptian side and 700,000 RUR from the Russian side per project per year. Each project will be funded for a period of two years. Based on the evaluations of the joint research proposals and consensus discussion between the Parties (ranking of the projects), STDF will fund Egyptian researchers and RFBR will fund Russian researchers according to the regulations of each organization. The areas of this Joint Research will cover the topics identified under “II”.

Projects are conducted under the direction of an Egyptian and Russian Principal Investigator (PI) and therefore, **must** have partner institutions from Egypt and Russia. Apart from being the Principal Investigators, each PI is responsible for coordinating the activities of the research project and his/her research team and is responsible for the submission of annual and final technical and fiscal reports. Work on joint projects may be performed at institutions in either or both countries, depending on the type of activity.

II. Mutually Identified Priority Topics:

The Egyptian and Russian sides, STDF and RFBR, respectively, identified the topics for their mutual cooperation and they agreed on the following areas:

- Fundamentals of sustainable and productive agriculture
- Prevention and treatment of the socially important diseases
- Solar-terrestrial interactions
- Red Sea rift: biodiversity, ecological factors, geological models and recent geodynamic processes
- Theoretical basics of the electronic educational systems, networks and services

III. Application:

RFBR and STDF will open a call for proposals in accordance with their respective rules and conditions. The frame, submission, eligibility rules, evaluation process and period of the projects shall be decided by mutual consent of the RFBR and STDF. All applicants must fulfill national eligibility rules for their research grant application. The co-applicants will designate one national principal investigator for every proposal. All applications must be uploaded on the STDF/RFBR websites (for Egyptian scientists - www.stdf.org.eg and for Russian scientists - www.rfbr.ru using electronic systems KIAS for Russian scientists to which registration is required). Please note that proposals submitted as hard copies or sent via email will not be considered. Please download the full proposal template by clicking the following link: [Full Proposal Template](#)). Each application shall include at least the following appendices (in English):

1. Joint abstract (no more than one page in length)
2. Joint research plan (no more than fifteen pages), which shall include:
 - a. A clear description of the planned research collaboration (distribution of work and methods of implementation)
 - b. Responsibilities of both partners
 - c. Joint budget of the joint research project including separate budgets for both partners
 - d. Expected outcomes in accordance with added value of this collaboration and its relevance for the industry and society, taking in consideration the ongoing activities between the Russian and Egyptian groups.
 - e. A discussion on how the proposed joint project compares with other comparable activities worldwide
 - f. A discussion on how the intellectual property and know how arising from the accomplishment of the joint research projects will be handled
3. Curricula vitae of the principal investigators of both partners shall include basic information of education, past and present position, and membership of relevant organizations/associations and a list of five relevant papers and other publications or patents of the principal investigators. Each CV should not be more than one page (for guidance, please see Part A of the relevant application form).

After the closure date of the call, RFBR and STDF will exchange the result of application to each party by official documents.

IV. Peer reviewing:

RFBR and STDF will evaluate the proposals according to their own evaluation rules, and will rank the proposals based on quality and interest. The evaluation criteria will be based on the following:

- a. Relevance of the proposal to the call
- b. Quality of the proposal
- c. Quality of the project management and methodology
- d. Global impact of the proposal
- e. Quality of the consortium and good synergies between the partners
- f. Mobilization of resources
- g. Added value to be expected from the Egyptian-Russian research collaboration
- h. Balanced scientific and financial contributions

Based on the evaluation, national ranking, and consensus reached through discussions, the Parties will exchange ranked results and consult to select the joint projects. Then parties will agree on the joint projects to be funded. If a party does not agree to fund a project, the project will be rejected.

V. Eligibility:

- ✓ A jointly prepared proposal submitted by Egyptian and Russian investigators working at universities or research centers.
- ✓ The applicants will act as the project's Principal Investigators (PIs).
- ✓ The PIs must be a PhD degree holder. Egypt – STDF applicants must be PhD/MD holders affiliated to an Egyptian research entity (university, research institution / center ... etc.
- ✓ Any other sources of funding for the project should be clearly stated and explained in the proposal.
- ✓ The Egyptian Applicant must include a signed and stamped Endorsement letter from the institution's legal representative as shown in the Application Form. The Egyptian Applicant must include a signed Declaration as shown in the application form

VI. Important Dates:

Action	Date
Announcement of the call	01/02/2016
Deadline for proposal submittal	04/05/2016
Eligibility check and exchange of data	09/05/2016
Exchange of evaluation results	19/09/2016
Joint decision on supported projects	03/10/2016
Date for grant contract agreement and start of implementation	January 2017

VII. Financial conditions:

The results and awardees of the competition will be announced in November, 2016.

Funding for the awarded projects will be provided as per the required and approved budget for each project and as per the terms and conditions followed by STDF and RFBR in their respective countries is organized as follows: Each side covers expenses of its national participants.

RFBR grant is envisaged to cover the expenses associated with the implementation of the project by the Russian scientists; the STDF is responsible for the expenses of the Egyptian participants.

All expenses of the Russian participants associated with the implementation of the project shall comply with the "list of research projects' typical expenses", which can be found on RFBR's website.

List of supported projects will be published on the Russian Foundations' websites.

VIII. Reports:

Russian and Egyptian awardees will have to submit intermediate and final reports according to the RFBR and STDF rules.

The decision to continue funding of the project after its first year will be based on the results of reviewing intermediate reports. For RFBR of the key conditions for continuing of a project's

funding is timely presenting progress report along with joint publication(s) in a peer-reviewed journal(s).

IX. Contacts:

STDF	RFBR
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