

T A
C R

DELTA 2 Programme

 PICTT



Terms of Reference and Scope

For the Delta 2 Programme Czech-Nigerian Bilateral Co-funding R&D Projects

1. Introduction

The Presidential Implementation Committee on Technology Transfer/Information Exchange between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Czech Republic hereby announces a Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR) and the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni) under the Delta 2 Programme. The joint R&D projects will focus on specific outcomes in the field of applied research, that is, they will lead to new findings, innovative solutions, skills and capacity development for the production of new, high-tech and significantly improved products, processes and services. Beneficiaries are expected to develop new products and R&D results that would be applied to solve current challenges and be commercialised by the private sector companies.

This Joint Call for Proposals serves to provide the common understanding of the programme structure and to provide a brief on the general requirements. Participants are subject to additional rules and regulations. Lead organizations (Principal Applicants) on both sides, Czech and Nigerian, are responsible for seeking out and understanding their respective national laws, rules and regulations, and abiding by them accordingly.

2. Programme Structure

The TA CR follows the concept of applied research, experimental development and innovation. In this context, applied research refers to an original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge and should be directed primarily towards a specific, practical goal or objective. Experimental development is a systematic work, drawing on knowledge gained from research and practical experience and producing additional knowledge, which is directed towards producing new products or processes or towards improving existing products or processes. Innovation is a new or significantly improved product (good or service) introduced to the market, or the introduction within an enterprise of a new or significantly improved process. The Research and Development activity proposed under this Call must therefore reflect the following features:

- i. novelty
- ii. creativity
- iii. certainty
- iv. systematic procedure and methodology
- v. transferability and/or reproducibility

The project should have an obvious advantage and added value, resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the respective countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, satisfy commercial needs, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.). Any interested applicant whose R&D project proposal is compliant with the aforementioned criteria may apply for the present open Call for Proposals in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and guiding laws.

The Delta 2 Programme invites technology related organizations from both Nigeria and the Czech Republic to participate in this Call for Joint R&D projects (Please refer to Section 2.2 on Applicant Eligibility for more information). Joint R&D Project Proposals shall be submitted according to the following procedures.

2.1 Focal Areas for R&D Project Proposals

Priority areas of cooperation is as follows:

- i. Agricultural and Food Technology
- ii. Mining and Industrial Development
- iii. General Manufacturing for SMEs Development

TA CR cannot support solely Defence and Medical research projects with a predominance of clinical studies activities, as these areas are being supported by different funding institutions in the Czech Republic.

2.2 Applicant Eligibility

Applicants shall take the form of consortiums consisting of R&D organisations based in the Czech Republic making up one side of the partnership, and R&D organisations based in Nigeria making up the other side of the partnership.

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Nigerian Party in a Consortium

The lead organization from Nigeria shall be a company, duly registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), regardless of the size of the company. Universities or Research Institutions may apply for the Delta 2 Programme funding, provided the consortium includes at least one Nigerian company duly registered with the CAC. ***Interested applicants linked to or collaborating with NASENI are not allowed to participate in this Programme .***

Czech Party in a Consortium

A company, regardless of the size, must be the lead organization on the Czech side. Universities or research organizations may apply for the DELTA 2 Programme funding only provided that the consortium constitutes at least one Czech company. ***Interested applicants linked to or collaborating with TA CR are not allowed to participate in this Programme.***

All Czech and Nigerian applicants are subjected to initial screening which examines the institution's capability to carry out the project. Screening criteria include, but are not limited to, bankruptcy history, disposition for tax delinquency, default history of the head of the company, debt ratio, review of the recent financial statement in terms of capital erosion, etc. Failure in any of the criteria will disqualify the applicant and the respective proposal will not proceed to the next step of proposal evaluation.

2.3 Schedules of the Programme

- Promotional period - 1st March – 17th May, 2022
- Launch of the Call for Proposals - 18th May, 2022
- Project submission period - 19th May – 13th July, 2022
- Proposal screening and evaluation period - 14th July – 18th November, 2022
- Results announcement deadline - 30th November, 2022
- Project kick-off - January 2023

The final result would be announced on TA CR, NASENI and PICTT websites on the same date.

2.4 Project Duration and Funding

The TA CR and NASENI will fund the respective nationals in the selected consortia in accordance with their national/regional funding rules. Supplementary funding may come from participant's own resources should the total project cost exceed the government funding. Matching fund is the basis of the funding scheme but flexibility in the funding ratio may be allowed depending on the roles each participant undertakes.

Information about the Czech funding scheme "DELTA 2" is available at <https://www.tacr.cz/en/delta-2-programme/>

Information about the Nigerian funding scheme is available at www.pictt.gov.ng and www.naseni.gov.ng

Czech Budget and Support

- The total maximum budget for the current Call for Proposals is CZK 250 million (250 million Czech Koruna, approximately equal to US\$ 11 million).
- Funding is provided on an annual basis.
- Should the project be found to be disqualified based on interim evaluations, the TA CR may retrieve the unused government funding.
- Funding will be awarded with an average funding intensity of 74 %.
- Eligible project costs include personal costs, subcontracting costs, other direct costs and stipends.

Project Duration

- Project must begin between 1st January to 30th March, 2023.
- The TA CR will award funding from January 2023 following the conclusion of agreement on the provision of funding with the lead applicant.
- Government contribution would be available for 36 months maximum.

Nigerian Budget and Support

- The maximum number of projects fundable under the current call for proposals under the Nigerian-Czech joint call is twenty five (25).
- The grant is provided on the basis of matching funding requirement.
- Should the project be found to be disqualified from the interim evaluations, NASENI may retrieve the unused government funding.
- Funding will be awarded with maximum support intensity of 70%.
- Eligible project costs include: New equipment, Materials, Personnel costs, Subcontracting or consulting, IP protection, and travels for the purpose of the project.

2.5 Proposal Submission

Czech participants shall upload a complete funding application at the time of the proposal submission. More information is available at: <https://www.tacr.cz/soutez/program-delta-2/> (CZ) or <https://www.tacr.cz/en/delta-2-programme/> (ENG)

Consultation at an early stage (before the call is launched) is highly recommended. After the call launch on 18th May 2022 only consultations via the official TA CR online helpdesk (<https://helpdesk.tacr.cz/>) is available in order to secure the same access to information to all applicants.

Nigerian applicants shall submit a completed funding application at the time of the proposal submission. More information can be found at: <https://www.pictt.gov.ng>
Consultation at an early stage is recommended. Please contact: info@pictt.gov.ng or adebimpe_sosan@pictt.gov.ng or WhatsApp/Call 07051150473 for any questions or concerns.

2.6 Proposal Evaluation Procedure

The TA CR and NASENI will independently evaluate the submitted proposals in accordance with the respective national/regional rules and regulations. Evaluation results for the top candidates will be shared and discussed between two organizations. Finally, the TA CR and NASENI will jointly select the final consortia within approximately 4 - 5 months after the call deadline.

TA CR's Main Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Usefulness of project and its contribution to fulfilling the goals of DELTA 2 Programme
- 2) Expected benefits of project and expected quality of project results
- 3) Project feasibility and realisation procedure

NASENI's Main Proposal Evaluation Criteria

- 1) Usefulness of project and its contribution to fulfilling the goals of the 3 priority areas
- 2) Expected benefits of project and expected quality of project results
- 3) Project feasibility and realisation procedure

2.7 Annual Evaluation/Progress Inspection

TA CR performs regular inspections of the supported projects, once at least during its lifetime. Also, the TA CR may demand project reports for review and ad-hoc inspections may be executed when a problem is indicated. In case a project is found to have failed its obligations, the Board of the TA CR may retrieve the TA CR funding, of which the final amount to be retrieved is calculated in accordance with the national rules and regulations in effect at the time. Should the project be disqualified by the Nigerian side only, the case will be subject to further decision by the Board of the TA CR whether to retrieve the remaining government funding.

NASENI will monitor and manage funded projects in accordance to regulations within NASENI Establishment Act. This includes disbursing funds according to milestone reports and conducting announced site visits at funded companies. NASENI reserves the right to discontinue funding in the case of non-performance. Should the project be disqualified by the Czech side only, NASENI will make procedural decisions on a case by case basis.

4. Contact

PIC/NASENI

www.pictt.gov.ng

www.naseni.gov.ng

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