

Federal Ministry of Education and Research
Abridged summary of the call for proposals for the
funding of the development and establishment of contract research in African
innovation systems

(Courtesy translation – only the German version is legally binding)

Important notice: Proposals in this funding line are only eligible if they are submitted by an applicant from an institution located in Germany together with their African partner.

1. Background

With its Africa Strategy, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is aiming to strengthen the networking of science and industry in order to increase the orientation of research to applications and the utilization of research results and thus to support economic development in Africa. At the same time it also aims to open new opportunities for German industry to further develop its trade and investment relations. It is planned to pool the expertise of the players in the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation at regional level and thus to contribute to the development of individual regions in African partner countries. The added value will be created locally in Africa.

The intention of this measure is to fund projects to develop and establish contract research in African innovation systems.

German cooperation with African countries will have a greater focus on innovation and utilization of research results. The strengthening of cooperation between universities/research institutes and companies in African countries from its currently rather low level will help these countries to create conditions for better economic development in the regions.

The funding measure is designed to address various levels. For example, funding will be available for projects which improve the conditions required for science-industry collaborations by developing relevant capacities at African universities, research centres and also companies.

Funding will also be available for collaborative projects in which German and African partners work in tandem to carry out “contract research” free of charge for African companies for the purposes of familiarization with the instrument of contract research and its strengths and advantages for economic development. A flanking measure is to provide networking support for the funded projects, as well as to develop synergies, analyse implementation results and draw up recommendations.

2. Object of funding

Funding will be provided for research projects (bilateral or collaborative) which show high practical relevance in accordance with the funding purpose described above and pursue the following priorities:

A) Projects for capacity building in science-industry cooperation at African universities and research centres as well as companies

These projects should support the development of technology-transfer structures at African universities and research centres in the following areas especially:

- Technology scouting
- Proactive interaction with companies
- Commercialization processes (intellectual property rights, licensing/patenting, identification of a commercial partner)
- Advice and support for negotiations and network building
- Marketing

Furthermore, funding can be provided for components for training and coaching for researchers (under the train-the-trainer principle):

- Professionalization and cooperation competence building
- Project management and conducting of contract research for commercial companies
- Utilization of research results
- Science marketing
- Developing personal and institutional networks
- Science and transfer management

Providing support for strategy processes at African universities and research centres as well as at companies can also be part of these projects, particularly with regard to

- the identification of innovative value-adding chains and the associated research requirements
- the conduct of “technology road map” processes

B) Projects to conduct joint contract research for African companies

Where relevant structures and collaborations are already in place, German and African universities or research institutes may conduct contract research in tandem projects for African companies (in cooperation with German companies as appropriate).

The focus of the project should be on conducting application-oriented joint research to solve a technological problem of one or more African companies. In addition, measures can also be funded which strengthen the capacities of African universities or research institutes and provide them with information about (industry) standards and work

processes they need to take into account in order to be able to conduct their own contract research for companies.

3. Recipients of Funding

Applications may be submitted by universities, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research as well as commercial companies, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises. Applicants are required to have a plant or branch (company) or another entity to act as funding recipient (universities, non-university research institutions and other institutions contributing to research) in Germany at the time of payment of the grant.

4. Deadline

February 28 2019

Link to the German full version

<https://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/bekanntmachung-2142.html>

5. Contacts

Contact persons:

Contact for scientific questions:

First point of contact for this call:

Dr. Anja Köhler

Phone: +49 228 3821-1428

Telefax: +49 228 3821-1411

E-mail: anja.koehler@dlr.de

Contact for administrative questions:

Grazyna Sniegocka

Phone: +49 228 3821-1811

Telefax: +49 228 3821-1411

E-mail: grazyna.sniegocka@dlr.de