

Description of process for Joint Call between The Earth System Science Organization – Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Republic of India (ESSO-MoES) and the Research Council of Norway (RCN)

The Earth System Science Organization – Ministry of Earth Sciences of the Republic of India (ESSO-MoES) and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) are launching a call for proposals in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed in Oslo, 14 October 2014. The deadline for the call is **15 April 2015**.

Both organisations intend to support research projects within the fields of geohazards and polar climate system research. Norwegian funding is provided by the three RCN programmes INDNOR, POLARPROG and KLIMAFORSK. Up to 60 million NOK is available from these programmes from the Norwegian side and an equivalent contribution will be matched from ESSO-MoES for Indian participation in the call.

The project proposals should be as per the prescribed template.

Scientific part

The call is divided in the two following topics:

1. Crustal deformation and related seismic hazards and risks in India and Norway
2. The climate system in Polar Regions including teleconnections

The joint call is based on recommendations from scientific workshops held in New Delhi in February 2014 for topic 1 and November 2013 for topic 2 respectively.

The call text is agreed on by both parties.

Who can apply?

Joint research projects are to be carried out by established research groups from both countries eligible for funds by their respective funding agencies. The Principal Investigators (PIs) and project managers (PM) must hold a position at a research centre or a higher educational institution of the respective country.

Joint proposals must be developed in cooperation between PIs representing one research institution in Norway and one research institution in India. However more Indian and Norwegian institutions may take part in the proposals. To ensure adequate participation of all project partners and encourage long-term cooperation, the project description should clearly describe the role of each partner and their collaboration in the project.

What types of activities are eligible for funding?

Funding may be sought for research projects. Joint research projects may have a maximum duration up to 4 years, including dissemination and network activities (e.g. workshops, conferences). Any grants to support recruitment of PhD students and post-doctoral fellows

should be integrated components of the project proposal. Proposals for individual fellowships for their own research are not possible in the present call.

The scope of the project should be realistic within the timeframe and budget limitations of the project.

Application procedure

Each proposal shall have one Norwegian and one Indian PI. Norwegian PIs must submit the proposal electronically to the RCN according to RCN rules. Indian PIs may also submit the proposal in the prescribed template along with personal details in pdf version. The proposals should be identified with a common short name/acronym, and a joint (common) project description should be enclosed. The proposals submitted to the respective funding agencies must be identical.

The joint project description, including activities, should be clearly addressed according to a timeline, and should be organized into work packages when appropriate. The following should be included in the project description:

- Milestones should be identified that can be used to easily follow the progress of the project.
- Budget information should be detailed and clearly presented along with year-wise break-up, and should, when necessary, be specified in the project description.
- Management structure and partner roles must be described. Please notice that two PIs representing one Indian and one Norwegian partner respectively must be identified.
- The proposal and project description (a maximum of 10 pages, Times New Roman 12-point font, footnotes and references included) must be well-structured and clearly written in English.
- The project description must be submitted using the designated template for researcher projects. All items of information in the template must be completed.
- Indian-Norwegian cooperation must be documented by a written commitment.
- Available budget

A budget of NOK 60 million in total will be available from the RCN. NOK 30 million is allocated for each topic respectively. Upper limit per project is NOK 6 million.

The number of projects selected for funding will strongly depend on the number and quality of the submitted applications and the available funds.

ESSO-MoES will match an equivalent contribution to support Indian PIs of successful projects

Assessment and joint decision-making procedure

The proposals submitted in accordance with the guidelines, and received electronically by the respective PIs within the deadline will go through an eligibility check and reviewed scientifically.

Review of the proposals will be conducted through parallel reviews where ESSO-MoES and the RCN will follow their respective rules, regulations and practices.

A joint decision meeting will be conducted by ESSO-MoES and the RCN to agree on selection of proposals for funding. Final decision of proposals selected for funding will be reached by consensus in this meeting. Only projects that have obtained a high score based on scientific merit can be considered for support.

A list of the awarded research projects will be published by both ESSO-MoES and the RCN webpages as soon as the decision is agreed upon.

Assessment criteria:

- Scientific merit
- Project management and the Project group
- Implementation plan and resource parameters
- International cooperation in addition to Indian and Norwegian collaboration
- Dissemination and communication of results
- Relevance to the call of proposals
- Overall mark of the referee panel

Assessments will use the following ranking system available for the respective parties:

A – Excellent project. The project should be supported

B – Good project. Project should be supported if funding is available.

C – The project should not be supported

Contracts and collaboration agreements:

The RCN will enter into contract with the Norwegian applicant for the Norwegian PIs institution of the project. The Indian PI's have to give endorsement and undertakings once the proposal is recommended for support of funding.

A consortium agreement detailing the obligations of each partner must be drawn up before the contract with the RCN is signed. The collaboration agreement should include specification of the rights to and use of findings (IPR).

Reporting:

The national project coordinators will submit yearly progress reports and final report to their respective funding agency. The Indian PI shall submit reports to ESSO-MoES in accordance with its regulations and the Norwegian PI shall submit reports to the RCN in accordance with its regulations. Individual reviews of the project will be done by ESSO-MoES and RCN followed by a joint decision meeting.

Proposal submission:

Indian and Norwegian applicants shall submit duplicate applications in English to ESSO-MoES and RCN.

For Indian applicants, application should be submitted to ESSO-MoES as per the template given in the call for proposal.

For Norwegian applicants, application should be submitted to RCN via the electronic application system, see <http://rcn.no> for guidelines.

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