

## 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 amount will be matched from ESSO-MoES for Indian participation in the call.

The project proposals must follow the template given in the Annex (see page 5 of this document).

### 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 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 would not be given .

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 (as per Annex Page 5) and send the pdf version of the same as per details mentioned at [http://www.moes.gov.in/content/indo-norway\(RCN\)](http://www.moes.gov.in/content/indo-norway(RCN)). 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 (see the Annex page 5). All items of information in the template must be completed.
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- 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 PI's institution of the project. The Indian PI's have to give endorsement and undertakings as detailed in [http://www.moes.gov.in/content/indo-norway\(RCN\)](http://www.moes.gov.in/content/indo-norway(RCN))

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. Joint or individual reviews of the project will be done by ESSO-MoES and RCN

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 procedure detailed on its website [www.moes.gov.in/content/indo-norway\(RCN\)](http://www.moes.gov.in/content/indo-norway(RCN))

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

Contact Persons in Norway:

Torill Engen Skaugen, Department for Climate and Polar Research, [tens@rcn.no](mailto:tens@rcn.no)

Christine Daae Olseng, Department for Climate and Polar Research, [cdo@rcn.no](mailto:cdo@rcn.no)

Merethe Sandberg Moe, Department for Cooperation and Development research, [mm@rcn.no](mailto:mm@rcn.no)

**Contact person in MoES:**

For call 1: Dr O.P.Mishra, Scientist, Prithvi Bhavan, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Lodi Road, New Delhi: 110003 email: [omp.mishra@nic.in](mailto:omp.mishra@nic.in)

For call 2: Dr Vandana Chaudhary, Scientist D, Prithvi Bhavan, Ministry of Earth Sciences, Lodi Road, New Delhi: 110003; email: [v.chaudhary@nic.in](mailto:v.chaudhary@nic.in)

# ANNEX: Template for project description for Research Projects

## PLEASE NOTE:

**Please complete all relevant items. Please follow the order of the items given in the template.**

**The project description is not to exceed 10 pages, including the list of references, unless otherwise specified in the call for proposals. It is not possible to upload an attachment that exceeds this page total. The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Times New Roman 12-point font. It is permitted to use 9-point font for the list of references and figure text.**

**Links that are listed in the project description will not be included in the assessment.**

**You must also provide information on the project's objectives, implementation, budget, etc. in the electronic grant application form created on "My RCN Web". The following explains areas where the project description supplements the information you have listed in the application form.**

## 1. Relevance relative to the call for proposals

Please provide a brief description of the relevance of the project relative to the guidelines and principles set out in the call for proposals.

## 2. Aspects relating to the research project

The project's primary and secondary objectives are to be described in the electronic **grant application form**.

### **Background and status of knowledge**

Applicants are to provide a brief description of the background for the project and document their familiarity with the research area as well as their understanding of the key challenges to knowledge, both nationally and internationally.

### **Approaches, hypotheses and choice of method**

- Approaches to the research problem and/or hypotheses are to be presented clearly using language that will be understandable to individuals with a general understanding of the field. Please try to avoid overuse of abbreviations, technical terminology, etc. Approaches to the research problem and/or hypotheses must be adequately defined in relation to the objectives and project plan.

It is important to describe how the project will serve to expand existing knowledge as well as how it represents original thinking and scientific renewal. Describe the theoretical approach and show how research problems have been defined as well as the scientific methods that will be utilised. Justify the choice of method, and explain how these methods will be appropriate in relation to the project's research problems and/or hypotheses. Alternatively, you may describe how the project will help to develop the necessary methodology and/or theory.

- *When relevant*, the application of a multi- and interdisciplinary approach should be described.

### 3. The project plan, project management, organisation and cooperation

The project period and progress plan encompassing the project's main activities and milestones are to be provided in the electronic **grant application form**. The partners (institutions/companies) that will be under obligation to contribute to the project by performing R&D activities and/or providing funding, and/or that will be granted rights to the project, should be entered in the application form as well.

The project description is to provide a more detailed description of how the project will be carried out.

- Please provide an account of the planned project implementation. Particularly in the case of large-scale and/or complex projects, it is important to describe the planning of the individual scientific components as well as how interaction between these will take place. The project must be realistic and feasible, scientifically, organisationally, and in relation to planned use of resources.
- A specification of how the work in the project will be performed must be provided. If the project is organised into work packages, subsidiary tasks or sub-projects, the specification should be organised accordingly.
- Describe how the project will utilise national research expertise and promote national network-building.
- *When relevant*, a description should be provided of the extent, substance and importance of international cooperation.
- In the case of applied and industry-oriented research, a description of the impact of the project and its results for key user groups must be provided.
- An overview of the overall expertise, infrastructure and other resources from the applicant institution(s) that will be significant to the implementation of the project must be provided. This is in addition to the overview over planned project funding that is provided in the grant application form.
- For projects involving fellowships, a brief summary about the teaching environment and the framework in place for ensuring that the candidate(s) complete the programme must be provided.
- For overseas research grants, information about the research environment that the candidate will be visiting must be provided.

#### **Budget**

A periodised budget, cost plan and funding plan are to be entered in the **electronic grant application form**. Fields are also provided there for specifying and providing supplementary information. Further details relating to large-scale and/or complex projects may also be provided here in the project description.

### 4. Key perspectives and compliance with strategic documents

#### **Compliance with strategic documents**

An account must be provided of how the project conforms to the strategic objectives and plans laid down by the applicant institution/company, and/or in relevant subject-specific evaluations and research agendas, *when this is specifically requested in the call for proposals*.

#### **Relevance and benefit to society**

*When appropriate*, the project's relevance and benefit to society should be described. For instance, it should be stated whether the project will help to provide knowledge that will be useful for meeting important challenges in the public sector, industry or civil society. This may be placed in a regional, national, international or global context.

### **Environmental impact**

Describe whether the implementation of the R&D project and/or the utilisation of project results will entail any significant environmental impacts (positive and negative).

### **Ethical perspectives**

The ethical questions relating to the project must be described, along with how these will be dealt with.

Here it may be useful to consult the recommendations of the national committees for research ethics: <https://www.etikkom.no/en/In-English/Research-Ethical-Checklist/>

### **Gender issues (Recruitment of women, gender balance and gender perspectives)**

When relevant, a description should be provided here of how the project will promote the gender balance in projects. If gender perspectives are relevant to the substance of the project, describe how these will be taken into account.

## **5. Dissemination and communication of results**

### **Dissemination plan**

Specific plans for scholarly and popular science dissemination activities, for instance regarding the scientific journals to be involved, are to be included in the <b>electronic grant application form</b> .
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Supplementary information about the plans for scholarly and popular science dissemination may be provided here in the project description.

### **Communication with users**

*When appropriate*, specification should be provided of any particular user groups that are relevant for the project, and the manner of their involvement should be described. The information channels that will be used to communicate research findings should also be indicated.

## **6. Additional information specifically requested in the call for proposals**

Only information that is explicitly requested in the call for proposals and is not included in the points above should be provided here.