

France – Spain 1st Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects

Deadline for Submission – 29 January 2016

Within the cooperation practices existing between France and Spain in the fields of industrial and technological research and development in the framework of the EUREKA program, in which both countries are full and active members, participants from both countries are invited to submit joint project proposals.

Scope

Bpifrance from France and the Centre for Industrial Technological Development (CDTI) from Spain are announcing the 1st Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects, focusing on developing innovative products and applications in all technological and market areas. Applicants are expected to develop ready to market solutions or projects which have strong market potential for France and Spain.

Although this call invites projects **in ALL thematic areas**, special focus is given to the following domains:

- Electronic, IT and Telecoms Technology
- Industrial Manufacturing, Machinery, Materials and Transport
- Agrofood technology
- Biotechnology, Medical device
- Environment, Energy

National authorities

The French National Authority is Bpifrance, the French Public Investment Bank (BPI), which is in the service of the financing and development of companies. The Spanish National Authority is the Centre for Industrial Technological Development (CDTI), responsible for fostering the technological development and innovation of Spanish companies.

Both Bpifrance and CDTI will provide all necessary assistance to project partners during project proposal preparation and submission, evaluation and monitoring phase. In addition, both parties will facilitate EUREKA application process and acquisition of the EUREKA label for accepted proposals.

These organizations will also provide access to public funding for endorsed joint projects. The support will be given to each partner by its own Authorities in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect, on a non-exchange of funds basis, and subject to budgetary availability in each country.

Call Launch and Structure

The call is announced in the field of industrial research and development between Spain and France and in cooperation with EUREKA program, in which both countries participate. Hence, the program is managed in cooperation and in line with the procedures of EUREKA innovation platform (www.eurekanetwork.org)

The Call is **launched on 1 October**, 2015 by Bpifrance and CDTI.

Eligible partners are invited to present joint proposals for industrial R&D projects according to the following procedures:

Qualifications

- The partners should include at least one French and one Spanish R&D performing commercial companies. Participation of research institutes/universities is welcome as subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.
- Companies from other countries may also participate, but they will not be funded by CDTI or by Bpifrance.
- The French and Spanish partners must express their will to cooperate, on an equal basis, to the development of a new product, industrial process or service. The product, process or service must be innovative and there must be a technological risk involved.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).
- The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from both countries on an equal basis, and the project must be equally significant to both participants.
- The participants are required, prior to obtain the EUREKA label, to have signed a consortium agreement.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

Submission and approval procedures will consist of two phases:

1. In the first phase, partners will be asked to present a short project outline in English via the following EUREKA Project Application Form:
<http://www.eurekanetwork.org/sites/default/files/projectform.pdf>
 - The completed electronic forms should be simultaneously submitted to the official relevant contact person in the respective EUREKA office (see details below); Bpifrance and CDTI until **29 January, 2016 at 17:30 (local time)**.
 - The forms have to be legally signed by all participating companies. The signatures must be scanned and sent together with the EUREKA form as an integral part of the application of phase 1.
 - The forms will be screened and evaluated by CDTI and Bpifrance. Applicants will be contacted by staff of the respective national authorities within two weeks to refine the definitive proposals.

2. In the second phase, partners with approved outlines will be invited to submit their national applications according to its own procedures no later than **18 March 2016 at 17:30** (local time).
 - In France, the participants will have to submit a formal national application to Bpifrance's contact person (see below).
 - In Spain the participants will have to submit a formal R&D international project application through CDTI's website (<https://sede.cdti.gob.es/>) including an updated application form (according to the comments made by the national authorities), draft consortium agreement and national project outline.

The successful proposals are expected to receive the Eureka Label in the NPC/HLG meeting that will take place in the third week of June.

Financing

Each country will fund its eligible participants within the EUREKA framework. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary from country to country. As a summary, the main funding criteria are explained below:

France:

French companies must submit their funding application to Bpifrance within two months of receiving their eligibility notice. The funding application form is available on Bpifrance website. A financing decision will be taken within three months after the receipt of a complete application.

According to Bpifrance funding rules, French enterprises with less than 2.000 employees are financed through reimbursable loan with 0 interest. The funding rate is up to 65% (maximum amount: 3 M€ per participant).

University/Research Organizations are not funded. They are welcomed as subcontractors of a French company. Costs relating to subcontracting are taken into account.

Additionally, Bpifrance can provide funding support to cover French companies' needs in the preparation of their project via the Technological Partnership Aid (APT).

Spain:

CDTI will finance industrial research and/or technological development activities of Spanish companies. Universities and research centers can be funded as subcontractors.

The funding modality for the project will be a partially reimbursable soft loan, with financial cover of 75% of the total approved budget. The non-reimbursable part will be a 30% of the loan. Detailed information can also be reached from [here](#).

Spanish tasks in the project cannot start before submitting the funding application to CDTI, once the project has received the Eureka Label. For further information, please contact directly with CDTI.

According to EUREKA's practices, applicants may choose to request a label without public financing (e.g. self-funding is also applicable)

Contact details and project outline submissions

France

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Spain

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