



NOTICE: Support on Partner Searches for Research Projects

Science and Technology Cooperation Project China – Malta

1 Introduction

Reference is hereby being made to the **Agreement on Science and Technological Co-operation framework** between the Government of Malta and the Government of the People's Republic of China, as well as to subsequent agreements made by the Joint Commission on Science and Technology between the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the People's Republic of China and the Malta Council for Science and Technology (MCST).

The MCST and the MOST aim to:

- i. Strengthen the scientific collaboration between the two countries and to increase the R&D activities;
- ii. Facilitate the transfer of technology;
- iii. Maintain a comprehensive, steady and long term cooperation through the support of researchers' mobility, and the networking of industries, universities and research institutions to generate mutually beneficial win-win research.

The agreement on Science and Technological Co-operation will be implemented through a two-step approach:

Step 1 Expression of Interest (EOI) – to be issued March/April 2019

The call will be aimed at Maltese and Chinese entities who are interested in cooperating on research projects. To express their joint interest, applicants will have to submit a preliminary proposal through the EOI, together with evidence of an already-established Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or similar, as well as an IP Agreement for the Maltese-Chinese collaboration. Maltese entities will submit their application to MCST, whilst the corresponding Chinese entities will do so to MOST. Both of these submissions should be complementary to each other.

MCST and MOST will shortlist applications that will be allowed to proceed to Step 2

Step 2 Submission of full project proposals – to be issued around June 2019

Entities from both sides will elaborate on their EOI proposals, through a full project proposal.

2 Thematic Areas for 2019

- a) Maritime Services and/or Maritime Technology and/or Aquaculture
- b) Transport

MCST and MOST will welcome proposals that offer collaborative opportunities for scientific breakthrough research, and/or, proposals having a potential for strong commercial synergies and industrial impact.

It is expected that MCST and MOST will fund at least one project from either one of the thematic areas of cooperation, or possibly, one from each of the two areas, subject to restrictions in budget made available to MOST and MCST.

MCST has a total budget of €350,000 for 2019, whilst MOST shall provide matching funding for its counterparts.

3 Eligibility Criteria

Whilst the Eligibility criteria shall be stipulated during the launch of the EOI, further details will be provided in the Submission of the full project proposals.

However, in order to be considered for the EOI stage, applicants must:

- a) Either be a Maltese Public Entity (including academic entities) or a Maltese Legal Entity with a legal personality created under the laws of Malta. Such a Legal Entity must act in its own name, be capable of the exercise of rights and be subject to obligations. One Maltese Entity must collaborate with one Chinese entity (these may be legal entities based in China, including universities, research institutes, and enterprises, in particular SMEs), as a minimum requirement. However, more than one partner on either side of the bilateral collaboration, within the same project, is permissible and is encouraged.
- b) Hold a signed and valid Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or similar, with its Chinese partner/s, outlining the cooperation agreement for this initiative
- c) Have a signed and valid IP Agreement with its Chinese partner/s
- d) Ensure that in the course of application for the EOI, the Maltese entity submits its application to MCST, **AND** the Chinese entity/partner submits its application to MOST, within the prescribed timelines, by completing as application form and providing therewith the mandatory documents outlined in a) and b) as appendices

4 Publication of Notice ahead of Expression of Interest (EOI)

MCST is publishing this **Notice** to assist Maltese entities with identifying potential Chinese partners ahead of the publication of the EOI, as well as during the EOI. This is intended to



facilitate the initiation of discussions between entities, the agreement of an MoU or similar, and an IP agreement. This will ensure a better chance of success in finding suitable partners and complying with an on-time EOI submission to the relevant authorities (i.e. MCST or MOST).

MCST is thus inviting interested parties who would like support on partner searches, to contact:

Dr. James Foden, Senior Director, Malta Council for Science and Technology, Malta
(james.foden@gov.mt)

Partner search requests should be submitted to the above email address with a brief description of the research area of interest (in-line with the Thematic Areas for 2019), the type of Chinese partner required, as well as the competencies needed for the purpose of the eventual and potential bilateral research project.