

FUNDAÇÃO PARA A CIÊNCIA E A TECNOLOGIA, PORTUGAL

&

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF
CHINA OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (MOST)

**CALL FOR JOINT PROJECT PROPOSALS
UNDER THE PORTUGAL-CHINA
JOINT INNOVATION CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MATERIALS**

NOTICE OF THE CALL

1. General information

According to the [Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry for Education and Science of the Portuguese Republic and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China](#) on Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation, signed in Lisbon on 25 June 2012, the **Portugal-China Joint Innovation Centre for Advanced Materials** was established on 28 February 2013 at Zhejiang University. With the support of joint entities in China and in Portugal, the Centre aims to strengthen R&D activities and technology transfer, as well as the market uptake of innovations in the fields of advanced materials.

The Zhejiang University is the main partner for this cooperation on Chinese side.

In order to pursue the joint activities of the above Joint Innovation Centre, the Department of International Cooperation of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (MOST), and the *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (FCT) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education of Portugal, issue the present call.

Each research proposal must involve cooperation between at least two research groups, one of which is a Chinese partner and one of which is a Portuguese partner, under a joint research plan.

The engagement of more groups on both sides is encouraged, as is the academia-industry alliance. In light of the mission of the Portugal-China Joint Innovation Centre, in the proposals the research consortia should make explicit considerations regarding the future commercialisation of viable results.

Applications should be submitted by **29 February 2016**, for R&D Projects for Advanced Materials

2. Research Areas

Up to three projects in the following key fields will be selected for financial support, for three years:

- Biomedical Materials
- Nanotechnology and Nanomaterials
- Sustainable Materials
- Materials for Energy

3. Eligibility

3.1. Through FCT

Applicants may apply, individually or in association, from the following entities research teams:

- a) Institutions of higher education, their institutes and R&D centres;
- b) Associated Laboratories;
- c) State Laboratories;
- d) Private non-profit institutions whose main object are activities of Science and Technology;
- e) Companies that are part of projects led by R&D institutions of public or private non-profit;
- f) Other public and private institutions, non-profit, which carry out or participate in scientific research activities.

3.2. Through MOST

Chinese applicants will follow MOST regulations for eligibility (<http://www.most.cn>).

4. Submission of applications

4.1 Applicants must fill in the **Application Form** which must be submitted in English. It should be presented as a unique research project with the required documents requested.

4.2 Applications submitted to FCT should follow the national rules for the funding of scientific and technological research projects (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/projectos/regulamento>) as regards: beneficiaries, general conditions for admission and acceptance of projects, eligible and ineligible costs, evaluation and selection criteria.

4.3 Documents requested by FCT

Applications should be submitted with a **Declaration of Commitment** duly completed, signed by the Principal Investigator and, in legal terms, by the Portuguese beneficiary institutions

4.4 Submission of applications

4.4.1 The proposal, drawn up jointly, must be submitted to FCT by the Portuguese Principal Investigator and to MOST by the Chinese Principal Researcher. Each Principal Investigator should confirm the partner's submission.

4.4.2 Portuguese applicants should download the **Application Form** and send it to FCT, olga.dias@fct.pt, in pdf format. Chinese applicants should apply to MOST online submission system (<http://most.gov.cn>).

4.4.3 Applications which are not submitted in both institutions shall not be considered.

4.4.4 Proposals submitted by any other means will not be accepted. Submissions after the deadline will not be considered.

5. Evaluation

5.1 Proposals will be evaluated through a competitive process that will consider the scientific merit and

the relevance of the proposal, using *peer review* system, conducted by FCT and MOST independently and respectively.

5.2 On FCT side, the evaluation will be performed by an international evaluation panel.

5.3 After evaluation, a Joint Committee Meeting between FCT and MOST will decide which proposals will be funded.

5.4 Applications will be excluded from the call for proposals if do not follow national rules.

6. Funding

6.1. FCT, through the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, is responsible for the funding of institutions and Portuguese researchers involved in joint teams, and MOST will take over the funding of researchers from China.

6.2 FCT will provide the overall amount of €300,000 for Portuguese teams. Three proposals are expected to be funded. The maximum budget for Portuguese research institutions for each project will be €100,000 for a period of three years. MOST will provide matching funding for co-funding of up to three projects, with three years duration.

6.3 The duration period for funding joint bilateral projects is limited to thirty-six months, non extendable.

6.4 Portuguese Principal Investigators which projects are selected for funding should sign the Terms of Acceptance in accordance with the General Regulation applied by FCT.

6.5 Portuguese institutions should follow the national rules, **namely the Regulations Governing Access to Scientific Research Project Finance and Technological Development-2010**.

6.6 National applicants approved for funding will be invited to formally submit the respective project and budget on the FCT site.

7. Reporting Final Results

The final results will be announced on the FCT website (www.fct.pt) and on the MOST website (<http://www.most.gov.cn>) and in writing to the Principal Investigators.

8. Contract of selected projects

Portuguese Principal Investigators of selected proposals should sign an **Acceptance Agreement**, which should, in legal terms, also be signed by the Principal Contractors and the Participating Institutions.

9. Grant Cancellation

FCT or MOST may cancel financial support if a fact of sufficient gravity happens that force the cancellation of funding, without prejudice to other applicable provisions, as set out in their national regulations.

10. Complaints and information

Candidates who do not complain the terms of this call until the second day prior to the deadline set for the submission of proposals lose the right to do so.

11. Contacts

For specific information related to the application submission, please contact

- Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)

Olga Dias (olga.dias@fct.pt)

- Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST)

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