



Ministerio de
**Ciencia, Tecnología
e Innovación Productiva**
Presidencia de la Nación



**National
Research
Foundation**

SOUTH AFRICA / ARGENTINA JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS (2013)

CLOSING DATE: 30 August 2013

In 2006 South Africa and Argentina signed an inter-governmental bilateral agreement on cooperation in the fields of science and technology to be jointly implemented and administrated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) in South Africa and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation in Argentina. The objective of this collaboration is to further strengthen science, technology and innovation between the two nations. In terms of this agreement, we are pleased herewith to announce the **third call for joint research project** proposals between South African and Argentine researchers, and invite all local researchers wishing to participate to submit their proposals by the due date indicated below.

Who may apply?

South Africa: This call is open to all working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and the other in Argentina, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. The South African applicant must be in possession of at least a master's degree (preferably a PhD). Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.

Argentina: The Principal Investigator (PI) and other investigators in Argentina should be Scientists/ faculty members working in regular capacity in recognized Universities/ Deemed Universities, Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Laboratories/ Institutes. The Argentine PI should not be retiring or leaving the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project.

How do I apply?

South Africa: Application forms for South African applicants may be downloaded electronically from the NRF website (www.nrf.ac.za).

No hard copies of the application will be accepted. Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

Argentina: Application forms for Argentine applicants may be downloaded from the website: www.mincyt.gov.ar. The original project proposals may be submitted in the prescribed format to (Argentine contact) and one copy typed form to be e-mailed to megodoy@mincyt.gov.ar before the closing date. The applications should be forwarded through designated authority of the Institute/University/Laboratory.

Which activities may I apply for?

During the present Call, funding will only be made available for the conducting of joint research projects, only in the following priority areas:

- Agricultural science and technology
- Social sciences and humanities

- Biotechnology
- Energy
- Space science

Funding will be available for a maximum of three years, **starting in 2013**, with funds exclusively to be used for mobility of scientists/ researchers/ students associated with the project or approved project activities. Bursaries, scholarships, publication costs, project management fees, consultant fees, VAT and purchasing of equipment will not be accommodated under this programme. Consumables can be set in the budget within reasonable parameters (not more than 15% of the total requested budget). Up to two exchange visits (visit of one person at a time being counted as one visit) may be allowed per year. Each visit may be up to a maximum of three months.

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. **Proposals must be received in both Argentina and South Africa.** Proposals received in only one of the two countries will be automatically disqualified. The NRF call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and evaluation from both countries should be positive for the applications to be funded.

Financial Terms

The following will be the financial terms for the visits of scientists between South Africa and Argentina under the approved projects:

The international travel cost for the scientists will be borne by the sending side \ including the ground travel in the city/town of destination. Medical insurance shall be provided for the visiting scientists by the sending side.

Argentinean side: The South African scientists visiting Argentina shall be paid a per diem amount of \$ 340 per day for short missions of up to 15 days, \$ 5,200 for intermediate missions of 21 days and \$ 6,000 per month for missions of more than 21 days duration. These amounts will cover the costs of accommodation and daily meals.

South African Side: The Argentine scientists visiting South Africa shall be paid a per diem amount corresponding to the budgets submitted by the South African Projects Directors as part of their funding applications. The approval of the second year of the project presented during the 2013 Call for Proposals will be based on the Progress Report that project directors will have to present to the cooperation coordinating offices in each country, at the end of the financial year, which is the month of March of each year of the life-cycle of the project.

How much should I apply for?

While funding levels are not fixed, a suggested maximum of **R450 000.00 per project** may be used as a general indicator of available funds (i.e. **R150 000.00 per year**) in South Africa. In Argentina, MINCYT would provide the cost of approved exchange visits and consumables based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

Note that both scientific and financial reporting on the project is an **OBLIGATORY** condition of funding in subsequent years.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below applications will be assessed separately by NRF based on the following criteria:

- Track record of the applicant
- Quality of the proposal / scientific merit
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building
- Value addition by the collaboration / national priority
- Possible impact of the research / national priority

(Note that proposals demonstrating strong elements of capacity building, particularly among **historically disadvantaged institutions**, will be favourably regarded by the South African side). Following these assessments, projects will be shortlisted for funding through mutual consultations between DST and NRF based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries.

Note further that funding will only become available once both funding agencies have completed their respective national procedures.

When is the closing date for applications?

All South African applications must be submitted by **30 August 2013**.

Where can I obtain more information?

South Africa:

For programme related queries:

Mr Siyabonga Kohli

Overseas Cooperation

Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4356

E-mail: skohli@nrf.ac.za

For grant and technical related queries:

Ms Lee Anne Seymour

International Research Grants

Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4121

E-mail: Seymour@nrf.ac.za

Argentina:

Lic. Maria Eugenia Godoy

Responsable proyectos-Area Bilateral

Dirección Nacional de Relaciones Internacionales

Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología e Innovación Productiva

Tel: 54 11 4891-8300 ext. 6406

Fax: 54 11 4891-8460

E-mail: megodoy@mincyt.gov.ar