

## **Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF) National Annex**

### **Call for Participation in BRICS Innovative Projects 2025**

BRICS is an international grouping of several major economies established to develop economic, commercial, and developmental cooperation for the mutual advancement of its members; its origins date back to 2009. Although the term BRICS refers to the five countries Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, the Islamic Republic of Iran also joined the grouping (alongside four other countries, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates) in the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024.

According to the declaration of the 16th BRICS Summit (Kazan), some BRICS member countries, including the Islamic Republic of Iran, will issue calls this year for the implementation of joint projects in the field of “innovation and technology commercialization.” The aim of these calls is to establish new relationships among technology and innovation institutions of BRICS members as a driver for economic development and for improving the quality of life of citizens of member states.

This call, issued by the Iran Innovation Fund (INIF), has been prepared within that framework to provide financial support for up to five joint projects in the field of “innovation and technology commercialization,” carried out in cooperation between Iranian knowledge-based companies and their counterparts in other BRICS member countries.

Knowledge-based companies interested in cooperating with counterparts in other BRICS member countries in the areas of innovation and technology commercialization may participate by reviewing this call and completing the application form. We hope these collaborations will be a step toward the internationalization of our country’s knowledge-based companies.

Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF)  
International Affairs Department

# **INIF Call for Participation in BRICS Innovative Projects 2025**

## **1. Objective of the Call**

The objective of the BRICS Innovation Call 2025 is to strengthen technological cooperation among BRICS member countries by supporting through the funding agencies of member states—projects of up to three years' duration that involve technology institutions from at least two member countries, with the aim of commercializing technologies that have been validated at the laboratory scale.

## **2. Which companies are eligible to participate in this call?**

All knowledge-based companies including startups, technology-oriented, and innovative firms may apply to this call.

The applicant company's proposal must be aimed at the commercialization of one of the company's Innovative products (approved by the Vice-Presidency for Science, Technology of Iran) in domestic or international markets.

The applicant's project must have already passed the laboratory prototype development stage and reached the "proof of operation" stage. Projects that lack a laboratory prototype or have not achieved "proof of operation" will not be accepted for this call.

Each applicant is permitted to register only one project in this call.

Prior to participating in this call, the applicant company must have selected and reached an agreement with its foreign partner from among technology and innovation institutions in one of the following BRICS member countries, so that the project application form (proposal) is jointly submitted by the applicant and the foreign partner. These countries are:

Russia  
China  
Brazil  
Egypt  
India  
South Africa

## **3. Thematic Areas of the Call**

The applicant company's project must fall under one of the following thematic areas:

- Renewable energy
- Water resources management and environment
- Food security
- Health (including medical devices and pharmaceuticals)
- Artificial intelligence
- Advanced materials (including nanotechnology)

## 4. INIF Support to Eligible Applicants

Support provided by the INIF to eligible applicants, depending on the project's status, is as follows:

- The maximum resources allocable by the Fund to support any single project are USD 500,000, which will be provided as Loan, investment, or equity participation. Eligible projects will also be able to access the Fund's capacity-building services as needed and in accordance with the INIF's rules and regulations.
- Disbursements (whether as loans, equity, or other participation) will be made in stages and proportional to the project's progress.
- If Loan is received, the applicant is required to provide guarantees or collateral commensurate with the amount of support, the project's risk, and the company's situation, in accordance with INIF rules and regulations.
- The maximum implementation period for each project is 36 months.

## 5. Eligible Project Costs

- **Equipment and consumables:** including the purchase of equipment, parts and necessary supplies.
- **Specialized services:** industrial prototype fabrication, intellectual property registration, software development, laboratory services, and other related professional services.
- **Events:** participation in required workshops or training courses.
- **Travel:** up to 1% of the project's total budget.
- **Indirect costs (overheads):** up to 2% of direct costs (excluding equipment), capped at a maximum of USD 10,000.

## 6. Scientific and Technical Requirements

Proposals must:

- Be aligned with the assessment principles of the BRICS Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) framework.
- Address Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 5 to 9.
- Demonstrate a clear pathway to market deployment and show expected social impact.
- Clearly define intellectual property ownership and the roles of all collaborators and partners.

## 7. Project Proposal

- The proposal must be complete and not be prepared using outdated/legacy templates.
- The role and responsibilities of each foreign partner must be clearly specified.
- The file must be submitted as a PDF (not a scanned copy).

## 8. Foreign Partner Confirmation

Applicant companies participating in this call must, in addition to completing the attached application form (proposal), submit a letter from their foreign partner that includes the following:

- Project title.
- Name of the institution/company.
- Name(s) and position(s) of the principal investigator(s).
- A declaration stating that the project has not been submitted to other BRICS member countries; if it has, attach a statement describing the current status of the project.
- Official confirmation of the partner institution's participation in the project.
- A list of team members with signatures.
- CVs (academic and professional backgrounds) of the team members.
- The foreign partner's budget table with details, signed by the highest authorized official.

(Note: the letter should be provided on the partner organization's official letterhead and signed by an authorized representative, and submitted as a PDF together with the main proposal.)

## 9. Registration Process and Submission of Documents

Applicants must submit the application form together with the project confirmation letter from their foreign partner by one of the following three methods:

1. Upload the Joint Application Form (JAF) in English to the BRICS AMS online system at: <http://ams.rfbr.ru/BRICS>
2. Download and complete the project application form at [inif.ir/web/guest/brics-2025](http://inif.ir/web/guest/brics-2025) and send the electronic version as a PDF (not a scanned copy) to: [international@inif.ir](mailto:international@inif.ir)
3. Send a printed hard copy to the Fund.

## 10. Deadline for submissions

The final deadline for project submissions is **November 5, 2025** at 15:00 Moscow Time (UTC+3).

## 11. Evaluation Criteria

The criteria for evaluating projects include:

- Technical quality and innovativeness of the proposal
- Market entry strategy and value proposition
- Credibility and coherence of the financial projections
- Project management, methodology, and feasibility
- Timeline and defined deliverables
- Added value of the international collaboration
- Appropriateness of resources and budget
- Technological, economic, and social impacts

## 12. Announcement of results

The INIF, like the representatives of other BRICS members, will submit up to five selected projects to the BRICS STI Framework Secretariat. These proposals will then be reviewed by the Secretariat, and projects found eligible for final funding will be announced in the second quarter of 2026 (June 21 – September 20, 2026)

## 13. Other considerations

- All proposals will be reviewed by the Innovation and Prosperity Fund for compliance with intellectual property rights. Any proposal that infringes such rights under Iranian law, or that bears an unauthorized similarity to protected works, will be rejected.
- Project documents and supporting materials must be submitted in English, and a physical (hard-copy) version must also be provided to the Fund.

## 14. Contact INIF

- **Contact Person:** Ms. Sogand Sohrabi
- **Phone:** +98 21 4217 0232
- **Email:** international@inif.ir
- **Address:** INIF, 10th Floor, Deputy for Communications and International Affairs, End of East Zayandeh-Rud, Pardis St., Mollasadra St., Vanak Square, Tehran, Iran