

Frequently Asked Questions

(ver. 1.0 as of 01.09.2017)

*Please note that the following Frequently Asked Questions refer to information on requirements for the projects consortia, application submission procedures as well as provide information on general procedures and rules for the 2nd BRICS Call 2017 launched under BRICS STI FP.*

*To find out more on particular details related to submission of certain national applications and eligibility criteria set by each particular funding agency, please refer to national annex of that particular funder provided on the Call announcement page at <http://brics-sti.org/?p=new/15>.*

**Q1: What are the requirements for the minimum size of the project consortium?**

A1: To be eligible for the call the consortium must consist of a minimum of 3 partners (all of them requesting funding) from at least 3 different BRICS countries.

**Q2: We have 3 partners from 3 different BRICS countries, but only 2 of them request funding, is such project consortia is eligible?**

A2: No, at least 3 partners should request funding and be eligible for funding from respecting national funding agencies. In addition to required number of eligible partners an extra partner can participate in the project on own costs.

**Q3: How many partners can participate in one project as maximum?**

A3: The project consortia can have partners from all BRICS member states as well as some additional partner from third countries acting on own costs.

**Q4: Who is eligible for the call?**

A4: Eligibility criteria are set by national funding agencies and may vary from country to country and even from one national funder to another. In general the call is targeting research groups, research institutions, universities, SMEs and other research performing bodies. However, please refer to national annex of your national funders, national call announcements or contact national funders directly to find out more on eligibility criteria.

**Q5: Can applicants be involved in more than one project?**

A5: The BRICS STI FP does not regulate this issue and it is completely regulated by national funding rules. Please refer to national annexes or contact relevant national funding agency.

**Q6: Who is project coordinator and how to choose him?**

A6: For the Call Secretariat project coordinator is a project partner who submits project application to Call Secretariat and serves as a communication point for the whole project. Project coordinator will be obliged to report to the Call Secretariat upon request (including project reports), so it is preferable that project coordinator is a partner who actually coordinates the project activities (if such role exists in the project). However, it is completely up to project partners to decide whom to formally nominate as a project coordinator and how to structure internal coordination of a project.

**Q7 So many applications and deadlines for proposal submission, I'm confused. Who and how should submit applications, can you make it simple and explain once again?**

A7: A project coordinator must submit 1 proposal (Joint Application Form) to the Call Secretariat (via BRICS STI FP AMS at <http://ams.rfbr.ru/BRICS/>). Other partners of the project do not have to submit any additional proposals to the Call Secretariat. However, each project partner (including project coordinator) in addition to submitting JAF to the Call Secretariat must submit national applications to respecting national funding agencies (in accordance to the rules of those national funding agencies).

**Q8: There are different deadlines for submitting application to Call Secretariat and national funding agencies, which one to follow for our project?**

A8: Project coordinator must submit Joint Application Form to Call Secretariat before the deadline set by Call Secretariat. Each national application must be submitted by project partners to respecting national funding agencies according to the deadlines of each particular funding agency. The later deadline set by any national funding agency is relevant only for that particular organization and does not provide an opportunity to submit other applications after respecting deadlines.

**Q9: What will happen if all project partners submit national applications but the Joint application Form will not be submitted to Call Secretariat in due date?**

A9: The project will be considered as not submitted to the call.

**Q10: Is it possible to submit Joint Application Form to Call Secretariat after the deadline?**

A10: No. You can submit application on any day of submission process so there is no need to wait for the last minute in order to submit a proposal.

**Q11: Is it possible to modify JAF or information stated in online forms after proposal has been submitted and assigned with number?**

A11: Yes, you can retract submitted application via BRICS AMS, modify needed information and submit application once again. Please note that you can re-submit application only before the deadline set for online application submission. If application is not re-submitted before the deadline the project considered as not submitted to the Call Secretariat.

**Q12: What is going to happen if some project partner will not submit national application or will be considered as non-eligible by some national funding agency, while the JAF will be properly submitted to Call Secretariat as well as other national applications to respecting national funding agencies?**

A12: If a project will still have 3 eligible partners left (all of them requesting funding) the project could be evaluated and supported on condition that the non-eligible partner provides a statement that he is willing to participate in the project on own costs. It is the only option to proceed and it will not be possible to rewrite/modify project proposal to exclude non-eligible partner and re-allocate the tasks between eligible partners.

**Q13: Is it necessary to provide a collaboration agreement with the proposal?**

A13: Call Secretariat does not request to provide any drafts or signed collaboration agreements. However some funding agencies may require some additional documents to be provided in attachment to national application forms. In this case please contact your national funding agency to consult on the type and nature of documents to be provided in additional to certain national applications.

**Q14: Who and how will fund the project in case it is selected?**

A14: Each partner in the project will be funded by respecting national funding agency chosen by each particular partner under project submission procedure (stated in JAF).

**Q15: How much funds will I get?**

A15: Please refer to national annexes provided or contact respecting national funding agency.

**Q16: Could Call Secretariat assist me in finding partners for my project?**

A16: No, Call Secretariat does not provide partner-search services. Please use other means to find project partners, including specialized partner-search tools (for example BRICS-TTN Platform - <http://brics-ttn.org/>).

For more information please visit <http://brics-sti.org>

Call page <http://brics-sti.org/index.php?p=opportunities/2nd+BRICS+Call+2017>

Call Secretariat contacts <http://brics-sti.org/index.php?p=about/Call+Secretariat>

National contact points information <http://brics-sti.org/index.php?p=about/National+Contact+Points>