

RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDENCY OF THE STATE AGENCY CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS (CSIC) CALLING FOR JOINT BILATERAL MOBILITY ACTIONS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION BETWEEN CSIC AND FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2024

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I. PURPOSE OF THE CALL

The general objective of this Bilateral Program is to stimulate the collaboration between CSIC research groups and:

- Research groups from TAIWAN, through the **NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (NSTC)**.
- Research groups from MEXICO, through the **TECNOLÓGICO DE MONTERREY (TEC)**.
- Research groups from SLOVAKIA, through the **SLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (SAS)**.
- Research groups from ARGENTINA, through the **CONSEJO NACIONAL DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS Y TÉCNICAS DE ARGENTINA (CONICET)**.

The expected impact of the Programme is to improve the internationalisation of the CSIC through the consolidation of stable scientific cooperation links between CSIC teams and teams belonging to institutions with headquarters in the mentioned countries, by means of work placements and the specialisation of research groups from both institutions.

2. TERMS OF THE CALL

This call provides funding for a maximum of **16 grants**, valid from the beginning of fiscal year 2025 until the end of fiscal year 2026.

Research groups from **NSTC, TEC, SAS, and CONICET**, will be funded by their respective institutions with a sum that includes the costs of transport, housing, and insurance.

2.1. Eligible actions

2.1.1. The actions will be all those aimed at the creation and consolidation of stable international collaborative links with research groups in these entities.

2.1.2. Three types of actions will be considered:

- **Modality A, CSIC-NSTC:** for the creation and consolidation of international research networks with the aim of establishing stable links with **NSTC** research groups. There are no thematic restrictions, and there must be a common and complementary research topic between the two groups, in accordance with the bilateral nature of the call. A **maximum of 4 grants** will be funded, with a total maximum value of **€24,000 per grant** (€12,000/year). Actions that were beneficiaries of CSIC-MOST (currently NSTC) in the 2023 call with the same consortium will not be considered eligible.
- **Modality B, CSIC-TEC:** for the creation and consolidation of international research networks in order to establish stable links with research groups. Only actions in the field of **(1) Health** (Health Biotechnology, Aging, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Science and Food Safety), **(2) Climate and Sustainability** (Water and Sustainable Energies), **(3) Industrial Transformation** (Smart Mobility and Industry 5.0) and as cross-cutting support to these themes actions in **(4) Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductors and “Nearshoring” and Logistics** will be eligible. A **maximum of 4 grants** will be funded, with a total maximum value of **€24,000 per grant** (€12,000/year). Consortia that have been beneficiaries of a grant in the ILINK 2019 call for proposals (CSIC-TEC modality B) or in the 2022 call for proposals (CSIC-TEC modality bilateral grants) are not eligible for funding.
- **Modality C, CSIC-SAS:** for the creation and consolidation of international research networks in order to establish stable links with **SAS** research groups. There are no thematic restrictions, and there must be a common and complementary research topic between the

two groups, in accordance with the bilateral nature of the call. A **maximum of 3 grants** will be funded, with a total maximum value of **€10,000 per grant** (€5,000/year).

- **Modality D, CSIC-CONICET:** for the creation and consolidation of international research networks in order to establish stable links with **CONICET** research groups. In this modality, there are no thematic restrictions, however, applications will be prioritised if they are focused on the fields of “*marine sciences,*” “*food,*” “*molecular and cellular biotechnology,*” “*forestry sciences,*” “*immunology and oncology,*” and “*renewable energies.*” A **maximum of 5 grants** will be funded, with a total maximum value of **€7,000 per grant** (€3,500/year).

2.2. Participants

2.2.1. All proposals must have at least **one CSIC research group** (CSIC participating team) and **one group from the organisations cited in point I of the call** (foreign participating team), which must be led by a principal investigator (foreign PI).

2.2.2. All participants must have an employment relationship with their home institution at the time of application. For the duration of the grants, each member of the foreign institutions will remain under the exclusive direction and dependence of his/her home institution.

2.3. CSIC Participating Team Requirements

2.3.1. The principal investigator (PI) of the action may be a CSIC scientific staff whose employment status complies with the instructions set out in the Manual for the management of staff¹ providing services in the institutes, centres and units of the State Agency CSIC.

2.3.2. Both the PI and the participating team members from CSIC can only be part of **one proposal** in this call, regardless of whether they participate as PI or as team member.

2.3.3. The PI and the other members of the participating CSIC team must be staff or have a contract compatible with participation in internationalisation networks². Staff from Joint Centres and Associated Units may participate as members of the team.

¹: Link to the Manual for the management of staff:

file:///P:/Users/50746013d/AppData/Local/Temp/1711_MANUAL%2520GESTIO%25cc%2581N%2520PERSONAL-1.pdf

² The members of the CSIC research group must be registered in the **application Gestión de Entidades y Personas (GEP)** or in the analogous registers of the newly assigned National Centres.

2.3.4. The principal researcher and the other members of the CSIC team must maintain their employment relationship with CSIC for the duration of the action. Otherwise, they must guarantee the continuity of the action through a substitution that must be approved by the VRI. Exceptionally, team members may participate provided that they maintain their employment relationship with CSIC until the actions in which they are involved in the framework of this programme have been completed.

2.3.5. The Vice-Presidency for International Relations (VRI) will be responsible for authorising all registrations and withdrawals of members of the participating teams, following a reasoned request from the PI of the proposal. Authorisation will be granted whenever appropriate and in any case after prior notification by the PI at least one month in advance of the participation of the new members in the planned activities.

2.4. Eligible Expenses and Management

2.4.1. Grants for transport, subsistence and accommodation costs.

- a) **For ALL modalities:** Transport, food and accommodation expenses of the **CSIC team** for travel exclusively between Spain and the participating foreign country. These grants will be governed by the terms and conditions of the call for applications, the amount of which will be governed by **ROYAL DECREE 462/2002, of 24 May, on allowances for reasons of service**. The grants will be processed according to the provision *in force at the time, of the President of the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, which approves the Operating Budgets of the Institutes, Centres and Units, the allocation of credit for projects, the management of the system of Operational Treasury Allocation (DTO) and Drawings to Justify, and certain criteria for economic management and administrative contracting.*

With regard to **transport expenses**, these must be processed by the ICU in accordance with the travel contract applicable to the CSIC. The amount of the transport subsidy will include the amount of the expenses corresponding to the processing of visas and/or vaccinations not covered by the National Health System, when these are obligatory for entry into the country of destination.

The mandatory cost of medical insurance or travel assistance for CSIC researchers traveling to countries without reciprocity agreements, as well as civil liability insurance in case it is mandatory, will be an eligible expense processed by the ICU Management.

- b) **Foreign team travels:**

b.1) MODALITY A: NSTC team travels

NSTC will finance the expenses relating to their research team.

The eligible expenses to be executed and managed by the NSTC research team will include **€24,000** for transportation, maintenance, and accommodation costs for the two annuities. **The conditions for the execution of the action, as well as the costs, are defined in ANNEX I "Internal NSTC call".**

b.2) MODALITY B: TEC team travels

TEC will finance the expenses relating to their research team.

The eligible expenses to be executed and managed by the CAS research team will include **€24,000**, for mobility expenses: (trips, living expenses, consumables, services, small equipment, and network connection). **The conditions for the execution of the action, as well as the costs, are defined are defined by the TEC's financial research project regulations.**

b.3) MODALITY C: SAS team travels

SAS will finance the expenses relating to their research team.

The eligible expenses to be executed and managed by the SAS research team will include a maximum annual allotment of **€5,000** per project and year for mobility expenses (transport, living expenses, housing for trips by the SAS team to CSIC, consumables, services, and small equipment). **The conditions for the execution of the action, as well as the costs, are defined in ANNEX II "Internal SAS call".**

b.4) MODALITY D: CONICET team travels

CONICET will finance the expenses relating to their research team.

The eligible expenses to be executed and managed by the CONICET research team will include a maximum annual allotment of **AR\$ 2,000,000**, meant for airfare and travel expenses for stays abroad, the purchase of software and minor equipment, workshops and scientific meetings in Argentina, and field work in Argentina. **The conditions for the execution of the action, as well as the costs, are defined in ANNEX III "Internal CONICET call".**

2.4.2. Grants for expenses related to the organisation of meetings.

Expenses related to the organisation of meetings, workshops, seminars and other internationalisation activities that take place in Spain or in the geographical location of the foreign participating entities may be charged as expenses. Exceptionally, and with the prior authorisation of the Vice-Presidency for

International Relations, expenditure associated with the organisation of meetings in locations other than those mentioned above may also be charged. Expenditure will be financed exclusively for **the hire of rooms and audiovisual equipment**, and will be processed through the corresponding application in each case.

2.4.3. All foreseen expenses shall be properly indicated in the work plan and shall be consistent with the proposed activities. Expenditure included in the proposal which is contrary to the resolution of the call will not be considered eligible.

2.5. Duration and implementation of grants

2.5.1. The proposals selected will have a maximum duration of 24 months. For the implementation of the expenditure included in the grant, **the processing deadlines established in the corresponding CSIC instructions for the closure of the financial year 2025 and 2026 will be respected.**

2.5.2. The continuation of the aid in its second year must be authorised by the VRI, after submission of a technical scientific report detailing the activity carried out to date, and a second financial report attaching the list of expenses, which must be selected in the project justification module. This report shall detail the distribution of the expenditure executed, accompanied by the extract from the internal account of the project. Unjustified failure to carry out the planned activities or incorrect use of the funds allocated may result in the cancellation of the grant and the reimbursement of the credit.

2.5.3. The VRI will authorise the annual financial allocation after the award resolution to the ICUS of the CSIC for its execution and control of the expenditure from the Management Departments.

2.5.4. No deviations from one year to another will be authorised, except in the case of justified illness or mobility restrictions that affect participating countries.

3. PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

3.1 Applications shall be submitted **simultaneously** by the CSIC team and by the foreign teams through the application indicated in each of their institutions, within the period specified in the call.

MODALITY B applications shall be submitted simultaneously to the TEC Research Development office: ikreiner@tec.mx by 13 September 2024 in accordance with the indications of the TEC's own call.

3.2. The proposal and the documentation required at CSIC will be submitted in a single application by the CSIC PI and project coordinator, through the telematic application of calls on the CSIC Intranet: <http://siw.csic.es/icv/> "BILATERAL ACTIONS".

3.3. Applications shall be written in English or Spanish, using Times New Roman or Arial font, with a minimum size of 11 point. Applications that do not respect these required norms will be immediately excluded, and become ineligible for evaluation. Moreover, application pages that exceed the maximum established page limit will not be considered in the evaluation.

3.4. Only the following standard call documents will be used:

3.4.1 Action report, including, as indicated in the templates and with a maximum size of 5MB:

A) Activities of the Program (up to 3 pages):

- Summary of the proposal (objectives, scope of the study, international relevance, etc.).
- List of keywords (in Spanish and English).
- **Implementation:** work plan that includes the scientific objectives and proposed actions as well as a schedule for their execution.
- **Expected scientific impact:** for both research groups
- **Composition of the consortium:**
 - Background and current state of the collaboration
 - Description of the participating teams and their experience

B) Detailed budget related to the proposed chronogram of activities (maximum 3 pages).

C) CV of the CSIC PI highlighting the main achievements from 2019 to the present (maximum 2 pages).

D) CV of foreign PI(s) highlighting major achievements from 2019 to present (maximum 2 pages)

E) Letters of acceptance/commitment from the foreign institutions on which the participating teams depend. This letter must include the authorization to the principal investigator for participation in the project, committing to carry out the activities foreseen in the presented scientific-technical report and its corresponding financing. The format of presentation of the document will be by means of an official letter from the institution dated and signed by the Institutional or Scientific Head/Manager. In the event that these ones coincide with some of the IPs or team members, please indicate them in this section of the application.

3.5. The application will require the **telematic validation by the ICU Head/Manager** for its later submission by the applicant.

3.6. The **deadline for submission** of applications will be:

- **From June 14th to September 13th, 2024** for MODALITY A (NSTC-Taiwan) and MODALITY C (SAS-Slovakia) applications.

- **From July 1st to September 13th, 2024** for MODALITY B (TEC-Mexico) and MODALITY D (CONICET-Argentina) applications.

The reception of applications will end at 23:59h on the closing day of the call. Incomplete applications or applications that do not meet the requirements established in this resolution on the closing date will be automatically rejected.

3.7. Once the period for submitting applications has ended, a provisional list of those admitted and excluded will be published on the CSIC intranet. **There will be no time period to rectify errors.**

3.8. The personal data included in the application will be subject to the protection established by the Organic Law 3/2018, and the Regulations (UE) 2016/679 of the European Parliament. On the basis of Articles 6 and 7 of that Regulation, by sending the application, the corresponding processing of the personal data sent shall be deemed authorised.

4. EVALUATION

4.1. Proposals will be evaluated by ***the scientific-technical evaluation committee of consensus between the CSIC and the foreign participating entities*** designated for this purpose, for the selection of the actions to be jointly financed. Specifically, the following criteria will be considered:

- **Scientific quality (up to 10 points).**

The objectives, activities and added value will be assessed. Likewise, and exclusively for proposals to **MODALITY A** (CSIC-NSTC), it will be positively valued that the participating groups present 3 key documents that endorse their experience in the indicated line of research. Access will be provided via the Internet, indicating the appropriate and operational links, or included as an attachment in case it is not accessible telematically.

- **Implementation (up to 10 points).**

The feasibility of the activities, the timetable and the budget will be assessed.

- **Impact (up to 10 points).**

The following aspects will be assessed:

1. Impact of the project on the CSIC team, including possible future collaborations with the foreign participating team. In the case of consolidated groups, the expected impact on research will be specifically assessed: articles published and/or under review, training of young researchers (undergraduate, postgraduate and/or postdocs-professors in the future), preparation and submission of proposals for attracting complementary funding.
2. Matching and complementarity of CSIC teams with foreign participating teams for the implementation of the project.

4.2. In the event of a tie, the applications with the highest score in the **Implementation** section will be selected.

5. INFORMATION ON THE CALL RESULTS

5.1. The result of the selection process will be informed by means of a Resolution of the Presidency of the CSIC, which will be published on the CSIC's INTRANET and will be communicated by email to the principal investigators of the proposals.

6. SCIENTIFIC AND ECONOMIC JUSTIFICATION

6.1. The beneficiaries of this program will have to justify the activities and expenses in two reports (intermediate and final) whose standardised template will be sent from the VRI.

Interim reports will be sent **before December 15th, 2024**, and the final report before **January 31st, 2026**.

Each justification report shall include the following concepts:

- **Scientific-technical report:** performed activities, results obtained, and degree of fulfilment of the proposed objectives.
- **Financial report:** implemented expenditure, considering the bases of the call and the approved chronogram. The list of expenses must be attached and must be selected in the project justification module.

The reports will be sent only in electronic format to the address internacional@csic.es, together with the action code in the subject line of the email.

6.2. Any media reference to these grants must include the sentence "FINANCIADO POR CSIC CONVOCATORIA AYUDAS BILATERALES 2024", as well as the logo of the call for proposals.

6.3. Eventually, the principal investigators of the participating teams may be required to present these results in a public act before a committee of experts.

7. PENALTY REGIME

The lack of adequacy in the use of the aids granted, the non-compliance with the rules for the execution of the expense and payment, the lack of execution of the budget granted, the lack of compliance with the scientific-technical objectives of the project, or a non-compliance with the obligation to publicise the aid awarded, may be subject to sanctions from VRI. These sanctions could include the ineligibility of the PI for the request of any VRI call for a period of up to five years, as well as the reimbursement of the expenses unduly justified.

8. CONTACT DETAILS:

internacional@csic.es

Madrid, June 12st, 2024

CSIC President
Fdo. Eloísa del Pino Matute