

JOINT PUBLIC CALL BETWEEN FINANCIADORA DE ESTUDOS E PROJETOS (FINEP) OF BRAZIL, AND THE RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NORWAY (RCN)

PUBLIC SELECTION OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH PROJECTS BETWEEN COMPANIES

1. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and Financiadora de Estudos e Projetos (Finep), Brazil, signed in Rio de Janeiro, November 2014, the following document is made between the Parties of the Agreement on the terms and procedures for its implementation: regarding Finep-RCN joint call in 2023, with project start-up in 2024.

2. OBJECTIVES

In line with the BN21-agreement, Finep and the RCN launches a joint call which aims at increasing Brazilian-Norwegian collaboration between companies in both countries for technology and service development. Finep and the RCN will support projects developed in cooperation between Brazilian and Norwegian companies, through their respective financing instruments within the scope of the thematic lines presented in section 4 in this document.

The goal for both countries is to finance a portfolio of projects that cover as many of the thematic areas as possible. The number of funded projects will strongly depend on the number and quality of the submitted applications and the available funds. For the available funding (see section 5), Finep and the RCN hope to finance 6 – 8 projects each.

The grant resources will be conditioned to the specific processing flow of each of the Parties (i.e. Finep and the RCN). The sequence of this process is as follows: technical/scientific analysis, financial analysis and legal analysis, approval and contracting.

3. TARGET GROUP

Applicants

Applications will be accepted from companies.

Norway

Funding from the RCN under this call is open to companies that have been issued an enterprise number under the Norwegian Register of Business Enterprises and that carry out economic activity in Norway.

Brazil

Funding from the Finep under this call is open to companies incorporated under Brazilian law for the production or sale of goods or services, for profit, whose corporate acts are duly filed in a competent public registry and which has its headquarters in Brazil.

Collaboration with industrial- and/or research partners

The project may include collaboration with industrial partners and/or partners from the R&D sector (universities, research institutes etc.). However, this is not a requirement.

Regarding the project group

The Norwegian and the Brazilian companies/institutions who receive public funding within the same international consortium need to be independent parties, i.e. they cannot belong to the same economic group. An economic group is defined as a gathering of institutions/companies with major control by the same physical or legal person.

The participation of other companies and/or institutions on the project will also be subject to evaluation, not being, however, a mandatory requirement for financing approval.

The project must present collaboration elements between Brazilian and Norwegian companies. There should be a balance between these regarding potential intellectual property rights (IPR) emerging from the project. This balance shall be clear in the project presentation, since it will be considered during the process of analysis and evaluation of the proposal. The balance does not require that the budgets are identical in both Brazil and Norway. However, the project must represent an integrated and balanced collaboration between a Brazilian and Norwegian company, and the potential results should be significant for both countries.

4. THEMATIC AREAS

The Parties are launching a call for proposals relevant for industry within upstream, offshore petroleum and environment-friendly energy.

The thematic areas relevant for the call within environment-friendly energy are:

- Wind power
Research to ensure environmentally friendly and cost-effective development of wind power, both land-based and offshore wind, including floating and bottom-fixed, with a focus on:
 - *Sustainable and cost-effective wind turbines, foundation solutions, installation methods and connection solutions*
 - *Operation, maintenance, decommissioning and recycling*
 - *The impact of wind power on the environment and society, including the processes for awarding and licensing new fields*
- Solar energy
Research and development of solar energy technology, from material and process technology, digitalization of production processes, life cycle analyzes and operations, to solar power, solar heating, building-integrated solar, solar energy solutions in existing infrastructure and solar parks on different scales, including sustainability aspects.
- Hydrogen and hydrogen-based energy carriers
Safe, sustainable and cost-effective development along the whole value chain and in areas where hydrogen has an opportunity to become a competitive solution in the future. This includes:
 - *Production of hydrogen, both blue and green, and hydrogen-based energy carriers*
 - *Storage, transport and distribution of hydrogen*
 - *Use of pure hydrogen in industrial processes*
 - *Long range transport; especially in maritime industry*
 - *Other aspects related to hydrogen as an energy carrier such as safety, sustainability, business models and regulations*

The thematic areas relevant for the call within petroleum are:

- Reducing greenhouse gases, improving energy efficiency and the environment
Research on and development of technology and expertise which will lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions, improved energy efficiency, reduced emissions to sea and a smaller environmental footprint
- Subsurface understanding, including use of CO₂ for enhanced oil recovery (EOR)
Knowledge, expertise and technology related to the development of exploration models, as well as production in the reservoir in order to achieve a higher degree of utilisation
- Drilling, completion and intervention
Knowledge, expertise and technology related to offshore drilling, well intervention and completion for recovery of petroleum resources, including plugging and abandonment of wells (P&A)
- Production, processing and transport
Technology and expertise necessary for safe, effective transport of the well stream from the well head to a platform, onshore facility or subsea facility. In addition, relevant areas are processing technology, marine operations, platform and material technologies.
- Major accidents and the work environment, including cyber security
Research and development activities that can help to prevent major accidents, or to improve the working environment in connection with petroleum activities.

5. PROJECTS FUNDING

Finep and the RCN will use their own financial instruments to support the participants in the project, according to their norms, which can be found at <http://www.finep.gov.br> and <http://www.forskningsradet.no>.

The funding from Finep and the RCN will be in the form of grants.

Finep will fund the Brazilian applicants and the Brazilian project partners eligible for public support. Likewise, the RCN will fund the Norwegian applicants and the Norwegian project partners eligible for public support.

Eligible costs and expenses may vary according to the regulations in Brazil and Norway. Applicants must read the regulations as posted on the Finep and the RCN websites, or contact the respective national contact points in Brazil and Norway (see details in the “Contacts” section) for information.

In Brazil:

The Finep will allocate up to R\$ 15 million for this joint call, with the intention of splitting the funding equally between projects within petroleum and renewable energy.

Additionally, the National Fund for Science and Technology (FNDCT) will allocate up to R\$ 3 million to the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) in order to finance international grants for participants of the Brazilian team for activities in Norway. All grants will follow the rules of the Technological Development and Innovation Abroad Junior & Senior Grants ([DEJ & DES](#)). Each Brazilian candidate company must elect a Brazilian Coordinator with updated Lattes CV that will be responsible for appointing the grantees of the approved proposal.

Funding of selected projects, rules for installments, evaluation of reports and other details of the project for Finep will be define according to technical criteria regarding Brazilian legislation.

If and when inaccuracies or changes in the project already approved are necessary, the Parties shall inform each other and they should be implemented only if approved by each Party.

In Norway:

The RCN will allocate up to NOK 30 million for this joint call, with the intention of splitting the funding equally between projects within petroleum and renewable energy.

The Norwegian funding will be distributed through an application type suited for the industrial sector. The call text will contain detailed information about the application type and the requirements for funding.

The aid from the RCN will be granted in accordance with Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014), and the projects can thus include activities categorized as "industrial research" and "experimental development". Therefore, the amount of funding from RCN to the Norwegian company/companies will depend on the categorization of activities in the project, as well as the size of the company/companies. Further details will be given in the call text published on the RCN webpage.

6. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- The duration of each bilateral project will be up to 3 years, but not shorter than 1 year.
- There must be at least one Brazilian and one Norwegian company in each project presented.
- The research and development project should aim to investigate and develop technology/services intended to promote a competitive Norwegian and Brazilian business sector.
- The companies collaborating the project typically have a need for new knowledge or new technology in order to deliver the intended innovation. The knowledge or technology is to be developed through R&D activities using recognized methodology.
- The results from the project may create value in the form of a new product, service or production process, or a new means of delivering products and services. Innovation in this context may also entail significant improvements or new characteristics of existing products, services or processes at the companies.
- The project incorporates clear aims and objectives and a concrete plan for its R&D activities and for utilising the results. Results from the project including knowledge and intellectual property that are not bound by protection or confidentiality agreements are disseminated via relevant publications and other relevant dissemination channels.
- In relation to the [EU TRL](#) (Technology Readiness Level) scale, Finep and RCN aim to support a range of projects on different stages of the scale, from TRL 3 through 7.
- Activities and costs for patenting and commercialization of technology fall outside the intention of this call.
- The tasks in the work plan should be clearly assigned to each partner as well as the allocated resources and the required resources to implement the project.
- Both Brazilian and Norwegian applicants must submit their proposals to the agencies from their respective country, Finep or the RCN. Any proposal presented to just one of the agencies will be rejected.
- Further requirements for Brazilian and Norwegian proposals will be given in the call texts published on Finep's and RCN's websites, respectively.

7. THE REVIEW PROCESS AND THE JOINT ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The Brazilian and Norwegian companies that will collaborate on a project need to submit one proposal each to their respective funding organization. Thus, each project will be based on two proposals, one in Brazil and one in Norway.

The proposals will be submitted in Brazil and Norway according to the procedures in Finep and the RCN, respectively. Therefore, the proposals in the two countries will not be identical. When preparing the proposal in Brazil or Norway, the respective applicant should emphasize describing the role/responsibility of the Brazilian or Norwegian consortium, respectively. Thus, a proposal in Norway, for example, will contain more details and descriptions about the Norwegian applicant (and its possible partners in Norway). However, it should be possible from reading the Norwegian proposal what the contribution from the Brazilian partner(s) will be.

Also, the Brazilian and Norwegian proposals should contain an attachment which will be identical in both countries, with information about work packages that will take place in the two countries, costs and financing in Brazil and Norway. The attachment will be filled out according to a predefined template. All of the proposals must use the template for this attachment provided by Finep and the RCN and available in the call texts at the links <http://www.finep.gov.br> and <http://www.forskningradet.no>.

For a project to be funded, the proposals need to have a good score in the evaluation processes of the two countries. Finep and the RCN will use their own respective procedures for evaluating the proposals, but will use criteria in line with the following list:

- **Excellence**
To what extent does the project represent an ambitious innovation that is supported by relevant R&D activities of high quality?
- **Impact**
To what extent does the project pave the way for significant benefits for the company partners, and lay a foundation for other positive impacts for society?
- **Implementation**
To what extent does the work plan provide a good basis for implementing the R&D activities and realising the potential for value creation?
- **Relevance of the proposal to the call**
To what extent does the project meet the requirements and guidelines set out in the call for proposals?

8. SELECTION PROCESS

After Finep and the RCN have conducted their separate evaluations of the submitted proposals, the representatives of the two agencies will decide upon which projects to fund in both countries. It is understood that a project proposal needs to have a good score/evaluation in both countries to be considered for funding.

For further information, Brazilian applicants may check the document with the regulation and details of the procedures to which they will be submitted. This document is available among the other ones released for this call.

9. TIMETABLE

Call will be announced on the webpages of Finep and RCN	October, 2023
Deadline for submission of proposals	24 th of April, 2024
Exchange of lists of applications between Finep and the RCN	29 th of April, 2024
Exchange between Finep and the RCN of their respective review results	5 th of September, 2024
Joint selection decision	18 th of September, 2024
Disclosure of preliminary results	24 th of September, 2024
Deadline for submitting appeals for reconsideration (Brazilian participants only)	4 th of October, 2024
Final results	22 nd of October, 2024
Beginning of contracting process	23 rd of October, 2024

In the event of changes on the timetable, those will be announced in due course.

10. REPORTING

The project managers in Brazil and Norway will submit reports to their respective agency, Finep or the RCN.

In Brazil:

National project coordinators must present reports describing the project progress every six months. In order to be able to receive the following disbursements, it is also necessary to present financial reports about the project. These details are defined on the contract signed with FINEP if the proposal is selected to be supported.

In Norway:

The project manager must submit progress reports once a year, in December. To qualify for payments from the RCN, one must also submit project financial reports once a year.

Details regarding these reports will be defined in the contract if the project is selected for funding.

11. OMISSIONS

Situations that are not covered in this document will be evaluated jointly by members of FINEP and the RCN designated as national points of contact, within 10 (ten) business days of the presentation by electronic message addressed to any of the two (see section 13) with copy to the other.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

When establishing contracts and agreement documents with the project representatives in both countries, Finep and the RCN will follow the established procedures and regulations in Brazil and

Norway, respectively. If the contractual process leads to a reduction in the public funding from one of the funding agencies, or other changes in a project in one of the countries, this should be communicated to the other funding agency as quickly as possible.

13. NATIONAL CONTACT POINT

In Brazil

Finep

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