BMBF-MOITAL Cooperation

The funding of German-Israeli industrial cooperation projects constitutes the latest pillar of German-Israeli scientific and technical cooperation. The basis is the “Agreed Minutes of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and of the Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS) of the Israeli Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor (MOITAL)” signed in June 2000.

Both ministries agreed to fund joint industrial research and development (R & D) projects in selected fields. These projects revolve primarily around the fields of:

- Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technology
- Laser and Optics Technologies
- Marine Technologies
- Microsystems Technologies
- New Materials and Chemical Nanotechnology
- Water and Environmental Technologies

The range of cooperation fields is not limited; projects in energy technologies, mobility and transport, space technology or other are also welcomed.

The target groups are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in particular. Big companies are also eligible to submit R & D proposals. Research institutions or universities can be included as subcontractors in the project, where their contribution is essential for the success of the project.

The projects are financed with up to 50 % of the total costs; German applicants are funded by the support programmes and support measures of the BMBF and Israeli enterprises by the programmes of the “Office of the Chief Scientist (OCS)” of the MOITAL.

The application procedure consists of two phases: In the first phase a pre-proposal has to be submitted, and is evaluated simultaneously in Germany and in Israel by industrial and scientific experts. In the second phase, successful applicants are invited to submit formal applications.

The first projects in the fields of biotechnology, laser technology, robotics and environmental technologies, began in early 2002, after a start-up phase.

The operational tasks for the preparation of cooperations and the support of applicants have been taken over by a coordination office at the International Bureau of the BMBF in Germany and by MATIMOP in Israel.

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BMBF-MOST Cooperation

The BMBF-MOST cooperation started in 1973; the first fields of research cooperation were energy, cancer research and water technology. Over the years, biotechnology, environmental research, marine sciences, materials research and neuroscience were added. Later new cooperation was fashioned in chemical technology and laser technology. Some fields were realigned to reflect the BMBF’s and MOST’s current research priorities.

Today, collaboration between BMBF and MOST revolves primarily around the following fields mainly for projects between academic partners:

- Biotechnology
- Cancer Research
- Environmental Research
- Marine and Geo Sciences
- Neuroscience
- New Materials and Chemical Nanotechnology
- Renewable Energy Research (BMU-MOST)
- Water Technology

Funding for collaborative research in the energy field was provided through Germany’s Federal Ministry of Education and Research until 1998. The energy research and technologies programme was then placed under the purview of the then Federal Ministry of Economics and then subsequently assigned to the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). Despite these changes, BMBF-MOST cooperation continues to provide the framework for collaboration with Israel in this field.

Preference is given to topics which can be promoted within the framework of BMBF-programmes and which are of high interest to MOST – achieving substantial added value for both partners. Joint German-Israel expert committees select the projects for funding.

Nearly 600 projects were conducted during the 30-year period between 1973 and 2003, with more than € 100 million in funding from the BMBF.

In Germany, the various fields of cooperation are managed by different project management organizations acting on behalf of the BMBF; in Israel they are managed by MOST.

Special Programmes for Young Scientists

In the various fields of cooperation additional money is allocated from Munich and BMBF specifically for young scientists. German and Israeli scientists can apply for Short Term Travel Grants to the MINERVA Foundation. For more information and contact see www.minerva.mpz.de.

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