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| **SOUTH AFRICA/ SOUTH KOREA JOINT RESEARCH PROGRAMME**  **Call for Applications for the Joint Projects**  **Closing Date: 18 July 2018**  **A maximum of 4 joint projects will be funded for this call**  Following the bilateral agreement on cooperation between South Africa and the Republic of South Korea in the fields of science and technology which was signed on 24th February 2004, a Joint Committee Meeting was held in Pretoria, South Africa in October 2017. This cooperative program is aimed at the implementation of joint research projects and we are pleased herewith to present you with the guidelines for submission of proposals for joint research projects involving South African and South Korean researchers, and invite all local researchers wishing to participate to submit their proposals by the due date.  **Aims of the programme**  This Programme aims to:   * contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the of joint research activities in specified research fields; * support the advancement of basic research; and * contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.   **Areas of cooperation**  Funding will be made available for conducting Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas:   * Health sciences * Information and communication technology * Hydrogen fuel cell * Quantum Machine and Quantum Technology   ***Please note for South Africa:***   * Joint projects with the potential to lead to future bilateral and multilateral co-operations will be favourably considered. * Also, the joint projects that involve young scientists and pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality) will be positively considered and will receive a higher rating.   **Duration of projects**  The projects will be supported for a period of two years (projects starting **December 2018 in South Korea/January 2019 in South Africa** and ending November/December 2020).  **Who may apply?**  Each proposal under this Programme must have one main applicant based in South Africa and one main applicant based in South Korea; they are the **Principal Investigators** **(PIs)** on the South African and South Korean sides respectively. The PIs bear the main responsibility for the project including its technical and administrative coordination as well as timely delivery of scientific and financial reports~~.~~  ***South Africa:***  This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD. In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals and the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education and research institutions will be prioritised.  ***South Korea:***  The eligible applicants will be defined in accordance with the national regulations of the Korean side.  **How do I apply?**  It is up to the applicants to find their own research partners. **Proposals must be received both in South Africa (NRF) and South Korea (NRF)**. Proposals which have not been received in both countries will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications from both countries should have positive ratings before consideration for funding. Both the NRF South Africa and the NRF South Korea will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.  ***South Africa:***  *South African PIs can apply by following the steps below:*   * Applications must be submitted through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/> * Register/Login using your ID number and password. * Go to “My applications” and select “create new application”. * Select the call for which you are applying for: **South Africa-South Korea 2018 Joint Call for Proposals**. * Remember to complete all sections of the application as indicated on the online application form. * Please attach the necessary documents in PDF file in the following order: CV and the budget of partner. and. **Failure to submit compulsory documents will result in the disqualification of the application.** * Remember to submit your application on completion. * Completed applications will go to the host university for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing. * Incomplete applications will not be considered. * Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in this document will not be considered. * Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission system will not be accepted. * No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF. * Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted. * Please contact the university research office if you have any queries.   ***South Korea:***  Applications submitted outside the NRF Submission system will not be accepted. Applicants must apply through an online application process to the NRF by accessing the link: <http://ernd.nrf.re.kr/>. No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF. Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.  **Which activities may I apply for?**  According to the South Africa / South Korea agreement, funding will be made available for the following joint research activities:   * **Research-related costs** - activities to be supported may include expenses relating to field work such as conducting interviews, research-related trips, and research equipment (small equipment) – 20% of the budget is allowed for small equipment, consumables and accessories, publication related costs, etc. * **Exchange programmes** - mobility of researchers, postdocs and doctoral students between the two countries. * **Knowledge sharing costs** - in support of project-related activities, such as joint workshops, seminars, conferences, symposia, lecturer presentations, meetings, local and regional dissemination of results to relevant stakeholders.   ***South Africa:***  In case of meetings, research visits and exchange of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of the joint research projects and the attendance of workshops, seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this partnership, the sending PI will be responsible for all travel related expenses (i.e. *international travel, visas, medical insurance, accommodation and subsistence including ground transportation)*.  Local travel and fees relating to the organisation of events (venue, catering, audio-visual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the host investigator which is to be paid from his / her allocation of the joint funding.  The following may **NOT** be funded from the allocation:   * Consultant’s fees * Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.) * Large equipment * Project management fees * Salaries and temporary staff fees.   ***South Korea:***  The budget for this program should be calculated in accordance with the national regulations of the Korean side.  **Funding modalities**  Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for collaborative research projects jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above.  Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.  **Funding limits**  ***South Africa:***  The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R500 000** per project. Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual installments **(R250 000 per year)** and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2019.  ***South Korea:***  The total amount of funding is 100,000,000KRW per project for two years. This means that each Korean PI receives 50,000,000KRW per project a year.  **How are applications evaluated?**  ***South Africa:***  Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to recognized national experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:   * Scientific quality of the intended research project incl.   + Feasibility of the joint research plan   + Adequacy of the scientific method   + Competence and expertise of the scientists/research teams involved * Alignment with national priorities in each country * Plausibility of the described further cooperation perspective * Project proposals submitted by early-stage or mid-career researchers (10 points) OR project proposals with the involvement of doctoral students, early-stage (10 points) or female researchers (5 points) or researchers from previously-disadvantaged communities in South Africa (5 points) will receive up to 10 points additionally.   ***South Korea****:*  The evaluation criteria will be devised in accordance with the national regulation of the Korean side.  Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted in consultation with the NRF South Korea based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. The NRF undertakes to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results timeously. As such applicants are urged not to expect notification by a certain date, nor to make concrete logistical arrangements before having been thus notified. The nature of the bilateral process requires both parties to align the commencement of each phase of the process with their foreign partners.  **Project follow-up and reporting**  ***South Africa:***   * A final scientific and financial report has to be submitted in English by the South African project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project. * The report has to mention outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal. * The joint publications by researchers has to mention the support from the funders.   ***South Korea****:*  The PI has an obligation to submit all relevant administrative duties in accordance with the national regulations.  **Intellectual Property**  The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.  **Closing date for applications**  Applications must be submitted by **18 July 2018**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners’ applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country in time. Both the NRF South Africa and the NRF South Korea will not be held responsible for applications that were not received.  **Contact details for queries and further information** | | | | | | | | |
| **National Research Foundation (NRF), South Africa** | | | | | | | |
| **For programme-content related queries** | | | | **For technical & grant related queries** | | | |
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