



Council of Scientific and Industrial Research – St. Petersburg State University
Joint Seed Funding Program- 2025
Call Guidelines

Introduction

CSIR and SPbU under their Agreement for supporting joint research projects, signed in 2024, are happy to announce the 2nd Call for funding research proposals, the Joint Seed Funding Program (JSFP)-2025. Researchers from CSIR and SPbU are invited to submit applications that target to develop new research engagements between CSIR & SPbU.

We intend to fund upto 5 projects. Successful proposals will be awarded up to Rs. ₹ 5,00,000/- for CSIR applicants and P 500,000 Rubles for SPbU applicants per project.

We welcome applications from all disciplines of Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Engineering Sciences and Information Sciences; in particular, we strongly encourage applications to develop new research partnerships or new research ideas in the fields of physics, chemistry, nanotechnology, material sciences, renewable energy, computer sciences, artificial intelligence and Medicine.

Funding will be available until the end of **December 2025** and must be used within this timeframe.

Applications

The following documents should be submitted:

1. Application form as per **Annexure I**
2. Concurrence duly signed by the PIs from both sides as per **Annexure II** (for CSIR applicant)
3. CV of the project leader and list of the key project members
4. Recommendation of Director of the CSIR Institute as per **Annexure III** (for CSIR applicant)

The enclosed application form must be used for submissions.

Applications should:

- demonstrate strategic alignment
- include a project activity plan (details see below)
- include a project output plan (details see below)
- include a breakup of the requested budget (details see below)
- describe the expected impact of proposed activities and explain the potential impact or wider benefits to society
- demonstrate project sustainability such as describing future funding plans
- justify each party's contribution to the project

Eligibility and Submission Procedure

- Applications are open to all CSIR and SPbU regular staff members. PhD students are not eligible to apply for funding through this scheme.
- Any Project must have one CSIR and one SPbU project leader, the project leaders should be full-time Scientist/ Professors at its institutions. Post-doctors cannot apply individually but can join as co-researchers.
- Single application by proposal partners, typed in English, in a maximum of four sides of A4 for SPbU applicant. The same would be submitted online by CSIR applicant through [CSIR's International Cooperation Management System\(ICMS\) available on CSIR website.](#)



- Please submit applications through the CSIR Website (www.csir.res.in) on CSIR's International Cooperation Management System(ICMS) and in duplicate by email to [Svetlana Chaplygina](mailto:Svetlana.Chaplygina@spbu.ru) (SPBU).

Project activity plan

Applications must outline how this funding will support activities with CSIR and SPBU partners including but not limit to:

- Preliminary data collection and analysis for developing a research proposal for external funding calls
- Visiting/Hosting a colleague to discuss a research proposal and/or a publication or other form of impact outputs
- Co-organizing and co-delivering workshops seminars
- Delivering public lectures

Project output plan

Expected outputs from activities must include a second year plan plus a minimum of two of the following:

- PhD mobility
- Submission of a significant external funding application
- Publications in top-tier journals
- Policy, industry or civic engagement

Duration of Exchange Visits

The duration of the visit shall not exceed 30 (Thirty) days per project.

Budget of projects

This includes consumables for obtaining pilot data, costs in travel and subsistence, costs associated with networking events, administrative support and access to technical support, etc.

As agreed in the CSIR-SPbU Agreement for support of Joint Research Projects Program, the costs of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists, where ever applicable, will be covered on the following basis:

- The sending Party shall meet all costs connected with the roundtrip international travel up to the host institute, overseas travel insurance and emergency health insurance for its research team members visiting the partner institute.
- The receiving Party can assist in the accommodation at the University Residence Hall/Institute Guest Houses on a fee basis.
- The duration of the visit shall not exceed 30 days per project.
- In case of Networking meetings/workshops/conferences/seminars, the entire expenditure towards the implementation of the workshop/meeting including the expenditure on hospitality (in-kind towards accommodation, food, internal transportation etc) will be borne by the proposing institute with funding from the corresponding Party.

The budget will not include staff salaries, costs of standalone events that are not part of the activity plan, or activities that would have taken place regardless (for instance, connected to an existing conference).

CSIR would provide the following to its applicants (limiting to INR 5,00,000/-):

- Mobility costs: travel costs for the visiting Indian experts up to the host institute/nearest airport including visa fee and insurance, and the living expenses for the visiting Russian researchers;



- Publication, bilateral conference/workshop organization, and contingency costs
- Research cost such as for equipment and consumable, shall be met by the CSIR Institute through existing project grants.

Assessment

Applications will be assessed by a Panel constituted by the Vice President/Rector/Director General at both institutions. The following evaluation criteria would be followed for selection:

- Clearly formulated goals of the Project,
- Information on envisaged synergies between the Parties,
- Level of concreteness of future joint research project, incl. timeframe and information on funding programs and steps for developing a joint proposal,
- Compatibility with CSIR /SPbU research profiles, such as interdisciplinary nature, excellence of project leaders, wide scope of different fields/labs represented in the proposed Project.

Academic match making

Given the collaborative nature of this funding call, interested parties are encouraged to familiarize themselves with colleagues from the Partner institution to identify potential collaborators.

Either [Anand Mohit \(CSIR\)](#) or [Svetlana Chaplygina, SPBU](#) may be connected, if required to facilitate an introduction with the potential collaborators.

Call Timeline

- Call for applications opens: 23rd December 2024
- Submission opens on CSIR's ICMS portal: 10 January 2024
- Closing date: 10th February 2025
- Selection and evaluation: 25th February 2025
- Outcomes communicated: 15 March 2025
- Activity takes place: 1st April – 31st December 2025
- Completion of activity and report submitted – 31st January 2026

Application Terms and Conditions

1. Applications will not be accepted unless signed by applicants from both institutions who can use electronic signatures.
2. This funding should not be used for one off activities.
3. The same person can only apply for one project as project leader.
4. Should any activity involve international travel, this should be planned following government advice in India and the Russia. Any funds used for travel (e.g. flights) must be booked in accordance with SPBU's Travel and Expenses Policy and Procedures and as per CSIR Foreign Deputation Guidelines.
5. Activity associated with successful bids must be completed **by 31st December 2025** to ensure financial reconciliation in line with the end of CSIR and SPBU financial year.
6. Successful applicants will be asked to submit a report outlining the activity outcomes, impacts of the activities, detailed expenditure and next steps for the newly established collaboration e.g. grant proposal once activity has concluded.
7. Unspent funds will be reclaimed/should be submitted back before the end of the 2024-2025 financial year.
8. Successful applicants will be asked to share details of any media profile generated; published blogs or social media as well as sharing photographs for inclusion in future promotional materials.



9. All other terms and conditions (Article 9 : IP and Confidentiality, Article 8: governing laws and Dispute resolution, etc) specified in the CSIR-SPbU Joint Seed Money Agreement would apply to all applications/activities under this call detailed below for ready reference.
10. **Contact details:**

On Indian Side

- Dr. Anand Mohit, Coordinator Russian Desk, ISTAD, CSIR; Tel: 011-23470221; 011-23316764 E-mail: anandm@csir.res.in
- Ms. Kamlesh Rani, Co-Coordinator Russian Desk, ISTAD, CSIR; Tel: 011-23470224; 011-23316764; E-mail: kamlesh@csir.res.in

For any **IT related queries** (with respect to form filling/login to ICMS portal on CSIR website etc.) please contact

- Ms. C. Sagar, Sr. Technical Officer (3), IT CSIR; Tel: 011-23470104; Email: csagar@csir.res.in ; itweb@csir.res.in ;

On Russian Side

- Ms. Evgenia Kamenetskaya, Senior Specialist of International Research & Technology Department, Research Office, St Petersburg University; Email: e.kamenetskaya@spbu.ru ; Tel:+7 (812) 324-08-88 (6465)

Article 8 & 9 of the CSIR-SPbU Agreement for Support of Joint Research Projects Program -2024

ARTICLE 8. Dispute Settlement and Governing Law

8.1. For conditions of the Joint Research Fund not covered by this Agreement, or for problems that arise during the course of the Joint Research Fund, both Parties agree to refrain from unilateral action and to consult and negotiate mutually acceptable decisions in writing.

8.2. Any dispute between the Parties arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this Agreement shall be settled amicably through consultation or negotiation between the Parties to the dispute. In case of inability to solve the dispute amicably, it will be settled through diplomatic channels by forming a coordination committee for this purpose consisting of the equal number of representatives of both sides. . The decision of this coordination committee will be binding upon all the Parties.

ARTICLE 9. Additional Provisions including Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Rights

9.1. As long as the idea of this Agreement is maintained, the Administrative Coordinators can amend technical provisions of this Agreement through mutual written consent, especially on dates and selection procedures.

9.2 As a result of the cooperation activities developed under this Agreement, products of commercial value and / or intellectual property rights generated, these shall be governed by the applicable national legislations of the Parties, and by the international conventions in the matter of which the Russian Federation and the Republic of India are party to.

9.3 Each Party shall retain exclusive rights in respect of all Intellectual Property Rights owned by it on the date of this Agreement and nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as granting any right, title, interest or license to or in respect of the Intellectual Property Rights of either Party.

9.4 The Parties agree that any research publications and scientific papers arising out of this Agreement shall be jointly published in reputed scientific and technical journals in accordance with laws, regulations and rules of the Parties. The use of name, logo and/ or official emblem of the Parties on any



publication, document and/or paper will require prior written permission of both Parties. This may ensure that the official emblem and logo are not misused.

9.5 Any scientific and technical information, not protected by the intellectual property rights, which may be obtained as a result of this Agreement, excluding information which may not be disclosed in view of national security or commercial or industrial considerations, may be appropriately used by both Parties in accordance with the procedures agreed upon by the Parties. In exchanging and disseminating such information, both Parties shall take into account existing legal provisions, the rights of third parties and international obligations.

9.6 Subject to national legislation and multilateral agreements and memorandums in force in both countries, the Parties shall adopt appropriate measures to protect the intellectual property rights arising from the implementation of this Agreement.

9.7 If any Intellectual Property (IP) is generated under this Agreement, the Parties shall enter into a separate agreement that will specifically provide for ownership, management and commercialization of rights to such IP, in line with rules and regulations of each Party including other multilateral agreements to which countries of both Parties are party to.

9.8 Science and technology related information obtained in course of cooperation within the framework of this Agreement, except for confidential commercial information, can be shared among the scientific community elsewhere, through mutual consent of the Parties in writing and in accordance with the international obligations of each country of the Parties, existing national legislations of each Party, and also in accordance with the regulations of the collaborating organizations and institutions of the Parties.

9.9 Each Party shall guarantee the confidentiality of all documents, data or any information exchanged, received or provided by the other Party under this Agreement. Such confidential, documents, data, information shall not used for any other purposes than this agreement and shall not be disclosed or shared with third party without the prior written consent of the Party that provided the documents, data, or information. The provisions of this Article shall remain in force notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement, under the terms established by the applicable national legislations of the Parties.



Annexure I

Application Form

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) – St. Petersburg State University (SPBU) Joint Seed Funding Program 2025

Proposal Submission

For CSIR applicant : The proposals need to be submitted through the CSIR Website (www.csir.res.in) on CSIR's [International Cooperation Management System\(ICMS\)](#) . **Link for submission of applications through CSIR-ICMS will be live from 10th January 2024;** Submission of proposals by hard copies or fax will not be accepted.

For SPbU, applicant: Please submit your application by email to [Svetlana Chaplygina](#) (SPBU).

1. General (These fields can be copied if there are more than two named investigators on the project)

CSIR	SPBU
Applicant's Name:	Applicant's Name:
Role: Principal Investigator	Role: Principal Investigator
Research Area:	Research Area:
School:	Institute/ Faculty:
Email:	Email:
Phone:	Phone:
Applicant's Name:	Applicant's Name:
Role: Joint Applicant	Role: Joint Applicant
Research Area:	Research Area:
School:	Institute/ Faculty:
Email:	Email:
Phone:	Phone:

2. Project Details

Project title:



Country in which activity will take place:

Russia, India

Field of research:

Please select the field of research of your project from the list below. If you select other, please add the correct field.

- ☐ *Physical Sciences*
- ☐ *Chemical Sciences*
- ☐ *Biological Sciences*
- ☐ *Engineering Sciences*
- ☐ *Information Sciences*

Please specify sub field of research

- ☐ *Physics*
- ☐ *Chemistry*
- ☐ *Nanotechnology*
- ☐ *Material Science*
- ☐ *Renewable Energy*
- ☐ *Computer Science*
- ☐ *Artificial Intelligence*
- ☐ *Medicine*
- ☐ *Other, please specify: _____*

Please detail if this project proposal is associated with any other funding source :

(Including any externally funded projects (please include grant name/funding agency) or any funding that has been provided through other schemes)

If Not applicable, please mention N.A.

2.1. Abstract (Not more than 200 words)

2.2. Project Description including brief of proposed activity, activity plan and collaboration mechanisms

Please briefly introduce the collaborative project and outline the planned activities, preference will be given to applications that demonstrate interdisciplinary and strategic alignment to CSIR/SPBU's priorities. Refer to the funding call guidance for more detail.

Upload one (1-2) page document for CSIR applicant



3. Impact (max 150 words)

Please detail how this collaboration aligns with CSIR's Vision/plan 2030 SPBU's Values & as well as its proposed impacts and benefits to partner countries and institutions.

4. Outputs (max 200 words)

Please detail the specific outputs that will arise from this collaborative project. Refer to the funding call guidance for more detail.

5. Sustainability and Future (Year 2) Plan

Please demonstrate project sustainability and outline a year 2 plan. Please Explain how this funding may lead to future research or external funding that would sustain the collaboration.

Upload one (1) page document for CSIR applicant

6. Budget

SPBU applicants: Please be sure to liaise with the International Research Support Department to ensure budgets are costed and approved appropriately before submission.

Amount requested:

(The maximum amount available is P 500,000 for SPBU applicant(s) and Rs. 500,000/- for CSIR applicant)

For Russian Partners

Total Funding requested by SPbU applicant: P

For Indian Partners

Total Funding requested by CSIR applicant: INR(RS)

Breakup of the costs *(Please indicate other sources of funding, be it external/internal (organization detail, project number) and cost supported through other project if applicable)*

St. Petersburg State University

Insert itemised costs (add lines as required)

2025



TOTAL REQUEST, ₹	
Council of Scientific and Industrial Research	
Insert itemised costs (add lines as required)	2025
Mobility Cost	
Research Cost such as for equipment, consumable etc (by CSIR Institute / other external sources) if applicable	
Publication, bilateral conference/workshop organization, and contingency costs	
Any Other if applicable (please indicate detail)	
TOTAL REQUEST, INR	

Justification of requested funding:

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Signed (*electronic signatures are acceptable*)

CSIR PI Name:
Designation & Institute:
Date:

SPBU PI Name:
Designation & Faculty:
Date:

7. Other Uploads

- 7.1 Academic CV of CSIR principal investigator including max. 5 relevant **publications in the last five years** (1 page)
- 7.2 Academic CV of SPbU principal investigator including max. 5 relevant **publications in the last five years** (1 page)
- 7.3 Concurrence of Project partner to submit the project as per **Annexure II**
- 7.4 **Specific Recommendations** of the Director of the CSIR Institute indicating his/her expectations from the proposed project as also recommending the proposal *as per Annexure III*.

8. Undertaking by applicant:

By submitting project proposal, the applicant:

- Agrees to processing of personal data;
- Declares that the information he/she stated is accurate, true and complete and that he/she is aware that if otherwise they will face all the legal consequences;
- Declares that, if approved, he/she will, during the realization of the project, follow the Code of Ethics of researchers at SPbU, Russia and at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (<https://www.csir.res.in/sites/default/files/2023-05/OM%20Ethics%20Guidelines28-02-2020.pdf>).

Submit



Annexure II

Concurrence of the PI's

Signatures of Principal Investigators

We are jointly submitting the Project Proposal titled “.....” for support under Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), India - St. Petersburg State University (SPbU), Russia – Joint Seed Funding Program 2025. In the event of our proposal being accepted, we agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the CSIR-SPbU Agreement for support of Joint Research Projects signed in 2024.

Indian Partner

Russian Partner

(Date, Name)

(Date, Name)



(Applicable for CSIR Applicant)

Recommendation of Director of the CSIR Institute

Name of the Project:

PI Name:

Funding requested from CSIR:

Recommendations:

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It is certified that the above mentioned details are true to the best of my knowledge and that the Research cost such as for equipment and consumable manpower, services, infrastructure, administrative support, shall be met by the CSIR-.....through existing project grants and/or will be provided by CSIR-..... for implementation of the above project.

Signature of the Director of the Institute with Seal

Name:
Date:
(Seal of Institution)