

2023/07/12

ANNOUNCEMENT on the GERMAN – TAIWANESE Call for Joint Research Program on Advanced Chip Designs 2024

The deadline for this call for preproposals¹ is **September 5, 2023**.

The duration of this call for research project is 1-3 years.

1. Objective of the funding measure

The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Taiwanese National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) aim to deepen their cooperation in the field of semiconductor. Both sides emphasize the common interest in promoting scientific research and technological development as well as scientific and technological cooperation between the scientific communities of both countries. Within the framework of the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Arrangement (STA), this call is intended to fund cooperation projects between German and Taiwanese scientists in the field of semiconductor.

This funding scheme offers higher education institutions and non-university research institutions the opportunity to engage in joint research projects with partners from Taiwan and Germany and to take advantage of the existing cooperation potential in both countries. Funding is intended to vitalize Taiwanese-German partnerships in innovative areas of research which will help to intensify relations between the partners.

A particular aim of the bilateral projects is the enhancement of cooperation between Taiwanese and German partners in science. It is key to the long-term effectiveness of the projects that they take into account aspects of knowledge and technology transfer in connection with the utilization of achieved research outcome. Particular attention will be paid to the involvement of young researchers on both sides.

2. Priority research areas

The funding measure is focused on collaborative projects of basic science, applied research, development and innovation in semiconductor which are important for both countries:

- Edge-AI Chip Design
- Chips for Emerging Application and Automotive Solution

¹ This English-language call is for information purposes only. This version is not legally binding. The respective national versions of the call for proposals are legally binding.

3. Scope of funding

This funding scheme covers expenditure/costs for

- project-related personnel to execute scientific tasks specifically related to the project;
- project-related resources and equipment;
- travel and stays (meetings, workshops, status seminar, mutual visits).

Funding is provided by the respective national funding providers (NSTC in Taiwan and BMBF in Germany) in accordance with applicable national laws and guidelines. During a mutual visit, the visiting researcher should be allowed to work in the laboratories and to use equipment of the cooperation partner for free.

The duration of a project is up to three years. Yearly reports will be required and joint events for progress reports and research results sharing are encouraged.

For German researchers:

For the German partners to be funded under this call, please contact BMBF directly.

For Taiwanese researchers:

For the Taiwanese partners to be funded under this call, the standard NSTC-guidelines for grant applications on expenditure or cost basis, respectively, must be followed in addition to the general regulations. Submitting a proposal does not automatically entitle applicants to a grant. Awarded projects are categorized as international cooperation projects and will not be counted in the quota of general research projects.

4. Application procedure

The applications must contain a joint project description in English in addition to the formal and financial information required by the home country.

Information on the national formal and financial guidelines

for Taiwan applicants is available here: <https://www.nstc.gov.tw/folksonomy/rfpList>

for German applicants is available here:

<https://www.bmbf.de/bmbf/shareddocs/bekanntmachungen/de/2023/06/2023-06-02-Bekanntmachung-Chipentwicklung.html>

For Taiwanese researcher teams:

Joint applications must be submitted through the online application system for general research project of NSTC in Taiwan. An official document with a list of applications should be submitted, in paper or electronic form, by the affiliation institute of applicant by **September 5, 2023** to the National Science and Technology Council.

A statement for this call for pre-proposals has been announced on the website of NSTC in title of

“2024 年臺德半導體晶片設計學術合作研究計畫(試辦方案) NSTC-BMBF Joint Research Program on Advanced Chip Designs 申請須知”. Research teams must follow the instruction in the statement to make the submission in both Chinese and English.

Additional written supporting documents may be requested if needed by either side according to national requirements.

Prior to submission of an application prospective applicants should contact the appropriate central national agencies for detailed information about respective national requirements pertaining to applications and funding if necessary. The joint pre-proposal description should not exceed 10 pages (font: Arial 11, single-spaced).

The proposal must include the following aspects of the project:

- Name, address and institute of the project coordinator and the Taiwanese and German project partners,
- description of the partners (key competencies, capabilities, infrastructure, etc.),
- motivation (objectives, research priorities, utilization of results),
- scientific scope of the project (planned activities to implement the objectives of the funding measure, information on the state of the art, description of the scientific objective of the project),
- international cooperation in the framework of the project (value added of the international cooperation, contributions made by the Taiwanese and German partners, if applicable previous collaborations),
- detailed description of work plan, timeline, distribution of work packages, cooperation between project partners, cooperation with third parties,
- exploitation plan (expected scientific results, consolidation of cooperation with the partners, planned measures for transfer of results to industry, planned cooperation in follow-up projects (compatibility)),
- estimated expenditure/costs.

A legal claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a project proposal.

5. Timeline:

Deadline for preproposals: September 5, 2023

Deadline for full proposals: January 31, 2023 (based on information provided by NSTC and BMBF's invitation)

Implementation: start from May 1, 2024

6. Evaluation

Both countries each carry out an evaluation of the joint proposals received according to the following criteria:

- Fulfilment of the formal prerequisites for funding,
- relevance to the objectives of the funding measure,
- scientific criteria (scientific quality and originality of the project, expertise of the applicant and the participating Taiwanese and German partners, scientific benefit, prospects for the use and commercialization of the expected results),
- criteria of international cooperation (preparation/development of new international partnerships, consolidation of bilateral/international partnerships, quality of the cooperation and value added for the partner institutions),
- plausibility and viability of the project (funding; work steps; time frame).

Following a joint committee's decision, selected preproposals will be invited to submit full proposals by January 31, 2024. By the end of April 30, 2024, NSTC and BMBF will decide which and how many projects will be funded and in what amounts based on the results of the evaluation process and ranking and in view of budget requirements and other constraints.

7. Contact persons:

Additional information can be obtained from the following contact persons:

In Germany:

Dr. Tina Tauchnitz, Dr. Korbinian Schreiber

VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH

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In Taiwan:

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Ms Jennifer Hu (in regard to administrative concerns)

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