

Call Fiche CAS 2026

Call Fiche 12th call

Cooperative R&D Projects between Austria, FFG and China, CAS

The Austrian-Chinese **Cooperative Research and Development (R&D) Projects (CRDP)** are jointly managed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) on behalf of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) and the International Cooperation with Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Deadline for submission to FFG via eCall and to CAS:

FFG: September 8, 2026, 12:00 (noon) Central European Summer Time (C.E.S.T.)

CAS: September 8, 2026, 18:00 China Standard Time (C.S.T.)

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1 Aim of the funding measure

The aim of this 12th call for Austrian-Chinese Cooperative R&D Projects (CRDP) is to support the jointly identified research topic

- Energy Technologies

with mutual interests and scientific excellence based on the existing cooperation agreement between the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). It is purposed that this call will foster the connections between Austria and China and improve the visibility of the successful collaboration between the two parties. Furthermore, it is expected that the 12th Austrian-Chinese call for Joint Proposals will lead to further bilateral or multilateral cooperation at various levels.

The Austrian-Chinese joint Cooperative R&D Projects funded in the framework of this 12th call are intended to intensify scientific and applied research cooperation between Austrian and Chinese research organisations and Austrian companies in order to set new impulses for excellent research between the two countries. The special focus of the projects lies in the expected scientific and applied research achievements, know-how transfer, as well as in the promotion of excellent young scientists, post-docs and PhD students in the framework of the Cooperative R&D Projects. The participation of female scientists is particularly welcome.

Future-oriented research and development seeks to achieve the current global, national and regional goals that are designed to put us on a path to a sustainable future. The call refers to the global Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs) and therefore requires applicants to address the key sustainability goals to which the proposed project makes a concrete positive contribution.

The overall aim of the funding measure is guided by the joint principles of safeguarding research, scientific integrity, academic freedom and ethical principles, confidentiality, protection of IPR (intellectual property rights) and data protection which must be taken into account in project planning and project management. Explanations are given in chapter 6.

2 Subject of funding

- This call shall bring together research capacities from **one or more CAS research groups and one or more Austrian companies** thus creating international excellence and attractiveness to researchers in a key area of research. The **Austrian consortium can involve also research organisations** in addition to the obligatory Austrian company partner.
- Only **formal employees of CAS** are eligible to submit applications for funding at CAS. Furthermore, **institutes of CAS only are eligible as Chinese partners in the consortium** between CAS and Austria. For further information, please contact the contact person at CAS listed in chapter 6.
- **The thematic focus of the Cooperative R&D Project has to refer to the following topic:**
 - **Energy Technologies**

In this topic Cooperative R&D Projects are expected for example in the areas of storage technologies, smart and flexible energy systems, hydrogen technologies, CCUS solutions, the utilization of biogenic residues and CO₂ and exhaust gas streams, as well as solutions to increase the climate resilience of energy infrastructures and energy systems. Cooperative R&D Projects in other fields of energy technologies may also be funded, if they meet the objectives of the call for proposals.
- In general, researchers of both countries should contribute equally to the competence of the partnership. In the partnership researchers of the participating institutions work on a defined research project which is divided into coordinated work packages designed to reach a common research goal. The Joint Proposal provides sufficient level of skill, equipment and personnel capabilities necessary to work on the defined research project.
- The results of the research shall be shared by the participating Austrian and Chinese researchers. All Austrian and Chinese partners involved in the project have to conclude a consortium agreement including issues such as safeguarding research, dual use exclusion, use of project results, handling of data, dissemination, liability, confidentiality and intellectual property rights (IPR). This consortium agreement has to be provided to FFG via eCall and to the headquarters of CAS before the respective national funding contract is signed.

Projects submitted in this call shall be limited to civilian research and development activities. Projects or activities of a security-relevant, military, or potentially dual-use nature are expressly excluded from this cooperation.

3 Scope of funding

- FFG is prepared to provide each selected Cooperative R&D Project with financial support for a maximum of 3 years. The total call budget for the Austrian project partners is 1 Million EURO (equivalent to around 7,9 Million CNY). Funding applied for an individual project has to lie between 100.000,- EURO and 330.000,- EURO for Austrian partners within the joint project. The budget provided by FFG can only be used to cover costs linked to the implementation of the project parts executed by the Austrian project partners. Rules for funding of the Austrian project partners are laid down in the respective call documents¹.
- CAS is prepared to provide each selected Cooperative R&D Project with an annual support, for a total of 3 years. Each selected project can apply for CAS funding with up to 300.000 CNY (equivalent to around 38.000 EURO) per year for a total of 3 years. This part of CAS budget is from the CAS international cooperation fund and cannot be spent for personnel costs but just for one or more of the following cost categories:
 - to cover travel costs for Chinese project partners.
 - to purchase consumables necessary for the performance of the CRDP.
 - to cover other spending in accordance with the CAS.

Important notice: Nevertheless, all costs, including all planned personnel costs for CAS, must be listed in the application form. Please be aware that also in-kind contributions for personal costs must be mentioned in the application. This is the basis for the calculation of the cooperation criterion.

- A minimum of 10% and a maximum of 80% of the total project costs have to be carried by research organisations (no matter if Austrian and/or Chinese research organisations). Companies share of the total project costs is a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 90%.

¹ The call documents include the call fiche, national call announcements, Austrian-Chinese Joint Proposal template and further national submission documents.

- Individual enterprises account for a maximum of 70% of the project costs with shares of affiliated companies counting as one enterprise.
- The Austrian and Chinese research organisations must have the right to publish the results of their work that has been conducted in the course of the project.

4 Conditions for funding

- For each CRDP a joint proposal in English language has to be submitted to FFG and the headquarters of CAS. The proposal must indicate all Austrian and all Chinese project partners and must clearly lay down the division of work between the partners as laid down in the call documents. The submitted versions of the Joint Proposal must be identical. Non identical versions are not eligible.
- The Austrian project partners must submit an Austrian Annex and a cost plan in addition to the Joint Proposal via FFG eCall in due time.
- The Chinese project partners should also prepare and submit in parallel an additional CAS application form in Chinese language to the CAS headquarters (see also below, “Submission of applications”).

The joint proposals must meet the following goals and criteria.

The goals of this call are to:

- Strengthen the innovation potential by improving the industry’s access to research competences at universities and research organisations
- Built up research competences in the thematic area stated in section 2 of this document
- Increase European and international collaborations and networks and foster cooperation to solve interdisciplinary challenges in research

Evaluation criteria of this call:

The evaluation criteria are shown in the following tables:

Table 1: Call evaluation criteria - Quality of the project

1.	Quality of the project (Points 30, Threshold 18)
1.1.	To what extent does the innovation content of the project exceed the state of the art, existing products, services, processes or existing knowledge?
1.2.	Have the project goals been clearly defined and can they be realistically achieved? Are the approaches suitable for achieving the goals of the individual work packages? Have the risks in the work packages been adequately addressed and corresponding measures provided?
1.3.	Quality of planning: Is the structure of the work packages and the associated division of work adequate for the goals of the project? Is the overall planning adequate for achieving the project goals?
1.4.	If the content of the project and the research results affect people: To what extent have gender-specific topics been taken into account in the planning process? - Quality of the analysis of the gender-specific topics - Consideration in the methodological approach of the project Projects in which content and focus have no gender relevance according to this analysis will score full points in this subcategory.
1.5.	To what extent does the project take into account sustainability goals (ecological, social, economic), in particular in terms of climate neutrality? How is sustainability, in particular climate neutrality, taken into account in the planning and implementation of the project and is the methodological approach chosen adequate?

Table 2: Call evaluation criteria - Suitability of the applicant / project partners

2.	Suitability of the applicant / project partners(Points 20, Threshold 12)
2.1.	Does the consortium have the necessary subject-specific and management skills and qualifications and the skills required to achieve the sustainability goals?
2.2.	Does the project plan provide sufficient and appropriate resources for the planned implementation?
2.3.	Does the composition of the project team reflect the aim to improve the gender balance in the sector?

Table 3: Call evaluation criteria - Benefit and exploitation

3. Benefit and exploitation (Points 30, Threshold 18)	
3.1.	What is the benefit of the project for the target group(s) (e.g. users, customers, contracting authorities ...) and what are the impacts and effects (positive and negative) of the project in terms of sustainability (social, ecological, economic), in particular in terms of climate neutrality?
3.2.	What is the benefit of the project for the project participants (e.g. in terms of expanding R&D capacities, opening up new fields of business etc.)? How concrete, transparent and complete are the exploitation strategy and the exploitation potential?

Table 4: Call evaluation criteria - Relevance of the project to the Call

4. Relevance of the project to the Call (Points 20, Threshold 12)	
4.1.	How relevant/important is the project in terms of achieving the call objectives? Does the project sufficiently and adequately address the call topic?
4.2.	What is the incentive effect of the funding? To what extent will the funding help to implement the project at all and/or within a shorter timeframe, and/or with higher ambition, and/or in a larger scope?

- Funding contracts will be concluded between the FFG and Austrian project partners for the Austrian side and by CAS for the Chinese side.
- A consortium agreement between all involved Austrian and Chinese partners has to be provided to FFG via eCall and to the headquarters of CAS before the respective national funding contract is signed. Amongst others, it needs to include issues such as safeguarding research, dual use exclusion, use of project results, handling of data, dissemination, liability, confidentiality and intellectual property rights (IPR).

5 Submission of Joint Proposal applications

- **Application in Austria at FFG:**
Joint Proposal Template - Austrian-Chinese Cooperative R&D Projects and all other relevant documents must be submitted electronically via FFG [eCall](#)
Deadline: September 8, 2026; 12:00 (noon) Central European Summer Time (C.E.S.T.)
- **Application in China at CAS:**
Joint Proposal Template - Austrian-Chinese Cooperative R&D Project and all other relevant documents must be submitted electronically via [CAS ARP system](#)
Deadline: September 8, 2026; 18:00 China Standard Time (C.S.T.)
- The Joint Proposal has to be written in English language.
- In addition, applications must fulfil all the respective national and/or general formal conditions for funding in order to be admitted to the evaluation procedure (amendments are not possible).
- The final decision of the selected proposals will be announced not later than November 2026.

6 Guiding Principles

The main focus and overall aim of joint bilateral projects between Austria and China is on the expected scientific and applied research achievements, know-how transfer, as well as in the promotion of excellent young scientists, post-docs and PhD students in the framework of the Cooperative R&D Projects. And it is a joint understanding that the participation of female scientists is particularly welcome.

Furthermore, as already addressed in this document (see chapter 1) proposers have to take into account in the **project planning** and in the **project management** including the **design of the consortium agreement**, the following **Guiding Principles** which address safeguarding research, scientific integrity, academic freedom and ethical principles, confidentiality, protection of IPR (intellectual property rights) and data protection. The following description of Guiding Principles is giving the frame following:

Safeguarding research

Safeguarding of research is understood as preventing jointly conducted projects and the developed knowledge, technologies and innovations from potential risks. These risks could range for example from unintentional/unwanted knowledge- and technology transfer or misuse to restrictions on academic freedom, research integrity or ethical principles.

Scientific integrity

The principles of scientific integrity must be ensured. All persons involved in research are obliged to adhere to the principles of integrity in research and scholarship.

Proposers from Austria follow the ÖAWI guidelines with regard on scientific integrity ([LINK](#)).

Proposers from CAS follow the Guidelines on the Code of Conduct for Responsible Research (2023) and Trial Guideline on Review of Science and Technology Ethics (2023) by MOST, and Trial Implementing Opinions of the Chinese Academy of Sciences on Strengthening Ethical Governance of Science and Technology (2022)

Academic freedom and ethical principals

On the basis of ensuring legal and compliant operations, the academic freedom of science and research encompasses the right of researchers and scientific institutions to freely choose research topics, methods, and collaborations, and to publish and disseminate results without undue interference. Scientific freedom includes the protection of intellectual autonomy, the independence of scientific judgment, and the ability to engage in open academic exchange.

The Parties support the integration of the gender dimension in research and innovation activities and the promotion of equal opportunities for all.

Applicants/Beneficiaries must ensure that the above-mentioned aspects are taken into account.

Confidentiality

Each Party acknowledges and supports that any information on proposals and CRDP provided by the other Party is confidential and proprietary information of the disclosing Party.

Protection of IPR (intellectual property rights)

The intellectual property rights (IPR) generated by CRDP shall be regulated in a Consortium Agreement on a fair basis between the R&D project partners, whereby the partners are obliged to assure the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights.

Data protection

In relation to any Personal Information a party discloses or makes available to the other party in connection with the project application and management, the receiving party must:

- a. treat that Personal Information as confidential information
- b. process that Personal Information only as necessary for the intended purposes of the R&D

Each party shall process Personal Information in compliance with applicable Privacy Laws, including implementing appropriate technical and organizational measures, restrictions on international transfers, incident notification obligations and ensuring authorized personal comply with these obligations.

Personal Information means:

- data, information or an opinion, whether true or not, about an individual that can be used to identify that individual, or
- data, information or opinion to which the relevant organization has or is likely to have access, or
- other information that is subject to a Privacy Law.

Privacy Law means those laws that regulate the collection, use and disclosure of Personal Information in the relevant jurisdiction. Processing means any and all collection, recording, use, processing, disclosure, storage, holding, organizing, adapting, altering, retrieving, combining, transmitting, erasing, destroying or transferring of Personal Information or the carrying out of any operation or set of operations in relation to the Personal Information, as required in order to carry out the Purposes and Process, will have a corresponding meaning.

Austria and China refer to their applicable legal bases for data protection. This ensures that a high standard in data protection is guaranteed.

Austrian applicants and funding recipients find more information about the corresponding national/EU regulations in national call documents.

Applicants and funding recipients from CAS operate with comparable standards of data protection which can be found in national call documents.

7 Contact Information

Austria – FFG:

FFG website related to the call

eCall submission of application

FFG contact person:

DI Manuel Binder MSc, Programm Manager

E: manuel.binder@ffg.at, T: +43 (0) 57755-5041

China – CAS:

CAS website related to the call

CAS contact person:

Mr. Ning Liu, Bureau of International Cooperation

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