

**Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
of the Czech Republic
Managing Authority of the OP RDI**

**CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS
IN OP RDI
Technology transfer centres**

Call identification	Technology transfer centres
Priority axis	3 – R&D Commercialization and Popularization
Support area	3.1 – Commercialization of Results of Research Institutions and Protection of Their Intellectual Property Rights
Call number	3.3 – Technology transfer centres
Date of call announcement	7 July 2010
Call deadline	28 January 2011
Receipt of registration applications	15 October 2010 – 28 January 2011 At the address of the announcer and support provider
System of collecting applications	Round calls
Planned allocation for this call	CZK 1 billion

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1 Main stipulations

The call is announced and the support will be provided by the MA of the Operational Programme Research and Development for Innovations – Ministry of Youth, Education and sports (MEYS, www.msmt.cz).

2 Technology Transfer Centre

Technology transfer centre (TTC) is the main organization element of the system of commercialization of R&D results of the research institution. The TTC fulfils the needs of one or more research institutions.

Institutionally, TTC typically is an internal unit of an existing research institution or an external entity established by the institution or by a group of research institutions.

The roles and responsibilities of the TTC of a research institution:

- 1) creating a system that determines, stabilizes and develops rules for technology transfer from a research institution or group of research institutions towards the application sector as well as continuous evaluation and support for use of commercial opportunities in the research institution;
- 2) identification and evaluation of the commercial potential of R&D results, protection of intellectual property rights related to the R&D results;
- 3) identification of potential partners for commercialization, i.e. potential clients and facilitators of commercialization, securing commercial negotiations and other activities leading to commercialization (transfer of a licence, set-up of a technology company including spin-offs etc.);¹
- 4) securing internal and external communication connected with technology transfer, securing collection and sharing of important or strategic information for technology transfer and/or R&D strategy of the research institution;
- 5) communication and cooperation with the partners of the regional system for commercialization of R&D results (professional associations, clusters, technological platforms etc.).

¹ Technology company: a company that commercializes R&D results of the research institution (by means of selling products, providing services or a combination thereof).

3 Main objective of the call

The objective of this call is to support projects that will set up processes for technology transfer and then the development of technology transfer among research institutions and the application sector. Projects focused on setting up new TTCs as well as on the development and stabilization of the existing ones will be supported in the call.

3.1 Specific objectives of the call

The specific objectives of this calls are to support:

- a) the creation of teams of specialists for identification of needs of the application sector and reflection of the outputs of their analyses in the strategies of research institutions;
- b) creation of teams of specialists for identification and appraisal of results usable in the application sector and/or R&D capacities and for subsequent commercialization;
- c) creation, stabilization and development of a system and organizational culture enhancing commercialization of R&D results and securing a rapid, efficient technology transfer with the help of clearly defined rules;
- d) setting procedures for contractual research in research organizations and making the cooperation with R&D teams in research institutions more attractive for the application sector.

4 Supported activities

- a) The establishment and development of TTC including establishment, stabilization and improvement of a system that stipulates rules for technology transfer inside the whole research institution or groups of research institutions (e.g. financial or legal studies, internal directives of research institutions, contract samples etc.).
- b) Material and technical support for the establishment and operation of the TTC (construction expenses only in justified cases for small changes of the essential background of the TTC, equipment necessary for the work of the TTC).

- c) Identification and hiring of qualified personnel employment relationship or other contractual solutions (particularly payroll expenses for TTC employees, services of recruitment agencies, short- or long-term consulting etc.).
- d) Market research, continuous evaluation of demand on the part of the application sector, collection of data on the expected development of needs of commercial partners, sectoral trends etc. (consulting services, purchase of information and know-how, attendance of employees or representatives at professional events etc.).
- e) Research and identification of R&D results with commercialization potential including elaboration of an offer. This activity also includes overview studies leading to the determination of the potential of the research institutions to produce R&D attractive for the application sector, identification of existing attractive R&D results owned by the research institution or a group of research institutions (e.g. surveys and related databases, activities of technology scouts, expert appraisal of identified results).²
- f) Evaluation of the application potential of R&D results, preparation of commercialization plans or business plans of a newly created technology firm (including spin-offs) that will commercialize R&D results.³
- g) Activities connected with the preparation of formal protection of intellectual property rights related to R&D results (particularly services of patent agencies and representatives, related legal consulting and elaboration of contracts, **not** administrative fees for obtaining and maintaining protection of intellectual property rights).
- h) Intermediation of financial sources for activities related to technology transfer (e.g. intermediation of grants, private investment, R&D upon order).

² Technology scout: an employee of the research institution (or a student) or consultant working for the research institution / TTC, who systematically identifies (and evaluates) R&D results with commercialization potential in the process of technology transfer. (Technology scout working for a company is a person who systematically searches for technologies that can be a source of innovation for the firm's products or services).

³ Commercialization plan: a document describing the plan of the research institution to commercialize a specific R&D result (or a set thereof). The document typically describes all steps from the evaluation of the commercial potential of R&D results over protection of intellectual property rights to the materialization of the R&D result (e.g. transfer of a licence).

- i) Creating an offer for entities potentially interested in R&D results and other activities leading to the commercialization, e.g. the transfer of a licence or establishment of technology companies including spin-offs.
- j) Research of potential partners for commercialization, i.e. potential partners as well as commercialization facilitators (e.g. consulting services, consulting bodies of the research institution with participation of companies, broker services, incubators).
- k) Participation of representatives of the research institution at academic events such as conferences and symposia, which have a direct relation to the technology transfer and provide access to strategic information or the possibility to build contacts with the application sector (e.g. active participation of representatives of the beneficiary in order to support the TTC activity and related travel expenses, organization of specialized seminars and conferences).
- l) Twinning with foreign organization(s) that reached a high quality and good results in technology transfers, internship for specialized employee's of the beneficiary with the goal to empower the TTC to perform its task related to technology transfer significantly better than before.⁴
- m) The proposal and execution of marketing or communication strategy of the TTC as a tool supporting commercialization of R&D results typically includes:
 - i. communication or marketing related to TTC activities inside the research institution,
 - ii. communication and marketing targeted outside the research institution (for internal as well as external communication/marketing: services related to the proposal of communication/marketing strategy, organization and participation of representatives of the grant beneficiary in specialized events, offer information system, CRM system, promotional materials, web presentations etc.).
- n) Securing access to databases or purchase of databases relevant for technology transfer.

⁴ Twinning is one of the most important elements of strengthening of institutional know-how. It includes visits of employees of an experienced organization in receiving countries. Their objective is to share their experience and abilities with their Czech partners. After some period, the receiving institution should be able to execute tasks related to technology transfer independently at a much higher level than before twinning.

- o) Creation of contacts / social networks inside as well outside the research organization, participation, organization of specialized events relevant for technology transfer (e.g. organization or participation in meetings with representatives of the application sector, participation of representatives of the grant beneficiary in specialized events, formal as well as informal cooperation with relevant bodies of the public administration and local administration).
- p) If applicable, other activities leading to the fulfilment of the call objectives.

5 Grant beneficiary

5.1

The beneficiary as well as other entities having a share in eligible project expenses must fulfil all conditions for a research institution pursuant to Article 2.2(d) of Community Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation 2006/C 323/01 (hereinafter “Framework”).

- 1) The main objective of the beneficiary is to:
 - a) perform basic research, applied research or experimental development, or;⁵
 - b) spread results of activities listed under a) through education, publishing or technology transfer.
- 2) All profit from activities listed in Section 1 shall be reinvested in these activities.
- 3) Companies (as entities performing commercial activities) that can influence such an entity, e.g. in the capacity of shareholders or members, do not have any preferential access to the research capacities of the entity or the results of the research for the purpose of their commercial activities.⁶
- 4) Commercial and non-commercial activities are recorded in separated books, and commercial activities are not financed from non-commercial ones

⁵ To exclude doubts, the main objective of the beneficiary shall be any of the activities listed as a) or b), or any combination thereof.

⁶ Commercial activities mean offering goods and services on the market (i.e. in R&D particularly contractual research – see Section 3.2.1. of the Framework).

(including the obligation to use profit from non-commercial activities exclusively for them).⁷

A binding way of proving that these conditions have been fulfilled is stipulated in the OP RDI Guide for Applicants.

Participation of partners (entities having a share in eligible project expenses) must fulfil conditions stipulated in the OP RDI Guide for Applicants.

In this call, an entity can have a share in eligible project expenses of one project only (as an applicant/beneficiary or partner).

5.2

The beneficiary as well as the partners must fulfil one of the following conditions related to the regional impact of the project:

- a) its seat is in the eligible region;
- b) the seat of its organizational unit, to which the project relates, is in the eligible region (i.e. the dean's office or a branch of the institution), and it has an established infrastructure in the region.⁸ the TTC must be meant for this organizational unit or these organizational units;
- c) it is an entity that has a share in eligible project expenses or in projects evaluated as successful in the OP RDI calls 1.1, 1.2 or 2.2 and that declared that it fulfilled the conditions for moving out of Prague (see Article 2.5 of the OP RDI Guide for Applicants – Priority Axes 1 and 2).⁹ The condition is that the eligible expenses of this entity in the project(s) of priority axes 1 and 2 are meant for building infrastructure for the entity in the eligible region(s). The TTC must be meant for this infrastructure.

⁷ Non-commercial activities in R&D are in particular activities listed in Section 3.1.1. of the Framework.

⁸ When evaluating the project, only the relevant unit is considered.

⁹ To exclude doubts, a Grant Award Decision in call 3.3. can be issued for entities fulfilling eligibility condition 5.2(c) only when they obtain a Grant Award Decision in Call 1.1, 1.2 and 2.2. If the MA of the OP RDI decides that it will not initiate negotiations to specify parameters of projects in these calls ((1.2, 1.2 or 2.2), which means that no Decision will be issued for them, these entities lose the eligibility to prove the condition 5.2(c) of call 3.3 at any time during the project evaluation.

6 Form and amount of support

Priority axis 3, support area 3.1 will be fully financed from public funds as follows: 85% from the European Regional Development Fund and 15% from the state budget.

The support is provided as a grant. In line with the Framework, the support provided this way to research institutions (direct support) does not constitute public support within the meaning of Article 107 of Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. The funds will be earmarked for eligible project expenses.

The minimum amount of eligible project expenses is CZK 15 million and the maximum amount is CZK 75 million. The total project expenses must not exceed CZK 1.1 billion.

7 Implementation period and expense eligibility

Eligible project expenses can occur before the issuance of the Grant Award Decision (hereinafter Decision). Expenses occurring before the Decision must be directly related to the project preparation. The nature of preparation activities is specified in Rules of expense eligibility for call 3.3, support area 3.1 of priority axis 3 OP RDI (see attachment B to the call). Expenses related to the implementation of the project will only be eligible after the issuance of the Decision. Projects in the call must be completed no later than three years after the issuance of the Decision. The construction part of the project, if applicable, must be completed no later than one year after the issuance of the Decision.

8 Location of project implementation

The project must be executed in the territory of the Czech Republic and outside the territory of the Capital City of Prague.

9 Application for support and its submission

The applicant submits a written application for support to the MA of the OP RDI.

10 Other stipulation

No one has a legal title to receiving the grant.

Detailed information for the elaboration of the project application and conditions not mentioned herein are available in the Guide for Applicants available on the OP RDI website (<http://www.msmt.cz/strukturalni-fondy/prirucka-pro-zadatele-op-vavpi-2007-2013-po-3>).

The Managing Authority of the OP RDI is entitled to prolong, discontinue or cancel the call.

11 Address of the announcer and support provider

Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of CR
CORSO IIa
Křižíkova 34/148
Prague 8 – Karlín
186 00

12 Attachment

- A) Selection criteria for call 3.3 – Technology transfer centres
- B) Rules for expense eligibility for call 3.3 – Technology transfer centres
- C) Monitoring indicators for call 3.3 – Technology transfer centres