



## **Call for Proposals – Grants for Taiwan-Swedish Research Collaboration 2025**

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) and the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) launch a joint programme with the purpose of stimulating collaborative, strategic research projects involving highly qualified groups in Taiwan and Sweden. NSTC and SSF have set aside MTWD 80 and MSEK 50, respectively, to fund ten Taiwanese-Swedish collaborative projects of the highest international scientific standard.

The research grants should be used for collaborative research, joint seminars, conferences, workshops, and exchanges of individuals between the applying groups over a period of five years.

### **Introduction**

SSF and NSTC have together identified positive synergies of joint research programme between Sweden and Taiwan, considering the innovative strengths and complementarities of the research areas in both regions.

During a previous call in 2019, NSTC and SSF funded six collaborative projects that at the mid-term evaluation were positively reviewed as having mutual national benefits. This new 2025 programme aims at giving leading researchers in Sweden and Taiwan a venue to initiate, and reinforce, strong and lasting links between the two regions by means of strategic research projects.

The ensuing strengthened contacts and enlarged networks in Sweden and Taiwan are expected to give added value also to other, non-participating, actors in academia and industry.

### **Prioritised areas**

This call for proposals addresses strategic joint research projects of excellent science in Natural science, Engineering, and Medicine for a sustainable future development.

The Call is open for proposals that, broadly defined, resides within or contributes to the development of the ten strategic research technology fields, in no order of priority, which are agreed between NSTC and SSF:

- 6G
- AI
- Biotechnology for personalized medicine
- Drones/robotics
- Green energy
- Marine/Ocean exploration
- Neuroscience.
- Quantum
- Semiconductors
- Space

The distribution of grants among these fields will ultimately depend on the scientific quality of the proposals. For proposal having equal quality the, otherwise, un-represented strategic area (in the above list) will be selected.

### **Financial support and eligibility**

In this Call a Taiwanese principal investigator (PI) and a Swedish PI must submit a common grant application, describing the proposed collaborative research project, the prospected individuals that will take part in the project, and a budget. The same application is submitted to NSTC from the Taiwanese PI and to SSF from the Swedish PI, in parallel. The application shall be written in English.

Support for expenses of the Taiwanese researchers will be provided by NSTC under the contract and routines of NSTC, and support for expenses of the Swedish researchers will be provided by SSF under the contract and routines of SSF.

Funding is planned to be provided equally for 10 projects, approximately MTWD 8 / MSEK 5 per project, and region, for 5 years in total.

Eligible costs are:

- Salary for senior research personnel working directly in the joint project.
- Joint seminars, conferences, workshops.
- Exchange of individuals (including travel, accommodation, and salary .
- Salaries for postdocs and PhD's, working directly in the joint project.
- Costs for relevant consumables up to a minor fraction of the grant.

Non-eligible costs are:

- Large and/or expensive equipment.

The applying PI's must be outstanding researchers associated with a Swedish/Taiwanese university/college or research institute. The number of co-PI's must be appropriately fitted to the project budget in order for it to be judged as feasible. A PI (and co-PI) may appear as an applicant in no more than one application in this call.

NSTC and SSF have no claims on the intellectual property rights arising from the selected projects. It is the responsibility of each PI to ensure the efficient protection and proper distribution of any intellectual property arising from the accomplishment of the joint research projects.

## Application

A complete application must contain, among other information specified in the respective funding agency's portal:

- A project description, including how collaboration will be carried out, with clear statements of what the roles of each Swedish and Taiwanese researcher(s) will be in the project.
- A description of the expected outcome of the proposed project, scientifically as well as in terms of its relevance for industry and society.
- A description of the on-going activities and specific strengths of the Swedish and Taiwanese groups, respectively, which form the basis for the proposed joint project.
- A description of the expected added value from the proposed joint project, including how the competence, technology and other resources in the different groups complement each other.
- A description of how the project is expected to help strengthen research cooperation between Taiwan and Sweden in the longer term.
- CV:s for both the Taiwanese and the Swedish PI:s.
- A maximum of 15 selected references to publications from each PI.

The proposal must clearly describe the state of the art within the area of research and describe the strategic relevance of the project, in terms of how it will be utilised, or the competitive advantages for which it will help building the base for, in the Swedish and Taiwanese societies.

The application must be submitted to NSTC, according to the NRF routines, and to SSF via the portal found at: <https://strategiska.se/apply>, following the SSF routines. The research plan and constellation of the application should be elaborated together between the Taiwanese and Swedish PI and be identical in both in both the Taiwanese and the Swedish application.

To get a complete view of all data required for submission it is necessary to consult each funding agency portal for submission, or similar. Please log on to the portal in good time before the deadline.

## Evaluation

The applications will be evaluated in two steps. First, national evaluation panels will review the applications for each respective funding agency. The preliminary reviews and national ranked lists will be exchanged between SSF and NSTC. Second, the national panels from both countries will meet and form a bilateral committee that will make the final prioritisation and recommendation to SSF and NSTC. If one application is not eligible according to one of the two funders criteria - it will be considered as non-eligible in this call overall. Please note that the process might be subject to small changes.

The applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call, as described above.
- Scientific quality of the proposal.
- Quality of the consortium, project management, synergies between the partners and mobility plan for the participating researchers and PhD's.
- Added value to be expected from the Taiwanese-Swedish research collaboration.

## Preliminary timetable

- Last date for applications: **February 11, 2026.**
- Granting decision by NSTC and SSF: June 11, 2026.
- Project start: August 1, 2026.

No additional material submitted after the deadline will be considered.

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**Contact persons** at SSF: Scientific Secretary, Dr Johan Nilsson, [johan.nilsson@strategiska.se](mailto:johan.nilsson@strategiska.se), Tel. +46 8 505 81 674 and Research Programmes Manager, Dr. Joakim Amorim, [joakim.amorim@strategiska.se](mailto:joakim.amorim@strategiska.se), Tel. +46 8 505 81 665.

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*For Swedish PI's: Note that SSF follows the principle of public access to official records. For this reason, do not submit material that you do not want to become public at present, e.g., detailed information that could prevent possible patenting.*

*For Swedish PI's: At least one of the co-applicants added into the SSF:s portal (in the co-applicants tab) has to be the Taiwanese PI. More Taiwanese and Swedish co-PI:s can be added but please make sure that the budget is realistic and not over diluted.*

*For Swedish PI's: You can use the NSTC form and upload that as the research plan in the SSF application portal*

*For Taiwanese PI's: Taiwan Institutions (i.e., research conducting institutions) shall be approved by NSTC to be eligible recipients of subsidization in accordance with the Operation Guidelines for Institutions Applying for NSTC Grants.*

*For Taiwanese PI's: the Taiwan collaborative PI is required to provide the necessary information to NSTC using the Forms found on the NSTC webpages (<https://www.nstc.gov.tw/>) following NSTC-SSF Joint Collaboration Program announcement.*

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