

## **Annex 1 to Lead Agency Agreement between National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF) and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) dated: [29.10.2024]**

### **Operational aspects of the cooperation**

NRF and RCN hereby agree to the following framework for the collaborative mechanism (to be supplemented by more detailed guidance to applicants):

#### **Call for proposal**

- a) The cooperation will in its entirety be implemented within the NRF-RCN Joint Research program 2025 call for proposals on AI and hydrogen.

#### **Applications**

- b) Joint proposals are submitted by the Korean partner through the NRF's Call submission system to the NRF-RCN Joint Research program 2025 following the applicable guidelines and NRF's general application requirements, as published on the Call website (Text version also in Annex II) [한국연구재단::\(nrf.re.kr\)](http://한국연구재단::(nrf.re.kr)).
- c) Norwegian and Korean applicants must satisfy the eligibility criteria of RCN and NRF respectively. The RCN and NRF will separately assesses the eligibility of the projects.
- d) When submitting an application to the NRF-RCN Joint Research program 2025 all applicants and individuals named on the application agree that any personal information in the proposal can be shared with officers of NRF and nominated experts. Moreover, applicants are informed that confidential information regarding the application and the project may be disclosed to RCN and nominated experts for the purpose of reaching a decision on funding of Norwegian partners of the project. NRF and RCN ensure confidential handling of such information and adheres to relevant data protection laws.
- e) Compulsory documents are provided in the call text (Annex 2).

#### **Costing**

- f) Applications shall in the proposal budget clearly differentiate the costs to be incurred by the teams based in Norway and in Korea.
- g) The selected collaborative projects must follow the funding guidelines of the RCN for the Norwegian partners and the NRF for Korean partners.
- h) Costs to be incurred by applicants based in Norway and costs to be incurred in NRF must be eligible according to the funding rules and existing financial practices pertinent to RCN and NRF respectively.

#### **Evaluation/assessment procedures**

- i) Proposals will be processed and assessed by NRF according to its own rules and processes.
- j) The assessment and administrative procedures for the call are published on the NRF's Call website here (requirements, assessment criteria and management procedures summarized in):

NRF's assessment criteria

Criteria	Indication	Score
Researcher Capacity (20)	Track record and Expertise of the researchers	10
	Appropriateness of research team organization	10
Excellence (30)	Excellence and Originality of the project's objectives	15
	Appropriateness of the methodology and feasibility	15
International Cooperation (30)	Necessity and Concreteness of international cooperation	15
	Complementarity of the research partners	15
Expected Impacts (20)	Dissemination and Exploitation of research results	10
	Academic, Economic, and Social impacts	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

- k) The selection process, as a whole, remains a process of NRF. RCN agrees in principle to accept the results of the peer-review process as presented by the reviewers nominated by NRF.
- l) NRF will assess the eligibility of the joint proposals, as according to the eligibility criteria for the NRF-RCN Joint Research program 2025 call. These are stipulated in the call text. RCN will assess the eligibility of the Norwegian partner organisation.
- m) RCN assures confidential handling of the evaluation documents and relevant personnel in need of handling confidential information shall only handle such information after signing a non-disclosure agreement.

**Funding decision**

- n) RCN will confirm any budgetary constraints on submitted projects prior to a final decision on an award being made by NRF.
- o) Ultimate responsibility for decisions to award funding for the Norwegian and Korean part of a proposal, remains with RCN or NRF respectively.
- p) When a funding decision is made on both ends, RCN and NRF shall inform the applicants of the outcome. Such communication shall be mutually agreed upon and coordinated.
- q) RCN and NRF will fund their respective parts of approved joint projects and disburse funds according to its own rules and procedures.

**Project follow-up and reporting**

- r) RCN and NRF will follow up on the project in accordance with own rules and procedures.
- s) The Norwegian partner shall report on the entire project to RCN according to its rules and procedures.
- t) The Korean partner shall report on the entire project to NRF according to its rules and procedures.