

Indo-French Program in ICST

CEFIPRA Targeted Program 2013 Call for proposals

Indian and French institutions have a strong research tradition in informatics and applied mathematics and some Indo-French initiatives have emerged in the last few years such as the UMI IFCAM and the LIA InForMel. However, Indian and French research institutions wish to strengthen the scientific cooperation between both countries by contributing to researchers' mobility and by fostering joint research projects in the field of Information and Communication Science and Technology (ICST).

For this purpose, an Indo-French workshop in this field was held in India on April 4-5, 2013. The main goals of this seminar were to bring together high-level scientists from France and India; to identify topics of mutual interest in ICST and to propose research objectives, which could be the basis of this call for projects. This workshop was the first one of a series that is planned in this Program.

Program goals and priorities

The program aims at supporting joint projects created between Indian and French research groups/researchers. The two partners jointly define a scientific objective with a clear added value for each of them, a research plan and a program for bilateral exchanges. To promote and develop such scientific collaborations, by supporting high quality research projects, Inria and CNRS on the French side, and DST from the Indian side, have decided to launch the following call for proposals, under CEFIPRA's umbrella.

Each partner is responsible for disseminating the information concerning the call.

For the 2013 call, the program is aimed at supporting in priority new collaborative projects by:

-Strengthening existing collaborations: by creating a task force on a new joint project in the context of international laboratories or research programs.

-Launching and supporting new partnerships: by putting together complementary competencies to explore new research topics between the two countries.

Some domains of common interest have been identified during the Indo-French workshop in ICST held in India in 2013, which include Big Data, Cyber-Physical Systems and High Performance Computing. Special consideration will be given to proposals tackling these research areas. However, this call is open to other projects in the field of ICST.



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Important dates

For the 2013 call, the timetable is as follows:

- **July 1, 2013:** launch of the call
- **September 30, 2013:** submission deadline
- **December, 2013:** decision notification

Funding

Joint research projects are equally financed by the Indian and the French sides for a period of three (3) years, renewable once for an additional three year period.

French side: 10 000 euros, per project and per year

Indian side: 10 000 euros (or its equivalent in INR), per project and per year

Additional support from both sides, for supporting Master and PhD internships and Post-doc positions could be provided, in the scope of the existing co-operation programs from the different funding partners. The request for such additional support should be mentioned in the proposals. The selection process will be subject to the rules of each funding institution.

Expenses supported under the Program include:

- International airfare between France and India for participants in the joint research projects (for researchers, engineers, postdoctoral fellows, PhD students and interns)
- Daily allowance, accommodation and domestic travel in the receiving country during a participant's stay abroad
- Organization of meetings and workshops in both countries
- Support for interns (Master, PhD)

Conditions

Applicants

On the French side:

Applicants have to carry out their research activity in an Inria project team or in a CNRS research unit.

On the Indian side:

Applicants have to hold a position as a researcher in a university or research institute in India, in accordance with general conditions applied to DST bilateral programs.

Submission

- Applicants shall submit their proposals by using the “Indo-French Program in ISCT Submission form”.
- Each proposal should have both an Indian and a French Principal Investigators (PI's).
- Proposals shall be submitted in English.

Submission web site (for CNRS): <https://www.cooperation.cnrs.fr>

Selection of joint research projects

The selection process is carried out in two steps:

In the first step, an Indo-French Scientific Committee reviews and ranks the projects on the basis of their scientific merits:

- the quality of the partnership (capacity and will to work together);
- the quality of the proposal (motivation of the general problems, identification of the main challenges, intended approaches/methodologies/ techniques);
- the relevance and consistency of the work and exchange programs (projects involving both junior and senior participants will be particularly appreciated);
- the expected impact of the collaboration for each partner.

In the second step, the projects to be funded are selected by a Selection Committee composed of representatives of the funding institutions. The Selection Committee will take into account the work of the Scientific Committee and the strategic priorities of the funding institutions.

Evaluation

Joint projects are created for a period of 3 years and a follow up of their activities is ensured each year by the funding partners. For that purpose, PI's of each project are asked to create and update a dedicated website, properly referenced. This web site presents the partners, scientific objectives, work program and accounts for the activities, exchanges, technological developments, joint publications and co-supervised PhD that are generated.

At completion of the third year, the PI's present the final report to the Indian and the French funding partners.