

**Indo-French Program in ICST
CEFIPRA Targeted Program
2018 Call for proposals**

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 a Joint targeted Program in Information and Communication Science and Technology has been launched by Inria, CNRS and the Department of Science and Technology, Government Republic of India- DST, under CEFIPRA's umbrella. A MoU has been signed between these institutions and joint selected projects will be co-funded (projects emerging from CNRS' research units are eligible to the annual call and will be co-funded by CNRS and DST).

1. 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.

For the 2018 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.

Priority topics for 2018 are the following:

- Big Data
- Computer science for Biology and Life Sciences
- Artificial Intelligence
- Cyber Physical Systems
- Any other proposal in ICST and Applied Mathematics may also be considered



2. Conditions

Applicants

Applicants from both sides must fulfil the following requirements:

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 permanent position as scientists/faculty members in universities/deemed universities, academia institutes and national research and development laboratories/ institutes.

Submission

Each project must be submitted separately to Inria and to CEFIPRA according to each institution's own procedures (projects emerging from CNRS' research units are eligible to the annual call and have to be submitted to CNRS respecting their own conditions and procedures).

In order to avoid mismatching projects, and consequently ineligibility, Indian and French PIs shall make sure that projects have been submitted to each institution. Proposals submitted to only one Party will not be considered.

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

Joint projects must be submitted by the French PI via the dedicated Web site at: <https://drisi.inria.fr/eaEquipeAssociee/new>

3. Selection of joint research projects

The evaluation criteria of joint projects are based on scientific merits.

They will be based on the following:

- Relevance of the proposal to the call
- Technical and Scientific quality of the proposal
- Quality of the project management & methodology
- Global Impact of the proposal
- Quality of the consortium and good synergies between the partners
- Mobilization of resources
- Added value to be expected from French-Indian research collaboration
- Balanced Scientific and Financial contribution

Projects to be funded are selected by a Joint Selection Committee composed of representatives and Scientific Chairs of the funding institutions. The Joint Selection Committee takes into account the recommendations of Scientific Chairs and the strategic priorities of the funding institutions.



4. Funding

Joint research projects are equally financed by Indian and French funding partners for a period of three (3) years.

French partner: 10 000€, per project and per year

Indian partner: 10 000€ (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 and an IP Management Charter will be signed by successful applicants.

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
- Support for interns (Master, PhD)

5. Report

Joint projects are created for a period of 3 years and progress is monitored on a yearly basis by funding partners. For that purpose, PI's of each project must 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 students and research that are generated. A short report must be submitted annually that describes the progress of the work and requests a budget for the following year.

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

6. Important dates

The submission deadline for the 2018 call is: **September 27th, 2017**

The general timetable is as follows:

- o **June 28th, 2017**: publication of the call



- **September 27th, 2017:** deadline for submission of joint proposals
- **November-December, 2017:** national evaluations and Selection Committee
- **End of January, 2018:** notification of grants and publication of results