

Japan-Thailand
Joint Call for Proposals:
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and
Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional
Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B)
2024

Summary:

Call announcement:	July 17, 2024 at 14:00 (JST) at 12:00 (THA)
Deadline for submission:	August 30, 2024 at 14:00 (JST) at 12:00 (THA)
Selection results announcement:	January 2025
Start of projects:	April 2025
Funding per project:	(Japan-side) Direct Expenses: 24 million yen Indirect Expenses: 30% of Direct Expenses (Thailand-side: per project) 5 million THB (including indirect costs)
Maximum duration of the projects:	36 months
The number of the projects:	Up to five
Area	Green Technology
Eligibility:	Researchers who belong to the Japanese research institution and researchers who belong to the Thailand research institution
Submission:	To JST via e-Rad; To PMU-B via NRIIS
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1. Introduction

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and Program Management Unit for Human Resources & Institutional Development, Research and Innovation (PMU-B) are

working together to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers from Japan and Thailand. JST and PMU-B launch this Call for Proposals for research, jointly conceived and to be jointly implemented by researchers in Japan and Thailand.

The two agencies will jointly fund up to five research projects in this call.

JST and PMU-B are supporting joint projects through strategic project support measures to promote cooperation between Japan and Thailand. On the Japan-side, this funding measure is carried out under the international collaboration program. The aim of this program is to build a “Complementary and Sustainable Research Ecosystem”, facilitating mutual growth as co-creating partners by enhancing sustainable research cooperation, grounded in longstanding initiatives such as international collaborative research and the exchange of research personnel.

On Thailand-side, this funding measure is carried out under N49 (S4P23) Global Partnership. The measure is aimed at promoting joint research projects of mutual interest and thus contributing to intensified scientific and technological cooperation with each country. The aim of this program is to elevate research collaboration through joint research with leading universities and research institutes abroad, leading to the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge and the creation of high-impact research with both academic and socio-economic significance.

Both Japan and Thailand committed to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Green Technology is one of the key technologies to achieve carbon neutrality and net zero. This research collaboration aims to achieve such goals by maximizing synergies with Japanese and Thai science and technologies.

2. Research Fields

Research Fields: Green Technology

Subtopics:

- (i) Green Hydrogen for FCEV (Fuel Cell Electric Vehicle)
- (ii) Secondary Battery for Net Zero

3. Researcher Eligibility

3.1 Eligible researchers for JST support:

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a 'Domestic Japanese research institution', regardless of nationality, is eligible to apply.
- 'Domestic Japanese research institution' refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations, and enterprises, etc. that satisfy requirements predetermined by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Please refer to the MEXT

homepage for more information:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm

- The Japanese applicants must also complete a research ethics training program conducted by the research institute with which the Principal Investigator (PI) is affiliated, and then declare the completion of the program to JST. If it is very difficult for the Japanese PI to undertake a program provided by his or her affiliated institute, they should contact JST. Please note that unless applicants complete a research ethics program, his / her application will be deemed ineligible. For more details, please refer to the call announcement page linked from the JST homepage.
- Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad: <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

3.2 Eligible researchers for PMU-B support:

- Eligibility conditions for PMU-B support are described at <https://www.pmu-hr.or.th/>
 - The applicants must be researchers and/or university professors/instructors who work in public/non-profit organization research institute or university in Thailand and are competent in conducting research with international partner
 - Neither the project leader nor any project participants shall be involved in any research misconduct or unethical behavior.
 - The applicants' institution have agreed or recognized from the submission through the operation of the project.
 - Thai applicants will have to register their applications on the NRIIS System (NRIIS: <https://nriis.go.th>).

4. Characteristics of Proposals under this call

4.1 Proposal for JST

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to PMU-B and JST, respectively. In addition, Japan-based PIs must also submit the Japanese application form (appendix for Japan-side PIs) for Japan-side in Japanese.

4.2 Proposal for PMU-B

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to PMU-B and JST, respectively. In addition, Thailand-based PIs must also submit the PMU-B application form for Thailand-side in Thai/English through NRIIS system: <https://nriis.go.th>.

5. Amount of Funding

5.1. Amount of Funding by JST:

JST will support each Japan-based team up to 24 million Japanese Yen as direct expenses for 36 months.

In addition to direct expenses, the overhead cost of 30% of direct expenses will be added as indirect expenses separately.

The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities.

The amounts will be adjusted each year due to the budgetary limitations for this program.

5.2. Amount of Funding by PMU-B:

PMU-B will support each Thai-based team up to 5 million Baht as direct expenses for 3 years.

The total budget for the Thai researcher over a full 3-year period is up to 5,000,000 THB per project. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities and compliance with PMU-B financial guideline (please find details via PMU-B website: www.pmu-hr.or.th)

6. Eligible costs

6.1. Eligible costs for JST:

(1) Direct expenses

Direct expenses are expenses directly used for research purposes at the awarded research institution, and can be used for the following:

- Equipment costs (equipment and consumables)
- Travel costs
In principle, travel costs are incurred in accordance with the guidelines of the awarded research institution. Travel expenses are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.
- Personnel costs (PI and Co-PI personnel costs and buyout policy may apply)
- Miscellaneous
- In addition to the above, research expenses may include, for example:
 - Expenses for organizing and hosting events for research result dissemination
 - Outsourcing costs (excluding subcontracting)
 - Equipment leasing costs, transportation costs, for equipment used for the research project
 - personnel expenses for administrative staff that coordinate the travel of outgoing researchers and their personnel-related procedures can be recorded as direct expenses.

(Points of Caution)

Participants are to allocate around 30% of the total direct expenses to exchange activities of *young researchers including graduate and undergraduate students who can play an*

important role in the joint research and who are expected to be internationally active in the future, e.g., by promoting their international mobility and circulation, such as dispatching them to the partner country or holding workshops, or by providing international research opportunities such as presenting at international conference..

(2) Indirect expenses

- Indirect expenses go directly to the awarded research institution for the purposes of administrative purposes and must constitute 30% of the direct cost.

6.2. Eligible costs for PMU-B:

The maximum funding allocated per project is **5,000,000 THB** for the project with the maximum of **three years**. (please find details via PMU-B website: www.pmu-hr.or.th)

The following costs are eligible:

- **Personnel costs**

Costs for scientists or student research assistants can be covered for the whole period of the project if their work is clearly related to the research project. Total personnel costs should not exceed 30% of total budget, excluding equipment costs.

- **Honorarium costs**

Researchers' compensation costs should not exceed 30% of total budget

- **Direct Costs**

- round-trip economy class tickets to the project partner countries
- airport transfer costs upon presentation of a receipt
- visa costs
- accommodation costs
- services

- **Equipment**

Equipment cost is allowed on a limited scale. Details and specifications are required to be provided with full justification.

- **Consumables**

Consumable costs include laboratory chemicals and materials, but does not include office supplies such as paper, stationery, and etc. Consumable costs are to be spent in Thailand.

- **Indirect costs**

Total indirect costs should not exceed 10% of total budget, excluding equipment costs.

7. Submission

The Principal Investigator from Japan must submit the joint proposal to JST and the Principal Investigator from the Thailand must submit the collaborative proposal to PMU-B. **Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to JST and PMU-B, respectively.**

7.1. Submission procedure for JST:

Application documents by the Japan-based researcher should be submitted through the online e-Rad platform (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>).

7.2. Submission procedure for PMU-B:

Applicants from the Thailand-based researcher must submit the joint proposal to PMU-B through NRIIS platform

Application documents by the Thai-based researcher should be submitted through the online NRIIS platform (<https://nriis.go.th>).

8. Timeline

Call announcement: July 17, 2024 at 14:00 (JST) / 12:00 (THA)

Deadline of submission: August 30, 2024 at 14:00 (JST) / 12:00 (THA)

Evaluation Period: September to December 2024

Expected selection results announcement: January 2025

Expected start of granted projects: April 2025

9. Assessment and Selection

9.1. Evaluation Procedure

Independent Committees consisting of experts selected by JST and PMU-B respectively will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of the evaluation, JST and PMU-B will make a common decision regarding funding of selected proposals.

9.2 Criteria for evaluating proposals

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each proposed proposal:

- Consistency with the research field of the call
- Capability of Research Leaders
- Expected scientific results of the joint research
- Synergy effects of international collaboration
- Validity of research plan
- Validity of exchange plan
- Expected economic and social impact of the joint research
- Feasibility of implementation (given proposed plan, participants, budget, facilities, means of cooperation, etc.)

10. Contract between Researchers

10.1 the Japan-based PIs

A contract for cooperative research **MUST** be entered into among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated for implementing actual research collaboration. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among the institutions which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research

collaboration, and the institutions concerned on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned institutions. Before conclusion of the contract, the Japan-based principal investigator must submit the check-list in specified form to JST and then undergo a check by JST. When concluded, JST needs to be promptly notified of the contract. If there is any difficulty in concluding the contract, please consult JST in advance.

10.2 the Thailand-based Project Leads

A research contract must be established between the institutions affiliated with the collaborating researchers to facilitate the actual research collaboration. The contract should include the outcomes of discussions among the institutions entitled to any intellectual property resulting from the collaboration, as well as agreements on handling research information provided by the involved researchers, research achievements from the collaboration, and intellectual property rights among the institutions. Prior to finalizing the contract, the Thailand-based principal investigator must submit a specified checklist to PMU-B for review.

11. Reporting

11.1 the Japan-based PIs

Japan-based PIs shall submit to JST annual research plans for the year ahead and reports on the progress in the past year, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit an annual financial report.

At the end of the period of support and after completion of the joint research activities, the Japan-based PI shall promptly submit to JST a final report which shall include a financial report and a description of the research activities and outcomes. The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the Japanese and the Thailand research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the Japan-based PI during the final year of the project. Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public.

11.2 the Thailand-based Project Leads

Every six months, the Thailand PI shall promptly submit a progress report on the status of joint research to PMU-B

After completion of the period of joint research, the Thailand PI shall submit within a month a final report on the results of the joint research to PMU-B.

12. Contact information

Japan-based applicants: inquiries to JST regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to joint-call-ja@jst.go.jp

Thailand-based applicants: inquiries to PMU-B regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to pmu.b@nxpo.or.th.