

# 2026 NSTC-BMFTR Joint Research Program on Battery Technology (Phase 4) Guidelines for Application

(2026/02/02)

## I. Program Overview & Objectives

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) and the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) have launched this fourth phase to:

- Encourage academic collaboration between Taiwanese and German scholars in the battery field.
  - Combine and further advance the comparative advantages and technical expertise in battery research and for battery technologies, partly established within our Joint Research Program on Battery Technology.
  - Address key issues of batteries and battery technologies through joint coordination and development.
  - Cultivate talent with an international perspective through exchange.
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## II. Technical Scope & Requirements

### 1. Priority Research Themes

Applications must align with at least one of the following themes:

- **Solid state lithium batteries**
- **High energy lithium metal batteries** (e.g., low lithium excess or anode-free)
- **High power lithium batteries**
- **Material recycling for waste batteries**
- **Emerging alternative battery types** (e.g., sodium batteries)

### 2. Implementation Recommendations

- **Performance Metrics:** Results should ideally be demonstrated using a battery with **1 Ah or more** capacity Applicants should define clear target values for energy density, cycle life, safety, and cost.
  - **AI Integration:** Design concepts for material production, component assembly, or recycling processes are encouraged to incorporate **Artificial Intelligence**.
  - **Collaboration Strategy:** Teams must establish effective communication and integration plans to enhance research quality.
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### III. Eligibility & Funding Details

#### 1. Participant Eligibility

- **Taiwanese Side:** Must meet NSTC's qualifications for Principal Investigators (PI). Each PI is limited to **one** application.
- **German Side:** Must meet BMFTR's qualifications for R&D&I grants in the field of battery research (<https://www.batterieforschung.de/de/foerderung/foerderinitiativen>).
- **Joint Requirement:** Both PIs/institutions must submit proposals to their respective agencies; if only one side submits, the application will not be considered.

#### 2. Financial Support

- **Taiwanese Budget:** Approximately **NT\$8 million per year** per project.
- **Covered Costs:** Includes personnel, consumables, equipment, travel, and administrative management.
- **Student Exchange:** Taiwanese projects **must** send at least **two graduate students** to Germany for at least **three months** of research annually. German partners are **highly encouraged** to include **exchange activities** for students and researchers within the projects.

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### IV. Important Deadlines (2026)

The application is a **two-stage** process:

Stage	Deadline	Action
Match-making meeting	Feb 10, 2026	Online info session and matchmaking platform
Stage 1: Pre-proposal	April 15, 2026	Submit via the NSTC online system and the BMFTR online platform, respectively.
Stage 2: Full Proposal	July 13, 2026	By invitation only (for those passed Stage 1)
Final Results	Late Aug 2026	Official announcement of selected projects
Project Start	Nov 1, 2026	Estimated start date for a 3-year term

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### V. Submission Instructions for the NSTC System

When applying through the NSTC Academic Research Service Portal:

1. **Project Type:** Select "International Collaboration Research Project (Full Grant)".
2. **Affiliation:** Select "Department of Engineering and Applied Sciences" (工程處).
3. **Discipline Code:** Select **E#####-臺德電池領域合作計畫**.
4. **Naming Convention:**
  - **Pre-proposal:** Start title with "臺德電池領域合作計畫構想書-".
  - **Full Proposal:** Start title with "臺德電池領域合作計畫-".

## 5. Required Documents:

- **Form CM03:** Max 10 pages for Concept Paper; Max 40 pages for Full Proposal.
- **Form IM01:** Select "Germany (334)" and "BMFTR (100)".
- **Form IM02:** Must upload a single PDF containing the **NSTC-BMFTR Application Form** and the **German PI's CV/Publication List**.

When applying through the BMFTR online platform

(<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>), please follow the instructions (B@TS) on

<https://www.batterieforschung.de/de/foerderung/foerderinitiativen>.

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## VII. Review Criteria

The evaluation of proposals will focus on the following four dimensions:

- **Alignment with Priority Themes:** Whether the collaborative research topic strictly aligns with the designated focus areas (solid-state, high-energy/high-power Li batteries, recycling, and/or sodium/alternative batteries).
  - **Scientific Quality and Innovation:** The scientific rigor, novelty, original contribution, and potential for sustainability within the proposed research methodology and content.
  - **Contribution to Bilateral Cooperation:** The extent to which the project contributes to Taiwan-Germany S&T cooperation, talent cultivation (specifically student exchange), and potential socio-economic impacts.
  - **Feasibility and Resource Planning:** The balance and reasonableness of the cooperation structure, work assignments, budget allocation, and resource planning.
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## VIII. Important Notes

### 1. Selection and Appeals

- Joint Selection: Projects must pass independent reviews by both NSTC and BMFTR before being jointly selected for funding.
- No Appeals: Because this is a bilateral international agreement, the results are final and not subject to appeal (申覆).

### 2. Reasons for Immediate Rejection

Applications will not be accepted if any of the following conditions occur:

- The German PI/institution does not meet BMFTR eligibility requirements.
- The German PI/institution fails to submit a corresponding proposal to BMFTR.
- The application is submitted after the designated deadline.
- The application documents are incomplete.

- The application does not follow the standard NSTC procedures or the specific guidelines of this call.

### **3. Project Count Restrictions**

- Exemption from General Limits: Selected projects under this call are not counted toward the standard limit on the number of NSTC general research projects.
  - International Project Limit: However, a PI is limited to a total of two (2) concurrent international collaboration projects (including "Full Grant" and "Add-on" types).
  - Overlapping Periods: If a PI is already leading two such projects with overlapping durations (3 months or more), they cannot apply for this program.

### **4. Intellectual Property (IP) and Reporting**

- IP Agreements: Both PIs/institutions should agree upon the ownership, management, and utilization of intellectual property and research results before starting, and may sign a formal contract if necessary.
- Reporting Requirements: PIs/institutions must submit interim and final reports before/after each project year. Additional reporting requirements by NSTC and/or BMFTR might apply.
- Bilateral Meetings: Attendance at the Annual Bilateral Exchange Meeting is mandatory to evaluate cooperation effectiveness. These evaluations may affect the continuation or adjustment of funding.

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## **IX. Contact Information**

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