

**REPUBLIC OF KOREA / UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (DUBAI)  
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR JOINT PROJECTS 2025-2027**

**CLOSING DATE: 28 July 2025, 18:00 KST(Korea)  
28 July 2025, 13:00 GST (UAE)**

Building on the success of its inaugural launch, the Dubai Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) Grant Initiative is partnering with the National Research Foundation of Korea on a joint funding initiative that reinforces Dubai and Korea's commitment to fostering global partnerships in cutting-edge research and innovation.

The initiative will provide funding for pioneering research projects that drive advancements in **Biotech** and **Environmental Technology (Green Tech)**, with a strong emphasis on **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)** as a cross cutting technology.

This strategic focus aligns with Dubai and Korea's vision of becoming a global leader in scientific research and technological innovation.

We invite researchers from Dubai and Korea to jointly submit research proposals for this initiative.

**Grant Details:**

- **Total Funding:**
  - **UAE researchers will receive** AED 250,000 per project (AED 125,000 per project per year)
  - **KOREA researchers will receive** KRW 100 million per project (KRW 50 million per project per year)
- **Funding Duration:** Two years, 1st October 2025 until 30th September 2027
- **Number of Selected Projects:** Three

## Research Focus Areas:

1. **Sector - Biotechnology:** Advancing breakthroughs in medical and life sciences, including but not limited to precision medicine, genetic research, and bioengineering innovations.
2. **Sector - Environmental Technology (Green Tech):** Driving sustainable solutions in areas such as renewable energy, climate resilience, and eco-friendly infrastructure.

**Please note: Cross-cutting Technology - ICT Integration:** Leveraging digital technologies to enhance and accelerate progress in both Bio and Green Tech sectors. **(required)**

## Target Group

### UAE:

- **Researchers** at Dubai-based universities and research institutions defined by **MoE and MoIAT (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology)**. Details of eligibility for UAE applicants can be found in the Guideline on the Dubai RDI website and RDI Grants system ([grants.dubairdi.ae](http://grants.dubairdi.ae)) in English.
- **University/Graduate students are not eligible for applying as Principal Investigators**, but they can be involved in the projects.

### KOREA:

- **Researchers** at universities and research institutions defined by **National Research and Development Innovation Act**. Details of eligibility for Korean applicants can be found in the Guideline on the NRF website and IRIS system (Integrated R&D Information System) in Korean.
- **University/graduate students are not eligible to apply as Principal Investigators**, but they can be involved in the projects.

**Please note:** A maximum of one project can be submitted per Principal Investigator or participants. Submitting more than one application will result in disqualification from the evaluation process.

## Application process and content

Applicants are responsible for finding suitable partners in the respective country. Applications must be submitted both in the UAE to the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF) and in the Republic of Korea to the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF). Only applications submitted on time in both countries will be eligible for funding.

### **UAE: Electronic application only Grants system ([www.grants.dubairdi.ae](http://www.grants.dubairdi.ae))**

- Application in English (the documents submitted to the grants system)
- Other documents (Eligibility checklist, Agreement to provide personal information etc.) Template will be provided on the Grants website listed above

### **KOREA: Electronic application only via the IRIS system ([www.iris.go.kr](http://www.iris.go.kr))**

- Research proposal in Korean (template will be provided on the NRF website and IRIS system)
- Application in English (the documents submitted to the grants system by Dubai)
- Other documents (Eligibility checklist, Agreement to provide personal information, etc.) Template will be provided on the NRF website and IRIS system.
- **Please note:** Project-related costs defined by the National Research and Development Innovation Act. Details of eligible costs can be found in the Guidelines on GAIA system (Government-Assisted Integrated R&D Administration System). Korean applicants are also required to create an account on [www.grants.dubairdi.ae](http://www.grants.dubairdi.ae). However, only the Dubai-based applicant is responsible for submitting the proposal through the system.

## Evaluation criteria

- **Excellence:** Excellence of research goals, content and expertise of the principal investigator
- **Quality and efficiency of the implementation:** Creativity of research and development projects and alignment with the research plan
- **International cooperation:** Necessity, specificity and compatibility of joint research program
- **Impact:** Ripple effect of research and development outcomes through joint research program

**Please note:** The evaluation criteria may vary depending on the evaluation plan.

## Funding decision

Based on national evaluations in the UAE and in Korea, a joint shortlist will be prepared by end of September 2025.

## Collaboration & Impact

This joint research program call will foster collaboration between researchers in Dubai and Korea, strengthening international research ties and promoting knowledge exchange. To facilitate deeper engagement and provide more information about the program, a dedicated matchmaking workshop will be held on 7 July 2025. This event will aim to connect researchers from both regions and introduce the program, as well as the application process. Detailed information on the time and participation method will be provided in a separate announcement.

## Further information

In United Arab Emirates (DUBAI)	In REPUBLIC OF KOREA
Dubai Future Foundation	National Research Foundation of Korea
<b>Fatma Bin Kherbash, Senior Analyst</b> Email: fatma.binkherbash@dubaifuture.gov.ae	<b>Eojin Jang, Researcher</b> Tel. +82 2 3460 5721 Email: eojin@nrf.re.kr