



**Ministry of Industry and Trade
of the Czech Republic
Division of EU Funds, Research and Development – Managing
Authority for the OPEI**



**CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS
WITHIN OPEI
INNOVATION – Project for the protection
of industrial property rights**

Call identification	INNOVATION – Project for the protection of industrial property rights
Priority axis	4
Number of the call announcement	II - continuation
Date of publication of the call	1 September 2011
Receipt of registration Applications	1 September 2011 – 30 September 2012
Receipt of Full Applications	1 September 2011 – 4 January 2013
System of application collection	Continuous
Planned allocation for this call	CZK 50 million

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1. Basic provision

- a) The provider of the subsidy is the managing authority of OPEI: The Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic (hereinafter referred to as the MIT), with its registered office at Na Františku 32, Praha 1, (www.mpo.cz).
- b) Intermediate Body: CzechInvest (hereinafter referred to as CI), an organisation receiving contributions from the MIT, with its registered office at Štěpánská 15, Praha 2, (www.czechinvest.org).

The public aid granted through this programme satisfies all conditions of Commission Regulation (EC) No 1998/2006 of 15 December 2006 on the application of Articles 87 and 88 of the EC Treaty to de minimis¹ aid.

1.1. The Call's Objective

The conditions of the INNOVATION Programme for projects protecting industrial property rights are defined by the Call. The programme's objective is to support increased intensity of the protection of industrial property rights by small- and medium sized enterprises, research institutions, universities and natural persons through subsidies.

2. Aided Activities

2.1. Aided Activities

- a) The submission of applications for inventions both abroad and in the Czech Republic.
- b) Ensuring the protection of industrial property in the form of patents in the Czech Republic and abroad, utility models (only if an invention application was filed simultaneously with the application for a utility model) in the Czech Republic and abroad and foreign industrial designs and trademarks.

¹ OJ L 379, 28 December 2006, p. 5 – 10.

2.2. Aided activities do not include:

Those activities aimed at protecting industrial property rights in the form industrial designs and trademarks valid only in the Czech Republic are not supported.

3. Aid Recipient

3.1. Definition of the aid recipient:

- An entrepreneurial body in accordance with Section 2 (2) of the Commercial Code satisfying the SME definition mentioned in Annex No. 1 to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 800/2008.²

The entrepreneurial body must:

- a) be registered, according to their own affirmation, as an income tax payer at the Tax Office in accordance with Section 125 (1) of Act No. 280/2009 Coll., the Tax Code, as amended,
 - b) be permitted to conduct business in the Czech Republic with respect to the submitted project.
- A public research institution established in accordance with Act No. 341/2005 Coll., on public research institutions, as amended.
 - A university and other institution of tertiary education established in accordance with Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on universities, as amended.
 - A natural person in accordance with Act No. 40/1964 Coll., the Civil Code, fully competent to perform legal acts and who is a citizen of the Czech Republic.

3.2. The subsidy recipient must satisfy the following conditions:

- a) they must not have, according to their own affirmation, any arrears towards the selected institutions³ and towards the aid providers from projects co-financed from the European Union budget. Deferred payment of the arrears or an agreement to pay the arrears are considered settled arrears,

² OJ L 214, 9 August 2008, p. 3 - 47.

³ Tax Office, Czech Social Security Administration, health insurance companies, Land Fund, National Property Fund, State Environmental Fund, State Housing Development Fund, Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, State Cultural Fund, State Fund of the Czech Republic for Support and Development of Czech Cinematography, the State Agricultural Intervention Fund, regions, municipalities and unions of municipalities.

- b) they do not have, according to their own affirmation, any arrears from their employees, wage and salary claims,
- c) as of the date of submitting the application, the aid recipient does not have, according to its own affidavit, an outstanding obligation based on a recovery order for the financial resources issued after the prior Commission's decision declaring that the aid is unlawful and incompatible with the Common Market.

3.3. The subsidy recipient may not be an entrepreneur if, as of the day of submitting the application:

- a court has adjudicated bankruptcy against their assets, permitted settlements or dismissed a petition for bankruptcy due to a lack of assets in accordance with the Act on Bankruptcy and Settlement,
- a court has commenced insolvency proceedings in accordance with the Bankruptcy Act,
- a court has issued a resolution to execute a judgment regarding their assets or has ordered an execution of their assets,
- they have gone into liquidation,
- they are an aid beneficiary for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty (pursuant to Communication from the Commission No. 2004/C 244/02).

4. The Programme's Conditions

4.1. Formal project acceptability conditions:

- a) The project must be implemented in the Czech Republic outside of the Capital City of Prague. For determining the project's implementation territory, the aid recipient's registered office or their residence is decisive, including the aid recipient's workplace address where the activity of the subject matter of the industrial property protection is taking place.
- b) The project does not breach EU horizontal policies and their main priorities, particularly:
 - equal opportunities for men and women,

- sustainable development.

4.2. Other conditions

- a) Aid shall be provided to the aid recipient based on a Decision on the Provision of a Subsidy (hereinafter referred to as the “Decision”) issued by the programme’s administrator, a part of which shall be formed by the binding conditions for the project’s implementation.
- b) The aid recipient is obligated to keep separate analytical accounting records and documentation about the project’s eligible costs and use of the subsidy intended for financing eligible costs, as stipulated in the Terms and conditions and to keep such records and documentation for a period of ten years following the project’s termination date⁴. Furthermore, these records must be kept for a period of at least 3 years following the closure of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation in accordance with article 90 of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1083/2006⁵. All aid recipients shall be notified of the closure of the Operational Programme Enterprise and Innovation.
- c) The subsidy is paid out to the beneficiary retroactively, provided that the conditions of the Decision are observed.
- d) The aid recipient is obligated to possess the assets for which the subsidy was fully or partly provided for 3 years as of the termination date of the project’s implementation.
- e) The aid recipient is obligated, for a period of 3 years from the project’s implementation termination date, to provide information about the aided project’s implementation to the extent specified in the Decision.
- f) The aid recipient is obligated, for the entire period of the project’s implementation, to enable the authorised employees of the Programme’s Administrator and of the Implementation Agency, direct access to conduct inspections in accordance with Act No. 552/1991 Coll., on State Inspections. Furthermore, they are obligated to provide these employees with direct access in order to audit compliance with the programme’s conditions and the specified of funds from the provided subsidy, as well as an audit of the aid recipient’s financial situation and accountancy or tax

⁴ The moment of that all conditions defined in the Decision on the Provision of a subsidy are satisfied in underwood as the project’s termination date.

⁵ OJ L 210, 31 July 2006, p. 25 - 78

records, both at the site of the project's implementation and at their registered office.

4.3. Eligible Costs

4.3.1. The eligible costs must fulfil the following conditions:

- they must be expended in accordance with the programme's objectives and must be directly related to the project's implementation,
- they must be not expended earlier than the project's acceptability date⁶,
- before reimbursement from the Structural Funds, they must be provably paid by the subsidy recipient
- they must be substantiated by vouchers.

4.3.2. The eligible costs are:

	Eligible cost	Eligible cost specification
1.	Authorised representative services	Authorised representative services connected with the proceedings on patents granting, and registration of an industrial design, utility model or a trademark.
2.	Translations	The translation of documents for proceedings on granting patents of an industrial design, utility model or foreign trademark.
3.	Administration charges	Administration charges paid to the competent industrial property office prior to the granting or registration of the industrial right.

4.4. Sectoral Classification

The projects shall not be supported if their outputs occur in one of the following sectors:

- the manufacture, processing and marketing of the products mentioned in Annex No. 3 to the Programme,
- agriculture, forestry, fishing, aquaculture (CZ-NACE A 01, A 02, A03),
- the coal industry (CZ-NACE B 05, C 19.1),
- the steel industry (sectors defined in Annex No 2 to the Programme),
- synthetic fibres (sectors defined in Annex No 1 to the Programme),
- shipbuilding (CZ-NACE C30.11).

⁶ For the project's acceptability date, this is the date on which the subsidy provider or CzechInvest, confirms, in writing, to the applicant that in principle it fulfils the Programme's acceptability conditions (i.e. the approval of the registration application) in writing.

5. The Form and Amount of Aid

- a) The aid is provided as a subsidy.
- b) The subsidy is purpose-built for reimbursing eligible costs incurred in connection with fulfilling the project's subject matter. The subsidy is granted in the amounts of CZK 40 – 1 000 thousand. The maximum amount of aid is limited by percentage limits that are calculated from the total amount of the project's eligible costs according to the following formula:

$$\text{Percentage limit} = \sum x_i \times p_i,$$

where p_i represents the aid recipient's share (i) in the rights to the industrial property concerned and x_i is the partial percentage limit of the aid for the individual aid recipients. The partial percentage limits (x_i) for individual aid recipients are set as follows:

Aid recipient (i)	x_i
Small and medium-sized enterprises	0.45
Small and medium-sized enterprises cooperating with a public research institution (PRI) or a university – the share of the PRI or of the university to the rights of the industrial property in question must amount at least to 10%.	0.55
Universities	0.75
Public research institutions	0.75
Natural persons	0.45

- c) Aid is provided under the de minimis rule. The recipient may be provided this aid in accordance with the de minimis rule only on the condition that the aid provided in this manner, together with all the aid under the de minimis rule provided to the recipient during the period of three-year period (i.e. the sum of de minimis aid received in the current fiscal year and two previous fiscal years), shall not exceed EUR 200,000.

6. The Selection of Projects

The projects shall be selected to fulfil the programme's objectives based on the satisfaction of the formal project's acceptability conditions.

7. Participation in Other Aid Programmes

For the eligible costs for any project supported by this programme, it isn't possible to obtain other public aid pursuant to Article 107 (1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or aid within the de minimis rule pursuant to Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1998/2006..

8. The Project's Implementation Period

The latest possible deadline for the project's termination is 30 June 2015.

9. Prerequisites of the Application for the Provision of Aid and the Manner of its Submittal

- a) The Application for the Provision of Aid is submitted on the Application for Aid that is available on the programme's administrator's and the mediating body's websites. Together with the application, the applicant shall submit those documents specified on the above-mentioned websites.
- b) The applicant submits an application for aid in two steps via an electronic account (eAccount) at www.czechinvest.org/eaccount. An electronic signature is necessary for submitting an application for aid.

1st step: The applicant shall first complete and electronically send a simplified **registration application**. Based on the formal inspection and acceptability of the registration application, including the applicant's economic assessment, the mediating body shall inform the applicant of the result of the evaluation. If the project receives preliminary acceptance, the mediating body shall send the applicant information on the project's preliminary acceptance and the date of incurring eligible costs.

2nd step: Within 90 days following the submittal of the registration application, however, by no later than 4 January 2013, the applicant is obligated to electronically submit a **full application**. The full application contains detailed information on the applicant and the project.

10. Sanctions for Non-compliance with the Programme's Conditions

The sanctions for non-compliance with the programme's conditions are mentioned in the conditions of the Decision.

11. Other Provisions

- There is no legal entitlement to a subsidy.
- The programme's administrator shall decide on the final amount of the subsidy.