



**TÜBİTAK-MiGHT Call for COVID-19 Proposals
on Post Pandemic Impact**

CALL TEXT

2020

IMPORTANT: This Call Text is published for both Turkish and Malaysian researchers to present and explain the objective, scope and course of the “TÜBİTAK-MiGHT Call for COVID-19 Proposals on Post Pandemic Impact” that aims **academy-industry partnerships**.

Before preparing an application, applicants are responsible to carefully read the national regulations documents to submit a complete application.

ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

Principal Investigator (PI): The person designated on the research proposal as a principal individual involved in the scientific development and in the execution of a project.

Lead Principal Investigator (LPI): The Principal Investigator who is identified in the research proposal as the leader and manager of the research team in each country and who has the ultimate responsibility for all administrative and programmatic aspects of the proposed project, in addition to their research role.

Consultant: An experienced individual that is trained to advise the research team in order to help making the best possible choices during execution of the research project. Consultants are generally considered as service providers and offer only advice or propose solutions to problems, but they do not act as principal investigator such as designing, conducting, or reporting on research. A consultant requires little or no guidance in providing input.

Researcher: The person that carries out scientific research as being a part of the project research team.

Research Team (RT): Composed of project members of each country's project.

Project Coordinator (PC): The person who coordinates the whole consortium. PCs are selected from among the LPIs of any project's research teams.

Consortium Agreement: An agreement that participants conclude between themselves for the implementation of the project. It allows the participants to determine the detailed administrative and management provisions necessary to carry out their project. With this agreement, parties also outline the rights and responsibilities of each member of the consortium concerning intellectual property. This agreement cannot contradict or negate the provisions established by the project contracts and regulations of TÜBİTAK and MİHT.

Grant: Term used to describe the funding instrument used by TÜBİTAK/MİHT for the execution of material support after signing the Grant Agreement/Master Research Funding Agreement.

Project Incentive Premium (PIP): Payments made by TÜBİTAK to principal investigators, researchers and consultants of the accepted projects on the basis of given amount as determined by the project contract. These payments can be made only to the permanent staff of public institutions.

Intellectual Property (IP): All intellectual property rights, of any kind or nature throughout the world, whether existing now or in the future, including without limitation the rights with respect to (i) inventions (whether or not patentable and whether or not reduced to practice), designs, patents and patent applications; (ii) trademarks and service marks together with all goodwill associated therewith and worldwide registrations, applications, and renewals related thereto; (iii) copyrights, copyrightable works (in whatever form or medium), and all registrations, applications, and renewals for any of the foregoing; (iv) trade secrets, data, database rights, and confidential information; and (v) all claims, causes of action, and remedies of any kind related to the foregoing.

Service: Service is a cost category. A service provider is not involved in the design, conduct or reporting of research; a service provider assists the research team for a fee in providing services needed to carry out the research. Services may be purchased by either the awarded or the collaborative institution, and are auxiliary to the main object of the research project. Services usually cover specialized jobs that cannot be carried out by the research team or are employed because it is more efficient to use the services of a specialized organization (e.g. routine analysis, consultancy, communication/outreaching activities, data purchasing and management, statistical analysis, evaluation, auditing etc.). The purchased services shall be provided by third parties contracted by the awardee or collaborative institutions and have no rights or obligations vis-à-vis TÜBİTAK and MİHT.

CALL SNAPSHOT

Scope	The aim of the call is to intensify cooperation between Turkish and Malaysian participants in science and industry by means of Academia-Industry Cooperation projects. The funding is intended to enable foundations to be laid for lasting R&D innovation partnerships.	
Competition opens	Monday 23rd November 2020	
Final date for proposal submission	<p>For TÜBİTAK (Online Submission): Friday 12th of February 2021, 17:00 (IST Time)</p> <p>For MIGHT (E-mail Submission): Friday 12th of February 2021, 22:00 (Malaysian Time). MIGHT accepts applications submitted through e-mail.</p> <p>For further information, please visit www.might.org.my</p>	
Deadline for e-signatures for TÜBİTAK	For TÜBİTAK: Friday 19 th of February 2021 17:00 (IST Time)	
Announcement of results	July 2021	
Eligible applicant	<p>For Turkish Team</p> <p>The Turkish consortium has to consist of at least one Turkish academy partner (including public institutions or organizations/ research institutions/ universities/ training and research hospitals) and one Turkish commercial company.</p> <p>The Principal Investigator (PI) including the Lead Principal Investigator (LPI), must hold a PhD degree if he/she is from the academy and must hold a</p>	<p>For Malaysian Team</p> <p>The Malaysian consortium has to consist of at least one Malaysian company/SME, based in Malaysia and one research institute, public organization or university.</p>

	BA/BASc Degree if he/she is from public/private sector. If the PI is from the private sector, he/she must be working there full-time for at least minimum 6 months.	
Award parameters	TÜBİTAK funds up to 1.500.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) per project. As a rule, Turkish academia/public institution partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 720.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overheads and Project Incentive Premium-PIP) of funding per proposal in total.	MIGHT funds up to 700,000.00 MYR per project.
How to apply	<p>For Turkish Team</p> <p>Proposal submission is made through the TÜBİTAK's electronic application system http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr</p>	<p>For Malaysian Team</p> <p>Proposal submission is made via e-mail. Malaysian partners will need to first register their interest via MIGHT's website www.might.org.my</p> <p>Interested parties or consortia will then receive 2 documents via email:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call text – which will provide the detail information of the call and requirement 2. Application form that needs to fill up and return to razif@might.org.my

1. Legal framework

Based on the Protocol on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) and The Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT) signed in October 2020, this call is launched to enhance the cooperative activities in the field of research and development between two countries. The main objective of this call is to support research and development projects to promote the scientific and technological cooperation between two countries through the synergy between both countries' teams.

2. Objectives

TÜBİTAK and MIGHT are jointly launching the Academia-Industry Cooperation call with the aim of supporting joint research projects in the areas of application-oriented research and development. The aim of the call is to intensify cooperation between Turkish and Malaysian participants in science and industry by means of Academia-Industry Cooperation projects. The call aims to enhance Public-Private Partnership in R&D projects by involving academia, public organizations, research institutions and industrial companies.

“Academy – Industry Cooperation Projects” are R&D projects, which require the participation of at least one university, research institution or public organization and at least one industrial partner in the Malaysian and Turkish side as well. **The minimum criteria is 2+2 partners in the consortia.** The funding is intended to enable foundations to be laid for a lasting R&D innovation partnership.

3. Scope of the Call

The acquired technological knowledge and experience is an accelerating and guiding factor in the development of original technologies by internalizing the private institutions and to contribute to the participation of private organizations in international markets. Basic research projects are not supported within the scope of this call. Instead, the projects, focusing to research and experimental development (R&D), technologically new or improved product and technological process innovation, are expected.

Within the framework of this call, projects with the following objectives are planned to be supported:

- Producing a new product

- Raising the product quality of standards
- Developing new techniques to reduce costs and increase standards
- Developing new production technologies

3.1. Definitions of Innovation

3.1.1. Innovation: Innovation expresses that a series of scientific, technological, technical, financial and commercial activities including transforming an idea into a salable, new or improved / recovered product or a new or improved method used in the production of goods and services, the process of making or creating technological innovation; except for changes in color or decoration and changes in the purely aesthetic field and appearance differences that do not change the structure, quality or performance of the product in technical terms.

3.1.2. Innovation in product: This term refers to technologically new product that shows technological differences regarding the essence in terms of its material parts and functions when compared with the previous product generation.

The classification of product innovation is stated below:

- a. Development of New Models of an Existing Product in the Company (adaptation studies carried out to develop new products with changes made in a basic product or to apply an existing product to a new area)
- b. Development of a New Product for the Company (development of a product similar to which is available in the market or in the sector but is not in the company's product range)
- c. Development of a New Product Platform for the Company (development of a fundamental product from which new models can be derived)
- d. Development of a New Product for the Country
- e. Development of a New Product for the World (development of a product that is not in the world markets focusing a new idea)

3.1.3. Innovation in production methods/process: It refers to the method used in the production of new or improved products that cannot be produced in traditional production facilities or in the production of products currently produced with new techniques.

- a. The classification of process innovation is stated below: Development and application of new techniques to achieve cost reducing or standard / quality enhancing results
- b. Development of a new method or technology related to production

3.2. R&D Stages to be Supported

The projects to be supported under this call are expected to include all or some of the following R&D stages:

- Concept development,
- Technological/technical and economic feasibility etude,
- Laboratories and similar studies that take place in the transition from the developed concept to design,
- Design, design application and design verification studies,
- Prototype production,
- Trial production and type tests

Investment-oriented projects for full scale production or production infrastructure for the purpose of expansion or new setup are not supported as they are not suitable for the objectives of the program. Industry partners are encouraged to leverage on their existing set up for the industrial trials and prototype testing. Machines and equipments purchase is to support R&D activities.

4. Thematic Fields

The coronavirus pandemic invaded the world like a silent dark shadow. As of August 15, 2020, the pandemic infected almost 21 million people and caused close to 750,000 deaths worldwide. It is not just people's health that is suffering. The global economy is in a rapid downward spiral to recession, social distancing has caused mental anguish to everyone, and daily life patterns have dramatically changed.

As damaging and tragic COVID-19 has been, in both scale and depth, one fortunate thing is that the pandemic occurred in today's digital age. We can apply such advanced technologies as artificial

intelligence (AI), machine learning, smart sensors, Internet of Things (IoT), mobile and location technologies, virtual and augmented reality (VR&AR), cloud computing, and autonomous systems. Preparation for the new normal will be an arduous road requiring advanced technologies, innovation, new models of organizations and work, and new approaches to people's social lives. **So, the proposals have to focus on assisting in managing the pandemic to ensure we can operate in the new normal.**

The call covers the following priority thematic areas:

Successful projects prepared in the fields below will be supported within the scope of the program. Proposals submitted in other fields will not be accepted.

- 1) Emerging technology that is designed to assist in managing the pandemic to ensure we can operate in the new normal. This includes:
 - a) Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning applications for post COVID 19 environment such as analysing medical data, automate the complete supply chain of retail organizations, and detecting hotspots of future pandemic.
 - b) 5G Technologies, Sensors & Internet of Things (IoT) to improve connectivity and productivity.
 - c) Automation, Robotics and Mechatronic System Technologies that can combine the strength, precision, and speed of industrial robots with the ingenuity, judgment, and dexterity of human workers.
 - d) Drones applications to create more resilient supply chains and socially distanced delivery services
- 2) Food security thematic area that is designed to strengthening the capacities of small-scale farmers and their organizations to enhance resilience against disasters or pandemic. This includes establishing fast-maturing alternative agricultural and rural enterprises, and maintaining and producing sufficient, high-quality yields. This includes:
 - a) Smart/precision farming that can address some of the issues facing the agricultural sector i.e. labor shortage or maintaining productivity
 - b) Vertical Farming that can support local shortage of food supplies while ensuring cost-efficient operations.

3) Education thematic area will focus on e-learning and digital education enables education practitioners to reach out to students more efficiently and prevent disruption of learning development by future pandemic. This is to ensure school children and even university students can continue learning even when they cannot travel to school or university.

5. Eligibility criteria

- Maximum project duration is **2 years (24 months)**; extension beyond this period is not permitted.
- It is prerequisite that proposals include the participation of the below as submitting and collaborative institutions:
 - At least one Turkish academy partner (including public institutions or organizations/ research institutions/ universities/ training and research hospitals) and Malaysian research institution, public organization or university.
 - And at least one Turkish and Malaysian industrial partner for Academia-Industry Cooperation proposals.
- The proposal must be within one or more of the specific research priority areas described in **Section 4**.
- Turkish and Malaysian-based teams must each be led by a Lead Principal Investigator (LPI).
- Each proposal should have a Project Coordinator who will be selected from the LPIs of the proposal and this person is responsible for coordinating the whole consortium.

5.1 On Turkish side:

- The LPI can be either from academy, public or private sector for Turkish team. For detailed information on the eligibility for Turkish team, please visit https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_22_surec_dokumani.pdf Turkish team will receive funding through TÜBİTAK 1071 Program. All Turkish researchers who apply for this Program should be registered to TÜBİTAK ARBIS (Researcher Information system) through the following link: <https://arbis.tubitak.gov.tr>.

5.2 On Malaysian Side:

- The LPI can be either from academy, public or private sector for Malaysian team. Private sector from Malaysia must be a Malaysia based business of any size that is registered with the Companies Commission of Malaysia - <https://www.ssm.com.my/>.
- Interested parties or consortia will need to first register their interest via MIGHT's website – www.might.org.my

6. Financial conditions

Financial contributions must be calculated and provided in compliance with the valid national legislation and internal regulations of the partner organisations.

The cost of exchange of experts, scientist and other specialists will be covered on the following basis:

- The Sending Party will cover all related costs connected with travel, accommodation and daily allowances according to their own regulations and allowances.
- The Sending Party shall be responsible for the emergency health insurance of its scientists, including medical care.
- The total duration of international visits in one direction should not exceed 60 days per year both Turkish and Malaysian research team of the each supported joint project.

6.1 On Turkish side:

- TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant shall be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK in accordance with the rules of TÜBİTAK 1071 Program. TÜBİTAK-funded costs of each grant will be issued and managed by TÜBİTAK according to its funding guidelines and procedures (For detailed information please visit; https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_22_surec_dokumani.pdf)
- TÜBİTAK funds up to 1.500.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium (PIP) approximately) per project.
- As a rule, Turkish academia/public institution partners that are eligible for funding can receive up to 720.000 Turkish Liras (excl. overhead and Project Incentive Premium -PIP) of funding per proposal in total.
- Turkish small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can receive 75% of the approved budget; Turkish large-scale enterprises can receive 60% of the approved budget. Higher education

institutions, their institutes, public R&D centers can receive %100 of the approved budget. Requested funding from TÜBİTAK is obtained by multiplying the project budget with the support rate. In projects involving more than one executive institution, requested funding from TÜBİTAK is the sum of the amounts obtained by multiplying the project budget of each executive institution with the support rate.

6.2 On Malaysian side:

- Malaysian small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) can receive 75% of the approved budget; Malaysian large-scale enterprises can receive 60% of the approved budget. Higher education institutions, their institutes, public R&D centers can receive 100% of the approved budget.
- The Malaysian team from private sector, academy, or public sector, which is eligible for funding, can receive up to MYR 700,000 of funding per proposal in total.

7. Project proposal submission

- Project proposals must be submitted to both partner organisations in parallel.
- The partners should come to an agreement with each other using their own means of communication and jointly develop and complete their project proposals before submitting it to TÜBİTAK and MIGHT. TÜBİTAK and MIGHT do not match the collaborating partners.
- Project proposals must provide detailed information on the objectives and justification of the planned joint research work, the methodology to be followed, the composition of each research team and the intended time schedule.
- Because projects are bilateral, they must demonstrate equivalence in effort from the Malaysian and Turkey partners. The project must have one common work plan with both the Malaysia and Turkey partners having main roles and responsibilities, equating to the equivalent time and costs accrued in both countries.
- The size of the grant may vary depending on the needs of each project and must be fully justified. Applicants need to ensure that supported elements of the proposal abide by all regulations for both funding agencies.

7.1 On Turkish side

- Turkish partners will make their joint online application via TÜBİTAK's online application system: <http://uidb-pbs.tubitak.gov.tr>

- Turkish partners will use e-signature for their applications. Detailed information can be achieved via http://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/281/ardeb_e-imza_yardim_dokumani.pdf.
- Submission of proposals by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.
- To complete the application process TÜBİTAK may need supporting documents. For those, please check https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_22_surec_dokumani.pdf

7.2 On Malaysian side:

Malaysian partners will need to first register their interest via MIGHT's website www.might.org.my

Interested parties or consortia will then receive 2 documents via email:

1. Call text – which will provide the detail information of the call and requirement
2. Application form that needs to filled up and return to razif@might.org.my

8. Evaluation and Selection

Projects are evaluated by TÜBİTAK and MIGHT independently by their own evaluation procedures. Only the proposals which are accepted by two sides will be funded.

A total of two (2) projects will be funded within this call.

The proposals will be reviewed according to a certain set of evaluation criteria.

- o Scientific/Technological Excellence
- o Methodology
- o Project Management
- o Importance of International Collaboration
- o Impact

Info for the Turkish Side: Awarded proposals will go through a pre-award stage, which starts after the announcement of results, and continues for approximately eight weeks. During pre-award period, the awarded institution will be notified about the requirements (possible budget reduction, budget details, timeline changes, etc.).

Evaluation of the progress and final reports

- **For Turkish team,** - The Lead Principal/Principal Investigator of each project has to prepare financial and scientific/technical progress reports at determined dates in the project contract to be submitted to TÜBİTAK.
- **For Malaysian team,** The Lead Principal/Principal Investigator of each project has to prepare financial and scientific/technical progress reports at determined dates in the project contract to be submitted to MIGHT.

9. Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements

The Project Coordinator of each project needs to provide the **Consortium Agreement** to MIGHT and TÜBİTAK once the project is awarded and within the first six months of the project start date.

As the research projects will be carried out by multiple project partners, the basis of collaboration between the project partners, including ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, and IP management is expected to be set out in an Intellectual Property Management Agreement between the LPs involved. It is the responsibility of the LPs to put such an agreement in place and to be provided when requested by funding agencies. The terms of collaboration must not conflict with the funding agencies terms and conditions and national law.

9.1 On Turkish Side:

For the Turkish team, please refer to the Ethics Committee Approval Document, Official Permission Document and Research and Publication Ethics Committee Regulation as you can find on the link: https://www.tubitak.gov.tr/sites/default/files/3125/1071_22_surec_dokumani.pdf

9.2 On Malaysian Side:

For the Malaysian team shall comply with the principles and practices as stated in the Malaysian Code of Responsible Conduct in Research.

10. Schedule

The following table shows important dates for the call.

Timeline for TÜBİTAK - MIGHT Call for Proposals

Description	Dates
Opening of submission	23 rd of November 2020
Deadline for the online submission of the project proposal for Turkish Applicants	12 th of February 2021, 17:00 (IST time)
Deadline for the online submission of the project proposal for Malaysian Applicants	12 th of February 2021, 22:00 (Malaysian time)
Deadline for e-signature (For Turkish Applicants)	19 th February 2021, 17:00 (IST time)
Eligibility check separately by the funders	26 th February 2021
Completion of the assessment at national level	July 2021
Exchange of review scores and reports	July 2021
Announcements of Results	July 2021

11. Contact

On Turkish side:
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On Malaysian side:
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President & CEO's Office
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