

Addendum: Agreement of Joint Call between the Research Council of Norway and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research

In accordance with the MoU between the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, Russia (RFBR), signed in Oslo, 13 September 2011, the following Addendum is made between the Parties of the Agreement on the terms and procedures for its implementation: regarding RFBR-RCN joint call in 2019, with project start in 2020.

1. Joint research projects and themes

The Parties are launching a call for proposals on interdisciplinary research projects in the following priority areas:

- Environmental monitoring, control, mitigation and understanding of marine pollution related to pollution from the petroleum industry in the Barents Sea region;
- Research that contributes to an increased understanding of the geological and geophysical processes in the Barents Sea related to oil and gas resources.
- Research related to challenges, resulting from ice and the icing of offshore petroleum installations and equipment.

The number of projects to be selected for funding will strongly depend on the number and quality of the submitted applications and the available funds. If there are no project proposals with the necessary quality and relevance the allocated funds will be used for other purposes.

Joint research projects are to be carried out by established research groups from both countries. The national project coordinators (principal investigators – PIs – and projects managers – PM – in Russian and Norwegian parts respectively) must hold a full-time position at a research centre or a higher educational institution of the respective country.

It is expected that project results are published in peer reviewed journals.

2. Funding of the research projects

The Parties agree to contribute in 2020-2022 with funding of minimum 3 and maximum 6 joint projects, mutually selected and approved in the total volume of NOK 10.000.000 from the RCN and RUR 75.000.000 from the RFBR. The RCN finances the Norwegian partners, while the RFBR finances the Russian partners. Any additional contributing researchers from third party countries must cover their own costs.

The duration of each project will be up to three (3) years. Each Norwegian applicant can apply for minimum NOK 1.500.000 and maximum NOK 3.000.000. The funding on the Norwegian side will come from the PETROMAKS 2 program in the Research Council of Norway.

The above funding can cover the following costs:

- Consumables and other research-oriented expenses to be held by each Party for their respective national participants.

- International and domestic travel between and within Norway and Russia (the sending side is to meet all travel expenses of their respective national participants).
- The hosting side will support for local organizational expenses.
- The participants are responsible for taking out requisite medical and travel insurance as well as adequate professional indemnity insurance to meet project obligations. Both the RFBR and the RCN will have no liability to this effect.

Private companies or commercial entities cannot participate in the projects, nor charge any costs or provide funding to the projects.

Funding of selected projects will be provided in annual instalments when every next instalment is authorized only after evaluation of a report on the previous instalment spent and if only both reports submitted respectively to the RCN and the RFBR are evaluated positively (see 6. Reporting). If and when inaccuracies or changes in the project occur, the Parties shall inform each other.

3. The review process and the joint assessment criteria

The Norwegian researchers apply for funding in accordance with the RCN rules and the Russian researchers in accordance with the RFBR rules, both using their national agency's own application forms.

The proposals, drafted in accordance with the guidelines, and received electronically, by the respective Parties by the set deadline, will be reviewed scientifically. The RFBR and the RCN will conduct parallel reviews of the proposals based on the agreed criteria. The RFBR and the RCN will arrange reviews due to their own rules, regulations and practices.

Assessments will use the following ranking system available for the respective Parties.

A1 – The project should be supported

A2 – The project can be supported

N – The project shouldn't be supported

The assessments will follow the criteria:

- *Excellence*
- *Impact*
- *Implementation*
- *Strength of bilateral cooperation*
- *Relevance relative to the call for proposals*

Applicants in both countries must jointly fill in and submit a mandatory attachment declaring title, costs and financing, and main work packages in the project to both RCN and RFBR together with the individual applications.

4. Selection of Proposals

Each Party will appoint a contact person representative to:

- Provide policy-level guidance on the execution of the Joint Call;
- Develop this Addendum;
- Develop the Joint Call proposals;
- Attend the joint decision meeting;
- Monitor progress of the joint call and funding of the joint research projects.

RFBR and RCN will perform separate scientific evaluations of proposals. A joint decision meeting will be conducted by the two Parties together (with maximum three representatives from each of the Parties) to negotiate selection of the proposals for funding, and review the progress of the joint call. Final decisions of funding will be reached by consensus at this meeting. Only projects that have received a high score based on referees from both Parties can be considered for support. At the time of the joint selection decision both RCN and RFBR should provide the other party of both the applied funding as well as the actual allocated funding for every project.

Final decisions will be taken based on the selection criteria mentioned above as evaluated in both Norway and Russia

A list of the awarded projects shall be published by the Parties on their webpages.

1. Timetable

The Timetable procedure of the call implementation is as follows:

Call for applications published:	
Russian Foundation for Basic Research:	15 May 2019
The Research Council of Norway:	10 May 2019
Deadline for submitting applications:	04 September 2019
Exchange of the lists of applications:	11 September 2019
Exchange of respective review results:	8 November 2019
Joint selection decision:	13 December 2019
Start of projects:	January 2020
Receipt of intermediate report:	By 1 October each year (RCN) By 1 February each year (RFBR)
Receipt of final reports:	RCN: Upon completion of each project RFBR: Upon completion of each project

2. Reporting

The national project coordinators on behalf of their participating national teams will submit to the respective party a brief mid-term scientific progress report. At the end of the project a formal final report should be submitted to each party. The Russian PIs shall submit their reports to the RFBR in accordance with its regulations, and the Norwegian PMs shall submit their reports to the RCN in accordance with its regulations. Due acknowledgement of support received from the RCN and the RFBR should be made in a publication of any research resulting from this programme.

3. Miscellaneous

Each Party covers its own administration costs from its contribution to the call unless otherwise jointly decided.

RCN and RFBR are obligated to communicate any changes that occur in the projects, i.e. reduction of funding, termination of projects ahead of schedule and other substantial changes in the project implementation.

This Agreement is subject to the availability of funds in the budget of the Parties and the applicable laws and regulations of their respective states.

The validity of this Addendum corresponds with the effective period of the MoU between the RCN and the RFBR.

For each Party the Addendum will come into force from the date of signature by the Party's authorized representative and shall remain in force until the end of the funded projects. Amendments to this addendum may be proposed either by the RCN or the RFBR. Such amendments will become effective when the RCN and the RFBR have mutually agreed upon them in written.

Concluded and signed in duplicate in English, both being equally authentic.

Date:

For the Research Council of Norway



Siri Helle Friedemann
Departement Director RCN

Date:

For the Russian Foundation for Basic
Research

Mr. Alexander Usoltsev
Head of International department RFBR

