

Call for Proposal 2026

Under the “Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in Research, Development and Technological Innovation between the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Government of the State of Israel”, signed in 2021 by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Resources (MOTIR) and the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), the KORIL-RDF has supported industrial R&D projects with strong commercialization potential, thereby contributing to the economic growth of both countries. KORIL-RDF hereby announces the 2026 call for joint proposals under the Lighthouse, R&D, Pilot, and Feasibility Programs as follows.

KORIL R&D, Pilot, Feasibility Study Program 2026

A. Goal of Program

- Improve both the quality and quantity of joint R&D projects
- Reflect the technology development policies of both countries in response to evolving industrial and technological trends
- Expand commercialization opportunities arising from bilateral technology cooperation

B. Main Areas of Cooperation for R&D, Pilot and Feasibility

- All technology sectors (excluding defence)

C. KORIL-RDF R&D, Pilot, Feasibility Study Programs

	Feasibility Study	R&D	Pilot
Description	Early-stage ideas prior to full-scale R&D, enabling initial concept validation	Focused on the development of new products, processes, or technologies	Supports piloting and early commercialization of near-market technologies
TRL	Pre-R&D	4-6	6-8
Project Duration (max)	6 months	2 years	1 year
Grant % of total qualified Budget	50%	30-50%	
Maximum Grant	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000

D. Participants Eligibility

- Only joint R&D projects conducted by private sector companies from both Korea and Israel are eligible; each company must be registered and operating in its respective country
- Either company must not hold more than 20% shareholding in the partnering company
- Universities, research institutes, and other organizations may participate as a subcontractor or consultants up to 20% of the total project budget
- Double funding is restricted in accordance with KORIL guidelines
 - Please refer to the KORIL handbook for further details: [KORIL Handbook](#)

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E. Evaluation Criteria (N/A Feasibility Studies)

- Level of innovation and novelty
- Potential for successful commercialization
- Technical and financial capabilities
- Commercialization and marketing capability
- Complementarity between the participating countries/companies
- Synergy between companies and relevance of background
- Reliability of the work and budget

F. Application Deadline for R&D and Pilot

- **Opening date: April 15, 2026 (open year-round for Feasibility Studies only)**
- **Closing date: August 5, 2026 (12:00 IST/ 18:00 KST)**
- **Call for Proposal results:** December 2026 (tentative)



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Lighthouse Program 2026

A. Goal of Program

- Promote the competencies between industry and academia
- Achieve significant technological breakthroughs in the field of AI in Manufacturing Innovation
- Foster collaboration among partners with complementary capabilities and R&D needs in AI in Manufacturing Innovation

B. Main Areas of Cooperation for Lighthouse Program 2026

- **AI in Manufacturing Innovation**, including:
 - **Manufacturing and Manufacturing Services AI:** AI-powered factories, AI-enhanced manufacturing services, AI-driven distribution and logistics, etc.
 - **Embedded AI:** AI-enabled future mobility (e.g., smart vehicles), AI robotics, autonomous vessels, AI-integrated home appliances, AI-based biotechnology, AI semiconductors, etc.

C. Lighthouse Program

	Lighthouse
Description	Aims to achieve a technological breakthrough and provide intensive financial support for the strategic industry and technology field, as decided by the Board of Directors (BOD)
TRL	3-8
Project Duration (max)	3 years
Grant % of total qualified Budget	30-50%
Maximum Grant	\$ 3,000,000

D. Participants Eligibility

- Industry-academia consortia from the Republic of Korea and the State of Israel
- The consortium must include at least one company and one research institution (university or institute) from each country (with no more than six entities in total)
- Academic institutions participating as subcontractors within the consortium can receive up to 30% of each side's budget
 - Please refer to the KORIL handbook for further instructions: [KORIL Handbook](#)

E. Evaluation Criteria

- Level of innovation and novelty
- Technical and financial capabilities
- Commercialization and marketing capabilities
- Synergy among participating entities (complementarity)
- Potential for successful commercialization – supported by a Letter of Intent (LOI) from a prospective buyer



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F. Deadline for applications for Lighthouse

[1st Step: EOI Submission]

- **Opening date: April 15, 2026**
- **Closing date: July 8, 2026** (12:00 IST/ 18:00 KST)
- **EOI results:** August 2026 (Tentative)

[2nd Step: Final Proposal Submission]

- **Closing date: October 7, 2026** (12:00 IST/ 18:00 KST)
- **Final Proposals results:** December 2026 (Tentative)

※ Only applicants with approved EOIs will be eligible to submit final proposals.



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Application Process

A. Proposal Guidelines and Forms

- Application Links:
 - ☞ [R&D](#)
 - ☞ [Pilot](#)
 - ☞ [Feasibility Study](#)
 - ☞ [Lighthouse](#)
- Submission Requirements:
 - All project proposals must be jointly written in English and submitted simultaneously to the KORIL offices.
 - Israeli companies must submit the proposal through the Isarel Innovation Authority online system **by 12:00 IST**.
 - Korean companies must submit the proposal through the KORIL website **by 18:00 KST**
- Proposal Submission Links:
 - ☞ [R&D, Pilot, Feasibility Study proposals submission](#)
 - ☞ [Lighthouse EOI submission](#)

*For the uploading procedure in the Israel Innovation Authority online system, please contact the Israel Office of KORIL-RDF.

Important note

1. Israeli companies must register in the IIA system (companies that have previously applied for IIA support may use their existing account) and upload the proposal.
2. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the last minute to submit proposals. **KORIL-RDF will only accept proposals submitted within the deadline and will not accept any late submissions.**
3. Applicants must ensure that their partner company submits the proposal on both platforms. Proposals submitted by only one party will not be accepted.

B. Contact Point

- For inquiries or to discuss your proposal, please contact:

KORIL-RDF, Korea Office:
Hayden An, Industry Analyst
- Tel: +82-2-371-4906
- E-mail: haydenan@koril.org

KORIL-RDF, Israel Office:
Talia Litvinov, KORIL Fund Manager (IL site)
- Tel: +972-03-511-8166
- E-mail: talia.l@innovationisrael.org.il



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Miscellaneous

A. Eligibility Criteria for Project Proposal

- The project must involve jointly developed technology or product(s) demonstrating a high level of innovation.
- The project must generate clear advantages and added value from technological cooperation between Korean and Israeli companies (e.g., new technologies, standardization, prototyping, new or improved products, access to R&D infrastructure, etc.).
- At least 30% of the total R&D work must be conducted in each country (Korea and Israel).
- Companies must have the ability to fund the supplementary portion of their project budget.

B. Self-Funding Option

- If a company wishes to participate in KORIL programs without receiving funding, while its partner company receives funding, please contact the KORIL offices for further information.

C. Royalty Repayment

- All participants receiving KORIL funding are subject to royalty repayments. Upon submission of commercialization reports, Korean companies must comply with the MOTIR royalty policy, while Israeli companies must comply with the IIA royalty policy.

