

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
AND
THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
ON JOINT FUNDING OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia and the Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China (hereinafter jointly referred to as the "Parties" and singularly as "Party");

Based on the Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Slovenia and the Government of the People's Republic of China concluded on 13 September 1993;

With reference to the Protocol of the 12th Session of the Slovenia-China Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee, signed on 26 March 2018;

Considering the economic, social and sustainable development call for the supportive role of science and technology advancement and innovation for both countries;

Sharing an interest in further development and deepening of bilateral cooperation in science, technology and innovation;

Recognizing that this form of cooperation contributes to friendship and mutual understanding between both countries;

Hereby agree upon the following:

**Article 1
General Provisions**

In order to further the scientific and technological cooperation on the basis of equal partnership and mutual benefit and in accordance with prioritized fields as agreed upon by both Parties, the Parties intend to finance joint research and development between universities, research institutions and other innovative organizations in both countries, and promote commercialization and industrialization of R&D achievements.

Article 2

Areas of Cooperation

The Parties agree that the bilateral scientific and technological cooperation represents the common interests of the Parties in alignment with the scientific and technological priorities in both countries, paying special attention to applied research. The Parties agree to focus on supporting practical cooperation in the following areas: material technology, information and communications technology, energy technology, environmental science and technology, life sciences, biotechnology, agricultural and food technologies, etc.

The Parties agree that practical and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries is not limited to the above-mentioned fields.

Article 3

Forms of Cooperation

The Parties encourage and support universities, research institutes, and technology enterprises and other organizations in both countries to carry out projects on joint research and development within the scope of basic research, applied research, experimental development, etc. Cooperation could take multiple forms on such basis, including:

- (a) organization of scientific events (forums, symposia, and project fairs, etc.);
- (b) joint usage of facilities in scientific institutions and R&D centers in both countries;
- (c) the exchange of scientific and technological information and personnel;
- (d) joint training; and
- (e) joint founding of research centers, labs, joint ventures, etc.

Specific forms of cooperation are subject to decisions made by project contractors after consultation in both countries.

Article 4

Guarantee Mechanism

To coordinate the mutually beneficial cooperation as described in this Memorandum, the Parties shall conduct related work under the guidance and coordination of the Slovenian- Chinese Scientific and Technological Cooperation Committee.

Article 5

Financial Provisions

1. In accordance to respective laws, regulations, measures and procedures of project management, the Parties agree to provide equal financial support for the joint research projects of larger scale and greater significance undertaken by Slovenian and Chinese research institutions, universities, and enterprises. Each Party shall fund project contractors of its own country.

2. The number of projects to be funded and the funding scale of each project should be jointly decided within the scope of available budget prior to each call. Each Party should organize evaluation of projects in its own country. Based on the evaluation results of each Party, the Parties shall jointly determine the list of projects to be co-funded.

Article 6

Protection of Intellectual Property

Intellectual property of cooperation achievements under this Memorandum shall be protected according to both national and international legal provisions that are in force in both countries of the Parties. Project contractors in both countries shall consult each other before jointly deciding on the utilization and distribution of the intellectual property.

Article 7

Amendments

This Memorandum may be amended at any time by the mutual written consent of the Parties.

Article 8

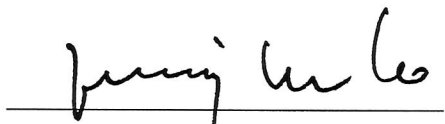
Final Provisions

1. This Memorandum shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after its signature and shall be valid for four (4) years. This Memorandum shall be automatically renewed for successive four (4) year periods, unless one of the Parties notifies the other Party in writing through diplomatic channels of its intention to terminate it six months before the expiration of any four (4) year period.

2. Any dispute about the interpretation or implementation of this Memorandum shall be resolved by consultations between the Parties.

Done at Beijing on May 17, 2019 in two originals, each in the Slovenian, Chinese and English languages, all three texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence in interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

On behalf of
the Ministry of Education, Science and
Sport of the Republic of Slovenia



On behalf of
the Ministry of Science and Technology
of the People's Republic of China

