



AGREEMENT FOR SUPPORT OF JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS PROGRAM

№ 01/1-40-1-CTCГ4

between

SAINT-PETERSBURG UNIVERSITY, RUSSIAN FEDERATION

duly represented by its Vice-Rector for International Affairs Sergei Andryushin acting under the proxy № 32-06-352 dated 25.09.2022, on the one part

and

HUAZHONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, P.R.CHINA

duly represented by its Vice- President Internatiuonal Prof. Chen Jianguo, on the other part
hereinafter together referred to as the "Parties" and solely to as the "Party"

Based on the long-term and fruitful cooperation,

Taking into account the jointly and successfully undertaken steps towards the intensification of educational, research, publication, and related activities between the Parties,

Striving to identify complementary research strengths and facilitate the use of synergies in future research projects,

The Parties organize a joint seed funding scheme to promote the development of innovative joint research activities between members of both Parties.

ARTICLE 1. Goal

To strengthen the collaboration in the area of science and to identify complementary research strengths, increase joint research, high level publications, and academic mobility, the Parties agree to launch a pilot project with the aim of setting up and co-financing equally a joint funding scheme (Joint Fund).

ARTICLE 2. Joint Fund

2.1. The Joint Fund will comprise 300 000 CNY from HUST plus 2 500 000 Rubles from SPbU per year. No money shall be transferred to the other Party.

2.2. The Joint Fund will be spent within a call open to the academic and research staff of SPbU and full-time academic and research staff of Huazhong University of Science and Technology, organized once per calendar year for 3 (three) subsequent years (Joint Call).

2.3. The first Joint Call shall be announced in 2023, the last in 2025 if funds are available.

2.4. The first and subsequent Joint Calls shall be announced in January each year, if funds are available.
<u>ARTICLE 3. Administrative Coordinator</u>
3.1. Each Party nominates an Administrative Coordinator who is responsible for handling all matters related to the Joint Calls.
3.2. The Administrative Coordinators organize the Joint Call technically within their own institution. This includes but is not limited to disseminating the Joint Call within their institution, organizing the review process, publication of results and organizing an evaluation process.
3.3. As first Administrative Coordinators will be nominated [Ms Kejuan Ma, Officer for European Affairs at HUST Office of International Affairs] for Huazhong University of Science and Technology and [Tatyana Ryazantseva, Acting Head of the International Research Support Department], for SPbU. The Parties inform each other by electronic mail to the respective Administrative Coordinator about any change of the person.
<u>ARTICLE 4. Joint Call</u>
4.1. The Parties will prepare a Joint Call and agree to distribute it within their own institution. The text of the Joint Call should inter alia outline the goals of the Joint Fund and include information on all proposal requirements, the main criteria for proposal evaluation and selection, as well as the submission deadlines.
4.2. The time period between the public announcement of the Joint Call and the deadline to submit proposals should not be less than 6 (six), and should not exceed 8 (eight) weeks. The applicants should be informed about the results no later than 1 (one) month after the submissions deadline.
4.3. The Joint Call shall be conducted, organized, and evaluated according to jointly agreed upon criteria and in English only.
4.4. Applications from all disciplines are accepted, but priority is given to applications from physics, chemistry, nanotechnology, material sciences, renewable energy, computer sciences and artificial intelligence.
4.5. The maximum amount of money requested for one project shall not exceed 500,000 Rubles from SPbU applicant and 60,000 CNY from HUST applicant. Funds of the Joint Research Fund may cover the following expenses: at SPbU: travel allowances, accommodation, conference organization, publications and research equipment and supplies; at HUST: travel allowances, accommodation, conference organization and publications. The Parties agree to not to charge for the use of their premises by the staff of the other party involved in the joint project. Salary is not covered. Participants of third parties may be involved in the project, if needed for scientific reasons. As a rule, the third parties have to bear their own costs.
4.6. The Joint Call shall include the obligation to provide a detailed financial plan including distribution of costs which shall be borne by each Party and timeline for the proposed project.
<u>ARTICLE 5. Project</u>

5.1. All projects for which funding is requested will be submitted to both Parties simultaneously in electronic form only (Project). The Administrative Coordinators must check that both Parties have received the same information.
5.2. Any Project must have one Huazhong University of Science and Technology and one SPbU project leader, the project leaders should be full-time teachers at its institutions. Post-doctors cannot apply along but can join as co-researchers.
5.3. The project leaders of a funded Project shall submit a report no later than 1 month after they have been finalized.
<u>ARTICLE 6. Selection Group. Evaluation Procedure.</u>
6.1. Each Party forms a Selection Group, consisting of at least 3 (three) professors, who may but not obligatory are related to the subjects of the proposed Projects. One of the members of the Selection Group shall be a representative of the senior management of each Party, possibly a Vice-President or Vice-Rector in charge of research and/or international relations. For each Selection Group a chairperson shall be named.
6.2. Each member of the Selection Group evaluates all proposed Projects independently. Evaluation shall be governed by the quality of the Project, especially taking into consideration innovative approaches, potential for future joint projects, and rational and economical use of funds of the Project. The detailed selection criteria are to be outlined in the Joint Call.
6.3. The Administrative Coordinator forwards the applications to the Selection Group and collects the feedbacks, which shall be exchanged between the Administrative Coordinators.
6.4. Evaluation criteria are:
- Clearly formulated goals of the Project,
- Information on envisaged synergies between the Parties,
- Level of concreteness of future joint research project, incl. timeframe and information on funding programs and steps for developing a joint proposal,
- Compatibility with the Huazhong University of Science and Technology /SPbU research profiles, such as interdisciplinary nature, excellence of project leaders, wide scope of different fields/labs represented in the proposed Project.
6.5. For the evaluation a scale from 1 (worst) to 10 (best) with the possibility to use decimals (e.g. .1 to .9) will be used.
6.6. The feedbacks of both Selection Groups shall be exchanged between the two Administrative Coordinators who then calculate average ratings and create a priority list that reflects the joint selection results. In case the priority list includes Projects with the same average rating, the chairpersons of both groups discuss and agree upon the final listing.
6.7. The members of the Selection Group may suggest reducing requested budgets if they find them to be not reasonable.
6.8. Starting with the highest rated Project, the available funding shall be distributed to proposals that were evaluated positively until no more sufficient funds are available in the Joint Fund.
6.9. The results of the Joint Call shall be published on the websites of the Parties.

<u>ARTICLE 7. Co-Financing</u>
7.1. The funding within the Joint Fund shall be spent equally (co-financing). Each party will only cover the costs of its participation to the joint projects.
7.2. Each Party co-finances Projects based on its respective rules and regulations.
<u>ARTICLE 8. Dispute Settlement and Governing Law</u>
8.1. For conditions of the Joint Research Fund not covered by this Agreement, or for problems that arise during the course of the Joint Research Fund, both Parties agree to refrain from unilateral action and to consult and negotiate mutually acceptable decisions.
8.2. In case of inability to solve the dispute amicably, it will be settled through forming a coordination committee for this purpose consisting of the equal number of representatives of both sides as well as a third party acceptable to both sides. The decision of this coordination committee will be binding upon all the Parties.
<u>ARTICLE 9. Additional Provisions</u>
9.1. As long as the idea of this Agreement is maintained, the Administrative Coordinators can amend technical provisions of this Agreement, especially on dates and selection procedures.
<u>ARTICLE 10. Term of the Agreement and Termination</u>
10.1. This Agreement shall be effective after it has been signed by both Parties until the end of 2025. It may be prolonged by a written decision of both Parties.
<u>ARTICLE 11. Original Copies of the Agreement, Dates and Signatures</u>
11.1. This Agreement is executed in 6 (six) copies in Russian, English and Chinese. In case of discrepancy, the English version prevails. Each Party receives 1 (one) original copy of the Agreement in each language.

On behalf of

Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution
of Higher Education «Saint-Petersburg State
University»:

Sergei Andryushin

Vice-Rector for International Affairs

Date: 30.12.2022



On behalf of

Huazhong University of Science and Technology:

Professor Jianguo Chen

Vice President International

Date: 30 Dec. 2022