

Joint declaration of intent on bilateral co-operation in research, development and innovation between the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of the Federal Republic of Germany and the Ministry of Development, Industry and Foreign Trade of the Federative Republic of Brazil (hereinafter referred to as “both sides”)

- strive to deepen the existing co-operation between the two countries in technology and innovation,
- are aware that the use of new technologies and innovations holds great potential for the sustainable development and competitiveness of German and Brazilian companies,
- are of the opinion that joint research and development projects (R&D projects) are important for companies and research institutes in both countries in order to strengthen their competitiveness and internationalisation,
- are convinced that this co-operation has high learning effects for small and medium-sized enterprises and partner research institutes, increasing the ability of both sides to globalise,
- strive to conduct collaborative R&D projects to develop new products, processes and technical services within the framework of existing national resources, including funding.

On this basis, both sides have decided to work together as follows:

1. Object and scope of co-operation

Both sides intend to support German-Brazilian partnerships in R&D projects for companies and research institutes within the framework of national programmes. Funding for this support will come from the Zentrales Innovationsprogramm Mittelstand (ZIM) in Germany and the Brazilian Development Bank (BNDES) and other funding institutions in Brazil. Other Brazilian government institutions can eventually support joint R&D projects.

The Research and Development projects should seek to develop products, processes or technical services with market potential, that considerably surpass existing products, processes or technical services in terms of their functions, parameters or features. They should further be based on the international state of the art in technology. The aim is to raise the level of technological proficiency and innovative skills of companies, so that these companies are able to use new products and improved production processes to compete with other companies and be able to create new jobs.

Furthermore, co-operation between German and Brazilian companies and research institutes should be fostered in such a way that an exchange of knowledge can take place, lasting contacts can be generated, and opportunities for market expansion abroad can be strengthened.

The co-operating German and Brazilian companies and research institutes should take part in the respective projects as equal partners. It is anticipated that each participant will contribute to the joint project work.

2. Main content of the co-operation

Both sides will jointly determine processes and procedures for the approval and implementation of the German-Brazilian R&D projects and will agree upon joint funding. Co-ordination on these issues aims to simplify the application procedure and project realisation for companies and research institutes in Germany and Brazil. Project

applications should be assessed promptly and independently, in accordance with national funding requirements.

Both sides understand that the project partners are subject to their respective national rules, laws and procedures in relation to the respective funding requirements.

In addition to the funding, disclosure measures are foreseen in order to inform companies and research institutions about funding opportunities available and their results.

Both sides agree that the financing of the costs of co-operation and of the project partners will come from the respective national budgets available for programme implementation, therefore being dependent on the amount of funds available.

The Joint Declaration of Intentions may be amended, in writing, by mutual agreement of the parts, at any time. Any of the parts involved can end the cooperation, at any time, in the terms of the Joint Declaration of Intention. The ending of cooperation should be communicated previously and in writing to the other part.

Signed in duplicate, in German and Portuguese; both versions are equivalent.

Brasilia,

For the Federal Ministry for
Economic Affairs and Energy of
the Federal Republic of Germany

For the Ministry of Development,
Industry and Foreign Trade of the
Federative Republic of Brazil

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