

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN NSFC AND DFG  
Concerning  
Joint Calls for Joint Research Projects**

*The Agreement on Cooperation between the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) was signed on July 19, 2004.*

NSFC and DFG, hereafter referred to as the Parties, have concluded the following *Memorandum of Understanding between NSFC and DFG concerning Joint Calls for Joint Research Projects*. It is an amendment to the Agreement mentioned above, and describes appliance of the Agreement's article III item a) joint research projects.

**Article 1  
Joint call**

The Parties launch annually a joint call for joint research proposals in the fields of Life Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering. Joint Calls for Proposals should be based on substantial preparatory measures such as one or more bilateral workshops or conferences that have been successfully held in the Sino-German Centre in Beijing or elsewhere. They should target excellent groups of scientists on both sides. Furthermore, scientists on both sides as well as both funding organisations should have expressed their intent to cooperate in this specific promising scientific field.

The call will be arranged according to the details listed below.

**Article 2  
Timetable**

The detailed timetable of calls, scientific evaluation and funding decisions as well as the research field(s) and theme(s) for each joint call shall be agreed by both Parties three months before opening a call. These items shall be described in detail in an addendum, to be signed annually by both Parties and appended to this *Memorandum of Understanding*.

**Article 3  
Eligible applicants**

In China, the principal investigator has to have a basic grant of NSFC. In Germany, the call is open to all researchers.

## Article 4 **Applications**

Chinese scientists apply for funding in accordance with NSFC's rules and German scientists in accordance with DFG's rules.

Each application shall include at least the following appendices (in English):

- **Joint application form**
- **Joint abstract** (no more than one page in length)
- **Joint research plan** (no more than 15 pages), which shall also include
  - a description of the added value to be expected from the collaboration
  - a clear description of the planned research collaboration with responsibilities of both partners
  - a description of the basis of the Chinese-German collaboration
  - a description of the project's significance to researcher training and to the development of the research environment
  - Justification for requested costs shall be stated in the research plan
- **Curriculae vitae** for the principal investigators of both partners
- **Lists of relevant publications (up to 5)** of the principal investigators of both partners

## Article 5 **Evaluation**

The scientific evaluation of the joint research proposals will be organised by both NSFC and DFG in form of separate or joint evaluation. When joint evaluation is in place, both Parties will jointly agree on experts, who will be recruited and invited by both Parties.

The most important evaluation criteria:

- Scientific quality and innovativeness of the joint research plan
- Added value to be expected from the Chinese-German research collaboration

The other important evaluation criteria:

- Feasibility of the joint research plan
- Competence and expertise of the Chinese and German scientists/research teams
- Promotion of young scientists' careers

Based on the scientific evaluations and consensus reached through discussions, the Parties will agree on the joint projects to be funded.

**Article 6**  
**Funding**

Based on the scientific evaluations of the joint research proposals and consensus discussion between the Parties (ranking of the projects), NSFC will fund the Chinese research partner and DFG will fund the German research partner. The funding decisions will be made independently, but based on the mutual agreement, according to the Parties' respective rules, regulations and practices.

**Article 7**  
**Reporting**

Reporting on the projects shall be carried out in accordance with the procedures of the Parties.

**Article 8**  
**Intellectual Property Rights**

The Parties encourage scientists and their institutions to enter into agreements to ensure the effective protection and correct distribution of intellectual properties resulting from projects funded under this Memorandum of Understanding.

**Article 9**  
**Miscellaneous**

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

In the case of mutual visits of scientists, the visiting scientist will cover international flights and the host will provide the local accommodation together with a daily maintenance allowance and domestic travel costs.

This Memorandum of Understanding is subject to the availability of funds in the budget of the Parties and the applicable laws and regulations of their respective countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding is drawn up in English and all documents and notices and meetings pertaining to this Memorandum of Understanding shall be in English.

This Memorandum of Understanding may only be amended by a document signed by both Parties and identified as an Addendum to this Memorandum of Understanding.

Article 10

**Term of this Memorandum of Understanding**

The term of this Memorandum of Understanding shall remain until further notice, unless either Party terminates it earlier by giving six months written notice.

This Memorandum of Understanding has been enacted in duplicate, one for each Party.

In Berlin, September 23, 2008

On behalf of the National Natural  
Science Foundation of China



**Prof. Shen Wenqing**  
**Vice President**

On behalf of the Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



**Dorothee Dzwonnek**  
**Secretary General**