

French Korean call for proposals in “Biotechnologies using Artificial Intelligence” 2026 edition

Jointly opened by the French National Research Agency (ANR)
and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of Korea

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of Franco-Korean projects proposals is carried **out separately** by the ANR and by the NRF, according to the procedures defined below, in addition to the specific procedures to each of the agencies, which are available on their respective websites.

It is imperative to read carefully the entire call for proposals text, the specific terms and conditions, as well as the financial regulations of the two agencies, before submitting research project proposals.

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1. CONTEXT AND CALL FOR PROPOSALS OBJECTIVES

Artificial intelligence and biotechnology are two rapidly expanding fields that offer unprecedented opportunities for innovation and the development of breakthrough solutions. Even more so in a global context where artificial intelligence is profoundly transforming the landscape and practice of science and technology.

Therefore, French National Research Agency (ANR) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) of Korea are launching 2nd call for proposals dedicated to Biotechnologies using Artificial Intelligence.

The objective of this call is to promote collaboration between French and Korean academic researchers with a view to exploring and developing AI applications in the field of biotechnology. Through a bilateral funding both agencies seek to fund innovative binational projects that demonstrate strong synergy between the teams in each country and real integration¹ of joint work, and complementary expertise in the domains of artificial intelligence and biotechnologies. Biotechnology specialists, with their expertise in the field, would be able to identify the needs, while AI specialists would develop new methods, using the latest AI tools, to address these needs. *The projects are expected to feature that integrates both types of expertise (with including at least one Artificial Intelligence expert among the participating researchers from both the Korean and French teams).*

As far as possible, the project starts, and end dates should be the same for the French and Korean partners. The duration of the projects is 36 months. According to mutual agreement between both researchers (for projects involving PhD students, etc.), the duration can be extended without additional funding.

2. RESEARCH AREAS

The field of artificial intelligence has seen a surge in its relevance within the domain of biotechnologies, largely attributable to its capacity to analyse and process voluminous, intricate biological data. These data, from fields such as genomic sequencing, biomedical imaging or biological simulations, require tools capable of revealing subtle patterns and identifying relationships invisible to the human eye.

Machine learning algorithms and deep neural networks, in particular, offer powerful means of using historical data to model biological systems, predict behaviour and design solutions tailored to the specific needs of researchers. Furthermore, the field of AI is distinguished by its capacity for flexibility and expediency in the integration of heterogeneous data, encompassing genetic, clinical, and environmental information. This feature facilitates a global and systemic analysis, which is essential in interdisciplinary fields such as biotechnologies. The predictive capacity of AI also facilitates the acceleration of processes that have historically been protracted and expensive, such as drug discovery, the optimisation of industrial bioprocesses, and the development of personalised therapies.

¹ i.e. effective cooperation between the Franco-Korean partners

Recent advances in high-performance computing, when combined with the emergence of collaborative platforms for data sharing, are thus strengthening the integration of AI in biotechnologies. The confluence of these technological advancements and the escalating proficiency of researchers in leveraging artificial intelligence tools is engendering an environment conducive to innovation and the formulation of solutions to address the substantial challenges confronting biotechnology.

Thus, the project proposals submitted within this scope may encompass a broad spectrum of themes, including but not limited to bioinformatics and genomics, personalised medicine, precision agriculture, and drug discovery.

The objective is to design innovative approaches to exploit biological and biomedical data, to develop new diagnostic or therapeutic tools, or to propose models for improving industrial processes in biotechnology.

Teams are encouraged to explore interdisciplinary themes, including the ethics of AI in biotechnology, the design of explainable and robust algorithms, and the application of deep learning techniques to complex problems.

3. PROJECTS PROPOSALS SUBMISSION

A full project proposal includes the scientific document, CVs and all the information required online on the respective submission platforms of the ANR and the NRF.

The French² and Korean partners must prepare a joint scientific project proposal, identical in scientific content and form³ in its French and Korean versions.

The French team must appoint a scientific coordinator and the Korean team must appoint a scientific coordinator.

The project proposal must be submitted in parallel to the respective funding agencies, its acronym and title must be identical.

French partners: Project proposals must be submitted before **June 4th, 2026, 5pm** CET on the following platform:

<https://aap.agencerecherche.fr/layouts/15/SIM/Pages/SIMNouveauProjet.aspx?idAAP=2403>

Korean partners: Project proposals must be submitted before **June 4th, 2026, 6pm** KST on the IRIS platform: <https://www.iris.go.kr>

² Cf. Article 2.2 of the ANR's financial regulations

³ a common template is provided

3.1. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROJECTS PROPOSALS TO ANR

The scientific coordinator of the French partner **must submit his or her full project proposal (scientific document, CV, information filled in on-line)** on the ANR submission platform, before **June 4th 2026 at 17:00 (CET)**.

This submission is mandatory in order to participate in the selection process.

Details of how to submit an application online can be found in the document entitled « *Modalités de participation pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR* » - '*Terms of participation for partners applying for ANR funding*', which can be downloaded from the current year's call for proposals website page: https://anr.fr/FrKr_IABIO2026

3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROJECTS PROPOSALS TO NRF

The scientific coordinator of the Korean partner **must submit the final project proposal (scientific document, CV, and information filled out online)** on the IRIS platform, before **June 4th 2026 at 18:00 (KST)**.

This submission is mandatory to participate in the selection process.

Detailed instructions for submitting an application are available for download from the current year's call for proposals webpage: <https://nrf.re.kr> or <https://iris.go.kr>.

3.3. SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENT AND CV

A full project proposal is required for both parties (French and Korean). The content of the document must be the same and must comply with the conditions below:

- 35 pages maximum in A4 format, including CVs, bibliography, diagrams and footnotes, description of the requested budget and its scientific justification;
- Curriculum vitae (CV) of both French and Korean projects coordinators and the CV of each possible partner's scientific manager included in 35 pages. As the CVs are one of the elements used for the project evaluation, *cf. § 5 Projects proposals evaluation and selection for funding*, they should be written preferably in English, as peer reviewers may not speak French or Korean.
- PDF format without any protection;

4. PROJECTS PROPOSALS ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, detailed proposals and CVs must comply with all the eligibility conditions, whether they are common to both funding agencies or specific to each of them.

The information entered online (NRF and ANR platforms) takes precedence over the information in the scientific document, if these two sources of information do not tally, including if they are incorrectly filled in or missing.

No modification of data will be possible, and no document will be accepted after the closing date and time of the call from either of the two agencies. Data entry is the direct responsibility of the applicants (French scientific coordinator for the ANR platform and Korean French scientific coordinator for the NRF).

Project proposals **may be declared ineligible at any time** during the evaluation process. Proposals that do not meet the eligibility conditions, whether common to both agencies or specific to each, will not be evaluated a priori, and will under no circumstances be eligible for funding.

4.1. JOINT PROJECTS PROPOSALS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Completeness of the project proposal:

The full projects proposal must be finalized online on the dedicated websites (ANR and NRF) by the communicated closing date and time.

To be complete, the full project proposal must include:

- A scientific document, 35 pages in pdf file without protection submitted on the ANR and NRF's websites
- CVs of both French and Korean projects coordinators and the CV of each possible partner's scientific manager, submitted as an annex in the scientific document
- On-line data filled on the respective platform from the ANR and NRF, as requested

Composition of the consortium:

The consortium must include at least one partner eligible for ANR funding and one partner eligible for NRF funding. The ANR and the NRF exclude commercial companies.

Scientific nature of the full project proposal:

The full project proposal must relate to the themes expressed in point 2 "Research Areas"

4.2. ANR'S ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The ANR verifies the eligibility of project proposals by considering the conditions described above (§ 4.1) and explained in the document « Modalités de participation pour les partenaires sollicitant une aide de l'ANR » available on the web page dedicated to this call.

4.3. NRF's ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

NRF verifies the eligibility of project proposals by considering the conditions described above (§ 4.1) and explained in the documents available on following web page or link:

- IRIS : <https://www.iris.go.kr/>
- NRF: <https://www.nrf.re.kr/>

5. PROJECTS PROPOSALS EVALUATION AND SELECTION FOR FUNDING

Each full project proposal is evaluated separately by the ANR and the NRF on the basis of the information as completed and submitted online, at the closing date and time, in accordance with the joint evaluation criteria (see § 5.3 'Evaluation criteria'). At the ANR, the evaluation may involve external peer reviewers and panel members. **The scientific panel is disjoint for both agencies.**

5.1. ANR's REVIEWERS EVALUATION

If necessary, the evaluation can be carried out exclusively by the panel members.

The aim is for each project proposal to be evaluated by at least two external peer reviewers (individuals who do not take part in the scientific panel meetings), who are called in by the ANR after checking that there is no conflict of interest. Peer reviewers operate individually and confidentially, without any discussion with third parties. Peer reviewers complete an individual assessment report, in which each they comment each evaluation criterion.

5.2. ANR's PANEL MEMBERS EVALUATION

The full project proposals are evaluated by the members of the scientific panel on the basis of the information submitted by the applicants by the closing date and time of the call for proposals, and on the basis of peer reviewer's reports, if the panel members have decided to call on them. In this case, these assessments may be put into perspective by the panel members because, unlike the reviewers, they have a synoptic view of all the full projects proposals.

The scientific panel set up by the ANR consists of French or foreign highly qualified individuals from the research communities in line with the submitted full projects proposals. Panel members are appointed, for their scientific expertise and each panel is chaired by a chair-representative.

5.3. NRF's EVALUATION

NRF plans to conduct panel evaluation for project selection, with external experts in each research field. For detailed information, please refer to the call announcement on the NRF and IRIS websites.

(Please note that the evaluation methods and procedures may be changed depending on the submission results and relevant conditions.)

5.4. EVALUATION CRITERIA

ANR and NRF will use the same evaluation criteria.

With regard to the sub-criterion “Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested with the objectives of the project” of the Criterion 2 “Organisation and implementation of the project”, project coordinators are informed that under the bilateral France-Korea collaboration, the maximum funding request per Korean project is 270 million KRW for a three-year project (90 million KRW per year).

French applicants are invited to submit projects that justify ANR funding for indicative amount of € 200k⁴, for a three-year duration, including for basic research projects.

Criterion 1: Quality and scientific aim (35)

- Clarity and creativity of research objectives and hypotheses
- Scientific ambition of the project and position with respect to the state-of-the-art
- Adequacy and relevance of the methods implemented
- Adequacy of the project with the scientific theme selected

Criterion 2: Organisation and implementation of the project (35)

- Skills, expertise and involvement of the scientific coordinators on each side
- Quality of the consortium and complementarity between the scientific contributions of each country
- Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested with the objectives of the project

Criterion 3: Impact and benefits of the project (30)

- Action to transfer technology and innovation to the socio-economic world;
- promotion of scientific, technical and industrial culture
- Added value and anticipated outcomes of Franco-Korean cooperation
- The prospect of future European projects

Both, external peer reviewers and panel members are using **the same evaluation grid**.

5.5. SELECTION AND FUNDING DECISION

Both agencies will use the same evaluation criteria. At the ANR, once the peer reviewers have completed their evaluations, the scientific panels meet in plenary session.

⁴ Indicative funding corresponding to the budget given by the NRF. The budget request made to the ANR must be adapted to the scientific objectives of the project with regard to the sub-criterion “Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested with the objectives of the project”

The panel set up by the ANR will meet to give a collective opinion and rank the projects in relation to each other. The outcome of the discussion will be recorded in a final evaluation report reflecting the consensus reached by the scientific panel.

For the evaluation procedure on the Korean side, please refer to the call text on the NRF and IRIS websites.

The final selection will be made jointly by the ANR and the NRF on the basis **of the two rankings** and scores within the budgetary capacity of the agencies.

A project can only be selected and funded if both agencies agree.

The list of projects selected for funding will be published **approximately in middle of September 2026** on the ANR and NRF website.

The successful applicants will be notified individually by the ANR and the NRF when the results are published.

6. FUNDING REGULATIONS

Each organization fund eligible expenses relating to its country's teams according to its own rules.

ANR financial regulations:

<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

NRF administrative regulations:

Criteria for the Use of National Research and Development Fund [국가법령정보센터 | 현행행정규칙 > 규칙명](#)

7. SCHEDULE

- Call launching: **April 2nd**
- Deadline for full proposals submission on the ANR's website: **June 4th, 2026, 5pm (CET)**.
- Deadline for full proposals submission on the NRF's website: **June 4th, 2026, 6pm (KST)**
- Joint decision and publication of results: **middle of September 2026 (indicative date)**
- Possible projects starting:
 - NRF: October 1st 2026
 - ANR: Octobre 1st, 2026