FAPESP PROGRAMS FOR SUPPORTING COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH WITH COMPANIES

RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION (PITE)

ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTERS/ APPLIED RESEARCH CENTERS
The FAPESP Program for Supporting Collaboration in Research between Universities/Research Institutions & Companies connects São Paulo State’s academic research base with the R&D efforts of companies in Brazil and abroad. The Program creates opportunities to foster research driven by business challenges in S&T in universities and research institutions, offers opportunities for students and postdoctoral researchers, and at the same time contributes to endeavors to surmount scientific and technological challenges of relevance to partner companies. The selected research projects are funded by FAPESP, by the partner companies, and by the host universities and research institutions.

FAPESP has a long and successful history of supporting collaborative research with companies.

The FAPESP Program for Supporting Collaboration in Research between Universities/Research Institutions & Companies currently has two branches:

- **Research Partnership for Technological Innovation (PITE)**
- **Engineering Research Centers/Applied Research Centers**

Established in 1995, PITE FAPESP has supported some 238 collaborative research projects involving over 100 companies.

The experience and success of the PITE Program enabled the creation of the Engineering Research Centers (ERC)/Applied Research Centers in 2015. These centers develop a long-term research collaboration – up to ten years – in strategic areas for cofinancing companies and scientific and technological development of the State of São Paulo.

The premise on which a project such as an Engineering Research Center is based and that orients its activities is the execution of internationally competitive research.

Eight centers have already been established in partnerships between FAPESP and Peugeot Citroën do Brasil, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Brazil, Shell Brasil, Natura, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) and Equinor Brasil.
RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION – PITE

GOALS

The purpose of PITE FAPESP is to fund research projects developed by researchers affiliated with academic or research institutions in São Paulo State in cooperation with researchers employed by companies in their research centers located in Brazil or abroad, and co-funded by the companies concerned.

This collaboration presupposes that the results of the research projects funded by PITE will contribute to knowledge creation or technological innovations of interest to partner companies, as well as to the advance of knowledge generally and the training of highly skilled human resources.

Partner companies must co-fund research projects using their own or third-party funding. FAPESP provides funding solely to the higher education and research institution that hosts the project.

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals for funding by PITE FAPESP may be submitted in two ways for analysis by the foundation:

A) SPONTANEOUS DEMAND

Applications may be submitted spontaneously in a continuous flow by mutual agreement between the researcher and the company.

B) CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Projects may also be selected in public Calls for Proposals (CFPs) issued jointly by FAPESP and one or more partner companies under the aegis of cooperation agreements between the parties.

Projects submitted spontaneously may comply with the rules for PITE 1, PITE 2 or PITE 3.

Proposals submitted in response to CFPs must comply with the rules for PITE 2 in budgetary terms, regardless of the level of innovation in the proposed research.
PITE 1 proposals are defined as joint projects that involve researchers or research groups affiliated with higher education and research institutions in São Paulo State in collaboration with companies or business groups based in Brazil or abroad, and that aim to develop innovations in projects whose exploratory phase is practically complete.

FAPESP funds up to 20% of the project’s cost, depending on the size of the budget presented. The company or companies involved are responsible for the rest of the funding (counterpart funds).

PITE 2 proposals are defined as joint projects that involve researchers or research groups affiliated with higher education and research institutions in São Paulo State in collaboration with companies or business groups based in Brazil or abroad, and that aim to develop innovations associated with low technological and commercialization risks.

FAPESP funds up to 50% of the project’s cost, depending on the size of the budget presented. The company or companies involved are responsible for the rest of the funding (counterpart funds).

PITE 3 proposals are defined as joint projects that involve researchers or research groups affiliated with higher education and research institutions in São Paulo State in collaboration with companies or business groups based in Brazil or abroad, and that aim to develop research for technological innovations associated with high technological risks and low commercialization risks, but high “fertilizing or seeding” power.

FAPESP funds up to 70% of the project’s cost, depending on the size of the budget presented. The company or companies involved are responsible for the rest of the funding (counterpart funds).
ITEMS FUNDABLE BY FAPESP

• Permanent material purchased in Brazil or imported
• Consumables purchased in Brazil or imported
• Third-party services acquired in Brazil or abroad
• Travel expenses and per diems for activities directly linked to execution of the project
• Participation in and presentation of papers to scientific and/or technological events
• Technical Training Scholarships at five levels, in accordance with FAPESP’s rules for these facilities, available at www.fapesp.br/bolsas/tt.
SOME OF THE PARTNER COMPANIES IN THE PITE FAPESP PROGRAM


MORE INFORMATION

- Guidelines for formatting PITE research projects (in Portuguese): www.fapesp.br/10368

The rules for applying to PITE FAPESP are available at www.fapesp.br/en/11829
ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTERS/ APPLIED RESEARCH CENTERS

One of the current challenges to the progress of knowledge is the complexity of the problems addressed, often requiring longer periods than the two to five years of funding traditionally offered by FAPESP in the form of Regular Research Grants and Thematic Projects, or the typical projects supported by FAPESP’s Research Partnership for Technological Innovation Program (PITE).

Long-term funding and interdisciplinary approaches in many cases permit successful treatment of complex problems. For this reason FAPESP created its Program for Engineering Research Centers (ERC)/Applied Research Centers, whose mission is to perform research in areas of strategic importance to the technological development of São Paulo State. ERC are funded by FAPESP and a partner company for up to ten years. Each ERC is hosted by a university or research institution in the state. Projects are selected in public calls for proposals issued by FAPESP and partner companies.

Eight Centers are now up and running:

PROFESSOR URBANO ERNESTO STUMPF ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTER

Hosted by the Mechanical Engineering School at the University of Campinas (FEM-UNICAMP) as a partnership between FAPESP and Peugeot Citroën do Brasil, this ERC’s main goals are developing internal combustion engines adapted or designed specifically to run on biofuel, and conducting studies of biofuel sustainability.

SUSTAINABLE CHEMISTRY RESEARCH CENTER

Hosted by the Chemistry Department of the Federal University of São Carlos (DQ-UFSCar) as a partnership between FAPESP and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Brazil, the Center’s main goal is promoting the development and effective use of sustainable chemistry by combining academic research, the pharmaceutical industry’s know-how and expertise in biotechnology to surmount current challenges in organic synthesis.
ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTERS/APPLIED RESEARCH CENTERS

RESEARCH CENTER FOR GAS INNOVATION (RCGI)

Hosted by the University of São Paulo’s Engineering School (POLI-USP) as a partnership between FAPESP and Shell Brasil, RCGI prioritizes research in three areas: engineering, physical chemistry, and energy policy and economics. It seeks to increase the share of natural gas in São Paulo State’s energy balance, foster biogas production, increase energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, among other goals.

MOLECULAR TARGET DISCOVERY RESEARCH CENTER

Hosted by Butantan Institute as a partnership between FAPESP and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Brazil, the Center’s main goal is to identify molecular targets and signaling paths involved in several diseases, using natural products in the validation of therapeutic targets with the aim of developing new drugs.

CENTER FOR RESEARCH IN HUMAN WELLBEING AND BEHAVIOR

Hosted by the Psychology Institute at the University of São Paulo (IP-USP) as a partnership between FAPESP and Natura, the Center’s mission is to conduct research in neuroscience, positive psychology, social psychology, neuroimaging, neuropsychophysiology, psychometry, population, and longitudinal studies.

GENOMICS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH CENTER (GCCRC)

A partnership between FAPESP, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) and the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), GCCRC’s mission is to develop biotechnological solutions that increase plant resistance to drought and heat, and to transfer technology to the productive sector.
CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN NEW ENERGIES (CINE)

A partnership with Shell Group, CINE has four research divisions, hosted by the University of Campinas (UNICAMP), the University of São Paulo (USP), and the Energy & Nuclear Research Institute (IPEN). Its research targets include the development of new energy storage devices with zero greenhouse gas emissions, among others.

ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTER IN OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION AND RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

Hosted by the Mechanical Engineering School at the University of Campinas (FEM-UNICAMP) as a partnership between FAPESP and Equinor Brasil Energia (formerly Statoil), this ERC’s mission is to develop innovative solutions to optimize oil well production efficiency, rehabilitate reservoirs, and upgrade drilling/extraction wastewater management.

Two other centers are in the selection, approval or contracting process:

• Engineering Research Center in Biological Pest Control, a partnership with the company Koppert;
• Center for Research on the Control of Sugarcane Diseases, a partnership with Usina São Martinho.

More information:
WWW.FAPESP.BR/CPE/HOME
The São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) is one of the main sponsoring agencies in Brazil. Established in 1962, FAPESP mission is to support scientific and technological research in the State of São Paulo. This support takes the form of fellowships awarded in Brazil and abroad, as well as grants to projects in all areas of knowledge developed by researchers from higher education or research institutions in the State.

FAPESP funds research in strategic areas through theme-related programs such as global climate changes, bioenergy and biodiversity.

It also provides funds for application-driven research through innovation programs, in collaboration with private companies, and research programs in public policies, in partnership with public and third sector organizations.

The Foundation keeps cooperation agreements with national and international sponsoring entities, foreign higher education or research institutions and private companies.

Research supported by FAPESP can be consulted at FAPESP Grant Database (www.bv.fapesp.br/en).

More about the research results in the AGÊNCIA FAPESP (www.agencia.fapesp.br/en) PESQUISA PARA INOVAÇÃO (pesquisaparainovacao.fapesp.br)