



BAOSTEEL-AUSTRALIA
JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

BAOSTEEL GTANT FUNDING 2019

**CALL FOR
EXPRESSION OF INTRESTS (EOIs)**

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Closing date: Monday 29th April 2019

EOIs must be submitted to BAJC in WORD FORMAT to admin@bajc.org.au

by midnight Monday 29th April 2019.

**EOIs submitted after the deadline or not following the prescribed format
may be declined.**

GENERAL INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

Baosteel Australia Joint Research and Development Centre (BAJC) was initially established in Australia on 8 April 2011 as collaboration between Baoshan Iron and Steel Co., Ltd., also known as **Baosteel**, and The University of Queensland, The University of New South Wales, Monash University, and University of Wollongong. Baosteel is one of the most competitive steel manufacturers in the world located in Shanghai, a subsidiary of China Baowu Steel Group (formerly Baosteel Group).

BAJC successfully completed its first phase in April 2016. The second phase of the Centre started from 8 April 2016. BAJC welcomed Deakin University as another Australian participant universities in February 2019. Under the agreement with Baosteel, BAJC will continue the BAJC Research and Development Funding Program, providing funding support for research projects, on a competitive basis, to be conducted jointly with Baosteel, to develop innovative industrial technologies of interest to Baosteel.

RESEARCH PRIORITY THEMES

Baosteel Grant Funding 2019 will address research areas that deliver the highest impact for Baosteel to reduce the commercial risk and validate environmental and technical performance in the innovative and applied technologies of interest to Baosteel. BAJC aim to support research strengths of participant universities through the collaborative research work, to meet the sustainable and strategic needs of both Baosteel and participant universities.

The priority themes for projects commencing 1st January 2020, are:

1. Iron & Steel Materials and Associated Process
 - Novel numerical simulation and modelling of metallurgical processes
 - In-depth understanding of metallurgical processes
 - Cost effective and environment-friendly utilisation of low grade minerals and coal
 - Advanced direct strip casting technology
 - Novel technologies for both hot and cold rolling processes
 - Novel technologies to address current challenges such as metal solidification, inclusion control, high-strength steel development and manufacturing etc.
 - Development of new and improved steel products
 - Industrial application of energy-saving and environment-friendly technologies
 - Technical support for Baosteel products in Australian market

2. New and Non-steel Materials

- Light metals, including
 - Ti-alloy development and processing technologies
 - Mg-alloy development and processing technologies
 - Al-alloy development for automotive vehicles and processing technologies
- Advanced materials, such as
 - Key materials for high energy density batteries
 - Key materials for super-capacitors
 - Other advanced materials

RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

The selection of application follows a two-stage application process - Expression of Interest (EOI) and Full Proposal.

The EOIs should be developed based on built ties between research teams in Baosteel and participant universities. EOI submission to BAJC must follow the prescribed format (issued separately), and should be as concise as possible.

An EOI succinctly outlining the project proposal to be submitted by due date **29th April 2019**, following below procedures:

An EOI succinctly outlining the project proposal to be submitted by due date, following below procedures:

1. The EOIs must be prepared by leading CIs from participant universities in collaboration with PIs in Baosteel:
 - a) CIs from participant universities who have previous experience of BAJC projects may receive invitations from PIs in Baosteel to initiate a new or extended project;
 - b) CIs from participant universities who have discussed their initiatives with PIs in Baosteel may ask the PIs to join the preparation of EOIs;
 - c) CIs from participant universities who have new initiatives but have not discussed and/or have no contacts in Baosteel should seek support for their ideas with potential PIs in Baosteel, or seek assistance from BAJC to find suitable Baosteel contacts for potential collaboration.
2. The EOIs may be subject to preliminary screening by the initiating institution through BAJC Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) member.
3. The selection committee in Baosteel will rank the EOIs and only highly ranked EOIs will be invited to submit full proposals for due diligence examination and further evaluation processes.

4. The selection committee in Baosteel will evaluate the full proposals. If necessary, Baosteel will seek comments from the independent external reviewers recommended by TAP. Baosteel may arrange interview with the team consisting of CIs and PIs through BAJC.
5. When the project proposal is selected and a scope with budget is agreed with Baosteel, the proposal will be recommended to BAJC Board for funding approval.

Projects generally will be funded over three year timeframes, which are expected to start from 1st January 2019, subject to availability of **at least one RHD student supported by a matched top-up scholarship or full scholarship funded by the Participating Institution (with any funds other than the BAJC Funding)**.

Eligibility for BAJC project funding requires that:

- Proposals must be submitted by a leading (or the first-named) Chief Investigator (CI) from participant universities;
- A leading (first-named) CI can only submit ONE EOI proposal.
- A leading (first named) CI may only hold ONE on-going BAJC project at any time;
- Leading CIs of current BAJC projects may be included in proposals as Associate Investigators (AIs);
- Both CI's and AI's must be from one of the participant universities of the BAJC;
- Proposals must include Partner Investigator(s) (PIs) from Baosteel and certified by the PIs.

BUDGET OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

- A project budget is required in the format specified in the project proposal (separately issued).
- The amount of funding support available from Baosteel for an individual research project can be around \$100k ~ \$150k AUD per year, with additional potential funding opportunities from Australia funding bodies, such as ARC Linkage Grant.
- The funding must be applied in accordance with the project budgets for carrying out the project.
- The funding must NOT be applied to the purchase or upgrade of capital equipment without prior written approval of the Centre Board.
- The project budget must provide justification of budgeted costs.
- The Centre Board may approve the project budget by recommendation from Baosteel.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROJECT TOTAL COST

BAJC will provide project funding to approved projects. Participant universities may make cash or (more commonly) in-kind contributions towards the total cost of the project. The cash contributions from any participant universities, if applicable, must be committed to BAJC and not to be offset from agreed Baosteel funding in funding allocations.

Baosteel encourages funding match including scholarships to the project by participant universities. The scholarships funded by the participant universities (with any funds other than the Baosteel Funding) to the students who are involved in the project will be counted as an in-kind contribution by the participant universities to the relevant Project.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment of project proposals is mainly undertaken by Baosteel. Baosteel may seek comments from Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) and/or Independent Expert Reviewers recommended by TAP and invited through BAJC. If necessary, Baosteel may arrange an interview with CIs and PIs together if there are special concerns to be clarified before they make decision on funding. Baosteel and BAJC make recommendations to the Board through following evaluations:

- outstanding proven performance
- evidence of active cooperation
- state-of-the-art facilities
- stable team

The assessment criteria are:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	Weight
Topics were pre-discussed and EOI is jointly prepared with Partner Investigator(s) in Baosteel.	Compulsory
a) The extent to which the proposed research is innovative and strategically aligned, and maximizes complementary capacities of proposed research teams in Baosteel and from participating institutions.	40%
b) The extent to which the project is proposed with a solid theoretical and technical base	20%
c) The extent to which the application is well planned with clear milestones and will deliver clear and achievable outcomes	20%
d) The relevance and quality of the track record of the Project Leaders, particularly outcomes made from past BAJC project if applicable.	20%

POST-SELECTION FEEDBACK

Unsuccessful applicants may seek feedback from Baosteel via BAJC management.

Assessment scores is NOT to be disclosed. BAJC may provide quality feedback on why a project proposal is not successful in terms of major assessment bands (position relative to other applications).

Unsuccessful applicants may re-submit their proposals in subsequent funding calls.

POST-PROJECT

BAJC intend to publish end of project summaries from the research in the form of non-technical summaries of the project results for public release.

A full Closure Project Report is required from project Chief Investigators. Confidential information that forms part of the *Closure Project Report* may be attached as a separate confidential annex. All confidential information will remain confidential only to recipients.

All publications arise from the project require approval by the Centre prior to submission for publication, subject to the *BAJC Publication Procedures Manual* (separately issued).

PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS – TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Ownership

Applicants acknowledge that physical title in all project applications (EOIs, Project Proposals and approved Projects) become the property of BAJC once the application is lodged. BAJC may copy, amend, extract, otherwise handle all or any part of a submission for the purpose of conducting the processes associated with project selection including preparation, evaluation or execution processes and any other management processes.

Innovative research ideas contained in an EOI or Project Proposal remain the property of the applicants until the project is approved for funding. The submission of a proposal does not entitle the Centre or other recipient of the proposal any right to exploit the content of the proposal.

Acknowledgment and disclaimer

BAJC, its officers, employees, advisors and agents:

- make no express or implied representation or warranty as to the currency, reliability or completeness of the information contained in the calls;
- make no express or implied representation or warranty that any estimate or forecast will be achieved or that any statement as to future matters will prove correct; and

- to the extent permitted by law, expressly disclaim all liability arising from the project application process (including, without limitation, due to information contained in or omitted from calls for project proposals, or otherwise provided to an applicant).

It is the responsibility of applicants to obtain all information necessary or convenient for the preparation of their submissions. In lodging a submission, each applicant acknowledges that it has not relied on any express or implied statement, representation or warranty as to the truth, accuracy or completeness of the information contained in a call for project proposal submissions, or otherwise provided to an applicant by the BAJC.

Applicant's costs

All expenses and costs incurred by an applicant in connection with a project application submission, including (without limitation) preparing and lodging a submission, providing the BAJC with further information, attending interviews and participating in any subsequent negotiations, are the sole responsibility of the applicants.

No contract

Nothing in a Call for EOIs or Project Proposals submission or the lodgment of a submission in response to it can be construed to give rise to any contract or associated obligations or rights, whether express or implied. No contract will be created until a formal written contract is executed between the relevant parties and the applicant.

Reservation of BAJC's rights

The BAJC reserves the right, at any time:

- to alter, amend or vary a project proposal call and the process outlined in a project proposal call;
- to suspend or terminate a project proposal process or any part of it for the public interest;
- to require additional information or clarification from any applicant or anyone else, or provide additional information or clarification to any applicant or anyone else;
- to negotiate or not negotiate with any one or more applicants, and discontinue negotiations at any time;
- to allow, or not allow, the successful applicant to enter into the proposed contract in the name of a different legal entity from that which provided a response to the call for project proposals;
- to select and negotiate with more than one applicant; and
- to add to, alter, delete or exclude any of the requirements to be provided by the preferred applicant under the call for project proposals.

For the avoidance of doubt, the BAJC may exercise its rights under this clause and elsewhere in a Call for Project Proposals at any time and in its absolute discretion.

AMENDMENTS TO THIS PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

These Funding Proposal Guidelines may be amended by BAJC from time to time, subject to the Baosteel approval.