National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion

Basualdo y Sanchez

Ministerio de
Ciencia, Tecnología
e Innovación Productiva
Presidencia de la Nación

AGENCIA
NACIONAL DE PROMOCION
CIENTIFICA Y TECNOLOGICA

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Creating opportunities through science, technology and innovation.

Andrea Coviella

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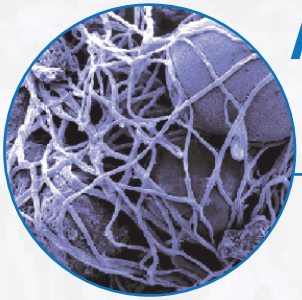
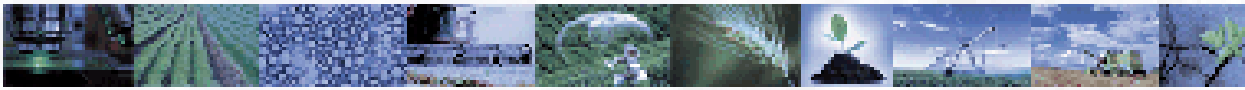


ANPCyT

National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion



AGENCIA
NACIONAL DE PROMOCION
CIENTIFICA Y TECNOLOGICA

The National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion (ANPCyT) is a national body created for purposes of promoting activities in connection with science, technology and productive innovation, which is under the administrative scope of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MinCyT).

VISION

That the Agency be recognized by the scientific, technological, education, and productive sectors, and by society at large, as an approachable entity, which is effective and efficient in fulfilling its mission.

MISION

To promote scientific and technological R&D (*) in order to enhance the Nation's productive and service systems.

VALUES

Honesty, accountability, and fulfillment of pre-established conditions. Quality and expertise in the activities promoted and institutional management. Being accountable to the community.

(*) R&D: Research & Development

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

The National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion was created in late 1996 by Executive Order No. 1660/96, as part of the reforms implemented in the argentine system for science and technology. Also, said reforms facilitated the creation of the Scientific and Technological Gabinet (GACTEC) for setting national priorities in the area of S&T (*), the organization of the Secretariat for Science and Technology for purposes of creating policies for the sector, and of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET).

The aforesaid reform made it clear that, for meeting priorities set through national science and technical plans and programs, it is advisable to have promotional and financing instruments outside the scope of governmental and private institutions responsible for performing scientific and/or technology-related tasks.

Furthermore, the National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion has facilitated the organization within a suitable sphere of different elements for encouraging technological innovation in the private sector which had been under different jurisdictions till then.

In order to take advantage of the experience gained by other institutions with similar characteristics, in February 1997, an important workshop was held convening the National Science Foundation from the United States of America, the National Research Council and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Agency from Canada, the Agencia de Evaluación from Spain, and the Research Council from Great Britain. The experiences shared by these institutions were highly useful for organizing and setting up the Agency.

The Agency started operating on May 20, 1997, when its nine board members met for the first time.

(*) S&T: Science & Technology

RESOURCES

Nowadays, the Agency uses funds from the National Treasury, from the recovery of refundable funding, funds accruing from cooperation agreements entered into with national and international organizations and institutions, and loans from the Interamerican Development Bank (IDB) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
Public funds are partly granted to the Agency for its administration as the enforcement authority of Law No. 23.877 for Promotion and Development of Technological Innovation and Law No. 25.922/04 for Promotion of the Software Industry.

STRUCTURE

The National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion is managed by a board of directors which decides over the Agency's organization and strategic planning, as well as other issues such as financing lines, resource allocation, and evaluation criteria and proceedings.
The president of the Agency's Board receives cooperation from the management Control and Legal Affairs Unit (**UCGAL**), the General Office for Projects with External Financing (**DiGFE**), the Quality Assessment and Assurance Unit (**UEAC**), the Social-environmental Management Unit (**UGSA**) the Information Systems Unit (**USI**) and the the Institutional Promotion Unit (**UPI**).

FUNDS

Through its four funds, i.e. Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (**FONCyT**), Argentine Technological Fund (**FONTAR**), Trust Fund for Promotion of the Software Industry (**FONSOFT**) and Argentine Sectoral Fund (**FONARSEC**), the Agency promotes the financing of projects aimed at improving social, economic, and cultural conditions in Argentina.

Challenges in view of the Bicentennary

Implementing new forms of financing for R&D&i (*) within the framework of sectoral funds

Sectoral funds are the backbone of the foundational policy designed by the Secretariat for Planning and Policies of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Productive Innovation, aimed at promoting development and innovation in areas which are critical for the economic and social development of our country, such as energy, the agricultural industry, health, and social inclusion, in a joint effort with the ministries which have specific jurisdiction over those areas of concern. Sectoral funds are also aimed at strengthening and consolidating technological platforms for bio-technology, nano-technology, IT, and communication technologies, in order to generate, adapt, and transfer critical knowledge for the areas of production and goods and services.

That policy comprises some transversal elements, such as Training Managers and Technological Linkers (GTec) and stimulating the creation of a new scenario for improving the conditions for creating and developing new Technology-Based Companies (TBC), turning technological knowledge into new products, processes or services, or materially improving existing ones, are some of the transversal elements involved in the aforementioned policy.

The new financing lines and calls for bids will be managed by the Argentine Sectoral Fund (FONARSEC), which is in turn managed by the National Agency for Scientific and Technological Promotion.

(*) R&D&i: Research & Development & Technological Innovation

Boosting technological innovation in the productive sector

Under an agreement entered into by the Agency and the Banco de Inversión y Comercio Exterior (BICE) a new cap credit line will be created for purposes of promoting technological innovation in the productive sector. The Argentine Technological Fund (FONTAR) will manage the processes resulting from the new credit line.

New forms of financing for promoting scientific and technological research

In late 2009, a new call was made under the Scientific and Technological Research Projects (PICT) line managed by the Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (FONCyT). The PICT Bicentenary call includes a new category comprising those research teams which have been awarded and have built links at international level. Within this category, the maximum amount to be awarded by project is USD 310.880.

Integration with other public bodies with a view to accomplishing an argentine digital agenda

The Trust Fund for Promotion of the Software Industry (FONSOFT) is working with the Undersecretariat of Management Technologies managed by the Secretariat of Public Management and with other government agencies in designing calls which should address specific issues of the digital agenda.

FONCyT

Fund for Scientific and Technological Research

FONCYT
FONDO PARA LA INVESTIGACION
CIENTIFICA Y TECNOLOGICA

The mission of Fund for Scientific and Technological Research (FONCyT) is to promote scientific and technological activities aimed at creating new scientific and technological knowledge, of both base and applied subjects, developed by researchers from public and non-for-profit private institutions based in Argentina.

The main responsibility of the Fund is to allocate and administer resources subject to the plans, programs, and priorities set forth by the MinCyT for the science & technology sector. To that end, FONCyT offers various financing instruments and/or lines for financing a wide range of initiatives in the scientific and technological research field.

The granting and implementation of those instruments is subject to a system for project evaluation and monitoring, public bids, or permanent financing initiatives.

FONCyT

PROMOTION AND FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

Scientific and Technological Research Projects (PICT)

Objective | Aimed at expanding knowledge in all science & technology areas.

Mechanism | Public bid with deadlines for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Research teams working at public or non-for-profit private research institutions.

Financing | Provides financing for a maximum amount of USD 90,700 for 3 years, depending on the project category and type.

Oriented Scientific and Technological Research Projects (PICT-O)

Objective | Developing knowledge in science & technology areas which should be interesting for co-financing institutions –whether public or private– and which are agreed upon through agreements entered into by the co-financing institution and the Agency.

Mechanism | Public bid with deadlines for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Research teams who perform their activities at public or non-for-profit research institutions.

Financing | Set forth in the agreements.

Human Resources Program (PRH)

Objective | Encourage the recruitment of qualified human resources by universities and institutions focused on scientific and technological research. It comprises two components: Relocation or Settlement of Researchers Residing Abroad (PIDRI) and Training Doctors in Priority Technological Areas (PFDT).

Mechanism | Public bid with deadlines for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Public and non-for-profit private universities and scientific and technological institutions.

Financing | The maximum total amount by institution for PIDRIs will be USD 1,666,000, and USD 777,202 for PFDTs.

Scientists´ Meetings (RC)

Objetive | Finance regular national meetings, regular international meetings to be held in Argentina and meetings for discussing specific research matters.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Scientists' meetings held in Argentina.

Financing | Funds aimed at partially financing meetings in the following categories: National regular meetings: USD 7,773; international regular meetings: USD 18,135; workshops: USD 5,182; early meetings: USD 5,182.

Equipment Modernization Projects (PME)

Objective | Provide financing for acquiring or upgrading scientific equipment and updating the infrastructure of scientific and technological research laboratories.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | R&D labs and centers which belong to public or non-for-profit private institutions based in Argentina.

Financing | The maximum amount to be granted by project is USD 466,322. The total cost of the project will be jointly borne by the Agency and the beneficiary institution(s).

Qualification Certificates (CC)

Objective | Make tax benefits available to foundations, associations and non-for-profit civil entities which conduct research on science & technology.

Mechanism | There is no deadline for filing projects, i.e., they can be filed at any time.

Beneficiaries | Foundations, associations and non-for-profit civil entities which conduct research on science & technology.

Infrastructure Adjustment and/or Improvement Projects (PRAMIN)

Objective | Help accomplish spaces fit for setting up equipment and performing activities to be carried out by human resources recruited for R&D units, in sync with the investment made by the Agency in the past years for updating scientific equipment and training human resources.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.
Beneficiaries | Public or non-for-profit private institutions.
Financing | The maximum amount to be granted may in no case exceed USD 81,607 by PRAMIN project, subject to a maximum number of 3 projects by academic and/or scientific unit within one same beneficiary institution.

Strategic Areas Program (PAE)

Objective | Promote integration and strengthening through a synergic interaction from institutions whose main activity is to expand knowledge, as well as other institutions from the productive field.

Mechanism | Under this program, there is no deadline for projects seeking financing, so filings are not subject to specific time limits.

Beneficiaries | Ad-hoc Associations (AAH) and/or institutions which have scientific and/or technological development as part of their objectives.

Financing | The maximum amount to be financed by Strategic Areas Program (PAE) may not exceed the amount in argentine pesos equivalent to USD 3,000,000. The benefit is in the form of a subsidy which may amount to up to two thirds (66.6%) of the total cost of the PAE. The PAE has a maximum execution period of 4 years.

R&D Projects (PID)

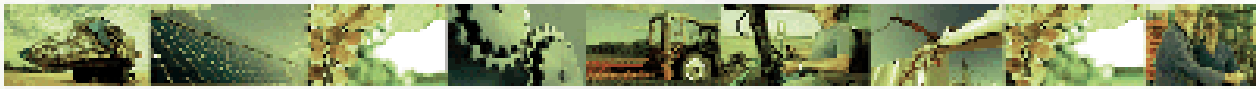
Objective | Promote a seamless cooperation between research teams and productive or social sectors, supporting initiatives aimed at obtaining precompetitive innovative results or results with a great social impact.

Beneficiaries | Universities and public and non-for-profit private scientific and technological institutions.

Financing | The maximum amount of the total funds by project to be granted by the Agency is USD 466,322 subject to a maximum amount of USD 194,300/year. The total cost of the project will be jointly borne by the Agency, the Adopting Party(ies), and the Beneficiary Institution(s).

FONTAR

Argentine Technological Fund



FONTAR
FONDO TECNOLOGICO ARGENTINO

The Argentine Technological Fund (FONTAR) is aimed at encouraging activities involving technological innovation and modernization at companies, and it is also focused on developing projects from public entities specialized in science and technology for them to deliver technological services to the productive sector. It administers funds from different sources, both pubic and private and it uses different financing instruments implemented through pubic bid or permanent financing initiatives.

The main task of the fund is to cooperate in the execution of innovation projects by performing the following tasks:

- Promote the execution of projects.
- Give technical advice and support to parties interested in formulating projects.
- Technical, economic, and financial assessment of requests for financial support.
- Provide financing to qualifying projects.
- Supervise and evaluate the performance of the projects financed.
- Qualify, if applicable, Technological Link Units (UVT).
- Grant, as under Law No. 23.877, a certificate of fitness to the companies' R&D departments or teams.

FONTAR

PROMOTION AND FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

Non-Refundable Contributions (ANR)

Objective | Enhance companies' productive structures and innovative power.

Mechanism | Public bid.

Beneficiaries | SMEs as under resolution SePyME No. 147/2006.

Financing | Up to the equivalent in argentine pesos of USD 200,000 (up to 50% of the total cost of the project).

Integrated Projects from Productive Conglomerates (PI-TEC)

Objective | Provide financing for research, development and innovation activities involving groups of companies, research centers and higher education institutions, related with a Productive Conglomerate (PC). This financing line allows a seamless integration of different promotion instruments from both FONTAR and FONCyT. Given its integrating nature, the PI-TEC seeks to improve the integration and synergy among the different elements for supporting innovation available at the Agency, with a view to benefitting innovative regions so that they increase their impact while facilitating the convergence of interests and a positive collective effort towards technological modernization and innovation.

Mechanism | Bids and permanent financing initiatives, depending on the instrument.

Beneficiaries | Public and private institutions, as well as provincial or municipal governments and companies.

Financing | Maximum amount to be financed by Productive Conglomerate: Up to the equivalent in pesos of USD 4,000,000 through the different promotion instruments from both FONTAR and FONCyT.

Non-Refundable Contributions – Technological Consulting Programs (PCT)

Objective | Help crate the market conditions necessary to permanently streamline the process for enhancing companies' innovative capacity.

Mechanism | Public bid.

Beneficiaries | SMEs as under resolution SePyME No. 147/2006.

Financing | Non-refundable subsidy of up to the equivalent in argentine pesos of USD 75,000.

Non-Refundable Contributions R&D (ANR R&D)

Objective | Creating or strengthening R&D units at companies by recruiting researchers and acquiring research equipment.

Mechanism | Public bid.

Beneficiaries | Companies with a turnover of up to USD 30 million.

Financing | Up to the equivalent in argentine pesos of USD 75,000 (up to 50% of the total cost of the project).

Non-Refundable Contributions – Cleaner Production

Objective | Provide partial financing for projects seeking to improve the environmental performance of SMEs based on enhancing processes and products through a preventive or clean production approach, provided that an optimization in the use of resources and/or a decline in waste, effluents and emissions is achieved.

Mechanism | Public bid.

Beneficiaries | SMEs as under resolution SePyME No. 147/2006.

Financing | Up to USD 77,720. Companies may file more than one project provided that the aggregate filings do not exceed the aforesaid amount.

Non-Refundable Contributions Patents (ANR Patents)

Objective | Provide financing for costs incurred in the drawing up and filing of applications for protection under intellectual property rights, both in Argentina and abroad.

Mechanism | Permanent financing initiatives.

Beneficiaries | SMEs (as under resolution SePyME No. 147/2006) and public and/or non-for-profit private scientific institutions.

Financing | Up to the equivalent in argentine pesos of USD 5,000 for filing applications in Argentina and up to USD 75,000 for filings in other countries and up to 50% of eligible expenses.

Fiscal Credit (CF)

Objective | Provide financing for R&D projects such as: Technological modernization projects, scientific research, pre-competitive technological research, adjustments and improvements.

Mechanism | Public bid.

Beneficiaries | Individuals or legal entities owners of companies which produce goods and services.

Financing | Projects up to USD 777,202 (depending on the mechanism) and up to 50% of the total cost of the project, in the form of certificates for paying up the income tax.

Credits for Modernization Projects (Law N° 23.877 - Section 2 of the RBP*)

Objective | Provide financing for projects aimed at making adjustments and improvements, developments seeking to adapt technologies and streamline products and processes with low technological complexity.

Mechanism | Permanent financing initiatives.

Beneficiaries | SMEs as under regulation SePyME No. 147/2006.

Financing | Up to USD 155,440 and up to 80% of eligible expenses, with a maximum grace period of 3 years and a 4-year repayment period. The financing agent is the Agency.

* RBP: Guidelines on Promotional Benefits

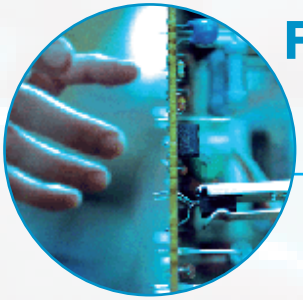
Refundable Contributions for Institutions (ARAI)

Objective | Enhance capacities for developing technological services for the production of goods and services through the creation, expansion, and improvement of installation, equipment and HR training facilities.

Mechanism | Permanent financing initiatives.

Beneficiaries | Public and non-for-profit private institutions (state and private universities, producers and businessmen associations, municipal and provincial government entities, etc.)

Financing | Up to the equivalent in argentine pesos of USD 2,000,000, covering up to 80% of the eligible expenses of the project. Repayment periods can be up to 10 years with a 4-year grace period.



FONSOFT

Trust Fund for Promotion of the Software Industry

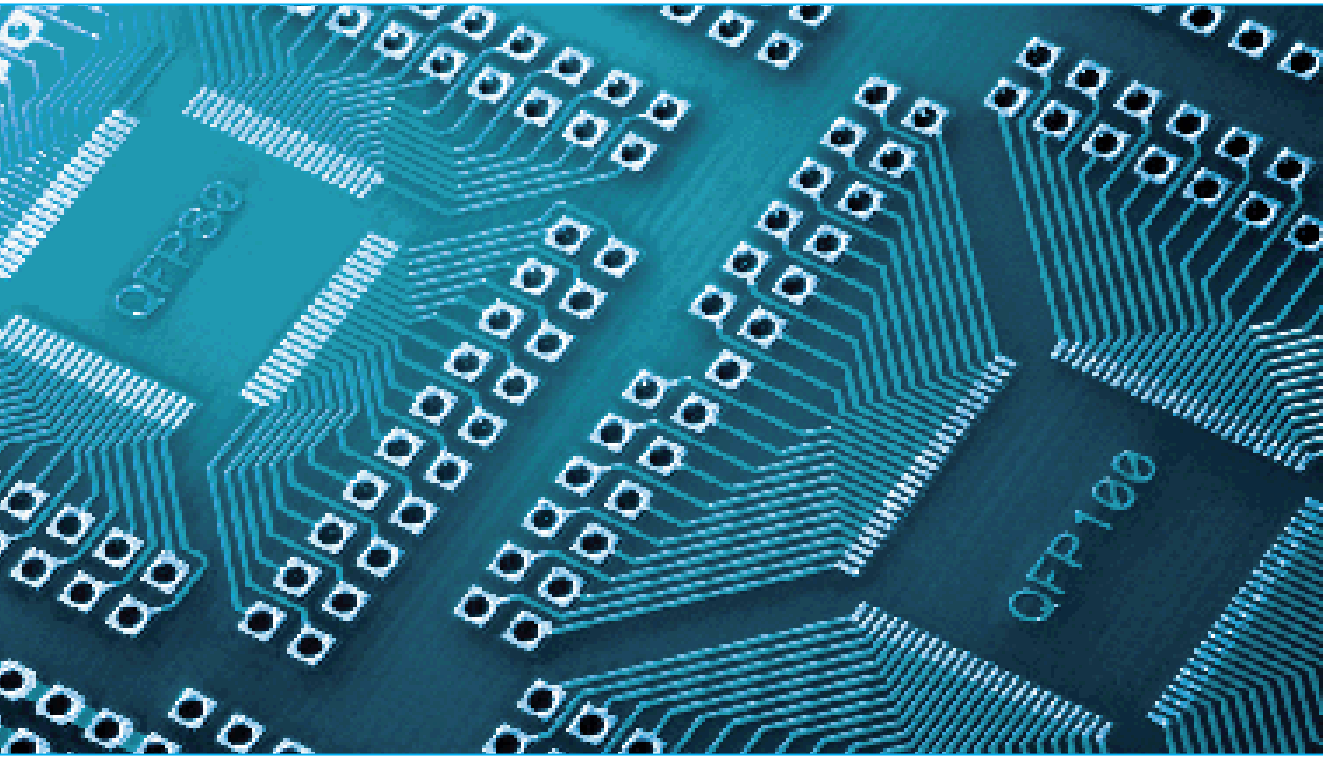
FONSOFT

FONDO FIDUCIARIO DE PROMOCION DE LA INDUSTRIA DEL SOFTWARE

The Trust Fund for Promotion of the Software Industry (FONSOFT) was created in 2004 under the act for Promotion of the Software Industry (Law No. 25.922).
The FONSOFT is finantially supported by the national budget and its aim is to provide financing to different activities through bids for credits and subsidies which will be managed by the Agency, such as the following:

- R&D projects related with the activities covered in the promotion regime (creation, design, development, production and implementation and tuning-up of software systems).
- HR training programs of tertiary or higher level.
- Programs for improving quality standards in the processes for software creation, design, and production.
- Programs for cooperating in the set-up of new initiatives.

FONSOFT



PROMOTION AND FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

Non-refundable Contributions FONSOFT (ANR FONSOFT)

Objectives | • **The quality certification mechanism (I)** is aimed at improving the quality standards in the processes of creation, design, development, and maintenance of software as a means for increasing the competitiveness of the software industry.

• **The mechanism for development of new software products and processes (II)** is aimed at promoting the development of software products and processes (excluding self-development activities) and it may finance the phase-in process.

• **The mechanism for pre-competitive R&D for software products and processes (III)** seeks a thorough formulation of an original product or process and its subsequent materialization in the form of a prototype.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Companies organized as such at the moment of filing the application, which reside in the Argentine territory, which produce goods and/or services, which qualify as SMEs (as under regulation SePyME No. 147/2006 and Law No. 25.856), whose main activity is the production of software.

Financing | Up to the equivalent to USD 46,632 for projects covered in mechanism (I), up to USD 77,720 for projects covered in mechanism II, and up to USD 155,440 for projects covered in mechanism (III). In no case may these subsidies exceed 50% of the total project cost, and the beneficiary company must cover the balance. Projects are subject to a maximum execution term of 18 months for mechanism (I), 18 months for mechanism (II) and 24 months for mechanism (III).

Exporta Credits

Objective | Finance projects from SMEs which produce software and which are at a stage of initiation or consolidation of their exporting activity.

Mechanism | Projects to be financed are not subject to deadlines, i.e., they may be filed at any time.

Beneficiaries | SMEs (as under resolution SePyME No. 147/2006 and Law No. 25.856 producers of software and IT services.

Financing | Loans of up to 80% of the total cost of the project and up to USD 77,720. Projects will be subject to a maximum execution period of 12 months.

Subsidies for Entrepreneurs

Objective | Promote the entrepreneurial spirit in the software and IT service industry, cooperate in the organization of new business companies in this sector and help consolidate eligible and existing companies.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Individuals, sole-proprietor companies which have not existed for more than 25 months from their registration to the date of the closing of the call for bids, and companies which have not existed for more than 24 months from the date of their organization to the date of the closing of the call for bids and which are micro or small enterprises (as defined in regulation SePyME No. 147/2006 and Law No. 25.856) which are producers of software and IT services.

Financing | Non refundable subsidies up to the equivalent of USD 38,860. Projects will be subject to a maximum execution term of 24 months.

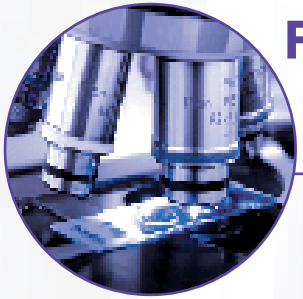
ANR FONSOFT Training

Objective | Support the ongoing training of HR in the software and IT service industry, cooperating with the training initiatives which entail an innovating, relevant, and quality offer, which are aimed at all the community. Training courses must be of professional and industrial interest, and must not be part of the regular permanent training offer in the region.

Mechanism | Projects to be financed are not subject to deadlines, i.e., they may be filed at any time.

Beneficiaries | Public institutions beneficiaries of direct fiscal contributions, or non-for-profit Private Institutions legally operating in Argentina which demonstrate to have legal, technical, administrative, and financial capacity to perform the actions proposed.

Financing | Non-refundable subsidies of up to 50% of the total cost of the project and up to argentine pesos FIFTY THOUSAND (USD 12,953). Projects will be subject to a maximum execution period of 12 months.



FONARSEC

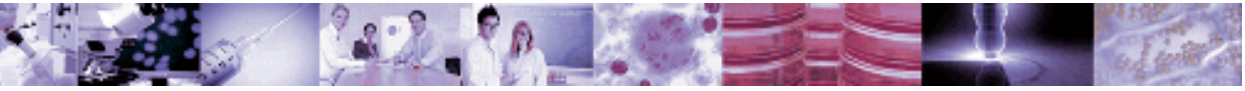
Argentine Sectoral Fund

FONARSEC
FONDO ARGENTINO SECTORIAL

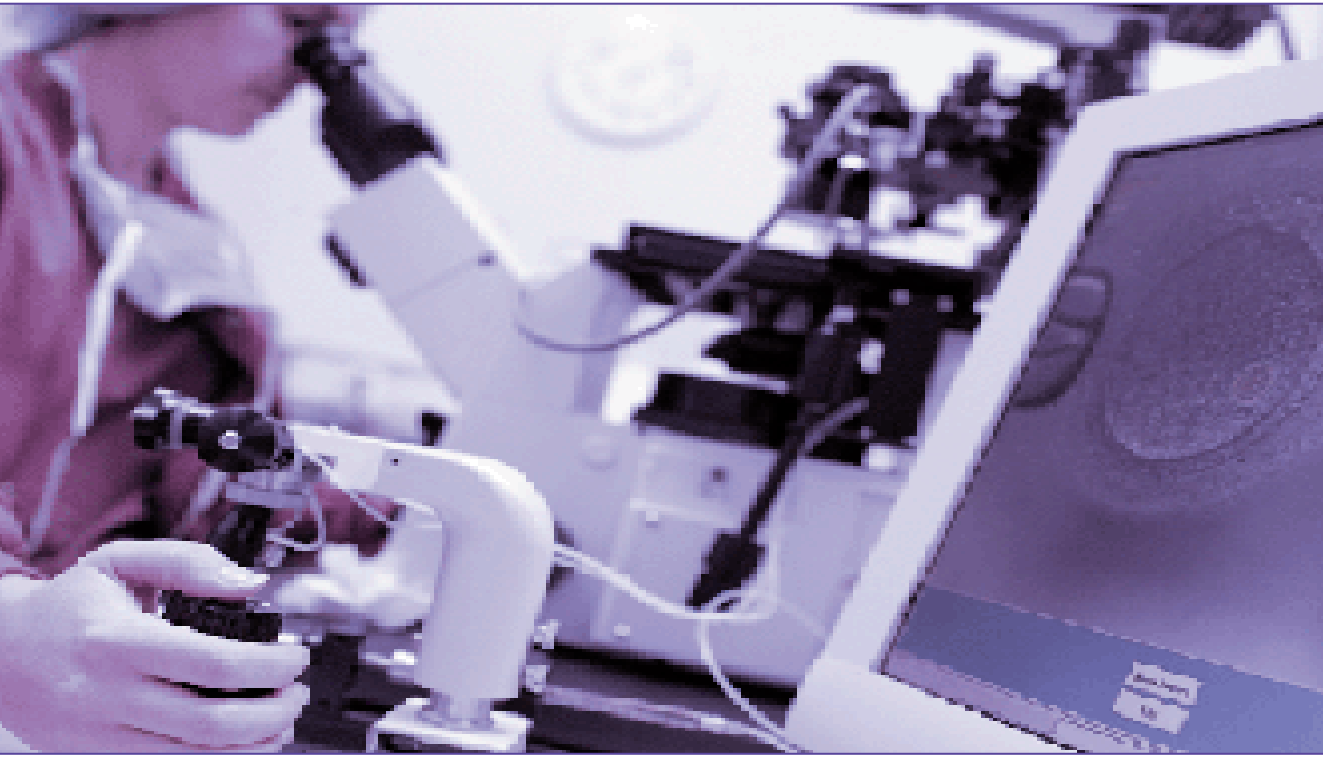
The purpose of Argentine Sectoral Fund (FONARSEC) is to develop critical capacities in areas with high potential impact and ongoing transfer to the productive sector, helping increase competitiveness and troubleshoot problems diagnosed with a view to meeting the demands of society, companies, and the State.

The Secretariat of Planning and Policies of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation is in charge of defining and setting the objectives and priority lines to be addressed and instrumented by FONARSEC.

Priority areas for developing technological platforms addressed at the productive sector are as follows: Biotechnology, ICT, energy, agro-industry, health, social development. Said platforms are aimed at improving, extending, and validating the capacities of the productive sector in order to meet national and international demands intensifying technological change processes.



FONARSEC



PROMOTION AND FINANCING INSTRUMENTS

Technological Infrastructure and Equipment Project (PRIETec)

Objective | Extend the operational capacity of R&D institutions (adapting the existing infrastructure and acquiring scientific equipment) to facilitate business and/or technology-base companies incubation.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Public or non-for-profit private entities whose main activity is research, development, and transfer of technology to the productive sector.

Financing | PRIETec projects may apply for financing in one of the financing levels established: LEVEL I: Up to USD 388,601 by project; LEVEL II: Between USD 388,601 and USD 1,554,404 by project.

Training Program for Managers and Technological Linkers (GTec)

Objective | Encourage the training of managers and technological linkers which enhance the innovation and technological development capacities at companies and scientific-technological institutions, companies associations, and local development associations.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Non-for-profit university institutions, whether public or private, and institutions registered with the Public Registry of CONEAU (National Committee for University Evaluation and Qualification), based in Argentina, which provide higher education, professional training, and which are focused on technology generation and transfer.

Financing | Up to the equivalent of USD 194,300/year by eligible proposal. The Agency's maximum contribution by proposal will be USD 777,202 for the four years. The benefit to be granted by the Agency for financing proposals will be in the form of a subsidy which will amount to up to 50% of the total cost of proposals.

Sectoral Fund for Biotechnology (FSBio)

Objective | Partially finance projects for generating technological platforms for the sector. FSBio-

Vaccines is a call for bids which is part of the Sectoral Fund for Biotechnology and is aimed at the production of vaccines and recombinant proteins at national level.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | Public and non-for-profit private institutions, Centers and Institutes whose main activity is Scientific and Technological research with a legal capacity of their own, and National Companies, related under a Private Public Consortium (CPP), created under a public instrument, integrated by at least one group of researchers within a Public or non-for-profit Private Institution.

Financing | Resources administered under the FSBio-Vaccines Bid are non-refundable contributions of up to USD 7,000,000 (USD 3.8 rate*). The funds contributed by the counterparty shall amount to at least 30% of the total cost of the project.

EMPRETECNO – Project Flow Facilitators (EMPRETECNO - FFP)

Objective | Give support to the entrepreneur(s) in the process for creating a TBC. Their functions include developing and maintaining strategies for actively searching for potential entrepreneurships to be promoted and supported, and seeking financing for them.

Mechanism | Public bid, i.e., there is a deadline for filing projects.

Beneficiaries | - Public, non for profit private institutions and companies based in the Argentine territory whose main activity is to manage, promote, and transfer scientific research especially focused on the development of TBC, subject to a Public Private Association Agreement (CAPP).
- Private legal entities which, according to the purpose set forth in their by-laws and their form of organization, are in the business of managing the process for creating TBC and operate in the investments market.

Financing | As FFPs, they may receive the following benefits:
a) Basic Compensation for Services Rendered (BC) by the FPP: Upon submission of an invoice, the ANPCyT will reimburse 5% of the amounts used in the Support Plan approved of each TBC, as a Basic Compensation for Services Rendered.

(*) For cases such as imported equipment quotes, amounts are also stated in US Dollars.

b) Success Bonus (SB), or "Success Fee": To be earned by each FFP for each TBC obtaining the investment. The bonus will amount to 15% of the effective investment procured for the TBC.

EMPRETECNO – Technology-Base Companies (EMPRETECNO - TBC)

Objective | Promote the development of technology-base companies in the different productive areas based on an intensive use of knowledge.

Mechanism | Projects to be financed are not subject to deadlines, i.e., they may be filed at any time.

Beneficiaries | • **Individuals** with proven capacity in the performance of scientific and technological research and innovation, public and private institutions mainly concerned with the scientific and technological activity and companies within the productive sector.

• **Public, non-for profit private institutions**, centers and institutes concerned with scientific and technological research with legal capacity, and companies based in the Argentine territory, which jointly relate with a group of entrepreneurs under a Public/Public or Public/Private or Private/Private Association Agreement (CAPP).

Financing | Filings are to be made through a PAEBT: Support Plan for Technology-base Companies (TBC). ANPCyT finances up to USD 677,668 per plan. The amount financed may on no account exceed 75% of the total cost of the activities involved in the PAEBT.

National Program for ICT Scholarships (PNBTICs)

Objective | Promote and increase the enrollment of students in degree courses of studies in the field of IT and communication technologies. This program is jointly conducted with the Secretariat for University Policies of the Ministry of Education of the Nation, as part of the National Program for University Scholarships (PNBU).

Beneficiaries | Aspirant of degree courses of studies in the field of IT and communication technologies.

Financing | An annual scholarship amount is granted, which amount varies based on the level of the course of studies the student is attending.

Rate of exchange: Argentine Pesos 3.86
Rate of exchange as of March 15, 2010