

Joint Research Bases

Guide for Applicants

1. Objectives

Germany regards the expansion of successful research co-operation to form joint research bases with distributed project groups as a significant element in developing the European Research Area.

Joint research bases are intended to network the staff, organization and funding of outstanding research and education establishments and industrial research in the respective disciplines in both countries on the basis of existing co-operation schemes and in the interest of both sides. The aim is to create sustainable structures for the joint development of research potential and the introduction of more dynamic product and process innovation in the field of innovation-oriented applied research. Joint, if necessary geographically distributed, project groups or institutes are to be established with a networked organizational structure on the basis of binding co-operation agreements and also involving further strategic partners. This includes joint leadership structures and a steering body consisting of representatives from research and industry as appropriate.

It is planned that both countries will share the start-up investments for the concept and development phase of these partnerships, which is to last a maximum of one-year. These investments include both governmental start-up funding as well as contributions from the institutions involved. In addition, funding and contracts are to be acquired within the framework of the partnerships under regional, National (German and foreign), as well as European funding programmes. The aim is to create a stable basis for the new structures within 4 to 5 years by systematically securing third party funding and tapping new markets. This ensures a new quality in co-operation, which is distinguished by sustainability and competitiveness. It makes a decisive contribution towards strengthening co-operation between the two countries and to Europe's development to become an innovative region.

It is planned that the BMBF will fund the implementation of proposals which have received positive evaluation with up to 50,000 euro each during the one-year concept and development phase and that BMBF will provide accompanying support for these projects. When drafting their applications, applicants should take into account the following structure and the further information provided under 2. Description of Project.

2. Application/Description of Project

The application may be made on the application form (AZA), which can be downloaded under <http://www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy/formular.html>. The description of the project should be structured in accordance with the following example. The project description should focus on explaining the project's new kind of approach, added value and qualitative improvement compared with previous co-operation.

Example structure of the application

I. Project framework

Object/ Field of research

Idea/ Motivation

- Innovativeness and relevance of the topic
- Attractiveness and significance of the structure in the light of international comparison
- Contribution towards the Europeanization/European orientation of the facilities/organizations and/or the R&D area involved
- Contribution to bilateral co-operation.

Objectives

- Assumption of technology/market leadership in the respective sector (in the participating countries/ in Europe/ world-wide?)
- Establishment of a distributed project group/virtual institute/research station/ ... as a basis for the establishment of long-term co-operation facilities or structures
- If appropriate, the construction of prototypes to demonstrate expertise
- Acquisition of industrial contracts and third-party funding
- Concept and introduction of a new bilateral co-operation model.

Institutions involved and project officers on both sides

II. Description of project (Overall project)

State of the art of science and technology in the relevant field of R&D and preparatory work (divide into relevant priorities within the field of research)

International trends

Preparatory work conducted by the project participants in Germany and the partner country, as well as the status of co-operation in the R&D sector concerned

Current and future fields of application/ future products
(Concepts for realization)

Market and job potential

III. Detailed description of the planned work of the distributed project group in the concept and development phase lasting up to 12 months

- Work plan: Contents/structures
Description of the individual work packages (objectives/implementation/results)
Research work/pilot investigations
Specification of the organizational model, etc.
- Time schedule, expenditure and cost plan (based on the individual work packages)

- Preparation/submission of applications to the respective BMBF directorate-general and, if appropriate, foreign funding organization and acquisition of industrial contracts and further third-party funding (DFG, *Länder* programmes, EU including Structural Funds, ...)
- Planning the transitional phase (What happens after the concept phase up to establishment as a self-financing unit (without further start-up financing)?

IV. Funding

Overall funding framework over 4 – 5 years (Germany and partner country) – use the enclosed tables - "Cost and Funding Model" for this purpose

Overview of sources of funding / Funding commitments to date

Detailed funding planning for the concept phase (first year): Overall funding and funds requested from BMBF, Directorate-General 2

Joint Research Base

Cost and Funding Model

Costs

Costs in thousand €	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
in Germany						
Personnel						
Travel						
Events						
Third-party services						
Infrastructure						
Total Germany						
in the Partner Country						
Personnel						
Travel						
Events						
Third-party services						
Infrastructure						
Total Partner Country						
Sum Total						

Funding Model

Costs in thousand €	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
in Germany						
BMBF structural measures						
BMBF project funding						
Contribution by the coordinator's R&D institution						
German <i>Länder</i>						
Own share German partners						
Industry in Germany						
Others						
Total Germany						
in the Partner Country						
Funding programme of the Partner Country						
EU Structural Fund R&D infrastructure						
Regional Fund (Regional Council)						
Own share foreign partners						
Industry in the Partner Country						
Others						
Total Partner Country						
International						
EU Programmes						
Industry in other countries/international						
Others						
Total International						
Sum Total						

Joint Research Base (Name)

Example of the organizational structure of a joint distributed project group

