

Funding Measure Materie 2025–2028

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

DESY Projektträger
Fachgruppe Materie
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The Call „Materie 2025–2028“

Outline

01 Goal & Purpose of Funding

- What is the BMBF's intent for the funding?
- What is „federal interest“?

02 Subject of Funding

- Details on the object of funding
- Does my project fit the call?

03 Beneficiaries

- Who is eligible to apply, who is not?
- Are collaborations possible/necessary?

04 Special Grant Requirements

- Cooperation agreements for joint research

05 Type & Volume of a Grant

- Proposal types (AZA, AZAP, AZK, ...)
- How much is typically requested?

06 Additional Details

- Auxiliary conditions („small-print“)
- Open access publishing

07 Application Procedure

- What should the project description comprise?
- What are the evaluation criteria?
- How is the funding decided upon?
- When is the deadline?

08 Further Information

- Where can I ask about specific details?

01 Goal & Purpose of Funding

Research policy goals

- Enable **scientific excellence** at large-scale facilities funded by the BMBF
- Expand **capabilities of large-scale facilities** and enhance their performance for scientific and economic applications
- Develop the basis for **next-generation research infrastructures**
- Generate **expertise** for advancement and efficiency at large-scale facilities
- Cf. **framework programme** brochure „Exploration of the Universe and Matter – ErUM“ and „Action Plan ErUM-Pro“

Purpose of funding

- Develop **advanced equipment** or improve on existing equipment
- Work out novel **methods of research**
- Develop **key skills & technologies**
- **Widen the user community**

**All of this defines
the funding's
federal interest**

02 Subject of Funding: The Core

What's eligible for funding?

- Novel instruments or methods for experimentation on condensed matter at large-scale facilities
Which facilities? → list & exceptions
- Technology for existing or future accelerators
- Key components (detectors, optics, etc.)
- Methods for data processing and management: reduction, evaluation, visualization, etc. of data

What's ineligible for funding?

- Projects without sufficient relevance for research at large-scale facilities
→ **DFG funding**
- Projects for theoretical research without a connection to experimentation
- Basic equipment

Differentiation from other funding measures:

- Accelerator research for particle physics: → ErUM-Pro, „particles“ section
- Data science with a wider scope (beyond the exploration of matter): → ErUM-Data

02 Subject of Funding: Extras

UN sustainable development goals

- Reference to goal 4 „Quality Education“ or goal 9 „Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure“ is required
- Concrete reference to additional goals is desirable, e.g.:
 - Affordable and Clean Energy (goal 7)
 - Responsible Consumption and Production (goal 12)
- <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/>

Involvement of business enterprises

- eligible as beneficiary (in the past only eligible as R&D contractors)
- Company involvement is not mandatory
- Benefit of involvement needs to be made clear
- Utilization of results:
 - transfer of knowledge to/from companies
 - concrete (initial) contribution towards innovation

Activities towards networking, public relations, recruiting young talents, civil participation

- Workshops, PR activities, etc.
- Expenses are eligible for funding!

03 Beneficiaries

Which institutions are eligible for application?

- Higher education institutes (e.g. universities)
- Non-university research institutes as well as business enterprises jointly with universities

Associated partners

- Institutions ineligible for application may participate jointly, but will not receive funding

Who is eligible as project leader?

- Eligibility for project leadership is to be decided by the applying institution
- Junior group leaders are emphatically encouraged!
 - (Junior) professors, tenured or untenured, postdocs with or without lecture qualification

Which are ineligible for application?

- Non-university research institutes without university partners
- Business enterprises without university partners
- Applicants residing outside of Germany

04 Special Grant Requirements

Important at the start of funding, not for the proposal:

- Joint research partners have to sign a cooperation agreement

05 Type & Volume of a Grant

Type of application form depending on institution:

- Universities: AZAP (P = project allowance of 20%)
- Non-university institutions (MPG, Leibniz-Institutes, Eu-XFEL, EMBL): AZA
- Helmholtz- and Fraunhofer-Institutes, enterprises: AZK
- Bundeswehr universities: AZVP

→ Assistance of university administration is mandatory, as the institution will be the beneficiary!

Typical grant volume for 3 years for 1 (sub-)project:

300.000 - 800.000 €, depending on invest, 1–2 employees, travel and consumables accordingly

06 Additional Details

- Auxiliary conditions: important for administrative concerns and project management (documentation, resource management etc.)
- Open access publication is encouraged (expenses are eligible for funding)

07 Application Procedure

Application documents:

- Fill out proposal at the „easy-online“ portal (with support from your funding administration!)
 - Supplement to the easy-online proposal:
 - 1 joint Project description (in English, 10 - 20 pages depending on number of joint research partners)
 - Short scientific CV (DFG-style 2-pager)
 - Letters of support (colleagues, large-scale facility operators)
 - Quotes for expensive investments
- } optional, but helpful

07 Application Procedure

What should the project description comprise?

1. Goals

- Overall purpose, referencing research policy goals
- Scientific and/or technical intentions

2. State of science & technology; preliminary work of the project leaders

3. Elaborate description of the project schedule

- Project-related resource planning
- Milestone planning with time line for each work package

4. Exploitation plan

- Prospect of success: scientific, technical and/or economic
- Perspective of connectivity: scientific and economic

5. Collaboration

- Division of work in joint research
- Cooperation e.g. with large-scale facilities

6. Necessity of the BMBF grant

- Statement why third-party funding is indispensable

07 Application Procedure

What are the evaluation criteria?

- Project's contribution to the measure's scientific and research policy goals
- Scientific quality
- Scientific originality
- Prospects of success and feasibility (milestone & budget planning)
- Competence of the applicant(s)
- Exploitation of results

The contribution of the project to the sustainability goals is used as an additional evaluation criterion.

How is the funding decided upon?

- Review Panel evaluates each proposal and expresses recommendations
- Projektträger rates research policy aspects
- BMBF approves the decision

Deadline:

- 4 November 2024 for the easy-online proposal
- Printed version (with signature on first page) may arrive later in early November

08 Further Information

https://pt.desy.de/bekanntmachungen/20082024___materie

→ Link to the call (also in English)

→ Help file for applicants

→ Information for enterprises

https://foerderportal.bund.de/easy/easy_index.php

→ Filing cabinet for BMBF guidelines

08 Further Information

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