

## Call for project proposals

### PIER Seed Projects

Hamburg, 16.02.2015

Science is done in the scientists' heads. Research thrives on curiosity and good ideas. The PIER Seed Projects promote any innovative, creative and unusual research idea. It is particularly aimed at qualified young scientists, enabling them to initiate, develop and implement completely new research ideas, concepts or methods. Acting as a funding instrument, the PIER Seed Projects provide rapid and non-bureaucratic seed money and start-up funding for the implementation of fresh ideas. Funding will focus on creative ideas, lateral thinking as well as risky research ideas with possibly high potential benefits.

#### **Aim and object of the funding**

The aim of the funding is to pick up good research ideas and to enable their implementation.

This funding instrument supports the identification, testing, elaboration and implementation of innovative ideas in research and development in the four PIER research fields. The funding concentrates on innovative research and development projects at an early stage where a rapid and non-bureaucratic financial support can significantly contribute to advances in knowledge.

#### **Funding will be granted to**

- 1) Analysis and studies of new hypotheses, new concepts and new methodological approaches.
- 2) Experimental research and development work on building prototypes, demonstration of the feasibility or viability as „proof of principle“, or identification and development of new areas of application.
- 3) Conceptual work and studies on an experiment, experimental set-up or device with high discovery and innovation potential and high benefit potential.

#### **Conditions**

The applicant must be registered as a PIER Scientist (members of the PIER Helmholtz Graduate School do not need to register as PIER Scientist) at [www.pier-campus.de/registration](http://www.pier-campus.de/registration). Members of the Universität Hamburg, DESY as well as members of associated partner organizations (EMBL, HPI, BNI) can apply for a funding of their project proposal. The main applicant must be a member of the Universität Hamburg or DESY.

The underlying concept must have at its core a new approach and, as such, must not be the objective of an existing funding support or a separate part of a funded third-party project.

The funding by PIER excludes institutional funding or covering budget deficits of a third-party project. Should the concept arise within the scope of a third-party project, the context of the project and the further third-party funding must be described in the project proposal.

### **Nature and scope of the funding**

The funding is provided in the form of a non-repayable grant, covering up to 100% of project costs.

The funding focuses on project-related expenses exclusively. Personnel costs are generally not eligible.

### **Structure of the project proposal**

A proposal of maximum five pages (including CV but without enclosures) can be made in either German or English and has to include:

- Summary (up to 1500 characters (including spaces))
- A proposal description
- A brief description of the applicant's expertise
- An evaluation of the chances of success
- A cost plan (including specification of own resources), duration of the project and schedule
- The PIER research field the proposal for PIER is assigned to
- The project partners (name, institution)
- The applicant's CV and five relevant publications
- Contact details of the main applicant

### **Procedure**

Proposals for PIER Seed Projects can be submitted to the PIER Office (via e-mail to [info@pier-campus.de](mailto:info@pier-campus.de)) until 26 April 2015. The evaluation follows a two-stage procedure by the PIER Executive Board.

First, the project proposals will be checked for compliance with formality requirements by the PIER Office.

Each proposal will then be assigned to a PIER research field and reviewed by both spokesmen of the related research field who will then give a recommendation.

Based on those evaluations the projects that receive a funding recommendation will be invited to present their project in front of the PIER Executive Board on 29 May 2015. Based on those presentations the PIER Executive Board will make their funding decisions.

Funded projects are obliged to refer to the funding authority PIER when presenting the project or project results from the funded project.

An informal evidence of funding used for the project results including proof of use of funding should be submitted in writing to the PIER Office six weeks after the expiration of the funding measure or at least once a year.

### **Evaluation criteria**

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- Novelty or novelty grade of the research concept, originality of approach
- Scientific quality of the research project
- Relevance of the project with regard to the objectives and contents of the PIER research fields
- Scientific qualification and applicant's expertise
- Support of young scientists
- Quality of the project planning and structure and cost plan
- Cooperation between Universität Hamburg and DESY

### **Miscellaneous**

PIER is a partnership between Universität Hamburg and DESY. PIER is not a legal entity. The financial support of funded projects will be handled by one partner of PIER, either Universität Hamburg or DESY.

A legal claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a project proposal.

A short description of the projects funded so far by the PIER Ideenfonds is available at:  
<https://www.pier-campus.de/funding>

### **Contact details:**

PIER Office

Notkestrasse 85

22607 Hamburg

Tel.: +49 40 8998-5500

E-Mail: [info@pier-campus.de](mailto:info@pier-campus.de)

[www.pier-campus.de](http://www.pier-campus.de)

Registration as a PIER Scientist at: [www.pier-campus.de/registration](http://www.pier-campus.de/registration)