

Call for Applications

„Internationale Spitzenforschung“

April 2021

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1 Preliminary remarks

For the international competitiveness of research institutions, profiling on the basis of unique selling points and research at the highest level are important factors. The exchange with internationally prominent top scientists is indispensable for this. This is exactly where the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung gGmbH comes in with its programme “Internationale Spitzenforschung”. It promotes cooperation between foreign, internationally outstanding top scientists and Baden-Württemberg research groups.

The Baden-Württemberg Foundation is relaunching the programme “Internationale Spitzenforschung” in 2021. It calls on internationally competitive research groups from Baden-Württemberg to apply in a competition for the funding of a cooperative research project. With this call, the Foundation hopes to contribute to strengthening the international networking of research groups from Baden-Württemberg and to support the intensive exchange of knowledge between the groups.

The condition: both research groups are already working on top level in the project topic.

2 Objectives and priorities of the programme

The aim of the programme is to promote excellent, internationally visible and competitive research projects in promising fields of research in Baden-Württemberg. The research projects must fall within the thematic priorities of the Foundation's research programmes (<https://www.bwstiftung.de/de/bereiche-programme/forschung/>). The group leading the project must be active in the natural sciences, life sciences or engineering. Cooperation with groups from other research areas is possible.

The respective project must be in line with the strategic orientation of the university or non-university research institution and show a high degree of innovation for the state of Baden-Württemberg.

The central criterion for the financing of a project is cooperation with an international top scientist. Cooperation with several people is also possible. The Baden-Württemberg research group must also be active in the field of research at a high level. It is desirable to pursue a cooperative approach in which there is a high degree of complementarity between the research group of the top international scientist and the Baden-Württemberg research group. The project will be realized by a temporary presence of the top scientist at the Baden-Württemberg research institution. Mutual visits of members of the two research groups are also possible in order to achieve a transfer of knowledge down to the working level.

The basic equipment and infrastructure must be available at the universities and non-university research institutions, respectively.

3 Eligible institutions

Only research institutions at universities and non-profit non-university research institutions based in Baden-Württemberg are eligible to participate.

4 Modalities

The research is carried out on behalf of the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung gGmbH on the basis of a contract. The rights arising from the results of the contract research are exclusively owned by the Baden-Württemberg Stiftung gGmbH.

The application is submitted by the research group of the university or non-university research institution situated in Baden-Württemberg. A declaration of the international top scientist of his or her consent to the cooperation must be included in the application. Applications from universities must be submitted via the rectorates. Applications from non-university research institutions must be submitted via the head of the respective institution.

The projects will run for three years and will receive funding of up to € 500,000 (plus VAT). Personnel, material and travel costs required for project work in Baden-Württemberg will be financed. For the top foreign scientist, allowances for expenses such as travel expenses are financed.

The Baden-Württemberg Stiftung is providing up to 2 million euros (plus VAT) for this research programme.

5 Scope and content of applications

The application should contain the following points:

- General information on the project
- Theme and objective of the project
- Perspectives of the project and integration into the strategic profile of the university or non-university research institution
- Innovation content of the project and scientific positioning in international competition
- Information on the top scientist
- State of research

- Detailed presentation of the project with information on milestones that can be checked every six months.
- Own preliminary work and research environment
- Financial planning

The application must be submitted in English. The abstract, the work plan and the milestone planning must additionally be submitted in German. An application should not exceed a maximum of 20 pages.

The requirements for the applications are laid down in a guideline which is available on the PT-Outline internet portal (https://ptoutline.eu/app/bwst_isf2020). This also contains the planned structure of the application as a template.

The application signed by the rectorate of the university or the management of the research institution must be uploaded as one PDF file on the Internet portal.

6 Application deadline and decision

The application is submitted electronically via the Internet portal PT-Outline (https://ptoutline.eu/app/bwst_isf2020). The application must be submitted via the portal **by 30 July 2021** (cut-off period). It is not necessary to submit the signed original application by post or fax. The signature in the PDF document is sufficient.

An independent jury will decide on the applications submitted to the competition. In accordance with the aim and content of the call, the jury will select particularly outstanding projects. No reasons will be given for the rejection of a project under this call. There is no entitlement to financing.

7 Project Management Agency

The Baden-Württemberg Stiftung gGmbH has commissioned the DLR Project Management Agency (DLR-PT), an institution within the German Aerospace Center (DLR), to carry out and supervise the research programme. The DLR-PT is responsible for the organisational management of the programme and is the central point of contact for applicants.

The contact details for the DLR-PT are as follows

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