



***CALL TO AWARD FUNDING
FOR SIX PROJECTS
PRESENTED BY YOUNG RESEARCHERS***

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI FISICA NUCLEARE

Announcement No. **19105**

Call to award funding for six projects presented by young researchers in the fields of research and technological development carried out by the Institute
(accelerators, electronics/information technology, detectors, interdisciplinary research)

THE PRESIDENT

of the Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

• Having regard to the Board of Directors Resolution no. 14413 of May 26th 2017

ESTABLISHES

Article 1
General principles

The organization of a call to award funding for six research projects with a two-year duration to foster excellence among young researchers working in the Institute's fields of research and technological development (accelerators, electronics/Information technology, detectors, interdisciplinary research).

Successful projects will be included in the framework of INFN CSN5 experiments, and as such they will be subject to scientific evaluation and financial suitability by the "Referees" assigned to them at the end of the call.

The selection procedure, from the opening of the call to the evaluation of the projects and the nomination of successful candidates, shall be carried out in time to ensure the allocation of grants and the start of the projects, in line with other CSN5 research projects.

Article 2
Admission Requirements

Participation in the call is open to Italian, EU or non-EU young researchers, in the capacity of proposers and project managers, who are in a non-permanent position and who have a PhD or equivalent qualification gained no more than eight years prior to the call deadline.

This time limit may be extended only in the cases listed below. The reasons for an extension must be duly documented in the application:

- a) in cases of maternity, the doctoral graduation time limit shall be extended by 18 months for each child born before or after graduation;
- b) in cases of parental leave, the doctoral graduation time limit shall be extended by the duration of the parental leave taken for each child before and after graduation;
- c) in cases of long term hospitalization or long illness, lasting over 90 days, or military or civilian service, the doctoral graduation time limit shall be extended by the duration of the individual events considered, occurring before or after graduation.

Proposals may involve the participation of one or more operating units (maximum of three), such as: INFN and/or universities structures and public research institutions, both Italian and foreign, coordinated by the project proposer, who must be directly involved in the research through an INFN operating unit. Research shall be co-financed by any Italian and/or foreign universities or research institutions participating in the project. Any in-kind contribution is meant to be part of the co-financing.

Successful project proposers will be required to guarantee a significant degree of commitment to the project presented in relation to other research activities in which they are involved; in any case participants must give an indication of the percentage of the commitment they will be able to dedicate to the project, there being no minimum or maximum requirements.

Each young researcher may participate in only one research project and in only one operating unit.

Article 3 Project funding and duration

The maximum funding for the selected projects is € 75,000.00 (seventy-five thousand euro) per year. Projects whose funding request is up to the above-mentioned sum will be excluded from the evaluation.

In addition, the proposers of successful projects will be assigned a two-year grant of € 30,000.00 (thirty thousand euro) gross per year. All the services provided to employees, including canteen facilities, will be granted to grant holders, under current regulations of the assigned Structure.

Subsistence allowance will be provided to grant holders travelling for reasons related to the planned activities of the grant, under the same conditions and regulations provided for INFN employees.

Article 4 Project Evaluation

Project evaluation will take place in two separate phases:

1. a shortlist shall be drawn up by a committee of five external assessors selected from a group of academics specialising in CSN5 research areas. To ensure assessor gender balance, no more than three of the five assessors shall be of the same gender. The choice of external assessors will be overseen by the Executive Committee and the CSN5 President, taking into account the views expressed by the CSN5. The names of the external assessors will be published on the CSN5 website, along with their curricula;
2. a presentation of the shortlisted projects before a plenary session of the CSN5, followed by an evaluation by a Selection Commission composed by the President of CSN5, four members of the CSN5 and by an external member appointed by the Executive Committee.

Upon request of the candidates, travel expenses (outbound and return ticket) to the presentation venue will be paid by the INFN.

The number of grants allocated according to the list of successful call candidates shall be the same as the number of projects funded.

Article 5
Submission of applications and shortlist

Each proposer must submit their application electronically only within thirty days of the date of publication of the call announcement. Should the deadline for the submission of applications fall on a public holiday, it shall be extended to the first working day immediately following. Applications, shall be submitted in electronic form through the website: <https://reclutamento.infn.it/ReclutamentoOnline/>

- a) Project title;
- b) Research area: accelerators, electronics/information technology, detectors, interdisciplinary research;
- c) The name of the proposer and those of the participating research team leaders;
- d) The formation of the research team and the participating institutions, indicating the percentage of commitment, the age of each participant, and the percentage of female involvement;
- e) The curriculum vitae of the proposer, with the date of PhD graduation;
- f) Proposer publications (minimum 2, maximum 10);
- g) Detailed description of the proposed activity;
- h) State of the art;
- i) Project objectives and expected outcomes; timeframe;
- j) Scientific and/or technological and/or socio economic impact;
- k) Indication of the total cost of the project, according to the main costs items (overheads, equipment, consumption, services, other operating expenses, travel expenses). Project costs do not provide for the allocation of research grants/research contracts/article 2222 to third parties.

The project description, including lett. g, h, i, j, should be 12 pages maximum.

After the submission of the application, each participant shall receive an automated message confirming the successful submission of the application.

All documents proving the right to an extension of the eight-year PhD graduation time limit must be sent along with the application form (see article 2).

Candidates applications be submitted no later than:

July 12, 2017 (11:59 p.m. CEST).

Candidates will be excluded from participation in this call if they submit their application later than the deadline indicated.

Incomplete applications (lack of information or missing files) will not be considered.

Official documents can be presented in any of the official languages of the European Union. Documents in other languages must be submitted with a certified English translation.

The scientific quality of each proposal shall be examined to ascertain:

- a) The innovativeness of the proposed research;
- b) The appropriateness of the methodology vis-à-vis the proposed objectives;
- c) Economic demands consistent with the proposed research, and the suitability of research team formation, also in terms of age;
- d) The proposer's scientific qualifications in terms of scientific production and expertise in the proposed project area and the possible impact of the proposed research on other interdisciplinary experiments or applications.

A "peer review" pre-selection process will be conducted by the assessors based on above criteria, each of which shall be assigned a score of between 0 and 5 by each assessor. The assessors shall produce an evaluation summary for each proposal.

Proposals with an average score greater than 14/20 shall go through to the next selection stage.

A notification of the first stage of the selection process will be sent to the proposers, together with the assessors' evaluation for those who have not made the grade.

The assessors will send to the CSN5 the list and a brief scientific evaluation of the proposals which have made the grade, according to the alphabetical order of the proposer.

Article 6

Project presentation and evaluation

The CSN5 will proceed to the second phase of the evaluation on the basis of the list provided by the external assessors.

The shortlisted projects shall be presented by the proposers before the CSN5, the observatories of CSN1, CSN2, CSN3 and the Executive Committee delegate. The external assessors are invited to attend the second phase of the selection process. Presentations are intended to: a) ascertain knowledge of project issues; b) ascertain the matching of the proposals with the science policy of the Commission and of the Institute.

The evaluation committee, composed by the President of CSN5, an external member appointed by the Executive Committee, and by four members of the CSN5 (appointed by the President of CSN5), shall give an analytical evaluation of the projects presented, summarized in a final assessment, awarding a score out of 20, in accordance with the following criteria:

Criterion 1: Project validity and feasibility, up to 14 marks. Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international point of view, originality of the proposal compared to the experiments of the CSN5, effective knowledge of the issues proposed during the oral presentation.

Criterion 2: matching of the proposals with the science policy of the Commission and of the Institute, up to 6 marks.

The total score for each project will be based on the arithmetic average of the scores given by the Selection Commission.

In the event of scores being equal or should it prove impossible to univocally establish the first 6 places, each committee member may express up to $\min(N-1, 6)$ preferences among the remaining N projects.

Should the final preferences be the same, the youngest proposer shall be chosen.

Each proposer will be sent a written appraisal including the final assessment and the evaluation of the external assessors.

At the end of the selection process, the list of successful candidates and the selected projects will be published on the page of the Commission V.

Article 7 Monitoring and verification

The selected projects will be subject to verification through the annual presentation of the scientific activities and financial statement during one of the annual meetings of the Commission. At the end of the two years of activity, the grant holders shall present a report on their scientific activity and results obtained before the CSN5, during the meeting dedicated to scientific consumptives, and to fill the INFN database "Consumptives". A copy of this report shall be also send to the Directorate of Personnel Affairs.

Grants shall be suspended in cases of compulsory maternity leave, parental leave or sick leave, where absences exceed 30 consecutive days in a year. It will be extended by the number of days corresponding to the length of leave, and be reinstated on the date leave ends. Grant recipients are required to notify the Directorate of Personnel Affairs of any of the above conditions as soon as they are ascertained.

In the above cases of grant suspension, project research activity may be extended on prior agreement with the CSN5 and hearing the opinion of the referees.

Article 8 Processing of personal data

In accordance with Article 13 of Legislative Decree 30th June 2003 no. 196, required personal data will be collected and processed at the INFN Central Administration solely for the call activity management, which may also involve computerized procedures, in the manner and to the extent necessary to pursue such purposes.

The provision of data is needed to assess participation requirements and qualifications, and failure to provide them may preclude this assessment.

Interested parties are entitled to the rights under Article 7 of Legislative Decree no. 196/03.

The person in charge of data processing is the Director of the INFN Personnel Affairs Department.

- 9 GIU. 2017

THE PRESIDENT

 (Prof. Fernando Ferroni)