

2nd Call for Proposals For IMF Interdisciplinary Pathfinder Projects

Only: Research Areas TIME and MOE !

Background

The goal of the project house "**Interdisciplinary Management Factory**" (IMF) is to support the transformation of the **School of Business and Economics** into an internationally competitive institution for interdisciplinary, technology-oriented research in management and economics. One measure to achieve this objective is the funding of **IMF Pathfinder Projects**. The typical duration of a Pathfinder Project is six to 12 months.

1. Type and aim of Pathfinder projects

The proposed projects should identify and explore new **research fields or develop new methods and methodologies** in management & economics with a **strong interdisciplinary background**. The topics should be new, creative and can be of high risk. They must not already be addressed by national or international public funding programs.

2. Selection and evaluation criteria

The projects will be selected and evaluated by an evaluation group.

The **selection criteria** for submitted proposals will be

- *Originality* (new, creative, explorative),
- *Interdisciplinary focus* (participation of researchers from different faculties and disciplines with strongly differing research topics),
- *Subsidiarity* (funding through other sources is not yet possible),
- *Team structure* (senior and / or high-potential young researchers),

- *Potential impact* on the research strategy and structure of RWTH Aachen in general and IMF in particular,
- *Adequateness* of research approach and requested funding.

After completion, criteria for a **successful pathfinder project** are ...

- A peer-reviewed, third-party funded follow-up project has been won by the research team or a proposal for such a project has been submitted (DFG, BMBF, EU, ...),
- Publication (at least R&R) in peer reviewed journals (HB 0,5 or higher),
- Promising patent applications.

Project teams have to report about these achievements, documenting the quality of their research results and the future perspectives of the research topic, in a **final report** which has to be submitted 18 months after project closure as well as a shorter report three months after closure.

3. Funding

The budget for a IMF Pathfinder Project is provided by the excellence initiative of the German federal and state governments. The total budget for all new Pathfinder Projects is at most 25.000€. Eligible costs are: Staff expenses, travel and subsistence costs, support for workshops and conferences, hiring students to work on the project, consumables and equipment. Note that pathfinder projects follow the RWTH allocation model in the excellence initiative aiming for a 30% share of funding for female researchers.

4. General conditions

Research Partners: typically 2-3 researchers from different faculties and disciplines; we strongly encourage the participation of young scientists (junior professor, group leader, research fellow, etc.) who are scientifically independent and are leading a research group.

Joint Proposals with partners from Forschungszentrum Juelich (FZJ) are welcome. In this case, the funding for the partners from FZJ needs to be provided by their institutes and cannot be covered by RWTH Aachen University.

Note: Each research team (professor with his/her group) can participate in a maximum of 3 IMF Pathfinder or RWTH Seed Fund Project Proposals.

Progress evaluation: Final report / preliminary report

5. Proposal structure and content

Length of proposal: 10 pages **maximum** (but shorter proposals are welcome), Type size: Arial 11, line spacing: 1.5

- Project partners, principle investigators, contact data
- Summary
- Current State-of-the-Art
- Goals and approach (methodology)
- Relevant work of the applicants
- Working plan
- Financial plan
- Expected long term impact (targeted third party funding, implementation of new scientific infrastructure, new significantly visible, interdisciplinary competences, action plan to achieve these strategic goals)
- References

Language: English or German

Please note: Proposals that do not comply with the formal criteria will be excluded from the reviewing process.

6. Important Dates

Deadline for submission: 15th June 2015

Project start: between August 2015 and December 2015

Project duration: 6 to 12 months

Please send your application to projekthaus-imf@rwth-aachen.de

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