

A question regarding the proposed research content.

Q: The title of joint call is 'Information Processing Technologies'. Can one apply with research focused on hardware?

A: Researchers on hardware can apply to this joint call.

Applicant requirements

Q1: Can the universities of applied science apply?

A1: They can be the (main) applicant as well. For the Dutch team it is possible to claim salary costs for personnel of universities of applied sciences.

Q2: If the consortium includes a partner (industry for example) neither based in the Netherlands nor Japan: Is this allowed? And if yes, do they need to be assigned to either the Dutch or Japanese-team?

A2: Participation as cooperation partners or co-funders is allowed. See the details in the call for proposals, sub paragraphs 3.1.4 and 3.1.5 respectively.

Q3: Can young scientists apply as PI?

A3: Young scientists can apply as PIs, although JST expects them to become top scientists in the near future. In the Netherlands, researchers can apply as main applicant if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period), or a tenure track agreement at one of the institutes listed in paragraph 3.1.1 in the call for proposals.

Q4: Can someone with other expertise than 'Information Processing Technologies' also apply?

A4: Researchers with expertise outside of 'Information Processing Technologies' may apply. But please keep in mind that applications will be assessed based on the alignment with the aim of the call, so if the scientists are far from the objectives and themes of this joint call the application might not be suitable.

Q5: Are Japan-based researchers who have applied for ASPIRE rising scientist in May 2025 excluded from this call as PI and Co-I?

A5: Such researchers cannot apply to this joint call as PI/Co-PI.

Q6: Would it be possible for Japan-based researchers who already got PRESTO to apply as Co-PI? If accepted, the budget amount might be affected?

A6: Such researchers can apply to this joint call. If accepted, the budget amount will not be affected.

Allocation of research costs

Q: How big can investment (equipment cost) be, if the equipment plays a central role?

A: As the JST ASPIRE's rule, the cost of research activities such as equipment for Japanese team is limited to less than 30% of direct cost in research expenses JST will provide. For NWO, a maximum of 50% of the grant amount allocated for personnel costs can be applied for material costs. For further details see subparagraph 3.2.1 "reimbursable costs NWO" in the call for proposals.

A question about the prior notice to apply this joint call

Q: If we submit Prior Notice by July 31 but later modify consortium partners, must we resubmit the notice?

A: Purpose of the prior notice is to know the number of applications at NWO and JST. So, in case applicants in Japan or the Netherlands modify the consortium partners, the applicants don't need to resubmit.

A question about the pre-selection

Q: If a pre-selection will be applicable before the referee reviews, can you outline the process?

A: Pre-selection will be considered if NWO and JST will receive more than 5 times the amount of applications than can be granted. For now, NWO and JST don't assume to conduct a pre-selection.

Research security in Japan and Knowledge security in the Netherlands

Q1: Are the Dutch-side researchers not included in the JST security check even during their extended mandatory stay in Japan?

A1: Since Dutch-side researchers are reviewed by their home institutions, only the Japanese team will be subject to JST's research security check.

Q2: There will be Knowledge-Security checks from two sides: JST and NWO. Are the guidelines of both sides harmonised? I see some potential issues if this is not the case for project viability.

A2: Basically, both agencies' research security policy is harmonised.

Q3: How do JST's due diligence checks interact with NWO's National Knowledge Security Guidelines for shared IP?

A3: NWO and JST assume that the handling of shared IP is stipulated in the consortium agreement between the research teams of Japan and the Netherlands. JST confirms how the Japanese research team shares the information relating to IP with Dutch research team if the research relates to sensitive technologies.

A question about biomedical human trials

Q: For biomedical human trials, does ethics approval from both Japanese and Dutch institutions need to be included at the proposal stage?

A: Ethical approval is not required at the proposal stage, but JST requires the Japan-based PI to pledge to obtain it before the start of the research. NWO requires the applicant to determine whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the project, and requires the applicant to provide this after the project has been awarded, in any case no later than before implementation of the part of the project for which the statement is required starts (see sub paragraph 7.2.2 in the call for proposals).