Advanced International Collaborative Research Program (AdCORP)
Call Text

I. Outline

The Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) will support international collaborative research between Japanese and foreign researchers based in several leading research countries to support the following aims:

- To foster scientific breakthroughs by promoting the entry of researchers into top international researcher circles consisting of researchers from leading science and technology research countries through research collaboration
- To contribute to a foundation for sustainable participation and collaboration in top international researcher circles for decades to come by nurturing young researchers and strengthening their connections
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In this call, researchers of partner countries need to be currently receiving or expecting to receive support for their research from applicable partner funding agencies in the countries listed below.

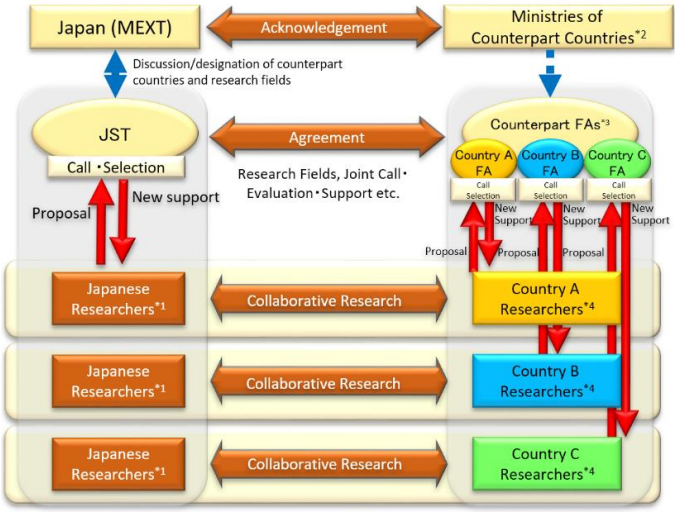
Canada, France, Germany, UK, U.S., etc.

Full details can be found in “1. Details of Call (3) Research funding of Partner Research Team”.

1. Details of Call

(1) Call Method

This call invites applications from Japanese researchers who wish to conduct international collaborative research with researchers of partner countries who are currently receiving or expecting to receive support for their research from applicable partner funding agencies.



(2) Research Field・Area

Proposals in the below seven research fields are accepted in this call. Each research area is shown in the Annex.

Field 1. Biotechnology
Field 2. AI and Information
Field 3. Materials
Field 4. Semiconductors
Field 5. Energy
Field 6. Quantum
Field 7: Telecommunications

(3) Research funding of Partner Research Team

Researchers of partner countries need to be receiving or expecting to receive funding for their research from one of the applicable partner funding agencies (see link below). JST will provide support to Japan-side researchers and teams for successful proposals.

JST website (including list of applicable partner funding agencies):
http://160.74.83.197/inter/english/program_e/announce_e/announce_adcorp_2022.html

※Applicants who wish to collaborate with a researcher who receives support from a funding agency in Europe or North America other than the agencies listed on the above JST website should contact JST

(adcorp@jst.go.jp) in advance to determine eligibility. JST may or may not be able to provide support through this program depending on the funding agency in question.

2. Eligibility

(1) Eligibility

Japan-side researcher must be affiliated with a university, research institution, or company in Japan. Partner researcher needs to meet either criteria (i) or (ii):

(i) already be receiving research support from an eligible funding agency in their country; or

(ii) are currently applying for research support from an eligible funding agency in their country, with the outcome known by no later than the end of November 2022.

(2) Note before submitting proposals

・ The Japan-side applicant must reach out to a potential partner researcher who is receiving or expecting to receive support from an eligible funding agency to confirm willingness to collaborate prior to submitting an application.

・ If the proposed partner research team is not receiving research support from an eligible funding agency, or is later rejected for support relevant to the collaboration, the application will be deemed ineligible for this call.

3. Application Deadline

Wednesday, November 30, 2022, 17:00 Japan Standard Time

4. Number of Projects

Approximately eight projects across the seven research fields will be funded.

5. Schedule

Call for proposals: September 20 - November 30, 2022

Announcement of result: February 2023 (tentative)

Research start: March 1, 2023 (tentative)

II. Program Information

1. Scale of Funding

Research networking and exchange projects selected for funding in this call will receive support for no more than approximately 26,000,000 JPY per year in the first year including direct and indirect costs. The level of funding for subsequent years may be vary depending on interim evaluations during the project period.

2. Research Period

Projects are tentatively expected to be supported from April 2023 to March 2028. The research period may be altered based on an interim evaluation during the project period.

3. Eligible Costs

(1) Eligible direct costs

In principle, eligible direct costs are those costs directly necessary for accomplishing the research, indicated below.

a. Travel Expenses

Travel expenses are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.

b. Personnel costs

Costs of the researchers, temporary staff, post-docs, etc., who are hired for the research and other costs such as honoraria for invited lecturers.

c. Facilities, Equipment and Consumables

Costs of research equipment, purchase of books, reagents, materials and consumables, etc.

d. Miscellaneous

Necessary costs for the research and development (cost for organizing and hosting events for research dissemination, equipment leasing costs, transportation costs for equipment used for the research project)

a. b. d. may include expenses related to international researcher exchange, fostering young researchers and related activities such as expenses for inviting researchers, dispatching researchers, holding workshops, etc.

(2) Eligible indirect costs

Indirect costs refer to funds which go directly to the awarded research institution for administrative overhead costs and must be equivalent to 30% of the direct costs.

III. Application Preparation and Submission

1. Application Documents

- Applications should be prepared in accordance with the provided application forms. Compliance agreement documents require the stamp of the research institution's top representative. Note that in the case of a university or college, this representative is typically the president, not a department dean or similar. The official seal of the institution can be omitted if this is in accordance with the organization's own rules, in which case the appropriate approval reference number should be included in its stead.
- Please submit a Letter of Intent (LoI) which indicates that the proposed partner researcher has an intention to pursue collaborative research with the Japan-side applicant for the research proposed in the application.

2. Application Submission

The Japan-side researcher needs to register their application information on the Cross Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) by the application deadline.

The Cross Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) (https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/index.html)

・Call title (Japanese)：世界のトップ研究者ネットワーク参画のための国際研究協力プログラム

・Call title (English)： Advanced International Collaborative Research Program (AdCORP)

When applying via the e-Rad platform, please add the abbreviation of the research area and the generic name of partner funding agency (half-width capital letter) at the beginning of research title. If the research spans multiple research fields, please list them in descending order of relevance (a maximum of three fields may be included).

Examples：1B_NSF_Project Title

2A_7T_DOE_Project Title

Research Field	Abbreviation
Biotechnology	1B
AI and Information	2A
Materials	3M
Semiconductors	4S
Energy	5E
Quantum	6Q
Telecommunications	7T

IV. Selection Process and Evaluation Criteria

1. Selection Procedure

JST will review the applications and make a selection of projects to fund.

2. Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

(1) Consistency with research field and purpose of the call
(2) Eligibility and current research activity of the representative researcher of the Japan-side team and the partner team (research track record; international research experience; feasibility of international joint research; etc.)
(3) Eligibility of research institution (availability of support from research institution; capability to support international exchange activities; etc.)
(4) Research potential and synergy effects (likelihood of high impact research; potential for post-project continued international collaboration; etc.)
(5) Strength of research plan
(6) Potential and continuity of research exchange activities (potential for research exchange; potential for nurturing young researchers, including dispatching researchers to the partner country; potential for receiving foreign researchers in Japan, etc.)
(7) Budget feasibility (feasibility for the proposed research, collaboration and researcher exchange activities given the proposed budget available etc.)

V. Points of Note

Applicants to this call should pay particular attention to the following points.

1. JST-funded Research Organization Responsibilities

(1) Research organizations (including research representative and research collaborator research organizations) will, if funded, need to conclude a research contract with JST and must follow the stipulations of this contract. Intellectual property rights such as patents derived from the research will in principle belong to the research organization, provided that the organization complies with Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act (Japanese equivalent of the Bayh-Dole Act) as stipulated in the research contract. Note that this does not apply to overseas partner institutions

(See Section 3.2 in「日本側応募者への応募にあたっての注意事項」).

(2) If the research organization is a national or local government (including organizations under the jurisdiction of MEXT) body lacking a juridical personality such as that of a national university, it is the responsibility of the contracted research organization to carry out the necessary budgetary measures and other relevant procedures in advance of entering into the contract. In such cases, please contact JST in advance of making an application (See Section 3.4 in「日本側応募者への応募にあたっての注意事項」).

(3) Research organizations are required to enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement (CRA) with the involved domestic and foreign partner research organizations which stipulates matters of intellectual property rights, confidentiality, research publications and potential damage liability. The CRA should in principle be concluded by the research organization and be concluded within the first six (6) months of the period of support. A copy of the CRA should be submitted to JST.
The supported research organization is required to undertake necessary measures to ensure that research is implemented and research results are handled vis-à-vis foreign partner research organization(s) in a way which is consistent with the stipulations of the contract concluded between the research organization and JST.

2. JST-funded Researchers Responsibilities

The Japan-based representative researcher must have completed a designated educational course on research ethics. A failure to demonstrate evidence of the completion of such a program will be considered as grounds for the researcher being ineligible for receiving research support (See Section 4.1 in「日本側応募者への応募にあたっての注意事項」).

VI. Enquiries

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
Department of International Affairs
Ms. Hashimoto, Mr. Mikami, Mr. Matsumoto
E-mail： adcorp@jst.go.jp
Tell: 03-5214-7375
HP: https://www.jst.go.jp/inter/english/program_e/announce_e/announce_adcorp_2022.html

Annex

Research Area

Field 1. Biotechnology

- Research area: Biotechnology research related to promotion of bioeconomy, reduction of environmental impact, etc.
- Examples: Bioplastics, food (artificial sashimi, etc.), bio-toilets, bio-agriculture, DNA computers, etc.

Field 2. AI and Information

- Research area: AI and information research for the realization of Society 5.0 based on the principles of “human understanding and respect”, “diversity” and “sustainability”
- Examples: AI research and computing infrastructure, mathematical sciences, human-centered computing, etc.

Field 3. Materials

- Research area: Materials research that contributes to a carbon neutral society and circular economy
- Examples: Basic and applied research for the development of metal/inorganic, organic/polymer, etc.

Field 4. Semiconductors

- Research area: Semiconductor research related to semiconductor industrial sector
- Examples: Semiconductor technology related to AI chips, electronic design automation (EDA), etc.

Field 5. Energy

- Research area: Energy research for carbon neutrality
- Examples: Next-generation solar cells, storage batteries, hydrogen production by water electrolysis, hydrogen utilization technology (fuel cells etc.), energy conservation research, etc.

Field 6. Quantum

- Research area: Research related to quantum computers and quantum software which contributes to the realization of a productivity revolution
- Examples: Research on quantum technology that realizes ultra-high-speed and massively parallel information processing, research on quantum technologies, such as measurement with accuracy that surpasses existing technologies and materials with higher performance, etc.

Field 7. Telecommunications

- Research area: Research on telecommunications technology that contributes to the development of next-generation infrastructure for the digital society
- Examples: Communication research related to wireless/wired technology, devices, security, etc., interdisciplinary research with information engineering, etc.