# JST Strategic Basic Research Programs (CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X)

Program Introduction

April 2025

Japan Science and Technology Agency



Japan Science and Technology Agency

Program Explanation

# Strategic Basic Research Programs

**Japan Government (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology "MEXT") prescribes Strategic Objectives based on national science and technology policies and social/economic needs.**

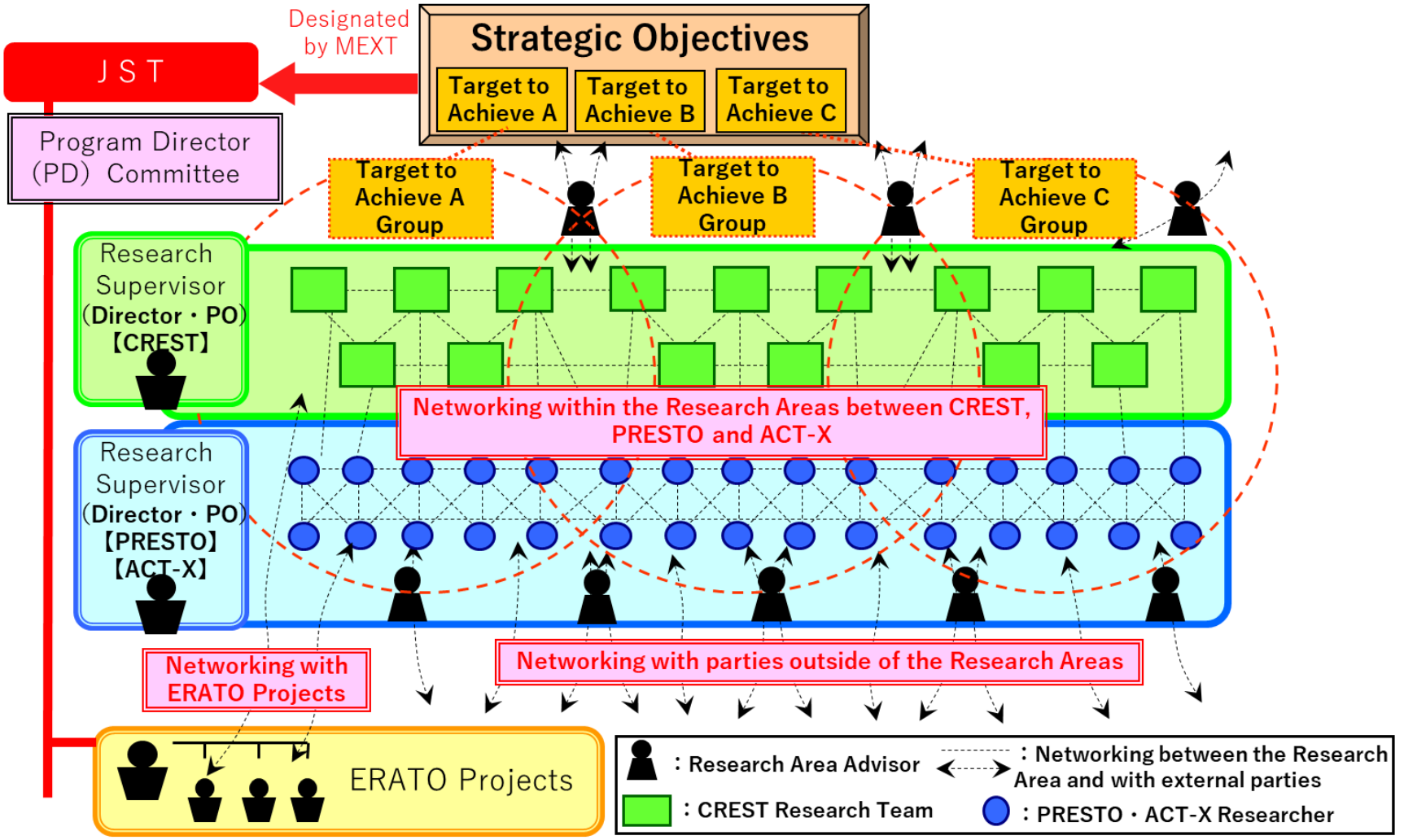
## Promote Network-Based Research at JST

- JST **promotes Strategic Basic Research Programs** and **creates the seeds of innovative technologies** based on new scientific knowledge that gives rise to scientific and technical innovation leading to social and economic change.
- Under "Strategic Objectives", JST specifies **Research Areas** to pursue and **Research Supervisors (Program Officers)** to lead them. The Research Supervisors establish Research Areas as a most suitable researchers and research project beyond industry-academia-government frameworks **(Network-Based Research Institute)** and **manage research areas to accomplish Strategic Objectives**.
- Under the management of research supervisors, researchers carry out their research while building up networks with other researchers; the world of industry, which will receive the outcomes of the research; and participants from wider society.

## For Innovation in Science and Technology

Program Explanation

# Standard model for Research Institute




**Standard Model for CREST/PRESTO/ACT-X "Research Institute"**

Program Explanation

# What is “CREST” ?

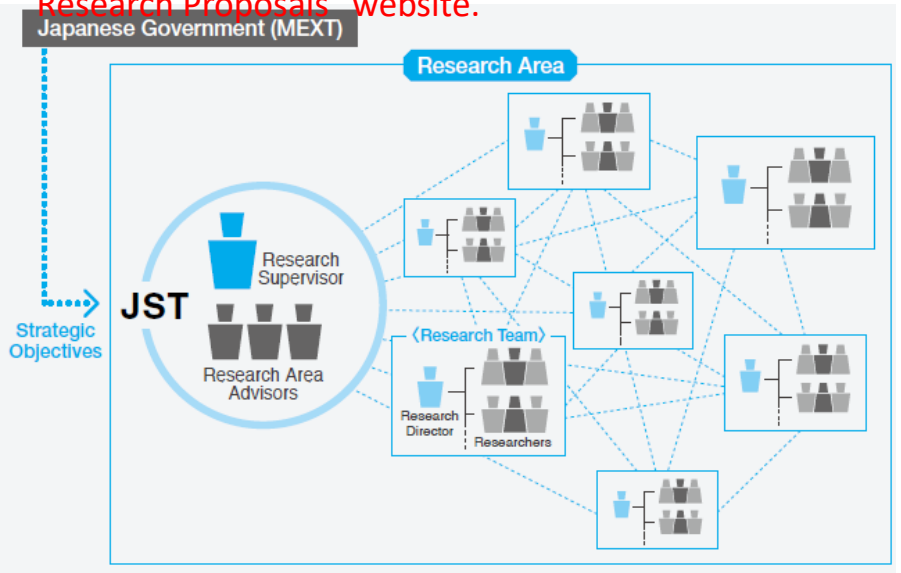
**CREST**
**(Core Research for Evolutionary Science and Technology)**

## Network-based (team-oriented) research giving rise to wellsprings of scientific and technological innovation

- Promote unique and internationally high-level basic research to achieve Strategic Objectives.
- Realize creative and outstanding new technology seeds based on new scientific knowledge that greatly contribute significantly to scientific and technological innovation.
- Multiple best teams led by top researchers in Japan promote research toward the achievement of Strategic Objectives while training young researchers to participate in the teams.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Research Period** | **5.5 years or less** |
| **Research Cost (Direct Cost)** | **Total of 150-500 M¥/team** |

* Since the upper limit setting may be different depending on the research area, please check "Overview" and "Research Supervisor's Policy" of each Research Area on "Call Research Proposals" website.



Program Explanation

# What is “PRESTO” ?

## PRESTO

**(Precursory Research for Embryonic Science and Technology)**

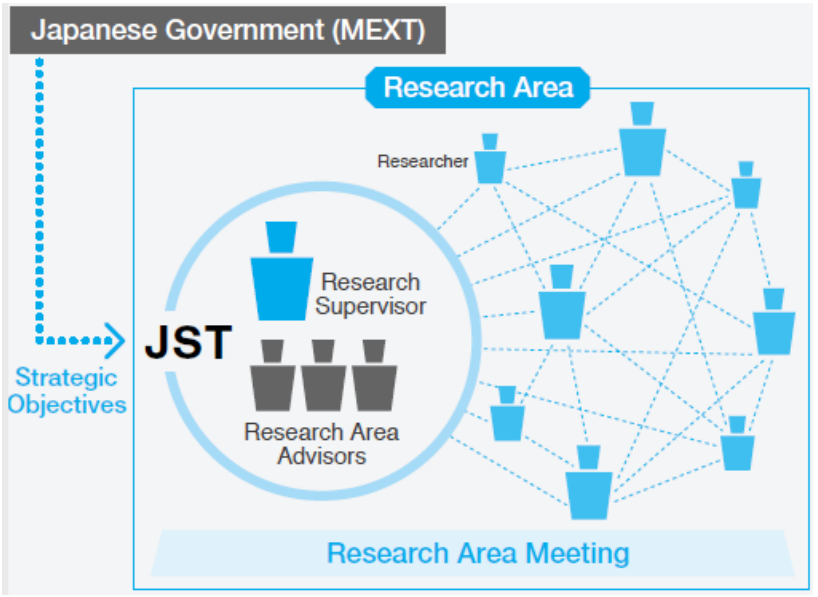
- Promote pioneering directed basic research that is original and challenging, and expected to lead to the development of high international standards to achieve Strategic Objectives
- Create new technology seeds based on new scientific knowledge toward the science and technology innovation in advance in the world.
- Building new networking with researchers in different fields, the young researchers conduct their challenging studies.

※ For more details, please refer to Chapter 3 of the Application Guidelines.

**Network-based (individual) research giving rise to wellsprings of scientific and technological innovation**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Research Period** | **3.5 years or less** |
| **Research Cost (Direct Cost)** | **Total of 30-40 M¥** |

* Since the upper limit setting may be different depending on the research area, please check "Overview" and "Research Supervisor's Policy" of each Research Area on "Call Research Proposals" website.



Program Explanation

# What is “ACT-X” ?

## ACT-X

**Further promoting independent and challenging research by young researchers (individual type)**

- Promoting independent and challenging research by **young researchers who have obtained their Ph.D. degree within the last 8 years**, aiming to achieve the strategic goals set by the government.

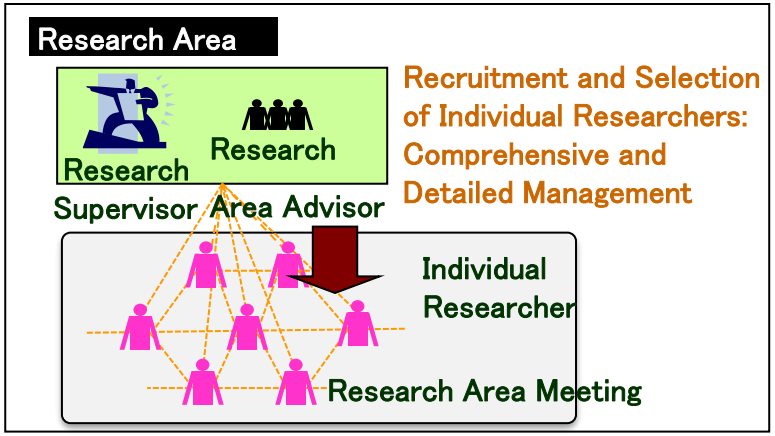
*For those who have not obtained a Ph.D. degree, they must have obtained a bachelor's degree within the last 13 years (excluding periods of maternity leave and childcare leave after obtaining the degree).

*Regardless of the above, only graduate students are eligible to apply.

- The assigned advisor will provide detailed advice and guidance, strategically fostering the theme to connect to programs such as PRESTO.
- Holding Research Area Meetings where Research Supervisors, Research Area Advisors, and ACT-X researchers gather to form a mutual network among young researchers.
- For projects with outstanding potential, additional support will be provided for an acceleration phase of one year (evaluated around the two-year mark after the start of the research).

| | |
|---|---|
| **Research Period** | **2.5 years or less** |
| **Research Cost (Direct Cost)** | **Total of 4.5-6 M¥** |

* Since the upper limit setting may be different depending on the research area, please check "Overview" and "Research Supervisor's Policy" of each Research Area on "Call Research Proposals" website.




＊ ACT-X researchers are eligible to apply for the PRESTO program. (If selected, ACT-X will be terminated early.)

＊If a graduate student is selected, they are eligible to apply for funding for their own RA (Research Assistant) and other expenses.

※For more details, please refer to Chapter 4 of the Application Guidelines.

Program Explanation

# Feature of Strategic Basic Research Programs

Program Explanation

# AIP Network Laboratory

Under the "AIP* Project" of MEXT that started in 2016, JST's Strategic Basic Research Programs' CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X promote integrated management of AI-related research areas.

MEXT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE, SPORTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-JAPAN

AIP Project

AI/Big Data/
IoT/Cyber Security
Integration Project

RIKEN
Center for
Advanced
Intelligence
Project
(AIP Center)

Promote Integrally

AIP ネットワークラボ

**JST AIP Network Lab**
Laboratory Director： Katsumi Emura

## CREST

- Embodied AI Systems (Ogata PO)
- Symbiotic AI Interdisciplinary System (Izumi PO)
- Prediction Mathematical Foundation (Kotani PO)
- Society 5.0 System Software (Okabe PO)
- Bio-DX (Okada PO)
- Trusted Quality AI Systems (Aizawa PO)
- Mathematical Information Platform (Ueda PO)

## さきがけ PRESTO

- Real-World Intelligence Fundamentals (Harada PO)
- Symbiotic AI Fundamentals (Yamashita PO)
- R&D Process Innovation (Takeuchi PO)
- Mathematical Sciences for the Future (Arai PO)
- Human-Centered Interaction (Kuzuoka PO)
- Social Transformation Platform (Kurihara PO)
- Platform Software (Higashino PO)
- Trustworthy AI (Arimura PO)

## ACT-X

- Life and Information (Sugita PO)
- Cyberinfrastructure (Shimojo PO)
- Next AI-math-info (Hara PO)
- AI Powered Research Innovation / Creation (Kuniyoshi PO)

Program Explanation

# Number of Proposal/Selected in FY2024

## CREST（FY2024 Selected Rate 8.7%）

| . | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proposal | 532 | 42 | 574 |
| Select | 45 | 5 | 50 |

## PRESTO（FY2024 Selected Rate　10.7%）

| . | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proposal | 1,455 | 181 | 1,636 |
| Select | 152 | 23 | 175 |

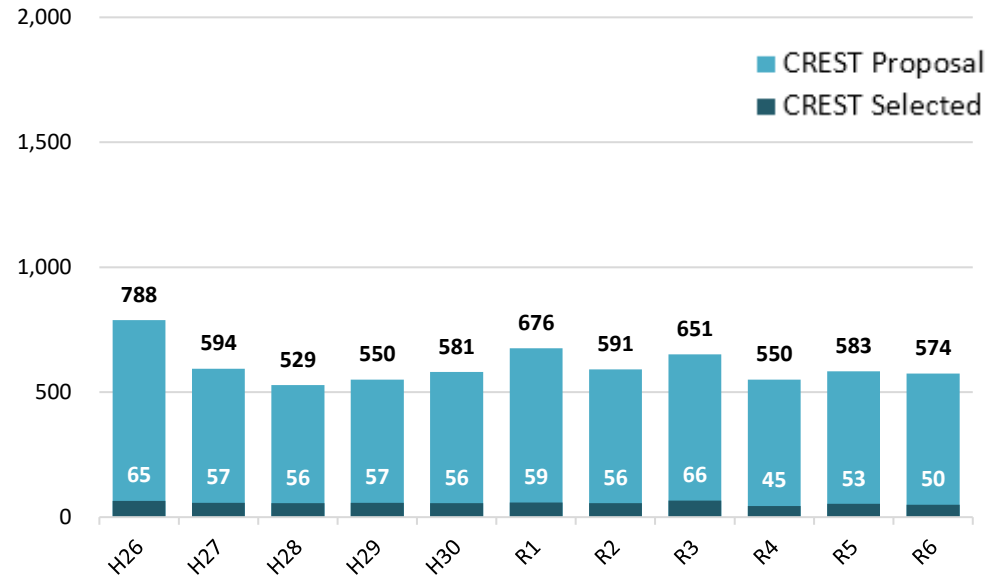
## ACT-X（FY2024 Selected Rate　16.4%）

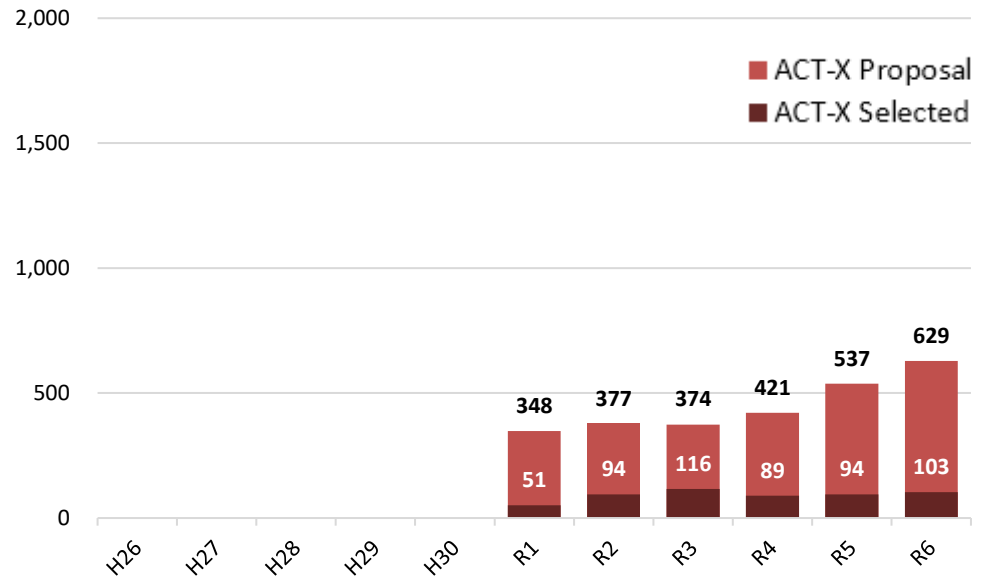
| . | Male | Female | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Proposal | 527 | 102 | 629 |
| Select | 84 | 19 | 103 |

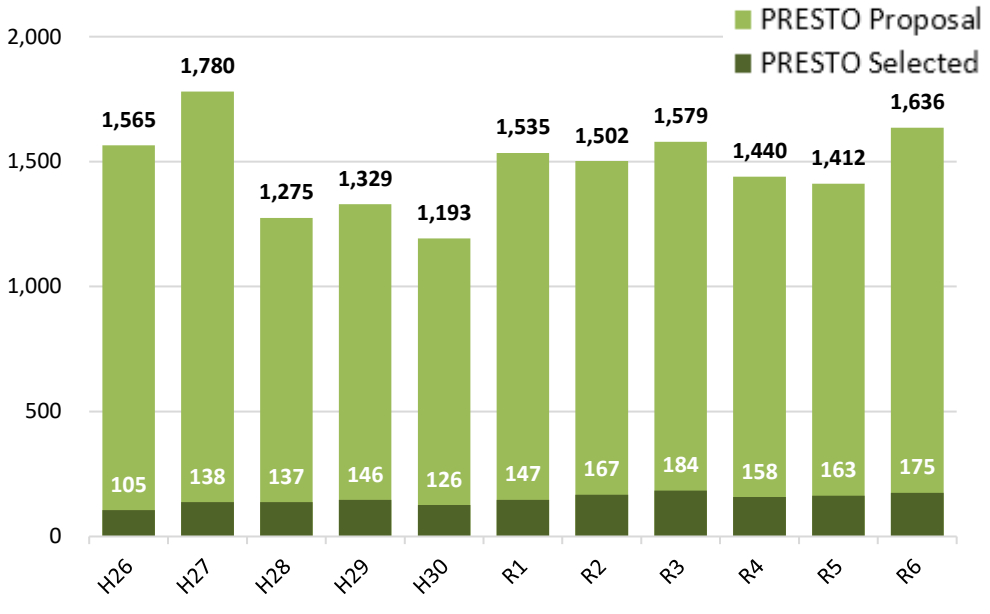
Master Course Students: Proposal 8, Selected 1, Doctor Course Students: Proposal 95, Selected 19

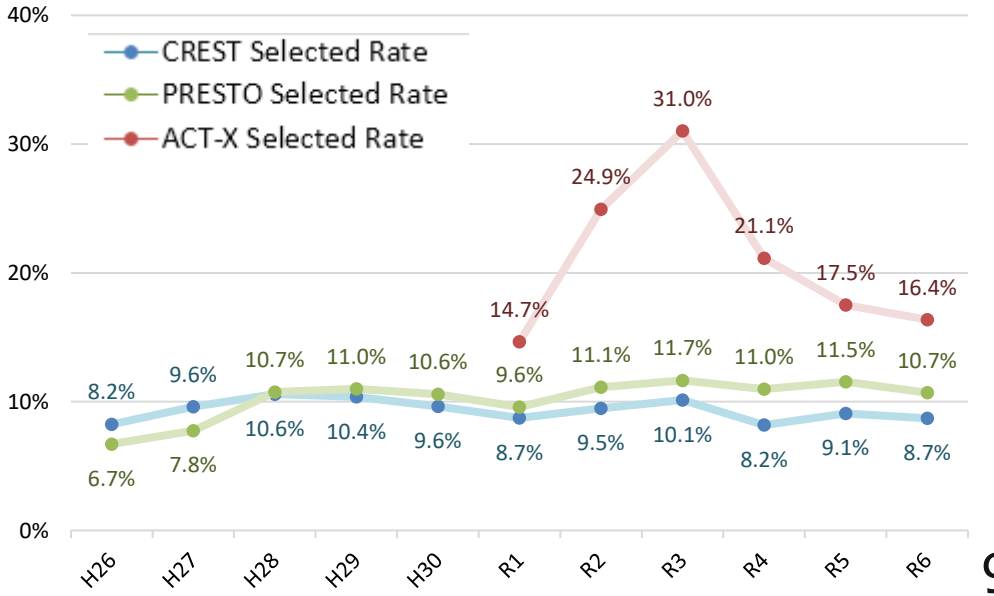
Program Explanation

# Recent changes in Proposal/Selected

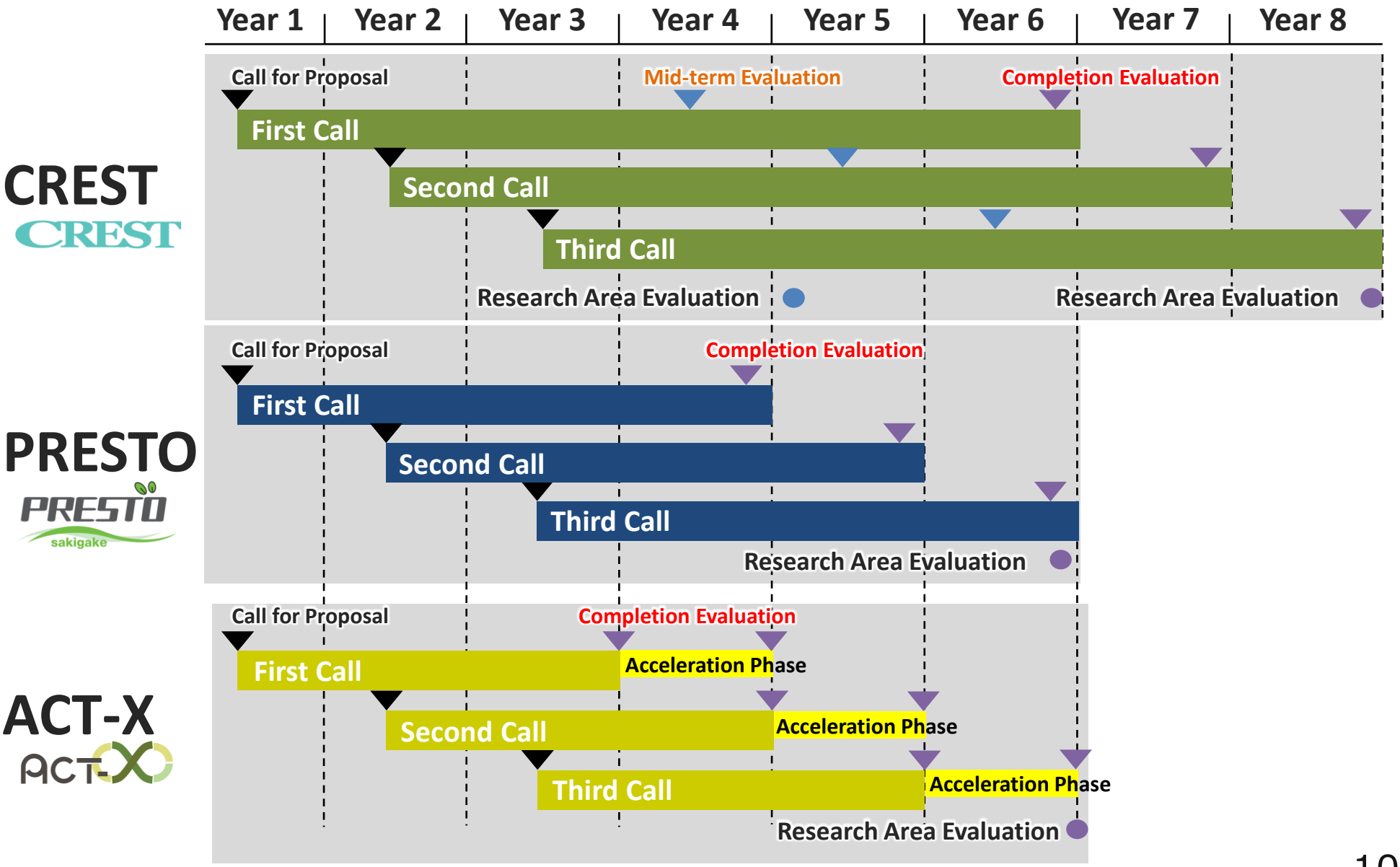


# Standard Time schedule of CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X



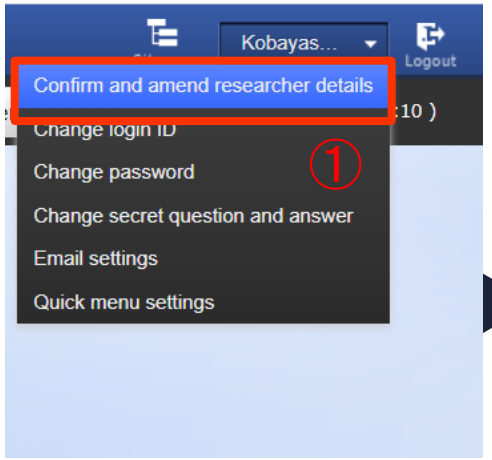
# Flow: application to research start

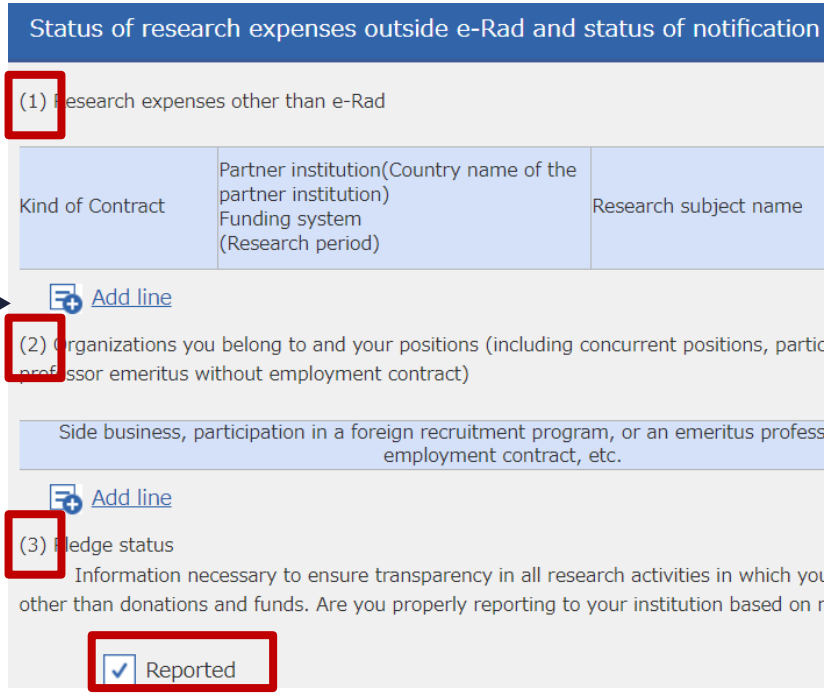
# Frequently Asked Question

**Q: When apply through e-Rad, an error message comes out "You cannot make your project application, because some of your project members have not given pledges about research integrity."**

You cannot make your project application, because some of your project members have not given pledges about research integrity.(Number of error: 1 items)

**A: Please try the following (in the case of CREST, Co-PI also needs to proceed it).**





Call Information

# FY2025 Call/Selection Schedule

## Submission and Deadline for Proposals to the Research Area

**CREST 12 Research Area**

**Application Deadline**
**12:00 (noon, Japan time)**
**on Tuesday, 3 June May**

**PRESTO 15 Research Area**
**ACT-X 5 Research Area**

**Application Deadline**
**12:00 (noon, Japan time)**
**on Tuesday, 27 May**

**Please note that we will not accept any proposals after the deadline.**

## Schedule

| | |
|---|---|
| Selection Period | Early-June to early-August |
| Research Start | October 1st |

* The interview screening process will be conducted through an online interview.

*For the latest application schedule, please refer to the Call for Research Proposals website.

Call Information

# Japan-France Joint Research Proposals (CREST)

- JST signed a cooperation framework agreement with France's ANR (The French National Research Agency) to promote collaboration in scientific research between Japan and France in December 2017 . JST has an Agreement with ANR to support Japan-France joint research projects within the framework of CREST
- In FY2025, JST agreed with ANR to establish the following CREST Research Area as common priority research areas and to invite Japan-France joint research proposals, as well as regular (non-joint) proposals:

| CREST |
| --- |
| **[Prediction Mathematical Foundation] Creation of mathematical foundation for prediction and control (Research supervisor: Motoko Kotani)** |
| **[Nano-material Semiconductors] Fundamental Technology for Semiconductor-Device Structures Using Nanomaterials (Research Supervisor: Riichiro Saito)** |

Application Process

1. To apply, Principal Investigators (PIs) common joint research proposal from both the Japanese side and French sides need to prepare a (English, CREST-ANR common form).
2. PI from the French side will apply and submit the common joint research proposal to ANR.
   ANR application acceptance period: Mon, March 3rd, 2025 – Fri, June 2nd, 2025, 10AM CEST.
3. PI from the Japanese side will apply and submit the common joint research proposal to CREST of JST.
   - Please apply through e-Rad during the normal CREST proposal call period.
4. ANR and JST will evaluate proposals in parallel and make common funding decisions.
5. Funded research projects will start in October 2025 or later.

* For detail, please see the website

# Key Changes and Points of Attention for FY 2025 Call for Applications (Common to CREST/PRESTO/ACT-X)

- Starting from FY 2024, if research applicants have a conflict of interest with the Research Supervisor or Deputy Research Supervisor, the proposal will no longer be excluded from consideration. Instead, conflict-of-interest management will be implemented, and the proposal will be considered for selection.

- Starting from FY 2025, the selection criteria and research proposal formats for CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X will be updated.

- Starting from FY 2025, in the PRESTO program, researchers and similar roles who independently conduct parts of the research under the management and guidance of the PI can be registered in the research plan.

- Starting from FY 2025, for projects selected under this program, it will be mandatory to immediately publish peer-reviewed academic papers and supporting data written as part of this program on an "institutional repository or similar information platform" after they are published in academic journals.

# Proposal Submission Requirements : CREST

＊For details, see Chapter 2

## Requirements for Research Project Applicants

- Research project applicants, who will be the Research Director, must be affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution, where they will organize and pursue the proposed research (The nationalities of research project applicants are not considered.)
- Researchers who are able to bear overall responsibility for a research project as the party responsible for the research team throughout the entire research period.
  * The applicant must either: have already completed the educational program for research integrity at his/her affiliated research institution; or complete the JST- designated educational program by the application deadline.

## Research Institution Requirement

- Research Institutions must fully understand that the research funds are public funding, ensure compliance with related law, and make efforts to conduct the research effectively.
- When applying, prior consent of the Research Institution at which the implementation of research is planned must definitively be obtained.

## Requirements for Organizing a Research Project

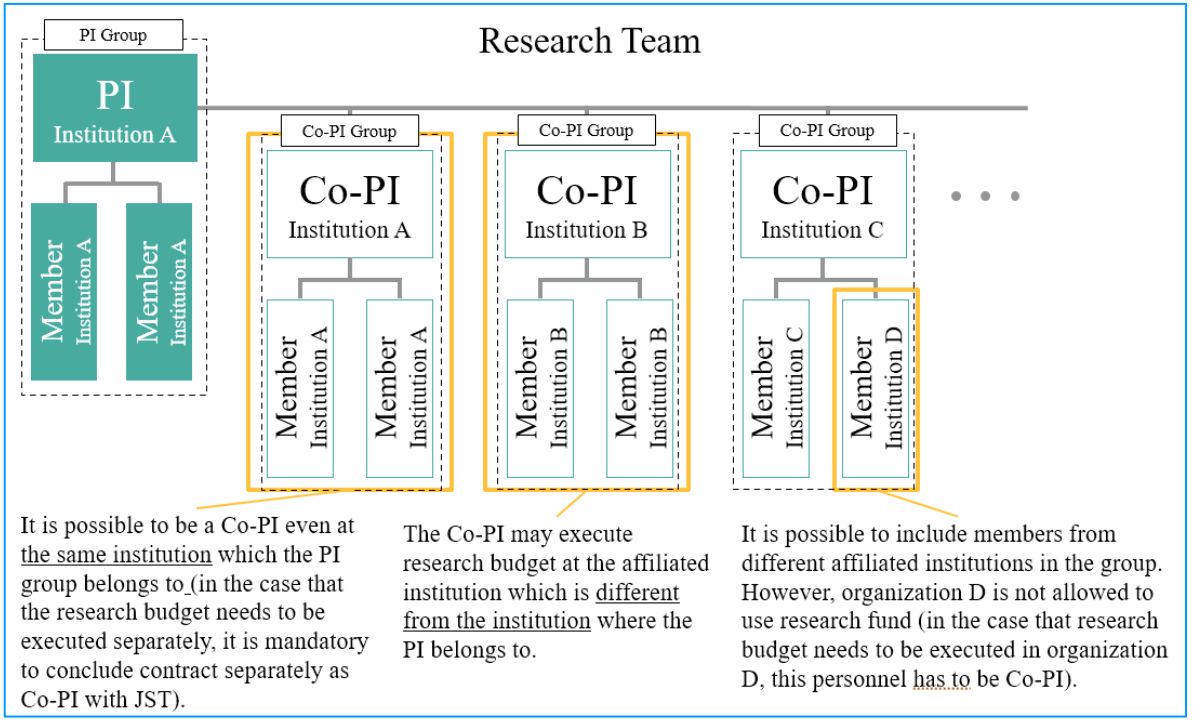
- A research team is optimally organized for pursuing the research initiatives of the research project applicant, who will be the Research Director.
- When a joint research group is organized to work with the research team, the joint research group is essential for pursuing research initiatives and can contribute significantly to achievement of the research objectives.
  * The research costs of the groups belonging to an institute overseas are, in principle, not funded by JST. Researchers affiliated with overseas research institutions cannot be, in principle, the Co-PIs.

# CREST … Research Team Organization

## Requirements for Organizing a Research Project (continued)

• For details, see Chapter 2

- In order to work on the same research item, multiple organizations (laboratories, departments, research institutes, etc.) may be included in one group.
- However, it is essential that “the institution to which the researcher (PI, Co-PIs) who presides over the group belongs can manage the research funds spent by members belonging to different organizations”.
- If this is not possible, researchers belonging to different institutions should form separate Co-PI's groups.
- Even if the member belong to the same institution, and if it is necessary to pay the expenses separately, please also make it a separate Co-PI's group (the figure below is an example of the structure of the groups).



# Selection Criteria: CREST

* For details, see Chapter 5

Selection Criteria for CREST as below. All criteria from a. to e. should be satisfied.

a. Goal and Purpose: The proposal aligns with the purpose of CREST or PRESTO or ACT-X and the selected research area and it is expected to produce the results that the selected research aria aims to achieve.
b. Originality and Excellence: The proposal demonstrates originality and research excellence, both in comparison to current trends and similar research, domestically and internationally.
c. Objective and Plan : The objectives of the proposal to be achieved within the research period and plans (including budget) are well-defined and appropriate for the project.
d. Implementation Structure : The project organization is best suited to implement the proposed research.
e. Ability to Conduct Research : The PI (and Co-PI) possesses the required experience and ability to effectively carry out the proposed research.

*Whether or not it corresponds to Unreasonable Duplication or Excessive Concentration is also a factor in the selection.
*Please also check the HP for policy of each research area.

# Requirements for Research Project Applicants: PRESTO(1/2)

## Requirements for Research Project Applicants

* For details, see Chapter 3

- The research project applicant must be the actual person who will be the PRESTO Individual Researcher.
- The research project applicant must be the proposer of the subject research initiative and must be the researcher who will independently perform research work in pursuit of the research initiative.
- Research project applicants must hold Japanese citizenship or be a foreign researcher who will pursue research work within Japan. *It is required that the foreign researcher need to handle paperwork in Japanese (or in an environment where the researcher can proceed it).
- The researcher must be a person who can take responsibility for his/her PRESTO research project throughout the entire research period and oversee it to its completion.

* Other requirements (research integrity program completion, responding to misconduct in research, etc.) are described in the Application Guidelines. JST strongly recommends that all applicants check these requirements.

## Research Institution Requirement

- Research institutions conducting PRESTO research must fully recognize that the research funds are public funding, ensure compliance with related laws and regulations, and make efforts to implement the research effectively.
- When applying, the prior consent of the research institution at which the implementation of research is planned shall definitively be obtained.
- As for “PRESTO Exclusive appointment researcher”, researcher's belonging institution will be requested to conclude a job assignment contract with JST. the researcher must obtain the permission of the belonging institution for this type of contract in advance.

# Requirements for Research Project Applicants: PRESTO(2/2)

* For details, see Chapter 5

## Requirements for Performing Research Work at an Overseas Institution

- If an applicant wishes to carry out research at an overseas research institution, please describe the reason for wishing to carry out research overseas in the research proposal form 7.

- As a general rule, the applicant belonging institution must conclude a collaborative research contract with the content presented by JST. Please submit the prescribed form (For Overseas Research Institutions/ Advance Confirmation Form Concerning Contract Conclusion) indicating prior approval of the person in charge of the contract department of the overseas research institution has given prior consent **before the interview screening**.

- The contract wording adjustment period will be up to 3 months in principle after JST starts negotiations. In addition, please note that it may be necessary for the researcher himself / herself to explain to the contractor of the overseas research institution.

# Selection Criteria: PRESTO

* For details, see Chapter 5

Selection Criteria for PRESTO as below. All criteria from a. to d. should be satisfied.

a. Goal and Purpose : The proposal aligns with the purpose of CREST or PRESTO or ACT-X and the selected research area and it is expected to produce the results that the selected research aria aims to achieve.
b. Originality and Excellence : The proposal demonstrates originality and research excellence, both in comparison to current trends and similar research, domestically and internationally.
c. Objective and Plan : The objectives of the proposal to be achieved within the research period and plans (including budget) are well-defined and appropriate for the project.
d. Ability to Conduct Research : The PI (and Co-PI) possesses the required experience and ability to effectively carry out the proposed research.

*Whether or not it corresponds to Unreasonable Duplication or Excessive Concentration is also a factor in the selection.
*Please also check the HP for policy of each research area.

# Types of PRESTO Researcher Appointments: PRESTO

* For details, see Chapter 3

## Joint Appointment

- If the applicant is affiliated by the same research institution at the time of adoption, the research contract will be concluded between the institution and JST to carry out the PRESTO research.
- Although it is possible to conduct research outside of the affiliated institution, in this case, JST will sign the research contract with the institution where will execute the PRESTO research funds.

  * April 2022 and after, the Joint appointment as concurrently working for JST was discontinued. Along with that, monthly salary payment was also abolished.

## Exclusive appointment (limited to research at Japanese research institution)

- Those who are not affiliated with a research institution, company, etc. at the time of adoption, or who have no choice but to resign due to the circumstances of their affiliated institution, will be hired by JST as a "PRESTO Researcher" after a strict examination of their necessity by JST.
- In conducting the research, on the same day as the employment start date, **a contract is signed to send the full-time researcher** to the belonging research institution / company (recipient research institution), and the full-time researcher conducts research at the belonging research institution.
- From the viewpoint of safety and health management, **Exclusive appointment researchers are limited only from domestic research institutions, and not from overseas research institutions.**
- PRESTO full-time researchers must work under the discretionary labor system.

# PRESTO Research Structure (Common to All Areas) Changes from This Fiscal Year

* For details, see Chapter 3

- Since PRESTO is a program that supports individual-type research conducted by the researchers themselves, only "research assistants" have been allowed to participate in the research so far.
- On the other hand, achieving top-level science and maximizing outcomes requires optimizing research implementation methods and promotion structures according to the research field and content.

From FY2025, in addition to conventional research assistants, **researchers who actively conduct part of the research under the management and guidance of individual researchers can also be registered in the research plan.**

| | **Researchers** | **Research assistants** |
|---|---|---|
| Role | Actively conducting part of the research under the management and guidance of individual researchers | Performing research assistance tasks based on the instructions of individual researchers (*)<br>Collection and analysis of research data<br>Assembly, operation, design, and fabrication of research equipment<br>Experiments and measurements<br>Cleaning of laboratory equipment<br>Breeding and management of laboratory animals<br>etc. |
| Participants | Up to two individuals at the same time | Up to five individuals at the same time |
| Target | Individuals affiliated with the research institution where the individual researcher is conducting the PRESTO research | Technicians or research assistants employed by the research institution, or undergraduate and graduate students without an employment relationship |

Call Information

# Requirements for Research Project Applicants: ACT-X

## Requirements for Applicants

* For details, see Application Guidelines Chapter 4

- The research project applicant must be the actual person who will be the individual researcher.
- **Applicants must have received their doctoral degree less than 8 years before April 1st. 2025.**
  * If the applicant does not hold a doctoral degree, he/she must have received a bachelor's degree less than 13 years before April 1, 2025.
  * Maternity leave and childcare leave acquired after obtaining a degree are excluded from the above-mentioned time periods.
  The above notwithstanding, persons who are graduate students can only apply for this program.
- The applicant must write his/her research proposal as a person who suggested the idea and undertake such research independently, to bring the idea into reality. The ACT-X program is open to researchers from corporations and other entities, so long as they are deemed fully capable of conducting individual research in accordance with the ACT-X policy.
- Applications by students in masters and doctoral programs are required to be submitted via e-Rad, with a memorandum of confirmation on requirements co-signed by the applicant and his/her academic supervisor.
- Research of an applicant must be conducted at a research institution in Japan at the time of adoption, and **research must be conducted in Japan until the end of ACT-X research period.**
  * If you are a graduate student and graduate during the 2.5-year ACT-X program period, you may apply if you are willing to do your best to meet the above requirements so that you can continue the ACT-X program after graduation.
  * There are no limitation on the individual researcher's nationality, but the researcher must be able to handle paperwork in Japanese (or be in an environment that can handle it).
  * ACT-X will hold progress meetings in Japanese after selection, so a certain level of Japanese communication skill is required.
- The researcher who can conduct the ACT-X research tasks responsibly throughout the entire research period.

※ Other requirements include completing a research ethics education course and pledging not to commit research misconduct.

## Requirements for Institutions

- In conducting research, research institutions must fully recognize that the funding for contract research is public funding, comply with relevant laws and regulations, and strive to conduct research efficiently.
- Before applying, be sure to obtain the prior consent of the research institution where the research will be conducted.

# Selection Criteria: ACT-X

* For details, see Chapter 5

Selection Criteria for ACT-X as below. All criteria from a. to d. should be satisfied.

a. Goal and Purpose: The proposal aligns with the purpose of CREST or PRESTO or ACT-X and the selected research area and it is expected to produce the results that the selected research aria aims to achieve.
b. Originality and Excellence: The proposal demonstrates originality and research excellence, both in comparison to current trends and similar research, domestically and internationally.
c. Objective and Plan: The objectives of the proposal to be achieved within the research period and plans (including budget) are well-defined and appropriate for the project.
d. Ability to Conduct Research: The PI (and Co-PI) possesses the required experience and ability to effectively carry out the proposed research.

*Whether or not it corresponds to Unreasonable Duplication or Excessive Concentration is also a factor in the selection.
*Please also check the HP for policy of each research area.

# Application Restrictions among the Programs (1)

*For detail, please refer to Application Guidelines Chapter 7

## Abount Application Restrictions

- Applications will not be accepted if any of the following applies.
  - Applicants in the position of a to g currently, cannot apply for CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X as a research proposer.
  - Applicants in the position of h. currently, or used be in the position of a. to g. cannot apply for ACT-X. (Applicants in the position of h. are able to apply CREST and PRESTO as early graduation, however, ACT-X research will terminate at the end of the fiscal year selected to CREST or PRESTO (be terminated early))

  * In all cases, it is excluded that the research period for the relevant research project finishes within 2025.

a. Research Supervisor or Deputy Research Supervisor of ERATO in the Strategic Basic Research Program
b. Research Director of CREST in the Strategic Basic Research Program
c. Individual Researcher of PRESTO in the Strategic Basic Research Program
d. Research Director of AIP Accelerated Program in the Strategic Basic Research Program
e. Research and Development Director of AMED-CREST in the Strategic Basic Research Program (Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation)
f. Research and Development Director of PRIME in the Strategic Basic Research Program (Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation)
g. Research and Development Director of FORCE, LEAP in the Strategic Basic Research Program (Advanced Research and Development Programs for Medical Innovation)
h. Individual Researcher of ACT-X in the Strategic Basic Research Program

Call Information

# Application Restrictions among the Programs (2)

*For detail, please refer to Application Guidelines Chapter 7

## Restrictions on **Simultaneous Applications**

| Current Position in ongoing Research Project \ Type of Application in Research Proposal | | CREST | | | PI | ACT-X |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | PI | Co-PI | Other Research Participant | PI | PI |
| CREST | PI | ×※ | ○ | ○ | ×※ | × |
| | Co-PI | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| | Other Research Participant | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| PRESTO | PI | ×※ | ○ | ○ | ×※ | × |
| ACT-X | PI | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ×※ |

- Currently, **PIs of CREST or PIs of PRESTO** can apply for and conduct projects as PIs of CREST or PRESTO **only if their research period ends in FY2025.** Additionally, impossible to apply for ACT-X.
- Currently, **PIs of CREST** can apply as Co-PIs or other research participants for CREST.
- PIs of ACT-X are currently eligible to apply as PIs for CREST and PRESTO programs. However, **if selected, the ACT-X research project will be terminated at the end of the fiscal year,** resulting in early graduation.
- If selected as a candidate for the FY2025 CREST, PRESTO, or ACT-X programs, and involvement in multiple research projects across competitive funding programs operated by JST arises, adjustments may be implemented. These adjustments could include reducing research funds or limiting the researcher to a single project. Such measures will apply not only to the primary research proposer but also to Co-PIs and other research participants in the case of CREST applications.

Call Information

# Application Restrictions among the Programs (3)

*For detail, please refer to Application Guidelines Chapter 7

## Restrictions on **Multiple Applications**

| Current Position in ongoing Research Project \ Type of Application in Research Proposal | | CREST | | | PRESTO | ACT-X |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | PI | Co-PI | Other Research Participant | PI | PI |
| CREST | PI | × | ○ | ○ | × | × |
| | Co-PI | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| | Other Research Participant | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| PRESTO | PI | × | ○ | ○ | × | × |
| ACT-X | PI | × | ○ | ○ | × | × |

- It is possible to apply as a research participant for only one project from those solicited in FY2025 under CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X, AMED-CREST, and PRIME.
- It is possible to apply as a research proposer for only one project from the research areas or research and development areas solicited in FY2025.
- It is possible to apply as a research proposer for CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X while also applying as a Co-PI or
- another research participant for CREST.
- For PRESTO and CREST, PIs who were subject to a Specific Research Proposal in the previous fiscal year (FY2025) can only apply to the designated research area.

# Application Restrictions among the Programs (3)

*For detail, please refer to Application Guidelines Chapter 7

- It is possible to apply concurrently for the FOREST and as a PI of CREST or PRESTO, but you cannot carry out both simultaneously. However, concurrent applications and overlapping implementations are possible for Co-PIs of CREST and PIs of ACT-X.

- Currently, even if you are conducting a project under the FOREST as a PI (individual researcher), you can still apply as a PI of CREST or PRESTO for the current call. Please consult with the JST staff of FOREST regarding any research topics under the FOREST Program after being selected for CREST or PRESTO.

# Call Information

# Evaluation Criteria and Proposal Format Changes from This Fiscal Year

In order to clarify the evaluation perspectives at JST and to alleviate the workload and inconvenience caused by differences and inconsistencies between programs for proposers and evaluators, JST has established **unified "Evaluation Items" and will use corresponding "Evaluation Criteria" and "Proposal Formats".**

**Structure of Evaluation Items, etc.：**

| Evaluation Items | Evaluation Criteria（basics） | Proposal Formats |
|---|---|---|
| Goal and Purpose | The proposal aligns with the purpose of CREST or PRESTO or ACT-X and the selected research area and it is expected to produce the results that the selected research aria aims to achieve. | Project Description |
| Originality and Excellence | The proposal demonstrates originality and research excellence, both in comparison to current trends and similar research, domestically and internationally. | Originality Excellence |
| Objective and Plan | The objectives of the proposal to be achieved within the research period and plans (including budget) are well-defined and appropriate for the project. | Objectives and Research Plans |
| Implementation Structure | The project organization is best suited to implement the proposed research. | Project Organization |
| Ability to Conduct Research | The PI (and Co-PI) possesses the required experience and ability to effectively carry out the proposed research. | Achievements |

Main Changes in CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X

- Reduce the length of the research proposal abstract, described as the research overview in the basic information.
- For the research plan, simplify by focusing on background, objectives, and future outlook without setting detailed sub-items.
- Separate the originality and superiority of the research from the research plan sub-items and make it independent as Form 3.
- Separate the achievement goals and research plan during the research period from the research plan sub-items and make it independent as Form 4.

# Each Research Area's Policy

Research proposals are called for in each Research Area.

At research proposal submission, please confirm the followings.

- Outline of Research Area
- Research period, research expenses (direct expenses)
- Research Supervisors' direction and policy about call, selection, and research area management
  - * The briefing explanation videos and materials are posted on the web page of "Call for Research Proposal", please see them.
- Strategic Objective

Web page of the "Call for Research Proposal"

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian-en.html

# Immediate Open Access Changes from This Fiscal Year

*For detail, please refer to Application Guidelines Chapter 6

From research projects newly adopted in the FY2025, it will be mandatory to immediately publish academic papers and supporting data resulting from the research in institutional repositories or other research infrastructures.

- Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers (Decision by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024)

  (Purpose)
  - To open research results produced with public funds
  - To optimize the economic burden of subscription fees, etc., across the entire country
  - To enhance the global dissemination of research results
  - Response in Strategic Basic Research Programs ⇒ In order to monitor implementation, from the fiscal year 2025, the progress reports for projects adopted under this program will include information on whether immediate open access has been implemented.

  Response in Strategic Basic Research Programs ⇒ In order to monitor implementation, from the fiscal year 2025, the progress reports for projects adopted under this program will require information on whether immediate open access has been implemented.

Please also refer to the following documents, etc.:
•"Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc." (Decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024)
•Specific Measures for the Implementation of the Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc.
•FAQ on the Basic Policy for Achieving Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, etc., and the Specific Measures for its Implementation

# Application Method for Research Proposals

Submissions will be accepted through the **Cross-Ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad)**.

If you do not have a login ID and password, please promptly complete the researcher registration.

There have been recurring issues with submissions made just before the deadline. We kindly request that you submit your application well in advance of the deadline to avoid such problems.

**No proposals will be accepted after the deadline.**

**Should you attempt to withdraw your proposal subsequent to the deadline, it will be deemed as 'not accepted'.**

※ JST assumes no responsibility whatsoever for any errors in format or content of the proposal documents, irrespective of whether the proposal is accepted or rejected, that occur up until the deadline for submissions. Consequently, it should be noted that the JST will not perform any pre-submission confirmations or corrections of the proposal documents, nor will it request the proposer to make any corrections, up until the deadline for submissions.

# FYI: Information via X（twitter）

**CREST, PRESTO, ACT-I/X @JST_Kisokenkyu also provides information of research proposal application, symposium, etc.**

# Inquiries regarding application & selection

●**We strongly recommend to use Email for your contacts and inquiries.**

**Contact: rp-info@jst.go.jp**

●**For more details on the call for research proposals, please visit the following website.**

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/boshuu/teian.html

※We will update information such as schedules for document and interview selection meetings and notifications of selection results as needed.

**The indicated date is a firm deadline for submission.**

**We note that if the application process through e-Rad has not been completed by the deadline, proposals will not be subject to review for any reason.**

# Remind point at application (1)
# Measures against Inappropriate Usage of Research Funds

Based on the revision of the “Guidelines for the Proper Execution of Competitive Funds” (FY2012), JST strictly deals with cases of inappropriate usage of research funds and Restriction Measures are taken against the application and participation eligibility of researchers, depending on the levels of inappropriate usage .

| Classification of person who committed or is involved in misconduct in use of research budget | Extent of maliciousness in misconduct | | Period of ineligibility for applying to competitive research fund |
|---|---|---|---|
| A researcher who committed a misconduct or a researcher who was in conspiracy with a person who committed a misconduct | 1. Use of a research budget to make a private profit | | 10 years |
| | 2. Other than 1. | ①Impact of the misconduct on the society is substantial and maliciousness of the mis-conduct is judged to be high. | 5 years |
| | | ② Neither ① or ③ | 2-4 years |
| | | The impact of the misconduct on the society is small and the maliciousness of the mis-conduct is judged to be low. | 1 year |
| A researcher who used a fabrication and other dishonest means to receive a research fund or etc. and a researcher who was in conspiracy with the person who committed this misconduct | | | 5 years |
| A researcher who did not commit or was not involved in a misconduct, but used a research budget, inappropriately, failing to fulfill his/her duty of due care of prudent manager * | | | 1 to 2 years (in maximum) in accordance with the degree of failure of fulfilling his/her duty of due care of prudent manager |

* Although it was not recognized that it was involved in inappropriate usage, etc., Researchers who violate their duty of due care of prudent manager.

Call Information

# Security Trade Control

**All public solicitations in the FY 2025 will become subject to the requirements of security management**

**The detail of Security Export Control in Japan**
**https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/englishpage.html.html**

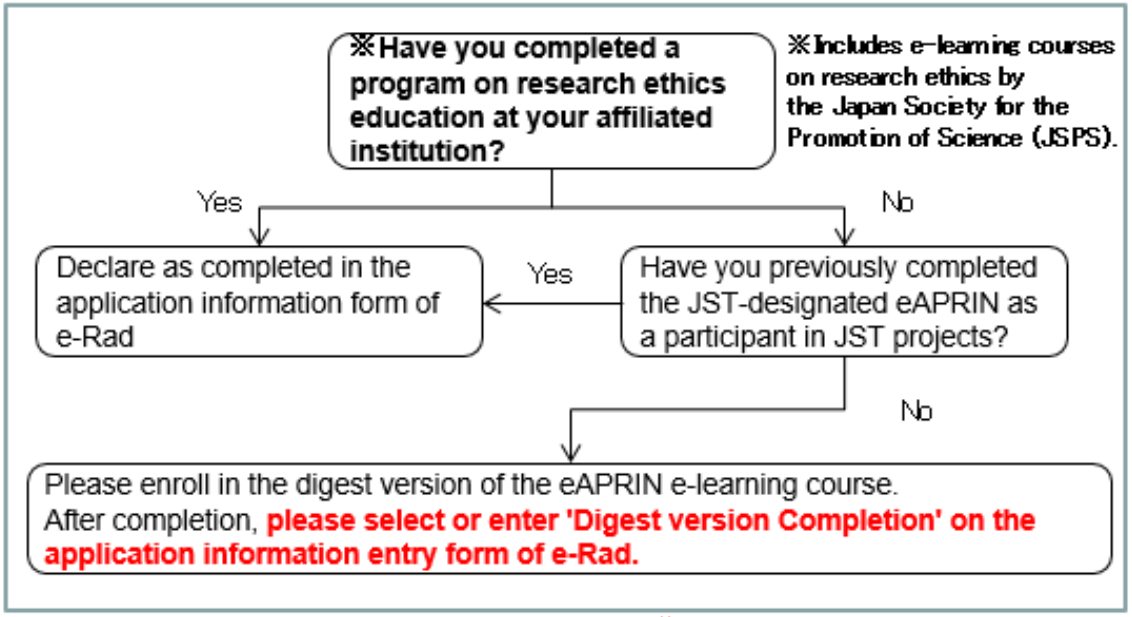
Upon reviewing this information, please inquire about the 'presence or absence of plans to export or provide technology subject to list control' during your application through e-Rad (the red square below). Should your response be affirmative, indicating the necessity for establishing a security trade control system within your affiliated institution, it is imperative to confirm with the administrative office of your institution following the completion of your application (submission) through e-Rad.

# Remind point at application (2)
# Research Integrity

- The research project applicant **must complete the educational program for research integrity as a prerequisite for application**.
- Note that if completion of the program cannot be confirmed, the application will be disqualified for failing to meet the requirements.

**URL：https://edu2.aprin.or.jp/ard/**

**Program Enrollment and Completion Declaration Flowchart for Research Ethics Education**




Then, declare “Complete the digest version of eAPRIN” on the e-Rad application information entry screen.

Remind point at application (3)

# Equipment and Apparatuses Sharing

In accordance with the policy of the Japanese Government, the following operations are considered appropriate.

- Operation of a "system for sharing research facilities and equipment for research organization units" (hereinafter referred to as "equipment sharing system") at universities and national research and development agencies, etc.
- In principle, large-scale facilities and equipment that are funded by competitive research funds should be shared.

Based on this policy, please check the following points prior to application;

1. Purchase and sharing by combining multiple research expenses of research equipment and apparatuses
2. Sharing with other research etc. within the range that does not interfere with the promotion of the proposed research subject
3. Utilization of research equipment and apparatuses purchased by other research expenses etc.
4. Aggressive utilization of commonly available devices and confirmation of redundancy with existing devices that can be utilized
5. Proactive registration in purchasing research equipment and apparatuses sharing system etc.

**JST may check the condition of use of the equipment and apparatuses sharing system.**

# Remind point at application (4)
# Human Rights Protection, Laws & Regulations Compliance

- When research requires compliance with legal and/or regulatory procedures, complete all the necessary procedures such as obtaining approval from the ethics committee inside and outside of the research organization.
  - In implementing the research concept, research that requires consent and cooperation of the other party
  - In the case of Studies that need consideration of handling of personal information
  - Research requiring efforts for bioethics and safety measures

- When conducting on-site research activities overseas or joint research with overseas research institution, please check in advance and comply with all the relevant laws and regulations of the related countries.

# Remind points at application (5)
# Passionate participation and activity of young researchers

## We expect passionate applications from young researchers

**JST hope that young researchers will engage in challenging research and development through these projects and further expand their active fields.**

CREST:

- Many young researchers participate in each CREST research project. We ask our Research Directors to nurture young researchers in your team so that they are enabled to conduct their research independently and achieve good results and also being encouraged to play active roles in various fields in the future.

PRESTO:

- Research Supervisors and Advisors will play the roll of “mentors”.
- PRESTO will provide young researchers the opportunity to work on their own research project as PI.
- PRESTO will create opportunities to interchange among researchers and create platforms for stimulating each other.

ACT-X:

- Established in FY2019 to support young researchers to be an independent researchers.
- ACT-X will provide opportunities for many young researchers, including graduate students, researchers at companies or who have just started their research careers.

# Remind points at application (6)
# Promotion of Diversity

**JST promotes diversity (gender, nationality, age, etc.) especially, encourages positive contribution by Female Researchers**

- “Diversity” is necessary for the base that brings about science and technology innovation. JST will try to resolve the issues of the future society by promoting diversity in all science and technology and will contribute to strengthening Japan's competitiveness and improving the affluence of the mind.
- JST is constantly improving the system, such as listening to the voices of researchers who are users of the "childbirth / child-rearing / nursing care support system" that has been implemented and creating an environment where researchers can return to research.
- When inviting applications for new research projects and during the screening process, applications are also considered from the perspective of diversity

Diversity Initiatives at JST
https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/index.html

Diversity initiatives in CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X
https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/nadeshiko/index.html

# Remind points at application (7)
# Harnessing STI for the SDGs

## JST contributes to the implementation of the SDGs

- At the "United Nations Sustainable Development Summit" held in September 2015, the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" were established as the core of new, more comprehensive global action goals for people, the planet, and prosperity. The outcome document "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" was unanimously adopted.
- The SDGs are global goals that can encompass JST's mission, and through JST's projects, we will co-create with industry, academia, government, and the private sector, and work with researchers to realize a sustainable society.

# Remind points after selection (1)
# Measures against Inappropriate Usage of Research Funds

**In case that research funds are used inappropriately in a research project, measures will be taken to cancel the research and return all or part of the research funds. In addition, depending on the level of the fraud, etc., measures will be taken to restrict applications and participation in this program and other competitive funding programs in Japan.**

- Public research funding is funded by the precious tax paid by citizen and must be properly managed according to the usage rules of the funding agencies and the research institutions.
- Care is required, as misunderstanding of the rules of use often leads to unexpected misconduct.
- It is important to consult regularly with the administrative staff of the research institution, etc. to confirm the usage rules of research funds.

## Main Measures for Researchers Involved in Fraud

**Personnel disposal**
[Disciplinary rules of institution]

* Examples of disciplinary actions include disciplinary exclusion, suspension, and salary reduction.

**Refund of inappropriately used funds**
[Subsidy adequacy law or Research Agreement Clause]

* Additional fees etc. will be added according to the date from the time of unauthorized use to the return.

**Criminal Penalties**
[Criminal Law]

* Many malicious fraud cases are fraudulent.

**Competitive funding eligibility restrictions**
[Consultation with relevant ministries]

* Please note the revised law of FY2012

# Remind points after selection (2)
# Registration to “researchmap” & usage of R3: R-cube

Selected CREST PI / Co-PI, PRESTO PI and ACT-X PI
need to register **“researchmap”**

- JST’s Strategic Basic Research Programs including CREST, PERSTO and ACT-X utilize “research map” as a master database of achievement information in various areas, including future achievement reports. In addition, the community function of “researchmap” is used for project management, including distribution of various files and event notices.
- The information in “researchmap” is utilized effectively for surveying national academic or science and technology plans, as well as for statistical purposes.
- During these JST’s program, researchers will apply their research plans and reports through JST’s research project management system “R3: R-cube” working with “researchmap”.
- Applicants as CREST research director and the lead joint researcher, PRESTO individual researcher and ACT-X individual researcher, who will have the research interview, need to register “researchmap”.  For this reason, researchers who have not yet registered are recommended to register as soon as possible.

## Remind points after selection (3)

# Support for Childbirth, Childcare and Nursing care

- JST support researchers to balance research and life events for career development (support for gender equality expenses that promote R&D and reduce the burden on the researcher). Researchers continue R&D during life events (childbirth, childcare, nursing care), or if they have to temporarily suspend it, support to restart R&D.

In addition, we publish role models for female science students.
Please see the details as follows.

- Effort for Diversity Promotion of CREST, PRESTO and ACT-X
  https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/nadeshiko/index.html
- Guidelines for the management of research funds during life events of Principal Investigators, etc.
  https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/research/life-event.html
- Childbirth/childcare/nursing care support system
  https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/research/child-care.html

## Remind points after selection (4)

# Buyout system, PI personnel Expenses, etc.

CREST, PRESTO, and ACT-X have established implementation policies for introduction of the buyout system, expenditure of PI personnel expenses and relaxation of exclusive appointment of young researchers.

- **Buyout System : Use of Direct Costs for Someone to Carry Out Duties Other Than Research** https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/buyout_houshin.pdf
  - For each project, the expenditure limit is set at 20% of the direct costs for each fiscal year.
  - **Expenditure limit:** PRESTO: 2 million yen/year ACT-X: 0.3 million yen/year
    CREST and ACCEL: no spending upper limit is set.
- **Use of Direct Costs for Principal Investigator (PI) Personnel Expenses**
  https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/pi_houshin.pdf
  - In JST competitive research funding programs where the average annual direct cost per project does not exceed 15 million yen, the expenditure limit is set at 10% of the direct costs for each fiscal year for each project.
  - **Expenditure limit:** PRESTO: 1 million yen/year ACT-X: 0.15 million Yen/year
    CREST and ACCEL: no spending upper limit is set.
- **Relaxation of exclusive appointment**

The exclusive dedication requirement for Researcher participants hired by CREST research budgets and PRESTO exclusive appointment researchers will be relaxed, with an effort limit set at 20%.

https://www.jst.go.jp/kisoken/crest/manual/senjukanwa_houshin.pdf