

Moonshot R&D - MILLENNIA Program - Frequently Asked Questions

No.	Question	Answer
Chapter 2: Call for Proposals and Selections		
2-1	It is stated that 'A team should be composed of diverse personnel.' What kind of team formation is preferable?	We are expecting the team formation regardless of their affiliations, disciplines, gender, nationalities, etc. with various values, perspectives, and knowledge so that they can deepen ideas through the mutual inspiration.
2-2	Is it possible to add team members after adoption?	Yes, you can add necessary members according to the progress of your brainstorming activities.
2-3	It is stated that this call for proposals is targeting ideas based on the socioeconomical changes due to the COVID-19. Are you expecting proposals mainly focusing on the medical/life science field, including R&D on vaccinations or therapeutic agents?	COVID-19 pandemic was the trigger to launch the MILLENNIA Program, but this program does not intend to limit to the medical or life science field. We are expecting various ideas for the ideal society in 2050 after the drastic changes due to this pandemic.
2-4	Team leader belongs to a domestic organization, but it is not a university or company that conducts R&D. In such case, is it necessary sub-leader who belongs to a university to apply instead?	Such team leader can apply for the MILLENNIA Program as long as it is a domestic corporation. If such organization cannot conclude the cooperative research agreement with JST, JST will conclude the agreement with sub-leader's organization instead.
2-5	Are you expecting applicants to proposal specific science and technology research themes for this open call?	We are expecting the ideal visions of society in 2050 as well as the investigation methods to clarify what kind of science and technology is available/necessary to realize such visions. While the proposer's current hypothesis about the science and technology required for realizing the ideal society in 2050 needs to be included, we do not expect specific R&D themes or R&D methods in the proposals.
2-6	In the document 'Creating New Moonshot Goals' by the Cabinet Office and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, it is stated that the new moonshot goal should 'avoid overlaps with existing goals.' Are you expecting 'niche' ideas and social images that do not overlap the existing 7 goals?	Existing 7 goals cover a wide range of social images to some extent, and the MILLENNIA Program does not intend to limit ideas that are not overlapping existing 7 goals. We are expecting applicants to reconsider what we need in 2050 based on the applicants' own values and make proposals from different perspectives from existing 7 goals.
2-7	Is it possible to take an interview in English?	Yes, application as well as interview can be made in English.
2-8	What are selection criteria for the MILLENNIA Program?	Selection will be made based on the following considerations. (1) The importance of proposed ideas: 1. Passion for envisioning 2050 society 2. Is the proposed idea 'inspiring'? 3. Is the proposed idea 'imaginative'? (2) Appropriateness of methods of investigation research: 1. Methods for investigating the ripple effectiveness 2. Methods for investigating the necessary R&D strategies and scenarios for achieving goals Please refer to the page 14 of the Application Guidelines for details.
2-9	Is there a limit to the number of team members?	There is no limit to the number of team members. Please note that team members should not only be ones to provide advice but also actively be involved in investigation research activities.

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2-10	Is it possible to apply even if I am under 20 years old or over 50 years old?	Yes. Team leaders and sub-leaders are assumed to be, but not limited to, young people in their 20s to 40s, yet any personnel who has flexible ideas that are necessary for the next generation is eligible, regardless of one's age, speciality, nationality, gender, category of belonging organization, etc.
2-11	How many teams will be adopted for this program?	The number of teams to be adopted is about 20.
2-12	How many new moonshot goals are eventually expected to be determined by the Cabinet Office after the MILLENNIA Program, and what are the selection criteria for that?	It is assumed that one or two new moonshot goals will be determined by the Cabinet Office. The criteria is the same as existing 7 moonshot goals such as 'Inspiring', 'Imaginative', and 'Credible.' For details, please refer to '3.5 Ex-post Evaluation' on page 16 of the application guidelines.
2-13	On page 6 in the Application Guidelines, it is stated that 'Those youths, such as team leader(s), etc., who contribute to formulate the new MS Goal(s) are expected to participate in the new R&D projects.' Does this mean that such youths are required to apply for project managers (PMs)?	No. It is though ideal that team members (team leader(s), sub-leader(s), and members) who contribute to formulate the new moonshot goal(s) to apply for PMs or participate in the new moonshot project as performer(s). Please note, however, that the selection criteria differ between the MILLENNIA Program and call for proposals for new PMs.
2-14	After the new moonshot goal is determined, another call for project managers (PMs) will be conducted, and what is the scale of R&D fund for each PM?	Research fund will range from hundreds of millions to billions JPY per PM.
Chapter 3: Implementation of Investigation Research		
3-1	Do we need to make an investigation research report in English?	The investigation research report will be handled in the same way as the Initiative Reports (IRs), which were discussed at the Moonshot International Symposium in 2019 to determine existing 6 moonshot goals (https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/sympo/sympo2019/wg-all_e.html). Therefore, please make it both in Japanese and English. English translation can be outsourced with the direct cost.
3-2	Will the entire investigation research report be published on the Web? By when do I need to submit it?	Confidential information such as intellectual property rights, etc. may be included in the report, so if that is the case, such teams should indicate which parts can/cannot be published. JST will publish only the parts that can be published through discussions with teams. Please submit the investigation research report by the end of the research term (end of June, 2021).
3-3	Will this program basically be completed after submitting the investigation research report in June 2021?	Yes. Please note that, in addition to the investigation research report, the accounting performance report and the research results report need to be submitted by August 31, 2021.
3-4	What are the examples for usages of direct costs?	For example, the followings can be included in the direct costs. (Subcontracting is not permitted) (1) Commodities: Costs for purchasing equipment, consumable supplies, etc. necessary for this brainstorming activities (2) Travel Expenses: Expenses for travel by team leader, sub leader and team members as well as those cooperating with such activities. (3) Personnel Expenses: Salaries for team members, temporary staff, honorariums, etc. For details, please refer to '3.3.1 Direct Cost' on page 15 in the Application Guidelines. https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/202009/files/guidelines_en2009.pdf (4) Other Expenses: Costs for holding workshops, other expenses such as equipment leasing costs, printing costs, English translation costs, etc.

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3-5	Please describe about the ratio of indirect cost.	Indirect costs are costs required for the management of research institutions pursuing investigation research activities; they are, in principle, 30% for universities, etc. and 10% for others of direct costs (20% for small and medium enterprises (SMEs)). * Judgment will be made based on the situation of research institutions at the time of adoption in accordance with the 'Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Basic Act - CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS, Article 2: Scope of SMEs and Definitions.'
Chapter 4: Application Instructions		
4-1	Is it possible team leader in team A to participate in team B as a sub-leader?	No, however, such personnel can participate in team B as team member.
4-2	Are there any restrictions on applying for moonshot R&D programs implemented by other funding agencies?	There are no restrictions on applications for other moonshot R&D programs, implemented by NEDO, BRAIN and AMED. Those who have selected as the project managers in JST's moonshot R&D program cannot participate in the MILLENNIA Program as team leaders or sub-leaders.
4-3	I am thinking of forming a team among only students and applying for the MILLENNIA Program, but neither the team leader nor the sub-leader is allowed to register to the e-Rad system at universities they belong to. What should I do?	Proposals must be made through e-Rad system. Please consult with the research support department of your institution.
4-4	Is it possible for those who are participating in other JST programs such as CREST, PRESTO, ACT-X, FOREST, etc. to apply for this program or participate in this program as team members?	Yes, it is possible.
Chapter 5: Submission via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)		
5-1	Is it necessary to register sub-leader in e-Rad system?	If team leader is an applicant, the registration of sub-leader in e-Rad system is unnecessary. However, if the institution to which the team leader belongs has difficulties to conclude a cooperative research agreement with JST, sub-leader must become an applicant and thus the registration of sub-leader is essential.
5-2	Is it necessary to register team members in e-Rad system?	No, it is not necessary.
5-3	The total number of team members will be more than 11, and it will exceed the maximum number of e-Rad format (max. 10). What should I do?	If you have more than 11 team members, please enter members up to 10 in e-Rad system. For members who could not be entered in e-Rad system, please write down their information (names, institutions, departments, titles, DOB, gender, and specialities) in Form 4 in addition to their roles in team, work experiences, and major achievements.
Proposal for R&D project (How to Complete the Form)		
6-1	Is there a file size limitation for the application forms?	Please convert your application forms into PDF and make it within 3MB. Files larger than 10MB cannot be uploaded.
6-2	Should the research funds currently being received be described in Form 5 (1) or (2)?	Please describe the research funds you are currently receiving in Form 5 (2) 'The research funds to be received.'
6-3	Can I delete those instructions written in italics?	Yes, please delete those before filling in.
6-4	Italic instructions are written based on the assumption that applicants are belonging to the universities. Does this mean that applicants need to belong to the universities?	No. This is just an example and does not intend to limit the affiliations of applicants, including sub-leaders and team members.
6-5	Is it necessary to include the status of sub-leader's research funds in Form 5?	No, it is not necessary.

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6-6	As instructed in Form 2-2, is it necessary to hold the large-scale international workshops and/or symposiums in the face-to-face manner?	No. It does not intend to limit to the face-to-face events. Online events are acceptable for exchanging perspectives on the social images of 2050, incorporating various ideas, and deepening the knowledge with various people inside and outside Japan. The size of events does not matter.
6-7	Work experience and major achievements need to be described in Form 4. Is it highly evaluated if there are major research achievements?	We do not make evaluations based on the research achievements. Please describe your backgrounds including your work experiences, as well as the major achievements, if any.
Others		
7-1	Is it possible to have a consultation about the specific images of proposing 2050 society?	We do not accept individual consultations regarding the specific contents of proposals for ensuring the fairness of selection. The overview of the MILLENNIA Program as well as messages from visionary leaders are posted here. https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/202009/index.html
7-2	Are there application guidelines in English?	Yes. Please refer here. https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/202009/files/guidelines_en2009.pdf