Moonshot Research and Development - Q&As (As of April 8)

No.	Question	Answer
Chapter 1. An overview of the Moonshot Research and Development Project		
Chapter 2. MS Goals and R&D Concepts etc		
Chapter 3. The call and Selection of Project Managers (PMs)		
3-1	Can a faculty member employed for a specific period (a specially appointed professor etc.) apply to this call?	You can apply to our call only when you satisfy (or are expected to satisfy) the terms and conditions required for becoming a PM through the implementation period of the R&D project.
3-2	Can I apply to this call even if I am to retire at a certain point during the period of R&D project?	Even if you are to retire under the age limit at a certain point during the R&D project, you can apply to the call as long as you satisfy (or are expected to satisfy) the terms and conditions required for becoming a PM throughout the implementation period of the R&D project. If you become one of the candidates selected for our interview, you will submit supplementary documents or the like, which will be used to check your plans (or perspective) after your retirement.
3-3	Can I, besides my activities as a PM, continue my assignments at the university, company, or any other organization to which I belong?	One of the requirements for PM stipulates that you are expected to dedicate yourself as much as possible to fulfill your assignments as a PM. If the PD makes a judgment that you will, or are expected to, be fulfilling your assignments as a PM without any problem, you can continue your assignments at the organization to which you belong.
3-4	Can I change my PM's Institution during implementation period of R&D project?	With the approval by the PD, you can change your PM's Institution as long as you satisfy the conditions, including the R&D agreement and other pledges in the rules about the implementation, required for you to fulfill your assignments as a PM without any problem.
3-5	Is there the upper limit of the budget of R&D project managed by a PM?	As indicated in the application guideline, we do not set an upper limit on the R&D cost of a proposed R&D project, but the maximum total amount of the R&D project at the time of proposal per PM is approximately JPY 2-3 billion (including indirect costs) for the four fiscal years from FY 2022 to FY 2025. However, proposals exceeding this guideline amount are not precluded if a much higher amount is considered to be truly necessary for the execution of R&D activities. The R&D funds for an R&D project at the initial stage will be decided by the PD in cooperation with sub-PD and advisors, during the refinement period after the proposal adoption.
3-6	Can my proposal be reviewed in English?	You can prepare the proposal documents in English, and give the presentation and answers to our questions in English during the interview. You can go through the entire review process in English.Please note that our language for the review process is only English and Japanese.

3-7	Should application be made by an individual who is PM candidate, or by PM candidate's institution?	Applications should be made by individuals. Please note that the PM needs to perform the activities while being affiliated with a Japanese organization. Before making an application, the applicant must fully understand that the item must be satisfied by the PM's institution : To be an employer of the PM, which is a university, college, public organization, private enterprise, or the like, that is a Japanese corporation and has a base of activities in Japan, and to employ the PM by the end of the refining period(one month).
3-8	Can the PM also act as a performer in the PM's R&D project ?	As much effort as possible must be made to monitor and manage PMs' activities. However, if the PD decides that it is extremely effective for the PM to perform part of the research and development of an R&D project on his or her own to achieve a particular objective, he or she may participate in R&D as a performer.
3-9	Where can we obtain information on the above projects to propose ideas for collaboration with existing R&D projects?	For information on existing R&D projects, please refer to the research summaries available on the website. Please do not collect information directly from existing PMs or make prior arrangements. If you need further information, please refer to the PM's background, research achievements, and other information, and infer the contents of the existing R&D project in your proposal.

Chapter 4. Promoting the R&D Projects after PMs Are Adopted.		
4-1	How can I fulfill my assignments as PM during the refining period of R&D project, if I am employed by a PM's Institution when my proposal is adopted?	If you are an employee of a PM's Institution when your proposal is adopted, you will be required to fulfill your assignments based on the consignment agreement between the applicable institution and JST for the period of refinement.
4-2	How can I fulfill my assignments as PM during the refining period of R&D project, if I am NOT employed by a PM's Institution when my proposal is adopted?	If you are NOT an employee of a PM's Institution when your proposal is adopted, you will be required to fulfill your assignments based on the commission by JST until you are hired by a PM's institution.The expenses for your assignment during that period will be examined in advance and be paid by JST.
4-3	Are the expenditures related to the roles and/or responsibilities of a PM's Institution paid by JST?	The PM's Institution is expected to be in charge of and responsible for organizing an environment where the PM activities can be performed effectively and efficiently, organizing a system such as hiring of personnel to support a PM, among others, and providing support to the PM activities, including the management of the progress of the research and cooperation among different research institutions. The related expenditures can be included in the direct cost. However, the details must be consulted with and approved by JST in advance. On the other hand, the expenditures appropriate to be covered as an indirect cost, such as those related to the managerial divisions of a PM's institution and those related to the goods or articles commonly used in the research divisions, are not paid by JST.
4-4	What am I expected to do for data management?	You are required to prepare and submit to JST, together with your written R&D plans, data management plans (DMP), which define the scope and classification for the storage, sharing, and disclosure of the data to be managed in the research. Based on your DMP, you are expected to collect metadata from the researchers involved in your R&D project and submit them to JST. Moreover, you are expected to encourage information sharing among researchers and promote the storage, sharing, and /or disclosure of the research data.
4-5	Is it possible to change PM during the R&D project?	We have set one of the requirements for an applicant, "To take management on their own through the following PM activities and carry the responsibility for the R&D project". Thus, the PM is dismissed if the application requirements come to be not satisfied during the period of the implementation of the R&D project. We do not assume the change of PM during the R&D project.

4-6	In a proposal, information of performers is described for each R&D institution ?	Performers implement the contents of the assignments for the research and development in the R&D project as instructed by the PM, Describe the person, his or her organization and post, and the assignments with respect to the person who is essential for implementing the R&D project you propose among the candidate for performers. For more details, please refer to Chapter 1.1.3(2), 4.1.3 in the application guidelines, Form 1 and Appendix to Form.
4-7	Is there any restriction regarding the number of performers in an R&D project?	There is no restriction of the number of performers.
4-8	Is it possible to assign a performer affiliated with an overseas institution?	Yes, it is possible. Please note that an overseas institution is basically required to conclude R&D agreements on the conditions issued by JST. Please refer to chapter 4.8(2) in the application guidelines.
4-9	When will the PM's institution start supporting PM's activities?	Since the establishment of support system for PM's activities by the PM's institution is a part of R&D project refining, please start supporting PM'S activities immediately after adoption.

Chapter 5. Instructions for Applicants

5-1	Can I apply for a PM with my R&D project and also take part in an R&D project proposed by another PM as a major performer?	Yes. You can apply even in such a case. However, if both applications are chosen as prospective candidates and/or if those applications are viewed as "an irrational duplication and/or excess convergence" in the process of the refining of the R&D projects, some adjustments may be made, including reduction of the R&D budget and/or rejection of your participation as a performer.
5-2	Can I implement R&D as a performer in several R&D projects?	Yes, you can. Please note that if two or more of the R&D projects are adopted in which you implement R&D as performer, we may make adjustment by the decision of a PD, to reduce budget or disallow participation in some part of the project, after considering the contents, the scale, etc. of the R&D. Please see details in chapter 5.2 in the application guidelines.
5-3	Is it possible to apply to both MS goal conducted by other funding agency and JST's MS goal as a PM?	It is possible for a single candidate to apply for R&D projects for multiple MS goals. It is also possible for a candidate who is currently applying as a PM for Moonshot Goals 8 and 9 to apply as a PM for this application. However, if both of these proposals are shortlisted, adjustments may be made at the discretion of the PD.

5-4	I am already promoting R&D projects as a PM for Moonshot Goals 1-7. Is it possible to apply to work on the Moonshot Goal as a PM?	Those currently serving as a Moonshot Goal PM may also submit an application. Please note that we will also evaluate whether the requirements described in "3.1.1 Requirements that proponents as PM candidates are expected to have" are fully satisfied, such as all responsibilities of the R&D project must be undertaken for all periods of the R&D project's implementation.

Chapter 6. How to Use the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) for Your Application

6-1	Is the e-Rad registration necessary for all performers?	For each researcher, e-Rad registration is not required at the time of application.

Proposal for R&D project (How to Complete the Form)

7-1	Is there a limit on the file size of a written proposal?	The file containing the written proposals for R&D projects must be roughly 3 MB or less in size after it is converted into the PDF format. (You are not allowed to upload a file that exceeds 10 MB in size.)
7-2	In the form 10, "The person who writes the letter of recommendation" is should be the "head" of the institution that is expected to be the PM's institution. In the case with a university as PM's institution, is it possible that the recommender is the head of PM's department as well as the president?	It is possible for the head of PM's department to be the recommender of an applicant. We assume that the reccomender should recognize the applicant's ability to act as a PM, and specify the reason to recommend.
7-3	Is it necessary to submit a Letter of Recommendation No. 2?	Although a Letter of Recommendation No. 2 from a person belonging to an overseas institution is not required, it is recommended in light of the purpose of this program, which is to gather the wisdom of a diverse range of researchers, including top researchers from Japan and abroad as well as other young and senior research scientists.

7-4	Is it necessary to specify researchers who are in charge of R&D implementation under the direction of a performer?	No, it's not essential.
7-5	Is it essential to sign regarding the form 10?	No, it's not essential.
7-6	Should the expenditure on PM activities be described in the budget plan of the application form?	Please add the expenditure on PM activities to R&D budget in the application form. The expenditure on the support of PM activities is classified into direct cost. The PM activities consist of organizing an environment in which the PM activities can be performed effectively and efficiently, hiring personnel to support the PM, managing the progress of the R&D projects undertaken by the performer working in the PM's Institution or any other organization, and supporting the cross-organizational cooperation.
7-7	When a PM will also implement R&D as a performer in an R&D project, is it essential to fill in form 8 with the effort ratio as the PM and the performer?	In that case, please fill in form 8 "Application Status, Effort, and Acceptance of Other Research Funds" the effort ratio of the Moonshot R&D as a performer as well as a PM, by adding a new field. The effort ratio in form 8 should be described on the condition that the applicant is adopted as a PM, and, approved to act as a performer as well.
7-8	Can I change the text format of proposal (text-decoration, font, line spacing, etc.)?	Yes, you can change the text format as needed.
7-9	Can I delete the filling instructions such as 'Explain/fill in/describe XXX' etc. in the application forms?	Please delete instructions written in Blue while leaving instructions written in Black. For example, in the application form 2 "1. Scenarios from the present time to the achievement of the MS Goal in 2050," do not delete the instruction in Black, "Please explain the scenarios of this proposal, from the present time to the achievement of the MS Goal in 2050, including appropriate target years."

Others

8-1	Do you have any opportunities to have consultation sessions on details of a proposed R&D Project?	Please note that we cannot answer questions regarding specific details – including whether or not a particular R&D theme in a proposal is in line with the Moonshot Goal – in the interest of proposal selection fairness.

8-2	Are there application guidelines in English?	Please see the following URL where the application guidelines in English are posted. https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/202112/index.html