

Moonshot Research and Development - Q&As

No.	Question	Answer
Chapter 1. An overview of the Moonshot Research and Development Project		
Chapter 2. Management of participant conflicts of interest in selection processes		
Chapter 3. Promoting R&D projects after PMs are adopted		
3-1	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.
3-2	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.
3-3	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.
3-4	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.
3-5	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.
3-6	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), 3.6.3 in the application guidelines, Form 1 and 3.
3-7	Is there any restriction regarding the number of performers in an R&D project?	There is no restriction of the number of performers.
3-8	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 3.8(2) in the application guidelines.
3-9	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 4. Instructions for Applicants		
4-1	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.
4-2	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 4.2 in the application guidelines.
4-3	Is it possible to apply to MS goal 10 if I am already a PM for MS Goal 1-Goal 9 ?	No. However, if it is expected that you will not be the PM for more than one project during the same period, you may apply for the position. Please see details in chapter 4.2 (2) in the application guidelines.
Chapter 5. How to Use the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) for Your Application		
5-1	Is the e-Rad registration necessary for all performers?	The e-Rad registration for all performers is not necessary at the time of application. It is also unnecessary to enter information regarding performers into "2. Input details of project members" on the e-Rad system. For details, please refer to the "e-Rad Operation Manual for the Moonshot R&D Program."
Project Manager Application Guidelines Appendix1		
6-1	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.
6-2	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.
6-3	Can I apply to this call even if my institution is a private company?	Possible.
6-4	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.
6-5	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.
6-6	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.
6-7	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.
6-8	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.

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	Budgets I currently receive will be filled in the form 6. Which of the fields is filled in, (1) The research fund you have applied for, or (2)The research funds currently being received (including those adopted and in the process of being accepted)	Please fill in the field (2)"The research funds currently being received (including those adopted and in the process of being accepted)".
7-3	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.
7-4	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.
7-5	When a PM will also implement R&D as a performer in an R&D project, is it essential to fill in form 6 with the effort ratio as the PM and the performer?	In that case, please fill in form 9 "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 7 should be described on the condition that the applicant is adopted as a PM, and, approved to act as a performer as well.
7-6	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.
7-7	Regarding the item "Plans for the promotion of the R&D project" in the form "Plans for promoting the R&D project and budget plans(Form 4) ", how can I describe the expenditure for PM activities?	As per 7-4 in this FAQ, the expenditure for PM activities (see also the section 1.1.3 and the section 3.6.1 in the application guidelines) should be included in R&D costs. When filling in the item, you can add the amount of the expenditure for PM activities to the R&D cost for each R&D item, or you can also set an R&D item "R&D management" and describe the whole cost for PM activities in it.
7-8	Regarding the item "The research fund you have applied for" in the form "Application status, efforts, and acceptance of other research funds (Form 6) ", should I fill in the column "Direct cost in the fiscal year 2025" with the research funds for 2025FY even if the funds are to be used in 2026FY?	Please fill in expenses for 2025FY. Regarding the fund that will be used in 2026FY, the 2025FY column should show "0 million yen", as well as the whole amount of the research fund written in brackets.

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. We have uploaded explanatory materials and a pre-recorded video in which JST staff explain about the call for proposals and PD explain the R&D concept via the following https://www.jst.go.jp/moonshot/en/application/202503/index.html
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/202503/index.html Also, we have prepared English version of explanatory materials about overview of the Moonshot R&D program and the call for proposals.