

LOTUS 2026 Online Information Session

Agenda & Time Chart (IST)

13:30 – 13:32 | Opening

13:33 – 13:38 | The Significance of LOTUS

13:39 – 13:52 | Key Points of the LOTUS Programme!

13:53 – 14:03 | Presentation

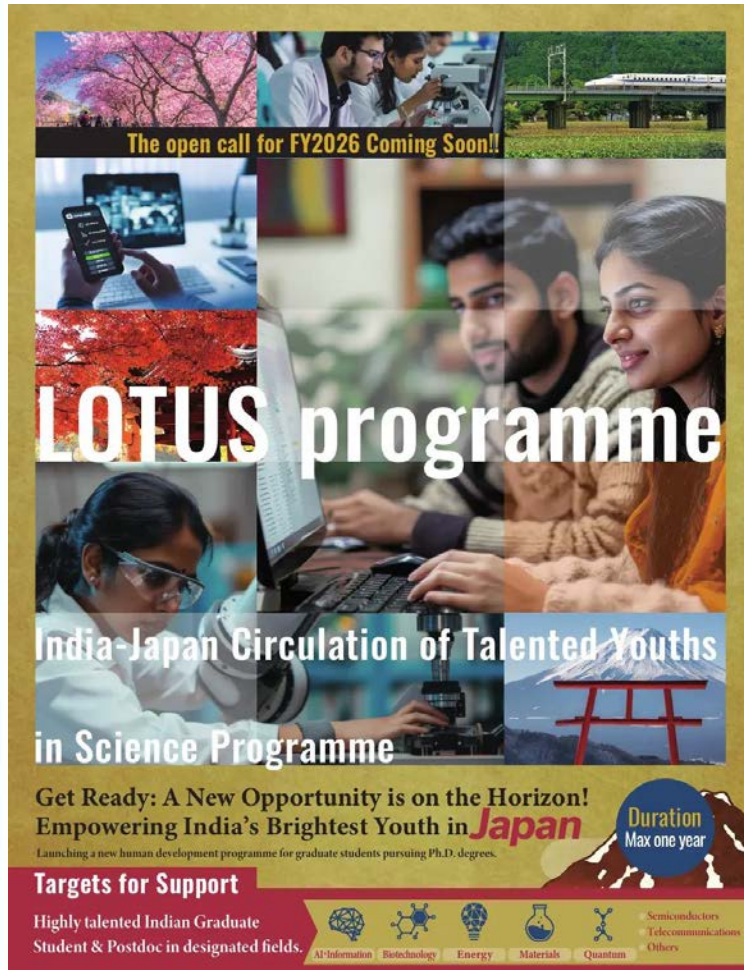
- Overview of LOTUS 2026
- Roles and eligibility
- Application process and schedule

14:04 – 14:05 | Pre-submitted Q&A

14:06 – 14:28 | Live Q&A

- Questions accepted and Answers provided via Q&A toggle only

14:29 – 14:30 | Closing



The poster for the LOTUS programme features a collage of images: cherry blossoms, students in a lab, a modern building, a person using a smartphone, a couple looking at a laptop, a woman in a lab coat, and a traditional Japanese torii gate. The text on the poster includes:

- The open call for FY2026 Coming Soon!!**
- LOTUS programme**
- India-Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science Programme**
- Get Ready: A New Opportunity is on the Horizon! Empowering India's Brightest Youth in Japan**
- Duration: Max one year**
- Targets for Support: Highly talented Indian Graduate Student & Postdoc in designated fields.**
- Fields of support: AI-Information, Biotechnology, Energy, Materials, Quantum, Semiconductors, Telecommunications, Others.



Inquire:
jst-india@jst.go.jp

Notices and Requests

1

Pre-submitted Questions

Questions submitted in advance have been organized by category and will be addressed today.

(Same items as previously communicated by email)

2

Additional Questions

If you have additional questions, please send them to the email address below.

jst-india@jst.go.jp

General questions may be added to the Q&A document at a later date (*personal information will not be included)

3

Questions During the Session

For questions you would like answered today, please post them via the Zoom Q&A feature during the session.

We will answer as many as time allows.

*If we cannot answer within the session, please contact us by email

Q&A Document

Web Page <https://www.jst.go.jp/program/india/en/call/>

PDF https://www.jst.go.jp/program/india/dl/2026/lotus_faq.pdf

Pre-submitted Questions

LOTUS Programme

Japan Science and Technology Agency JP

About Open call for applications Projects Events

JSTHome > LOTUS Programme Home > Open call for applications

Open call for applications

FY2026 Open call

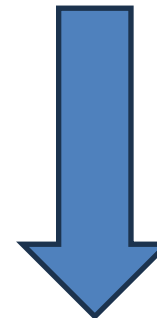
Message from President on the Launch of the Call for Proposals (Japanese only)

2026年度LOTUS Programme公募開始にあたっての理事長メッセージ
JST Channel

Briefing Materials for the Call for Proposals

Application Guidelines

Web Page
<https://www.jst.go.jp/program/india/en/call/>



Listed at the bottom of this page.

Dedicated Proposal Form for New Applications	WORD: 63KB
Dedicated Proposal Form for Transfer Applications *1	WORD: 59KB
Q&A	PDF: 822KB ※4/20 New!!

*1 This form is exclusively for those who wish to apply for a transition from the ongoing FY2025 LOTUS Program to FY2026 LOTUS-ASPIRE or LOTUS Basic.

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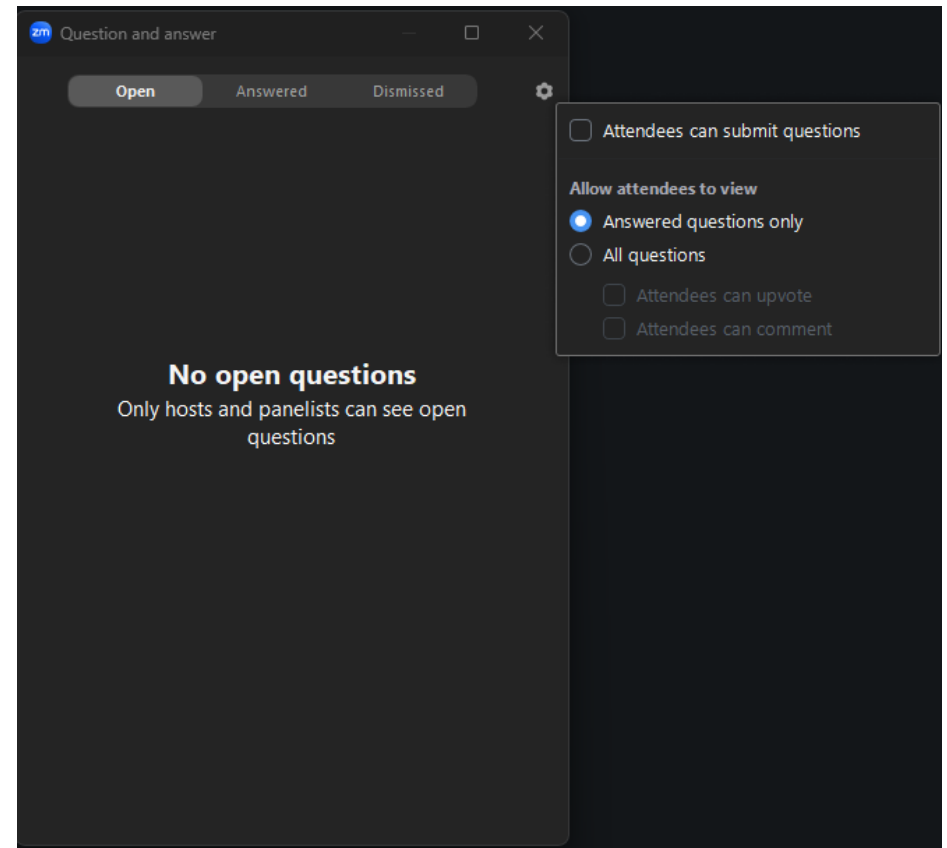
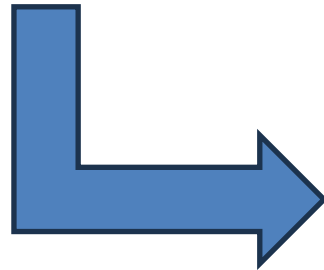
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PDF https://www.jst.go.jp/program/india/dl/2026/lotus_faq.pdf

Questions During the Session



1. Click the [Q&A] button at the bottom of the **Zoom screen**.
2. **[Q&A] window** will pop up. Please write your question here.
3. Staff will post the answer here.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LOTUS

The Significance of LOTUS



Prof. B. S. Murty Director,
Indian Institute of Technology
Hyderabad (IITH)

Image source:
Official website of the Indian Institute of
Technology Hyderabad (Director's page)
<https://iith.ac.in/director/>



PRESENTATION



LOTUS Programme FY2026 Call Overview

- India-Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science Programme
- ASPIRE Exchange Type

Mar, 2026



Japan Science and Technology Agency

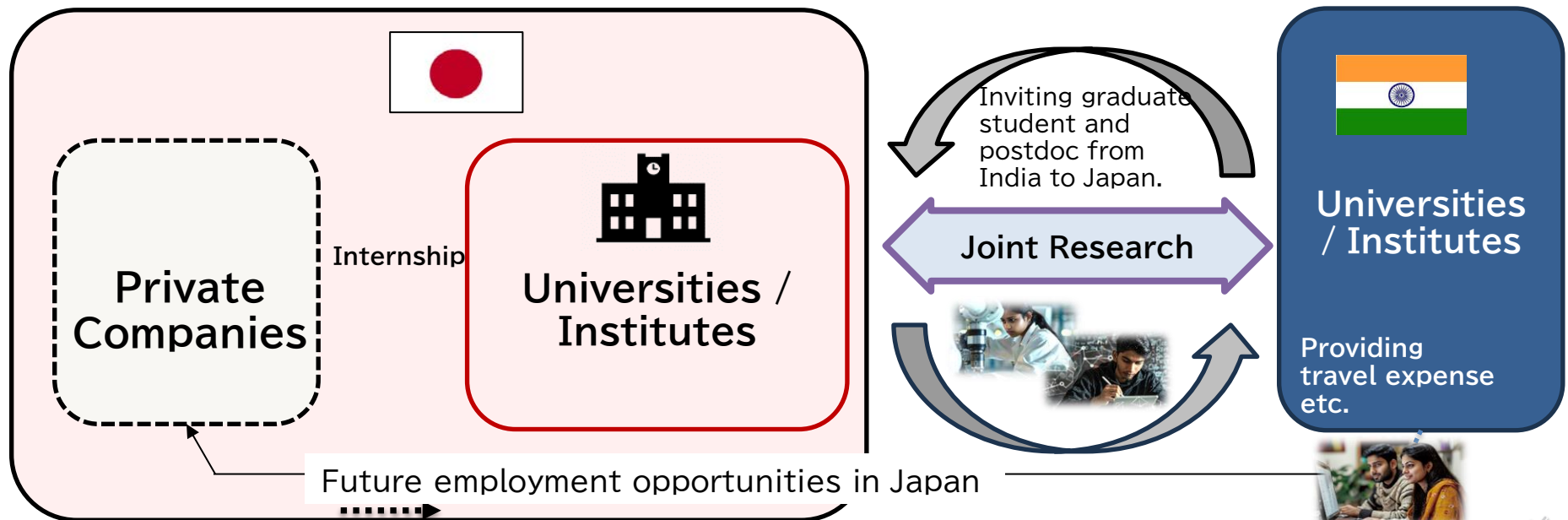
Sakura Science programme Headquarters



Overview of LOTUS Programme

【Purpose】

- To Accelerate Joint Research: by inviting highly talented young researchers from India to Japan.
- To support career development: by creating opportunities in Japan for youth from India.



Key Features

Scale:

Inviting approximately **1,000** Master's/PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from India in 2026

Target Research Fields:

1. AI, Information and **Intelligent Robotics**

2. Biotechnology

*Newly added in FY 2026 call

3. Energy

4. Materials

5. Quantum

6. Semiconductors

7. **Network** and Telecommunications

*Other fields are eligible if relevant to Research Field 1-7.

*Newly added in FY 2026 call



Main points of FY2026 program revisions

1. Additions of a new type

- In the FY2025 supplementary budget, a new “[Exchange Type](#)” called [LOTUS-ASPIRE](#) was added to [ASPIRE](#). It incorporates key ASPIRE features, such as joint research and two-way researcher exchange, and will be implemented in addition to the conventional LOTUS Programme. [The support scheme for the current program, “LOTUS Basic,” will also be revised, including an expansion of eligible uses.](#)

Type	LOTUS Basic	LOTUS-ASPIRE
Key Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The establish for Japan-India joint research through short-term stays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To promote Japan-India research and generate outcomes though the stay.Research funds will be provided.

2. Expansion of the number of selected projects.

- In FY2026, [a total of 1,000 projects are planned to be selected](#) across the 2 types.

3. Schedule

Submission deadline : [9 Jun 2026, 12:00JST](#)
Review and Selection : Jun- Augst, 2026
Final Selection and Press Release : Late August onward
Start of Support : [Oct, 2026](#)



Overview of 2 types

Type	LOTUS Basic	LOTUS-ASPIRE
Invitee	<p>Master's/PhD students and postdoctoral researchers at universities and research institutions in India (40 years or younger)</p> <p>* Nationality is not restricted * Invitee remain affiliated with their home universities.</p>	
Purpose & Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint supervision of young researchers • Foundation building for Japan-India collaborative research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint supervision of young researchers • Creation of Tangible Research Outcomes
Support Period	<p>Up to 12 months</p> <p>* The stay in Japan can be scheduled flexibly within this period.</p>	<p>Up to 36 months</p> <p>* The stay in Japan can be scheduled flexibly within this period.</p>
Financial Support	Living expenses and some expenses for trip etc.	Living expenses and research funds
Applicant to JST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications must be submitted by a PI in Japanese university or research institution in Japan * Nationality is not restricted • Direct applications from institutions, students, or researchers in India are not accepted 	
Key Operational Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible to transition from “Basic” to “ASPIRE”. • Multiple applications for “Basic” are also possible. • Participant replacement under “ASPIRE” shall be permitted upon application and Program Officer approval. • “ASPIRE” requires post-project evaluation of joint research outcomes 	

Financial Support

LOTUS Basic (Support Period: Up to 12 months)

Expenses for the Stay of Invited Participants

₹140,000 (¥240,000) per month

Coverage: Living expenses including accommodation

Support for Joint Supervision

₹290,000 (¥500,000) per year Exchange rate: 1.0 INR = 1.7 JPY

Coverage: Travel expenses within Japan, research materials (consumables, etc.), and accommodation for supervisor from India.

LOTUS-ASPIRE (Support Period: Up to 36 months)

Expenses for the Stay of Invited Participants

₹140,000 (¥240,000) per month

Coverage: Living expenses including accommodation

Support for Joint Supervision

₹880,000 (¥1,500,000) per year Exchange rate: 1.0 INR = 1.7 JPY

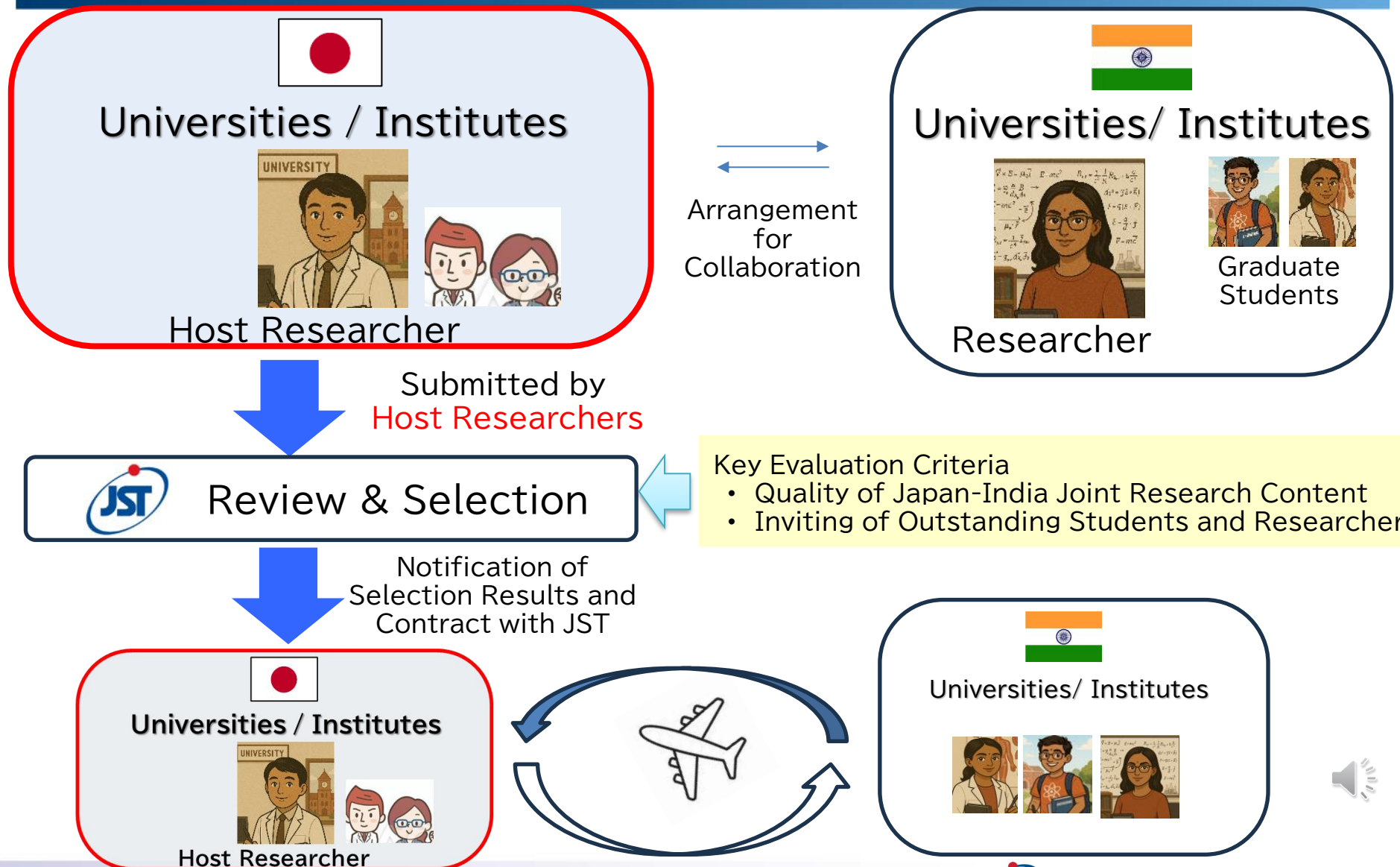
Coverage: Travel expenses within Japan, research materials (consumables, etc.), accommodation for supervisor from India, and travel expenses for researchers and students in Japan.

* Support will be provided through universities and research institutions in Japan. Indirect costs will be provided separately.

Important Note

Based on the principle of equal partnership in Japan-India joint research, **travel expenses from India for invitees are not covered by JST**. We encourage Indian universities to cover these costs.

Application Process



Wrap Up

What is LOTUS?

- India–Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science Programme (implemented by JST)
- Accelerates joint research and supports career development by inviting young Indian researchers to Japan

Key Features (FY2026)

- Approx. 1,000 Master's/PhD students & postdocs to be invited from India
- 7 priority fields: AI/Robotics, Biotech, Energy, Materials, Quantum, Semiconductors, Networks/Telecom

Two Programme Types

- **LOTUS Basic** – Up to 12 months | Living expenses (¥240,000/mo) + supervision support (¥500,000/yr)
- **LOTUS-ASPIRE (New)** – Up to 36 months | Living expenses + research funds (¥1,500,000/yr)
- Transition from Basic to ASPIRE is possible after review

Application Process

- Applications submitted by a PI at a Japanese university/research institution (not directly from India)
- Close coordination between Indian and Japanese partners is essential before submission
- Travel expenses from India are NOT covered by JST – Indian institutions are encouraged to support these costs

Key Dates

- **Submission Deadline:** 9 June 2026, 12:00 JST
- **Review & Selection:** Jun – Aug 2026 | **Results:** Late Aug onward | **Support Starts:** Oct 2026

