RISTEX R&D Programs

FY2025

Call for R&D Proposals

[Application Guidelines]

<General Information>

For details on the following R&D Focus Areas/Programs that are eligible for application, please refer to the separate documents specific to each R&D Focus Area/Program:

- Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA)
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society
- Care-based Social System

Note: This translation is provided as a reference material. If there is any discrepancy between this translated version and the original Japanese version, the original Japanese version prevails.

Application Call Period:

April 9, 2025 (Wed) to June 4, 2025 (Wed) at 12:00 PM (noon, Japan time)

Japan Science and Technology Agency

Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX),
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
April 2025

Overview of the FY2025 Call for R&D Proposals

The main schedule for call for R&D proposals and selection (FY2025) is as follows. The schedule is subject to change in the future, so be sure to confirm the latest information on the specified website.

RISTEX "Call for R&D Proposals" website:

https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/proposal_2025.html

Applications shall be submitted through the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) (refer to "2.7 Application Method"). Please note that applications submitted via paper (postal mail, courier, hand delivery, etc.) and email will not be accepted. As the application deadline approaches, e-Rad may become congested, and depending on your environment for preparing and submitting proposals, you may not be able to complete the submission process. Therefore, please allow yourself ample time to complete the application. Additionally, proposals cannot be withdrawn via e-Rad after the application deadline. Proposals for which the application process has not been completed through e-Rad by the deadline will not be considered for review under any circumstances.

Also, please ensure that the affiliation and position listed in e-Rad are consistent with those stated in the proposal document. Proposals uploaded to e-Rad that contain defects making the review difficult will not be accepted. "Defects making the review difficult" refer to omissions of proposal application forms, character corruption making the document difficult to read, and omissions of essential items in the proposal.

Please note that JST bears no responsibility for any defects in the proposal that occur before the submission deadline, regardless of whether the proposal is accepted or not. Therefore, please be aware in advance that JST will not make any corrections to the proposal or request the proposer to make any corrections before the submission deadline.

■ Selection Schedule

Call begins	April 9, 2025 (Wed)
Briefings on solicitation	April 24, 2025 (Thu) Online Meeting For further details, please refer to the proposal solicitation website listed below. （https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/proposal_2025.html）

Application deadline *1	June 4, 2025 (Wed) at 12:00 PM (noon, Japan time) (No delays accepted)
Document screening period	June–July 2025 (planned)
Notification of document screening results*2	Notice will be provided at least one week prior to the interview screening (planned).
Interview screening (online) *3	• Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA) / August 6, 2025 (Wed) • SOLVE for SDGs: Scenario Creation Phase / August 4, 2025 (Mon) Solution Creation Phase / July 30, 2025 (Wed) • SOLVE for SDGs: Digital Social Trust / August 1, 2025 (Fri) or August 2, 2025 (Sat) • Care-based Social System / August 4, 2025 (Mon) or August 6, 2025 (Wed)
Candidates interview with the Program Supervisor	• Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA) / August 26, 2025 (Tue) • SOLVE for SDGs: Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase / August 19, 2025 (Tue) or August 20, 2025 (Wed) • SOLVE for SDGs: Digital Social Trust / August 20, 2025 (Wed) or August 22, 2025 (Fri) • Care-based Social System / August 29, 2025 (Fri)
Notification and announcement of selection results	Late September 2025 (planned)
Start of R&D	Early October 2025 (planned)

*1 Deadline for submitting applications through the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad).

*2 Candidates eligible for the interview selection process are required to prepare and submit “presentation slides” and “answers to the preliminary questions for the interview selection process” prior to the interview selection meeting. [Only for the Scenario Creation Phase and Solution Creation Phase] In addition to the aforementioned materials, candidates are also required to create and submit a

"presentation video."

*3 The interview selection process is planned to be conducted online via Zoom. We kindly ask for your cooperation in conducting a connection test in advance.

■ Other Considerations

a. Proposers eligible for the interview after document screening will be notified in writing and informed regarding the guidelines for the interview, date and time, and additional documents to be submitted. During the interview, the Proposer (Principal Investigator) will be asked to explain the concept of their R&D project. However, for proposals submitted to the "SOLVE for SDGs: Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase," both the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Collaborator are required to explain the project concept together.
b. The Principal Investigator will be notified of the results of document screening and interview screening regardless of acceptance. In addition to the above, there may be occasions when JST will contact you. Therefore, please ensure that the email address, phone number, and address registered in e-Rad, as well as the contact information listed in the proposal form, are entered correctly.
c. The Principal Investigator must have completed the educational program for research integrity at the time of proposal application. For details, please refer to "2.6 Requirements for Application" and "4.1 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program for Research Integrity."

When submitting your proposal, please thoroughly review the contents of this application guideline. We look forward to receiving your applications.

CONTENTS

Chapter1. Introduction to the Call for R&D Proposals

1.1 Overview of the RISTEX R&D Programs

The Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX) of the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) seeks to create new social and public value through solving specific social problems. By building networks of stakeholders and R&D participants who engage in solving social problems, and promoting research and development (R&D) that makes use of knowledge in natural sciences, humanities, and social sciences (HSS) under a competitive environment, we aim to obtain outcomes that will lead to practical solutions to problems in the actual society and to promote utilization of obtained outcomes in wider society.

In the RISTEX R&D Programs (hereinafter referred to as “the Program”), RISTEX sets up R&D Focus Areas/Programs (hereinafter referred to as “Focus Areas/Programs”) that are considered important for solving social problems, calls for proposals, and promotes the selected R&D projects.

The management of each Focus Area/Program is performed by the Program Supervisor with the cooperation of Program Advisors. Principal Investigators and R&D participants conduct R&D within the institutions with which they are affiliated under the Program Supervisor’s management.

This program corresponds to the Competitive Research Fund System posted on the Cabinet Office website: https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/.

○ **Program Supervisor:**

The Program Supervisor manages the Focus Area/Program as the person responsible for the operation of R&D that contributes to achieving the program’s targets.

○ **Assistant Program Supervisor:**

The Assistant Program Supervisor is delegated by the Program Supervisor to carry out some of the Program Supervisor’s roles.

○ **Program Advisor:**

The Program Advisor provides appropriate advice to the Program Supervisor from an expert perspective.

The Program Supervisor, Assistant Program Supervisor, and Program Advisor monitor the progress of the project through site visits, etc., and provide guidance and advice while respecting the independence and autonomy of the R&D team. They also conduct project selection, approve R&D plans, and carry out post-evaluation. In addition, project activities and results will be made public to promote networking and

incorporate external opinions.

○ **Principal Investigator:**

The Principal Investigator represents the project and has overall responsibility for the project. The Principal Investigator performs suitable management of R&D implementation and appropriately manages the outcomes and overall R&D expenses of the project with the research institution.

○ **Collaborator** [Only for the Scenario Creation Phase and Solution Creation Phase]:

A representative of stakeholders addressing societal challenges. This individual will actively promote the project alongside the Principal Investigator (PI) with leadership.

1.2 For Researchers Considering Applying for or Participating in the Programs

1.2.1 Contribution to the Accomplishment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

JST contributes to the accomplishment of SDGs!

At the “United Nations Sustainable Development Summit” held in September 2015, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was unanimously adopted. This document was an achievement with “SDGs” at its core as a comprehensive and new action target common to the world for humanity, the Earth, and prosperity. The seventeen goals in the SDGs not only indicate various problems related to sustainability that humankind is facing but also demand that these problems be solved comprehensively and inclusively. It is expected that scientific and technological innovation will solve such social problems and that scientific evidence will be provided to contribute to better policy decisions. These roles align with “science in society and science for society,” a new scientific responsibility declared in the “World Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge” (Budapest Declaration*), adopted at the International Council for Science in 1999. As a core organization promoting science and technology policies in Japan, JST advances cutting-edge fundamental research and engages in problem-solving type R&D to meet societal needs. The SDGs encompass the global goals that reflect JST’s mission. Through its programs, JST aims to collaborate with industry, academia, government, and private enterprises, and work together with researchers to achieve a sustainable society.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

* The Budapest Declaration states that “science for knowledge,” “science for peace,” “science for development,” and “science in society and science for society” are the responsibilities, challenges, and obligations of the science in the 21st century.


SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
1 貧困をなくそう
2 飢餓をゼロに
3 すべての人に健康と福祉を
4 質の高い教育をみんなに
5 ジェンダー平等を実現しよう
6 安全な水とトイレを世界中に
7 エネルギーをみんなにそしてクリーンに
8 働きがいも経済成長も
9 産業と技術革新の基盤をつくろう
10 人や国の不平等をなくそう
11 住み続けられるまちづくりを
12 つくる責任つかう責任
13 気候変動に具体的な対策を
14 海の豊かさを守ろう
15 陸の豊かさも守ろう
16 平和と公正をすべての人に
17 パートナーシップで目標を達成しよう

1.2.2 **Promotion of Diversity**

JST Promotes Diversity!

Diversity is an essential requisite for the promotion of scientific and technological innovations. It is possible to open new perspectives in science and technology through collaboration and discussions with various stakeholders with different specialties and values, irrespective of age, gender, and nationality.

By promoting diversity in all aspects of its activities in science and technology, JST addresses future societal challenges, contributes to the strengthening of Japan's industrial competitiveness, and enriches people's spiritual well-being. Our activities in this field align with the "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" agenda of the United Nations, which includes goals relevant to diversity advancement, such as gender equality, contributing not only to domestic problem-solving but also to global challenges.

Currently, the active participation of women is being positioned at the core of Japan's Growth Strategy, recognized as "Japan's greatest potential." Expanding the participation of women researchers in R&D projects is crucial for advancing R&D, as they are an integral part of the diverse workforce supporting scientific and technological innovations. JST eagerly anticipates active applications from women researchers. JST is consistently working to improve its "Childbirth, Child-rearing, and Nursing Care Support System," listening to the voices of its users and creating environments that enables researchers on leave to return to their research.

The call for and review of R&D proposals will also consider the perspective of advancing diversity. Dear researchers, we cordially invite you to submit your R&D proposals.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

We Loog Forward to Your Application!

JST is promoting diversity in research, based on our belief that diversity is for understanding people with different ideas, and for creating new values by combining your ideas with theirs. Thus, diversity has the potential to solve not only domestic problems but also global challenges. Therefore, by promoting diversity in research and collaborating with international institutions, JST is actively addressing global societal issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

JST's promotion of diversity includes women researchers, young researchers, and foreign researchers. To ensure that each researcher can fully exercise their skills, JST provides continual support for childbirth, childcare, and eldercare. We also strive to maintain balanced membership composition in committees and other organizational structures. JST especially welcomes applications from women researchers, who have been underrepresented in previous years, to create environments where diverse researchers can work, cooperate, and compete with each other. Through these efforts, JST aims to create new values.

We sincerely look forward to receiving your active applications, especially from women researchers.

Director of Diversity and Inclusiveness
Director of the Office for Diversity and Inclusiveness
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

1.2.3 **Toward the Promotion of Fair Research**

Toward the Promotion of Fair Research

Recent incidents involving misconduct and dishonesty in research activities have resulted in an alarming situation that threatens the relationship of trust between science and society, and hinders the healthy development of scientific technologies. To prevent misconduct in research activities, there must be a function of autonomous self-purification within the scientific community. Each researcher must strictly adhere to discipline and work to create new knowledge and inventions that are useful for society, based on high moral standards that meet the expectations of society.

As a funding agency for research, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) considers research misconduct to be a grave issue and makes every effort to prevent it in cooperation with relevant organizations, with the goal of regaining public trust.

1. JST believes that honesty in research activities is extremely important for Japan, which seeks to develop itself through science and technology.
2. JST supports honest and responsible research activities.
3. JST strictly condemns any misconduct in research activities.
4. JST will promote education in research ethics and reform its research funding programs in cooperation with relevant organizations, in order to prevent misconduct.

We must develop a healthy scientific culture based on social trust, so as to build a society filled with hopes and dreams for a bright future. We therefore request the continued understanding and cooperation of the research community and related institutions.

President, Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)

Chapter 2. Call for R&D Proposals and Selection

2.1 R&D Focus Areas/Programs Subject to the Call for Proposals

- Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA)
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society
- Care-based Social System

2.2 Application Period and Selection Schedule

The main schedule for selection is as follows.

Applications will be made through the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) (Please refer to “2.7 Application Method”). As the application deadline approaches, heavy demands on the e-Rad system could slow the application process and even cause the application deadline to be missed. Please give yourself enough time to complete the application process. A withdrawal of an application through e-Rad after the deadline cannot be processed. JST will not accept proposals for which the application process has not been completed in e-Rad by the deadline for any reason.

The name and affiliation of the proposer in e-Rad should match that provided in the research proposal. The application of a research proposal uploaded to e-Rad will not be accepted if it contains defects. Defects making the review of the proposal difficult include omission of proposal application forms, serious character corruptions that make it difficult to read, and omissions of important items on the application forms.

Furthermore, JST is not responsible for any defects in a research proposal that may occur before the submission deadline, regardless of whether the proposal was received or not. Therefore, Proposers must understand that JST will not require or request the Proposer to make any revisions to their research proposals before the research proposal submission deadline.

Call begins	April 9, 2025 (Wed)
Briefings of solicitation	April 24, 2025 (Thu) Online Meeting For further details, please refer to the proposal solicitation

	website listed below. （ https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/proposal_2025.html）
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Notification and announcement of selection results	Late September 2025 (planned)
Start of R&D	Early October 2025 (planned)

*1 Deadline for submitting applications through the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System

(e-Rad).

*2 Candidates eligible for the interview selection process are required to prepare and submit “presentation slides” and “answers to the preliminary questions for the interview selection process” prior to the interview selection meeting. [Only for the Scenario Creation Phase and Solution Creation Phase] In addition to the aforementioned materials, candidates are also required to create and submit a “presentation video. ”

*3 The interview selection process is planned to be conducted online via Zoom. We kindly ask for your cooperation in conducting a connection test in advance.

2.3 R&D Period

- Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA): In principle, around 1 to 3.5 years
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase
  - -Scenario Creation phase: In principle, around 2 years
  - -Solution Creation phase: In principle, around 3 years
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society: In principle, around 3.5 years
- Care-based Social System: In principle, around 4.5 years

a. The R&D period will be adjusted based on the proposal content, R&D plan, and the selection policy.

b. [Only for the Scenario Creation Phase and Solution Creation Phase] For the Solution Creation Phase, it is possible to extend the R&D period until the end of the fiscal year in the final year of the R&D period. If the R&D starts in October 2025, the maximum R&D period will be three and a half years until the end of the fiscal year 2028 (March 2029).

2.4 R&D Budget (Direct Costs)

For each project:

- Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA): Maximum of approximately 6 to 12 million yen per year
- Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase
  - -Scenario Creation phase: Maximum of approximately 6 million yen per year

-Solution Creation phase: Maximum of approximately 19 million yen per year

• Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society:

-Problem-solving projects: Maximum of approximately 12 million yen per year

-Problem-identification projects: Maximum of approximately 3 to 7.5 million yen per year

• Care-based Social System: Maximum of approximately 23 million yen per year.

a. The R&D budget will be adjusted based on the proposal content, the R&D plan, and the policy for adoption of proposals.

b. For FY2025, since R&D is scheduled to start in October, please allocate the expenses for the 6-month period until the end of the fiscal year.

c. For details on the use of R&D budget (direct costs) and indirect costs, refer to “3.5 R&D Budget” and “Chapter 5: Q&A on Call for R&D Proposals.”

d. JST will not directly employ Principal Investigators or other R&D personnel.

JST will pay the institution implementing the project for all R&D budget (direct costs) and indirect costs (up to 30% of direct costs) as commissioned research funds, based on the Commissioned Research Contract.

Adjustments in the allocation of research and development funds may be made based on management assessments, such as grasping the project's progress situation, by the Program Supervisor, Assistant Program Supervisor, and Program Advisor. For more details, please refer to “3.5 R&D Budget.”

2.5 Number of Projects to be Selected

• Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA): About 2 projects

• Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase

-Scenario Creation phase: About 2 projects

-Solution Creation phase: About 2 projects

• Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society:

-Problem-solving projects: About 2 projects

-Problem-identification projects: About 1 project

- Care-based Social System: About 3 projects

The number of projects to be adopted will be adjusted according to the content and conditions of the proposals.

2.6 Requirements for Application

Principal Investigators must have completed the educational program for research integrity at the time of proposal application!

Note that if completion of the program cannot be confirmed, the application will be disqualified for failing to meet the requirements. At the time of proposal application, it is acceptable if only the Principal Investigator has completed the program. For details, please read “4.1 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program for Research Integrity” and “Chapter 5. Q&A on Call for R&D Proposals.”

Proposers, who will serve as Principal Investigators, must submit the proposal themselves. The Requirements for proposal application are presented below. Please ensure you understand these requirements before applying.

* In principle, if the determination is made that an application does not meet the requirements by the time of selection, the research proposal will either not be accepted or not be selected.
* If an application is selected, the application requirements must be maintained for the entire duration of the period of R&D project. If the R&D project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the research project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e., be terminated early).

In addition, proposals must be submitted with an understanding of the matters herein as well as “Chapter 4. Key Points in Submitting Proposals.”

2.6.1 Multiple Applications

(1) The call for proposals for the FY2025 RISTEX R&D Programs will target the following R&D Focus Areas/Programs. The Principal Investigator (Proposer) may select one of the Focus Areas/Programs from ① to ⑥ and submit only one proposal.

① Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA)

② Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation

Phase

③ Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Solution Creation Phase

④ Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society-Problem-solving projects

⑤ Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society- Problem-identification projects

⑥ Care-based Social System

(2) Current Principal Investigators (PIs) of the RISTEX R&D Programs cannot submit proposals (except for cases where the ongoing R&D project led by the PI is scheduled to conclude within the fiscal year 2025).

2.6.2 Requirements for Proposers

a. The Proposer must be able to lead the R&D project members and exhibit leadership in implementing the project to realize the concept.

b. The Proposer, who will serve as the Principal Investigator, must belong to a domestic Japanese research institution and be able to organize and implement R&D at that institution.

Individuals meeting the following criteria are also eligible to apply as Proposers:

・Researchers who have foreign citizenship but are affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution.

・Researchers who are not currently affiliated with a research institution, or are affiliated with an overseas research institution, and if selected as Principal Investigator, must be able to organize and conduct the project as a researcher affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution.

・A Japanese national who currently resides overseas and if selected as Principal Investigator, must be able to organize and conduct the project as a researcher affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution.

* Domestic Japanese research institutions refer to universities, national R&D corporations, specified non-profit corporations, public interest corporations, companies, and local governments, etc., that have legal personality in Japan. However, the prescribed conditions must be satisfied. For more details, please refer to “3.9 Responsibilities of Research Institutions”

* This also includes those affiliated with private sector companies and other non-university research institutions.

* Must not be in breach of restrictions of application requirements related to improper accounting practices and misconduct in research.

c. The Proposer must be able to assume responsibility for the entire project as the Principal Investigator throughout the entire period of the project. For details, please refer to “3.8 Responsibilities of Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers.” For example, during the project period, the Principal Investigator must reside in Japan and be able to fulfill their responsibilities for an extended period without interruptions, such as long-term overseas business travel or other reasons.

d. The Proposer must have already completed the educational program for research integrity at their affiliated research institution, or must complete the JST-designated educational program by the application deadline. For details, refer to “4.1 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program for Research Integrity.”

e. The Proposer must make the following four pledges upon application of their proposal:

・Understand and comply with the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on August 26, 2014).

・Understand and comply with the “Guidelines on Management and Audit of Public Research Expenses in Research Institutions (Implementation standards)” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on February 15, 2007; revised on February 1, 2021).

・If the research proposal is accepted, the Principal Investigator and other R&D participants must not engage in misconduct in their research (fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism) or in the inappropriate use of research funds.

・The Proposer must not have engaged in misconduct in the past to achieve the research results mentioned in the submitted research proposal.

* The above verification will be part of the e-Rad Application Information Entry screen.

2.6.3 Requirements for Research Institutions

In principle, only Japanese research institutions can promote R&D in this program (can enter into a Commissioned Research Contract). However, it does not matter if this entity is a private company, one of various organizations, an NPO, a university, or otherwise. Please also refer to “3.10 When a Person Belonging to an Overseas Institution Participates as the Lead Joint Researcher.”

Research Institutions must fully understand that the research funds are public funding, ensure compliance with related laws, and make efforts to implement the research effectively. Any research institutions that cannot fulfill the responsibilities described in “3.9 Responsibilities of Research Institutions” will not be approved to conduct research. Therefore, be sure to obtain prior approval from the Research Institution where you plan to conduct your R&D before your application.

We may investigate and confirm the administrative management structure and financial status of each research institution before project adoption, before entering into the Commissioned Research Contract, and during the agreement period. Institutions deemed to need appropriate execution and management of the consigned research fund may be required to follow the consignment methods designated by JST. This could result in canceling the agreement or taking measures such as reducing the R&D fund, suspending the research, shortening the agreement period, or canceling the agreement even during the agreement period.

If it is not possible to enter into the agreement, the said research institution may be unable to conduct

the R&D. In that case, we may ask the Proposer to review the implementation structure.

It is acceptable if the organization that will conduct the R&D is newly organized for the proposal. However, during the selection process, we will consider whether the organization has the capacity to continue operations for the period necessary to solve social issues, and whether it has an organizational structure that allows it to sustain its activities even after the end of the project.

2.7 Application Method

Applications must be submitted through the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). Please note that applications submitted via paper (postal mail, courier, hand delivery, etc.) or email will not be accepted.

For details, please refer to the separate document “Submission via the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad).”

(1) Registration of research institution and Principal Investigator

An e-Rad log-in ID and password must be issued for the Proposer (Principal Investigator only).

When an e-Rad log-in ID and password are newly issued, the institution the Proposer is affiliated with must carry out the following registrations in advance:

① If unregistered, the institution must first register as a “Research Institution.”

② The Proposer must be registered in “Researcher Information.”

Furthermore, if the Proposer is not affiliated with a specific domestic Japanese research institution at the time of application, the Proposer themselves must register only under item 2 above (however, it is assumed the person plans to be affiliated with a domestic Japanese research institution after adoption).

For details about the registration method, please refer to the e-Rad portal site.

Please complete registration procedures at least two weeks prior to the deadline because the registration process may take several days to complete.

Once registration is complete, the Proposer does not need to register again when submitting applications for programs or projects implemented by other ministries and agencies. In addition, if registration has been completed for programs or projects implemented by other ministries and agencies, the Proposer does not need to register again. Institutions and Proposers who have never submitted a proposal for competitive research funds or received such funds (specified non-profit corporations,

administrative institutions, institutions of private sector companies, and affiliated individuals) should pay particular attention.

(2) Preparation and submission of proposal

The Proposer should personally prepare the proposal document and then apply to this program. Please download the proposal document format from the e-Rad portal site (https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/) or this program's proposal application website (https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/proposal_2025.html) and fill out the proposal form referring to the instructions provided in the description section.

Please ensure the proposal is completed using objective statements wherever possible, and is written in simple and not overly specialized language.

Submit the proposal document via the e-Rad site.

2.8 Selection Method

2.8.1 Selection Process

Selection will be determined comprehensively based on the "Notes on Selection" provided in the separate documents specific to each R&D Focus Area/Program, following a review of the proposal documents and interviews with Proposers who pass the document selection process.

(1) After the document screening, the Proposers selected for interviews will be notified in writing and will also be informed of the interview procedures, schedule, and any additional materials to be submitted. During the interview, the Proposer will be asked to explain the concept of their project in detail.

(2) The results of the document screening and interview screening will be notified to the Proposer (Principal Investigator), regardless of whether the proposal is accepted.

(3) For the selection schedule, please refer to "2.2 Application Period and Selection Schedule." Details and any changes to the plan will be posted on the program's call for R&D proposals website （https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/proposal_2025.html）.

(4) In addition to the above, please ensure that your e-mail address and phone number registered in e-Rad are available for receiving and responding to communications.

2.8.2 Selection System and Management of Conflicts of Interest

A Program Supervisor will make selections with the cooperation of the Assistant Program Supervisor and Program Advisor. Based on the results, JST will select the Principal Investigator and projects to implement. In addition, JST may seek the cooperation of outside reviewers as needed.

The following conflicts of interest will be managed according to JST's regulations, ensuring fair and transparent evaluations and allocation of research funding. In addition, if the individuals involved in the selection process have conflicts of interest with not only the Proposer but also with the Lead Joint Researchers or Group Leaders as indicated below, those individuals may be excluded from participating in the selection process.

(1) Management of conflicts of interest of persons involved in selection

To ensure fair and transparent evaluations, the following persons or parties who have conflicts of interest will be excluded from the selection process. If the Proposer has any concerns about conflicts of interest between the Proposer and persons and parties involved in the selection process, the Proposer should describe this specifically in the application form.

a. Persons who are relatives of the Proposer.
b. Persons affiliated with the same faculty or department of a university or other research institution as the Proposer, or directors of the university, etc., to which the Proposer belongs, or persons deemed to be involved in its administration, and persons acting externally on behalf of such an entity.
c. Persons affiliated with the same company as the Proposer or persons who are affiliated with the parent company of the company to which the Proposer belongs.
d. Persons, who are conducting close collaborative research with the Proposer. (For example, persons recognized as those practically affiliated with a research group with which the Proposer is affiliated, such as those who are conducting a joint research project, have co-authored a paper with the Proposer, researchers pursuing the same research objectives as the Proposer, or researchers in the Proposer's project.)
e. Persons in a close teacher-student relationship or in a direct employer-employee relationship.
f. Persons affiliated with entities that are in academic competition with the Proposer's project or companies that are in market competition.

g. Persons in other relationships judged by JST to represent conflicts of interest with the Proposer.

(2) Management of conflicts of interest of the Principal Investigator

A conflict of interest could arise with the Principal Investigator when the Principal Investigator appoints Researchers from an institution that is related to them and allocates JST research funds to these institutions. Therefore, management of conflicts of interest between the Principal Investigator and their related institution will be conducted, considering the necessity, rationality, and reasonableness of the relationship, to avoid any doubt from third parties.

"An organization that is related to the Principal Investigator" refers to any of the organizations that fall under the following categories. Items "a" and "b" apply not only to the Principal Investigator but also to their spouse and first degree relatives (hereinafter referred to as "the Principal Investigator, etc.").

a. An organization established based on the R&D achievement of the Principal Investigator, etc. (Including cases where the Principal Investigator, etc. is not directly involved in business management but is given a title such as technical consultant, and cases where the Principal Investigator, etc. owns the organization's stock.)
b. An organization in which the Principal Investigator, etc. is a director (including a CTO but excluding a technical consultant).
c. An organization in which the Principal Investigator owns stock.
d. An organization from which the Principal Investigator receives compensation for implementation.

For research proposals in which a researcher from an institution related to the Principal Investigator is assigned as a Lead Joint Researcher, the proposal will be strictly evaluated from the viewpoints of necessity, rationality, and relevance.

Therefore, if a researcher from an institution related to the Principal Investigator is to be a Lead Joint Researcher, it must be specifically described in the application form.

Furthermore, additional materials may be requested separately for the management of conflicts of interest of the Principal Investigator.

(3) Management of conflicts of interest of JST

Adopting a company that JST has invested in (hereinafter "invested company") for this program and allocating research funds may be considered a conflict of interest with JST (organizational conflict of

interest). Therefore, to avoid any doubt from third parties, JST implements the management of conflicts of interest between JST and the invested companies.

Regarding proposals that include JST's invested companies as research institutions, JST will assess the necessity, rationality, and adequacy of including the invested companies.

If an invested company of JST is included as a research institution, this must be specifically declared in the application form.

Furthermore, this management process ensures the fairness and transparency of JST's operations and does not disadvantage the Proposer in the selection process. Proposers are asked to cooperate in JST's management of conflicts of interest.

* Refer to the following website for JST's invested companies. Companies for which investments have been completed are not subject to the management of conflicts of interest and do not need to be declared.

https://www.jst.go.jp/entre/en/result.html

* The declaration base date is the date the call for R&D proposals begins. Please declare companies that have disclosed an investment from JST as of this date. There is no need to declare companies for which an investment has not been disclosed even if an unofficial decision has been made because it remains confidential internally for JST.

Please refer to the following website for JST's disclosure of investments.

https://www.jst.go.jp/entre/news.html

2.9 Other Considerations

* Proposal documents with defects may not be reviewed by JST.

* Whether the R&D budget corresponds to unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration is an element of the selection. For details, please refer to "4.2 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration."

Inquiries and Other Matters

（1）Posting of Application Guidelines and where to submit the proposal

Application Guidelines and latest information	RISTEX website for call for R&D proposals https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/proposal_2025.html
Application Guidelines and submission of proposals	Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) website https://www.e-rad.go.jp/en/

（2）Inquiries

Questions concerning the Call Programs, and procedures for preparation of application documents and submission, etc.	Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX) Please contact us by e-mail. (For general inquiries) boshu@jst.go.jp (For applications to each program) •Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA) boshu-elsi@jst.go.jp •SOLVE for SDGs: Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase boshusolve@jst.go.jp •SOLVE for SDGs: Digital Social Trust boshu-digist@jst.go.jp •Care-based Social System boshu-care@jst.go.jp
Questions concerning the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad) Registration of the research institution or researcher, or how to operate e-Rad, etc.	e-Rad helpdesk Tel: 0570-057-060 (navi dial) (9:00-18:00/Except on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, and the year-end and New Year period)

* JST will not answer any questions regarding the status of the review process or acceptance.

* The e-Rad helpdesk will be extremely busy before the application submission deadline (proposal deadline). Be sure to make inquiries with adequate time before the submission deadline.

Chapter 3. Promotion of R&D after Adoption

3.1 Implementation Plan

a. Once a proposal has been selected, the Principal Investigator must prepare an overall R&D plan covering the entire period of the R&D project, as well as annual R&D plans for each year of the project. R&D plans should include both budgets and the composition of R&D teams. Proposed R&D budgets are examined during the selection process. Actual R&D budgets will be decided after gaining confirmation and approval from the Program Supervisor when formulating the R&D plans.

b. R&D plans (both the overall R&D plan and the annual R&D plans) will be finalized upon approval from the Program Supervisor. Based on advice from the Assistant Program Supervisor and Program Advisor, the Program Supervisor will exchange opinions with the Principal Investigator, monitor the day-to-day progress of the project, perform site visits, provide advice and coordination for the R&D plan, and provide guidance to the Principal Investigator as needed.

c. The Program Supervisor may, in order to achieve the overall aims of each R&D Focus Area/Program, etc., make adjustments between separate projects when determining project plans.

d. The period of the project may be shortened, and the R&D budget may be reduced or canceled at the discretion of the Program Supervisor.

* R&D team compositions and budgets set forth in the R&D plans may be revised during the research project period in response to the overall R&D program budget conditions and management actions taken by the Program Supervisor.

3.2 Implementation Team Composition

a. The Principal Investigator will lead the R&D activities. To realize research initiatives, the Principal Investigator will have individuals engaged in problem resolution participate as project members (ranging from several to around 20 individuals) to construct an appropriate implementation team (group). Project members will include not only individuals from the Principal Investigator’s affiliated institution but also those from other institutions.

b. When constructing implementation teams, it is required to clarify each group’s roles and the content of the R&D to be conducted before the start of the project.

c. JST will enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with the institutions to which the executor of

the budget (Principal Investigator or Lead Joint Researcher) belongs.

d. If necessary as the R&D progresses, new members (or assistants, etc.) may be employed to participate in the project within the scope of the R&D budget.

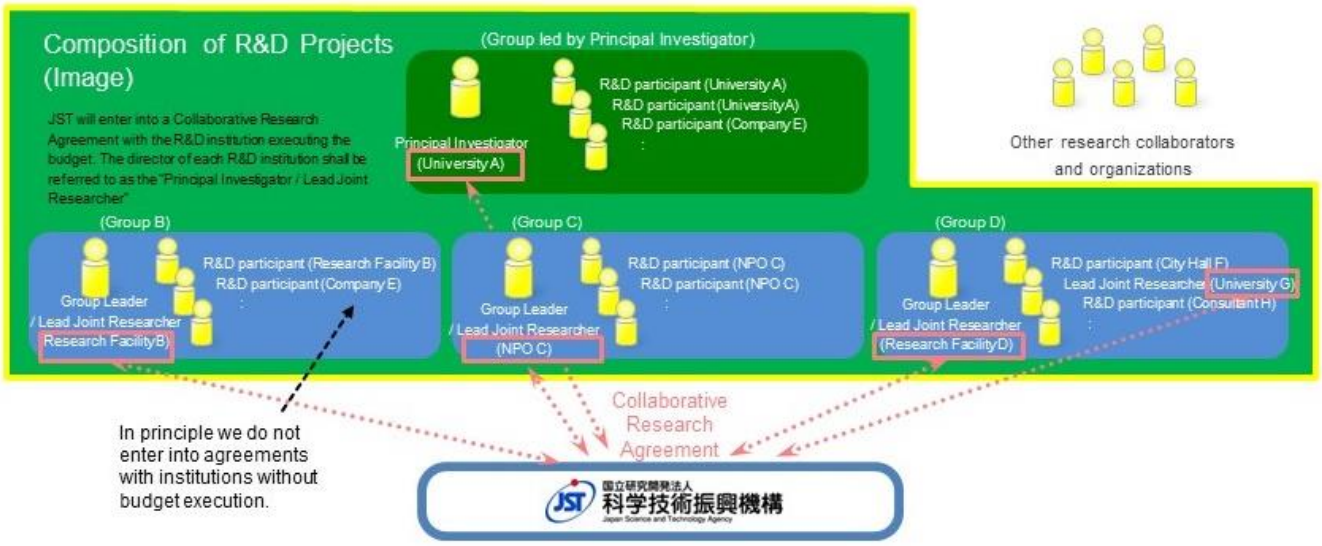


Figure: Composition of R&D Projects

* For institutions such as universities or local governments where project researchers, etc., are affiliated but do not enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with JST, it is required to establish agreements in advance regarding confidentiality, personal information handling, and the attribution of R&D results with the institution to which the Principal Investigator is affiliated.

* [Only for the Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase] A minimal structure for proposals is assumed to include not only a group led by the Principal Investigator but also a group led by a Collaborator.

3.3 Place of Implementation

In principle, the R&D will be conducted at the research institutions with which the R&D participants are affiliated.

3.4 Commissioned Research Contract

a. After the adoption of the R&D project , JST will enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with the research institutions to which the Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researcher are affiliated.

b. If it is not possible to enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with the research institution or

create the management and audit systems required for the use of public funds, or if the institution is conspicuously financially unstable, it may not be possible to pursue R&D at the research institution in question. For more details, please refer to “3.9 Responsibilities of Research Institutions”

c. In principle, patents and other intellectual property rights resulting from research shall, in accordance with the terms of the Commissioned Research Contract, reside with the affiliated research institution, provided that the institution abides by the items stipulated in Article 17 (Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act) of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act.

d. A Collaborative Research Agreement will be signed with foreign research institutions. Intellectual property rights will be shared equally with JST, on the condition that the expenses for application, maintenance, etc., are also shared equally. (If an institution does not agree to this condition, all rights will belong to JST.) Inventions, etc., that could be subject to intellectual property rights need to be reported promptly (within 10 business days) to JST. For details such as other responsibilities, refer to “3.10 When a Person Belonging to an Overseas Institution Participates as the Lead Joint Researcher.”

(Supplement) Differences Between Commissioned Projects and Subsidized Projects

This program is implemented as commissioned projects by concluding Commissioned Research Contracts between JST and the institutions. In “commissioned projects,” the Japanese government (in this case, JST) entrusts projects that should originally be conducted by themselves to third-parties, including universities and private firms, by concluding Commissioned Research Contracts with them, when it is assumed to produce more beneficial results rather than by conducting them themselves. In this situation, the institution consigned to do the project has an obligation to appropriately perform all consigned duties in line with the Commissioned Research Contract and administrative manuals, and this performance will be confirmed by those who consigned the project.

By comparison, “subsidized projects” refer to projects where the government, etc., covers a portion of the expenses incurred by projects performed by universities, private firms, or other third parties, which are recognized to have some benefits to the public at large. In this situation, the party that received the subsidy implements the project independently.

3.5 R&D Budget

As per the Commissioned Research Contract, JST will pay the research institution for the R&D budget

(direct costs) plus indirect costs (up to 30% of direct costs), as commissioned research funds.

3.5.1 R&D Budget (Direct Costs)

The R&D budget (direct costs) directly relates to the implementation of the project and can be used for the following items.

a. Commodities: Cost of purchasing new equipment (*1), consumable supplies, etc.

b. Travel Expenses: Expenses for travel by the Principal Investigator, Collaborator, Lead Joint Researchers and other R&D participants listed on the research plan created after adoption. Expenses covered include all direct costs for travel, as well as all invitations for travel, etc., directly related to pursuing the R&D in question.

c. Personnel Expenses: Salaries (*2) and honoraria for all researchers, technicians, research assistants, etc. (excluding Lead Joint Researchers and Collaborators), directly required to implement the research in question, as well as honoraria for speakers at lectures, etc.

d. Other Expenses: Costs for presenting research results (research paper submission fees, etc.), costs for leasing and transferring equipment, etc. (*2)

Note: The following are examples of items not handled as research costs (direct costs):

・Costs for items not consistent with the research objectives

・Costs that are considered to be more appropriately treated as overhead costs (indirect costs)

・Costs that JST determines are not appropriate when settling commissioned research funds. (*3)

*1 The purchase of new research equipment and apparatuses shall proceed according to “Research Equipment and Apparatus Sharing Systems for Research Organization Units” (hereinafter referred to as “apparatus sharing systems”), which are indicated to be operated in “Introduction of New Research Equipment and Apparatuses Operating Integrally with Research Organization Management” (Advanced Research Fundamentals Working Group, Scholarship Commission, November 2015). Please refer to “4.11 Promotion on Effective Use of Research Facilities and Equipment.”

*2 In principle, at universities and other institutions, JST enables payment for the personnel expenses of the Principal Investigator (hereinafter referred to as “PI”) of projects funded by JST competitive research funding programs and for costs related to others to execute non-research operations on

behalf of the PI (Buyout Expenses) only when specific requirements are met.
For more details, refer to the JST official administrative manuals at the URL below.

“Review to Enable Payment of Expenses for Others to Execute Non-research Operations from Direct Costs (Buyout System Introduction) and Payment of the Personnel Expenses of the Principal Investigator (PI) from Direct Costs (Contact)” (September 17, 2020)
https://www.jst.go.jp/osirase/2020/pdf/20200917.pdf

Please refer to the following URL for the policy on the scope of eligibility, expenditure ceiling, etc., for the RISTEX R&D Programs.
https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/funding/funding_outline/for_researcher.html

*3 JST has established rules and guidelines specific to this program for some items, based on the Commissioned Research Contract, administrative manuals, and the Cross-ministerial Expenses Handling Partitioned Table, etc. Handling may differ between universities, etc. (universities, public research institutions, public interest corporations, etc. approved by JST) and companies, etc. (mainly research institutions other than universities, etc., such as private enterprises). For more details, refer to the JST official administrative manuals at the URL below.

JST Commissioned Research Contract Administrative Manuals
https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/index2.html
Cross-ministerial Expenses Handling Partitioned Table (JST RISTEX R&D Programs)
https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2025/2025_ristex_betten9.pdf

3.5.2 Overhead (Indirect) Costs

Overhead (indirect) costs are expenses required for the management of research institutions engaged in R&D; they are, in principle, capped at 30% of direct costs. According to “Common Guidance for the Execution of Indirect Expenses of the Competitive Fund” (agreed upon by the coordination committees of relevant ministries and agencies on April 20, 2001, and amended on May 31, 2023), a research institution shall create a policy on use, etc. and shall systematically and properly execute the policy to ensure that use of indirect costs is transparent.

3.5.3 Multiple-year Contracts and Carryover

JST allows for multiple-year contracts, as well as for commissioned research funds and procurement contracts to be carried over into subsequent fiscal years. This is aimed at ensuring research expenses are used effectively and efficiently to maximize research results and to prevent unauthorized use. However, different conditions apply for universities and companies regarding carryovers (there may be cases where concluding a multi-year contract and carrying over research expenses are impossible at some institutions due to incompatible administration systems).

3.6 Reports

Written reports are required annually and at the end of the project. However, we may request additional reports as necessary. In addition, please note that the annual report affects the approval of the next fiscal year's plan.

Moreover, depending on the progress of the project, if it becomes difficult to continue R&D or if it becomes possible to execute the business plan earlier than anticipated, making JST support no longer necessary, we may ask you to revise your R&D plan or to change your R&D period (including the discontinuation of R&D) through management by the Program Supervisor, Assistant Program Supervisor, and Program Advisor.

We also place importance on reports and public relations in a form that is widely accessible to diverse stakeholders, in addition to reports for the Program Supervisor, Assistant Program Supervisor, Program Advisor, and the Secretariat. Please consider building a structure to disseminate information in a timely manner using booklets and social networking sites.

3.7 Evaluation

(1) Evaluation of the Program

・Each R&D Focus Area/Program will be evaluated at specific intervals (interim, final).

(2) Evaluation of Projects, etc.

・The Program Supervisor will select proposals with the cooperation of the Assistant Program Supervisor and Program Advisor.

・For all projects, a post-evaluation will be conducted by the Program Supervisor with the cooperation of the Assistant Program Supervisor, Program Advisor, and others when the R&D is completed.

・A follow-up survey will be conducted after a certain period following the completion of the R&D.

3.8 Responsibilities of Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers

(1) The Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers are obliged to conduct their research fairly and efficiently, fully understanding that their research is funded by tax revenues collected from citizens.

(2) After their projects are approved, the Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers must confirm their agreement to fulfill the following duties and submit a written statement of confirmation to JST.

a. Comply with requirements for application guidelines and regulations of affiliated institutions.

b. Understand that JST R&D budgets are funded by tax revenues. For this reason, they must avoid research misconduct (fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism), and improper use of R&D funds.

c. Inform all implementers and other individuals participating in the R&D project of the JST designated educational program for research integrity, and ensure they enroll in and complete the program. For details, refer to “4.1 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program for Research Integrity.”

Note that failure to complete the educational program for research integrity in c. will result in the suspension of the R&D budget until it has been completed, and confirmed by JST.

(3) The Principal Investigator and other R&D participants must complete the JST designated educational program for research integrity.

(4) Project promotion and management

The Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers will be responsible for the overall management necessary for the advancement of the project and its outcomes. After clarifying the roles and responsibilities within the project, these individuals will play a leading role in steadily promoting the project and coordinating unified results. This involves submitting necessary plans and reports, etc., to JST (including the Program Supervisor), conducting project strategy meetings or site visits to confirm the strategy and progress of the project, and responding to evaluations, etc. Additionally, the Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers will need to provide progress reports on the R&D as requested by the Program Supervisor.

(5) R&D budget management

The Principal Investigator is responsible for managing R&D costs for the entirety of the project (spending plans and progress, etc.) together with the research institution implementing the project. In the same manner, the Lead Joint Researchers are also responsible for managing the R&D budget for

their groups along with the institution implementing the project.

(6) Considerations regarding R&D participants hired as part of the project

Please ensure that necessary consideration is given to the working conditions of project participants, especially those employed using the R&D budget, including the R&D environment, working environment, and terms of employment.

(7) Participation in R&D Focus Areas/Programs activities

Active involvement in JST-organized R&D Focus Areas/Programs activities designed to meet the goals of the R&D Focus Areas/Programs (events including general meetings and symposiums) and cross-project initiatives is required.

(8) Outreach activities for R&D results

Given that R&D activities are funded by the government, active disclosure of R&D results is expected both within Japan and overseas, taking into account the acquisition of intellectual property rights. If the results obtained are to be published in newspapers or magazines, or in a thesis, etc., details about the implementation of the project, as well as a statement stating that they are the results of the RISTEX R&D Programs, must be provided. Participation in and presentations of results at workshops and symposiums hosted or backed by JST in Japan and around the world is also required.

Participation in RISTEX's "Human Network for Collaboration Between Researchers and Collaborators to Solve Social Problems" is required, along with cooperation relating to disseminating and sharing information, as well as planning and holding workshops and symposiums, etc.

(9) All matters related to the project must be conducted in accordance with the contract between JST and the research institution, along with JST's rules and regulations.

(10) Cooperation with project evaluations, JST accounting audits, and national audits is also required.

(11) Information must be provided, and interviews conducted that allow for the assessment of R&D Focus Areas/Programs (both interim and post-evaluation) and follow-up investigations conducted after a certain period of time has elapsed since the completion of the project.

3.9 Responsibilities of Research Institutions

Research institutions must fully recognize that commissioned research funds are paid using public money. They must ensure compliance with related laws and make efforts to implement R&D effectively. Research institutions that cannot perform their responsibilities, as described below, will not be permitted to conduct R&D. Researchers are therefore requested to obtain consent from all research institutions

where their R&D is going to be implemented before applying.

a. Research institutions are obliged to enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with content provided by JST. They are also required to properly implement their R&D in accordance with the Commissioned Research Contract, administrative manuals, and the R&D plan. The research institution shall not be permitted to perform R&D if it cannot enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with JST, or it is determined that it cannot suitably perform the R&D in question.

   * A model of the Commissioned Research Contract can be found at the following URL:

   https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/index2.html

b. Research institutions are responsible for creating a framework to manage and audit public research funds. They are also obligated to properly execute their commissioned research funds in accordance with the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)” (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on February 15, 2007; revised on February 1, 2021). In addition to reporting the status of their management and audit system for public research budgets to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), research institutions are also obliged to cooperate with any investigations into the implementation of their system. (For details, see: 4.27 (1) Implementation of Management and Audit Systems Based on the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)”.

   https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904_21.htm

c. In accordance with the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research” (adopted by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology on August 26, 2014), research institutions are responsible for implementing regulations and systems required to prevent misconduct. Research institutions are also responsible for cooperating with any investigations relating to these systems based on these guidelines. (For details, see: 6.28 (1) Consideration on “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”)

   https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm

d. Research institutions are responsible for ensuring that those participating in R&D are aware of the content of the guidelines described in b. and c. above and are provided with training based upon educational materials related to research integrity provided by JST.

e. Research institutions shall manage spending/management of R&D budgets properly in accordance with the regulations of the research institution while still maintaining reasonable flexibility. Institutions must also follow any special expenditure rules for the project defined in administrative manuals, etc., provided by JST. (Research institutions receiving Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research may deal with commissioned research funds for which there are no definitions in the administrative manuals, based upon the Grants-in-Aid guidelines for the institution in question.)

f. Research institutions must enter into contracts with researchers who will be implementing R&D and will be inventors of intellectual property relating to the R&D. This is to ensure the properties are transferred from these researchers to the institutions. In particular, appropriate action must be taken when an individual who is not subject to the Research institution's regulations regarding inventions (such as a student who is not an employee of the institution) participates in the R&D. This could include entering into a contract with the student in advance to ensure that intellectual property rights pertaining to inventions (including their conception) produced by the student during the R&D belong to the research institution (except in cases where it is clear that the student cannot become the inventor). Conditions of compensation for the transfer of intellectual property rights should not be unfavorable to the student who made the invention.

In principle, the prior approval of JST is required to transfer or provide exclusive licenses to use intellectual property to other persons or parties, etc. A prior report to JST is also needed when applying for, registering, implementing, or renouncing property rights.

JST must be notified of intellectual property produced by research institutions through the contract for R&D with JST. Any required reports and applications must also be made, as per Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act. This applies even after the contracted R&D period ends. Research institutions are required to establish an appropriate management and reporting system.

g. Research institutions are responsible for cooperating with accounting investigations performed by JST and with government accounting audits.

h. Research institutions are obliged to obey measures pertaining to changes to methods of payment of commissioned research funds as well as decreases in R&D budgets decided by JST, based on JST's investigations of their administrative management systems, financial conditions, etc.

In addition, if project evaluations performed at the end of the JST's mid- to long-term target period requires that JST be dissolved or reduced in size, or if changes to the government's budgetary

measures are made, as per the special terms in the Commissioned Research Contract, the contract may be canceled, or reductions in commissioned research funds may be made. Based on the results of the mid-term evaluations of the project, measures such as increases or decreases in consigned research fund payments, changes to the contract period, cancellation of research, etc., may be made. If JST judges that the continuation of research is not appropriate, JST may take measures such as canceling the contract, regardless of any remaining time left in the contract itself. Research institutions are required to follow these measures.

I. If the research entering into the Commissioned Research Contract is a national or municipal organization, the institution itself is responsible for ensuring that necessary budgetary measures are put in place prior to the start of the Commissioned Research Contract period. (If it becomes clear that these required procedures were not performed after the agreement is entered into, the Commissioned Research Contract may be canceled, with any commissioned research funds to be repaid.)

j. As part of its efforts to prevent misconduct in R&D activities, JST requires researchers who will take part in newly approved research projects and are affiliated with their research institution to complete one of the programs or educational materials listed below:

- “eAPRIN” provided by the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity
- “eL CoRE” provided by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- “For the Sound Development of Science -The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist-” by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- “Responsible Research Practices to Learn from Cases – A Casebook to Instill Awareness and Learning” by Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- “A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity” by Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- Other research ethics education programs and training deemed equivalent to the above by your affiliated research institution.

(If the research institution deems it equivalent, the video material “Gaps in Ethics” provided by JST is also acceptable.)

If it is difficult for researchers to enroll in an educational program for research integrity at their affiliated organization, for example, if the organization does not provide an educational program for research integrity, they can receive the eAPRIN program (e-learning materials operated by the

Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity [APRIN]) via JST.

If these individuals fail to complete the program as stipulated despite repeated reminders by JST, JST instructs the research institution to halt, partially or entirely, the payment of commissioned research funds. The institution is to stop all use of the R&D budget and must not recommence using it until further notice from JST is given.

k. Necessary measures are to be put in place regarding intellectual property, confidentiality, etc., such as joint research agreements, with research institutions participating in the project, to the extent that these do not infringe on the Commissioned Research Contract with JST. This is to prevent impediments to the appropriate implementation of R&D and the utilization of R&D results.

l. As commissioned research funds are government resources, proper processes should be put in place to ensure they are used economically, efficiently, effectively, legitimately, and accurately, in a way that allows for accountability regarding this usage. Funds should be used in a planned manner. Procurement for the purpose of using any remaining budget at the end of the R&D period or at the end of the fiscal year is to be avoided.

3.10 When a Person Belonging to an Overseas Institution Participates as the Lead Joint Researcher

Individuals belonging to overseas research institutions can participate in the project while being based at the overseas institution (however, the Principal Investigator is required to belong to a domestic research institution. Please refer to “2.6 Requirements for Application” for more details). Research institutions that cannot perform their required responsibilities are not permitted to conduct R&D. Therefore, researchers must obtain prior consent from all research institutions where their R&D will be conducted before applying.

a. If the individual is considered crucial for the Principal Investigator’s research initiative and it is deemed difficult (or impossible) to implement the project without the participation of the overseas institution, they can participate.

b. Research institutions are obliged to enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement using the form provided by JST. (Terms may be adjusted if there are reasonable grounds based on the research content.) Indirect costs will be a maximum of 30% of direct costs. They are also obliged to properly implement their R&D, in accordance with the Collaborative Research Agreement and R&D plan. The research institution shall not be permitted to perform research if it cannot enter into a Collaborative Research Agreement with JST, or it is determined that it cannot suitably perform the R&D in question.

c. In cases where the Collaborative Research Agreement or JST specifies separate guidelines, etc., the research institution will be responsible for managing the expenditure of research expenses in an appropriate manner based on these guidelines. The institution is also required to prepare and submit a detailed statement of expenses (equivalent to an income and expenditure book for domestic institutions) in English that provides details of research expenses. The research institution must, even during the period of the agreement, cooperate with all investigations into expenses, etc., by JST, as requested.

d. For other details on conditions, see the latest Collaborative Research Agreement form.

* Due to Security Export Controls, JST may not enter into Collaborative Research Agreements with institutions published on the "Foreign User List[1]" by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI).

3.11 Other Considerations

3.11.1 Systems for Childbirth, Childcare, Caregiving

As part of its efforts to promote equal participation of men and women, JST has implemented support systems for childbirth, childcare, and caregiving. This system provides a "Gender Equality Promotion Fund" (amount obtained by multiplying standard sum of 300,000 yen by the number of months of support) for R&D projects, etc., with the aim of enabling full-time researchers who are employed through projects being funded by JST (excluding indirect costs) to continue their research in the midst of life events (childbirth, childcare, caregiving), or to continue their careers after returning from a temporary suspension.

Please see the following website for details:

https://www.jst.go.jp/diversity/about/research/child-care.html

3.11.2 Using the JREC-IN Portal

The JREC-IN Portal [https://jrecin.jst.go.jp/] is the largest website for recruiting researchers in Japan. This service provides information on human resources, including researchers, supporting staff, as well as engineers involved in research. The database is completely free to browse.

It currently holds more than 20,000 job listings from universities, public research organizations, and private business firms, and has more than 140,000 registered users. In addition, you can simplify the

[1] METI has issued the "Foreign User List" with the aim of strengthening the effectiveness of catch-all controls on goods related to weapons of mass destruction. The list provides information on foreign organizations that pose unmitigated concerns that they may be developing or otherwise handling weapons of mass destruction, etc.
https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law05.html#user-list

management of the application documents by using the Web application function of the JREC-IN Portal. At the same time, this also reduces the burden on job applicants. We hope you'll make use of the JREC-IN Portal to search for human resources (postdoctoral researchers, researchers, etc.) with high levels of knowledge when recruiting for R&D projects.

The JREC-IN Portal is linked with researchmap, which enables you to easily create resumes and achievement lists using the information registered in researchmap.

Chapter 4. Key Points in Submitting Proposals

4.1 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program for Research Integrity

The Principal Investigator must complete the educational program for research integrity as an application requirement. Note that if completion of the program cannot be confirmed, the application will be disqualified due to non-compliance with the requirements. (Enrollment in and completion of the educational program for research integrity by the time of application is not a prerequisite for those other than the Principal Investigator.)

To enroll in the educational program for research integrity and to submit a declaration of completion of the program, follow either procedure (1) or (2) below. For application instructions using e-Rad, refer to the separate document “Submission via the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad).”

(1) For Proposers who have completed an equivalent program at their institution:
Proposers who have already completed an e-learning program or educational seminar on various aspects of research integrity at their institution by the time of their application are requested to declare it on the e-Rad application information input screen.

(2) For Proposers who have not completed an equivalent program at their institution (including Proposers at institutions that do not have such a program):

a. Proposers who have in the past completed eAPRIN e-learning program in a JST program:
Proposers who have in the past completed eAPRIN e-learning program in a JST program by the time of their application are requested to declare it on the e-Rad application information input screen.

b. For other Proposers for whom a. above does not apply:
Proposers who find it difficult to enroll in the educational program for research integrity because their institution does not offer such a program or for other reasons may enroll in and take a digest version of eAPRIN e-learning program offered through JST. Please apply from the URL below.

https://edu2.aprin.or.jp/ard/

No cost is needed for completing the program, which will take one to two hours to complete. After enrolling and completing the digest version promptly, Proposers are expected to select/Input completion in the e-Rad application information input screen.

■Contact for consultation on the educational program for research integrity:
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), Department of Legal Affairs and Compliance, Research Integrity Division
E-mail： rcr-kousyu@jst.go.jp

■Contact for consultation on the call for R&D proposals:
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST),

Research Institute of Science and Technology for Society (RISTEX)

E-mail：

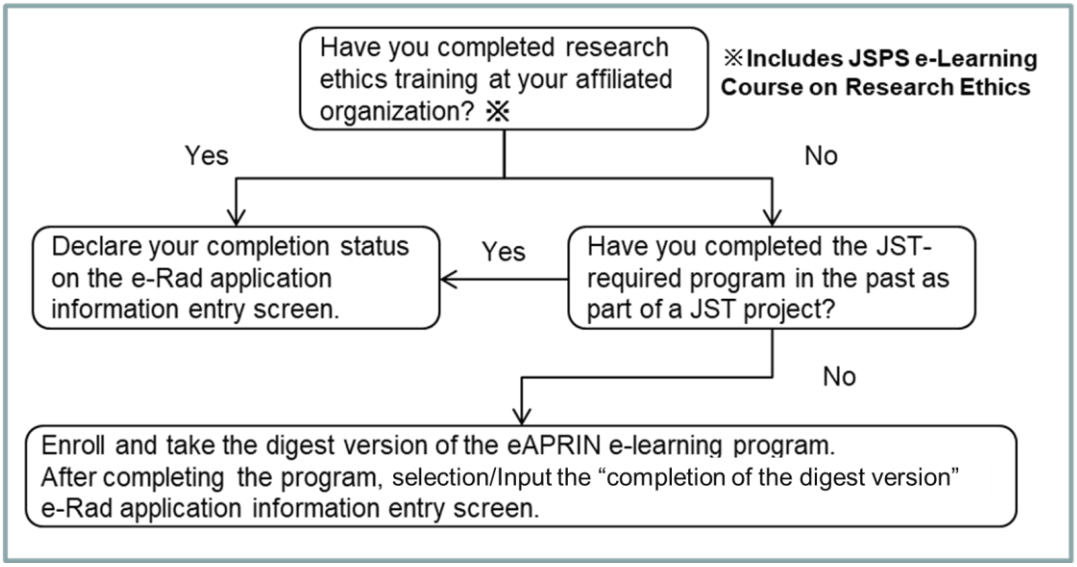
(For applications to each R&D Focus Area/Program)

Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA) : boshu-elsi@jst.go.jp
SOLVE for SDGs　Scenario Creation, Solution Creation : boshusolve@jst.go.jp
SOLVE for SDGs　Digital Social Trust : boshu-digist@jst.go.jp
Care-based Social System : boshu-care@jst.go.jp

(For general inquiries) boshu@jst.go.jp

* Include the program name, e-Rad's proposal ID, Proposer and project name in the body of the email.

<Flow Chart for Reporting Completion of Education Programs for Research Integrity>



JST requires researchers participating in this program to complete either one of the programs or educational materials listed below:

- "eAPRIN" provided by the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity
- "eL CoRE" provided by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- "For the Sound Development of Science -The Attitude of a Conscientious Scientist-" by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
- "Responsible Research Practices to Learn from Cases – A Casebook to Instill Awareness and Learning" by Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development
- "A Compendium of Near-Miss Incidents Related to Research Integrity" by Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development

・Other research ethics education programs and training deemed equivalent to the above by your affiliated research institution.

(If the research institution deems it equivalent, the video material “Gaps in Ethics” provided by JST is also acceptable.)

If it is difficult for researchers to enroll in an education program for research integrity at their affiliated organization, for example, if the organization does not provide an education program for research integrity, they can receive the eAPRIN program (e-learning materials operated by the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity [APRIN]) via JST.

The same measures will be implemented in this fiscal year. Therefore, if accepted, all researchers participating in R&D (including Lead Joint Researchers) are, in principle, required to complete the research ethics education programs or educational materials designated by JST shown above (except when the researchers have already completed the research ethics education programs or educational materials designated by JST shown above at their affiliated institutions, in JST’s projects, or others).

4.2 Measures against Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration

○**Measures against “Unreasonable Duplication”**

If a given R&D project by a given researcher (i.e. the name and content of the R&D project are the same, and the R&D project is receiving competitive research funding) is unnecessarily receiving multiple competitive or other research funds (all current research funds for individual research subjects, such as subsidies, grants, joint research funds, contract research funds, etc., including those from overseas (*)), and any of the following applies, the R&D projects may be rejected, canceled or reduced (hereinafter referred to as “rejection of R&D projects”) depending on the degree in this program.

・Cases where simultaneous applications have been made to more than one competitive or other research fund for substantially the same R&D project (including cases where the contents overlap to a considerable degree; the same shall apply hereinafter), and where these research projects are redundantly adopted.

・Cases where an application has been made again for substantively the same R&D project as another one that has already been adopted, and for which the allotment of competitive or other research funds has already been completed.

・Cases where there is overlap in the use of research funds among more than one R&D project.

・Other cases equivalent to the above.

At the application stage for this program, there are no limitations regarding the submission of proposals to other competitive or other research funds. If an R&D project is selected by another competitive or other research fund, report this promptly to JST. If reporting is omitted, the approval decision for the R&D project may be revoked.

* Excludes basic expenses or internal funds that are allocated within the institution, commercial activities stipulated by the Commercial Code, and financing through direct or indirect financing.

○**Measures against "Excessive Concentration"**

Even if the content of the research proposed for this program differs from the content of another research being carried out under another competitive or other research fund, in the case that the overall research funding allocated to the same researcher or research group (hereinafter referred to as "researchers") in relevant fiscal year exceeds an amount that can be utilized effectively and efficiently and can be used within the research period, in this program, the R&D projects may be rejected in accordance with the degree of the following cases:

- Cases where, in light of the abilities of the researchers and the research methods, excessive research funds are allocated.
- Cases where, in comparison with the effort (the allocation rate (%) of the time necessary to carry out the said research activities with respect to the entire working time of the researcher) allocated to the R&D project in question, excessive research funds are allocated.
- Cases where the purchase of unnecessarily expensive equipment is carried out.
- Other cases equivalent to the above.

For this reason, after submitting your application to this program, if you submit proposals to other competitive or other research funds, and the R&D project is selected by them, or if any information provided in your application changes, please report this promptly to JST. If reporting is omitted, the approval decision for the R&D project may be revoked.

* The total work time of a researcher includes not only the time spent on research activities but also on teaching activities, administrative assignments, and other activities substantially equivalent to work.

○**How to Eliminate Unreasonable Duplication and Excessive Concentration**

To eliminate unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration of competitive research funds, ensure transparency in research activities, and ensure appropriate effort allocation, Proposers shall provide the following information at the time of application.

(i) Information on the current application/acceptance status of other competitive or other research funds including those of other ministries, and information on all current affiliated institutions/positions.

At the time of application, regarding the Principal Investigator/Lead Joint Researchers, the current application/acceptance status of other competitive or other research funds including those of other ministries (program name, R&D subject, implementation period, budget amount, effort, etc.) (Hereinafter referred to as “information on research funds”) and information on all current affiliated institutions/positions (including side jobs, participation in foreign recruitment programs, honorary professors without employment contracts, etc.) (hereinafter referred to as “information about affiliated institutions/positions”) are required to be provided in the application documents and the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (hereinafter referred to as “e-Rad”). If the application documents or e-Rad contain false statements, the R&D project may be rejected.

Of the information on research funds, information on joint research for which confidentiality agreements have been signed will be handled as follows, considering individual circumstances so that activities such as industry-academia collaboration will not be hindered:

- Only the information necessary to confirm whether the submitted R&D project does not result in unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration of research funds and can appropriately secure the effort related to the execution of the R&D project (in principle, information of the joint research such as only the name of the partner institution, the amount of research funds accepted, and information related to effort) will be requested.
- However, if it is difficult to submit the information such as the name of the partner institution and the amount of research funds accepted due to unavoidable restrictions such as a confidentiality agreement that has already been concluded, it is possible to submit without this information. Even in that case, JST may make inquiries to the institution to which you belong if necessary.
- In addition to the affiliated institution, information may be shared between funding institutions and related government ministries and agencies, but even in that case, it will be shared only with those who have a duty of confidentiality.

When concluding confidentiality agreements, etc. in the future, please consider that you may need to

submit only the necessary information when applying for competitive research funds. However, if both contracting parties agree on the scope of information to be kept confidential and its legitimate reason (such as when it is considered to be extremely important in corporate strategy and highly confidential), it is possible to make a contract that does not assume the confidential information will be submitted.

(ii) Other information necessary to ensure transparency in all research activities in which one is involved.

To ensure transparency in all research activities in which you are involved, JST requests a pledge that you are properly reporting the necessary information on research funds, affiliated institutions and positions, and support for facilities and equipment other than donations and funds (*) to the institution to which you belong based on the relevant regulations. If it is found that an appropriate report has not been made in violation of the pledge, the R&D project may be rejected.

Information on the acceptance status of facilities/equipment, etc. that are not used for the R&D project of the application but are used for other research activities does not relate to unreasonable duplication or excessive concentration. However, from the viewpoint of confirming whether an R&D project can be sufficiently carried out, in addition to the pledge, JST may ask the affiliated institution to submit the status of grasping and managing the information.

* Includes cases where articles such as research facilities, machines, and equipment are supplied, and services are provided even at no charge.

○**Provision of Information on Proposal Contents to Eliminate Unreasonable Duplications and Excessive Concentration**

In order to eliminate unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration, to the extent necessary, the information of some proposals (or selected projects/programs) may in some cases be provided through e-Rad to other departments in charge of competitive research funds, etc. including those of other government ministries.

4.3 Ensuring Research Integrity and Research Security against New Risks Associated with Internationalization and Openness of Research Activities

In order to promote the creation of science, technology and innovation in Japan, it is necessary to continue to strongly promote international joint research with various partners, with open science as the main principle. At the same time, in recent years, it is pointed out that there are new risks associated with

the internationalization and openness of research activities which may impair the values that form the basis of the research environment, such as openness and transparency, and there are dangers that researchers unintentionally fall into conflicts of interest and responsibilities. Under these circumstances, building an internationally reliable research environment as Japan is indispensable for promoting necessary international cooperation and exchanges while preserving the values that form the basis of the research environment.

Therefore, in accordance with “the policy for ensuring research integrity against new risks associated with the internationalization and openness of research activities” (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on April 27, 2021), it is essential to establish rules and management systems related to conflicts of interest and responsibilities, and autonomously ensure the soundness and fairness (research integrity) of research at researchers, universities, research institutes, etc.

From this point of view, we are confirming whether we can appropriately secure efforts while eliminating unreasonable duplication and excessive concentration of competitive research funds and ensuring transparency in research activities. We may make inquiries to the institution to which you belong, as necessary, regarding the status of maintenance of regulations and the status of grasping and managing information.

Additionally, in the “Specific Directions for Efforts in the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology’s Policies for Ensuring Research Security at Universities and Other Institutions” (Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), December 18, 2024), it is emphasized that research security is necessary not only to meet the demands of Japan’s economic security but also to protect an open research environment based on common values such as academic freedom, independence, openness, reciprocity, and transparency, and to promote international collaboration among universities and other institutions. For more details, please refer to the MEXT’s website.

Specific Directions for Efforts in the MEXT’s Policies for Ensuring Research Security at Universities and Other Institutions

https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20241218-mxt_kagkoku-000039402_1-1rrr.pdf

4.4 Security Export Control (Measures against Leakage of Technology Internationally)

Many advanced technologies are studied at research institutions. Particularly at universities, there is a heightened risk of leakage of advanced technologies and research-related materials/equipment or

misuse in development/manufacture of weapons of mass destruction owing to the increased number of international students and foreign researchers due to internationalization. For this reason, an organizational response by the research institution is required when a research institution conducts research activities, including RISTEX R&D Programs, so that research results with potential military applications are not passed to groups or individuals considering activities of concern, such as terrorist groups and developers of weapons of mass destruction.

In Japan, export controls (*1) are imposed based on the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act (Act No. 228 of 1949). Accordingly, when attempting to export (provide) goods or technologies controlled under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, in principle, a license from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) is necessary. All those participating in this program must comply with the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act and all other laws, ordinances, guidelines, notifications, etc. of the national government. In addition to legal action and penalties, distribution of research funds may be stopped and the decision to allocate research funds may be cancelled if research is conducted in violation of the relevant laws, ordinances, guidelines, etc.

*1 Currently, based on international agreements, etc., Japan enforces two types of security export control: (1) a system that generally requires approval from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry for the export (provision) of goods (technology) that exceeds certain specifications and functionalities, such as carbon fiber and numerically controlled machine tools (List Control); (2) a system that requires approval from the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry for the export (provision) of goods (technology) that do not fall under the List Control and meet certain requirements (application requirements, consumer requirements, or informed condition) (Catch-All Control).

Not only the export of cargo but also the provision of technology is subject to the regulation of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. When providing list regulation technology to non-residents (including residents who fall under a specific type (*2)), or when providing it in a foreign country, permission is required prior to the provision. Provision of technology includes not only providing technical information, such as design drawings, specifications, manuals, samples and prototypes in storage media, such as paper, e-mail, CD, DVD, or USB memory, but also providing work knowledge through technical guidance, training or technical assistance in seminars.

In addition, activities such as hosting foreign students and engaging in collaborative research may involve significant technology exchanges that fall under the regulatory scope of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. Please be aware that the export (provision) of technology obtained through this program, or the transfer of technology already owned for use in this program, may also be subject to controls.

Additionally, please note that students receiving funding from foreign governments for study abroad may be subject to export control regulations under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act as residents falling under specific categories. Therefore, it is necessary for receiving institutions to properly understand the scholarship status of international students.

*2 Refers to the types of residents who are strongly influenced by non-residents, which are specified in 1.(3)サ①～③ of “transactions or acts providing technology that requires permission based on the regulations of Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, Article 25, Paragraph 1, and the Foreign Exchange Order, Article 17, Paragraph 2.”

The Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act requires the establishment of a security export control system when exporting List Control goods or providing List Control technology to another country (*3). For this reason, it is necessary to confirm, prior to the conclusion of the contract, whether the project intends to provide, as part of this program, goods or technology subject to export control under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. If so, it should be checked whether a control system is established or not at its research institution. If the project intends to provide such goods/technology and its research institution does not have a control system in place, the research institution is required to establish such a system prior to the provision of such goods/technology or prior to the completion of the project, whichever is earlier. It is required to report on the status of the confirmation if requested by METI. In addition, if it is found that the technology acquired through the project violates the regulations related to the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, the contract may be canceled in whole or in part.

*3 Exporters, etc. are obliged to comply with the “Exporter Compliance Standards” stipulated in Article 55-10, Paragraph 1 of the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act. In addition, the security trade management system here is based on the management system in the “Exporter Compliance Standards,” and refers to the internal control system of an organization to prevent illegal exports by appropriately exporting list-regulated cargo or providing list-regulated technology to foreign

countries.

Details of security trade management are available on the websites of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), etc. See below for details.

- METI: Security Trade Management (general)
  https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/
- Security Export Control Handbook by METI
  https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/seminer/shiryo/handbook.pdf
- METI: Guidance on sensitive technology management related to security trade (for universities and research institutes)
  https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t07sonota/t07sonota_jishukanri03.pdf
- Center for Information on Security Trade Control
  https://www.cistec.or.jp/english/index.html
- Transactions or acts involving the provision of technology that requires permission based on the regulations of Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Act, Article 25, Paragraph 1, and the Foreign Exchange Order, Article 17, Paragraph 2
  https://www.meti.go.jp/policy/anpo/law_document/tutatu/t10kaisei/ekimu__tutatu.pdf

Regarding the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act:

[On the overseas transfer of intellectual property rights related to contract R&D entrusted by the government under the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act]

On June 4, 2024, the Expert Panel on Economic Security Legislation discussed necessary measures for preventing technology leakage and managing risks in government-supported R&D programs. The panel compiled “Recommendations on Measures to Prevent Technology Leakage of Critical Technologies for Economic Security - Measures in Government-Supported R&D Programs.” In response, relevant ministries and agencies need to work together to implement measures to prevent technology leakage.

The recommendations include aspects related to the operation of the Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act under Article 17 of the Industrial Technology Enhancement Act.

The Japanese version of the Bayh-Dole Act allows intellectual property rights arising from government-commissioned R&D to be attributed to the contractor (such as private companies). However, when transferring these intellectual property rights to third parties, excluding transfers to subsidiaries or parent companies, prior approval from the government is required.

Therefore, in cases such as (i) when the Japanese subsidiary of a foreign company transfers intellectual property to its parent company, (ii) when a domestic company's subsidiary becomes a new subsidiary of a foreign company through M&A, and the business is sold or transferred to the foreign company, or (iii) when the headquarters of a domestic company relocates abroad and becomes a foreign company, there is a possibility that the results of government-commissioned R&D may not be prevented from leaking overseas. Based on this, the recommendations state that when transferring intellectual property to a parent company or subsidiary that is a foreign company, the contractor should be required to provide prior notice and JST should ensure coordination between contractors upon confirming such prior notice.

Therefore, in this Program, please ensure that, in accordance with the content of the Commissioned Research Contract, prior notice is given to JST and approval is obtained before transferring intellectual property to foreign companies or other entities.

4.5 Strict Adherence to United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2321

Regarding Strict Adherence to United Nations Security Council Resolution, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) has requested strict adherence to " Strict Adherence to United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2321" (Administrative Notice from the International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, dated June 25, 2024). Specifically, Paragraph 11 of Resolution 2321 states that, in principle, "all scientific and technical cooperation involving individuals or entities officially sponsored by, or representing, North Korea should be suspended."

When writing multilateral international co-authored papers, there may be unintended co-authorship with North Korean researchers even if there is no direct cooperation between researchers affiliated with your institution and North Korean researchers. Therefore, please ensure appropriate measures are taken, such as thorough confirmation during the manuscript writing stage and before submission.

See the following link for more information on Security Council Resolution No. 2321.

○ Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan: United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 2321, Japanese translation (Ministry of Foreign Affairs Notice No. 463 (issued on December 9, 2016))
https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/files/000211409.pdf

4.6 Carryover of Research Expenses

Making a carryover of research expenses until the end of next fiscal year for a maximum, may be permitted if the delay of the progress in the project occurs, and it is difficult to conclude within the fiscal year due to unavoidable circumstances such as difficulties to determine in advance the research or study method of the experimental research, restrictions associated with planning, weather-related conditions, limited availability of materials, and others.

4.7 Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table

The expense items of research costs specific to this program are determined on the basis of “Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table.” As for research expenditure, refer to the “Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table” on the following website.

Cross-ministerial Expenses Handing Partitioned Table（JST RISTEX R&D Programs）
https://www.jst.go.jp/contract/download/2025/2025_ristex_betten9.pdf

Currently, in response to the “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan,” the “Integrated Innovation Strategy 2023” and the “Comprehensive Package for Strengthening Research Capabilities and Supporting Young Researchers,” the system for competitive research funding is being improved. Based on this, this program makes it possible to spend personnel expenses of the research representative of the project (hereinafter referred to as “PI”), expenses related to agency work other than research (buyout expenses) from direct expenses. When spending PI personnel expenses and expenses related to agency work other than research (buyout expenses), please refer to the following necessary requirements and paperwork procedure.

In addition, in line with the “Common Guidelines for the Development of a Competitive Research Funding System from the Perspective of Gender Equality and Human Resource Development” (February 8, 2023, Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Research Funding), this program allows for the allocation of direct expenses to support the development of human resources in science and engineering that will support the next generation.

○ “Review to Enable Payment of Expenses for Others to Execute Non-research Operations from Direct Costs (Buyout System Introduction) and Payment of the Personnel Expenses of the Principal

Investigator (PI) from Direct Costs (Contact)" (September 17, 2020)
https://www.jst.go.jp/osirase/2020/pdf/20200917.pdf

Please refer to the following URL for the policy on the scope of eligibility, expenditure ceiling, etc., for the RISTEX R&D Programs.
https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/funding/funding_outline/for_researcher.html

4.8 Exchange of Direct Costs between Expense Items

Direct costs of different expense items can be exchanged under certain condition. Exchanges are allowed without approval from JST when the amount of direct costs to be exchanged does not exceed 50% of the total direct costs (5 million JPY if the 50% of total direct costs is less than 5 million JPY).

4.9 Securing Research Period until the End of Fiscal Year

In order to enable researchers to continue their research work until the end of a fiscal year, statements below should be followed in every JST competitive research funds.

(1) JST makes inspections on the completion of the project and the achievements of the research.
(2) Submit the accounting report by May 31.
(3) Submit the report on the research achievements by May 31.

Each research institute should make efforts to organize necessary systems at the institute based on the fact that the purpose of those practices is to secure the research period that continues by the end of a fiscal year.

4.10 Indirect Costs

Research institutions receiving indirect costs are required to formulate a policy for the use of these funds under the supervision of the institution representative, to execute systematic and appropriate implementation in accordance with the policy, and to ensure transparency in the use of such costs by providing explanations to researchers or by other means. Research institutions must also appropriately manage indirect costs and retain receipts and other supporting documents that demonstrate the appropriate use of indirect costs for a period of five years from the year following the completion of the project.

Research institutions that have received indirect costs are required to submit an annual report detailing

the actual use of these funds through e-Rad by June 30 of the following fiscal year (in cases where a research institution has received two or more competitive research funds, it should report the total of all indirect costs associated with those funds). If you are unsure of how to use e-Rad for reporting purposes, please consult the e-Rad operation manual for guidance (https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for_organ.html) or FAQ (https://qa.e-rad.go.jp/).

According to the revised “Common Guidelines for the Allocation of Indirect Expenses from Competitive Funds” (April 20, 2001 Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Research Funding), only projects funded by grants or management funds from independent management agencies are allowed to use the funds to replace depreciable assets they own, in accordance with accounting standards.

4.11 Promotion on Effective Use of Research Facilities and Equipment

According to “Reform on Competitive Research Funds for Sustainable Creation of Research Achievements (Midterm Summary)” (Examination Meeting on the Reform of Competitive Funds, June 24, 2015), it is considered appropriate that facilities/equipment which are comparatively large in scale and have high general applicability should in principle be shared, under the assumption that the original research objectives are sufficiently accomplished.

In addition, the “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021) and the “Integrated Innovation Strategy 2024” (approved by the Cabinet on June 4, 2024) call for measures such as promoting the maintenance and sharing of research equipment and facilities, establishing an institutional system for introducing, updating and utilizing research equipment (core facility), and formulating and publishing a sharing policy.

In March 2022, MEXT established the “Guidelines for the Sharing and Promotion of Research Equipment and Apparatuses” for purposes such as promotion of strategic establishment, operation and sharing of research equipment and apparatuses by institutes such as universities.

Based on the above, for research facilities/equipment which are purchased by this program, and particularly for large-scale, general purpose items, positive efforts for sharing should be made in accordance with the equipment sharing system at the affiliated institution or organization, including sharing which does not hinder the progress of the project, use of research facilities and equipment purchased with other research funds within the scope of their management conditions, and purchase and sharing by combining multiple research funds. In such cases, it is important to be aware that sharing is also possible

during the project period and consider further sharing. Among other reasons, this will strengthen research capabilities by facilitating the use of the latest research equipment and apparatuses. Please note that it is necessary to strike a balance between management as shared equipment/facilities and accomplishment of the research purpose of the project.

Moreover, participants are asked to promote the sharing of research facilities and equipment beyond the framework of individual research organizations and institutes by positively cooperating with the “Inter-University Network for Common Utilization of Research Equipment,” which was implemented for the purpose of the mutual use of facilities in the National Institutes of Natural Sciences, and the sharing system constructed thanks to the “New Shared System Introduction Support Program” and the “Core Facility Construction Support Program” in each university.

○“Reform on the Competitive Research Funds for Sustainable Creation of Research Achievements (Midterm Summary)” (Examination Meeting on the Reform of Competitive Funds, June 24, 2015)

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/shingi/chousa/shinkou/039/gaiyou/1359306.htm

○ “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kihonkeikaku/6honbun.pdf

○ “Integrated Innovation Strategy 2024” (approved by the Cabinet on June 4, 2024)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tougosenryaku/togo2024_zentai.pdf

○ “Unification of Usage Rule of Competitive Research Funds” (amended on May 24, 2023)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/toitsu_rule_r50524.pdf

○ “The Purchase of Shared Facilities Using Multiple Research Fund Systems (Use of Combined Total)” (September 10, 2020, Agreement between the institutions allocating funds and the relevant supervising government bodies)

https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20200910-mxt_sinkou02-100001873.pdf

○ “Guidelines for the Sharing and Promotion of Research Equipment and Apparatuses” (established March 2022)

https://www.mext.go.jp/content/20220329-mxt_kibanken01-000021605_2.pdf

(Reference: Summary on YouTube) https://youtu.be/x29hH7_uNQo

○ Inter-University Network for Common Utilization of Research Equipment

https://chem-eqnet.ims.ac.jp/

○ New Shared System Introduction Support Program

https://www.jst.go.jp/shincho/program/sinkyoyo.html

○ Core Facility Construction Support Program

https://www.jst.go.jp/shincho/program/corefacility.html

4.12 Improving the Treatment of (latter-stage) Doctoral Students

The “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021) set a numerical target to triple the number of doctoral students who receive the amount equivalent to living expenses (equivalent to about 30% of students enrolled in the doctoral program receiving the amount equivalent to living expenses), improving financial support for graduate students, especially doctoral students (second semester), in order to attract excellent students and working people from inside and outside of Japan. In addition, the Basic Plan states that in order to promote the payment of salaries to doctoral students (second semester) at an appropriate level for research assistants (RA) from competitive research funds and joint research funds, the government will formulate rules for the payment of RA expenses relating to employment and remuneration for RAs at each business and university, and implement them sequentially from FY2021, urging the expansion of the employment of doctoral students as RAs and their improved treatments at universities and R&D agencies.

Moreover, in relation to doctoral students (second semester), the “Guidelines for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral Researchers” (December 3, 2020, Committee on Human Resources, Council for Science and Technology) note that “while they are students, they also possess aspects of researchers, and it is a key obligation of universities that train researchers to guarantee their treatment and maintain an environment in which they can carry out research activities;” “it is particularly important to treat them based on appropriate evaluations of their contributions, including paying them according to the hours they have worked under appropriate work management by determining compensation commensurate with the nature and content of their duties;” and “in your application for competitive research funds, there is a need to include the expenses required as direct costs if you are employing an RA in a university, and you should review the university’s rules to ensure that you can pay your RA(s) an appropriate level of compensation.”

Based on the above, in this program, please actively employ doctoral students who are necessary for

the execution of your research as RAs, etc., and pay them according to the hours they have worked under appropriate work management by setting a unit price commensurate with the nature and content of their duties, while aiming for the salary level to be equivalent to the cost of living. In addition, when applying for this program, please apply with a financial plan that also takes into account the costs of the above-mentioned doctoral students.

(Notes)

- Under the “6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan”, the amount equivalent to living expenses of doctoral students is set as a minimum of 1.8 million yen per year. In addition, in order for excellent doctoral students to focus on their research without financial concerns, it also states a significant expansion of the number of beneficiaries receiving about 2.4 million yen per year that is equivalent to the stipend paid through the JSPS Research Fellowship for Young Researchers (Doctoral Course Students (DC)) program.
- With regard to the treatment of doctoral students who have been hired to carry out a research project, the “Guidelines for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral Researchers” state that “the standard pay for a specially-appointed assistant professor employed with competitive research fund is considered to be around 2,000 yen to 2,500 yen per hour*, taking average amounts of pay into account.”

  * The standard pay for a specially-appointed assistant professor employed with competitive research funds, etc. is considered to be around 2,000 yen to 2,500 yen per hour in the case of a doctoral student, taking average amounts of pay into account. (Calculated based on the median monthly salary (between 400,000 and 450,000 yen) of specially-appointed assistant professors according to the “Survey on Instructor Employment at Research Universities (Preliminary Report)” published August 2020 divided by the number of working hours per day (between 7 hours 45 minutes and 8 hours) for actual days worked (between 19 and 20 days), excepting weekends and holidays, and multiplying by 0.8 in light of their status as doctoral students.)

- The specific amount and period of payment will be determined by the research institution. There is no restriction on the amount of payment above or below the level mentioned above.

・When employing students as Ras, etc., please pay attention so that they do not work excessive hours, and consider the balance between work time and the doctoral students' own research and study time.

4.13 Securing an Independent and Stable Research Environment for Young Researchers

The "Guidelines for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral Researchers" (December 3, 2020, Committee on Human Resources, Council for Science and Technology) note that "while many postdoctoral students are employed for less than three years, their employment term must enable them to focus on the same research activities for a reasonable period of time, as an overly short term of employment could impede them from building a career," and "an employment term of three to five years at each post is ideal in light of the fact that postdoctoral students should ideally proceed to the next step in the period of three to seven years between the time they have gained postdoctoral experience in one or two locations and their late 30s."

Concerning National University Corporations and Inter-University Research Institute Corporations, "Guidelines for Personnel Salary Management Reform for National University Corporations, etc.: Toward the Establishment of Attractive Personnel Salary Management that Contributes to the Improvement of Educational and Research Capabilities" (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), February 25, 2019) states that "to achieve the two goals of fostering young faculty members and stabilizing employment, a system should be implemented which incorporates the perspective of developing researchers while maintaining flexibility, such as securing employment terms of a certain length — 5 to 10 years — by using expenses with a high degree of freedom of use, such as indirect expenses and endowments, even if the researchers have a fixed term of employment."

Based on these considerations, when hiring young researchers such as specially appointed faculty members and postdoctoral fellows for this program, applicants are advised to check with the staff in charge of the human resources and accounting of your department in ensuring that the length of the researchers' employment term is the same as that of their R&D periods. It is also advised to secure the particular length of their employment term by utilizing indirect expenses of other external funding awards, essential expenses, endowment, etc. as far as possible so that their employment term will not be too short.

4.14 Equal Participation of Men and Women and Measures for Promotion of Human Resource

Development

The “Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021), “Basic Plan for Gender Equality” (approved by the Cabinet on December 25, 2020) and “Policy Package regarding Education and Human Resource Development toward the Realization of Society 5.0” (approved by the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation on June 2, 2022) aim to foster a research environment that enables both men and women to continue their research activities even in the midst of major life events such as childbirth, childcare, and eldercare responsibilities and to facilitate the appointment of outstanding women researchers as Principal Investigators. In addition, the plans seek to increase the enrollment of women in science and engineering master’s and doctoral programs by promoting the attractiveness of these fields to female junior and senior high school students, as well as their guardians and teaching staff. This initiative aims to address the existing disparity in women’s participation in Ph.D. natural science programs and to expand the pool of potential knowledge holders in Japan.

Building on the above, this program will also prioritize initiatives aimed at fostering the engagement of women researchers and broadening the talent pool of individuals ready to lead future endeavors in science and technology.

- Expenses related to online science, physics, chemistry, etc., classes or outreach lectures at elementary, junior high, and high schools conducted by individuals with a Ph.D. in science and mathematics can be covered from direct costs.
- Expenses for distributing research outcomes as content that is easy for middle and high school students to understand via social media, etc., can be covered from direct costs.
- These two outreach activities can be included in the research outcome report and will be subject to positive evaluation. They can also be included in the research plan and will be positively evaluated during the review process.

Furthermore, it is required to conduct research and technological development that appropriately considers biological sex differences (such as physical structure and functions) and social gender differences.

Conducting R&D without considering these aspects might result in socially inappropriate impacts during the implementation phase. Therefore, please examine the relationship between your research and sex/gender differences and incorporate these considerations as necessary.

4.15 Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed to Carry Out Projects

With regard to young researchers employed in this program, based on the “Implementation Guidelines for Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed with Competitive Research Funds” (revised on December 18, 2020, Agreement of the Liaison Meeting of Related Government bodies on Competitive Research Funds), if the Principal Investigator, etc. judges that it will not hinder the progress of a project but help it, and permission is obtained from the research institution with which they are affiliated, researchers may use some of their efforts working on this program for self-motivated research activities and/or activities that will improve their research and management capabilities, while using program funds for personnel expenses. Please see the following for more information.

○“Implementation Guidelines for Self-motivated Research Activities by Young Researchers Employed with Competitive Research Funds” “Liaison Conference of Relevant Ministries and Agencies on Competitive Research Funds” (revised on December 18, 2020)
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/jisshishishin.pdf

Please refer to the following URL for the policy on the scope of eligibility, etc. for the RISTEX R&D Programs.

https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/funding/files/senjukanwa_houshin.pdf

4.16 Support for Diverse Career Paths for Young Researchers with Doctoral Qualifications

The “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021) also sets targets regarding “environments that provide excellent young researchers with prospects for activities in various fields, including academia, industry and government”. Furthermore, the “Guideline for the Employment and Training of Postdoctoral” (December 3, 2020, the Committee on Human Resources, Council for Science and Technology Policy) states that “it is essential that doctorate human resources with high-level specialization and advanced research skills should help drive innovation by contributing in a wide range of positions, including at venture companies and global corporations, and accordingly, initiatives are needed for the diversification of career paths after the completion of the postdoctoral period.” Based on this, when a project is selected in this call for R&D proposals and young researchers such as specially appointed researchers and postdoctoral researchers are to be employed with public research funds (competitive or other research funds, or public invitation-type education research funds for

universities), the institution concerned should make active efforts to support those researchers in securing diverse career paths. Institutions should also consider using indirect funds in these efforts.

4.17 Securing Management Personnel of URA, etc.

In the “6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021), the importance of efforts to ensure professional quality and improve treatment has been pointed out for making URA and other management personnel to be attractive positions. In addition, the need of establishing career paths for management personnel, URA and engineers, etc., is indicated in the “Comprehensive Package to Strengthen Research Capacity and Support Young Researchers” (Council for Science, Technology, and Innovation on January 23, 2020).

Based on the above, when management personnel employed by the research institution, or newly hired URA, etc., is engaged in the management of this research program, the research institutes should secure a term of office for a certain period as much as possible by utilizing indirect expenses, basic expenses, donations, etc., of other external funds, not limited to this program, so that their employment term will not be too short.

At the same time, as support for securing career paths of the management personnel, please take positive efforts for providing opportunities to participate in URA training, etc. Please consider utilizing indirect costs for such efforts.

Furthermore, this Program require initiatives aimed at independent operation after the R&D period. Hence, if a fixed-term employment contract is concluded with the relevant management personnel, it is desirable to introduce a system that ensures stable employment for such personnel, for instance, by converting to an indefinite-term employment contract based on appropriate evaluations.

4.18 Dialogue and Collaboration with Public Stakeholders

“Promotion of Science and Technology Dialogue with the People (Basic Initiative Policy)” (decided by the Minister of State for Science and Technology Policy and a member of the Diet on June 19, 2010) states that, in order to constantly achieve the excellent results of science and technology and create and further develop Japan’s science and technology, it is essential to return the results of science and technology to the people, gain the understanding and support of the people, and promote science and technology together. If you are selected for this call and receive an allocation of public research funds amounting to 30 million yen or more per year per project, we request that you actively engage in “scientific and technical

dialogue with the people" such as public lectures on research results, symposiums, continuous distribution of research results on the Internet, and round table conferences that involve various stakeholders.

○ Promotion of "Science and Technology Dialogue with the People" (Basic Initiative Policy)
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/stsonota/taiwa/taiwa_honbun.pdf

In addition, the "6th Science, Technology, and Innovation Basic Plan" (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021) calls for the co-creation of knowledge and the enhancement of science and technology communications through the participation of diverse entities, including citizen participation. JST provides the following examples of "opportunities for interactive dialogue and collaboration among diverse entities."

○ Science Agora
https://www.jst.go.jp/sis/scienceagora/
○ Miraikan － The National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation
https://www.miraikan.jst.go.jp/en/

4.19 Promotion of Open Science

(1) JST's Open Science Policy

JST has established basic policies regarding the handling of research results to promote open science (enforced in April 2017, revised in April 2022 and March 2025). These policies outline the fundamental approach to making research outcome papers open access and the preservation, management, and disclosure of research data in research activities under this program.

Regarding research outcome papers of this program, they should, in principle, be made publicly available through institutional repositories or publications based on open access, with the principle that peer-reviewed papers should be made available within 12 months. Additionally, based on the data policies of research institutions, a data management plan (DMP) (*1) should be created, which includes policies and plans regarding the preservation, management, and disclosure/non-disclosure of research data produced as a result of research activities. This DMP should be submitted to JST upon request, and researchers should conduct their research activities while preserving, managing, and disclosing research data according to this plan. Note that the DMP can be modified during the course of the research. Furthermore, for the research data specified as management target data in the DMP, metadata (*1)

specified by JST should be assigned. Public data among the management target data with assigned metadata should be appropriately registered in institutional repositories designated by each research institution or in the research data infrastructure system operated by the National Institute of Informatics (NII). Additionally, for certain projects designated by national policies, immediate open access to academic papers, as indicated in (2) below, should be ensured.

Refer to the following for more details.

○ JST's Basic Policy Regarding the Handling of Research Results for the Open Science Promotion

○ JST's Basic Policy Operational Guidelines Regarding the Handling of Research Results for the Open Science Promotion

(*1) The items to be noted in the Data Management Plan and metadata items are shown in the above guideline.

https://www.jst.go.jp/all/about/houshin.html#houshin04

○ Research DX (Digital Transformation) - Open Science (Cabinet Office)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/kenkyudx.html

○ Basic Idea of the Management and Use of Research Data Using Public Funds (Council for Science, Technology and Innovation)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/tyousakai/kokusaiopen/sanko1.pdf

○ Common metadata items in the "Basic Idea of the Management and Use of Research Data Using Public Funds"(As of January 2025)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/common_metadata_elements.pdf

JST analyzes statistical data such as the number of data modules, data types, disclosure types, storage locations, etc., for the purpose of grasping the contents of the description in the Data Management Plan, supporting researchers, and reflecting these contents in (revising) the basic policy. JST intends to release analyzed statistical data, but will not release individual personal data or data containing identifiable names.

* For life science data, please refer to "4.21 Data Disclosure from NBDC."

(2) Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers

The international trend towards open access to research results, aimed at sharing global knowledge, is progressing. Promoting open access through the publication of academic papers and other means is expected to widely benefit the public by returning research outcomes to society. This also contributes to

the creation of science, technology, and innovation, as well as the resolution of global-scale challenges.

In line with the Japanese government's policy, peer-reviewed academic papers and supporting data (*3) written with funding from newly solicited Strategic Basic Research Programs (*2) and Emergent Research Support Programs starting from fiscal year 2025 must comply with the "Basic Policy for Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers" (decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024) (hereinafter referred to as "the Basic Policy") and the "Specific Measures for Implementing the Basic Policy for Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers" (revised on October 8, 2024, in agreement among relevant ministries and agencies) (hereinafter referred to as "the Specific Measures"). Following publication in academic journals, these papers must be immediately (*4) deposited in "institutional repositories or other information infrastructure."

Here, "institutional repositories or other information infrastructure" refers to systems where academic papers and supporting data are searchable, such as the NII Research Data Cloud (*5). Research outcome information entered into performance reports submitted at the end of the fiscal year will be provided to the research data infrastructure system through e-Rad. If the necessary information is included, this will make the research outcome information searchable on the research data infrastructure system.

Also, to understand the status of open access implementation, certain items in the research outcome information that are included in performance reports have been added or modified. In addition to existing items, you need to enter whether the work is subject to immediate open access, whether immediate open access has been implemented, the reasons why immediate open access could not be implemented (if applicable), and the identifiers such as the URL of the landing page of the "institutional repository or other information infrastructure" where the academic papers and supporting data are published.

○Basic Policy for Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers (Decided by the Integrated Innovation Strategy Promotion Council on February 16, 2024)
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_240216.pdf

○Specific Measures for Implementing the Basic Policy for Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers (Revised on October 8, 2024, in Agreement among Relevant Ministries and Agencies)
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/openscience/r6_0221/hosaku.pdf

○ Basic Policy for Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers, and Specific Measures for Implementing the Basic Policy for Immediate Open Access to Academic Papers – FAQ
https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/oa_houshin_faq.pdf

In case your affiliated institution does not have an institutional repository in place for immediate open access to academic papers, please utilize repositories such as Jxiv or GRANTS Data (scheduled to be released in fiscal year 2025) operated by JST.

(*2) Excluding ALCA-Next and CRONOS from the Strategic Basic Research Programs.

(*3) In the Basic Policy, it is stated that “the target of immediate open access is peer-reviewed academic papers (peer-reviewed research papers published in electronic journals, including the author’s final manuscript) and supporting data (research data required and demanded for publication from the perspective of ensuring transparency and reproducibility, as stipulated in the submission guidelines and publication regulations of the electronic journal).”

(*4) In the Specific Measures, it is stated that “the ‘immediate’ in immediate open access as per the Basic Policy means that there is no embargo period after the academic papers and supporting data funded by the relevant competitive research funds are published in academic journals. Furthermore, ‘publication in academic journals’ refers to the point when the academic paper is published in the electronic version of the journal. If the academic paper is published online ahead of determining the volume, issue, and page numbers, that point is considered ‘publication in academic journals.’ Additionally, the period required for the procedures to post the paper in ‘institutional repositories or other information infrastructure’ after publication in academic journals varies depending on the systems of the affiliated institution, so there is no specific regulation. However, it is desirable for the paper to be made available in ‘institutional repositories or other information infrastructure’ approximately three months after publication in academic journals.”

(*5) “NII Research Data Cloud Overview” (The Research Center for Open Science and Data Platform (RCOS))（https://rcos.nii.ac.jp/service/）

4.20 Description of Systematic Numbers in the Acknowledgments of the Papers, etc.

When submitting the research results obtained in this program, please indicate that you have received the grant from this program. In the Acknowledgment of the paper, please include “JST RISTEX Grant Number 10 Digit Systematic Number.” The systematic number of the project consists of JPMJRS + alphanumeric 4 digits. The systematic number will be announced at the time of adoption.

The following is an example of the Acknowledgment in the paper.

[English] ：This work was supported by JST RISTEX Japan Grant Number JPMJRSxxxx.

[Japanese] ：本研究は、JST、RISTEX、JPMJRSxxxx の支援を受けたものです。

* If there are two or more programs related to the paper, please list the program names and systematic numbers.

4.21 Data Disclosure from NBDC

The National Bioscience Database Center (NBDC) (https://biosciencedbc.jp/) within JST has been carrying out the Life Science Database Integration Project, promoting the integrated use of databases in the life sciences field created by various research institutions and others.

In the document titled “Progress and Future Direction of the Integration of the Life Science Database Project” (January 17, 2013), it was decided that the projects that receive data and database provisions are to be expanded, centering on the project promotion division of the NBDC (currently the Office of NBDC Program).

Based on these points, program participants are asked to cooperate in the disclosure of the following types of data and databases related to the life sciences field that are obtained from this program.

No	Type of Data	Place of Disclosure	URL
1.	Overview of databases constructed for disclosure	Integbio Database Catalog	https://integbio.jp/dbcatalog/?lang=en
2.	Data in the databases constructed for disclosure	Life Science Database Archive	https://dbarchive.biosciencedbc.jp/index-e.html
3.	Of items in 2, data related to human beings	NDBC Human Database	https://humandbs.dbcls.jp/en/

4.22 Undergoing External Validation in the Basic Guidelines for Animal Experiments

Universities and other research institutions that conduct animal experiments must comply with the “Basic Guidelines for the Conduct of Animal Experiments in Research Institutions” (MEXT Notification No. 71, 2006, hereinafter referred to as the “Basic Guidelines”). The Basic Guidelines particularly emphasize the 3Rs principle: Replacement (using alternatives to animals where possible), Reduction (using the minimum number of animals required), and Refinement (minimizing pain and distress).

The Basic Guidelines state that “the head of a research institution should ensure transparency in the conduct of animal experiments by regularly conducting self-inspections and evaluations of compliance with the Basic Guidelines and striving to have these inspections and evaluations verified by external parties.”

When applying for this program, if the research involves animal experiments, please ensure that your affiliated research institution undergoes external validation. If only part of the facilities within your institution have undergone external validation, please ensure that the entire institution receives such validation.

“Basic Guidelines for the Conduct of Animal Experiments in Research Institutions” (MEXT Notification No. 71, 2006)

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/hakusho/nc/06060904.htm

4.23 About the National BioResource Project

The National BioResource Project (NBRP) has contributed to the advancement of life science research in Japan by strategically collecting and preserving critical bioresources that serve as the foundation for life science research and providing them to universities and research institutions. To continue contributing to the advancement of life science research in Japan, it is necessary to continuously collect valuable bioresources.

Therefore, we ask for your cooperation in depositing (Note) bioresources developed under this project (limited to bioresources targeted by NBRP) that can be made available and contributing to the collection activities of NBRP.

Additionally, utilization of bioresources (animals, plants, microorganisms, cells, genetic materials, and information) already maintained by NBRP is recommended from the perspective of conducting efficient research.

Note: Deposit refers to the procedure that allows the use (preservation and provision) of the relevant resource in this program without transferring the associated rights. By establishing specific provision conditions in a deposit agreement, it is possible to impose usage conditions such as limitations on use and citation requirements on users.

NBRP Core Facility Development Program: List of Target Bioresources and Representative Institutions

https://nbrp.jp/resource/

4.24 Integrated Review of Clinical Trials and Research in Multi-Institutional Collaborative Research

For clinical trials subject to the Act on Securing Quality, Efficacy, and Safety of Pharmaceuticals, Medical Devices, etc., clinical studies subject to the Clinical Research Act (Act No. 16 of 2017), or research subject

to the Ethical Guidelines for Life Sciences and Medical Research Involving Human Subjects (MEXT, MHLW, METI Notification No. 1 of 2021), an integrated review should be conducted in principle when conducting collaborative research across multiple institutions (hereinafter referred to as “clinical trials and research”). However, this does not apply to basic research where a few research institutions are responsible for different aspects.

In this program, when conducting clinical trials and research as part of multi-institutional collaborative research, an integrated review should be conducted to determine the appropriateness of the implementation. Additionally, records of the integrated review should be appropriately managed for a specified period in accordance with the rules of clinical trials and research. For monitoring purposes, inquiries to research institutions may be made as necessary.

(Reference) Regulatory Reform Implementation Plan (FY 2024)

https://www8.cao.go.jp/kisei-kaikaku/kisei/publication/program/240621/01_program.pdf

P.51-52 Proper Ethical Review for Subject Protection and Strengthening Research Capabilities

[Relevant Section]

b. In order to achieve the goal mentioned in section a, the Cabinet Office, the Children and Families Agency, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry will position a unified review as a mandatory requirement for clinical trials and research receiving competitive research funds when multi-organizational collaborative research is conducted. However, this does not apply to basic research where a small number of research institutions each undertake different components.

4.25 Research Support Service Partnership Certification System (A-PRAS)

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) established the “Research Support Service Partnership Certification System (A-PRAS)” in FY2019 to improve the research environment for researchers, accelerate the promotion of science and technology and the creation of innovation in Japan, and support the development of various efforts related to research support services.

The system accredits research support services provided by private businesses that meet certain requirements as “research support service partnerships” by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. As of January 2024, 12 services have been certified. Researchers are

encouraged to explore the wide range of services offered, including finding collaborators, promoting and commercializing research results, and obtaining research funding and equipment.

Details of each certified service can be viewed on the MEXT website below.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kagaku/kihon/1422215_00001.htm

4.26 Items Noted Regarding the Reformation of Competitive Research Funds

At the present time, based on the “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan,” “Integrated Innovation Strategy 2023,” and “Comprehensive Package to Strengthen Research Capacity and Support Young Researchers,” the government is holding discussions about improving systems related to competitive research funds so as to enable the more efficient and effective use of research funds. If, within the period of this call for submissions, policies common to all competitive research fund programs are announced regarding the improvement of funding systems and the use of funds, you will be notified about these policies when they apply to submissions for this program and the use of program funds.

4.27 Consideration on “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in R&D Institutions (Practice Standards)”

(1) Implementation of Management and Audit Systems Based on the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in R&D Institutions (Practice Standards)”

In applying to this funding program and conducting research activities, research institutions that receive (or are scheduled to receive) allocations of public research funds must stringently observe the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in R&D Institutions (Practice Standards)” (revised on February 1, 2021) (*).

There is a need for research institutions, having implemented a system for managing and auditing public research funds, to take responsibility for making every effort to properly disburse the contract research funds in line with the aforementioned guidelines.

If the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) finds deficiencies in the organization’s system implementation as a result of an examination of system implementation based on the guidelines, the research institution may be subject to measures including a reduction in indirect expenses of the whole competitive research funds, etc. distributed by MEXT and by independent administrative agencies under its jurisdiction.

* Please refer to the following URL for the details of the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of

Public Research Funds in R&D Institutions (Practice Standards)."
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1343904_21.htm

(2) Submission of the "Self-evaluation Checklist for Implementation of Proper Systems" based on the "Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions (Practice Standards)"

In concluding a contract for this program, the research organization must establish a management and auditing system for research expenses based on said guidelines and submit the "Self-evaluation Checklist for Implementation of Proper Systems" (hereinafter, "Checklist"), which is a report on the situation (research undertaking will not be approved unless the checklist is submitted).

Therefore, after April 1, 2025, please check the contents of the following Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) website, download the checklist form from e-Rad, fill in the required information, and submit (upload) it via e-Rad to the Office for Coordination of Competitive Research Funds, Research Environment Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, MEXT, by the time the Commissioned Research Contract is concluded.

Contracts will be approved for research institutions that have already submitted the FY2024 Checklist regardless of the above. Your organization is requested to complete and submit the FY2025 Checklist procedures by December 1, 2025, if it falls into this category.

The process must continue throughout the period in which competitive research funding or similar support from MEXT and the Independent Administrative Institutions under its jurisdiction is received and administered.

On the other hand, institutions that do not receive competitive funding from MEXT or administrative agencies under its jurisdiction (cooperating institutions, etc. that do not receive research funding allocations) are not required to submit a checklist.

For more information on this matter, including the above, please refer to the MEXT website shown below.

(The URL below is for submission requests for the fiscal year 2024. Please refer to the submission request for the relevant fiscal year when creating the checklist.)

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm

As these guidelines incorporate the concept of "encouraging the dissemination and exchange of

information," research institutions are invited to actively disseminate information about misconduct prevention measures, for example, by posting such information on their websites.

4.28 Measures against Inappropriate Usage of Research Funds

Inappropriate use and reception (referred to as "inappropriate usage" hereinafter) of research budgets related to the ongoing R&D projects are strictly treated as described below.

○Measures Taken in the Case that Inappropriate Usage of Research Expenses are Found

(i) Measures to Cancel Contracts

The Commissioned Research Contract is cancelled or altered if issues of inappropriate usage are found, and a request is made for refunding all or part of the entrusted funds. Contracts for the following year and subsequent years may not be concluded.

(ii) Measures to Restrict Application and Participation Eligibility (*1)

For researchers who have engaged in inappropriate use of the research funds of this program (including conspirators, hereinafter referred to as "researchers who engaged in inappropriate use") and researchers who were not found to have been involved in inappropriate use but violated the duty of due care as a prudent manager (*2), restriction measures or strict reprimands will be imposed depending on the degree of the inappropriate use, as detailed in the table below.

Furthermore, the outlines of pertinent inappropriate usage (names of researchers who exercised inappropriate usage, project names, affiliations, research issues, amounts of budget, fiscal year of research, contents of inappropriate usage, contents of measures taken, etc.) are provided to persons in charge of the competitive research funds of other ministries, who may restrict the application and participation of the researchers in their competitive research funding programs.

*1 "Application and participation" refers to proposing, registering for, and/or applying for a new project, newly participating in research as, for example, a Joint Researcher, and/or participating in an ongoing research project (continuing project) as a Principal Investigator, Joint Researcher, etc.

*2 "Researchers who violate due care" refers to those whose involvement in inappropriate usage is not proven but who violated the duty of due care as a prudent manager that they should exercise.

<table>
<tr><th>Classification of persons who committed or were involved in misconduct in use of research funds</th><th colspan="2">Degree of maliciousness in misconduct</th><th>Period of ineligibility for applying to competitive research funds (*3,4)</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="4">A researcher who committed misconduct or a researcher who conspired with a person who committed misconduct (*1)</td><td colspan="2">1 Use of a research budget to make a private profit</td><td>10 years</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">2 Other than 1</td><td>① The impact of the misconduct on society is substantial, and the maliciousness of the misconduct is judged to be high.</td><td>5 years</td></tr>
<tr><td>② Neither ① or ③</td><td>2-4 years</td></tr>
<tr><td>③ The impact of the misconduct on society is small, and the maliciousness of the misconduct is judged to be low.</td><td>1 year</td></tr>
<tr><td>A researcher who used fabrication and other dishonest means to receive a competitive research fund or, etc. and a researcher who conspired with the person who committed this misconduct</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>5 years</td></tr>
<tr><td>A researcher who did not commit or was not involved in misconduct, but used a research budget inappropriately, failing to fulfill his/her duty of due care as a prudent manager (*2)</td><td colspan="2"></td><td>1 to 2 years (in maximum) in accordance with the degree of failure of fulfilling his/her duty of due care as a prudent manager</td></tr>
</table>

*3 A strict warning is issued under any of the following conditions without restricting application or eligibility for participation:

-Refers to instances mentioned in (*1) in the table where the action is considered to have a negligible impact on society, exhibits a low degree of malicious intent, and the amount of inappropriately used research funds is small.

-Refers to instances mentioned in (*2) in the table where the action is considered to have a negligible impact on society and exhibits a low degree of malicious intent.

*4 In principle, the application restriction period will be calculated from the fiscal year following the fiscal year when the unauthorized use is recognized and the research funds are refunded. Additionally, the person will be ineligible in the fiscal year in which the inappropriate usage of

research funds is identified.

(ⅲ) Public Disclosure of Misconduct Cases

For researchers who have misused research funds or violated their duty of due care as a prudent manager in this project, and whose application and participation eligibility have been restricted, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) will, in principle, publicly disclose an overview of the misconduct case. This overview will include the name of the research institution, the project name, the fiscal year in which the misconduct occurred, the details of the misconduct, the amount of research funds misappropriated, and the number of researchers involved in the misconduct. This information will also be publicly disclosed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) in principle.

Additionally, according to the "Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds at Research Institutions (Implementation Standards)," when a case of misconduct is confirmed as a result of the investigation, the research institution must promptly disclose the investigation results. Each institution is required to respond appropriately in accordance with these guidelines.

*For an overview of misconduct cases currently disclosed by MEXT, please refer to the following website:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1364929.htm

4.29 Measures taken for Researchers whose Application and Participation Eligibilities are Restricted in Another Competitive Research Fund System

Researchers on whom restrictions are imposed due to inappropriate usage of research expenses in another competitive research fund system (*), including those managed by other ministries, are not eligible to apply to or participate in this program while their qualifications are restricted in the competitive research fund system.

“Other competitive fund systems” include not only currently ongoing systems but also those that will start accepting applications beginning in fiscal year 2025 and beyond. It should be noted that systems that concluded before fiscal year 2024 are also included.

* For details on the specific programs currently subject to these restrictions, please refer to the following website:

https://www8.cao.go.jp/cstp/compefund/

4.30 Measures Taken to the Violation of Related Guidelines

Violation of related laws or guidelines, etc., in conducting research may result in penalties and sanctions being applied to the individuals and organizations that committed the violation, as well as the suspension or cancellation of research funding.

4.31 Consideration of "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research"

(1) Administrative System based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research"

In applying to this funding program and conducting research activities, research institutions are required to adhere to the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (decided by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) on August 26, 2014, hereinafter referred to as the "guidelines") (*).

If MEXT finds defects in the approach of organizations as a result of a survey of the situation based on the guidelines, the Ministry may take measures against the pertinent organization, including the reduction of indirect expenses associated with all competitive research funds distributed by MEXT and independent administrative agencies under its jurisdiction.

* For the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research," please refer to the following MEXT website:

https://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/26/08/1351568.htm

(2) Submission of the "Self-evaluation Checklist" Based on the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research"

Each research institution needs to submit a checklist on the status of implementation in accordance with the "Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research" (hereinafter referred to as the "Research Misconduct Checklist"). (Research institutions that fail to submit the checklist cannot conduct R&D activities.)

Accordingly, after April 1, 2025, research institutions are requested to review the content of the website below, download the FY2025 version of the Research Misconduct Checklist from e-Rad, complete it, and submit (upload) it via e-Rad to the Research Integrity Promotion Office, Research Environment Division, Science and Technology Policy Bureau, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT).

Institutions that do not receive funding or budgetary measures from MEXT or administrative agencies

under its jurisdiction are not required to submit the Research Misconduct Checklist.

For details on the method for submitting the Research Misconduct Checklist, see the MEXT website below:

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1420301_00006.html

(The above URL is for submission requests for fiscal year 2024. Please refer to the submission request for the relevant fiscal year when creating the checklist.)

*1: A proper environment for using e-Rad is essential for checklist submission. Note that the registration of a research institution with e-Rad usually takes about two weeks. For details on the procedures related to the use of e-Rad, refer to the following website:

https://www.e-rad.go.jp/organ/index.html

*2: Institutions conducting research activities funded or otherwise supported by MEXT or by independent administrative agencies under the jurisdiction of MEXT must submit the Research Misconduct Checklist annually by September 30 (or by the previous business day if September 30 falls on a weekend or public holiday) while carrying out the relevant research activities.

(3) Measures Taken for Misconduct in Research Activities Based on the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research”

Misconduct in research activities in this program is treated strictly as described below.

(i) Measures to Cancel the Contract

In the case that specific misconduct (fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism) is found in the R&D project of this program, the Commissioned Research Contract is either cancelled or altered, and a refund of all or part of the entrusted expenses is requested. Furthermore, there may be cases in which no agreement is concluded in the following years.

(ii) Measures to Restrict Application(*) and Participation Eligibility

Measures listed in the table below, depending on the level of inappropriateness and responsibility for specific misconduct, are imposed to restrict application to and participation in this program upon researchers involved in certain misconduct in research papers or reports of this program. These measures also apply to those whose involvement in misconduct has not been established but who are found responsible to an extent for the violation of the duty of due care as a distinct manager of pertinent

papers and reports.

Furthermore, in the case that such restriction measures are enacted regarding qualification for application and participation, information is provided to the pertinent sections of other competitive research fund systems distributed by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT) and independent administrative agencies under its jurisdiction (referred to as “other competitive research fund systems related to MEXT” hereinafter). It is also provided to the pertinent sections of competitive research fund systems distributed by other ministries and their independent administrative agencies (referred to as “competitive research fund systems related to other ministries” hereinafter). Those sections may similarly restrict qualification for application and participation in other competitive research fund systems related to MEXT and to other ministries.

* “Application and participation” refers to proposing, registering for, and/or applying for a new project, newly participating in research (e.g., as a Joint Researcher), and/or participating in an ongoing research project (continuing project) as a Principal Investigator, Joint Researcher, etc.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Classification of persons ineligible to apply to competitive research funds due to involvement in specific research misconduct</th><th>Degree of maliciousness in specific research misconduct</th><th>Period of ineligibility for applying to competitive research funds (*)</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="5">A researcher who was involved in specific research misconduct</td><td colspan="2">1． An especially malicious person, who, from the beginning of the research, intended to commit specific research misconduct</td><td></td><td>10 years</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">2． The author of a research paper resulting from research in which specific research misconduct was committed</td><td rowspan="2">The authors of the paper who are responsible for its entire content, namely, the supervisor, the principal author, or others who are identified to be equivalently responsible for the paper</td><td>The misconduct has a substantial impact on the development of relevant research field and on society, or the maliciousness of the act is judged to be high.</td><td>5-7 years</td></tr>
<tr><td>The misconduct has a small impact on the development of relevant research field and on society, or the maliciousness of the act is judged to be low.</td><td>3-5 years</td></tr>
<tr><td>The authors of the paper other than those described above</td><td></td><td>2-3 years</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">3． A researcher who conducted a specific research misconduct other than those of 1 and 2</td><td></td><td>2-3 years</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3" rowspan="2">A researcher who has not been involved in specific research misconduct but is a responsible author of a paper related to research where specific research misconduct was committed, being the supervisor or principal author of the paper, or a person who is identified to be equivalently responsible for the paper</td><td>The misconduct has a substantial impact on the development of relevant research field and on society, or the maliciousness of the act is judged to be high.</td><td>2-3 years</td></tr>
<tr><td>The misconduct has a small impact on the development of relevant research field and on society, or the maliciousness of the act is judged to be low.</td><td>1-2 years</td></tr>
</table>

* In principle, the application restriction period will be calculated from the fiscal year following the fiscal year in which the specific misconduct is determined. Eligibility for participation is also restricted for the fiscal year in which specific misconduct is determined.

（iii） Measures Taken for Researchers Whose Qualification is Restricted for Application to and

Participation in other Competitive Research Fund Systems and Base Expenses

Qualification is restricted for application to and participation in this program for researchers whose qualification is similarly restricted for application to and participation in other competitive research fund systems related to MEXT; management grants to national university corporations, inter-university research institute corporations, and independent administrative agencies under MEXT; base expenses including private school subsidies; or competitive research fund systems related to other ministries, during the period the restriction is in effect.

“Competitive research fund systems related to MEXT” and “competitive research fund systems related to other governmental ministries” include those systems that start a new call for proposals in FY2025 or later, as well as those that ended in or before FY2024.

（iv）Public Announcement of Misconduct

If misconduct occurs in research activities under this program, JST will, in principle, disclose the details of the misconduct case (name of the misconduct case, type of misconduct, project name, summary of the misconduct, measures taken by JST, etc.). In principle, the details will also be disclosed by MEXT, including the name of the misconduct case, type of misconduct, research field involved, name of the expense in which the misconduct occurred, summary of the misconduct, measures taken by the research institution, and measures taken by the allocating institution.

The said guidelines state that the research institution must announce the survey results immediately upon recognizing misconduct. Each organization is requested to handle the case accordingly.

https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/jinzai/fusei/1360483.htm

4.32 Duty to Complete Education on Research Ethics and Compliance

Researchers who participate in the R&D projects under this program are required to receive training on research ethics to prevent misconduct in research activities, as specified in the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research,” and on compliance education as specified in the “Guidelines for the Management and Audit of Public Research Funds in Research Institutions.”

After a proposed R&D project is selected, it is necessary for the Principal Investigator and all participating researchers to ensure that they complete the required training on research ethics and compliance education as part of the Commissioned Research Contract process.

4.33 Handling of Information on the e-Rad System

Information on e-Rad about individual projects that have been selected for adoption (name of the

program, name of the R&D project, name of the affiliated research institution, name of the Principal Investigator, Researcher Number, budget amount, implementation period, and the summary of the R&D project) is considered “information intended to be made public” under Article 5, Paragraph 1, Item (i) of the “Act on Access to Information Held by Independent Administrative Agencies” (Act No. 140 of 2001). Once the proposal has been accepted, this information will be made available to the public through the JST Project Database (hereinafter, “PDB”, https://projectdb.jst.go.jp/), which is administered by JST, as well as through this program’s website and the Integrated Research Proposal Search (GRANTS, https://grants.jst.go.jp/), and may also be used by JST and other information systems as public information. Additionally, research reports and other documents submitted by researchers that can be made public may be disclosed to the public through the PDB.

4.34 Provision of Information on the e-Rad System to the Cabinet Office

The “6th Science, Technology and Innovation Basic Plan” (approved by the Cabinet on March 26, 2021) states that Evidence-Based Policy Making (EBPM) will be thoroughly implemented in science, technology, and innovation administration. The information registered in e-Rad is used for appropriate evaluation of R&D with national funds, effective and efficient formulation of comprehensive strategies, and the planning of resource allocation policies, etc.

For this purpose, updates to information regarding annual research outputs, accounting performance of the selected projects, and the execution of indirect expenses related to competitive funding awards must be entered into e-Rad.

The information necessary for macroscopic analysis, including information on research achievements and accounting performance, will be provided to the Cabinet Office.

4.35 Registration of Researcher Information to “researchmap”

“researchmap” (https://researchmap.jp/) is a Japanese researcher information database managed by JST, with over 370,000 registered entries. Achievement information can be managed and disclosed here. In addition, researchmap is linked with e-Rad and the faculty databases of many universities, allowing the registered information to be used in other systems. This leads to increased efficiency by eliminating the need to repeatedly register the same achievements in various application forms and databases.

The information registered in researchmap is effectively utilized for surveying and formulating national academic and scientific and technological (S&T) policies, as well as for statistical purposes. Therefore, researchers involved in this program are strongly encouraged to actively register and update their information on researchmap.

4.36 Patent Applications by JST

In case a research institution does not acquire rights to an invention, JST may acquire those rights in some cases. Therefore, if a research institution does not foresee acquiring rights to an invention, the researcher should notify JST promptly, providing information concerning the said invention, etc. in any appropriate format. (The above “information concerning the said invention” refers to the information necessary for JST to determine whether an application for intellectual property rights is possible, such as a copy of the invention disclosure form used within the research institution.)

JST will review the received notice, and if JST determines based on the results that applying for intellectual property rights is possible, a separate “Patent Rights Transfer Agreement” will be concluded between the research institution and JST.

4.37 System for Non-Disclosure of Patent Applications

The purpose of the patent system is to provide patent rights and to conduct uniform public disclosure of inventions for which a patent application has been filed. This is intended to encourage further technological progress and to prevent duplication of R&D efforts. Prior to the implementation of the System for Non-Disclosure of Patent Applications, the Japanese patent system required that the contents of a patent application be disclosed to the public one year and six months after filing, even if the invention needed to be kept confidential for security reasons. In many countries, it is common practice to keep patent applications for such inventions closed to the public. Consequently, Japan established the System for Non-Disclosure of Patent Applications under the “Act on the Promotion of Ensuring National Security through Integrated Implementation of Economic Measures” (Law No. 43 of 2022) (hereinafter referred to as the “Economic Security Promotion Act”), which suspends patent disclosure procedures in certain cases to prevent dissemination.

Under the Economic Security Promotion Act, if a patent application describes an invention that, if made public, is highly likely to create a situation that could harm national and public security due to external activities, a process called “security designation” is applied. This process suspends patent procedures such as the publication of the application, the granting of the patent, and the refusal of the patent. During this suspension period, the disclosure of the invention’s content, including public disclosure, and the use of the invention that could lead to similar harmful results are generally prohibited. Additionally, withdrawing the patent application is also prohibited. Researchers are requested to comply with national laws, guidelines, and notices, including the Economic Security Promotion Act.

Details of the System for Non-Disclosure of Patent Applications can be viewed on the Cabinet Office website. See below for more information:

・Cabinet Office: System for Non-Disclosure of Patent Applications
https://www.cao.go.jp/keizai_anzen_hosho/suishinhou/patent/patent.html

Chapter 5. Q&A on Call for R&D Proposals

Content of the Educational Program for Research Integrity

Q. What content must be included in the educational program for research integrity conducted by affiliated institutions?

A. Educational programs for research integrity are the responsibility of each research institution. JST does not specify the specific teaching material to be used in such programs.

(Reference)

According to the “Guidelines for Responding to Misconduct in Research Activities” (August 26, 2014, adopted by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), research institutions are required to implement a structure for preventing misconduct, such as appointing a “Research Integrity Education Manager,” and to conduct education at the institutional level. Additionally, the allocating institution is required to confirm that researchers have completed the institution’s educational programs for research integrity.

Note, however, that the details in the referenced guidelines focus on misconduct related to academic papers and do not cover bioethics and conflicts of interest, which are different topics.

If you have any questions, please contact the JST Office of Research Integrity.

Research Integrity Division, Department of Legal Affairs and Compliance,
Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST)
E-mail: rcr-kousyu@jst.go.jp

Program Completion Certification

Q. Is it necessary to submit documentation certifying completion of an educational program for research integrity?

A. No, submission is not necessary at proposal.

Deadline for Completing the Program

Q. I cannot complete the educational program for research integrity before the application deadline. Can I complete the program after the deadline?

A. Completion of the educational program for research integrity by the Principal Investigator is a prerequisite for applying. Enrollment and completion of this program will not be permitted after the solicitation deadline. For details, please refer to “4.1 Enrolling in and Completing the Educational Program for Research Integrity.”

Program Completion Declaration

Q. I have completed the eAPRIN digest version in the past for this program (or another JST program) proposal. Do I need to take the course again?

A. You do not need to complete the program again. Please declare the “completion of the digest version” in the e-Rad application information input screen.

Availability of an English Version of the eAPRIN Digest

Q. Since I have not taken the program offered by my institution, I am planning to enroll in the digest version of eAPRIN. What options are there if my native language is not Japanese, making it difficult to take the course in Japanese?

A. Please take the English digest version of eAPRIN.

※ “eAPRIN” is an e-learning program operated by the Association for the Promotion of Research Integrity (APRIN).

Requirements for Proposers

Q. Is there an age limit?

A. There is no specific age limit, but Principal Investigators (and Collaborators in the “Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase”) must be able to establish a structure to conduct R&D at an organization or similar entity in Japan and to drive the R&D projects throughout the project period.

Multiple Applications

Q. I previously submitted a proposal for a different JST program. Can I also submit a proposal in this R&D Focus Area/Program?

A. Yes, you may submit another proposal. However, for this program, you can only apply for one project by selecting one of the following R&D Focus Areas/Programs.

Additionally, if the Principal Investigator or Research Participants, etc. take part in multiple projects through any competitive research funding system operated by JST, adjustment may be made. These adjustments could include reducing the R&D budget according to the effort of the researchers or requiring researchers to select one project to implement.

① Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA)
② Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase
③ Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Solution Creation Phase
④ Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society-Problem-solving projects
⑤ Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society- Problem-identification projects
⑥ Care-based Social System

Institutional Approval at the Time of Application

Q. Do I need to obtain approval from my affiliated research institution when I apply?

A. You do not need approval from your institution for applications submitted through e-Rad, but please ensure that you obtain prior consent. After projects are selected, JST will enter into a Commissioned Research Contract with the researchers' affiliated research institutions. Please note that, if a Commissioned Research Contract cannot be entered into, the R&D budget cannot be used, so please carefully read "3.9 Responsibilities of Research Institutions." There is no need to submit an approval letter.

Implementation by Foreign Institutions

Q. What criteria will be used to determine whether the performance of research would be impractical if not done at a foreign institution?

A. The Decision concerning whether research must be performed overseas is based on the following criteria:

1) Required facilities do not exist in Japan and are only available at foreign institutions.

2) There are investigations and research that can only be conducted at specific foreign research institutions.

3) Research materials and data can only be obtained at a foreign research institution or location and cannot be transported to Japan.

Interview Screening

Q. If I am not available on the day of the interview screening, can I change the interview screening date?

A. Please be aware that since the schedule is determined by coordinating the schedules of numerous evaluators, the schedule cannot be readjusted.

R&D Budget

Q. Does the “R&D budget” written on the application include the amount of indirect costs paid to the institution when the Commissioned Research Contract is concluded?

A. R&D budget refers to direct costs. It does not include indirect costs. Please write only about direct costs.

Direct Costs

Q. After R&D commences, is it possible to change the detailed use of funds within the budget based on the progress and other factors (for example, using funds initially allocated to expenses for goods to travel expenses) (exchange of direct costs between expense items)?

A. The exchange of direct costs between expense items can be done under certain conditions.

・Conditions for shifting funds without requiring approval from JST:

If the amount of funds to be shifted from each expense items does not exceed 50% of the total direct costs in the relevant fiscal year (if 50% of the total direct costs does not exceed 5 million yen, then 5 million yen)

・Conditions for shifting funds after approval from JST (Program Supervisor) that it is necessary for research implementation:

If the amount of funds to be shifted from each expense item exceeds 50% of the total direct costs in the relevant fiscal year and exceeds 5 million yen.

Note that you are not allowed to exchange direct cost and overhead (indirect) cost.

Indirect Costs

Q. What types of expenditures can indirect costs be used for?

A. Indirect costs are funds for the research institution to cover expenses required for improving the research environment of the implementers participating in a project selected for this program or for enhancing the overall functionality of the research institution. The “Common Guidance for the Execution of Indirect Expenses of the Competitive Fund” (agreed upon by the coordination committees of relevant ministries and agencies on April 20, 2001, and amended on May 31, 2023) provides the following examples as the main uses of indirect costs:

1) Expenses relating to management divisions

- Expenses for development, maintenance, and operation of management facilities and equipment
- Expenses necessary for management administration

Expenses for the purchase of supplies and consumables, equipment lease expenses, miscellaneous labor costs, personnel expenses, communications and transportation expenses, honoraria, domestic and overseas travel expenses, conference expenses, printing expenses, etc.

2) Expenses relating to research divisions

- Expenses relating to commonly used goods

Expenses for the purchase of supplies and consumables, equipment lease expenses, miscellaneous labor costs, communication and transportation expenses, honoraria, domestic and overseas travel expenses, conference expenses, printing expenses, newspaper and periodical

expenses, utility expenses

- Expenses necessary to promote research activities through applications of the relevant research, etc.

Personnel expenses for researchers and research support staff, expenses for the purchase of supplies and consumables, equipment lease expenses, miscellaneous labor costs, communication and transportation expenses, honoraria, domestic and overseas travel expenses, conference expenses, printing expenses, newspaper and periodical expenses, utility expenses, research paper submission fees (paper publication fees)

- Patent-related expenses
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of research building
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of experimental animal management facilities
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of researcher interaction facilities
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of facilities
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of networks
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of large-scale computing facilities (including supercomputers)
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of large-scale computing buildings
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of libraries
- Expenses for the development, maintenance, and operation of field facilities, etc.

3) Expenses relating to other relevant operation divisions

- Expenses relating to the dissemination of research results
- Expenses relating to publicity, etc.

Even in cases other than the above, indirect costs may be used for the improvement of the R&D environment of researchers who receive competitive research funds or for enhancing the overall functionality of the research institution, as long as the head of the research institution determines the expenses to be necessary. However, this does not include funds that should be allocated to direct costs. Research institutions that receive distributions of indirect costs must properly manage these indirect

costs and appropriately retain receipts and other documents evidencing the proper use of indirect costs for five years from the fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the project is concluded. Furthermore, research institutions that receive distributions of indirect costs must report the annual use of these costs to JST by June 30 of the following fiscal year via the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad). If the reporting method via e-Rad is unclear, please refer to the e-Rad user manual (https://www.e-rad.go.jp/manual/for_organ.html) or the FAQs (https://qa.e-rad.go.jp/) .

Outsourcing

Q. Is it possible to subcontract software preparation and other such work to external companies, etc.?

A. If it is necessary for advancing the project, outsourcing is possible. However, such outsourcing must be based on a “contract for work” that excludes R&D elements. In principle, subcontracting that includes R&D elements is not permitted.

Personnel Transfers after Proposal Selection

Q. If a Principal Investigator experiences a change in position (promotion, transfer to a different research institution, etc.) while conducting research, will the Principal Investigator be permitted to continue research activities?

A. As long as it is possible to continue the research activities unhindered at the new position, the research can be continued.

Subcontracting

Q. Do the Commissioned Research Contracts between JST and the R&D participants’ affiliated research institutions take the form of “subcontract” (see note) via the Principal Investigator’s research institution?

Note: “Subcontract” in the Commissioned Research Contract means that JST concludes a research agreement only with the research institution with which the Principal Investigator is affiliated, and this institution concludes another research agreement with the research institution with which a Joint Researcher is affiliated.

A. In this program, Commissioned Research Contracts do not take the form of “subcontracting.” JST concludes Commissioned Research Contracts separately with each of the research institutions with

which the Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers are affiliated.

Definition of Lead Joint Researcher and Group Leader

Q. What is the definition of Lead Joint Researcher and Group Leader?

A. Lead Joint Researcher:

JST concludes Commissioned Research Contract separately with each of the research institutions with which the Principal Investigator and Lead Joint Researchers, who will execute the budget, are affiliated, and allocates R&D funds to them. One “Lead Joint Researcher” will be designated to represent each institution with which the Commissioned Research Contract is to be concluded. The person in charge of research at the institution other than the Principal Investigator is called the “Lead Joint Researcher.”

Group Leader:

A project can be composed of several research groups, depending on the R&D content and plan. The R&D participant who represents each group is called the “Group Leader.” (In the case of a group consisting of several research institutions, the “Lead Joint Researcher” and the “Group Leader” are not necessarily the same person.)

Registration on e-Rad by Lead Joint Researcher/Group Leader

Q. Other than the Principal Investigator, is it necessary to register anyone on e-Rad?

A. Please register the Lead Joint Researcher/Group Leader for “Entries specific to the program” within e-Rad. Registration of other R&D participants is not necessary.

Q. Some Lead Joint Researchers/Group Leaders do not have an e-Rad researcher number. Can they still register on e-Rad?

A. Only the Principal Investigator is required to have an e-Rad researcher number when applying. Lead Joint Researchers/Group Leaders and other participants do not need researcher numbers w at the time of application. After project adoption, you will be asked to obtain e-Rad researcher numbers as required.

Securing an R&D Period (R&D implementation) Until the End of the Fiscal Year

Q. When does a research results report need to be submitted?

A. JST has made the following arrangements so that R&D participants can make the best use of the R&D period to conduct R&D:

・The deadline for submitting the report on the research achievements, “Results Report,” for the fiscal year is May 31 of the following fiscal year.

・The deadline for submitting the accounting report, “the Collaborative Research Results Report (and Income and Expenditure Settlement Report),” for the fiscal year is May 31 of the following fiscal year.

・However, if the end of the R&D period for the final fiscal year is not the end of March of that fiscal year, please submit the above reports by the date designated by JST within 61 days after the end of the contract period.

* Each research institution shall establish the necessary internal structures considering that the objective of the above arrangements is to secure an R&D period (R&D implementation) until the end of the fiscal year.

Adopted Projects and Application Status

Q. Can you provide information on RISTEX’s accepted projects and application status for the previous fiscal year?

A. Please refer to the following website:

1. Joint Press Release on the Results of Project Selection for FY 2024 by Four Programs
https://www.jst.go.jp/pr/info/info1719/index.html

・Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs: Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society

・Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs: Preventing Social Isolation & Loneliness and Creating Diversified Social Networks

・Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA)

・Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs: Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase

English Version of the Application Guidelines

Q. Is it correct to assume that the content of the English version is the same as the Japanese version?

A. The English version of the application guidelines is a translation of the Japanese version. In case of any discrepancies in interpretation due to wording or other factors, please refer to the Japanese version as the authoritative version.

【Inquiries】

The latest information will be posted on the following RISTEX Website:

https://www.jst.go.jp/ristex/proposal/

Questions concerning the call for R&D proposals are accepted by e-mail:

●Inquiries regarding applications in general:

boshu@jst.go.jp

(For applications to each program)

●Responsible Innovation with Conscience and Agility (RInCA)

boshu-elsi@jst.go.jp

●Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Scenario Creation Phase, Solution Creation Phase

boshusolve@jst.go.jp

●Solution-Driven Co-creative R&D Program for SDGs (SOLVE for SDGs): Trust Formation from Social Aspects in the Information Society

boshu-digist@jst.go.jp

●Care-based Social System

boshu-care@jst.go.jp

Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST),

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Address: Science Plaza, 5-3 Yonbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-8666, Japan

【Questions concerning the Cross-ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad)】

e-Rad Helpdesk: 0570-057-060 (Navi Dial)

Office hours: 9:00～18:00

* Except on Saturdays, Sundays, holidays and the year-end and New-Year period