Federal Ministry
of Education
and Research

FACT SHEET

German Call for Project Proposals

"Quantum International – International Cooperation in Quantum Technologies"

Introduction

Based on its quantum technology strategy, Germany is striving to position itself among the international leaders in this field – building on an excellent national and European ecosystem. To master the challenges this poses, Germany aims to intensify international cooperation with value partners – as equal partners – in Europe and beyond. Therefore, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research has published a recurring, open call for international project proposals in quantum technologies.

Funding object

Module A – "Advancing technologies": Funding is provided for application-oriented, international R&D projects involving quantum technologies where faster and more effective progress can be verifiably expected as compared to purely national projects. A central role played by private sector companies is a prerequisite in Module A. Private sector companies are to contribute appropriately to the expenses, i.e. at least 20 % of the total costs/expenses of all German partners.

Module B – "Motivating skilled workers and talents, providing vocational and continuing education and training": This module targets pilot programs for workforce and talent development. It is designed to fund collaborations between different vocational and continuing education and training systems in the quantum technology sector. Application-orientation is necessary. Topics may include: pilot/model international study programs, student academies, pilot training programs, etc.

Special prerequisites for project funding

- Typically, two or three countries are involved.
- Each country finances the domestic partners. BMBF funds the German partners.
- Project duration is typically three years.
- Each project partner receives at least €100,000 of funding.
- Ideally, funding should be distributed equally among the partners; no more than 70% funding may be allocated to partners of one participating country.
- Private companies receive funding of up to 50% of the costs incurred (plus 20% for small companies, 10% for medium-sized companies).
- Universities, research and science institutions and similar organizations receive funding of 100% of the expenses incurred.
- International project partners have to provide proof of availability of funding.

Procedure

Step one – Project outline

- Project outline submission twice a year: until 15 November or 15 May (2023 – 2026) for the German partners of an international project consortium.
- Topics: quantum computing, quantum sensing, enabling technologies.
- Language of submission: English.
- German project partners are to contact the funding agency before submission of a project outline (see below).
- A German project co-coordinator must be named if more than one German partner applies.
- A commented template for the project outline is available at the following link:

  https://www.quantentechnologien.de/fileadmin/public/Redaktion/Dokumente/Formularschrank/Service/Musterskizze_QT_Internationale_Kooperation_v4_C1.doc
- Project outlines will be evaluated on the basis of
  - Scientific/technological relevance
  - Level of innovation
  - Quality and robustness of application / utilization concept
  - Contribution to Germany's, the EU's and its partners' competitive position
  - Consortium's effectiveness in achieving its goals
- Funding recommendations will be made in agreement with the respective international funding organization.

Step two – Full project proposal (German partners)

- For positively evaluated project outlines, the German partners of the project consortium must provide detailed descriptions, work plans and financial data.

In case of any questions, please reach out to the following contacts from the funding agency VDI Technologiezentrum:

Dr. Bastian Hiltscher
Phone: +49 (0)211 6214 441
Email: hiltscher@vdi.de

Dr. Claudius Klein
Phone: +49 (0)211 6214 903
Email: klein_c@vdi.de