

Call for project proposals PIER Ideenfonds

Hamburg, 28.11.2012

Science is done in the scientists' heads. Research thrives on curiosity and good ideas. The PIER Ideenfonds promotes any innovative, creative and unusual research idea. It is particularly aimed at qualified young scientists, enabling them to initiate, develop and implement completely new research ideas, concepts or methods. Acting as a funding instrument, the PIER Ideenfonds provides rapid and non-bureaucratic seed money and start-up funding for the implementation of fresh ideas. Funding will focus on creative ideas, lateral thinking as well as risky research ideas with possibly high potential benefits.

Aim and object of the funding

The aim of the funding is to pick up good research ideas and to enable their implementation.

This funding stream supports the identification, testing, elaboration and implementation of innovative ideas in research and development in the four PIER research fields. The funding concentrates on innovative research and development projects at an early stage where a rapid and non-bureaucratic financial support can significantly contribute to advances in knowledge.

Funding will be granted to

- 1) Workshops/meetings with forward-looking research topics and/or novel formats as well as researcher trip for scientific creativity in order to stimulate and promote innovative ideas on a sustainable basis.
- 2) Analysis and studies of new hypotheses, new concepts and new methodological approaches.
- 3) Experimental research and development work on building prototypes, demonstration of the feasibility or viability as „proof of principle“, or identification and development of new areas of application.
- 4) Conceptual work and studies on an experiment, experimental set-up or device with high discovery and innovation potential and high benefit potential.

Conditions

The applicant must be registered as a PIER scientist (https://www.pier-campus.de/kontakt/registration/registration_as_peer_scientist/index_ger.html). Members of the Universität Hamburg, DESY as well as members of associated partner organizations (EMBL, HPI, BNI) can apply for a funding of their project proposal. The main applicant must be a member of the Universität Hamburg or DESY.

The underlying concept must have at its core a new approach and, as such, may not be the objective of an existing funding support or a separate part of a funded third-party project.

The funding by PIER Ideenfonds excludes institutional funding or covering budget deficits of a third-party project. Should the concept arise within the scope of a third-party project, the context of the project and the further third-party funding must be described in the project proposal.

Nature and scope of the funding

The funding is provided in the form of a non-repayable grant, covering up to 100% of project costs. The funding focuses on project-related expenses exclusively. Personnel costs are generally not eligible. The PIER Ideenfonds has a total volume of about 150,000 euros for the first call.

Structure of the project proposal

A proposal of maximum five pages (including CV but without enclosures) can be made in either German or English and has to include:

- A proposal description
- A brief description of the applicant's expertise
- An evaluation of the chances of success
- A cost plan (including specification of own resources), duration of the project and schedule
- The PIER research field the proposal for PIER is assigned to
- The project partners (name, institution)
- The applicant's CV and five relevant publications
- Contact details of the main applicant

Procedure

Project proposals for PIER Ideenfonds can be submitted at any time to the PIER Office (via e-mail to info@pier-campus.de). The deadline for the first call in 2013 is 17 February 2013. The evaluation follows a one-stage procedure by the PIER Executive Board. The quarterly board meeting decides upon the funding. Proposals submitted two weeks before the board meeting can be considered in the next board meeting.

The funded projects will be presented at the Advisory Board meeting on 15 and 16 April 2013. Funded projects are obliged to refer to the funding authority and the PIER Ideenfonds when presenting the project or project results from the funded project.

An informal two-sided evidence of funding used for the project results including proof of use of funding should be submitted in writing to the PIER Office two weeks after the expiration of the funding measure or at least once a year.

The next decision on the project funding by PIER Ideenfonds takes place in the mid of February 2012.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria are as follows:

- Novelty or novelty grade of the research concept, originality of approach
- Scientific quality of the research project
- Relevance of the project with regard to the objectives and contents of the PIER research fields
- Scientific qualification and applicant's expertise
- Quality of the project planning and structure and cost plan
- Cooperation between Universität Hamburg and DESY

Miscellaneous

A legal claim to funding cannot be derived from the submission of a project proposal. On-going and completed funded projects are presented at the Ideen-Workshop in order to promote the exchange of information and experience.

A short description of the projects so far funded by the PIER Ideenfonds is available at:
https://www.pier-campus.de/forschung/pier_ideenfonds/index_ger.html

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