Proposal – Phase 2

**Project Title - Acronym**

Application for funding from the Initiative and Networking Fund (INF) of the Helmholtz Association within the call for Helmholtz Excellence Networks, launched Dec. 20, 2023

*[Notes: Complete the application by referring to the green explanations and questions under the headings. Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have deleted all text marked in green. The template must be completed in Arial font at 10 pt with line spacing of at least 13 pt (see 'Standard' in the formatting templates). The page margins must be at least 3.0 cm at the top and bottom, and 2.5 cm on the left and right. The proposal (i.e. chapters 2 to 4) should not exceed 10 pages in length.*

*Proposals must be submitted via the ProMeta platform at the following link:]* <https://ivf.helmholtz.de/>

# Key data on the Helmholtz Excellence Network [max. 1.0 page]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Title of the Excellence Network |  |
| Project - Acronym | [*Please use this “Acronym” when naming of your files]* |
| Helmholtz Center  |  |
| Scientific Coordinatorof Excellence Network | [Name][affiliation, e-mail, phone] |
| Partner University(ies) |  |
| Corresponding Cluster of Excellence proposal  |  |
| Project Number Phase-1  | *[Insert corresponding No for information purposes: EXNET-01-...]* |
| Requested INF Funding in total | [ ≤ 500 TEUR] |
| INF-share of each Partner | Center A: ##.### TEURPartner B: ##.### TEUR [*please delete if not relevant]* |
| Total Budget (incl. matching) | ###.### TEUR |
| Planned Start of funding  | *[beginning of 2026]* |
| Planned duration of funding | *[max. 24 month until end of 2027]* |
| Keywords | [Up to 6 keywords relevant to the research topic of the network] |
| Corresponding research field(s) | [ ]  Energy[ ]  Earth & Environment[ ]  Health[ ]  Information[ ]  Aeronautics, Space and Transport[ ]  Matter |
| Corresponding Helmholtz Program(s) (if applicable) |  |
| Corresponding Program topic(s) (if applicable) |  |

Date: dd.mm.2025

# Summary in English and Deutsch *[max. 250 words each]*

* *[English]*
* *[Deutsch]*

# Objectives, strategic relevance and added value

*[Please address the following aspects of the Helmholtz Excellence Network's research agenda in relation to the Excellence Cluster:*

* *Outline the strategic and thematic objectives of your cooperation with the university and your participation in the Excellence Cluster.*
* *What important scientific question and/or strategic dimension of the partnership with the university is addressed by the Helmholtz Excellence Network?*
* *Explain how the scientific question addressed by the Helmholtz Excellence Network differs from or complements existing research activities within programs, center or ongoing initiatives.*
* *What added value do you expect from the Helmholtz Excellence Network? What qualitative and/or quantitative success indicators would you use to measure its effects?*

*(a) in the short/medium term (after two years) and*

*(b) in the long term (after seven years or more).]*

Text

# Network approach, Structure and implementation

*[Key aspects and questions:*

* *Describe your cooperation strategy, the networking approach, the activities linked with the Excellence Cluster and the respective contributions of the participating partners/working groups to the topic and sub-topics.*
* *Illustrate the structure of the Excellence Network: the division into sub-projects and/ or different measures and activities linked with the Excellence Cluster - please use also a chart.*
* *Describe the individual measures and activities that will be funded in detail.*
* *Outline the work packages, of the main tasks and activities and possible indicated milestones and deliverables (please name the coordinating PI)*
* *What is the distribution of tasks within the team? Who is responsible for project management to lead the scientific and strategic development during funding?]*

Text

# Dissemination, usability, exploitation of results [Verwertungsplan] *[max. 250 words]*

*[Key issues to be addressed - a brief response to the bullet points should be provided here. The utilization dimensions table should be completed as far as possible and included in the annex (see Chapter 4.2):*

* *How can the expected research results and activities be further disseminated, utilized or communicated in order to reach potential users, stakeholders and target groups - including those in related domains or areas of application?*
* *What further developments of the results, what next steps towards application do you think are likely and how relevant do you consider them to be?*
* *In the case of a successful outcome, please outline who should undertake the next phase or innovative steps for successfully implementing the results, and how this should be approached?]*

# Financial contributions by the Center & funding from INF resources

*[Explain the type of resources required – including personnel (in Full Time Equivalent FTE over time), material costs, investments (if applicable) – for both the overall project and each sub-project. Please specify these separately and indicate how your own contributions (matching funds) will be used. Please indicate the uses that are applicable here and the financial magnitude of each category, to the extent that estimates can be made. Please also indicate whether resources will be provided from INF funds or your own funds.*

* ***Personnel*** *[number & function of staff (FTE/ x-month) in each category as in the example]:*

*1 Postdoc/24 month (sub-project A) etc.*

*0.75 Technician/18 month, etc.*

* ***Material costs*** *(incl. travel):*

*Equipment & consumables (devices, office tools, lab supplies, IT etc.): Total X EUR*

*Travel expenses (conferences, field visits, accommodation etc.) Total X EUR*

*Administrative costs (recruiting, organization of conferences, PR): Total X EUR*

*Other material costs (buildings & labs rent costs, energy etc.): Total X EUR*

* ***Investments*** *(investments ˃ 100,000 EUR, procurements must be explicitly listed): Total X EUR*

*1 Device A, 2 Instruments B]*

Budget table

*[Please indicate for each partner and in total what contributions are planned to cover the required costs with annual details of personnel, material resources and investments from the Initiative and Networking Fund (INF) and from the partners' own resources (at least 100% of the IVF funding).*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Financial Budget in EUR** | **2026** | **2027** | **Sum** |
| **Budget Initiative and Networking Funds INF**  |
| **Budget share leading Center X** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Budget share of Partner *Y*** *(delete, if not applicable)* | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Budget share leading Center X** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** |
| **Own Budget Contributions** |
| **Own contribution *Center X***  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Own contribution of Partner Y**  | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Personnel | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Material costs (incl. travel) | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| Investments | ###.### | ###.### | ###.### |
| **Total budget** | **2026** | **2027** | **Sum** |
| **Budget INF** | ###.### | ###.### | **###.###** |
| **Own budget** | ###.### | ###.### | **###.###** |
| **Total budget** | **###.###** | **###.###** | **###.###** |

# Annex

* 1. List of Principal investigators [max. 0.5 pages per PI]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Affiliation |  |
| Current position |  |
| Research expertise |  |
| Please indicate the part(s) to which the PI contributes | * Text
* Text
* Text
 |

* 1. Utilization dimensions of the project

*[Please provide more detail on your answers to the questions in Chapter 4. This table is mandatory for all projects funded by INF and serves as a reference for monitoring and control during Excellence Network implementation. Remove any questions that you cannot answer, either now or in the future, or that are irrelevant to your funding objective.]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Utilization Dimension** | **Guiding Questions** (If applicable, please answer the following questions) |
| Scientific or technical prospects of success | * How will the results of the project be disseminated?
* How can the results be used for public tasks, or cooperation with other institutions in academia or industry?
* Will the results impact the training of young researchers?
* Can the results open up new areas for research and development?
* How will technological progress affect the use of your project results? What is the role of technical standards and non-technological developments?
 |
| Economic prospects of success | * Who needs the results? Who are the users/ customers? What are the benefits?
* If applicable, what steps will be taken and when to realize the exploitation/ enter the market?
* What will be the steps/ timeline to realize the exploitation/market entry?
* Will property rights/patents be applied for as part of the project? If so, who will own them and how will they be used, or will they be licensed to third parties?
* What are the risks associated with the planned exploitation?
 |
| Scientific and economic sustainability | Scientific applicability and broader dissemination: Can the results be used for e.g.:* Integration of the approaches/ results into the core-funded research (PoF program/topic)?
* Implementing further research (e.g. plans for follow-up activities/proposals)?
* Deepening results in theses and dissertations?
* Adoption of the findings in research and teaching?
* Transferring the results to related fields of knowledge or new domains?
 |

* 1. Declaration by the applicant on the exclusion of double funding
* *[Declaration by the applicant that the proposed Excellence Network is not funded in whole or in part by any other funding organization and is not already funded by the PoF core funding.]*

**Explanation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Has the project been submitted to other funding organizations? | [ ]  No [ ]  Yes, namely: |
| Has the project topic already been addressed in this way in the PoF? | [ ]  No [ ]  Yes, namely: |
| Has the project already received public funding? | [ ]  No [ ]  Yes, namely: |

* 1. Letters of support by the participating institutions (mandatory)
* *[Please submit digital copies of the signed letters of confirmation from all participating institutions of the Excellence Network (from the responsible board member of the Helmholtz Center and, the head of the partner university) confirming their support for the application and their willingness to provide the required co-funding in case of funding. Letters can be submitted in any digital format (original copies or digital signatures are not required).*
* *Addressee for confirmation letters:*

*Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft Deutscher Forschungszentren e.V.*

*Prof. Dr. Otmar D. Wiestler*

*Impuls- und Vernetzungsfonds*

*Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Str. 2*

*10178 Berlin]*