

Call for proposals for JARA-ENERGY Strategy project 2015

1. Background

RWTH Aachen University and Forschungszentrum Jülich established the **Jülich-Aachen Research Alliance (JARA)** to support the formation of a strategic alliance in the most promising of the existing and emerging joint research fields and to achieve a new quality of integration and collaboration between the institutions.

As a new measure to promote scientific collaboration, JARA-ENERGY will grant up to two projects to support the preparation/development of a strategic plan for the establishment of new research areas with high visibility and critical size.

- **JARA-ENERGY Strategy:** Up to two projects shall be funded with up to 70,000 € each for up to one year, Scientists in a non-base-funded position can apply for the funding of their own position.

2. Scope of Projects

JARA-ENERGY Strategy projects do not intend to generate scientific results. Strategy projects should identify new research areas, which are explicitly established either in Aachen or Jülich. Strategy projects should analyse the potential topic and the existing expertise and infrastructure in Aachen and Jülich to work in the topic, should identify the key scientists who could play a major role in the new research area, and they should analyse the national and international competition in this field. Also there has to be a clear focus on the cooperation between scientists in Aachen and Jülich.

The final result of the project should be a proposal to the heads of Aachen and Jülich on how the identified research field must be structured, supported and enhanced to make it a scientific lighthouse. The aim of the strategy project is the evaluation of one research topic. However, one possible result could be the lack of potential concerning existing competences and infrastructures to reach international top levels. Therefore the identification of weakness of the intended research field which finally is not as valuable as it seemed before also is one (honest) result. Any topic is eligible if helps to establish new and strengthen existing links between researchers in Aachen and Jülich. As we intend to establish a sub-structure in JARA-ENERGY, namely the sub-sections "Processes", "Materials" and "Systems", the proposals must state to which sub-section they will contribute. It is the intention to strengthen the scientific profile of the sub-sections by the topics identified by the strategy projects.

3. Selection and Evaluation Criteria:

The selection criteria for proposals submitted will be

- Estimated relevance of the proposed scientific topic,
- Quality of the core group for the Strategy process with involvement from Jülich and Aachen,
- The core group must be JARA-ENERGY members,
- Support of the scientific and structural aims of JARA-ENERGY especially regarding the new sub-structure with “Processes”, “Materials” and “Systems”,
- potential impact on the research strategy and structure of RWTH Aachen as given by “Zukunftskonzept II”, and Forschungszentrum Jülich,
- Proposal for design of the strategy process (how will you identify the relevant scientists in Aachen and Jülich, are you organising workshops to identify most relevant topics, will you use external support, etc.)
- What is your intention for the presentation of the final results

The proposal should be presented by a core team (at least one JARA-ENERGY member from Aachen and from Jülich). It is not necessary to identify and contact all other scientists, which might get involved in the process. The budget for the project is provided by RWTH Aachen University and Forschungszentrum Jülich (Matching Funds in JARA). Therefore the budget has to be spent in equal shares at each institution. It makes allowances to the allocation model aiming for 30 % share of females (having either at least PhD degree or is acting in leading position in the institutes (e.g. “Oberingenieurin”, “Abteilungsleiterin”) funded by the Institutional Strategy.

The JARA-ENERGY strategy project will be selected by the members of JARA-ENERGY within a plenary meeting of JARA-ENERGY.

4. Funding

The total budget earmarked for the JARA-ENERGY Strategy projects of this call is 140,000 € (2 x 70.000 €). Eligible costs are: Staff and student expenses, travel and subsistence costs, support for workshops and conferences, and consumables and equipment. It is intended to have a significant part of the budget with the core team for the co-ordination of the process. Funds should be spent in total in 2016.

5. General Conditions

Grant proposals can be submitted by all members of JARA-ENERGY or scientists working in their research groups who hold at least a doctoral degree. Non-JARA-ENERGY members can be involved as additional project partners. Six months after the funding period a final report is requested. Additionally, the applicants must present on request by the JARA directors the intermediate and the final results in internal meetings, in the JARA-Präsidium or in the plenary meeting of JARA-ENERGY.

6. Proposal Structure and Content

The proposal should be written in English. It should be no more than 5 pages in length, type size Arial 11, line spacing 1.5, and address the following issues:

- Summary cover page (1 p. incl. abstract, partners, budget overview and project duration from – to)
- What is unique about the topic?
- Why do you think the topic should be established in Jülich and Aachen?
- Who do you think could contribute to the topic?
- How will you organise the process to assure involvement of all relevant scientists?
- How will you organise the strategy process?
- How do you intend to present the final results?
- Work Plan with milestones
- Financial Plan (including additional external funding for the project)

The proposals should be accompanied by short (2 pages max.) CVs of the scientists participating as the core team in this project, emphasizing the scientific work and selected five publications of relevance to the proposal.

7. Deadline for submission: April, 3rd, 2016

8. Project start: July 2016, duration: 1 year

9. Application Procedure:

The grant proposal should be **submitted via E-mail**. Please direct your application to

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