

General

Applications may be submitted in either German or English. Applications should be no longer than 10 pages (excluding attachments) and must be submitted online via the Foundation's application portal. Please follow the structure outlined below and combine all documents into a single PDF file. [>> Apply here <<](#)

Required Documents

1 General summary

(ca. 1/2 page)

2 Abstract of the overall project

(max. 1 page)

3 Strategy Concept

(max. 8 pages and 16.000 characters including spaces)

3.1 Vision and Objectives

- What long-term vision does the project pursue within the context of the deep-tech innovation ecosystem?
- What overarching, systemic contribution does the initiative aim to make to strengthening deep-tech innovation ecosystems?
- What key objectives are being pursued, and to what extent do they address structural and/or systemic challenges?
- What changes are expected to be triggered by the project in the medium to long term (e.g. at the level of structures, actors, or processes)?

3.2 Concept Idea und Execution

- What systemic problem does the programme address, and how exactly does the funded project contribute to solving this problem?
- What constitutes the original or innovative character of the project—content-wise, structurally, or methodologically?
- How do you assess the innovation potential of the initiative and its transfer strategy?
- Are there ambitions or concepts for institutionalising the programme beyond the funding period? How scalable is the programme?
- How will successful implementation of the programme be ensured?
- Which key milestones must be achieved, and which assumptions or hypotheses are to be validated over the course of the project?
- What strategy for measuring impact (e.g. KPIs) is in place?

3.3 Team

- How does the expertise of the project team align, both in terms of content and structure, with the proposed programme?
- What relevant experience does the team bring in the design, implementation, and management of comparable programmes or projects?
- How do the competencies of the individual team members complement one another (e.g. scientific, entrepreneurial, operational, networks)?
- What networks and access does the team contribute that are relevant to the successful implementation and scaling of the programme?

3.4 Ecosystem: Partnerships and Collaboration

- Are there plans for governance bodies (e.g. a steering committee or advisory board), and how is their collaboration structured?
- How is the project embedded within the regional and/or national innovation ecosystem?
- Who are the key ecosystem actors and cooperation partners involved in the project? What relevant experience already exists in collaborating with these or comparable partners?
- Where applicable: How is the initiative embedded within the strategic objectives of the applying higher-education institution or research organisation?
- What synergies exist or are anticipated between the proposed programme and existing structures or initiatives at the institution?
- Beyond financial support: In what way is the involvement of the Joachim Herz Foundation envisioned and desired (e.g. expertise, networks, synergies)?

Attachments

3.5 Institutional Commitment and Letters of Intent (LoIs)

Letters of support from key internal and external cooperation partners and ecosystem actors (where applicable).

3.6 Budget Plan (JHS Excel template available on website)

A budget overview clearly outlining the financial requirements for implementing the activities described above, as well as the planned use of funds (personnel costs, operating expenses, infrastructure).

3.7 Curriculum Vitae

Short CVs of the individuals involved at management or leadership level (maximum of 2 pages per person).

3.8 Optional: Video Presentation (via filesharing)

If wanted, please share a link to a video of no more than two minutes in which the applicants present/pitch the project proposal. Further details in application portal.