




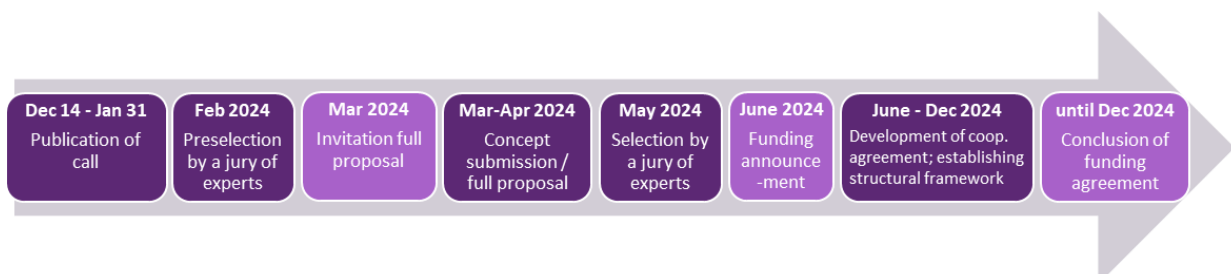


Call for application

Joachim Herz Transfer Center Innovative Materials for Sustainable Technologies

Publication: December 14, 2023
Deadline for expression of interest: January 31, 2024
Deadline for full proposal: April 30, 2024

-  Thematic focus: Innovative materials for sustainable technologies
-  German universities with proven excellence in the thematic focus
-  Innovative and interdisciplinary research program with application potential
-  Up to EUR 3.0 Mio. p. a.
-  Maximum funding period: 10 years incl. interim evaluation
(1st funding period 7 years, 2nd funding period 3 years)



<p>Preamble</p>	<p>The non-profit Joachim Herz Foundation was established in 2008 and is one of the largest German foundations. It promotes education, science and, in particular, innovative, application-oriented research at the interfaces between the natural sciences and engineering. Since the beginning of 2023, it has focused its foundation activities on the topic of "transfer and innovation".</p> <p>Climate change and resource scarcity present society with major challenges that can only be solved if research, industry and society work together. Compared to other countries, Germany is not yet sufficiently successful in applying scientific findings and making them useful for society and the economy. The Joachim Herz Foundation recognizes an urgent need for targeted structural support at institutional level in order to create effective transitions after basic research and before market readiness.</p>
<p>1 Goals and thematic focus</p>	<p>The successive establishment of so-called Joachim Herz Transfer Centers is a central component of the strategic realignment of the Joachim Herz Foundation. The institutional funding format aims to overcome systemic barriers in the transfer process and at the same time create efficient structures at universities. The aim is to accelerate the application of knowledge- and technology-based innovations in order to make concrete solutions from science more effectively usable for addressing urgent societal challenges. In this context, the Joachim Herz Foundation sees the further development of new materials as a crucial key role in successfully realizing environmentally friendly technologies. Material innovations hold significant potential for sustainable and efficient progress in order to reduce the ecological footprint, promote renewable energies and support a circular economy.</p> <p>With this in mind, the Foundation is supporting the establishment of an interdisciplinary Joachim Herz Transfer Center " Innovative Materials for Sustainable Technologies" in order to demonstrate how systemic structures can be established and consolidated in a highly relevant field. This structural, time-limited support at a selected location is intended to promote application-oriented, pre-competitive research work that involves a high scientific and technical risk while also demonstrating high potential. The aim is to develop and implement pioneering materials for a wide range of applications.</p> <p>The transfer center is intended to offer excellent top researchers an ideal environment to realize their transfer-relevant research projects and make the results usable, while promoting the</p>

	<p>entrepreneurial spirit in science. At the same time, researchers are offered competitive market conditions without compromising their scientific freedom. Close cooperation between different fields beyond the traditional boundaries of individual disciplines is essential, for example by including new fields of research such as data science and AI.</p>
<p>2 Mission of the transfer center</p>	<p>The central task of the center is to provide tailor-made structures that enable the effective and efficient utilization of scientific research results in a technological and economic context. This can be achieved, for example, through licensing, the transfer of technologies or spin-offs. The structure of the center is designed to ensure that effective links are established with relevant companies and that entrepreneurial know-how is integrated.</p> <p>With the establishment of the first Joachim Herz Transfer Center, the Joachim Herz Foundation is striving for a new quality of networking between industry and the academic sector. It promotes the formation of alliances and the involvement of companies in order to sustainably consolidate successfully established transfer processes and maximize the impact of research results on society and the economy.</p>
<p>3 Eligibility to apply</p>	<p>Applications may be submitted by German universities with proven excellence in the thematic focus of the call: innovative materials for sustainable technologies.</p>
<p>4 Object of funding</p>	<p>Funding volume: The Joachim Herz Foundation supports the center with funding of up to EUR 3.0 million p.a. for the development and structural anchoring of transfer activities in the defined thematic focus. The maximum funding period is ten years and is divided into two funding periods (1st funding period 7 years, 2nd funding period 3 years). A positive interim evaluation of the first funding period is a requirement for follow-up funding.</p> <p>Particularly eligible for funding are costs that contribute to the establishment and structural anchoring of transfer activities in the aforementioned field, for example</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Personnel and material costs for research projects and administration, ▶ Costs for renting infrastructure (e.g. premises, laboratories, research equipment, databases, etc., but not construction costs)

Structural framework conditions:

The transfer center is to be affiliated with the cooperating university as a legally independent affiliated institute ("An-Institut") in the legal form of a non-profit limited liability company (gGmbH). During the funding phase, the Joachim Herz Foundation is the majority shareholder (at least 90%) of the transfer center. The inclusion of further shareholders is not ruled out in principle, but should not restrict the advantages of the structure and would need to be discussed. In the future, the Joachim Herz Foundation intends to transfer its shares in the Transfer Center gGmbH completely to the collaborating university. This is intended to take place at the latest when the funding expires, but can also take place earlier in the event of success (e.g. economically significant licensing, spin-off, etc.; see also appendix 1, Transfer Center as affiliated institute).

Funding from the Joachim Herz Foundation is awarded on the basis of a funding agreement between the Transfer Center gGmbH and the Foundation to be concluded by December 2024. The main aspects of the collaboration will be defined in a cooperation agreement with the major parties involved (including the university, Joachim Herz Foundation, Transfer Center gGmbH, researchers and, if applicable, partners from industry).

In addition, the interests of those involved will be adequately taken into account by setting up various governance bodies (e.g. steering committee, scientific and technical advisory board and conflict committee).

The collaborating university will create the framework for the researchers and non-scientific staff to be employed at the transfer center (for example, according to the "Jülich model" and in part-time employment). The remuneration for the scientific and non-scientific staff of the transfer center may be based on the compensation for comparable functions in profit-oriented companies.

The infrastructure required for the transfer center should primarily be rented by the transfer center from the collaborating university at standard market conditions. If it appears reasonable, the infrastructure can also be rented in whole or in part from third-party research institutions.



5 Conditions for application

The program addresses in particular institutions with strong research capabilities that

- ▶ have anchored transfer and innovation as an integral part of their university strategy,
- ▶ have outstanding scientists in the focus topic and a very good research infrastructure,
- ▶ can illustrate the feasibility of the defined structural framework conditions in the application outline.

6 Requirements to university

For successful institutional funding, the university submitting the application must meet the following requirements:

- ▶ **Scientific Excellence:**
Innovative and interdisciplinary research program with a high expertise from an excellent research environment in the thematic focus.
- ▶ **Innovation and Transfer Potential**
Convincing application potential, scalability of achieved results and alignment to the university's transfer strategy.
- ▶ **Institutional Readiness:**
Strong commitment from the university to establish the necessary governance structures and to recruit or provide highly qualified top-level academic and administrative personnel. Strategies for ensuring quality and success with regard to individual research projects and the overall structure.
- ▶ **Individual Empowerment:**
Specific understanding of the participating scientists for subsequent exploitation needs and their impact on the research process in the transfer project. Participation in relevant qualification measures and involvement in the emerging national competence network of innovators.
- ▶ **Commitment to Knowledge Transfer and Innovation:**
Demonstration of future perspectives and structures for sustainable promotion of knowledge transfer and innovation.
- ▶ **Cooperation and Networks:**
Integration of companies and regional partners in transfer activities in order to promote broad cooperation and practical applications..

	<p>► Feasibility: Definition of contact persons and available resources for the effective implementation of the structural framework conditions within the intended time frame. Presentation of plausibility, organization and chances of realization of the overall strategy and project planning.</p>
<p>7 Selection process</p>	<p>An independent jury of experts will conduct the evaluation of the written documents in both phases. The Foundation reserves the right to invite selected applicants present to the jury. The final decision rests with the Joachim Herz Foundation based on the feedback from the experts.</p>
<p>8 Application</p>	<p>The two-stage application procedure initially provides for the submission of an expression of interest including a draft proposal. Universities whose draft proposal is evaluated positively are then invited to submit a full proposal.</p> <p>Stage 1: Expression of interest and draft outline Interested universities submit an expression of interest including a draft proposal in German or English via the JHS application portal by January 31, 2024.</p> <p>Stage 2: Full proposal If the draft proposal is reviewed positively, the institution will receive an invitation to submit a full proposal by April 30, 2024 at the beginning of March 2024.</p> <p>For details see annex 2: Guidelines for Application.</p>
<p>9 Dates</p>	<p>Submission of expression of interest and draft outline (Stage 1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► December 14, 2023, to January 31, 2024 <p>Evaluation of Expression of Interest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► February 2024 <p>Invitation to Full Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Early March 2024 <p>Submission of Full Proposal (Stage 2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► March 15, 2024, to April 30, 2024 <p>Evaluation of Full Proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► May 2024

	<p>Announcement of Funding: ▶ June 2024</p> <p>Conclusion of Funding Agreement: ▶ By December 2024</p>
10 Contact and Information	<p>For further information, please contact Dr. Dorothea Pieper (e-mail: dpieper@joachim-herz-stiftung.de, phone: 040/ 533295-672).</p> <p>Appendix 1: Transfer Center as an Affiliated Institute Appendix 2: Guidelines for Application Flyer Joachim Herz Transfer Center</p>