

Vice President for Research, Appointment Strategy, Knowledge & Technology Transfer
Professor Dr.-Ing. Christine Ahrend

TU-internal research funding: Strategic Call 2020 “Pro Nachhaltigkeit”

Goal and object:

In keeping with its mission statement, TU Berlin is committed to the principle of sustainability as part of its policy of developing science and technology for the benefit of society. The goal of the “**Pro Nachhaltigkeit**” funding measure (TU-internal research funding strategic call) is to strengthen and extend research on achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ at TU Berlin through two fields of action. Funding will be provided for projects where researchers at TU Berlin

1. **develop new cooperative joint research partnerships with non-university research institutions and organizations in Berlin and Brandenburg** (preferably first-time cooperation) to contribute to sustainable development in accordance with SDGs (“**Kooperationen Pro Nachhaltigkeit**”);

or

2. **undertake exploratory research and development work to create patentable inventions** (starting point at least TRL 2) to advance sustainable development as defined in SDGs (“**Erfindungen Pro Nachhaltigkeit**”).²

The program is open to all topics and disciplines. The Executive Board expects the funded projects to provide both scientific and social added value and regards it as important that this mutual benefit be communicated to the public.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

² The “Erfindungen Pro Nachhaltigkeit” program supplements funding provided by the ProTuTec (TU-internal research funding) program, which seeks to improve the commercial utilization of existing inventions. See: www.tu-berlin.de/?id=187966

Vice president for research, appointment strategy, knowledge & technology transfer, Professor Dr. -Ing. Christine Ahrend, invites applications for funding from all academic chairs at TU Berlin.

Funding volume:

Individual project proposals will receive a **maximum of 300,000 euros**. A total maximum funding of 500,000 euros is available each year. Projects may run for **up to two years**. Proposals for **smaller projects** (in terms of both period and budget) are also welcome. External partners are required to self-finance their contribution to the project; an appropriate level of co-funding is expected.

Funding may be applied for research associate positions (TV-L E13) as well as other personnel and non-personnel measures (e.g. smaller equipment, accessories and supplies, publication costs, travel expenses, student assistants, freelancers) **used directly for the project**.

Applications:

Professors and research associates at TU Berlin may apply. Applications should **not exceed 8 pages** (Arial, font size 11, minimum line spacing 1.15). **Please use the template provided to submit proposals (see website)**. The application consists of the following elements:

1. Members of the project team
Who will make up the project team? (Name, organization, academic chair)
2. Project goal and research or development focus
What is to be achieved? What is the research question? What is the state of the art/research (including TRL if relevant)? Which TRL is to be achieved? Which problem is to be solved?
3. Explanation of how the project will contribute to one or more SDGs
Which SDGs does the project address? How and to what extent does the project serve sustainable development? What social added value does the project create?
4. Additional information:
 - a) **“Kooperationen Pro Nachhaltigkeit”**: Added value of cooperation
To what extent does the project represent new cooperation with the partner(s)? To what extent is this cooperation essential to achieving the project goals? Which synergies will be exploited throughout the course of the project?

b) **“Erfindungen Pro Nachhaltigkeit”**: Added value of the development at TU Berlin

To what extent is it advantageous to carry out the preparatory work for the invention itself (possibly without external participation)? What added value does the planned development bring vis-a-vis the current state of the art (unique feature)?

5. Work schedule

What is the work schedule? (Research/development design, methods, timetable, milestones)

6. Financial plan

What is the financial plan divided into funding years, according to personnel and material resources (including costs for patent applications if applicable)? What is the financial contribution of the external partner (obligatory for “Kooperationen pro Nachhaltigkeit”)?

7. Framework conditions

In the event of employment of junior scholars as part of the project: Which qualification goals can be achieved within the project and to what extent? Which data management is planned? How are legal (inventor/copyright issues), technical and possibly ethical questions resolved?

8. Publication/commercial utilization and science communication

How will the research findings be published and/or commercially utilized? Which science communication measures are planned? How do you plan to commercially exploit the project, which brands or businesses does the planned technological development target (obligatory for “Erfindungen Pro Nachhaltigkeit”)?

Selection criteria:

The **general selection criteria** for “Pro Nachhaltigkeit” projects are:

- Originality of the proposal
- Social added value for sustainable development
- Feasibility of the work schedule
- Clarification of legal and technical requirements
- Career and qualification prospects for junior scholars
- Data management concept
- Publication concept and/or commercial exploitation of research findings as well as science communication concept

Additional criteria:

- **“Kooperationen Pro Nachhaltigkeit”**: The innovative nature of the cooperation and its added value
- **“Erfindungen Pro Nachhaltigkeit”**: Added value of the development at TU Berlin

Selection:

Selection is made by a committee led by Professor Christine Ahrend, vice president for research, appointment strategy, knowledge & technology transfer, and consisting of members of the Structural Committee of the Academic Senate amongst others.

Submitting applications:

Please use the template provided to submit proposals (see website). Please address your proposal to the vice president for research, appointment strategy, knowledge & technology transfer and send signed hard copies of your documents to Research Promotion VC4 via the managing director of your institute and your faculty dean.

Please additionally send your application by email as a pdf file to: info@for.tu-berlin.de. **Both versions must be signed and completed in full and submitted to Research Promotion (VC4) by the submission date.**

Deadline:

12 October 2020. In order to promote equal opportunities and work-family life balance in times of the Corona pandemic, the deadline will not be within the first two months following the resumption of regular childcare (day care center, school). If the date for the resumption is postponed, the deadline shall be postponed accordingly.

Contact:

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