

Call for proposals for JARA-ENERGY Seed Funds 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 measure to promote to scientific collaboration, JARA-ENERGY will grant seed funds to develop new ideas to the point where they can attract subsequent third-party funding. The funding line addressed in this call is

- **JARA-Start Projects:** Up to three small projects, but not more than 75 % of the submitted proposals, shall be funded with up to 50,000 € for up to 1 year, especially for the funding of early career scientists. Scientists in a non-permanent position can apply for funding of their own position.

2. Scope of Projects

The proposed projects should address major research goals of the section JARA-ENERGY in the field of **“Materials and Processes for sustainable Energy Technologies”**, including cross-cutting research and topics. The addressed topics should be new, creative and can be of high risk. The topics should not already be addressed by national or international public funding programs nor are present in one of the running JARA-ENERGY projects, and help to establish new and to 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 “Processes” and/or “Materials” by the seed-funds.

3. Selection and Evaluation Criteria:

The selection criteria for proposals submitted will be

- involvement or support by institutes from RWTH Aachen as well as Forschungszentrum Jülich (without professors appointed at Aachen according to the “inverse Jülich model”),
- involvement of at least one JARA-ENERGY member institute,
- support of the scientific and structural aims of JARA-ENERGY,

- originality,
- interdisciplinarity,
- subsidiarity (funding through other sources is not yet possible),
- potential impact on the research strategy and structure of RWTH Aachen as given by “Zukunftskonzept II”, and Forschungszentrum Jülich,
- adequateness of research approach.

Major evaluation criteria after project completion will be the quality of the research results obtained and the future perspectives of the research topic based on a final report, which has to be provided 6 months after project closure and details on:

- a promising proposed third-party funded follow-up project (DFG, BMBF, EU, ...),
- publications in peer-reviewed journals, and
- granted patents or promising patent applications.

The budget for the projects is provided by the Excellence Initiative of the German federal and state governments and makes allowances to the allocation model aiming for 30% share of females (but no less than PhD students) funded by the Institutional Strategy.

The JARA-ENERGY-Start projects will be selected by the members of JARA-ENERGY.

4. Funding

The total budget earmarked for JARA-ENERGY Seed Fund projects is approx. 150,000 €. Eligible costs are: Staff and student expenses, travel and subsistence costs, support for workshops and conferences, and consumables and equipment. Current DFG-Guidelines (ExIn10 – 04/14) for project financing are applicable.

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. Please also note the regulations of the “Richtlinien zur Vergabe von JARA-Seed Funds ZUK II” (available only in German).

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)
- Expected Long Term Impact
- Relevance of the project for the JARA-ENERGY section

- Existing and intended collaboration between scientists from Aachen and from Jülich within the scope of the proposal with equal share Jülich/Aachen
- Current obstacles for external funding
- Current Status of Research
- Goals and Approach (methodology)
- Use of existing infrastructure in Aachen and/or Jülich
- 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 in this project, emphasizing the scientific work and selected five publications of relevance to the proposal.

7. Deadline for submission: October 31st, 2015

8. Project start: No later than 3 months after granting notification (expected for the beginning of January 2016)

9. Application Procedure:

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

Dr. Julia Ulrich

General Manager JARA-ENERGY

energy@jara.org

Directorate JARA-ENERGY:

Prof. Dr. Dirk Uwe Sauer

RWTH Aachen University

Lehrstuhl und Institut für Stromrichtertechnik
und Elektrische Antriebe (ISEA)

Prof. Dr. Rüdiger-A. Eichel

Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH

Institut für Energie- und Klimaforschung:
Grundlagen der Elektrochemie (IEK-9)