Information on *KIT Future Fields*, Stage 3: Strategic Reinforcement

** Please also refer to the general information and selection criteria for *KIT Future Fields* **

**Objectives and Description of Stage 3: Strategic Reinforcement**

Stage 3 of the university of excellence measure *KIT Future Fields* is dedicated to strategic reinforcement of a visionary research focus or an emerging field. The objective of Stage 3 is to identify and substantially promote research of outstanding quality at KIT and with high potential for scientific breakthroughs. Research shall be advanced to the point where it could serve as a nucleus of proposals for highly competitive external funding schemes (e.g., Cluster of Excellence, CRC/TRR, ERC Consolidator/Advanced/Synergy). Activities at this stage have left the exploration phase but need additional support to be established as highly advanced new lines of research. Therefore, Stage 3 is designed for further strategic and structural reinforcement, i.e. activities can use their funds to initiate or complement measures to advance the development of their research field, e.g., to finance postdoc positions and start junior research groups, or contribute to early re-appointment of key professorships.

Groups of scientists can apply for up to 1 Mio. EUR for a duration of typically up to 2 years (e.g. for scientific staff, material expenses, purchase of equipment or support in project management). Typically, a Stage-3 proposal is expected after a successful evaluation of a project funded in Stage 2 but it is also possible to directly submit proposals for Stage 3 without previous participation in *KIT Future Fields*.

International external reviewers are asked to assess the potential of Stage-3 proposals. For that purpose, aspects to be taken into consideration are, for example, the novelty and groundbreaking nature of the idea or approach, the long-term vision, the potential of the researchers involved, the strategic potential for KIT, indications of international visibility and external funding schemes envisaged. Based on the external reviews, CRYS recommends one proposal to be selected by the Executive Board to enter Stage 3.

During or at the end of Stage 3, the selected initiative is expected to prepare a proposal for a competitive external funding scheme (e.g., Cluster of Excellence, CRC/TRR, ERC Consolidator/Advanced/Synergy) in order to secure significant additional funding to advance their research and demonstrate their status of excellence. Stage-3 funding may therefore serve as a vehicle to achieve, for instance, a sufficient level of collaboration and confidence in the research approach plus indications of a strategic-structural commitment on the part of the organization necessary for the successful participation in high-level external funding schemes. In the proposal process for external funding, researchers are closely accompanied and supported by the KIT Research Office and can, if applicable, benefit from specific external seed funds.

At the end of Stage 3 as well as after a follow-up period of 5 years Stage-3 activities are requested to provide a written report.

**Research Data Management**

Part of each activity at Stage 3 is the development of a concept for research data management, supported by our team for research data management RDM@KIT. Please contact Dr.-Ing. Felix Bach at RDM@KIT regarding the planning of your concept: [felix.bach@kit.edu](mailto:felix.bach@kit.edu), extension 25637.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deadlines and dates in 2020 - KIT Future Fields, Stage 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12 July 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>31 August 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7 and/or 21 October 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9 or 23 November 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>January 2021 onwards</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scientists or groups of scientists planning to submit a Stage-3 proposal must bindingly declare their interest to do so and at the same time provide the names (including affiliation and contact details) of three external international experts who might serve as reviewers to their proposal by email to DE Forschungsförderung on time (contact: Dr. Doris Lechner, doris.lechner@kit.edu). Please note that this does not ascertain that these experts will serve as your reviewers as we may decide to choose other international researchers for this purpose. You do, hence, not need to contact these persons in advance.

Proposals for Stage 3 (English only) must be submitted by email to DE Forschungsförderung on time (contact: Dr. Doris Lechner, doris.lechner@kit.edu). The proposal must be accompanied by a letter of support from the responsible Head of Division.

Calls for Stage 3 are usually issued on an annual basis. The next call is anticipated with an August 2021 deadline for proposals.
Proposal for *KIT Future Fields*, Stage 3: Strategic Reinforcement

[Title of activity]

**Total of requested funds**

[total in T€]

**Applicant**

[title, surname, first name]

[institution]

**Division**

The responsible Head of Division [title, first name, surname] supports the submission (see attached letter of support).

**Date:** ________________
Description of the activity

Please outline your planned activity on a maximum of fifteen pages regarding the following questions:

1. Content and objective of the planned strategic reinforcement (including a discussion of risks and opportunities, positioning within the international state of research, pioneering character and impact on the future development of the field or stimulation of new research areas, long-term vision)

2. Strategic relevance for KIT (including a discussion of staffing, financial and infrastructural framework as well as integration into development planning)

3. Plans for the preparation of a proposal for external funding (including a discussion of which external funding scheme is aimed for, which funding criteria of this scheme are already met or will be addressed through KIT Future Fields funding)

4. Reference to objectives/measures of KIT 2025

5. Planned funding period

6. Requested funds (subdivided into funds requested for staff, direct costs and instrumentation) and schedule of planned use of funds (e.g., schedule subdivided by months or quarters); if applicable, origin, amount, and state (requested, granted) of co-financing (external or internal)

7. Implementation plan/milestones including an outline for the planned concept for research data management

8. Participating researchers (and institutions) including summary of individual or joint preliminary work

9. Funds from the university of excellence funding must not replace other sources of third-party funding (subordinate funding). Where have proposals for this activity already been submitted to?