Objectives and Description of Stage 2: Pilot Projects

In Stage 2 of the university of excellence measure KIT Future Fields scientists and groups of scientists receive funds for conducting pilot projects to examine in depth the research potential of highly innovative, high-risk research topics at the frontiers of science and at the interface between disciplines. The objective is to identify promising research topics of outstanding quality and with high potential for scientific breakthroughs. Proposals for pilot projects should address aspects such as the highly innovative, pioneering character of the idea or approach and reflect the long-term potential for developing the research idea into an internationally visible field of research.

Pilot projects can apply for funds of up to 400,000 EUR for a duration of typically 1-2 years (e.g. for scientific staff, material expenses, purchase of equipment or support in project management). Stage 2 can be applied for by a follow-up proposal after the completion of KIT Future Fields Stage 1; it is also possible to directly submit proposals for Stage 2 without first passing through Stage 1. After completion of Stage 2, a follow-up proposal can be submitted for Stage 3.

The funding enables preliminary research collaboration at an early stage so that initiatives can try out their ideas without having to rely on external third-party funds and therefore do not yet have to commit to a specific funding scheme (e.g. SFB/TRR, ERC) beforehand. After passing through Stage 2 at the latest, researchers should be able to assess whether their initiative has advanced into a promising research focus that can serve as the nucleus of a proposal for highly competitive external funding schemes (e.g., Cluster of Excellence, CRC/TRR, ERC Consolidator/Advanced/Synergy). The initiative can then, for instance,

- prepare a proposal for external third-party funding as a research collaboration and benefit from external seed funds available for the specific funding scheme.
- submit a follow-up proposal for Stage 3; some initiatives may be scientifically advanced but still require further strategic-structural support and institutional commitment.
- take another route for the research topic; if the research findings from the pilot project do not meet the original expectations, other directions than applying for a large third-party funded project may be pursued or the project can be concluded after the pilot phase.

Research Data Management

If relevant, a concept for research data management should be considered in the proposal (this is mandatory in Stage 3 at the latest). If you have any questions on the development of a concept for research data management, please contact Dr.-Ing. Felix Bach at our team for research data management RDM@KIT: felix.bach@kit.edu, extension 25637.
### Deadlines and Dates second half of 2020 - KIT Future Fields, Stage 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 August 2020</td>
<td>Deadline for Stage-2 proposals via mail to DE Forschungsförderung, <a href="mailto:doris.lechner@kit.edu">doris.lechner@kit.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 and/or 30 September 2020</td>
<td>Preselection by Council for Research and Promotion of Young Scientists (CRYS); please take note of these dates so that you can present your proposal in person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 October 2020</td>
<td>Executive Board Decision: final decision on funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2020 onwards</td>
<td>Start of funding period possible (funding period should usually start within the first six months after notification of funding approval)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposals for Stage 2 (English or German) must be submitted by email to DE Forschungsförderung on time (contact: Dr. Doris Lechner, [doris.lechner@kit.edu](mailto:doris.lechner@kit.edu)). The responsible Head of Division must be informed of the submission and this must be confirmed in the proposal.

Calls for Stage 2 are usually issued on a bi-annual basis. The next call is anticipated with a February 2021 deadline for proposals.
Proposal for *KIT Future Fields*, Stage 2: Pilot Projects

[Title of activity]

**Total of requested funds (max. EUR 400.000)**

[total in T€]

**Applicant**

[title, surname, first name]

[institution]

**Division**

The responsible Head of Division [first name, surname] has been informed of the submission.

**Date:** ________________
Description of the activity

Please outline your planned activity on a maximum of five pages (bibliographic references can be included from page six onwards) regarding the following points (please retain given order and subheadings):

1. Content and objective of the planned pilot project (including a brief explanation of risks and opportunities, positioning within the international state of research, pioneering character of the planned activity)

2. Strategic relevance for KIT and considerations for the planned continuation after the completion of the pilot project phase

3. Reference to objectives/measures of KIT 2025

4. Planned funding period (duration and date)

5. 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

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

7. Participating researchers (and institutions; substantial part should be located at KIT) including summary of individual or joint preliminary work in the planned field of research

8. 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?