CALL FOR PROPOSALS

For the 14th time, the Stanford School of Engineering and the Hasso Plattner Institute, Potsdam, Germany, invite grant proposals for research in Design Thinking. Grants are in the range of $50,000-$150,000 per year. Approximately 12 awards are expected, 6 per institution. The Program seeks to engage multidisciplinary research teams with divergent backgrounds in science, engineering, design, the humanities, and business.

Program Vision

The HPI-Stanford Design Thinking Research Program (http://hpi.de/en/dtrp) engages multidisciplinary research teams to scientifically investigate the phenomena of innovation in its many dimensions and different application contexts. In particular, researchers are encouraged to develop ambitious, long-term explorations related to the innovation strategies of design thinking across domains of practice. The Program applies rigorous academic research methods to understand the scientific basis for how and why design thinking innovation works and fails. Funded researchers study the complex interaction between members of multi-disciplinary teams challenged to deliver breakthrough product, service, and business-model design innovations.

An important feature of the design space is the need for creative collaboration across spatial, temporal, and cultural boundaries. In the context of disciplinary diversity, how might successful "team-of-teams" design thinking organizations mesh effectively with traditional engineering and management command-control organizations.

Program Priorities

Funding decisions favor projects that set new research priorities for this emergent knowledge domain. The collaboration plan must demonstrate depth and commitment beyond words. Selection is also based on intellectual merit, methodology rigor, and evidence of open collaboration.
We are especially interested in close collaboration between the two universities. Therefore, we strongly support:

- Joint proposals of Stanford University and the Hasso Plattner Institute
- D-School (HPI) and d.school (Stanford) related proposals

We seek proposals positioned to yield deep insights into the nature of human needs and the protocols that design thinking researchers might apply to achieve "insights" versus "data".

We are also concerned with the following points-of-view and guiding questions:

- What are people really THINKING and DOING when they are engaged in creative design innovation? How can new frameworks, tools, systems, and methods augment, capture, and reuse successful practices?
- What is the IMPACT of Design Thinking on human, business, and technology performance? How do the tools, systems, and methods really work to create the right innovation at the right time? How do they fail?
- What societal IMPACT can Design Thinking have, i.e. in navigating digital transformation or for reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals?

Requirements for Funding and Proposal Guidelines

All research teams funded through the Program are expected to:

- participate in two HPDTRP community building workshops (Stanford, Potsdam)
- deliver a project report as a chapter of the next book "Design Thinking Research"
- participate in distilling learnings from the research (for i.e. Kaleidoscope, exercises)

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be a tenure line professor at Stanford University or the Hasso Plattner Institute. They must be authorized to supervise Ph.D. candidates as the primary dissertation advisor. The National Science Foundation (USA) eligibility criteria define PI requirements.

1. New Proposals

Grant proposal descriptions can be up to four pages in length including figures. Joint proposals between Stanford University and the Hasso Plattner Institute must have an eligible PI on each side and each side must submit a separate proposal (sections of which can be identical). Each side can apply for funding up to $150,000.

Please, no fonts below 12pt, no margins less than 2cm, and either letter or A4 page layouts. Proposals should include:

- Cover Sheet: Please use official form on the last page
- Cover Page: Project title, names (incl. affiliations & email) of all members of the proposed project team
- Description: Four pages maximum that describe the research project in ways that explicitly address the following key questions. If these issues do not fit your vision, please present alternatives and the rationale for using them.
    o What is the experiment design? What are the analysis methods?
    o How is performance being measured?
    o What is the expected impact?
    o What human need is being addressed?
    o How does the research relate to previous findings of the HPDTRP?
- Appendices:
    o References
    o One-page resume for each investigator (NSF style)
    o One-page timeline with milestones and year-end deliverables (paper, workshop, demonstration …)
    o One-page budget justification for one year:
        - Salaries (faculty, post-doc, PhD candidates, staff)
        - Supplies (printing, publication, media, experiment consumables)
        - Travel (regional, international conferences, collaboration)
        - Capital equipment is not allowed in Stanford proposals.

2. Application for Continued Funding

All of the above (designed for the year ahead) plus a progress report of up to 15 pages.

Submission and Review Protocol

The Program Committee with balanced institutional representation will review all eligible grant proposals. It may encourage groups to collaborate if it sees complementary lines of interest.

Proposals should be submitted by email as Adobe Acrobat (pdf) attachments to:

- Prof. Dr. Christoph Meinel and Prof. Dr. Larry Leifer (HPDTRP-submission@hpi.de)

by 23:59 (GMT), Wednesday, **July 1st, 2021**. Please feel free to contact either for more information.

Cover Sheet (Form)

Proposal ID code: (to be filled in by program manager)	
Title of Proposed Project:	
Name and Affiliation of Principal Investigator:	
Abstract: (maximum of 200 words)	
Overall Budget requested (in US$):	