



24. November 2020

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR A NEW LARGE-SCALE RESEARCH CENTRE?

WE ARE OFFERING YOU THE CHANCE TO REALIZE IT!

WHAT ARE WE OFFERING?

We are offering you the unique opportunity to realize your idea for a new large-scale research centre and in doing so to play a decisive part in shaping the future of German science and innovation and the Saxon coal-mining areas.

For this purpose, the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Free State of Saxony will be providing up to 170 million euros per year for each centre on a long-term basis and within the framework of the Act on Structural Change in Coal Mining Areas (Strukturstärkungsgesetz Kohleregionen, StStG). The thematic orientation and the precise location of the two new research centres will be determined in a thematically open competition. Thus, we are offering you the greatest possible flexibility for your proposals. It's your ideas that count!

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WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

We are looking for the best minds with the best ideas. We are calling on outstanding scientists both in Germany and abroad who are eager to participate in shaping the scientific and economic future of Germany and Saxony to submit their innovative ideas for a new research centre. We will support you in further developing your ideas with proven experts from the fields of science, industry, innovation and civil society as well as your own budget. We are looking forward to receiving your entry!

WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

In passing the StStG, Germany's Federal Government and its states, the Länder, are helping to ensure that the coal-mining areas remain attractive regions where people want to live. The Federal Research Ministry is investing heavily in education, research and innovation for this purpose. The primary focus of the competition "Wissen schafft Perspektiven für die Region!" (Science Creating Prospects for the Region) is to establish two excellent large-scale research centres in the Lusatian and Central German coalfield regions of Saxony. The aim is to support innovation in these areas and to strengthen German science and innovation in general.

HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

Submit your ideas by 31 March 2021. The first thing we want is an outline proposal (max. 20 pages in English or German) that convincingly sets out the following in particular:

- an ambitious research mission which spans the full spectrum of activities from basic scientific research right through to application, and addresses major societal challenges;



- an innovative approach to cooperation between science and industry, including a strategy for the transfer of research results into applications;
- a proposal for possible core resources (incl. human) for the new centre.

Considerations for involving partners from science and industry – from both inside and outside the two regions – are expressly welcome. A connection between the applicants and the envisaged location of the centre is not a condition for submitting an outline proposal. The announcement of the funding regulations, format templates for the outline proposals and further information on the application procedure will be published in good time in the Federal Gazette (Bundesanzeiger) as well as on the website stated below.

HOW DOES THE SELECTION PROCEDURE WORK?

The outline proposals will be evaluated by a high-level “perspectives commission”. It will be chaired by Wolfgang A. Herrmann, long-time President of the Technical University of Munich and head of the structural commission to set up the Technical University of Nuremberg. Further members of the commission will include the German Nobel laureate for chemistry, Stefan Hell, and the first German commander of the International Space Station (ISS), Alexander Gerst. The most promising ideas will receive temporary funding of up to 500,000 euros (for a period of about six months) so that they can be developed into viable and fully assessable proposals. The resulting fully developed proposals for the establishment of the two new research centres will be chosen by the BMBF and the Free State of Saxony on the basis of an external, scientific evaluation and an assessment of the innovative potential and the expected contribution to structural economic transformation.

The responsible contact partners for your questions are the Chair of the Perspectives Commission and Division 423 of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Please address your enquiries to:
WissenSchafftPerspektiven@bmbf.bund.de

For further information about the two regions concerned, please contact the Saxon State Ministry for Science, Culture and Tourism.

Further information is available at:

www.bmbf.de/en/science-creating-prospects-for-the-region-13171.html