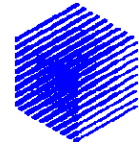


## “Seed” Projects - INFM call for Young Researchers



INFM-CNR is launching a call for “Seed Project” proposals, with the aim of supporting original frontier research projects by young INFM researchers. The Projects must be related to the core activities of INFM Laboratories-Centers.

The overall maximum budget for the projects is 700.000 euro, the maximum grant per project is 50.000 euro.

The Principal Investigator (PI) must be an INFM researcher (either hired by INFM on a TI, TT or TD position, or associated to INFM on a staff position at a University or other institution). INFM ‘technologists’ are also eligible PI’s. For fixed term positions (TD) an additional requirement is that the position extends until the end of 2008 or later. The PI must have been awarded<sup>1</sup> his/her first PhD (or equivalent degree) more than 2 and less than 7 years prior to the deadline of the call for proposals. Extensions of this period may be allowed in case of eligible career breaks which must be properly documented; they will be accepted following the ERC rules, see page 9 of [http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc\\_guide-for-applicants\\_stg.pdf](http://erc.europa.eu/pdf/erc_guide-for-applicants_stg.pdf).

### Structure of the proposals

The proposals must include the following elements:

- a) Scientific and technical description of the project
- b) Short CV and description of the Principal Investigator’s research achievements
- c) Description of the scientific environment and resources

The length of the proposals should not exceed 8 A4 pages in total (4+3+1), free format.

In addition,

- d) Each proposal must be validated by the Director of the INFM Laboratory/Center, through a letter confirming that, if approved, the research will be compatible with the facilities and activities of the Laboratory/Center.
- e) The proponents are encouraged to include a list of a few knowledgeable experts in the field, as a suggestion of possible referees for their proposal.

### Review Process

The peer review evaluation will be carried out by a small Panel, assisted by appropriate referees for each project. It will be based solely on the scientific quality of the project and the potential of the Principal Investigator to make it successful; the existence of an appropriate research environment to perform the research will be evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis.

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<sup>1</sup> The reference date towards the calculation of the eligibility period is the date of the actual award of the doctoral certificate. For PhDs awarded by an Italian University this must be substituted by the end date of the last PhD academic year.

The evaluation criteria will be the following :

*1. Quality of the proposed research project*

- Does the proposed research address important challenges in the field ?
- Does the research open relevant, scientific or technological perspectives ?
- Is the outlined scientific approach and methodology appropriate and feasible?

*2. Principal Investigator:*

- Has the Principal Investigator published in high quality peer reviewed journals, is his/her work recognized by the reference scientific community (as commensurate to his/her age) ?
- Does the Principal Investigator's have a significant record of collaborations, project conception, supervision of students (as commensurate to his/her age) ?

*3. Research Environment*

- Is the research environment such that the proposed research methodology can be successful ?
- Is the requested budget overall appropriate ?

The evaluation will take place as follows: The Panel and referees will evaluate and score numerically the proposals as concerns Headings 1 and 2. Heading 3 criteria will be evaluated under on a "pass/fail" basis. The Panel and referees may also provide specific technical recommendations concerning the requested budget. The evaluation under Heading 1 and Heading 2 will be marked on a scale of 0 to 6, and 0 to 4, respectively, with half-point resolution.

The full proposal will be evaluated on a scale of 0 to 10 and an overall quality threshold of 8/10 will be used to establish the "retained list" of proposal which will be ranked in order of priority for funding.

### **Submission and approval of grants**

The proposals (in English) will have to be submitted before January 15, 2008, by uploading the relevant .pdf files through the website <http://young.infm.it>. The website will be open starting January 2, 2008. The results of the evaluation are expected to be available by March 2008.

The funds granted to each of the selected projects will have to be spent or allocated within 2008; a final scientific and financial report will be due within 18 months after the start of the project. INFM will appoint a monitor for each project who will constantly follow the project evolution and will evaluate the final results. INFM will consider to stop the project on the basis of negative reports from the monitor.

For information related to web submission: Marco Campani ([marco.campani@infm.it](mailto:marco.campani@infm.it)); for other information: Elisabetta Narducci ([elisabetta.narducci@infm.it](mailto:elisabetta.narducci@infm.it)).