Call for proposals within the InnovationCampus Future Mobility “Bottom-Up-Projects Transfer”

The Innovation Campus for Future Mobility (ICM) is the joint research platform of the University of Stuttgart and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) for mobility and production. Within the ICM, partners from academia and industry join their expertise in research, innovation and technology transfer in order to develop new technologies flexibly and efficiently and bring them directly into practical application. This is based on interdisciplinary and application-oriented research in the interconnected research fields of **Manufacturing Systems, Mobility Technologies, and Software-System-Architectures**. With its innovation networks and discourse with society, the ICM contributes to Baden-Württemberg’s future viability and competitiveness. The ICM is funded by the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research, and Arts (MWK).

The aim of this call is to further strengthen active innovation transfer through an additional funding instrument. The focus is on the **transfer** of research results. These results are to be further developed, supplemented, or adapted for practical application within the framework of the projects, with the aim of translating them into **practical applications** through dedicated exploitation activities, such as spin-off projects or follow-up application projects with **industrial partners**.

Eligibility and Funding Conditions: Eligible applicants include members of both universities, as well as—in cooperation with these institutions—members of higher education institutions and research institutions throughout Baden-Württemberg. This call for proposals is primarily aimed at researchers in the early stages of their careers and/or researchers interested in entrepreneurship or establishing a spin-off. The following conditions must be observed:

- Maximum project duration: **nine months**; maximum grant amount: **€50,000**.
- Eligible expenses include personnel costs (up to the DFG personnel rate), material costs, and small investments (up to €10,000). Operating costs or similar expenses are not eligible for funding.
- Funded projects are required to report to the ICM on the transfer and utilization of project results even after the funding period has ended. Active public communication is expected.
- As part of the projects, **at least one** proof of technical feasibility (proof of concept) must be provided, or an industry-relevant demonstrator must be implemented.
- Part of the project outcome is the development of a exploitation strategy that outlines exploitation pathways, as well as the required measures, responsibilities, and milestones (e.g., spin-off, licensing, or collaboration with industrial partners).

Additional **evaluation criteria** that must be explicitly addressed in the application:

- The project addresses **the transfer of research outcomes** emerging from the ICM’s research areas into practice. Existing hardware may be used to support the proof of feasibility.
- The project is based on findings from **innovative** and **interdisciplinary** research projects and has a high potential for **transfer** and **application** and a focus on Baden-Württemberg.
- The project includes **SMART goals** to define when the project can be considered a success.

Proposals may be submitted digitally at any time via gf@icm-bw.de using the **current templates** (plus attachments). These and additional information can be found online at https://www.icm-bw.de/en/research/open-calls. The Research Coordination Office of the Innovation Campus Mobility of the Future (fk@icm-bw.de) will be happy to answer any questions regarding the call for proposals and the application process.