

## Call for proposals of the InnovationCampus Future Mobility "Future Labs"

**The goal** of the InnovationCampus Future Mobility (ICM), funded by the Ministry of Science, Research and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg, is to produce new technologies with a disruptive character and potential for innovation through excellent basic research in the fields of mobility and production. To this end, the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and the University of Stuttgart are pooling their expertise in research and innovation to think ahead and conduct interdisciplinary research into new forms of mobility, flexible production technologies and future value networks. The InnovationCampus serves as a joint platform to quickly and flexibly develop new technologies, test new approaches and create the basis for innovations.

The **third InnovationCampus call** for proposals, "Future Labs," supports investments at universities to strengthen collaboration between the InnovationCampus Future Mobility (ICM) and companies or research institutions in Baden-Württemberg. Key elements of the Future Labs are the establishment and joint use of newly created research infrastructure, which is to be used for both research and transfer to industrial implementation. The "Future Labs" measure can support investments in the following two categories. Details and notes on the categories can be found on the following pages.

- (1) Procurements with a material or investment sum of less than 200,000 €.
- (2) New research infrastructure for functional models with a flexible investment sum.

**Criteria** to be used to evaluate projects and to be fully met by project proposals:

- Strategic importance for ICM and fit to at least one of the three research fields
  - Manufacturing Systems
  - Mobility Technologies
  - Software System Architectures
- Added value for companies or further development possibilities for cooperation with companies, especially SMEs or start-ups from Baden- Württemberg, but also larger companies
- Aspects of medium- and long-term benefits for Baden-Württemberg as a business region
- Scientific excellence and innovation potential of the funding project

**Furthermore**, the following aspects must be considered when applying:

- Networking with other ICM funding measures and projects.
- Effect for cross-location cooperation
- Interdisciplinarity of the approaches

Institutes of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and the University of Stuttgart as well as, in cooperation with them, Baden-Württemberg universities and non-university research institutions are eligible to apply. Industrial partners are not themselves eligible to apply and must be involved via corresponding declarations. The start of the projects must take place promptly after approval (for information, see the following pages).

**Mode and timing of the application phase:**

A total of up to **€ 1 million** is expected to be allocated for this funding phase. The spending of funds for the Future Labs is tied to the calendar years 2023 and 2024 and the funds cannot be carried over into the following calendar years. For guidance on financial constraints, see the notes on the following pages.

After submission of the project applications, a selection of the project proposals will be made by a committee of experts.

**Applications** are to be submitted on the basis of the **current templates** (project proposal, one-pager) plus annexes (bibliography, proposals, LOIs, etc.) to **gf@icm-bw.de** digitally by **10/11/2023**.

**Timing of the application phase:**

The deadline for submitting the 7-page applications:

- **10/11/2023 11:59 pm (via email)**

In case of a positive evaluation, approval and project start will take place promptly:

- **End of November 2023 (via email)**

For questions regarding the call, cross-university collaboration, application, application design and volume, please contact the joint management of the InnovationCampus Future Mobility at your disposal. Their contact persons are

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## Notes on the categories and the administrative and financial constraints

### 1) Procurements with a material or investment sum of less than 200,000 €.

- The funding measure is primarily intended to finance investments and material costs.
- Personnel costs, which are necessary for the establishment and operation, can be applied for to a reasonable extent.
- A declaration of intent, for example in the form of a letter of intent (LOI) for cooperation with companies located in Baden-Württemberg, should already be part of the application. When evaluating applications, particular attention will be paid to the fulfilment of this point.
- A binding cooperation agreement is not mandatory, but an additional quality criterion of the application.
- Delivery and construction must occur no later than December 2024. Funds cannot be carried over into calendar year 2025.
- Notification of the maximum funding level is initially made through the funding commitment.
- However, the final determination of the funding amount will not be made until the completion of the order. As a result, the maximum funding amount shown in the funding commitment may change in funding amount stated in the funding commitment may also be reduced retroactively.

### 2) Neue Forschungsinfrastruktur für Funktionsmodelle mit flexibler Investitionssumme

- The funding measure primarily serves to finance investments and material costs.
- Personnel costs, which are necessary for the construction and operation, can be applied for to a reasonable extent.
- **The objective of the funding measure is the development of novel research infrastructures for the use or testing/validation of new (software) technologies, also in cooperation with companies located in Baden-Württemberg (proof-of-principle).**
- The application must describe the benefits or the expected new findings and research approaches that the research infrastructure to be developed will enable for both science and industry.
- The whole project must be clearly distinguished from device technologies already present on the market. Mere improvements or gradual further developments of already existing technologies or devices in the sense of the overall project do not satisfy this criterion. If necessary, however, technically known or existing components can be integrated into the new research infrastructure to be developed. For this purpose, the state of the art must be detailed in the application.
- For the development of a longer-term, supra-regional research infrastructure, the institution(s) should assure the sustainability of this infrastructure.
- A letter of intent for cooperation with companies located in Baden-Württemberg should already be part of the application. When evaluating applications, particular attention will be paid to the fulfilment of this point.

- A binding cooperation agreement is not mandatory, but an additional quality requirement of the application.
- As part of the application, the financial plan must outline how the investment sum for the calendar years 2023 and 2024 is composed of (personnel resources, material resources, small or large procurements).
- Delivery and installation must take place by December 2024 at the latest. The funds cannot be carried over into calendar year 2025.
- **For the procurement of individual components or parts of the planned research infrastructure, the procurement guidelines of the respective institution must be observed. In the event that an individual component exceeds €200,000, the DFG's large-scale equipment procedure (Section 91b) or the Länder's large-scale equipment program (Section 143c) must be carried out independently. Please note that the time frame and the regulations of the DFG review as well as the tendering periods according to the procurement guideline must also be considered and adhered to.**

#### Own contributions

- The applicants or the institutes involved in the application are expected to make an appropriate contribution of their own, e.g. by providing their own capacities for the use of associated workshops and laboratory facilities.
- Operating costs cannot be reimbursed.