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Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología



2020
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FRONTIER SCIENCE 2019

NOTE: This document summarizes and highlights key elements of the Frontier Science 2019 Call that are relevant for the evaluation of proposals

If you have any issues or queries about the online evaluation system, please contact the Technical Support Center from 09:00 to 20:00, calling **(52) 55 5322 7700** ext. **6128**, or to the email address: soporte_icb@conacyt.mx

If you have any issues or queries about the evaluation process, or about the Frontier Science Call, please contact:

Physics, Mathematics, Earth Sciences and Chemistry

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Biology, Biotechnology, Agricultural Sciences

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CONACYT, through its Dirección Adjunta de Desarrollo Científico, calls for public and private Higher Education Institutions, Public Research Centers and in general federal and state public sector institutions that have proof of registration or pre-registration to the Registro Nacional de Instituciones y Empresas Científicas y Tecnológicas (RENIECYT), and which develop research activities, to present proposals aimed at generating new scientific knowledge or frontier science.

The proposals must be submitted by consolidated researchers, or who are in the process of consolidation, in their research areas, in accordance with the requirements of this Call and its Terms of Reference (TOR). The proposals will



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have a free thematic, and the classification of areas of knowledge will be those considered in numeral 1 of the Terms of Reference of this Call; calling especially for multidisciplinary proposals.

GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The generation of innovative knowledge or frontier science is the fundamental source, or root, of cutting-edge technological change and technological innovation. It is, thus, crucial to support scientific research that has the potential to advance the frontiers of knowledge with a long-term vision, and standards of international quality.

PARTICULAR OBJECTIVES

To support the scientific community in Mexico with financial resources, so that researchers in the different categories of this call are able to develop projects that result in significant conceptual advances in scientific knowledge. The outcomes of these projects should contribute to the generation of new knowledge, and / or to the change in the understanding of existing scientific concepts, in any field of science (including disciplines of the humanities, social sciences, biochemistry or physics and mathematics, amongst others), under international competence parameters.

To promote scientific research projects that address issues over which there is some controversy in the scientific community in the field in which they develop, and/or that address questions difficult to answer, at least with current methodological approaches, or that use atypical or novel methodologies and concepts in their field of knowledge.

To encourage funding that promotes synergies through collaboration between researchers with complementary skills, knowledge, experience and infrastructure, as well as the training of new scientists capable of undertaking an independent practice, with a special emphasis on postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers.

To encourage approaches to challenges, scientific questions or research problems in an unconventional way. That is, innovative and original research potentially resulting in discoveries at the frontiers of knowledge. In the medium



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or long term, the results of these projects would have an impact on our society and culture. They could even lead to the start of new research fields.

Proposals submitted must be compliant with the following guidelines:

- 1.1 Researchers interested in applying, depending on the categories established in the TOR of this Call, must enter in the online system an extensive proposal that addresses the fields specified therein, making the background and approaches very clear, as well as the reasons why the proposed project will contribute to the generation of original and/or frontier scientific knowledge. Make explicit how the project contributes to the strengthening, consolidation and expansion of scientific-technological capabilities, as well as the training of new researchers and the social appropriation of knowledge. The proposals must be prepared in accordance with the Terms of Reference (TOR) that are part of this Call, available on the website www.conacyt.mx and sent via the CONACYT proposal on-line system, specific to this Call. It is essential to adhere to the activities and dates indicated in the respective calendars.
- 1.2 Submitted proposals must be subject to the evaluation, selection and approval procedures determined in this Call and their TOR.
- 1.8 Proposals that aim solely to the application of previous knowledge or the application of previously developed experiments or techniques in new systems, will not be considered; unless the objectives have the potential to generate new approaches or knowledge. Those proposals whose purpose is to answer a fundamental scientific question, from which an application can be later generated, will be considered.
- 1.9 The Categories of Support included in this Call, their duration and funding, are described in the corresponding Terms of Reference.

The omission of any of the requirements previously described will imply that the proposal will not be evaluated.

3. General considerations

- 3.1 The principal researcher responsible for their proposal must have an updated CVU (standard Curriculum Vitae in CONACYT format) and must belong to the Mexican National System of Researchers (SNI). If this is not the case, they must hold a degree of Doctor of Philosophy, must have publications in peer



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reviewed journals and must have trained new researchers, in order to demonstrate leadership in their field. An individual cannot present themselves as a principal researcher in any other proposal of this Call.

3.2 Criteria and requirements for registration, evaluation, selection of the proposals, as well as formalization and monitoring of the projects, and the fundable and non-fundable items of this Call are described in the Terms of Reference of this Call.

3.3 The number and funding of the approved proposals will be subject to their favorable evaluation and budget availability of the Fondo Institucional (FOINS) of CONACYT.

3.4 Confidentiality. The information received in the framework of this Call is subject to the provisions of the Federal Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information and the General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information.

3.5 The list of proposals approved by the TAC will be published in accordance with the stipulations included in the respective calendars.

Confidentiality and information management

The FOINS of CONACYT will establish the necessary mechanisms to ensure the confidentiality of the information contained in the proposals submitted, both in the evaluation and follow-up phase in accordance with the Federal Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information, General Law on Transparency and Access to Public Information, Federal Law on Protection of Personal Data Held by Private Parties and the General Law on Protection of Personal Data Held by Obligated Subjects.

The evaluators and members of the Evaluation Commission, the CTA of the FOINS, and in general any individual who participates in the process of receiving and evaluating proposals, is obliged not to disclose to third parties, reproduce and / or distribute by any means, or keep in their possession, the material that is submitted for consideration, ensuring a safe treatment of the information in terms of the applicable regulations. Non-compliance of this obligation will be sanctioned in the terms indicated in previous paragraphs to this section.



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Social appropriation of knowledge

Knowledge generated by scientific and technological research, and innovation, must be used by the Mexican society in its permanent process of transformation, and social and economic development. In particular, this knowledge must become a development engine and a dynamizer factor of social change. Therefore, it is necessary that the proposals include, as deliverables, mechanisms of social appropriation of the knowledge generated by the proposal. Knowledge must be socialized to have a real impact, thus the social appropriation of knowledge should serve to consolidate the institutions dedicated to research, and the research groups, as well as the rest of the population of the country.

In accordance with Article 12, section XV of the Science and Technology Law, the beneficiaries of the funding granted by the federal government in scientific, technological and innovation matters, will disseminate their activities and the results of their research and development to society, without prejudice to their corresponding intellectual property rights, and of the information that, due to its nature, must be reserved.

The individuals subject to funding, or beneficiaries, must submit an executive summary of their project, which will be used as public information of the project.

INTERPRETATION AND NON-EXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES

The interpretation of this Call, as well as the circumstances unforeseen by it, will be resolved by the Dirección Adjunta de Desarrollo Científico of CONACYT which, for such purposes, may be supported by the Evaluation Committee, the Legal Affairs Unit and the Technical and Administration Committee of the Fondo Institucional of CONACYT.

The decisions of the Technical and Administration Committee will be final and irrevocable.

The terms of this Call follow the legal provisions derived from the Law of Science and Technology and its Normative Instruments, so that the results issued can



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only be questioned within the framework indicated in these Basis and Terms of Reference.

The presentation of proposals in the terms of this Call implies the express acceptance of this Call, its Terms of Reference, the Rules of Operation of the FOINS (Fondo Institucional) and other regulations issued by CONACYT or applicable to the case.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Guide for the Capture of Requests of Support will be available to users on the same website of the Call as a supporting document for filling out the application.

Issued in Mexico City, on 31 July 2019.