Application for seed money to support innovation projects in MMM

Members of the High-Profile Area “Minds, Media, Machines” (MMM) and their research staff can receive special funds for small-scale collaborative projects in a lightweight procedure. The goal of **MMM Seed Grants** is to strengthen the ties and shared research-foci between working groups (AGs) in MMM via new initiatives for excellent science. Thematically, proposals should align with MMM’s common pursuit of excellence in general, and the development of an excellence cluster proposal “Living Technologies 2.0” in particular. Here, we seek to improve quality of life through the use of cognition-enabled technologies, systems, and robots against the background of an ageing society.

MMM Seed Grants are intended for **teams from at** **least two AGs in MMM**. Applications from MMM teams of different disciplines are especially encouraged but no requirement. To allow for a more substantial investment of time and resources for the creation of “Living Technology 2.0 seeds”, we increase the amount of MMM Seed Grant money to **20.000 EUR per AG per grant**.

**Grant Criteria:**

The MMM Seed Grant is aimed at initiatives that are designed to conduct collaborative research on Minds, Media, and Machines in the research theme of “Living Technologies 2.0”. Ideally, initiatives are designed to lead towards larger proposals within the context of MMM. The present funding period is the second call of proposals towards strengthening the collaborations within MMM to provide the basis for such larger and more ambitious proposals, whose funding period is planned for next year. Examples of possible projects in the present funding period include, but are not limited to:

* Pilot studies that aim to examine a theme Living Technologies 2.0 with a new mix of methods
* Studies that explore research questions at the intersection of two AGs and thus build bridges within MMM
* Funding of materials or small equipment[[1]](#footnote-1) required to study relevant aspects of human-machine interaction
* Funding for data collection / annotation student hours to pursue a new research angle
* ***New***: Conference attendance to present project results
* ***New***: Costs for temporary scientific staff[[2]](#footnote-2)

Financial support for other types of collaborative research initiatives is possible, provided that it supports a collaboration between different MMM-AGs. It is furthermore intended to substantially increase the amount of funding per applicant for the next funding period. **We encourage potential applicants to contact us to discuss further possibilities either via email at** **kuester@uni-bremen.de** **or by phone (0421 218-64266).**

**Funding Conditions:**

All applications are assessed and decided by the members of the MMM Executive Board. Funding is available for activities that can be concluded within twelve months. MMM Seed-Money grants are subject to the same basic rules as any other funding provided via the city state of Bremen[[3]](#footnote-3) (“Landesmittel”). Part-funding is possible in all cases. Doctoral candidates accepted by the respective doctoral committee, postdocs and senior researchers from all faculties of the University of Bremen are eligible to apply for MMM Seed Grants under the condition that the application is endorsed by at least one full MMM-Member, and provided that the collaboration involves at least two AGs in MMM. Second round grant money cannot be used to top-up a granted seed money proposal from former calls / rounds. However, AGs from the first round of the MMM Seed-Grant series may apply for new projects involving new collaborations in MMM.

A brief final report (200-400 words) must be submitted no later than 4 weeks after the end of the project.

**Application Guidelines:**

Applications for the second funding period 2021-2022 can be submitted via E-MAIL to kuester@uni-bremen.de. **The deadline for the second round is May 31st.** Please use our below **Application Form**. The application should not exceed two pages, using a font size of 10 pts, plus up to 1 page for references.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | [Title] |
| **List of all applicants\*** | [name], [name], [name] |
| **Estimated start** | [DD.MM.YYYY] |
| **Estimated end**  | [DD.MM.YYYY] |

\**Note*. In the case of PhD-students of Post-Docs, please include a statement about the endorsing MMM-Member(s) [*This application is endorsed by* (Name)].

1. **Summary (max. 250 words)**

*[Pitch of the project idea, expected results, and how it relates to the mission of MMM.]*

1. **Project Proposal**

*[Text.]*

* 1. **Background and research questions**

*[This section should provide a brief statement about the background and State of Art, followed by the main research question(s) to be addressed. Relevant own previous work should be included where suitable but is not as critical as in other types of proposals due to the aim of facilitating new initiatives for collaborations in MMM.]*

* 1. **Relevance, Objectives, and Expected Results**

*[This section should detail the expected outcomes of the proposed project. Explain how your work is relevant to the mission of MMM, which MMM cross-cutting issues are addressed, and what your objectives are with respect to leveraging the project results for future work / proposals.]*

* 1. **Methods**

*[Detail the methods of the proposed work, considering the methodological benefits of conducting this work collaboratively in MMM.]*

* 1. **Workplan and Timeline**

*[Depending on the complexity of the proposed work, consider including a Gantt chart.]*

* 1. **Ressource Plan**

*[Brief summary of the individual items.]*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nr.** | **Requested item** | **Cost [EUR]** |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| **Total amount** |  |

\* if a currency conversion is required, please use <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/> and indicate the date of the conversion.

**References***[References should adhere to the APA reference style (7th Edition).]*

1. **Statement** [*may use digital signatures*]The applicant(s) has (have) no other financial resources available or requested for the activity.

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Date, Signature Date, Signature Date, Signature

1. Equipment costs should not exceed a reasonable proportion of the overall budget. Ideally, these should be devices that you would aim to use for further collaborative work in MMM beyond the score of the present call. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Certain conditions apply. E.g., please ensure that minimum contract duration criteria are met, and that the person(s) intended for this position are eligible. MMM, as an entity, does not (and cannot) take legal and / or administrative responsibility for such positions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Grants are subject to the general rules of the University of Bremen for SAP-purchases and “Landesmittel”. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)