

Preliminary parameters of the 17th call under the SIGMA programme - Sub-objective 2, Industrial Chairs

The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic hereby informs about the preparations of the 17th call under the SIGMA funding programme - sub-objective 2, Early-stage researchers and equal of opportunities in applied research projects, Industrial Chairs and publishes its preliminary parameters.

Parameters of the 17th call under the SIGMA programme - sub-objective 2, Industrial Chairs	
Applicants	
Enterprise	YES - other participant
Research organisation	YES - main applicant There must be exactly one research organisation in the project proposal, in the role of main applicant.
Terms and deadlines	
Call for proposals announcement date	24. 6. 2026
Call open for proposal submissions	25. 6. 2026 - 12. 8. 2026
Announcement of call results	28. 2. 2027
Project start	March 2027
Minimum project duration	60 months
Maximum project duration	84 months
Deadline for completion of the project	28. 2. 2034
Specific parameters	
Language of the project proposal	English
Mandatory annexes to the project proposal	YES – Strategic Plan, the intended content of which will primarily include a description of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- vision and cooperation strategy;- partnership building and development model;- talent development;- key performance indicators (KPIs).
Research team	Foreign Researcher (Industrial Chair) + at least 3 early-stage researchers representing the main applicant – a research organisation

	<p>Industrial Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principal Investigator, • FTE at least 50% at the research organisation, • participates in drafting the project proposal, • internationally recognized expert regardless of age or nationality, • at least 5 years of full-time experience abroad, including at least 2 years as a team leader, • also open to Czech scientists returning from abroad, • must not have been in an employment relationship with the host institution prior to the start of project drafting. This condition does not preclude the expert from having previously studied at the institution (at Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral level). For the purposes of this call for proposals, membership in advisory, expert, or similar bodies of the host institution or project (e.g., Commercialization Board, Centre Council, etc.) is not considered an employment relationship. • proven experience in applied research and commercialization, including cooperation with the application sector, • eligible for funding up to 9 months retrospectively from the call for proposals announcement date, • must be involved in the strategic management of the research organisation. <p>Involvement of at least 3 early-stage researchers.</p> <p>Specific conditions for meeting the definition of an early-stage researcher will be further detailed in Call documentation.</p> <p>At least one member of the research team (the foreign researcher, an early-stage researcher, or another team member) must have at least 30 % FTE at the participating enterprise.</p>
<p>Sub-projects</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Specific parameter</p>	<p>Upon completion of the project, the host institution must maintain the Chair position for at least 3 years as an integral part of its organisational structure and management system, without the position being tied to a specific individual.</p>

Outputs and results	
Permitted types of outputs	<p>Main type of output/result: <input type="checkbox"/> – „Plan of results” <input type="checkbox"/> – Analysis of the status and KPIs after 5–7 years, depending on the project duration</p> <p>Supported types of outputs/results in sub-projects: Fprum - industrial design; Fuzit - utility model; Gfunk - functioning sample (Gfunc); Hneleg – results projected into guidelines and other non-legislative regulations that are mandatory under the relevant provider; Gprot - prototype; Nlec –medical procedure; NmetA - methodologies and procedures accredited by a competent authority; NmetC - methodologies certified by a competent authority; NmetS - methodologies approved by the appropriate state administration authority which is in charge of the issue in question; Nmap – specialised map with scientific content; P - patent; R - software; S - specialised public database; Zpolop - pilot plant; Ztech - verified technolog; <input type="checkbox"/> – KanHleg – Candidate for an applied output Hleg (results projected into legislation and standards); <input type="checkbox"/> – KanHneleg – Candidate for an applied output Hneleg (results projected into guidelines and other non-legislative regulations that are mandatory under the relevant provider); <input type="checkbox"/> – KanHkonc – Candidate for an applied output Hkonc (results projected into approved strategic and policy documents by state or public administration bodies); <input type="checkbox"/> – Patent application; <input type="checkbox"/> – Establishment of a spin-off company.</p>
Specific conditions of outputs	Open access to outputs: NmetC; NmetA; NmetS.
Finances	
Expected amount allocated to the call	500 mil. CZK The estimated allocation for this call for proposals may change depending on the state budget and the provider's decision.

Maximum amount of support per project	42 mil. CZK
Maximum funding rate (intensity) per project	60 %
Co-funding	40 % (20 % enterprise, 20 % from other sources)
Special allocation	NO
Cost categories	
Personnel costs	eligible, including stipends
Subcontracting	eligible
Indirect costs	eligible
Other direct costs	eligible
Charging of indirect costs	
- Full cost	YES
- Flat rate	YES (up to 25 %)
Evaluation	
Evaluation process	opponents - rapporteur - expert advisory body - TA CR Board
The scored criteria will be specified in the Call Documentation.	