



Association of Research and Technology Organisations

Call for proposals for joint FTMC, LAMMC and LEI scientific pilot projects

RTO NEXUS: A Call for Interdisciplinary Collaboration

2026

With the aim of strengthening **inter-institutional and interdisciplinary cooperation**, fostering the **professional development** of **early-career and established researchers**, and **creating high-impact scientific solutions for society and the state**, RTO Lithuania – in partnership with **the Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology (FTMC)**, **the Lithuanian Energy Institute (LEI)**, and **the Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (LAMMC)** – hereby announces a call for proposals for **joint research projects**.

This call is designed to initiate **new collaborative research ideas** that can serve as a foundation **for national and international R&D&I projects**, foster long-term partnerships between the institutes, and strengthen the role and visibility of RTO Lithuania as a unified platform.

Following an expert evaluation of the most promising ideas, the winning team will be awarded up to €30,000 for project implementation, along with additional consultancy services for proposal writing and further project development.

Application Conditions

- Applications must be submitted by **March 27, 2026**.
- Completed applications should be sent via email to: **info@rtolithuania.com**.
- Proposed research ideas must address a **specific, clearly defined societal or national challenge**, aligned with:
 - The National Progress Plan, its key performance indicators (KPIs); and/or
 - The Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania priorities, including related strategic and legal implementation frameworks.

Evaluation Criteria

1. The novelty and originality of the idea (Excellence), the relevance of the research, and its significance for scientific advancement, with a specific focus on interdisciplinary synergy.
2. Impact. The potential of the expected results to address societal or economic challenges and create a foundation for further development, commercialization, or the attraction of external funding (e.g., Research Council of Lithuania (LMT), Innovation Agency, Horizon Europe, etc.).
3. Implementation. The clarity of objectives and the soundness of the work plan; the feasibility and realism of the project within the proposed timeframe.
4. Team and resources. The synergy of team competencies, along with the appropriateness and justification of the project budget.

Tie-breaking Criteria

Tie-breaking criteria shall be applied only in the event of equal scoring between proposals:

- Priority shall be given to teams where an Early-Career Researcher (ECR) is serving as the Project Lead for the first time; and/or
- Teams that include a higher proportion of Early-Career Researchers who are assigned well-justified roles in the project's implementation.

Project Implementation Provisions

- Projects shall begin upon the signing of the grant agreement, but no later than **May 4, 2026**.
- The project duration is **up to 12 months** from the start date.
- Funding is allocated for the **2026–2027 period**.
- Applications must be submitted by **research groups representing all three institutions** (FTMC, LAMMC, and LEI).
- Each institution shall fund the activities of its own researchers within the winning projects.
- Separate **budget estimates** must be prepared **for each participating institution**.
- Research topics that have already received funding through this call or other sources are ineligible for repeat funding.
- Project Leads whose ideas were funded under a previous RTO call are ineligible to submit a new application as a Project Lead for one year following the date the previous funding was awarded.

Expected Results

- Number of proposals prepared for **national R&DI calls**;
- Number of proposals prepared for **international R&DI calls** (e.g., Horizon Europe);
- Number of scientific articles prepared, submitted, and/or published in journals indexed in the **Clarivate Analytics Web of Science** database;
- Strengthened long-term interdisciplinary and inter-institutional partnerships.

Contact Information for Inquiries

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