

**REGULATIONS FOR THE COMPETITIVE FUNDING OF THE RTO 'NEXUS' JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS: CENTER FOR PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY, LITHUANIAN ENERGY INSTITUTE, AND LITHUANIAN RESEARCH CENTRE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

**CHAPTER I**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Regulations for the Competitive Funding of Joint Research Projects of the Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology, the Lithuanian Energy Institute, and the Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (hereinafter – the Regulations) establish the procedures for the allocation and administration of funds managed by the Center for Physical Sciences and Technology, the Lithuanian Energy Institute, and the Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (hereinafter – the Institutes) for the funding of research and dissemination projects (hereinafter – the Project).
2. The aim of funding research projects is to unite the Institutes' researchers, to build strong, nationally, and internationally competitive research teams, to encourage the participation of researchers in national and international projects, and to broaden the scope of research.
3. Joint projects between researchers from the Institutes are funded by the Institutes. The specific annual amount to be allocated by the Institutes to the projects shall be specified in the call for proposals.
4. Terms used in the Regulations:
  - 4.1. **Research Group Project** – a comprehensive set of scientific research activities, dissemination of results, and other related organizational actions carried out within a specified timeframe by a group of project executors (or a single researcher) to address defined scientific objectives;
  - 4.2. **Project Executor** – an individual who performs project activities, typically spanning the entire implementation period;
  - 4.3. **Application** - a document submitted to RTO Lithuania by the Project Lead and other project executors to request funding for project implementation in accordance with the terms and conditions of the call for proposals;
  - 4.4. **Project Lead** - a researcher who, together with the project executors, implements the project and is responsible for its overall management and execution;
  - 4.5. **Project** - an application selected for funding under the Regulations, implemented by a group of executors consisting of researchers from all 3 Institutes (project partners);
  - 4.6. **Early-Career Researcher (ECR)** – a researcher included in a project application submitted under this call, who has held a doctoral degree for no more than **7 years** as of the final day of the application submission deadline specified in the call. This period excludes time taken for maternity, paternity, or parental leave, as well as periods of long-term sick leave.
  - 4.7. **Violation of the principle of academic integrity in scientific activities** means at least one of the violations (or a part thereof) listed in sub-paragraphs 17.1 to 17.6 of the Recommendations on the Implementation and Supervision of the Adoption of Academic Codes of Ethics of Scientific and Educational Institutions adopted by the Controller of Academic Ethics and Procedures (hereafter referred to as the "Controller") by the Order of the Controller of Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania of 31 March 2015, No.V-16, "On the Approval of the Recommendation on the Adoption of the Implementation and Supervision of the Adoption of the Code of Academic Codes of Ethics for Scientific and Educational Institutions".

- 4.8. Other terms used in the Regulations correspond to the terms used in the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT EXECUTORS AND PROJECT COSTS**

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT EXECUTORS**

5. An application may be submitted by a group of project executors representing the three RTO Lithuania member institutes.
  - 5.1. The project executors undertake to share the Project idea and information necessary for the Project's implementation among themselves to the extent required to achieve the project objectives, while adhering to confidentiality and intellectual property protection requirements. Before disclosing any non-public information related to the Project idea (including interim results, data, prototypes, methodologies, etc.) to third parties, it is mandatory to obtain the consensus of all Project partners and to comply with the principles of intellectual property protection.
6. A person may submit only one application for the same call as a project leader or as another project's executor.
7. The salaries set for project executors must be calculated within the limits of the Institute's official salaries.
8. The project lead must be employed by the executing body.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT COSTS**

9. Project costs - the direct costs necessary to meet the objectives of a specific project.
10. Eligible direct cost categories:
  - 10.1. salaries of Project executors, social security and other contributions of the Project executors;
  - 10.2. the portion of the Project budget allocated to personnel costs (wages) may not exceed 60% of the total project budget.
  - 10.3. expenditure on services (excluding works of authorship);
  - 10.4. expenditure on goods;
  - 10.5. business trips' expenses for Project executors.
11. Costs incurred in the implementation of the Project are eligible if they are:
  - 11.1. real and substantiated by financial documents, supporting evidence of expenditure and proof of payment, or documents of equivalent probative value;
  - 11.2. incurred by the Institutes running the Project;
  - 11.3. incurred during the Project implementation period;
  - 11.4. are for the sole purpose of implementing the objectives of the project and achieving the intended results, are necessary and consistent with the principles of economy and efficiency;

11.5. incurred in accordance with the provisions of the Public Procurement Law of the Republic of Lithuania;

11.6. corresponding to the types of expenditure referred to in point 10 of the Regulations;

value added tax (hereinafter – VAT) on the purchase of goods or services financed by the project. VAT paid by the project may not be included in the VAT report and VAT declaration.

12. Ineligible project implementation costs:

12.1. interest on debt, the cost of buying land or property;

12.2. fines, interest and legal costs;

12.3. in-kind contribution;

12.4. study costs;

12.5. disbursements made to project executors under service and/or authorship contracts;

12.6. the cost of acquiring tangible and intangible fixed assets;

12.7. costs declared, incurred or reimbursed in relation to other projects;

#### **CHAPTER IV**

##### **LAUNCHING CALLS FOR PROPOSALS AND SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS**

13. Applications are submitted on a call-by-call basis.

14. The Institutes publish the themes and the call for proposals on their websites: [www.ftmc.lt](http://www.ftmc.lt); [www.lei.lt](http://www.lei.lt); [www.lammc.lt](http://www.lammc.lt).

15. Applications shall be submitted using the form in Annex 1 to these Regulations, in either Lithuanian or English, in the manner specified in the call for proposals.

16. The application shall be accompanied by a mandatory supplementary document - Assurance of project implementation by the research team (Annex 2) - which shall form an integral part of the application.

17. Applications will no longer be accepted after the closing date.

#### **CHAPTER V**

##### **EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS**

18. After the closing date for receipt of applications, the applications are evaluated.

19. The expert evaluation of the submitted applications is performed by an evaluation committee for applications and reports (hereinafter – the Committee), approved by the Monitoring Committee of the Research and Technology Organization (RTO) Lithuania.

20. The composition of the Committee is approved by an order of the Head of RTO Lithuania.

21. Only those projects that address specifically identified and relevant challenges to society and the state, which are included in the Program of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the legal acts related to its implementation, and/or the National Progress Plan and its designated indicators, are eligible for evaluation and selection for funding.
22. Main criteria for evaluating the application:
  - 22.1. 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.
  - 22.2. 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.).
  - 22.3. Implementation. The clarity of objectives and the soundness of the work plan; the feasibility and realism of the project within the proposed timeframe.
  - 22.4. Team and resources. The synergy of team competencies, along with the appropriateness and justification of the project budget.
23. Expected results:
  - 23.1. Number of proposals prepared for national R&DI calls;
  - 23.2. Number of proposals prepared for international R&DI calls ;
  - 23.3. Number of scientific articles prepared, submitted, and/or published in journals indexed in the Clarivate Analytics Web of Science database;
24. Tie-breaking criteria shall be applied only in the event of equal scoring between proposals.
25. 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.
26. The evaluation of the application is carried out by means of an evaluation questionnaire (Annex 3).
27. The Project lead will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation of the application by email to the email address provided in the application.

## **CHAPTER VI**

### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION**

28. Successful Project leaders are required to prepare and submit project abstracts in Lithuanian and English for publicity on the date of signing the contract.
29. Acknowledgements should be accompanied by the following wording at the end of the published scientific articles: "*This work was carried out in the framework of the interinstitutional RTO Lithuania research programme.*"
30. The Project lead submits the Project's scientific reports to the Committee and presents the results of the research in a public event organised by the Committee.

31. The research group awarded the funding also undertakes to participate in the communication of the project's progress and results at least once during the implementation of the project and at least once within one year following the project's completion.
32. The scientific report is submitted after the Project is completed.
33. The scientific report shall be submitted using the report form (Annex 4).
34. The evaluation of the scientific reports submitted shall be carried out by the Committee and shall be documented by completing the report form in Annex 5.
35. The duration of the projects is 12 months from the date of signature of the contract.

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Annex 1  
to the Regulations for the Competitive  
Funding of Joint Research Projects of the  
Centre for Physical Sciences and  
Technology, the Lithuanian Energy  
Institute, and the Lithuanian Research  
Centre for Agriculture and Forestry

### RESEARCH GROUP PROJECT APPLICATION

(Date)

#### I. BASIC DATA ON THE PROJECT

Project title in Lithuanian	<i>(No more than 100 characters with spaces)</i>
Project title in English	<i>(No more than 100 characters with spaces)</i>
Acronym	<i>(One word)</i>
Unit(s)	Name
Address	
phone	
email	
Unit(s) of another institution	Name
Address	
phone	
email	
Unit(s) of another institution	Name

Address
phone
email
Number of executors
Budget, EUR
Start date of the Project
End date of the Project

## II. PROJECT EXECUTORS

No.	Position in the project	Academic degree	First Name, Last Name	Phone, E-mail, ORCID iD	Institution (Affiliation)
1.					
2.					
3.					

## III. PROJECT RATIONALE AND DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES

1. Aim and Objectives
<i>Maximum 1,000 characters</i>

2. Relevance and novelty of the objectives, and the potential of the expected results
<i>Maximum 2,000 characters</i>

3. Project topic and the state of research in Lithuania and abroad

*Indicate who is conducting similar scientific research and innovation activities in Lithuania and other countries, and specify how the research and innovation activities planned in this project will differ from similar research (already implemented or currently being conducted by the project executors or other scientists); describe what new knowledge or findings are expected from the proposed research (maximum 2,000 characters)*

5. Expected research and innovation results; planned outputs

*Indicate planned intellectual property (IP) objects, specifying the percentage of ownership distribution between institutions.*

*Indicate other results: specify what scientific or other outputs - aside from the mandatory final report - will be submitted upon completion; describe how these results will be presented and disseminated.*

*Indicate the future potential to initiate joint national or European projects based on the results of this project.*

6. Additional information

*If necessary, provide any other information relevant to the project (maximum 2,000 characters).*

4. Project content and work plan

*Describe the methods, the anticipated sequence of work, and provide a project implementation schedule (specifying the main tasks to be performed by each project executor and their respective workloads); indicate available equipment (maximum 4,000 characters)*

## 7. Project communication and dissemination of results

*Provide a clear and concise communication and dissemination plan to be implemented from the start of the project and continued for one year following its completion.*

*Communication must be targeted at:*

- *Members of RTO Lithuania;*
- *Target audiences within the scientific, business, and/or public sectors;*  
*The aim is to ensure the visibility and continuity of project results, identify opportunities for additional funding, and initiate new joint projects.*

*Throughout the project and during the dissemination of its results, RTO Lithuania must be clearly identified as the initiator of the joint project.*

## IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS

No.	Expenditure Category	Project Funds, EUR (Partner 1)	Project Funds, EUR (Partner 2)	Project Funds, EUR (Partner 3)
1.	Personnel Costs (Wages/Salaries)			
2.	Social Security and Other Contributions			
3.	Service Costs (excluding works of authorship)			
4.	Costs of Goods			
5.	Travel and Subsistence (Business Trips)			
6.	Fixed Asset Expenditures (Equipment/Capital Goods)			
	TOTAL:			

Partner\_1 Project lead

(Signature) (Name Surname)

Partner\_2 Project lead

(Signature) (Name Surname)

Partner\_3 Project lead

(Signature) (Name Surname)

**ASSURANCE OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION BY THE RESEARCH TEAM**

The project participants undertake to implement the project under the following conditions, provided the project receives funding.

Information regarding the project for which the application is submitted:

<b>Name of the project</b>		
Partner_1	Institution	
	Department / unit	
	Project lead	
	Email addresss	
Partner_2	Institution	
	Department / unit	
	Project lead	
	Email addresss	
Partner_3	Institution	
	Department / unit	
	Project lead	
	Email addresss	
<b>Main activities of the partners:</b>		

Partner_1	1. 2.
Partner_2	1. 2.
Partner_3	1. 2.
<b>Partners' Background Intellectual Property for Project Implementation:</b>	
Partner_1	
Partner_2	
Partner_3	
<b>Intellectual property results, jointly created by the Partners during the implementation of the Project activities, shall be the joint partial property of the Partners who created them. The proprietary rights among the creating Partners shall be distributed as follows:</b>	
Partner_1	%.
Partner_2	%
Partner_3	%

Partner\_1 Project lead .....

(Signature) (Name, Surname)

Partner\_2 Project lead.....

(Signature) (Name, Surname)

Partner\_3 Project lead.....

### EVALUATION FORM FOR THE RESEARCH TEAM PROJECT APPLICATION

Name of the project:

Acronym:

Application Registration No.:

Project lead:

Evaluation by Criteria:

Evaluation Criterion	Score (0,0-5,0)	Evaluation Comments
<b>1. Novelty and Originality of the Idea (Excellence)</b> – the relevance of the research and its significance for the advancement of science, taking into account interdisciplinarity.		
<b>2. Impact</b> – the potential of the expected results to address societal or economic challenges and to create conditions for further development, commercialisation, and the attraction of follow-up funding (e.g. Research Council of Lithuania, Innovation Agency, Horizon Europe, or other sources).		
<b>3. Implementation</b> – the clarity of objectives, the soundness of the work plan, and its feasibility and realism within the proposed project duration.		
<b>4. Complementarity of Team Competences and Cost Effectiveness</b> – the coherence of team competences, and the relevance and justification of the proposed costs		
TOTAL SCORE (Maximum 20 points)		
Priority in the event of an equal score		

Expert Conclusion:

The project is recommended for funding / not recommended for funding  
(strike through / delete as appropriate)

Expert: (full name, signature)

Annex 4 to the Regulations for the  
Competitive Funding of Joint Research  
Projects of the Centre for Physical  
Sciences and Technology, the Lithuanian  
Energy Institute, and the Lithuanian  
Research Centre for Agriculture and  
Forestry

**FINAL REPORT ON THE RESEARCH TEAM PROJECT**

Project Title	
Aim / Objective	
Tasks / Specific Objectives	
Main Results Obtained and Their Novelty	
Socio-economic or Societal Impact	
Other Significant Achievements	
Bibliographic List of Key Publications	

**PROJECT EXPENDITURE REPORT**

No.	Expenditure Category	Expenditure, Eur		
		LAMMC	FTMC	LEI

1.	Personnel Costs (Wages/Salaries) including Social Security and Other Contributions			
3.	Costs of goods and services			
4.	Costs for works of authorship			
6.	Travel and Subsistence (Business Trips)			
7.	Fixed Asset Expenditures (Equipment/Capital Goods)			
	Total:			

**ANNEXES**

**1. Annexes, ... pages.**

Partner\_1 Project lead .....

(Signature) (Name, Surname)

Partner\_2 Project lead.....

(Signature) (Name, Surname)

Partner\_3 Project lead.....

(Signature) (Name, Surname)

**REVIEW OF THE RESEARCH TEAM PROJECT REPORT  
(Date, Time)**

Reviewer's full name, academic degree, and academic title (signature)

Email address

**Project title**

**Reviewer's Conclusions (mark the appropriate answers):**

1. Relevance of the Research:
  - The research topic provided new scientific knowledge regarding the phenomenon or object under study. The research initiated the development of new technologies.
  - The research is significant for the development of the scientific field (branch).
2. Nature of the Work:
  - Applied research
  - Fundamental research
  - Both applied and fundamental research
3. The materials, equipment, and methods used to address the research tasks are:
  - Appropriate
  - Partially appropriate
  - Inappropriate
4. The presentation of the results obtained is:
  - Appropriate
  - Partially appropriate
  - Inappropriate
5. Dissemination of Results:
  - Monographs published by internationally recognized academic publishers;
  - Scientific articles in journals belonging to the Q1 and Q2 quartiles (Journal Rank in Categories) according to Clarivate Analytics WoS DB "Journal Citation Reports" data;
  - Patent applications submitted to the European Patent Office (EPO), the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), or other patent offices;
  - Plant varieties;
  - Other peer-reviewed scientific articles.
6. Participation in international and other projects.

**Reviewer's Conclusions regarding the Research Team Project Report:**

1. Recommended for approval
2. Not recommended for approval