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Annex for the Franco-American projects

Lead Agency (ANR) procedure

Generic call for proposals 2025

IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the Franco-American projects will be carried out by the ANR only, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals 2025 (AAPG) [available here](#) to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to read carefully the work programme 2025, the generic call for proposals 2025, the AAPG 2025 guide, the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) and all of this document before submitting research project proposals.

In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

ANR contacts:

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

aapg.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

aapg.si@anr.fr: difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

NSF Contact Information:

anrqise-collaboration@nsf.gov: Sirin Tekinay, Program Director, Office of International Science and Engineering

IMPORTANT

Before submitting a Franco-American detailed project proposal, scientific coordinators of such projects with a high TRL (Technology Readiness Level) are invited to read an Executive Order (EO) signed by President Biden on July 28, 2023, that, among other objectives, “*encourages the expansion of U.S. domestic production for critical industries while maintaining flexibility to build strong international R&D partnerships.*” Additional information is available in a [public fact sheet about the EO](#).

1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By establishing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, the French National Research Agency (ANR) allows French researchers to initiate or extend their collaborative work with researchers from other countries. In this way, it hopes to encourage the emergence of European and International teams of excellence.

The aim is to fund innovative bi-national projects **that clearly stand out** from on-going national projects, demonstrating great synergy between each country's teams and real integration of joint research.

To simplify and streamline the terms of collaboration and to set up borderless research funding areas, ANR (*Agence nationale de la recherche*) and NSF (*National Science Foundation*), have decided to enter into an agreement. Within this framework, ANR and NSF (*Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO)*, *Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)*, *Directorate for Engineering (ENG)* and *Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)*)¹ established a Lead Agency opportunity. In this context, the teams from the two countries prepare a joint project and one single agency (the Lead Agency) takes charge of the whole evaluation process (peer review and scientific panel evaluation) of the projects. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the agency carrying out the evaluation.

The partner agency can access all information on the projects. Each agency provides funding for its national teams² according to its own terms.

The 2025 "Lead Agency" procedure for the selection of American PRCI "Collaborative Research Projects - International" established between the ANR and the NSF, recognises the ANR's role as "Lead Agency". Consequently, **the submission and evaluation of project proposals are handled by the ANR**. Nevertheless, the American scientific coordinator and the other partners on the American side may be required to provide certain information to the NSF, in accordance with its own procedures.

The aim of the partnership between the ANR and the NSF is to support projects in which collaboration between the Franco-American partners is genuine³.

¹ The list of NSF's division involved is provided in 2. Research priorities

² A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

³ Objectives defined jointly, shared skills and tasks, shared risks and results

Within this framework, the partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific contributions of each country and the added value of international cooperation. As far as possible, the project start and end dates should be the same for the French and foreign partners. For information, the NSF requires a maximum **project duration of 36 months**.

American side may be required to provide certain information to the NSF, in accordance with its own procedures.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with NSF is open to the following disciplinary fields: **Quantum Technologies**, corresponding to the scientific themes:

ANR:

- Axe B.1 Physics of condensed matter and diluted matter (CE30);
- Axis C.1 Biochemistry and chemistry of living organisms (CE44);
- Axis C.2 Characterization of structures and structure-function relations of biological macromolecules (CE11);
- Axis C.3 Genetics, genomics and RNA (CE12);
- Axis C.7 Molecular and cellular neuroscience – Developmental neurobiology (CE16);
- Axis C.10 Biomedical innovation (CE18);
- Axis E.1 Foundations of digital technology: information technology, automation, signal processing (CE48);
- Axis E.6 Quantum Technologies (CE47) ;
- Axis F.1 Mathematics (CE40);
- Axis H.3 Infectious diseases and environment (CE35);
- Axis H.11 Sensors, imagers and instrumentation (CE42);
- Axis H.12 Micro and nanotechnologies for information processing and communication (CE24);
- Axis H.13 Healthcare technologies (CE19)

NSF:

- Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO)
 - [Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences \(MCB\)](#)
- Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
 - [Division of Computing and Communication Foundations \(CCF\)](#)
- Directorate for Engineering (ENG)
 - [Division of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems \(ECCS\)](#)
- Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
 - [Division of Mathematical Sciences \(DMS\)](#)
 - [Division of Physics \(PHY\)](#)

The research project proposal must correspond both to one of the scientific axes of the 2025 Generic call and to the NSF Divisions mentioned above. NSF participating programs are listed at the following address: <https://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/IntlCollaborations/France.jsp>

3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

French and American partners must prepare a joint scientific project. Teams from each country must each appoint a **national scientific coordinator**.

ANR is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.

French partners:

Projects must be submitted within the framework of the "International Collaborative Research Project" process (PRCI) in ANR's 2025 Generic call for proposals.

Foreign partners:

As the "CISE: Core Programs" programme accepts applications **without deadlines**, the deadline for submitting copies of projects proposals to the NSF is **the same as** the deadline for submitting the project proposals to the ANR.

It is essential to consult the information on the NSF website:

https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf21020

3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS WITH ANR

The French Scientific Coordinator must **register his/her intention to submit a "PRCI" project** on ANR's submission website before 5 pm (Paris time) on **October the 15th 2024**. **This registering with ANR is mandatory⁴** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2025 Guide) to be entitled to take part in the selection process. No pre-proposal is required at this stage.

To register an intention to submit a Franco-American PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2025 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/PRME/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrument)*). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form, including **American scientific coordinator**.

Particular attention must be paid to the drafting of the abstract (cf. AAPG 2025 Guide, § B.4), which is intended to be sent to reviewers taking part in the evaluation process.

⁴ It is carried out **only with the ANR**

In the online form, a **distinction must be made** between the provisional amount of grant requested by **French partners** and the provisional amount of grant requested by **foreign partners** from their respective national agency.

Note: if one or more foreign partners decide to withdraw from the project proposal between the registration of an “International Collaborative Research Project” (PRCI) and the submission of a full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, PRME,JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).

The acronym and project title provided to each agency **must be the same**.

The acronym chosen and the name of the French coordinator are definitive and cannot be modified when the full proposal is submitted. This also applies to the choice of the scientific evaluation panel (cf. AAPG2025 Guide, §B.4).

3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the October 15th 2024 at 5 pm (Paris time) deadline will be invited - subject to certain eligibility conditions - to submit a full proposal to ANR together with applicants to the PRC, PRCE, PRME and JCJC funding instruments selected at the AAPG2025 first stage's outcome.

Applicants are **strongly advised to write their proposals in English** as the evaluation is carried out in bi-lateral collaboration with the foreign agency. If the scientific document is written in French, a **translation** may be requested.

The French coordinator is subject to the rules (including eligibility) that apply to all national scientific coordinators under the Generic call for proposals (see AAPG2025 Guide §B.5.2, *Eligibility of full proposals*).

The full PRCI proposals must comply with the rules regarding format and content set out in the AAPG2025 Guide (cf. §B.5. *Stage 2: full proposal submission and evaluation procedures*).

Financial and administrative information on the foreign partners must be clearly indicated when the proposal is submitted on the website:

- the full name of the partner⁵, its acronym and its administrative category
- the foreign coordinator⁶ and the persons involved in the project
- The possible other foreign partners and the participating persons
- The amount of aid requested by the foreign partners from their national agency

Moreover, it is essential that applicants indicate the following information in the scientific document:

- **the foreign teams' scientific contribution;**

⁵ Partner as a legal entity

⁶ The information is essential for the data cross-checking with the NSF

- **foreign partners' financial data broken down into items of expenditure**, in the same way as that of French partners⁷.

Finally, applicants are requested to provide a summary table for each French or foreign partner, with amounts indicated in Euro:

- the total amount of expenditures;
- the amount of funding requested from each funding agency (ANR, NSF).

The following table must be included in the full proposal scientific document's as a summary of the persons involved:

Country	University or Institution	Last Name	First Name	Current position	Role in the project	Involvement (person.months)*
				Professor?	Coordinator? Task number?	
				Technician?	Task number?	
				PostDoc to be hired in the frame of the project?	Task number?	

(* to be indicated with respect to the total project duration)

Note: if one or more American partners decide to withdraw from the project after the submission of the full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, PRME, JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).

4. ELIGIBILITY OF FULL PROPOSALS

Each agency decides on the eligibility of a project in accordance with **its own rules**.

ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposal taking into account the criteria detailed in the AAPG 2025 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 Eligibility of full proposals) and detailed below:

- 1) The provisional project proposal duration must be the same for the two country partners.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them. The NSF rules can be found at the following address:

⁷ With regard to the sub-criterion "Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested for the objectives of the project" of criterion 2 "Organization and implementation of the project", the resources mobilized and requested by the French partners AND by the foreign partners will be assessed.

- https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg
- https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf21020

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁸

Country (agency)	Submission to the ANR	Submission to the foreign agency	Duration	Participation of a company	Other
USA (NSF)	yes	copy of the project proposal	48 months maximum	ANR eligible, NSF to be checked with the NSF rules	

To be eligible, proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the two funding agencies.

5. EVALUATION

Projects proposals are evaluated by ANR only. They are evaluated according to the same main criteria as for the projects proposals submitted within the framework of another funding instrument of the Generic call for proposals 2025, some sub-criteria are specific to the PRCI instrument (cf. *AAPG 2025 Guide, §B.5.3. Evaluation of full proposals*), in particular related to the project's capacity to respond to the research challenges of the chosen scientific axis.

The foreign agency can suggest external reviewers that ANR may call upon for project evaluation. The foreign agency has also access to all information relating to the projects and their evaluation.

ANR will subsequently provide its foreign counterpart with a list of projects to fund from those which passed the selection process. The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded.

6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams **according to its own rules**. ANR's funding regulations are available at: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/financer-votre-projet/reglement-financier/>

7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of project proposals registration on the ANR website: October, 15th 2024 at 5 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR site: end of March 2025 (cf. *AAPG website for updates*)

⁸ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

- NSF schedule: it is essential to consult the website of the American agency regarding the full proposal submission procedures
- Joint decision and publication of the results: October 2025 (**indicative date**)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2025 – January 2026 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints