



Call for project proposals

Bergen Research Foundation (BFS), hereby calls for project proposals within the fields of medical imaging, image analysis and medical visualization.

The foundation's vision is to make a substantial difference to the development of Norwegian research milieus aiming for the highest international level. During many years, important research infrastructure (clinical and preclinical PET scanners, cardiac CT, 3 Tesla MRI systems, etc.), has been put in place in Bergen, Norway, through substantial donations from Trond Mohn and his family and BFS. These dedicated facilities are operated in collaboration between the University of Bergen (UiB) and Haukeland University Hospital (HUS).

Building upon its past support towards these dedicated facilities, BFS has set aside a total of NOK 33 millions in order to promote high quality research related to the imaging research infrastructures. A substantial portion of the grant will be given as direct financial support to the establishment of new cross-disciplinary Center for research within the fields of medical imaging, image analysis and medical visualization (the Center) in Bergen. The Center will be established at HUS in cooperation between HUS and UiB.

In order to encourage high quality research collaborations across the relevant institutions, departments / clinics and disciplines in Bergen, a separate portion of the BFS contribution will be given as competitive project grants. By providing competitive funding for research projects across the cooperating institutions, faculties and departments, BFS wishes to enhance collaborations across scientific and organizational boundaries and to contribute towards the development of the Center.

UiB and HUS are hereby jointly invited to nominate a maximum of five strong research collaborations for project funding.

Nomination

BFS wishes to support research that is in accordance with the host institutions' and the research milieus' own strategies and priorities. In order to ensure that any BFS project funding will contribute substantially towards the development of the Center, BFS wishes to invite the Center Board to coordinate the nomination process in close collaboration with the relevant faculties and hospital departments.

In addition to the general criteria as laid out in Appendices A to C, nominated proposals should meet the following requirements:

- The proposed research must be in line with the aims and scientific scope of the Center. A letter of commitment signed by the Center leader confirming this must be provided
- Proposals should be clearly cross-disciplinary / multi-disciplinary
- The proposed research should benefit from the imaging research infrastructures located at HUS and/or UiB and/or contribute to further development of the dedicated facilities
- For successful project proposals, projects leaders are expected to become formally affiliated to the Center (for instance by an affiliated professorship), and must commit to spending considerable research time at the Center

The nomination process leading up to the submission of applications should focus on the scientific qualities of the project ideas with reference to this call and the evaluation criteria as laid out in Appendix C below. In addition, the mix of collaborations and competencies represented should be taken into consideration.

After submission, eligible proposals will be evaluated by an international expert panel in accordance with BFS selection procedures. It is expected that 2-3 projects may be selected for funding, depending on quality and the planned project duration. Each project may receive a maximum of NOK 5 millions from BFS (if project period of 3 years) or NOK 7,5 millions from BFS (if project period of 4 years).

Further information: Please consult Appendices A to C

Application deadline **2 May 2017 at 12:00 (noon)**.

Appendix A – Funding and grant agreement

Each project may be granted BFS funding for either 3 or 4 years. The maximum contribution from BFS is NOK 5 millions (for projects lasting 3 years) or NOK 7,5 millions (for projects lasting 4 years).

It is a prerequisite for funding that any BFS contribution is matched by resources from the host institution at about the same level. The overall budget of each project should allow for the establishment of a research team and for collaborative and/or cross-disciplinary research to take place.

Matching resources from the host institution may include salaries, consumables, equipment, overhead related to positions funded by BFS and "leiestedskostnader" (e.g. the use of labs / equipment). Funding from the foundation may not be put towards overhead and/or other expenses not directly related to the project. For this call, BFS funding may normally not cover the salary of the project leader or "frikjøp".

In the event a grant application is successful, a project grant agreement will be entered into by BFS and the host institution, in which their respective responsibilities will be detailed in full.

In conjunction with the grant agreement, consortium agreements between the collaborating institutions/departments must be put in place as well as an agreement ensuring the project's affiliation to the Center and also access to the relevant research infrastructure.

Appendix B – How to apply

Applications must contain the following:

- The research plan ([see template](#))
- The budget sheet ([see template](#))

Proposals must be written in English.

For each proposal, the following must be attached:

- A commitment letter signed by the Center leader as described in the call text.
- A commitment letter from the host institution describing the nature and level of its contribution to the project. The letter must be signed at the appropriate institutional level.
- In cases where institutions other than the host institution are expected to contribute with resources to the project, a letter signed at the appropriate level of the contributing institution should be included. The letter should describe the nature of the resources to be committed and confirm institutional support of the proposal and its budget.

How to submit:

One copy of the proposal and the required attachments, compiled in one (1) PDF file, should be submitted to

grants[at]bfstiftelse.no

Receipt of submitted applications will be confirmed by email.

Application deadline is 2.5.2017 at 12:00 (noon).

Contact information:

Oddveig Åsheim: phone +47 416 63 164, *oa[at]bfstiftelse.no*

Kristen Haugland: phone + 47 900 56 924, *kristen.haugland [at]bfstiftelse.no*

Anne Marie Haga: phone +47 970 05 276, *amh[at]bfstiftelse.no*

Appendix C – Evaluation criteria

The evaluation shall focus on the scientific quality of the proposal including plans for generation and pursuit of novel scientific ideas. The basic reference will be:

SIGNIFICANCE: How may the proposed cross-disciplinary research activities contribute to the development of the Center and the fields of medical imaging, image analysis and/or medical visualization? Is there an identifiable potential to improve methods, the utilization of equipment and /or clinical practice?

FEASIBILITY: The extent to which the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses are appropriate for the aims of the proposed research

ENVIRONMENT: The extent to which the available resources, the institutional commitment, national and international collaborations and any other unique features, will contribute towards the success of the proposed research

INVESTIGATORS, including the PI: The extent to which the Investigators' experience, track record, training, preliminary data/past progress will contribute towards the success of the project.

IMPACT / POTENTIAL LONG TERM EFFECTS: With reference to the plans as outlined in the proposal, how likely is it that BFS funding may have a long term positive impact on the development of Center?

INNOVATION and TRANSLATION: The suitability of the described approach towards innovation and/or translation.