## HEiKA-Call 2023 – Summary

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| **Target group:** | Scientists of KIT and Uni HD |
| **Aim:** | Funding of **joint** bridge projects with high innovation potential and high scientific quality |
| **Funding volume:** | Maximum **EUR 80.000** per joint project |
| **Funding period:** | **One year (January 1 - December 31, 2024)** |
| **Funding:** | State funds subject to appropriate spending guidelines.<br>Funding is available for: Personnel (not your own position!), consumables, travel expenses, project-related events, equipment. |
| **Deadline:** | **August 28, 2023 (inclusive)** |
| **Application:** | Word **and** PDF document with this **application form by E-Mail to info@heika-research.de** |
| **Selection:** | **Selection meeting on October 17, 2023 in Karlsruhe.**<br>The teams of the best evaluated project proposals will be invited to an interview.<br>The invitation will take place 1 week before the selection meeting.<br>Please **reserve this date already now** or make sure you have a substitute in case you cannot attend. |
| **Exclusion criteria:** | Submission after the deadline and not in the required form (application form).<br>Applications already submitted to other funding agencies. |
| **Information:** | **Further information on our Website.**<br>At our **HEiKA Day on June 22, 2023 in Heidelberg**, we will provide detailed information about the call and organize a "Scientific Match Making".<br>Take the opportunity to ask questions and network there! |
| **Contact:** | **HEiKA Management,** Regine Kleber & María García, info@heika-research.de |

## HEiKA – Call for joint projects 2023

The Heidelberg Karlsruhe Strategic Partnership - Research Bridges (HEiKA), a joint research institution of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) and the University of Heidelberg (Uni HD), provides start-up funds for projects of small to medium size that are characterized by outstanding scientific quality and high innovative potential. All scientists of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology and Heidelberg University are entitled to apply.

We are looking for **project proposals** that fit thematically into at least one of the **five HEiKA Research bridges Advanced Imaging Platform (AIP); Functional Materials (FM); Medical Technology for Health (MTH); Particle Physics, Astroparticle Physics and Cosmology (PAC); Synthetic Biology (SB)**.

### 1. Target group

All members of KIT and Heidelberg University are invited to submit project proposals. Applications must be submitted **jointly** by at least one scientist (holding a doctorate degree) from each partner institution. Young scientists are particularly encouraged to submit project proposals.
External partners can be additionally involved in justified cases, but funding of external partners by HEiKA is not possible.

### 2. Aim

Scientifically excellent and particularly innovative new research approaches are the goal of HEiKA project funding. The projects should take advantage of the complementarity of the HEiKA research bridges to establish research collaborations that are as sustainable as possible, in particular, specific preparations or plans for joint publications and third-party funding that lead to follow-up projects after HEiKA funding.

### 3. Funding

**Start-up funds** for joint scientific projects of up to **EUR 80,000** per project are granted. The funding period is usually a maximum of **12 months** (01.01. - 31.12.2024). In justified cases, the period can be extended for six months with no further funding. Applications for this should be sent informally by e-mail to the HEiKA office, but no later than two months before the end of the original project period.

If the two applicants are **junior researchers** (postdocs up to a maximum of 6 years after the doctorate (plus periods for childcare, if applicable)), a project duration of **up to 18 months** can be applied for directly (01.01.2024 - max. 30.06.2025), whereby the project duration, including any extension, may not exceed the above framework of 6 years after the doctorate.
The funds provided originate from the funding for the University of Excellence, they are state funds, which are subject to the corresponding spending guidelines. Applications can be made for funds for personnel including student assistants (but not for the applicant's position itself), consumables, travel expenses, project-related events, equipment and investments.

## 4. Deadline

Proposals must be submitted **via email to info@heika-research.de by 08/28/2023 (deadline).**

## 5. Submission

Please submit your applications as **Word and PDF** document using the HEiKA project proposal template in German or English.
Make sure to keep the file size as small as possible and not to exceed the specified number of characters (including spaces)!
Proposals from junior scientists must also include a personal statement that describes the contribution of the proposed project to the further development and sharpening of the applicant's own research profile.
This statement (max. one page) must be submitted together with the application.
An already existing, documented collaboration is not necessary for a successful application.

## 6. Selection and funding decision

The funding decision will be made at a **HEiKA selection meeting** by the *Extended Board of Directors* **on October 17, 2023**. The teams of the applications that were rated best after a pre-selection will be invited to **Karlsruhe** for a discussion of their project proposal. Directly following these interviews, the final funding decision will be made in a closed session. All teams will be informed about the funding at the latest one week after the decision.
Project funding will begin on January 1, 2024.

**Please note when submitting your application:** The invitation (or cancellation) to attend the selection meeting can only be sent approximately one week before the meeting date.
**Therefore, please reserve the date of October 17, 2023 when submitting your application**, or organize a representative who is able to speak at the meeting in good time in case you cannot be there yourself.

**7. Excluded from participation in the selection procedure**

Applications submitted after the deadline or not in the required form (Word and PDF document according to the template) will be automatically excluded from the selection procedure.

Applications that have already been submitted to other funding bodies will also not be considered. By submitting a project proposal, applicants therefore confirm that the present application has **not** been submitted to other funding calls.

## Appendix: The HEiKA Research Bridges

From the founding stage of HEiKA, the largely complementary set-up and long-standing cooperation of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) with Heidelberg University have been two of the main criteria, leading to the establishment of five comprehensive key areas as the HEiKA Research Bridges:

### Advanced Imaging Platform - AIP

The AIP establishes an integrated research program on advancing imaging methods including optical, electron and x-ray modalities. The platform also covers correlative approaches aimed at combining these modalities to extend the structural and temporal information that can be extracted from an individual sample under study.

Important aspects in the framework of the “AIP” are technical advances of the various imaging techniques, development of novel contrast agents, advancements of preparation techniques and image data processing software for the different imaging modalities and combinations thereof.

### Functional Materials - FM

Fundamental here are the optimal synergies between KIT and the University of Heidelberg in the area of production (synthesis) and structure determination of new materials, as well as the long-term cooperation in top clusters, such as "Forum Organic Electronics" as well as in the "Innovation Lab" with its associated cleanroom laboratory, as well as high-resolution electron microscopy at both locations.

Together with the Centre for Advanced Materials – CAM at Heidelberg University, which also focuses on the basic research of new organic materials and the MZE of KIT, the mapping of the entire value chain in the region will be further promoted.

### Medical Technology for Health - MTH

The focus of this topic is the integration and synergy of knowledge from engineering and medical / clinical research to develop medical devices, systems and software for the prevention and (early) diagnosis of diseases for better therapy stratification.

We interpret “medical engineering for health” as being the application of methods from the areas of engineering sciences and bioinformatics in the field of medicine, often considering results of molecular basic research. Consequently, knowledge from these areas is combined with medical expertise aiming at better diagnostics, therapy and therapeutic management of patients.

This is comprising research and development of new diagnostic methods, medical devices, systems, algorithms and software, prostheses and implants for recognition, prevention, monitoring, treatment or relief of diseases, injury and disabilities.

Also research projects that strengthen the research oriented teaching in a future Master course in „Medical Technology" are supported.

### Particle Physics, Astroparticle Physics and Cosmology (PAC)

The activities comprise research topics in theoretical and experimental particle physics, astroparticle physics, astrophysics and cosmology. Both KIT and Heidelberg University have earned an excellent reputation in theoretical and experimental particle physics and astroparticle physics and both play leading parts in international experiments. The long lasting collaboration of both institutions in the conception of novel experiments, in computing, in data analysis and theoretical data interpretation shall be strengthened and their complementary competences be exploited. Representative examples would be the collaboration between experiment and theory in the conception of novel analysis techniques or research directions, for one, or the collaboration of physicists, engineers and computer scientists in the R&D of novel instrumentation techniques or large-scale data analysis and simulation.

### Synthetic Biology - SB

Synthetic Biology is understood as the co-action of molecular biology, organic chemistry, engineering science, nano bio technology and information technology. The research bridge focusses on the development of new bio materials with functional surfaces, stem cell research and tissue engineering, re-engineering of signaling as well as modelling and supercomputing.