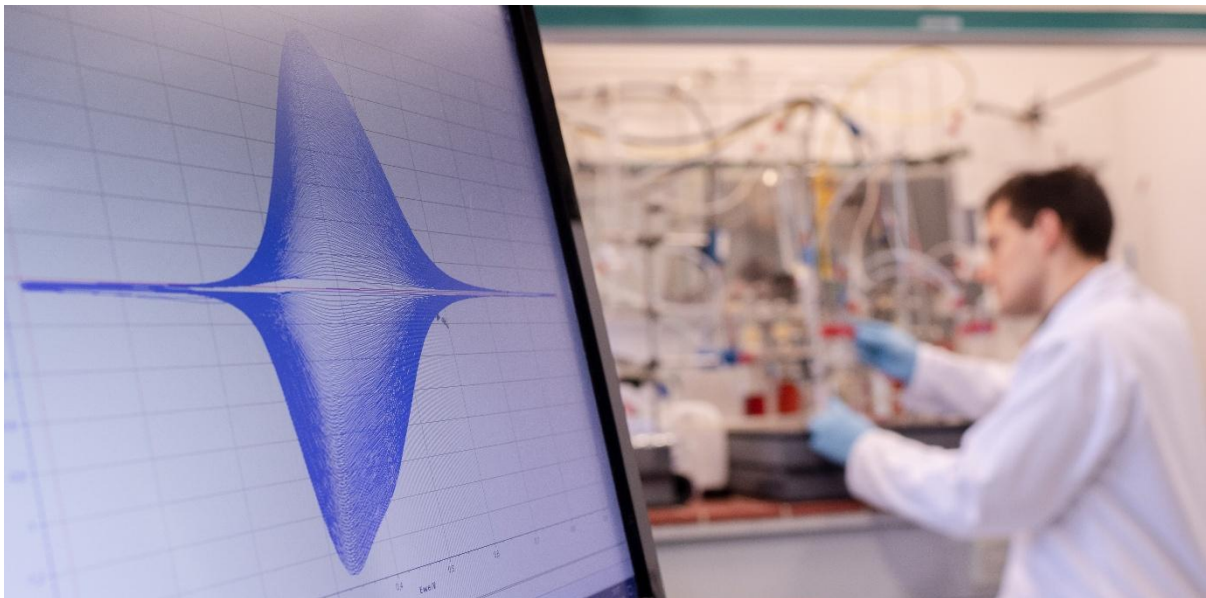




## TUM ForTe Newsletter Research Funding

July 2026

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Dear reader, please find below the latest issue of our monthly newsletter for research funding. This information is provided to you, as TUM employee, to support you and your research as best as possible at this university. If you wish not to be updated on the latest funding opportunities, please [unsubscribe online](#) or send a message to [forte-newsletter@tum.de](mailto:forte-newsletter@tum.de).

Selected funding opportunities for this month include the [TUM International Project Teams \(IPT\) 2026](#) and the [Google Academic Research Awards](#). Events within the next weeks include the newest [TUM IdeaLab: Turn your Research into a Start-up](#) and [information events on Humboldt Foundation funding lines](#).

Please note that some mail clients block certain elements. If you have any problems displaying or navigating the newsletter, please contact us by e-mail ([forte-newsletter@tum.de](mailto:forte-newsletter@tum.de)).

For further information or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact [forte-newsletter@tum.de](mailto:forte-newsletter@tum.de).

### TUM ForTe Tip of the Month

**[TUM: Global Visiting Professor Program](#)** – Deadline: 31.07.26

If you are specifically looking for funds to invite a professor from an international partner university to TUM for a temporary teaching and/or research collaboration (1 week to 3 months), funding is available for up to 10.000,00 € per project. The TUM Global & Alumni Office will reimburse costs associated with travel and accommodation expenses, as well as honorariums.

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## News

1. [TUM Presidential Entrepreneurship Award and TUM Start-up Mentor of Excellence Award 2026](#)
2. [RAISE Advisory Board: Call for Experts](#) – Deadline: 04.09.2026
3. [Germany Sets Strategic Focus on Key Technologies in 2026 BuFI Report](#)
4. [Australia Joins Horizon Europe as Associated Country from 2027](#)
5. [Global AI Talent Shifts: Europe Gains Ground as Munich Emerges as Key Hub](#)

### [TUM Presidential Entrepreneurship Award and TUM Start-up Mentor of Excellence Award 2026](#)

The start-up **OroraTech** has been awarded the **TUM Presidential Entrepreneurship Award** for developing a satellite system capable of detecting wildfires. The award recognizes business ideas that are significantly based on research findings, have high growth potential, and have demonstrated initial funding success. It is endowed with EUR 10,000, donated by the TUM Association of Alumni and Friends.

This year's **TUM Start-up Mentor of Excellence Award** went to **Prof. Dr.-Ing. Klaus Drechsler** of the Chair of Carbon Composites at the TUM School of Engineering and Design. With this award, which comes with a prize of EUR 5,000 for the chair, TUM honors professors who are particularly dedicated and successful in mentoring start-up teams.

Both awards are presented annually as part of TUM Entrepreneurship Day. Last Thursday, **over 1,500 visitors** experienced the TUM entrepreneurial ecosystem firsthand through workshops, panel discussions, and fairs at TUM's main campus.

### [RAISE Advisory Board: Call for Experts](#) – Deadline: 04.09.2026

The European Commission is seeking leading researchers in AI and AI-enabled science to join the new RAISE High-Level Academic Advisory Board. Members will help shape the future of AI in Science in Europe by providing strategic advice on RAISE, the EU's virtual institute for AI science. Interested researchers can apply until 4 September 2026.

## [Germany Sets Strategic Focus on Key Technologies in 2026 BuFI Report](#)

The German Federal Government has published the 2026 Federal Report on Research and Innovation (BuFI), its **central biennial overview of research and innovation policy**. The report provides **comprehensive data on funding, actors and performance of Germany's R&I system** and serves as a basis for political decision-making. A key element in the 2026 report is the High-Tech Agenda Deutschland, which focuses R&I policy on **six priority technologies** (AI, quantum technologies, microelectronics, biotechnology, as well as climate-neutral energy and mobility) and **five strategic fields for research and transfer**: aerospace; health; security and defense; marine, climate and biodiversity; and social cohesion, urban areas and regions. Further, the report demonstrates that **Germany continues to exceed the EU's 3 % R&D target**, with EUR 137.1 billion invested in 2024 (3.17% of GDP). Explore the full report and data via the [BuFI website](#).

## [Australia Joins Horizon Europe as Associated Country from 2027](#)

Australia and the European Commission have successfully concluded negotiations on **Australia's association to Horizon Europe**. From 2027, Australian organizations will be able to participate in Pillar II ("Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness") on equal footing with EU member states, gaining direct access to Horizon Europe funding and the ability to lead collaborative projects. The association builds on strong existing cooperation, with Australian partners already involved in 239 projects and enjoying a success rate above 24%. Read the full press release [here](#).

## [Global AI Talent Shifts: Europe Gains Ground as Munich Emerges as Key Hub](#)

A new data brief on global AI talent mobility highlights significant shifts between 2024 and 2025. While the US and India continue to dominate in overall numbers, **Europe is strengthening its position**, with **Germany and the Netherlands emerging as leading hubs for high-level AI talent**. The report shows that policy changes and targeted talent strategies increasingly shape where AI professionals work, with more talent moving from the US to Europe. Simultaneously, **investment in education** results in growing pools of domestically trained AI professionals in Germany. **Munich emerges as one of the EU's leading AI locations**. However, the report also highlights a key challenge: the gender gap in AI continues to widen across Europe, particularly in highly specialized roles. Read an executive summary and download the report [here](#).

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## Selected Funding Opportunities

1. [BMFTR: Urban Ignite / Urban Impact](#) – Deadline: 20.07.2026
2. [Wellcome Leap: Resistance Networks](#) – Deadline: 22.07.2026

3. [DAAD: Central Call for Project Funding Programs](#) – Deadlines starting 31.07.2026
4. [Google: Academic Research Awards](#) – Deadline: 07.08.2026
5. [BMFTR: Innovative Data Analyses for Women's Health and Gender-Sensitive Medicine](#) – Deadline: 09.08.2026
6. [BMFTR: Use Cases for In Silico Methods in Medicine](#) – Deadline: 27.08.2026
7. [Daimler und Benz Stiftung: Forum Forschung](#) – Deadline: 31.08.2026
8. [BMFTR: Robots4CleanTech](#) – Deadline: 15.09.2026
9. [TUM IGSSE: International Project Teams \(IPT\) 2026](#) – Deadline: 18.09.2026
10. [Simons Foundation: Targeted Grants to Institutes](#) – Deadline: 30.09.26
11. [Volkswagen Foundation: NEXT – Dual Use of Ideas and Concepts](#) – Deadline: 06.10.2026
12. [CETPartnership: Joint Call 2026](#) – Deadline: 08.10.2026

**[BMFTR: Urban Ignite / Urban Impact](#)** – Deadline: 20.07.2026

The BMFTR invites proposals for its new “Idea Forge for Sustainable Cities and Regions” under the FONA strategy. This new program focuses on **speed and simple processes with lottery-based selection** to support visionary and unconventional ideas for sustainable urban and regional development. Topics include **sustainable mobility, urban development, resource efficiency, and innovative public services**. Phase 1 “Urban Ignite” supports early-stage, high-risk ideas with up to EUR 85,000 for 9-12 months. Promising projects may advance to Phase 2 “Urban Impact” for further development in interdisciplinary consortia. Expressions of interest for Phase 1 must be submitted **by 20 July, 12:00 (noon)**. Learn more [here](#).

**[Wellcome Leap: Resistance Networks](#)** – Deadline: 22.07.2026

Wellcome Leap launches the new USD 50 million “Resistance Networks” program, supported by Bayer, to **tackle antibiotic resistance as a transmissible phenomenon in bacterial networks**. The program aims to measure how resistance spreads via plasmids and to develop predictive epidemiological models and interventions that slow or prevent this process. Projects run over three years and can address one or more “Thrust Areas”: **transmission measurement and modeling, scalable single-cell sequencing tools, and intervention testing in controlled in vivo systems**. Learn more [here](#) and apply by **22 July (11:59 pm Eastern Time)**.

**[DAAD: Central Call for Project Funding Programs](#)** – Deadlines starting 31.07.2026

The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has launched a new central call on 15 June 2026, offering **14 programs for project-based funding**. They support a **wide range of international activities**, from research collaboration to study program development: academic mobility, international partnerships, transnational education, and scholarships for students and researchers. All details, eligibility criteria, and application requirements are available via the [central program database](#). Application deadlines vary, with the earliest applications due by **31 July**.

**[Google: Academic Research Awards](#)** – Deadline: 07.08.2026

Google invites proposals for its Academic Research Awards program, supporting foundational and applied research with a focus on **quantum computing**. The call addresses two areas: **[early fault-tolerant quantum algorithms and applications](#)**, and **[quantum computing security](#)** – see each link for details. Eligibility is limited to professors at degree-granting institutions. Each applicant may serve as PI or co-PI on only one proposal, with a maximum of two PIs per project. Awards are up to **USD 100,000**, with higher amounts possible for exceptional proposals, and are provided as unrestricted gifts. Submit your proposal by **7 August**.

**[BMFTR: Innovative Data Analyses for Women's Health and Gender-Sensitive Medicine](#)** –

Deadline: 09.08.2026

This BMFTR call addresses the gender data gap by **improving existing health datasets and developing data-driven approaches**, including AI, to enable more precise, equitable diagnostics and therapies. Funded projects must analyze and optimize **already available datasets** or develop methods to examine algorithms, AI models and AI-based applications for gender biases. Projects must combine expertise in data science and clinical research. New data collection and clinical trials are not eligible. This is a one-stage application process with full applications due by **9 August**. Find the call [here](#).

**[BMFTR: Use Cases for In Silico Methods in Medicine](#)** – Deadline: 27.08.2026

The BMFTR invites proposals **for interdisciplinary use cases applying in silico methods in medicine** within its “e2Health” funding concept. The call aims to accelerate medical innovation across the full value chain, from basic research to clinical application. Eligible topics include, **among others, drug discovery and repurposing, data-driven diagnostics, disease progression modelling, virtual clinical studies, and clinical decision support systems**. Proposals require **established datasets** and **collaboration between data science and clinical research partners**. Funding follows a two-stage scheme: a feasibility phase of up to 10 months (up to EUR 90,000 per partner) to develop use case concepts, followed by a competitive selection for a realization phase of up to three years. Find the full call [here](#) and submit your project outline by **27 August**.

**[Daimler und Benz Stiftung: Forum Forschung](#)** – Deadline: 31.08.2026

The Daimler and Benz Stiftung invites proposals for its “Forum Forschung” funding line. This program supports application-oriented research projects located at the interfaces of **computer science, applied mathematics, and biosciences**. Funding of up to EUR 150,000 enables researchers to quickly initiate innovative projects with societal relevance or to transfer existing results into practice. Eligible applicants include **professors, junior professors, habilitation candidates, and experienced postdoctoral researchers with leadership experience**. Explore details [here](#) and apply by **31 August**.

**BMFTR: Robots4CleanTech** – Deadline: 15.09.2026

This BMFTR call supports the **development and prototypical validation of AI-based robotic systems for applications in environmental technologies**. Projects should address key areas such as circular economy, resource efficiency, and resilient infrastructures, including automated recycling, emissions monitoring, and inspection systems. Funding is provided for **national consortia** between **academia, industry, and end users**. The maximum funding per consortium is EUR 1.2 million, with project durations of 24 to 30 months. Applications follow a two-stage process, starting with a project sketch submission by **15 September**. Find the full call [here](#).

**TUM IGSSE: International Project Teams (IPT) 2026** – Deadline: 18.09.2026

TUM's International Graduate School of Science and Engineering (IGSSE) invites **proposals for collaborative, interdisciplinary research projects with selected international partners**. The International Project Teams program is a **low-threshold opportunity** to strengthen TUM's global network, foster international collaboration, and support doctoral training and mobility. This year, collaborations with the following partners are eligible:

- EuroTech Alliance members (Technical University of Denmark, EPFL, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, Technion, Eindhoven University of Technology)
- Ukrainian universities
- Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST)
- Politecnico di Milano
- Universidade Estadual Paulista

Successful proposals receive a **doctoral scholarship for up to four years**, plus funding for consumables and mobility, as well as access to a dedicated qualification and networking program. Find more information on [previous teams](#) and the [full 2026 call](#) online. Please direct questions to [ipt.igsse@tum.de](mailto:ipt.igsse@tum.de) and apply by **18 September**.

**Simons Foundation: Targeted Grants to Institutes** – Deadline: 30.09.26

The Simons Foundation's Mathematics and Physical Sciences division invites applications for its Targeted Grants to Institutes program. The call supports **established institutes and centers in mathematics and theoretical basic physical sciences to strengthen international collaboration and enhance their scientific missions**. Funding is flexible and can cover, for example, salaries, travel and visitor support, as well as conferences and workshops. Grants provide up to USD 750,000 over three years. Applications must be submitted by **30 September, 12 p.m. (noon) Eastern time**. Learn more and apply [here](#).

**Volkswagen Foundation: NEXT – Dual Use of Ideas and Concepts** – Deadline: 06.10.2026

The Volkswagen Foundation call "NEXT – Dual Use of Ideas and Concepts from the Humanities and Social Sciences" supports exploratory, interdisciplinary research on **how concepts and theories from the humanities and social sciences are repurposed outside academia, particularly in ideologically motivated contexts**. Projects should analyze the mechanisms, conditions, and impacts of such "dual use" effects. A maximum of EUR 650,000 is available for up



to two years and teams of 2-3 researchers with a PhD. Supported costs include research staff (excluding doctoral positions), travel, workshops, and Open Access publications. Optional **online Q&A sessions** take place on **11 August (German)** and **8 September (English)**. Find all details [here](#) and submit your full application by **6 October**.

#### **CETPartnership: Joint Call 2026** – Deadline: 08.10.2026

The Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETPartnership) has launched its Joint Call 2026 with a total budget of over EUR 84 million to fund transnational research and innovation projects that **accelerate the transition to clean energy**. The call is structured into 11 modules covering technological and systemic clean energy challenges, with Germany participating in 9 modules. Projects can run for up to 36 months and **request up to EUR 800,000 for German partners**. Consortia must include **at least three partners from three different participating countries**, including at least two from EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. The call follows a two-stage submission process, with pre-proposals due on **8 October (14:00 CEST)**. A **Q&A session on 9 September** provides further guidance. Find all details [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events & Competitions

1. [Humboldt Foundation: Upcoming Information Events](#) – Event dates starting 14.07.2026
2. [Sense about Science: John Maddox Prize](#) – Deadline: 02.08.2026
3. [TUM IdeaLab: Turn your Research into a Start-up](#) – Event starting on 24.08.2026
4. [WUST: Stanisław Lem European Research Prize 2026](#) – Deadline: 30.09.2026

#### **Humboldt Foundation: Upcoming Information Events** – Event dates starting 14.07.2026

The Humboldt Foundation sponsors academic collaborations between foreign and German researchers by granting several research fellowships and awards tailored to individual career situations. New information events are now available on the following funding lines:

- **Humboldt Research Professorships:** This new program enables leading researchers from abroad to establish their research activities at universities and research institutions in Germany. Information events take place on [14.07. \(13:00-14:00\)](#) and [23.07. \(16:00-17:00\)](#). Advance registration is not required.
- **Henriette Herz Scouting Program:** Are you the head of a research team at a German university or non-university research institute and would like to strategically diversify your international team? Are you keen to share your vast experience in the international research community with the next generation of scientists and scholars? Become a scout for the Humboldt Foundation and recruit tomorrow's top talents for your research group! An information event (no registration required) takes place on [06.08. \(14:00-15:30\)](#).

- **Feodor Lynen Research Fellowship:** Conduct research abroad through the Humboldt Foundation – for all researchers in Germany who would like to get a postdoc position abroad or go on a sabbatical. An information event (no registration required) takes place on [24.09. \(14:00-15:00\)](#).

See an **overview of the core Humboldt sponsorship programs on the [TUM-IAS website!](#)** For further questions, contact Dr. Daniela Hägele, TUM Institute for Advanced Study (TUM-IAS), E-Mail: [daniela.haegele@tum.de](mailto:daniela.haegele@tum.de). See also the [Humboldt Advisory Service](#).

#### **[Sense about Science: John Maddox Prize](#)** – Deadline: 02.08.2026

The John Maddox Prize is a global award that honors **individuals who courageously promote sound science and evidence in public debates, even in the face of resistance or hostility**. Two prizes are awarded annually: a main prize and an early career prize, each worth USD 5,000. Since 2012, the award has highlighted the often underappreciated work of researchers contributing to public discourse and advocating for evidence-based decision-making. Researchers worldwide can apply or be nominated, including self-nominations. Submit your application or nomination [here](#) by **2 August**.

#### **[TUM IdeaLab: Turn your Research into a Start-up](#)** – Apply until 17.08.2026

Have you ever wondered how your research could advance society? Now is your time to find out! The TUM Venture Labs and UnternehmerTUM Incubator invite you to join our IdeaLab. The **two-day hands-on workshop provides you with the knowledge and skills to identify relevant application areas of your academic work and set up a research-based startup**:

- Dissect your research into its core technologies and identify commercial use cases
- Learn how to launch a deep-tech startup
- Practice communicating your solution and its benefits to non-technical audiences

**Who:** PhD and doctoral candidates & Postdocs

**When:**

- 24 August: Evening get together/ pre-meeting with fun activities, and pizza & drinks designed to help you warm up for the workshop days ahead, get to know your fellow participants, and connect with us. Also, there will be a keynote talk by a fellow founder!
- 25 and 26 August: Two-day workshop in Garching

**How:** [Apply here](#) by August 17 and direct your questions to [idealab@tum-venture-labs.de](mailto:idealab@tum-venture-labs.de)

We are looking forward to seeing you soon!

#### **[WUST: Stanisław Lem European Research Prize 2026](#)** – Deadline: 30.09.2026

The Wrocław University of Science and Technology (WUST) has launched the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the **Stanisław Lem European Research Prize**, awarded annually to one young researcher (up to 40 years old) whose creative work in science, engineering, and technology has the potential to make



a positive impact on the future of a civilization increasingly shaped by technology. The prize recognizes a recent discovery or significant achievement made between 2023 and 2026. The winner will receive PLN 100,000 (approx. EUR 23,000) and be honoured at the official award ceremony in Wrocław. Further information is available [here](#).

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## Disclaimer

We strive to compile the information in this newsletter with the utmost care. Nevertheless, we cannot give any guarantee of accuracy or completeness. Please consult the relevant websites for the most up-to-date information.

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