



TUM ForTe Newsletter Research Funding

June 2026

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.

Selected funding opportunities for this month include [the IP Paris International Seed Funding Program](#) and the [ERC Advanced Grants](#) call. Events within the next weeks include the [TUM Freezer Challenge](#) and the [TUM IDEAward](#).

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).

For further information or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact forte-newsletter@tum.de.

TUM ForTe Tips of the Month

[Save the Date: TUM Entrepreneurship Day 2026](#) – Event date 25.06.2026

Time to get ready: On Thursday, 25 June, the Technical University of Munich, UnternehmerTUM, and TUM Venture Labs will host this year's TUM Entrepreneurship Day. The full-day festival at TUM's main campus offers a diverse program centered on start-ups, innovation, and entrepreneurship. **Secure your free ticket now via [Eventbrite](#)**. All information about the program will be available shortly on our [Entrepreneurship Day website](#).

When: 25 June, 10:00-21:00

Where: Arcisstr. 21

[TUM IDEAward 2026](#) – Deadline: 30.06.2026

Do you have a technology with real market potential? Or an idea that tackles societal challenges and creates meaningful impact? Apply now for the **TUM IDEAward 2026!** As one of the ten finalists, you will receive valuable **jury feedback, individual pitch training, and take part in a tailored workshop to prepare your journey toward a sustainable start-up.** You will also have the opportunity to present your idea to a broad audience at the final event. The three winning teams will receive a total of €37.000 in prize money, along with coaching from the TUM start-up consultancy – supporting you all the way to market launch. Find more information and apply on our [website](#).

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News

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[High-Tech Agenda Germany: Federal Government Launches Technology Roadmaps - Feedback Wanted](#)

The Federal Cabinet has published the technology roadmaps of the **High-Tech Agenda Germany (HTAD)**, marking the next step in implementing the government's central innovation strategy. The roadmaps define concrete goals, milestones, and implementation pathways for six key technologies critical to Germany's competitiveness and technological sovereignty: **AI, microelectronics, quantum technologies, biotechnology, fusion and climate-neutral energy, and climate-neutral mobility.** The roadmaps are designed as **living documents** and will be implemented and **regularly updated together with stakeholders from research, industry, and the public.**

An **online consultation** is now open where [you can get involved and provide feedback](#). The TUM Board of Management warmly encourages your participation – have your say and support the High-Tech Agenda with your expertise!

[European Council adopts first EU Science Diplomacy Framework](#)

The Council of the European Union has adopted the first EU framework for science diplomacy, based on a proposal by the European Commission. The framework aims to strengthen Europe's global role in research through a more strategic and coordinated approach across Member States. It promotes scientific and academic freedom as key values that also help to attract and retain talent. The framework outlines strategic, operational and enabling actions to foster international cooperation, strengthen trust in science, and enhance the role of scientific advice in policymaking. Horizon Europe plays a central role as the EU's main instrument for global

science diplomacy, with partners such as Canada, Japan and South Korea already participating. Read the full news and the Council recommendation [here](#).

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Selected Funding Opportunities

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3. [BMFTR: Gender-Sensitive Cancer Research](#) – Deadline: 30.06.2026
4. [BMFTR: AI-based Robotics for Real-World Applications \(EU-Japan\)](#) – Deadline: 22.07.2026
5. [BAST: Digitalization and Automation in Road Construction](#) – Deadline: 31.07.2026
6. [ERC: Advanced Grants](#) – Deadline 27.08.2026
7. [BMFTR: Transformation in Democracy](#) – Deadline: 31.08.2026
8. [BMWBSB: “Zukunft Bau” 2026](#) – Deadline: 01.09.2026
9. [NetIAS: Constructive Advanced Thinking Program 2027-2029](#) – Deadline: 13.09.2026

[DAAD: Future Network “Weimar Triangle”](#) – Deadline: 15.06.2026

The DAAD program “Zukunftsnetzwerk Weimarer Dreieck” supports **trilateral research collaboration between Germany, France, and Poland**. For researchers based in Germany, it **funds research stays at host institutions** in France or Poland to work on one of the following topics:

- Technologies for climate-neutral energy generation and mobility as well as climate protection
- Artificial intelligence, digitalization, microelectronics
- Security in Europe and resilience of the research system
- Biotechnology and medicine of the future
- Challenges, impacts and benefits of new technologies for society

Outstanding [postdoctoral](#) and [doctoral researchers from all disciplines](#) can apply – see the links for further information on each application process. Funded doctoral candidates take part in one of the working groups, while postdocs are expected to participate in coordinating a group. Tandem applications are possible as well. Application deadline is **15 June**.

[IP Paris International Seed Funding Program: Call for Proposals](#) – Deadline 18.06.2026

Got an innovative research idea? The IP Paris Seed Funding Program 2026 offers **early-stage support to ambitious, interdisciplinary projects**, helping researchers turn new concepts into impactful innovations while **fostering collaboration between TUM and the Institut Polytechnique de Paris**. Take this opportunity to bring your ideas to life and **position your research for larger-scale funding** – applications are now open. Learn more [here](#) and apply until **18 June**.

[BMFTR: Gender-Sensitive Cancer Research](#) – Deadline: 30.06.2026

The BMFTR aims to advance preclinical, clinical and socio-cultural knowledge in biomedical research by integrating sex- and gender-sensitive aspects. It invites proposals to investigate **biological sex and socio-cultural gender influences on cancer development, prevention, diagnosis, treatment response, and outcomes**. Examples include sex-specific tumor biology, gender effects on therapy response and side effects, or sex and gender effects on prevention, diagnosis, care utilization and quality of life. Funding targets primarily interdisciplinary collaborative projects (max. four groups) with **strong links between basic and clinical research**, as well as clear perspectives for translation into practice. Proposals must demonstrate the integration of existing data or resources as well as meaningful stakeholder involvement. Find all information in the [call](#) and submit your **full proposal by 30 June**.

BMFTR: AI-based Robotics for Real-World Applications (EU-Japan) – Deadline: 22.07.2026

The BMFTR invites proposals under the EIG CONCERT-Japan initiative on AI-based robotics for real-world applications. The call aims to develop **adaptive robotic systems that operate in dynamic, human-centered environments** and address societal challenges in areas such as industry, logistics, agriculture, social services, and disaster response. Funded projects must combine AI and robotics and explore advanced capabilities such as perception, learning, decision-making, manipulation, and human-robot interaction. German project partners receive up to €180.000 for a duration of up to 36 months. Only **transnational consortia** are eligible, requiring at least one Japanese partner and two partners from different participating European countries. An online [Partner Search Tool](#) is provided. Find all information in the English-language call text on the [CONCERT-Japan website](#) and submit your project proposal until **22 July (10 a. m.)**.

BASt: Digitalization and Automation in Road Construction – Deadline: 31.07.2026

The German Federal Highway and Transport Research Institute (BASt) invites new proposals under the “Innovationsprogramm Straße” with a focus on **digitalization and automation in asphalt and concrete road construction**. The program aims to generate results at TRL 6, with a strong emphasis on practice-relevant and contract-applicable outcomes. Funded projects should develop innovative approaches that use **digital data acquisition and automated processing of material, layer, and construction parameters** to allow process-integrated characterization, optimization, and automated quality assessment. Projects must follow a **two-phase approach**: successful laboratory-scale validation (Phase 1) is a prerequisite for entry into Phase 2, large-scale testing under real conditions. Projects can be funded with up to €2 million for a duration of three years. Find all information in the [call](#) and submit your **full application by 31 July**.

ERC: Advanced Grants – Deadline 27.08.2026

The European Research Council (ERC) has opened its 2026 call for [ERC Advanced Grants](#), aimed at established researchers with a significant track record who wish to pursue a groundbreaking and ambitious project in any field of research. ERC Advanced Grants offer up to **€2.5 million for a period of five years**. An **additional €1 million** can be requested for the purchase of major equipment or access to large facilities necessary to conduct the research. The submission deadline is **27 August**.

If you plan to submit a proposal and have any questions regarding the call, please contact [Vivian Seidel](#) or [Dr. Nathalie Themeßl](#) from TUM ForTe's International Research Support team. We have prepared an information package to support you throughout the proposal preparation process. For further information, please visit the [ERC](#) website.

BMFTR: Transformation in Democracy – Deadline: 31.08.2026

The BMFTR invites proposals for research on “Transformation in Democracy” under its framework program on **current and future challenges of democratic societies**. The call supports projects that analyze how democratic systems manage transformation processes in areas such as digitalization, AI, climate change and demographic shifts, with a focus on **transformation and democracy, state action and societal dynamics**, as well as **new technologies, democratic processes and public engagement**. Participatory projects can also be funded. Both individual and collaborative projects are eligible, including international and practice-oriented approaches with strong knowledge transfer to policymakers and society. The application process is two-stage. Find further details [here](#) and submit your project outline by **31 August**.

BMWSB: “Zukunft Bau” 2026 – Deadline: 01.09.2026

The Federal Ministry for Housing, Urban Development and Building (BMWSB) has launched the 2026 call of the “Zukunft Bau” program to fund applied research projects in the building sector. The current call prioritizes two areas: **(1) cost-, process- and quality-optimized building and renovation**, including e. g. digitalization, automation and new collaboration models; and **(2) cost-effective climate action, climate adaptation and resource efficiency**, including e. g. circular construction, emission reduction, and sustainable material use across the life cycle. The application process is two-stage. Project outlines must be submitted [online](#) by **1 September**. An online info event is currently being rescheduled; please check [this page](#) for updates.

NetIAS: Constructive Advanced Thinking Program 2027-2029 – Deadline: 13.09.2026

The Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS) is supporting **interdisciplinary teams of early-career researchers to develop innovative ideas addressing emerging societal challenges**. The CAT program offers a flexible format focused on exchange, experimentation, and new research directions. Selected teams meet for **short stays (one to two weeks) over a period of up to three years at leading Institutes for Advanced Study** across Europe. Funding covers travel and accommodation. Eligible teams consist of three to five members from at least two countries. The Principal Investigator must hold a stable position and have obtained their PhD between January 2017 and September 2026. Proposals must demonstrate interdisciplinary collaboration and clear societal relevance. Find full details and participating institutes in the [program call](#), and submit your application by **13 September**.

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Upcoming Events & Competitions

1. [TUM Freezer Challenge](#) – Event dates 29.04.2026-30.10.2026
2. [DFG: Web Forum on International Cooperation and Funding Opportunities](#) – Event date 10.06.2026
3. [Novo Nordisk Foundation: Challenge Program 2027](#) – Informational Webinars starting 09.06.2026
4. [QEPrize Foundation: Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering 2027](#) – Nomination deadline: 26.06.2026
5. [Karl Vossloh Stiftung: Innovation Award in Mobility Research 2026](#) – Nomination deadline: 16.08.2026

TUM Freezer Challenge – Event dates 29.04.2026-30.10.2026

Ultra-low temperature freezers (ULT freezers) are an everyday feature of research and teaching in laboratories, but they consume a great deal of energy. This voluntary competition aims to encourage TUM laboratories to adopt and strengthen sustainable freezer management practices. Depending on the scope of the measures implemented, participating laboratory teams can achieve different levels, take part in a final prize draw and benefit from more energy-efficient freezer management.

Who: Any TUM laboratory operating ultra-low temperature freezers (ULT freezers)

When: 29 April - 30 October 2026

How: [Register here](#) and start implementing simple measures, such as defrosting!

Find more information on the TUM Freezer Challenge [here](#).

Novo Nordisk Foundation: Challenge Program 2027 – Informational Webinars starting 09.06.2026

The Novo Nordisk Foundation's Challenge Program 2027 supports collaborative research projects that address major societal and planetary challenges within areas of strategic priority. It aims to strengthen European research ecosystems by **enabling leading researchers to form consortia and pursue solutions with scientific depth and long-term focus**. In 2027, up to €80 million will be awarded across four themes, with **up to €10 million per grant** for projects running up to **six years**. Funding targets consortia of **2-4 research groups**, with at least one partner based at a Danish research institution. Industry collaboration is permitted, but industrial partners cannot receive funding. Application is now open for the following themes:

- [Advancing Next Generation AMR Diagnostics for Lower Respiratory Tract Infections](#): Find more details on supported research under the link above; and sign up for an **informational webinar on 9 June, 14:00 CEST** [here](#).
- [Heat and Hypertension – Understanding the Mechanisms of Interaction](#): Find more details on supported research under the link above; and sign up for an **informational webinar on 9 June, 12:00 CEST** [here](#).
- [Unravelling Electron Transfer Mechanisms in Hybrid Bio-Electrocatalysis](#): Find more details on supported research under the link above; and sign up for an **informational webinar on 9 June, 13:00 CEST** [here](#).
- [Harnessing Novel Earth-Abundant Materials for Sustainable Technologies](#): Find more details on supported research under the link above; and sign up for an **informational webinar on 16 June, 13:00 CEST** [here](#).

You may pre-submit questions for any of the webinars to challenge@novo.dk. Please include the name of the respective call in your e-mail. The **application deadline** for all calls is **7 October, 14:00 CEST**.

DFG: Web Forum on International Cooperation and Funding Opportunities – Event date 10.06.2026

The DFG Group International Cooperation invites you to an online forum on international funding opportunities and the DFG's role in global research cooperation. The event provides an **overview of DFG funding instruments for international collaborative research** and insights into the DFG's international activities and partnerships. A general introduction is followed by regional and thematic presentations from DFG regional teams. Participants can join breakout rooms to discuss regional programs and clarify individual questions directly with the teams. The event is held in German and will take place online via Webex on **10 June, 11:00-14:30**. Participation is free, but advance registration is required via this [online form](#).

[QEPrize Foundation: Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering 2027](#) – Nomination deadline: 26.06.2026

Nominations are open for the 2027 Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering (QEPrize). The £500.000 prize recognizes **bold, groundbreaking engineering innovations with proven global benefit** to humanity and is open to individuals or teams of up to ten people, with no nationality or residency restrictions. Engineers from all disciplines and sectors are eligible, provided they are personally responsible for the innovation. **Self-nominations and nominations of individuals employed in the same organization as the nominator are not permitted.** Completed nominations, including three independent referees, must be submitted by **26 June**. The winner will be announced on 2 February 2027. Find detailed guidance and submit a nomination via [the QEPrize website](#).

[Karl-Vossloh-Stiftung: Innovation Award in Mobility Research 2026](#) – Nomination deadline: 16.08.2026

The Karl-Vossloh-Stiftung invites nominations for the **Innovation Award 2026**, which recognizes an **outstanding PhD thesis in the field of sustainable mobility research**. The award targets innovative doctoral work in fields such as private and public passenger transport, freight transport, transport infrastructure, and vehicle engineering. Interdisciplinary approaches and contributions to sustainable mobility development are especially welcome. The prize is endowed with **€10.000**. Eligible are dissertations whose oral defense took place between **1 August 2024 and 31 July 2026**. Nominations may be submitted by professors who hold the right to award doctorates in engineering sciences or business administration. Complete nominations must be submitted by **16 August**. Find further details [here](#).

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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