August 2, 2023

Oceanshot FAQ added

About Call for Applications

- Can I submit an application assuming that the proposal will be selected as an FS project in the first Phase and a proper project in the next and subsequent phases?
  Applications for FS projects cannot be submitted for even a partial portion of the entire project phase. Although some proposals may be selected as FS projects as a result of the review process from among the applications submitted as proper projects, we do not accept applications for FS projects intended as such from the beginning.

- We wondered if the Oceanshot projects should be specifically one of the two perspectives "New discoveries of Marine species…", "New technologies or data science that facilitate ocean discoveries". Or if a project could combine these two perspectives?
  Combination of the two scopes is also welcome.

- I was wondering whether you are going to fund any smaller projects, or whether you are focusing only on largescale projects?
  We focus primarily on large scale projects.

- If you are funding smaller projects as well, can you please give a ballpark figure for the sort of amount you expect?
  We do not set a minimum amount for the requested budget.

- Can the Oceanshot funding cover part of the personnel costs of the PI (basically part time salary for the PI)?
  Yes.

- Is it required/recommended for the PI to have a permanent position?
  It does not matter if the PI has a permanent position or not.

- Could a team member be hired by the PI?
  There is no problem with the direct hiring of team members by the PI.

- Can a member of the OPRI be involved as team member/collaborator or is it not recommended (conflict of interest)?
  No.

- We would like to appeal for an extension of the application deadline, if possible, until mid-October.

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The submission deadline (August 15) cannot be extended.

- Can private companies participate as joint research organizations?

The participation of profit organizations as joint research organizations is no problem.

- "Direct Personnel Expenses" is listed as an eligible expense for the grant. Specifically, is it possible to hire a full-time secretary or other accountant for the research project and apply for the cost as "direct personnel expenses"?

That is possible.

- Indirect costs are normally 30% for MEXT Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, but is there any rule about this call for proposals?

There is no rule.

- Is there any problem with non-Japanese nationals affiliated with overseas institutions participating as co-researchers?

No problem.

- I have the possibility to participate in two different applications this time as a team member. If both proposals are accepted, can I participate in both?

Yes, in such a case, you can participate in both if appropriate management efforts are carried out.

- Can the Principal Investigator's current affiliation be different from the representative research organization?

They can be different.

- Can a single organization submit multiple applications?

A single organization may submit multiple applications. However, the same person may not be the Principal Investigator on more than one application.

Regarding Application Forms and Budget Plans

- I would like also to have confirmation that, for the submission of the proposal, you need only:
  The application form
  The detailed budget for Phase 1
  The CVs of key members
  Are there any other documents required from your side?

  In addition to the above, please attach detailed information on data management policy as an

annex in relation to (7) Expected Research Outcomes and Further Perspectives in the application form.

- 3. In the Detailed Project Information section of the application, it says that this section should not exceed 20 pages. How many pages should the 1. Outline of representative research organization and 2. Details of Application be? Also, in 1. Outline of representative research organization, should the "Contact person" be the name of the person in charge of accounting at the representative research organization?
  There is no limit to the number of pages for 1) Outline of representative research organization and 2) Details of Application. (within the bounds of common sense.) 1. In the "Contact person" section of the "Outline of representative research organization," please enter the name of the person responsible for the administration of the submitted proposal. We will send an e-mail to the person and contact address provided in the "PI" and "Contact Person" sections.

- Does the budget plan need to have separate sheets for each Phase?
  The budget plan to be prepared on the Excel sheet is for the first Phase only. We will ask you to prepare budget plans for the second and third Phase, respectively, before the start of each Phase. However, please make sure to enter the budgeted amount for each of the second and third Phases, the total budgeted amount for the three Phases, and the major expenses currently known for the entire three Phases in the application form 8-2.

- The "3. Detailed Project Information" section of the application form must not exceed 20 pages. Is it acceptable to attach the list of references separately, or do we need to include the references and keep it within 20 pages?
  As you say, Part 3 of the application form must not exceed 20 pages. However, if a citation/references section is added to this part, the applicant is not subject to this limitation for that section. However, references listed in the section should be limited to those actually cited in the application, and that are strongly relevant and important to the project details.