

ChemCellState Collaborative Research Project Call 2026 – Guide for Applicants

Introduction

The ChemCellState collaborative project call aims to support innovative interdisciplinary research projects bringing together multiple teams within the Programme, and whenever possible, across institutions. Projects should generate strong scientific added value through collaboration and contribute to the scientific objectives of ChemCellState.

This guide summarizes the eligibility rules, application procedure, funding conditions, and budgetary requirements applicable to the call.

Eligibility Criteria

Collaborative Projects

Projects must be **collaborative** and involve at least two ChemCellState teams. Inter-institutional collaborations are strongly encouraged.

Funding Limits

Only **one project per team can receive funding** over the entire duration of the ChemCellState Grand Programme. However, the teams may participate in additional collaborative projects, provided they do not request additional funding.

Allocated funding will depend on the size of the team, its implication in other “Grands Programmes de Recherche de PSL”, and evaluation of the project. Funding will average €100,000 per team, with allocations of up to €120,000 for the largest teams.

Application Procedure

Templates

Applicants must use the following templates:

- **CCS-Project_Call-2026-Part_A-Project_Acronym**
- **CCS-Project_Call-2026-Part_B-Project_Acronym**

Submission Deadlines

Applications will be submitted in two phases.

Phase 1 – Part A

- Submission deadline: **30 September 2026**, end of day (CEST)

Phase 2 – Part B

- Submission deadline: **15 October 2026**, end of day (CEST)

Page Limits

The page limits specified in Part B apply to projects involving up to three teams.

For projects involving **four teams or more**, the page limits of Part B are doubled. The limit of one page per CV remains unchanged.

Submission Format

Applications must be submitted as PDF files named:

- CCS-Project_Call-2026-Part_A-Project_Acronym.pdf
- CCS-Project_Call-2026-Part_B-Project_Acronym.pdf

Files should be sent by email to:

laurent.adumeau@curie.fr

Evaluation and Selection

Applications will be evaluated by two external experts appointed by the programme coordinators.

The evaluation will consider:

- Scientific excellence and originality;
- Feasibility of the proposed work plan;
- Relevance to the objectives of ChemCellState.

Following the first round of evaluation, applicants whose proposals are not initially recommended for funding will receive the reviewers' comments and will be given the opportunity to respond to the reviewers and to revise and strengthen the project where appropriate.

The revised proposal, together with the applicants' response to the reviewers, will then be submitted for a second evaluation. As part of this process, the revised application will be assessed by an additional independent reviewer who was not involved in the initial evaluation.

Expected Timeline

- Funding decision (first round): December 2026
- Project start: Beginning of Spring 2027

Project Duration and Expense Eligibility

Project Duration

Funded projects have a duration of **two years**, and project expenses will only be eligible during the project period.

Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses include:

- Personnel costs;
- Consumables and laboratory supplies;
- Scientific equipment, and maintenance;
- Travel expenses.

Personnel cost

Project funds may be used to recruit research focused personnel, including:

- PhD Students;
- Postdoctoral Researchers;
- Technicians;
- Assistant Engineers (AI);
- Research Engineers (Ingénieur d'étude - IE));
- Senior Research Engineers (Ingénieur de recherche - IR).

Administrative or management focused personnel are not eligible for funding.

Funding of PhD Students

As a three-year PhD contract will exceed the budget available to a single team, participating teams may combine part of their respective allocations to fund a PhD student jointly.

Budget Rules

Overheads

Overheads must not be included in the budget request submitted by applicants. They will be calculated separately.

Budget Flexibility

The budget is fully fungible within the project.

Allocation of Funds

Funding is allocated to teams rather than individual researchers. If a researcher involved in the project leaves the team for an institution that is not listed as partner in the ChemCellState grant agreement, the remaining budget stays with the original funded team.

If the researcher moves to another institution listed as partner in the ChemCellState grant agreement, the transfer of all or part of the budget may be considered upon agreement between the researcher, the original team, the scientific coordinators and the coordinating institution.

Expenses must be incurred by the institution receiving the funding under the fund transfer agreement.

Re-invoicing between a partner institution and the coordinating institution is prohibited.

Re-invoicing between non-coordinating partner institutions may be tolerated for specific cases (i.e. platform costs) and require authorization from the coordinating institution.

Financial Limits

The total funding transferred to an institution cannot exceed the amount specified in the corresponding financial agreement.

Contact

For any question regarding the call, applicants may contact:

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