

# Annex for the French- American projects

---

## Lead Agency (ANR) procedure

### Generic call for proposals 2024

#### IMPORTANT

The evaluation of the French-American projects will be carried out by the ANR only, in accordance with the procedures detailed in the Generic Call for Proposals 2024 (AAPG) [available here](#) to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to read carefully the work programme 2024, [the generic call for proposals 2024](#), the [AAPG 2024 guide](#), the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>) and all of this document before submitting research project proposals.

In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

#### ANR contacts:

[aapg.adfi@anr.fr](mailto:aapg.adfi@anr.fr): questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

[aapg.science@anr.fr](mailto:aapg.science@anr.fr): questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

[aapg.si@anr.fr](mailto:aapg.si@anr.fr): difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

#### NSF Division of Chemistry contacts:

Kenneth Moloy, [kmoloy@nsf.gov](mailto:kmoloy@nsf.gov)

Tingyu Li, [tli@nsf.gov](mailto:tli@nsf.gov)

Tong Ren, [tren@nsf.gov](mailto:tren@nsf.gov)

NSF website : <https://www.nsf.gov/>

## IMPORTANT

Before submitting a Franco-American detailed project proposal, scientific coordinators of such projects with a high TRL (Technology Readiness Level) are invited to read an Executive Order (EO) signed by President Biden on July 28, 2023, that, among other objectives, “*encourages the expansion of U.S. domestic production for critical industries while maintaining flexibility to build strong international R&D partnerships.*” Additional information is available in a [public fact sheet about the EO](#).

## 1. CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF COLLABORATION WITH UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

By establishing bilateral agreements with foreign funding agencies, the French National Research Agency (ANR) allows French researchers to initiate or extend their collaborative work with researchers from other countries. In this way it hopes to encourage the emergence of European and International teams of excellence.

The aim is to fund innovative bi-national projects **that clearly stand out** from on-going national projects, demonstrating great synergy between each country's teams and real integration of joint research.

To simplify and streamline the terms of collaboration and to set up borderless research funding areas, ANR (*Agence nationale de la recherche*) and NSF (*National Science Foundation*), have decided to enter into an agreement. Within this framework, ANR and the NSF's Division of Chemistry in the Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (*NSF/MPS/CHE*) established a Lead Agency opportunity.

In this context, the teams from the two countries prepare a joint project and one single agency (the Lead Agency) takes charge of the whole evaluation process (peer review and scientific panel evaluation) of the projects. Transnational projects compete with the national projects of the agency carrying out the evaluation. The partner agency can access all information on the projects. Each agency provides funding for its national teams<sup>1</sup> according to its own terms.

The 2024 Lead Agency procedure established between the ANR and the NSF recognizes the ANR as the "Lead Agency" for the evaluation and for the selection of the Franco-American PRCI projects.<sup>2</sup>

As a result, the submission and evaluation of project proposals **are solely handled by the ANR**. Nevertheless, the American scientific coordinator and the other partners of the American party may be required to provide certain administrative information to the NSF according to the terms and conditions specific to *Division of Chemistry* of the NSF.

---

<sup>1</sup> A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

<sup>2</sup> International Collaborative Research Projects

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and NSF is to support projects in which there is genuine<sup>3</sup> collaboration between Franco-American partners.

Partners will ensure the complementarity of the scientific inputs of each country and the added value of the international cooperation. Insofar as possible, the French and foreign partners' projects must start and finish on the same dates.

## 2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Catalysis play a major role in several major industrial processes. Over the last few decades, significant attention has been paid to the development of more sustainable catalysts or catalytic processes. Lower biological toxicity, minimized environmental impact, cost reduction, scalability of catalytic materials for sustainable energy conversions are appealing attributes for Earth Abundant Elements to circumvent the constraints of conventional technologies. Fundamental understanding in this research area is still mandatory to achieve new developments.

In this context, ANR and NSF aim to strengthen the research on **homogeneous catalysis with Earth Abundant Elements** by developing strong collaborations and synergies between French and American research teams.

The collaborative projects submitted under the PRCI instrument of the 2024 ANR generic call, in the axis B.5 *Molecular Chemistry*, will focus on fundamental advances : the design, synthesis, and study of organometallic catalysts based on earth abundant metals, organocatalytic systems, photocatalytic systems, the related mechanistic studies and characterization methods.

Typical (but not exclusive) examples include synthetical, analytical and theoretical work (always related to the general call topic) on:

- Development of new synthetic methods and reaction pathways in line with a sustainable development approach.
- Mechanistic studies of catalytic processes, including the characterization of intermediates using advanced spectroscopic techniques.
- Computational modeling applied to catalytic processes or the development
- Deployment of new analytical or instrumental methods.

This collaboration focus on homogeneous catalysis without precious metals, the research project proposals **must correspond both to** scientific axis B.5: *Molecular Chemistry* (evaluation panel CE07) of the 2024 AAPG **and** to the areas supported by the Division of Chemistry of National Science Foundation. .

Projects dealing exclusively with electrocatalytic reactions and processes are out of the scope of this collaboration.

---

<sup>3</sup> Jointly defined objectives, sharing of skills and tasks, sharing of risks and results

### 3. SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

**French and American partners must prepare a joint scientific project.** Teams from each country must each appoint a **national scientific coordinator**.

**ANR is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.**

#### French partners:

Projects must be submitted within the framework of the "International Collaborative Research Project" process (PRCI) in ANR's 2024 Generic call for proposals according to the terms and schedule of the call.

#### Foreign partners:

At the time of submission of the registration file (dossier) to ANR, US investigators should submit a copy of the dossier to NSF via the email address [nsfanr@nsf.gov](mailto:nsfanr@nsf.gov). Included in the email should be a synopsis of the proposal, names of US and French investigators, and an estimated bottom (direct plus indirect costs) line budget for both the U.S. and French portions of the project, with the US budget in dollars and the French budget in euros. This document should not exceed two pages.

The detailed information can be found here: [https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub\\_summ.jsp?ods\\_key=nsf23157](https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf23157)

#### 3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS WITH ANR

The French Scientific Coordinator must **register his/her intention to submit a "PRCI" project** on ANR's submission website before 5 pm (Paris time) on **October the 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. **This registration with ANR is mandatory** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2024 Guide) to be entitled to take part in the selection process. **No pre-proposal is required at this stage.**

Particular attention must be paid to the drafting of the abstract (cf. AAPG Guide 2024, § B.4), which is intended to be sent for solicitation of experts as part of the evaluation process.

To register an intention to submit a Franco-American PRCI project, the applicant must complete the online form, the content of which is detailed in the AAPG2024 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. *Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/PRME/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrument)*). **Foreign partners** must be clearly identified in the online form.

In the online form, **a distinction must be made** between the provisional amount of grant requested by **French partners** and the provisional amount of grant requested by **foreign partners** from their respective national agency.

*Note: if one or more foreign partners decide to withdraw from the project proposal between the registration of an “International Collaborative Research Project” (PRCI) and the submission of a full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, PRME, JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).*

The acronym and project title provided to each agency **must be the same**.

**The acronym chosen and the name of the French coordinator are definitive and cannot be modified when the full proposal is submitted. This also applies to the choice of the scientific evaluation panel** (cf. AAPG 2024 Guide, §B.4).

### 3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before October the 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 5 pm (Paris time) deadline will be invited - subject to certain eligibility conditions - to submit a full proposal to ANR together with applicants to the PRC, PRCE, PRME and JCJC funding instruments selected at the AAPG2024 first stage's outcome.

Applicants are **strongly advised to write their proposals in English** as the evaluation is carried out in bi-lateral collaboration with the foreign agency. If the scientific document is written in French, a **translation** may be requested.

On the ANR submission website (IRIS), the French coordinator as well as the foreign coordinator must be listed as **the scientific coordinator**. The French coordinator is subject to the rules (including eligibility) that apply to all national scientific coordinators under the Generic call for proposals (see AAPG 2024 Guide §B.5.2, *Eligibility of full proposals*).

The full PRCI proposals must comply with the rules regarding format and content set out in the AAPG 2024 Guide (cf. §B.5. *Stage 2: full proposal submission and evaluation procedures*). Financial and administrative information on the foreign partners must be clearly indicated when the proposal is submitted on the website:

- the full name of the partner<sup>4</sup>, its acronym and its administrative category
- the foreign coordinator<sup>5</sup> and the persons involved in the project
- The possible other foreign partners and the participating persons
- The amount of aid requested by the foreign partners from their national agency: indicated in each of **the national currencies**, and its equivalent in euros

Moreover, it is essential that applicants indicate the following information in the scientific document:

- **the foreign teams' scientific contribution;**

---

<sup>4</sup> Partner as a legal entity

<sup>5</sup> The information is essential for the data cross-checking with the NSF

- **foreign partners' financial data broken down into items of expenditure**, in the same way as that of French partners<sup>6</sup>.

Finally, applicants are requested to provide a summary table for each French or foreign partner, with amounts in each national currency and their equivalents in euro:

- the total amount of expenditures;
- the amount of funding requested from each funding agency (ANR, NSF).

The following table must be included in the full proposal scientific document's as a summary of the persons involved:

Country	University or Institution	Last Name	First Name	Current position	Role in the project	Involvement (person.months)*
				Professor?	Coordinator? Task number?	
				Technician?	Task number?	
				PostDoc to be hired in the frame of the project?	Task number?	

(\* to be indicated with respect to the total project duration)

**Note:** if one or more foreign partners decide to withdraw from the project proposal between the registration of an "International Collaborative Research Project" (PRCI) and the submission of a full proposal, it will not be possible to change the funding instrument given that other funding instrument (PRC, PRCE, PRME, JCJC) are subject to a two-stage selection procedure).

#### 4. ELIGIBILITY OF FULL PROPOSALS

Each agency decides on the eligibility of a project in accordance with **its own rules**.

**ANR verifies the eligibility of the full proposal** taking into account the criteria detailed in the AAPG 2024 Guide (cf. §B.5.2 Eligibility of full proposals) and detailed below:

- 1) The provisional project proposal duration must be the same for the two country partners.

As foreign agencies have their own eligibility criteria, it is necessary to comply with them . The US investigators must be eligible to submit proposals to NSF under the general

<sup>6</sup> With regard to the sub-criterion "Adequacy of the resources implemented and requested for the objectives of the project" of criterion 2 "Organization and implementation of the project", the resources mobilized and requested by the French partners AND by the foreign partners will be assessed.

guidelines contained in the NSF Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG)

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*<sup>7</sup>

Country (agency)	Submission to the ANR	Submission to the foreign agency	Duration	Participation of a company	Other
USA (NSF)	yes	copy of the project proposal	48 months maximum	ANR eligible NSF to be checked with NSF eligibility rules	

**To be eligible, proposals must meet all of the eligibility criteria of the two funding agencies.**

## 5. EVALUATION

Projects proposals are evaluated by ANR only. They are evaluated according to the same main criteria as for the projects proposals submitted within the framework of another funding instrument of the Generic call for proposals 2024, some sub-criteria are specific to the PRCI instrument (cf. *AAPG 2024 Guide, §B.5.3. Evaluation of full proposals*), in particular related to the project's capacity to respond to the research challenges of the chosen scientific axis.

The foreign agency can suggest external reviewers that ANR may call upon for project evaluation. The foreign agency has also access to all information relating to the projects and their evaluation.

ANR will subsequently provide its foreign counterpart with a list of projects to fund from those which passed the selection process. The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded. A project can be funded only if both agencies agree to it.

## 6. FUNDING PROVISIONS

Each agency will cover expenditures for their respective country's teams **according to its own rules**. ANR's funding regulations are available at: <https://anr.fr/fr/rf/>

## 7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of project proposals registration on the ANR website: October, 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 5 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR website: end of March 2024 (cf. *AAPG 2024 Webpage for updates*)

<sup>7</sup> In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

- Joint decision and publication of the results: September – December 2024 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2024 – January 2025 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.