

Annex for the French- American projects

Lead Agency (ANR) procedure

Generic call for proposals 2021

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 2021 (AAPG) **available [here](#)** to which are added the provisions of this document.

It is essential to read carefully the work programme 2021, the generic call for proposals 2021, the AAPG 2021 guide, the rules relating to ANR funding allocation procedures (<http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/financer-votre-projet/reglement-financier/>) 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: questions about the administrative and financial arrangements

aapg.science@anr.fr: questions about the scientific aspects of the project proposal

aapg.si@anr.fr: difficulties encountered when entering data or during document submission on the website

The NSF Division of Physics and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB)contacts:

M. Krastan BLAGOEV kblagoev@nsf.gov

M. Wilson FRANCISCO wfrancis@nsf.gov

NSF website : <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20120/nsf20120.jsp?org=NSF>

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

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, Division of Physics (PHY) and the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences (MCB)*) have decided to enter into a Lead Agency type of agreement. Within this framework, 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 teams¹ according to its own terms.

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

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/PHY and NSF/MCB, according to the terms and conditions specific to both scientific divisions of the NSF.

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB is to support projects in which there is genuine³ 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. For your information, NSF requests the duration **up to 36 months**.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with the NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB is open to the following disciplinary fields:
Physics from Molecules to Cells

¹ A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

² International Collaborative Research Projects

³ Objectives defined jointly, shared skills and tasks, shared risks and results

The emergence, evolution, dynamics and function of self-organized cellular systems stem from the interaction of biological components and the environment to yield robust, resilient and adaptive living systems. Through this funding opportunity NSF and ANR seek proposals that use multidisciplinary approaches that emphasize quantitative, predictive and theory driven science aimed at understanding mechanisms underlying these essential life processes at the molecular, subcellular and cellular scales. We are seeking proposals which integrate approaches from theoretical and experimental physics and biology to develop testable and quantitative understanding of biological questions. Projects providing innovative methodological or conceptual approaches to a biological question and with a strong theoretical physics component are strongly encouraged. Purely descriptive projects without predictive quantitative components are of low priority. Projects that leverage unique resources and capabilities of partners in the US and France will be given priority, corresponding at the ANR to the scientific evaluation panel numbers :

ANR:

Axis 3.2 "Characterization of structures and structure-function relationships of biological macromolecules" corresponding to the evaluation panel number 11

Axis 3.3 "Genetics, Genomics, RNA sciences" corresponding to the evaluation panel number 12

Axis 3.4 "Cellular Biology, Developmental Biology and Evolution" corresponding to the evaluation panel number 13

Axis 7.1 "Physics of condensed matter and of dilute matter "corresponding to the evaluation panel number 30

Axis 8.5 "Mathematics and digital sciences for biology and health "corresponding to the evaluation panel number 45

Axis 8.11 " Nanomaterials and Nanotechnologies for the Products in the Future" corresponding to the evaluation panel number 09

NSF:

Solicitation 21-509 ([MCB core programs](#)) and 20-580 ([PHY core program, Physics of Living Systems](#)).

The research project proposal **must correspond** to the scientific axis of the AAPG 2021 call **and** to the NSF requests mentioned above.

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 2021 Generic call for proposals.

Foreign partners:

It is essential to provide NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB with a copy of the project proposal or any additional documents in accordance with this agency's specific terms. More information can be found at <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20120/nsf20120.jsp?org=NSF>

3.1. EARLY REGISTRATION OF PROPOSALS WITH ANR

The French Scientific Coordinator must **pre-register his/her intention to submit a "PRCI" project** on ANR's submission website before 1pm (Paris time) on **December the 1st 2020**. **This registering with ANR is mandatory** (cf. §B.4. In the AAPG 2021 Guide) to be entitled to take part in the selection process. No pre-proposal is required at this stage.

To pre-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 AAPG2021 Guide (cf. §B.4.1. Submitting pre-proposals (PRC/PRCE/JCJC instruments) and registering (PRCI instrumentI)). **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, 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 2020 Guide, §B.4).

3.2. SUBMISSION OF FULL PROPOSALS TO ANR

French PRCI project applicants registered before the December the 1st 2020 at 1 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 and JCJC funding instruments selected at the 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, the French coordinator must be listed as **the scientific coordinator** and the foreign coordinator must be listed as the **country's referent**. 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 2021 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 2021 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 following information concerning foreign partners must be provided: the name of the institution⁴, its category (private/public) and information concerning the foreign coordinator (the country's referent) must be indicated on the online form. The amount of funding requested (through **the simplified entry**) by foreign partners from their respective national agency must also be indicated on the online form.

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

- **the foreign teams' scientific contribution;**
- **foreign partners' financial data broken down into items of expenditure**, in the same way as that of French partners⁵.

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/PHY and NSF/MCB).

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?	

⁴ Partner as a legal person

⁵ 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.

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

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 2021 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 NSF rules for MCB and PHY can be found at the following addresses:

- <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2021/nsf21509/nsf21509.htm>
- <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2020/nsf20580/nsf20580.htm>

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁶

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	36 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 2020, some sub-criteria are specific to the PRCI instrument (cf. *AAPG 2020 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**⁷.

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.

⁶ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

⁷ **New** sub-criteria

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: <http://www.agence-nationale-recherche.fr/financer-votre-projet/reglement-financier/>

7. SCHEDULE

- Closure of project proposals registration on the ANR website: December, 1st 2020 at 1 pm (Paris time)
- Closure of full proposals submission on the ANR site: end of April 2021
- NSF/PHY and NSF/MCB schedule: **it is essential** to consult the NSF website regarding the procedures
- Joint decision and publication of the results: October 2021 (**indicative** date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2021 – January 2022 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.