

Annex for Franco-American projects

Lead Agency Procedure (NSF)

Generic Call for Proposals 2024

Important

1. Franco-American projects shall **be evaluated only by the NSF Agency**, according to its own terms, through its participating NSF divisions. ¹Full information available at the following address: <https://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/IntlCollaborations/France.jsp>
2. This document sets out detailed rules for the submission and funding procedures applicable to French teams working on Franco-American projects.
3. It is essential to carefully read [work programme 2024, the generic call for proposals \(AAPG\) 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.
4. In case of any difference of interpretation, the French version of the present annex shall prevail

ANR Contact Information:

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

NSF Contact Information:

anrqise-collaboration@nsf.gov: Stacey Standridge, Program Director, Office of International Science and Engineering

¹ The list of NSF's division involved is provided in 2. Research priorities

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. BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATION WITH USA

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 NSF (Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO), Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), Directorate for Engineering (ENG) and Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)) 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 teams² according to its own terms.

The 2024 Lead Agency procedure established between the ANR and the NSF recognizes the NSF as the "Lead Agency" for the evaluation and for the selection of the Franco-American PRCI projects.³

As a result, the submission and evaluation of project proposals **are solely handled by the NSF (scientific divisions cited below)**. Nevertheless, the French scientific coordinator and the other partners of the French party **must provide** certain administrative information to the ANR, according to the terms and conditions specified below.

² A French team is a partner with an institution or branch in France

³ International Collaborative Research Projects

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and NSF is to support projects in which there is genuine⁴ 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 information, NSF requests the duration **up to 48 months**.

2. RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The bi-lateral agreement with NSF is open to the following disciplinary fields: **Quantum Technologies**, corresponding to the scientific themes:

ANR:

- Axe B.1 Physics of condensed matter and diluted matter (CE30);
- Axis C.1 Biochemistry and chemistry of living organisms (CE44);
- Axis C.2 Characterization of structures and structure-function relations of biological macromolecules (CE11);
- Axis C.3 Genetics, genomics and RNA (CE12);
- Axis C.7 Molecular and cellular neuroscience – Developmental neurobiology (CE16);
- Axis C.10 Biomedical innovation (CE18);
- Axis E.1 Foundations of digital technology: information technology, automation, signal processing (CE48);
- Axis E.6 Quantum Technologies (CE47) ;
- Axis F.1 Mathematics (CE40);
- Axis H.3 Infectious diseases and environment (CE35);
- Axis H.11 Sensors, imagers and instrumentation (CE42);
- Axis H.13 Healthcare technologies (CE19)

NSF:

- Directorate for Biological Sciences (BIO)
 - [Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences \(MCB\)](#)
- Directorate for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE)
 - [Division of Computing and Communication Foundations \(CCF\)](#)
- Directorate for Engineering (ENG)
 - [Division of Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems \(ECCS\)](#)
- Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS)
 - [Division of Mathematical Sciences \(DMS\)](#)
 - [Division of Physics \(PHY\)](#)

⁴ Jointly defined objectives, sharing of skills and tasks, sharing of risks and results

The research project proposal **must correspond both** to one of the scientific axes of the 2024 Generic call **and** to the NSF Divisions mentioned above. NSF participating programs are listed at the following address: <https://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/IntlCollaborations/France.jsp>

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**.

NSF is in charge of submission and evaluation for both countries.

Project proposals must be submitted by American coordinators to NSF via the NSF's submission website <https://www.research.gov> or <https://www.grants.gov/> respecting the format and the details of program to which the proposal is submitted.

Applicants should consult the information available on the website of NSF:
<https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2023/nsf23159/nsf23159.jsp>

At least 45 calendar days in advance of the date that the full proposal is submitted, the U.S. proposers are expected to submit an *expression of interest* (EOI) describing the entire project to NSF. The EOI template and instructions for submission are available at the following address: <https://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/IntlCollaborations/France.jsp>. If the EOI has not been approved by NSF prior to submission of a full proposal, the proposal may not be considered for evaluation (i.e., will be returned without review).

Proposals are to be submitted by the applicable NSF program deadlines or December 15, 2023, whichever comes first.

French partners:

No registration of intention to submit a project is required by ANR in step 1.

However, for administrative reasons, although the submission and evaluation are conducted by the foreign agency, the French participants must submit the copy of their proposals to the ANR via the ANR submission site:

- **The same scientific project proposal as that submitted to NSF, in the same format.** Note, the acronym and title of the project provided to each agency must be the same.
- **The administrative and funding information** linked to **both** French and foreign partners:
 - o **The detailed** information is expected from the French partners. The French coordinator has to appear as **scientific coordinator** on the ANR submission website

- The **minimum**⁵ information is expected concerning foreign partners: the foreign coordinator (**country referent**)⁶, the name of the Institute⁷, its category (private / public), and the information concerning, requested funding by foreign partners to their national agency
- **A scientific panel** responsible for the scientific monitoring of the project in case of success (description of the scientific panels is available in the AAPG 2024 text). **Please note:** this choice **cannot be changed** once the closing date and time has passed.

The French coordinator is subject to the rules (in particular of eligibility) to which all national scientific coordinators of the 2024 Generic call for proposals must comply (*see AAPG 2024 Guide, § B.5.2. Eligibility of full proposals*).

The deadline for submitting the administrative and funding information + copy of the project proposal to the ANR is **December 18th, 2023, 5 p.m.** (Paris time). Projects proposals must be submitted to both agencies at due time. Those submitted to only one agency will be rejected. **The submission website will open on the October 18th, 2023**, the link will be indicated on the ANR website, [on the generic 2024 call for proposals page](#).

4. ELIGIBILITY

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 NSF rules for the proposals in response to this opportunity can be found at the following addresses:

- https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg
- https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=nsf21020

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁸

⁵ Simplified entry

⁶ The information is essential for the data crosschecking with the NSF

⁷ Partner as a legal entity

⁸ In addition to these eligibility criteria are the criteria of the foreign agency (to be checked with the foreign agency).

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

Country (agency)	Submission to the foreign agency	Submission to the ANR	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	

5. EVALUATION

Projects shall **only be evaluated by NSF** in accordance with its own rules.

The NSF will propose a list of projects to be funded by ANR.

The two agencies then jointly validate the list of projects to be funded.

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. CALENDAR

- *Expressions of Interest* (EOI) due to NSF via anrqise-collaboration@nsf.gov: 45 calendar days in advance of the date proposers will submit a full proposal.
- Proposal submissions on the NSF website: following the deadline for the applicable NSF program or December 15, 2023, whichever is sooner.
- Closure for submission proposals on the ANR website: **18 December 2023, 5 PM** (Paris time), **no registration in step 1**
- Joint decision and publication of results: October 2024 (indicative date)
- Possible project start date: final quarter 2024 – January 2025 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints.