

Annex for Franco-American projects

Lead Agency Procedure (NSF)

Generic Call for Proposals 2025

Important

1. Franco-American projects shall **be evaluated only by the NSF Agency**, according to its Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide (PAPPG):
https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=papp
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 2025, the generic call for proposals \(AAPG\) 2025 and its 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 Contact Information:

aapg.adfi@anr.fr: questions about the administrative and financial set up of the project proposal

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

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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. 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: *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 teams¹ according to its own terms.

The 2025 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.²

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

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

² International Collaborative Research Projects

The purpose of the partnership between ANR and NSF 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.

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 2025 ANR generic call, in the axis *B.4 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 new and advanced spectroscopic techniques.
- Computational modeling applied to catalytic processes development.

This collaboration focusses on homogeneous catalysis without precious metals, the research project proposals **must correspond both** to scientific *axis B.4: Molecular Chemistry* (evaluation panel CE07) of the 2025 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.

³ 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**.

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/research-web/> or <https://www.grants.gov/> by following NSF 24-129, [Dear Colleague Letter: NSF ANR Chemistry Lead Agency Opportunity on Sustainable Chemistry: Catalysis with Earth-Abundant Elements](#)

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 a dedicated 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
 - o The **minimum**⁴ information is expected concerning foreign partners : the foreign coordinator (**country referent**)⁵, the name of the Institute⁶, 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 2025 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 2025 Generic call for proposals must comply (*see AAPG 2025 Guide, § B.5.2. Eligibility of full proposals*).

⁴ Simplified entry

⁵ The information is essential for the data crosschecking with the NSF

⁶ Partner as a legal entity

The deadline for submitting the administrative and funding information + copy of the project proposal to the ANR is the **June 3rd, 2025, 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 April 3rd, 2025, the link will be indicated on the ANR website, [on the generic 2025 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 2025 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 can be found at the following addresses:

- https://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?ods_key=pappg
- [NSF 24-129, Dear Colleague Letter: NSF ANR Chemistry Lead Agency Opportunity on Sustainable Chemistry: Catalysis with Earth-Abundant Elements](#)

Summary table of the *specific eligibility criteria*⁷

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	24, 30, 36, 42, 48 months	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 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.

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

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

- Closure for proposal submissions on the NSF website: **June 2nd, 2025**
- Closure for submission proposals on the ANR website: **June 3rd, 2025, 5 PM** (Paris time), **no registration in step 1**
- Joint decision and publication of results: November 2025 (indicative date)
- Possible projects start date: final quarter 2025 – January 2026 / to be adapted according to the foreign partner constraints