

Regulation of nano-tera.ch applications

(Approved by the Swiss National Research Council on March 12th 2008)

Based on article 46 regarding the regulation of funds for grants (Regulation of Contributions/ "Beitragsreglement") the National Research Council issues the following Regulation:

Chapter 1

Article 1 Scope and domain of validity

¹ This regulation rules the organisation, handling and control of applications within the frame of nano-tera.ch (a national initiative for research cooperation in the fields of Health, Security, and Environment Systems Engineering) as well as the progress control for the entire nano-tera.ch programme by the Swiss National Science Foundation (hereafter SNF).

² In the frame of the nano-tera.ch programme, the SNSF is in particular responsible for the scientific evaluation of the applications and for the approval of sub-projects as well as for overall authority on guaranteed quality.

³ This regulation is completed by the clauses of the above cited Regulation of Contributions and its proposal execution dispositions, especially regarding to procedures and juridical protection.

⁴ This regulation applies only to Research, Technology and Development (RTD) projects of nano-tera.ch for which the SNF is responsible for the evaluation of proposals.

Chapter 2 Application procedure

Article 2 Call for proposal

¹ The procedure to follow for submitting a project proposal within nano-tera.ch will be publicly disclosed.

² Periodicity, call for proposals, formal requirements, forms and deadlines are to comply with authoritative principles for the implementation of nano-tera.ch.

³ The requirements of the call apply to proposal submissions for Research, Technology and Development (RTD) projects of nano-tera.ch.

Article 3 Participation requirements

¹ Authorised applicants are

- a) Faculty members of the nano-tera.ch partnership as well as of other Swiss Universities and institutions of the ETH-Domain are eligible as Principal Investigators. After approval by the SNF and prior to initiation of funding, each qualified RTD's hosting institution must become a full nano-tera.ch partner.

b) Faculty members and senior researchers of Swiss Universities, ETH Zurich and EPF Lausanne, institutions of the ETH-Domain and Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences, as well as of public and private research institutions outside of academia, are eligible as Co-Investigators.

c) In the case of private research institutions, eligibility for nano-tera.ch funding is regulated by Article 7 Clause 4 of the Research Law (SR 420 1).

² Authorised applicants have to demonstrate an own contribution (“in kind”) for the financing of a proposed project and a third party participation (“in cash”) for the financing of said project is advised but not compulsory.

³ For compliance to the participation requirements according to Clause 1, the specified conditions in the Call for Proposals documents are authoritative.

Article 4 Assessment of the proposal

¹ The SNF Review Panel (Art. 10), together with its Executive Board is responsible for the scientific evaluation of the proposals. It can request additional external expertise.

² Nano-tera.ch should give a written statement on the content contribution of each proposal to the overall nano-tera.ch programme before SNF Review Panel meeting. If all or some of these statements are not received in writing before the meeting, the SNF Review Panel will proceed with its evaluation without them.

³ The SNF rejects applications which do not comply with the formal requirements, unless these deficiencies are minor and can be corrected.

⁴ In cases where there is clearly insufficient detail in a proposal to evaluate the scientific quality of the proposed project, the SNF has the right to decide not to proceed with the evaluation.

Article 5 Scientific evaluation of the proposal

¹ The SNF Review Panel will evaluate the scientific quality of the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Contribution to the state of the art in the field and expected impact.
- Originality.
- Adequacy of the methodology.
- Scientific track record of the applicants in the area of the proposal.
- Feasibility, organization and financial planning of the proposal.
- Integration into the overall nano-tera.ch vision (www.nano-tera.ch), matching several boxes of the matrix in figure 1 of the Call.
- Relevance of the proposal towards extending the state of the art in the nano-tera.ch domains.
- Significant and genuine collaborative effort and synergy of the participants and corresponding budget.
- Feasibility of the project in terms of delivering realizations of the proposed results within the nano-tera.ch programme lifespan.

- Industrial interest in the research via financial and/or technical contributions or in creating prototypes of the technology.
- Differentiation of the proposed activities compared to other funded programmes.

²The SNF Review Panel will also assess proposals on the contribution to the progress of Health-Security-Environment Systems Engineering and to the planned integration within the overall nano-tera.ch programme. In doing so, it will take into consideration the written statements of the nano-tera.ch Executive Committee.

Article 6 Decision

¹The SNF Review Panel respectively its Board, decides on the acceptance or refusal of a proposal subject to approval from the Presidial Board of the National Research Council. In the case of acceptance, the SNF Review Panel determines the amount of the financial contribution from Federal funds.

²Divergent opinions between the SNF Review Panel and nano-tera.ch will be settled before a decision is taken. The decision belongs to the SNF Review Panel.

³The Presidial Board of the National Research Council approves the decision of the SNF Review Panel, respectively of its Board.

⁴The SNF delivers the decision to the applicants. This includes specifically the amount of the financial contribution from the Federal funds as well as conditions and requirements.

Article 7 Legal process

Decisions according to Art. 6 Clause 3. are subject to appeal to the Federal Administrative Court.

Article 8 Execution of the granted projects

The SNF transfers funds to nano-tera.ch on granted projects. Nano-tera.ch is responsible for the financial handling of the project.

Article 9 Monitoring

¹The receivers of contributions must submit intermediate and final reports to nano-tera.ch for evaluation according to SNF procedure.

²The SNF is responsible for the monitoring of the progress concerning overall projects of nano-tera.ch. Therefore, it relies among other thing on the annual report provided by nano-tera.ch.

3. Chapter Organizational Clauses

Article 10 Formation of the panel

¹ The SNF Review Panel consists of approximately twelve international experts in the fields of Health, Security and Environment Systems Engineering and related technologies relevant to nano-tera.ch. The Panel members are appointed by the SNF and will normally – but not exclusively – be active abroad.

² At least 4 members of the SNF Review Panel have to be members of the Research Council and these members constitute the Board of the SNF Review Panel.

³ The Panel can call additional experts, if necessary.

Article 11 Election of the panel

The president and members of the SNF Review Panel will be elected by the Presidial Board of the National Research Council. The President of the SNF Review Panel has to be a member of the Research Council.

Article 12 Constitution and self organization of the panel

The SNF Review Panel is a self-organizing body within the general regulations of SNF.

It designates in particular a Vice President who represents the President in case of absence and it specifies the number and dates of its meetings. It records its resolutions in writing.

Article 13 Duration of office of the panel

¹ The period of office of the SNF Review Panel is provisionally limited to the contribution period of the BFI-Message 2008-2011.

² Substitute- and by-election will be undertaken for the rest of the period of office.

Article 14 Indemnity for the panel

The members of the SNF Review Panel will be remunerated according to usual SNF valuation.

Article 15 Duties and competences of the panel

¹ The SNF Review Panel is responsible for the scientific evaluation of proposals submitted under nano-tera.ch for “RTD Projects”.

² The Panel receives annually the progress report from nano-tera.ch and judges the progress of the overall program. It transmits its judgment to the Presidial Board of the National Research Council.

³ The Panel undertakes an evaluation of the overall projects and reports its recommendations to the Presidial Board of the National Research Council. The latter files application requests to the Secretary of the State for Education and Research (SER) concerning the continuation of nano-tera.ch

Article 16 Duties and Competences of the Presidial Board of the National Research Council

¹ The Presidial Board of the National Research Council elects the members of the SNF Review Panel and approves its decisions on the acceptance or refusal of the filed applications.

² It receives the annual Progress Report from nano-tera.ch and decides on the release of the financial means for the next year.

Article 17 Duties and competences of the office

¹ The Office of SNF is responsible for the administrative and organisational support of the procedure for the nano-tera.ch project proposals according to the present Regulation.

² The SNF Secretariat secures the circulation of the information inside the SNF.

³ It carries on the formal control of the filed proposals and disclaims proposals which do not comply with the requested requirements (Art 4. Clause 3).

⁴ The Office issues the directives for the annual scientific Progress Report according to Art. 9. Clause 2.

4. Chapter – Final Clause

Article 18 Entry into force and duration validity

This Regulation enters into force on January 2008 retrospectively (Approval by the National Research Council). It is subject to changes of guidelines and regulations of the Confederation until the end of the BFI-contribution period 2008-2011.