Application for seed money to support innovation projects in MMM

Members of the High-Profile Area “Minds, Media, Machines” (MMM) and their research staff can receive special funds for small-scale collaborative projects in a lightweight procedure. The goal of **MMM Seed Grants** is to strengthen the ties and shared research-foci between working groups (AGs) in MMM via new initiatives for excellent science. Thematically, proposals should align with MMM’s common pursuit of excellence in general, and the development of an excellence cluster proposal “Living Technologies 2.0” in particular. Here, we seek to improve quality of life through the use of cognition-enabled technologies, systems, and robots against the background of an ageing society.

MMM Seed Grants are intended for teams from at least two AGs in MMM. Applications from MMM teams of different disciplines are especially encouraged but no requirement. The amount of the MMM Seed Grant for the present round of proposals is up to **10.000 EUR per AG per grant**.

**Grant Criteria:**

The MMM Seed Grant is aimed at initiatives that are designed to conduct collaborative research on Minds, Media, and Machines. Ideally, initiatives could be designed to lead towards larger proposals within the context of MMM. The present funding period is designed as a first step towards strengthening the collaborations within MMM to provide the basis for such larger and more ambitious proposals, whose funding period is planned for next year. Examples of possible projects in the present funding period include, but are not limited to the:

* Conduction of pilot studies that aim to examine a topic with a new mix of methods
* Studies that explore research questions at the intersection of two AGs and thus build bridges within MMM
* Funding of materials or small equipment required to study relevant aspects of human-machine interaction
* Funding for data annotation student hours to pursue a new research angle

Financial support for other types of collaborative research initiatives is possible, provided that it supports a collaboration between different MMM-AGs. It is furthermore intended to substantially increase the amount of funding per applicant for the next funding period. **We encourage potential applicants to contact us to discuss further possibilities either via email at** **kuester@uni-bremen.de** **or by phone (0421 218-64266).**

**Funding Conditions:**

All applications are assessed and decided by the members of the MMM Executive Board. Funding is available for activities that can be concluded within twelve months. MMM Seed-Money grants are subject to the same basic rules as any other funding provided via the city state of Bremen[[1]](#footnote-1) (“Landesmittel”). Part-funding is possible in all cases. Doctoral candidates accepted by the respective doctoral committee, postdocs and senior researchers from all faculties of the University of Bremen are eligible to apply for MMM Seed Grants under the condition that the application is endorsed by at least one full MMM-Member. A brief final report (200-400 words) must be submitted no later than 4 weeks after the end of the project.

**Application Guidelines:**

Applications for the first funding period 2021-2022 can be submitted via E-MAIL to kuester@uni-bremen.de. The first deadline for proposals under this scheme is **March 31st, 2021**; the notification of acceptance/rejection is **April 15th, 2021**. The second deadline is **May 15th, 2021**. Please use our below **Application Form**. The application should not exceed two pages, using a font size of 10 pts, plus up to 1 page for references.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Title** | [Title] |
| **List of all applicants\*** | [name], [name], [name] |
| **Estimated start** | [DD.MM.YYYY] |
| **Estimated end**  | [DD.MM.YYYY] |

\**Note*. In the case of PhD-students of Post-Docs, please include a statement about the endorsing MMM-Member(s) [*This application is endorsed by* (Name)].

1. **Summary (max. 250 words)**

*[Pitch of the project idea, expected results, and how it relates to the mission of MMM.]*

1. **Project Proposal**

*[Text.]*

* 1. **Background and research questions**

*[This section should provide a brief statement about the background and State of Art, followed by the main research question(s) to be addressed. Relevant own previous work should be included where suitable but is not as critical as in other types of proposals due to the aim of facilitating new initiatives for collaborations in MMM.]*

* 1. **Relevance, Objectives, and Expected Results**

*[This section should detail the expected outcomes of the proposed project. Explain how your work is relevant to the mission of MMM, which MMM cross-cutting issues are addressed, and what your objectives are with respect to leveraging the project results for future work / proposals.]*

* 1. **Methods**

*[Detail the methods of the proposed work, considering the methodological benefits of conducting this work collaboratively in MMM.]*

* 1. **Workplan and Timeline**

*[Depending on the complexity of the proposed work, consider including a Gantt chart.]*

* 1. **Ressource Plan**

*[Brief summary of the individual items.]*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Nr.** | **Requested item** | **Cost [EUR]** |
| 1 |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| **Total amount** |  |

\* if a currency conversion is required, please use <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/> and indicate the date of the conversion.

**References***[References should adhere to the APA reference style (7th Edition).]*

1. **Statement** [*may use digital signatures*]The applicant(s) has (have) no other financial resources available or requested for the activity.

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Date, Signature Date, Signature Date, Signature

1. Grants are subject to the general rules of the University of Bremen for SAP-purchases and “Landesmittel”. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)