

**Competition Documentation for an Open Competition to Receive Russian Science Foundation Grants in the Priority Area of Russian Science Foundation Activities  
“Carrying Out Fundamental and Exploratory Scientific Research by Individual Research Groups”**

1. The competition to receive grants<sup>1</sup> of the Russian Science Foundation’s the priority area activities «Carrying Out Fundamental and Exploratory Scientific Research by Individual Research Groups” (hereinafter the competition, grants) is carried out in accordance with the procedure for the competitive selection of scientific and technical programmes presented at the Foundation’s competition and based on the decision of the Management Board of the Russian Science Foundation (hereinafter the Foundation) (Minutes \_\_ dated September 2021).
2. The source of the Foundation’s grants shall be the property of the Russian Science Foundation.
3. The grants shall be allocated<sup>2</sup> for scientific and technical programmes and projects, carrying out fundamental and exploratory scientific research (hereinafter the projects, scientific research) in 2022–2024, with the possibility of extending the grant period by one or two years, for the following branches of knowledge:<sup>3</sup>
  - 01 Mathematics, computer science and systems sciences;
  - 02 Physics and space sciences;
  - 03 Chemistry and materials science;
  - 04 Biology and life sciences;
  - 05 Basic research for medicine;
  - 06 Agricultural sciences;
  - 07 Earth sciences;
  - 08 Humanities and Social Sciences;
  - 09 Engineering.
4. The competition is open to projects by research teams regardless of the position, academic degree and citizenship held by the project leader (hereinafter the project leader) and the type of business organisation and ownership of the companies with which the project leader and members of the research team are associated in their civil or professional activities.
5. The Foundation’s grants shall be provided to the research team on a free and non-refundable basis according to the competition results under the terms specified by the Foundation through Russian research and higher education organisations in the Russian Federation and international (inter-state and intergovernmental) research organisations in the Russian Federation where the projects will be carried out (hereinafter the organisation).
6. The project leader cannot be a scientist performing the functions of a project leader project (other than one selected by the Fund during the coordinated

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<sup>1</sup> The grant of the Foundation is a gratuitous funding and is reflected in the Chart of accounts of the financial and economic activities of the organization as deferred income (gratuitous receipts). The Foundation’s grant is not cash temporarily owned by the host organization.

<sup>2</sup> With the exception of studies aimed at human cloning, human genetic modification, the creation or genetic modification of a human embryo for research purposes or the production of stem cells. Research experiments involving humans, human material, animals as well as studies with a great impact on humans and their environment must obtain an approval from the ethics committee of the respective host organization, if such a committee exists.

<sup>3</sup> Only projects with an implementation period of three years may be extended.

foreign partners of the tenders), the implementation period of which has not expired as of January 1, 2022.

The scientist who is in any way involved in the implementation of two or more projects (including an area of the organisation's integrated research programme) that were previously supported by the Foundation that was not completed as of the application submission date is not eligible to be a member of the research team.

The leader of the project cannot be the chairman of the expert council of the Foundation, who is overseeing the competition as well as his/her deputies and panel chairs.

The scientist who is in any way involved in the implementation of two<sup>4</sup> or more projects funded by the Foundation is not eligible to be a member of the Russian research team in the course of the project's implementation.

A member of the research team can not be an employee who is supervising administratively the leader of the Russian research team.

7. The core investigator of the project cannot be a scientist who is deprived<sup>5</sup> of such a right for a certain period due to the early termination of a previously supported project of the Fund by decision of the RSF Supervisory Board.

8. The Team leader and Russian research team members may be employees of the organisation or other persons hired to implement the project who have employment<sup>6</sup> or civil relations<sup>7</sup> with the organisation over the duration of the practical implementation of the project.

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<sup>4</sup> Team leader can simultaneously manage one project supported by the Foundation under the joint call with foreign partners and participate in one RSF-funded project as a team member.

<sup>5</sup> The list of reasons for the deprivation of the right to lead the project is available on the website of the Foundation [www.rscf.ru](http://www.rscf.ru) in "Decisions of the Supervisory Board" in the "Documents" section.

<sup>6</sup> In accordance with Articles 91, 100 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Labor Code of the Russian Federation), the duration of working hours is calculated based on the weekly work schedule (with the exception of (Article 104 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation) workers employed in round-the-clock continuous work, as well as in other types of works where, according to the conditions of production (work), the established daily or weekly working time cannot be observed).

Working in flexible working hours (Article 102 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation) must ensure that the employee works out the total number of working hours during the working day or week.

The leader of the project may not be an employee of the organization at the time of filing the application, but, in case of winning the competition, must conclude an employment contract with it. If the leader of the project is not a citizen of the Russian Federation, the organization must follow all the procedures provided for by the legislation of the Russian Federation for the employment of foreign citizens.

Labor contracts, contracts (distance labor contracts, contracts) with the leader of the project and members of the research team cannot provide for the possibility of carrying out labor activities outside the territory of the Russian Federation. Business travel of the leader of the project and the members of the research team outside the Russian Federation is possible.

<sup>7</sup> The conclusion of these agreements must be accompanied by the definition and justification of the initial (maximum) price of the agreement. The contracts must contain the estimated parameters (technical requirements) of the ordered works or services; their implementation cannot imply the use of equipment or materials, as well as the appropriate admission to work (admission to medical or pharmaceutical activities, admission to confidential or personal information), inaccessible to the performer or absent from him. The contract must be physically executable within the time frame specified therein. Based on the results of the fulfillment of the contract (stage of the contract), the organization must submit an R&D report drawn up in accordance with GOST, or another document confirming the fact of work (rendering of services).

The Team leader must<sup>8</sup> have employment relations<sup>9</sup> with the organisation over the entire duration of the practical implementation of the project.

9. The Russian team leaders must have at least 8 different publications<sup>10</sup> in peer-reviewed Russian and foreign scientific journals indexed in the Web of Science or Scopus database<sup>11</sup> and published over the period<sup>12</sup> from January 1, 2017 to the date of the application submission.

10. Each grant is worth between 4 (four) and 7 (seven) million roubles per year.<sup>13</sup>

11. The Foundation may alter the amount of annual funding in the event that the Russian Federation reduces the amount that it contributes to the Russian Science Foundation, or upon decision of the Foundation's Management Board as the result of an expert evaluation of the grant application and reports submitted on the implementation of the project and on the proper use of the grant by its recipient, as well as in the event that the recipient is deemed to have used the grant improperly.

12. The proportion of research team members aged up to and including 39 years directly involved in the performance of scientific research shall be at least 50 (fifty) per cent of the total number of research team members over the entire duration of the practical implementation of the project.<sup>14</sup> Each member of the research team shall receive remuneration annually for work performed as part of the project. The total amount of annual remuneration for any one member of the research team should not exceed 30 (thirty) per cent of the total annual remuneration for all members of the research team.<sup>15</sup> The amount of annual remuneration for research team

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<sup>8</sup> The right to dispose of the Foundation grant by the leader of the Russian research team arises from the amendments (if necessary) in the labor contract with the organization in accordance with the agreement between the Russian Science Foundation, leader of the Russian research team and the organization about the grant to conduct basic research and applied research (hereinafter - Agreement), or from entering into other labour agreement with the organization (fixed-term employment) in accordance with the Agreement.

<sup>9</sup> In accordance with Articles 91, 100 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation (hereinafter referred to as the Labor Code of the Russian Federation), the duration of working hours is calculated based on the weekly work schedule (with the exception of (Article 104 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation) workers employed in round-the-clock continuous work, as well as in other types of works where, according to the conditions of production (work), the established daily or weekly working time cannot be observed).

Working in flexible working hours (Article 102 of the Labor Code of the Russian Federation) must ensure that the employee works out the total number of working hours during the working day or week.

The Labor Code of the Russian Federation does not provide for the possibility of concluding an employment contract on remote work with a citizen living and working outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

The project leader may not be an employee of the Organization at the time of filing the application, but, in case of winning the competition, must conclude an employment contract with it. In the event that the project leader is not a citizen of the Russian Federation, the organization must fulfill all the procedures stipulated by the legislation of the Russian Federation for the employment of foreign citizens.

<sup>10</sup> In case of publication in the journal indexed in Web of Science Core Collection falling into the highest quartile (Q1) by the impact factor in JCR Science Edition, and in SJR (Q1 is determined as by <http://www.scimagojr.com/> data), such publication is counted as two publications.

<sup>11</sup> The list of publication is cited in clause 2.9 of Form 2 of Appendix 1.

<sup>12</sup> For persons who were in the period specified in this clause on maternity leave, parental leave, and also leave for employees adopting a child, relevant publications are also allowed in the period preceding January 1, 2015, and equal to the duration of such leave. The relevant information is indicated for reference in paragraph 2.9 of Form 2 of Appendix 1.

<sup>13</sup> The planned grant amount for the project is indicated in Appendix 1, Paragraph 1.8. Violations of the terms in this Paragraph shall result in the application being rejected, regardless of its current stage of implementation.

<sup>14</sup> The members of the research team are listed in Appendix 1, Paragraph 1.6.

<sup>15</sup> Including guarantees established by the legislation of the Russian Federation, deductions on mandatory pension insurance, mandatory medical insurance and mandatory social insurance contributions in the event of temporary

members aged up to and including 39 years is to be at least 35 (thirty-five) per cent of the total annual remuneration for all research team members. The total number of members of the research team (along with the team leader) may not exceed 10 persons.<sup>16</sup>

13. Project leaders can submit<sup>17</sup> one application only<sup>18</sup> to this competition<sup>19</sup>. There is no limit to the number of applications any given organisation can submit.

14. Projects that are similar in content to others submitted to the Foundation or other research foundations or organisations, or which are being carried out at the expense of the Foundation or state (municipal) target organisations, or development programmes financed by the federal budget will not be accepted. Violations of these terms shall result in the Foundation discontinuing funding of the project regardless of its stage of implementation and initiating proceedings to recover the funds paid to the recipient of the grant in the prescribed manner.

15. The projects supported as a result of the competition may not contain information that constitutes a state secret or other restricted information that is to be protected in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation.

16. The Foundation provides grants upon the condition that the research team, under the responsibility of the project leader, accepts the following obligations:

16.1. To make the results of their scientific research available in the public domain in accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation by publishing them in peer-reviewed Russian and international scientific journals.

16.2. To publish<sup>20</sup> in Russian and foreign peer-reviewed scientific journals during the practical implementation of the project at least 8 publications<sup>21</sup> containing the results of research with the involvement of Russian research team members indexed in Web of Science or Scopus databases<sup>22</sup>.

16.3. To mention the financial support received from the Foundations in published results of any research work performed as part of a project supported by the Foundation and the organisation where the work was carried out.

16.4. To agree that a summary of the supported project and relevant project implementation reports will be published by the Foundation, including on the internet.

16.5. To agree that the application submitted for the competition may be subject to international expert evaluation.

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disability and maternity leave, as well as mandatory social insurance against accidents at work and occupational diseases.

<sup>16</sup> The number of research team members is given in Appendix 1, Paragraph 1.6.

<sup>17</sup> The number of other projects in which the project leader is involved as a team member (but not project leader) is unlimited.

<sup>18</sup> Violations of the terms in this Paragraph shall result in the application being rejected, regardless of its current stage of implementation.

<sup>19</sup> In the event that the project leader is involved in several competitions held by Foundation at the same time, the Foundation has the right to request that the project leader propose his/her priorities for the implementation of the proposals submitted to the Foundation, taking into account the provisions of Paragraph 6 and 7 of this Competition Documentation.

<sup>20</sup> The number of publications planned for publication is indicated in clause 1.11 of form 1 of Appendix 1. Violation of of this clause shall result in the rejection of the application at any stage of processing.

<sup>21</sup> The publications referred to in this clause do not include publications accepted for publication before the start of the practical implementation of the project (before the conclusion of the grant agreement) and publications of the "abstract" type.

<sup>22</sup> In case of publication in the journal indexed in Web of Science Core Collection falling into the highest quartile (Q1) by the impact factor in JCR Science Edition, and in SJR (Q1 is determined as by <http://www.scimagojr.com/> data), such publication is counted as two publications.

17. The application for the competition is submitted<sup>23</sup> in accordance with Appendix 1 to this competition documentation through the Information and analytical system of the Foundation in Internet via <https://grant.rscf.ru> (hereinafter - IAS) in accordance with the agreement<sup>24</sup> between the Foundation and the organization on the recognition of a simple electronic signature as equivalent to a handwritten signature (hereinafter referred to as the EDS agreement).

Submission of an application is possible only through the organization, with which the Foundation has signed an EDS agreement, and if there is a valid power of attorney issued by the organization to its employee, an authorized employee of the organization authorized to sign applications with a simple electronic signature.

The application for the competition must be submitted in the form of an electronic document signed through the IAS with simple electronic signatures of the core investigators, the project leader and an authorized employee of the organization, acting on the basis of a power of attorney previously submitted to the Foundation (original or duly certified copy).

It is not possible to submit an application to the Foundation in any other way than the one mentioned above. Submission of an application to the Foundation in a different way from the abovementioned is not possible.

18. The application is submitted to the Foundation in Russian language, individual fields of the application forms are filled in English (only where it is specifically indicated).

A hard copy of the application must be submitted to the Foundation upon signing a grant agreement between the Russian Science Foundation, the project leader and the organization (hereinafter referred to as the agreement) in accordance with clause 32 of this tender documentation.

19. The application must be registered in the IAS by an authorized employee of the Organization's organization no later than 17 hours 00 minutes (Moscow time) on November 10, 2022.

20. The following applications are not eligible for the competition:

- a) applications that are completed and/or submitted to the Foundation with violations of the requirements of clauses 19, 20 and 21 of this competition documentation;
- b) applications that are completed and submitted to the Foundation with violations of the requirements for the content of the application to take part in the competition set forth in the announcement on the competition and the competition documentation;
- c) applications whose content violates the requirements of clauses 3-5, 7<sup>25</sup>, 7-8, 10, 11, 13-18, 36, 37 of this competition documentation, including the qualification requirements set out in clause 10;
- d) applications containing inconsistent information regarding applicants' qualification requirements, namely in clause 2.9 of Form 2 of Appendix 1.

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<sup>23</sup>The application processing cycle consists of the following stages: registration of the project leader and up to three core investigators (if this has not been done earlier), filling in the information on the project leader and the core investigators in the IAS, signing the application with a simple electronic signature through IAS by the core investigators and the project leader, registration of the application in IAS by signing it with a simple electronic signature by an authorized employee of the host organization.

<sup>24</sup> An application through the organization with which the Foundation has not signed a corresponding EDS agreement, or in the event of termination of the power of attorney authorized to sign applications by a simple electronic signature of an employee of the organization, can not be submitted.

<sup>25</sup> If the project leader concludes with the Foundation a new grant agreement based on the results of another competition of the Foundation or consideration of applications from persons implementing RSF-funded projects, prior to the approval of the results of this competition by the Board, leading to a non-compliance of the application with paragraph 7 of the competition documentation, the application is rejected at any stage of its consideration.

21. The Foundation shall notify the Team leader via the IAS about the registration of the application in the form of an electronic document, about non-eligibility<sup>26</sup> status of the application (indicating the reason, if the application is not admitted to the competition), the results of the competition.

22. The Team leader shall be entitled to withdraw an application submitted for a competition by revoking its simple electronic signature in the IAS.

23. The Team leader shall be entitled to make changes to an application submitted for a competition only in the form of its withdrawal in accordance with clause 25 of this competition documentation and the submission of a new application for the competition by the required deadlines.

24. Applications eligible for the competition shall undergo review procedures in accordance with the Procedure for the expert evaluation of scientific and technical programmes and projects submitted for a competition of the Russian Science Foundation and the Criteria for the competitive selection of scientific and technical programmes and projects submitted for a competition of the Russian Science Foundation<sup>27</sup>. Applications shall be referred for an expert evaluation in accordance with the classifier codes for the branches of knowledge specified by the Russian team leaders in the applications.

25. The competition results shall be approved by the Foundation's Board by 1 April 2022.

26. The list of supported projects based on the competition results shall be published on the Foundation's website no later than 10 days after the competition results are determined.

27. The texts of the agreements shall be sent to the leaders of Russian teams whose projects were supported by the Foundation via the IAS system within 15 business days after the approval date of the competition results, for completion and signing. The will contain the following information:

- the area of research;
- the work plan and cost estimate<sup>28</sup> of research;
- the duty of the Team leader to submit an annual report on the project's implementation;
- the duty of the organisation to provide the Russian research team with the necessary facility, as well as access to the available experimental base for research;
- the duty of the organisation to conclude civil or employment (fixed-term) contracts with each member of the Russian research team<sup>29</sup>;
- the duty of the organisation to pay to the members of the Russian research team remuneration for work performed as part of the project under written orders from the Russian team leader;
- the duty of the organisation to maintain separate records of expenditures of the grant of the Foundation (including the overheads expenditures) and present reports on its proper use;
- the conditions and procedure for the parties to terminate the agreement, including in the event the Foundation identifies the misuse of the grant of the Foundation;
- other rights and duties of the Foundation, the Team leader and organisation associated with the use of the grant of the Foundation in compliance with the provisions of this competition documentation.

28. The amount of the Foundation's financial support for the project in the agreement may be reduced compared to the amount requested by the Team leader in accordance with the decision

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<sup>26</sup> Within 10 (ten) days after notification by the Foundation through IAS about the non-eligibility status of the application, the respective project leader has the right to submit written objections to the conclusions of the Foundation.

<sup>27</sup> The documents were published on the Internet at the address <http://rscf.ru/ru/documents>.

<sup>28</sup> For reference purpose only.

<sup>29</sup> If such contracts were not previously concluded.

of the Foundation's Board based on the recommendations from the Foundation's Expert Council.

29. The Foundation may not conclude an agreement if the head of the project, declared in the agreement is different compared to the materials of the relevant application that has undergone the expert evaluation procedure.

30. Within 15 business days after receipt via the IAS of a draft agreement signed by the Team leader and authorised representative of the organisation, the agreement together with a hard copy of the application and additional materials drawn up in accordance with clauses 19, 21 of this competition documentation must also be submitted or a substantiated refusal by the Team leader or organisation to sign the agreement must be submitted to the Foundation.

The Team leader shall independently choose the method for delivering the signed agreement to the Foundation that ensures that it is received by the Foundation on time. If this deadline is violated, the Team leader and organisation shall notify the Foundation about the impermissible delay with the signing of the agreement. If the duly signed agreement is not received by the Foundation within the following 5 business days, the relevant project shall be excluded from the list of projects supported by the Foundation, and the relevant notice will be published on the Foundation's official website.

31. The Foundation's grant may be used solely in compliance with the purposes<sup>30</sup> specified in the agreement.

32. The identification of the misuse of the grant of the Foundation shall constitute grounds for the termination of the agreement and the return of the grant of the Foundation in the manner prescribed by the agreement.

33. The intellectual property rights originated from collective creative work during the implementation of the project will be used by their holders on equal terms and in accordance with national legislation. The Russian Federation may use<sup>31</sup> for public needs the results of intellectual activity created by the Russian research team<sup>32</sup> on the conditions of a royalty-free, ordinary (non-exclusive) licence granted by the right holder to the government, with the payment by the government of the compensation to the respective intellectual property rights holders.

34. The organisation shall be responsible for the proper use of the Foundation's grant.

35. The organisation's overhead may not exceed 10 percent of the amount of the Foundation's grant. Payment for research work performed by the third-party organizations can not exceed 15 percent of the grant amount.

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<sup>30</sup> The awarded grant funds may not be expended on project costs incurred for the construction of capital facilities, for educational activities, for organization and conducting any scientific or educational events.

<sup>31</sup> The organisation is responsible for settling matters associated with the implementation of this clause with the foreign research team.

<sup>32</sup> In accordance with article 1228 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation, a citizen is recognized as the author of the result of the intellectual property if his/her creative work created such a result; the IPR created by creative work initially arises from its author; this right may be transferred by the author to another person under the contract, and may also be transferred to other persons on other grounds established by law (including in accordance with Article 1370 of the Civil Code of the Russian Federation the exclusive right to a service invention, service utility model or service industrial design and the right to obtain a patent belongs to the employer, unless otherwise provided by the labor or civil law contract between the employee and the employer).