

Evaluation guidelines for applications to the programme Transfer.Science to Spin-off (Transfer.S2S)

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1. Programme objective

Transfer.S2S supports the transfer of basic knowledge to innovative commercial applications. The central question comes from scientists who derive ideas for future applications from their high-quality basic research. The scientists are supported in carrying out the necessary basic or near-basic research work with an application perspective over a period of up to three years. An essential component of the funding programme is the development of a commercialisation strategy in order to be able to transfer the basic research results achieved into an application following the Transfer.S2S funding. Ideally, the Transfer.S2S programme creates the basis for later commercialisation of the research results (e.g. by founding a start-up, licensing patents, etc.).

The funded projects focus on application-oriented basic research with the aim that the results of this research will form the basis for future innovation in the business world. The expected research results should offer the prospect of economic and social benefits. Nevertheless, the projects must involve a high level of risk in terms of their output. Ideas with both a high potential for significant innovation and a high risk of failure are the focus of the programme.

2. Procedure for the evaluation of applications

- Applications are formally checked by the CDG Secretariat. Only formally correct applications will be forwarded for further evaluation.
- The Scientific Board of the CDG can carry out a preliminary review of applications and reject applications without an external review if the minimum criteria are not met.
- The review is carried out by external international experts with regard to scientific criteria (external reviews). For each application, 1-2 referees are selected from the Scientific Board of the CDG, who nominate reviewers. Up to two reviews are obtained per application.
- Based on the reviews, hearings are carried out in front of a specially appointed jury (consisting of members of the boards of the CDG and, if necessary, other experts). Applications whose reviews are not sufficiently positive will not be invited to the hearing and will be rejected. Chair of the CDG Scientific Board, in consultation with the reporters, makes a recommendation based on the reviews as to whether a hearing should be held or whether the application should be rejected. The final decision on rejections is made by the CDG Executive Board. The CDG Executive Board can delegate this decision to the President of the CDG in order to speed up the selection process.
- For the hearing, each principal investigator has a maximum of ten minutes to present the project and ten minutes for discussion.
- After the hearings, the jury makes recommendations as to which applications should be funded or rejected and, if necessary, ranks the applications to be funded. If there are insufficient funds to fund all applications that have been favourably assessed, the CDG Executive Board will make a decision based on this ranking.
- The CDG Executive Board is expected to make the final decisions in June 2025, or September 2025 at the latest.



- The jury consists of 6-10 people from members of the boards of the CDG and, if necessary, other experts. One member of the jury is nominated by Austria Wirtschaftsservice Gesellschaft mbH (aws).

3. Evaluation criteria for applications

The criteria for evaluation as part of the external/scientific review are:

- Is the research project at a high level?
- Have clear goals been defined?
- Is the theoretical background adequately presented?
- Is the proposed methodology promising?
- Is the project innovative?
- Does the idea of realisation towards application seem sensible and plausible?
- Does the project have potential for later commercialisation?
- Does the principal investigator have sufficient expertise?

In addition to the reviews, the following questions will be considered at the hearings and incorporated into the jury's decision:

- Are the expected research results essential for the subsequent proposed application?
- Does the project have potential for later commercialisation?
- What risks could arise for commercialisation?
- What impact will the project have on Austria as a business location if it is successful?