Information on membership of the

Christian Doppler Research Association

Version 08.07.2026

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this translation. Nevertheless, the Christian Doppler Research Association cannot assume responsibility for any errors that may inadvertently have occurred. In the event of any discrepancy, the German version is to be taken as valid. TRANSLATED on 08.11.2023, updated on 08.07.2026.

Contents

Executive Summary

For more than 30 years the Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG) has successfully promoted collaboration between science and the private sector. Christian Doppler Laboratories were the first funding model in Austria that aimed at helping companies forge contacts with the basic research undertaken at universities, thereby strengthening their competitiveness. The funding programme was developed in close collaboration between experts from industry, science and politics. The resulting programme represents the basis for the CDG in its current form: a platform driven by and supported by basic research.

The CDG's funding programmes are open to you:

➔ Christian Doppler Laboratories (CD Laboratories) are established at universities or non-university research institutions for a period of seven years and undertake application-oriented basic research in collaboration with commercial partners.

➔ Josef Ressel Centres (JR Centres) are established at universities of applied science for a period of five years and undertake application-oriented research in collaboration with commercial partners.

Participation in a CD Laboratory or JR Centre is straightforward:

➔ The company and the Head of the planned CD Laboratory or JR Centre develop together a research programme that is challenging and will take several years to complete.

➔ The Head of the planned CD Laboratory or JR Centre submits an application to establish a CD Laboratory / JR Centre.

➔ As a commercial partner you must enclose the following supporting documents, all with your legally binding signature:
- Application for membership of the Christian Doppler Research Association
- Letter of commitment to participate in a Christian Doppler Laboratory or Josef Ressel Centre
- Definition of the company's specific fields of business
- Only for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in the European Union, the EEA, or EFTA: Application for a reduced fee for membership of the Christian Doppler Research Association

➔ The application and all attachments will be checked by the CDG and subjected to an international review. Based on the results of the review procedure, the CDG committees will decide on the establishment of the CD Laboratory or JR Centre.

➔ The CD Laboratory or JR Centre can start operation very soon after approval of the application as all legal issues are defined in advance by the CDG's funding programmes.

We wish you a lot of success.

Preface

Investing in innovation

A company that aims to remain successful in future has to invest in the development of new products and processes. This is nothing new. However, in the context of global competition, incremental changes are not sufficient; a sustainable competitive advantage requires genuine innovation.

Innovation leaders rely on basic research

This is where basic research has a key role, as it is the only way to break new scientific and technological ground. Basic research aims at generating new insights and thus expands the knowledge base in the respective field. A decisive advance in knowledge enables the development of new products and processes. In the long term, it is not possible to be an innovation leader without basic research.

However, in most cases basic research cannot be carried out by companies alone. It is less predictable than purely development-oriented activities, requires a long-term perspective and flexible responses to unforeseen results, and calls for scientific freedom as well as an appropriate scientific environment. Cooperation between companies and universities, universities of applied sciences, and research institutions is therefore particularly valuable in this field.

An attractive package for companies: Christian Doppler Laboratories

With the funding programme for Christian Doppler Laboratories (CD Laboratories) Austria has a model that is internationally recognized as the best practice for the collaboration between science and the private sector. The focus lies on a research question from a company, which is addressed by a compact research group at a university or non-university research institution. The public purse covers 50% of the costs of this seven-year cooperation, increasing to 60% in the case of SME participation.

However, CD Laboratories offer more than just financial support. Thanks to their integration in the scientific environment of the university/research institution and the scientific freedom with which 30% of the resources can be allocated they are part of the scientific community and are thus able to work at the state of the art of the topic for their entire duration. This not only ensures the quality of the research but also keeps companies informed about the latest scientific developments.

The parallel model for more application-oriented research questions: Josef Ressel Centres

The funding programme for Josef Ressel Centres (JR Centres) promotes collaboration between companies and universities of applied science. The focus lies on questions of a more applied nature. In this model as well, the public sector covers 50% of the costs of the five-year cooperation, increasing to 60% in the case of SME participation.

Through their integration into universities of applied sciences, JR Centres act as regional R&D partners and offer companies access to well founded expertise. The scientific freedom relating to the allocation of 20% of the resources serves to build up further skills and thereby guarantees the high quality of the research results.

Your partner: the Christian Doppler Research Association

In order to ensure that this demanding form of cooperation runs smoothly, the Christian Doppler Research Association (CDG) provides a stable framework with over 30 years of experience: quality assurance by means of an internationally recognized evaluation procedure while ensuring flexibility in research, legal certainty for all parties thanks to a clear legal framework and the possibility to help shape the funding model.

The bottom-up principle is particularly attractive to companies. Any issue is eligible for support if a company has need of research in the area. The CDG's funding programmes impose no thematic priorities and avoid restrictions.

The research programme of a CD Laboratory or a JR Centre is developed jointly by the scientists and the companies. Applications to establish a CD Laboratory or a JR Centre may be submitted at any time to the CDG by the Head of the proposed CD Laboratory or JR Centre.

Another interesting point is the flexibility that is granted to CD Laboratories and JR Centres. For example, it is possible for a company to join an existing CD Laboratory or JR Centre.

We appreciate your interest in our funding programmes and would be pleased to answer any questions you may have. Please address them to us at:

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1. Legal framework

1.1. Companies as members of the CDG

The CDG is a non-profit association that supports the establishment and operation of CD Laboratories and JR Centres. Membership of the CDG is essentially open to all companies that are interested in mid- to long-term research collaborations with highly qualified scientists and that have the necessary capacity to take up and exploit the results of application-oriented basic research. Participation of a company in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre is tied to membership of the CDG.

1.2. Rights and responsibilities of company members

1.2.1. Statutes and General Funding Conditions for the Funding of Christian Doppler Laboratories and Josef Ressel Centres (AFBs - Allgemeine Förderungsbedingungen)

Membership in the CDG is associated with certain rights and responsibilities, primarily resulting from the CDG's Statutes and from the current regulations governing the various funding programmes (these are in particular the provisions of the AFBs[1] and the directives of the respective funding programme issued by the Federal Ministry responsible for economic affairs). The relevant documents can be downloaded from the CDG website (https://www.cdg.ac.at/en/documents) or requested from the CDG.
As a Member of the CDG that participates in a CD Laboratory or a JR Centre, a company is itself responsible for exercising its rights and fulfilling its responsibilities. These rights and responsibilities may not be passed on to an affiliated company.

1.2.2. Specification of the company's specific fields of business

The commercial partner's fields of business that are relevant to the research work of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre in question are defined as the specific fields of business.
With regard to the regulations for the exploitation of inventions or of results that may be legally protected, it is necessary to distinguish between those within and outside the company's specific fields of business. If they fall within the company's specific fields of business, the university/university of applied science/research institution transfers the intellectual property rights to the commercial partner, provided the partner requests such a transfer within the agreed time. The commercial partner covers the compensation to the inventor(s) and the patenting costs. If the invention or results lie outside the company's specific fields

[1] For CD Laboratories established at a non-university research institution and for international CD Laboratories the corresponding provisions can be included in the Concrete agreement with the host institution.

of business, the university/university of applied science/research institution offers the commercial partner the right of first refusal to the rights to the invention or result that may be legally protected, against payment of an appropriate consideration.
The specific fields of business are defined during the application process and by mutual agreement between the commercial partner and the university/university of applied science/research institution or with the Head of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre (in accordance with the university/university of applied science/research institution). Any change in the company's strategic direction should be accompanied by a corresponding change to the specific fields of business.

1.2.3. Agreement regarding confidentiality/non-disclosure, publication and intellectual property rights

If necessary, up to six months from the start of a company's participation in a CD Laboratory or JR Centre the provisions made in the AFBs, in particular regarding mutual non-disclosure/confidentiality and the use of the research results, can be further specified. For this purpose, an agreement is to be concluded between the company and the university/university of applied sciences/research institution with the involvement of the Head of CD Laboratory/JR Centre regarding mutual non-disclosure/confidentiality, publications and use of the research results (in particular intellectual property rights, including any agreement on remuneration for inventions and protectable results as well as – if applicable – provisions on the use of personal data).

The following points must be observed:

- The AFBs[2] are applicable in all cases and its provisions override those of the agreement between the company and the university/university of applied sciences/research institution or the Head of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre (in accordance with the university/university of applied sciences/research institution). This means, for example, that in terminating a CD Laboratory/JR Centre the provisions of the AFBs[2] and the regulations for terminating membership given in the Statutes must be observed. In the event of contradictions between the agreement and the AFBs, the AFBs shall take precedence.
- CD Laboratories and JR Centres are research collaborations supported by the public purse rather than facilities to undertake contract research. The research units thus do not exchange their research work for a return service (a payment); instead the university/university of applied sciences/research institution and the commercial partner work together on a joint research project. This point must be reflected in the agreement. In accordance with the Union Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation, CD Laboratories/JR Centres are understood as collaborative efforts between companies and research institutions. The rights of the partners to intellectual property and the associated rights to access that result from the collaboration are

[2] For CD Laboratories established at a non-university research institution and for international CD Laboratories the corresponding provisions can be included in the Concrete agreement with the host institution.

regulated in a way that takes their work, their contributions and their various interests into account (c.f. Union Framework Pt. 2.2.2. no. 28. c). This point must also be reflected in the agreement. The agreement must not conflict with the cooperative nature of the respective funding programme (see also Point 20.2. of the AFBs), as otherwise the research work will no longer be eligible for funding.

- Provisions taken from standard contracts for contract research are often not appropriate to CD Laboratories/JR Centres. As an example, CD Laboratories and JR Centres do not perform particular works or services in exchange for a payment or a fee. The companies support the CD Laboratories/JR Centres with their contributions. Financial support for the CD Laboratories/JR Centres comes from the CDG (the financial support for the research work that has been agreed upon and in which a company is participating is administered by the CDG in accordance with the provisions of the AFBs[3]). The companies are not contractors but collaboration partners. No product development is undertaken in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre and no products or marketable prototypes are directly produced by a CD Laboratory/JR Centre. The results of the research cooperation – in CD Laboratories this has the form of application-oriented basic research, while JR Centres undertake application-oriented research – help the commercial partners develop new products, processes and services.
- Agreements that correspond to contract research are not permitted.
- The provisions of Austrian substantive law are applicable.

Any agreement between the company and the university/university of applied sciences/research institution or the Head of CD Laboratory/JR Centre concerning the CD Laboratory or JR Centre must be brought to the attention of the CDG and submitted without being requested to do so. The CDG will ensure that all agreements are treated in confidence.

1.2.4. Additional commercial partner in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre

Before a new commercial partner may join an existing CD Laboratory/JR Centre, the Head of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre must obtain the agreement of all companies that are already participating.

1.2.5. Independence of the partners

To ensure the independence from one another of the partners collaborating in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre, there may not be any interdependency between commercial partners and scientific partners in a research unit. Thus the Head of a CD Laboratory/JR Centre may not be employed by a commercial partner, may not have a managerial role and may not have a financial interest in the commercial partner. She or he is entitled to act as a consultant for or to enter into a contract for works and services with a commercial partner. However, any such activities must be reported to the CDG.

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[3] For CD Laboratories established at a non-university research institution and for international CD Laboratories the corresponding provisions can be included in the Concrete agreement with the host institution.

1.2.6. Research security, dual-use, export control and defence-related matters

A company’s participation in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre shall take place with due regard to research security, dual-use matters, export control, sanctions compliance and any defence-related matters, each within the company's respective area of responsibility. The company shall be solely responsible for assessing and ensuring that its participation, its contributions, its use of research results, as well as any transfer of goods, software, technology, know-how, data or other information, comply with all applicable legal requirements.

Membership of the CDG and participation in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre shall not result in the CDG assuming any company-specific assessment, approval, monitoring, control or other compliance obligations. The CDG acts as a non-profit association and funding organisation within the framework of the provisions applicable to its funding programmes.

1.3. From application to active participation in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre

An application by a company to participate in a new CD Laboratory or JR Centre must be submitted via the CDG ePortal: https://eportal.cdg.ac.at/.

Templates of the forms generated in the ePortal and required to be signed by the company are available on the CDG website: https://www.cdg.ac.at/en/documents/eportal.

The forms required for submission must be downloaded from the ePortal, signed, and uploaded again.

1.3.1. Application from the company

If a company wishes to participate in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre, it must first apply for membership of the CDG. If the company wishes to enjoy the support payable to SMEs[4], the corresponding application is required.

➔ Form in the ePortal: Application for membership of the Christian Doppler Research Association

➔ Form in the ePortal: Application for a reduced fee for membership of the Christian Doppler Research Association

The application for membership is a separate process in the ePortal that must be handled independently of the application for establishing the CD Laboratory/JR Centre and therefore must be initiated separately by the company.

For a particular research collaboration it is necessary to submit a letter of commitment to participate in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre in question and to define the so-called specific fields of business. The specific fields of business are thus defined at an early stage in the procedure, helping to clarify the assignment of intellectual property rights.

➔ Form in the ePortal: Letter of commitment to participate in a Christian Doppler Laboratory or Josef Ressel Centre

[4] SME funding can only be granted to companies based in the European Union, EEA or EFTA.

➔ Form in the ePortal: Definition of the specific fields of business

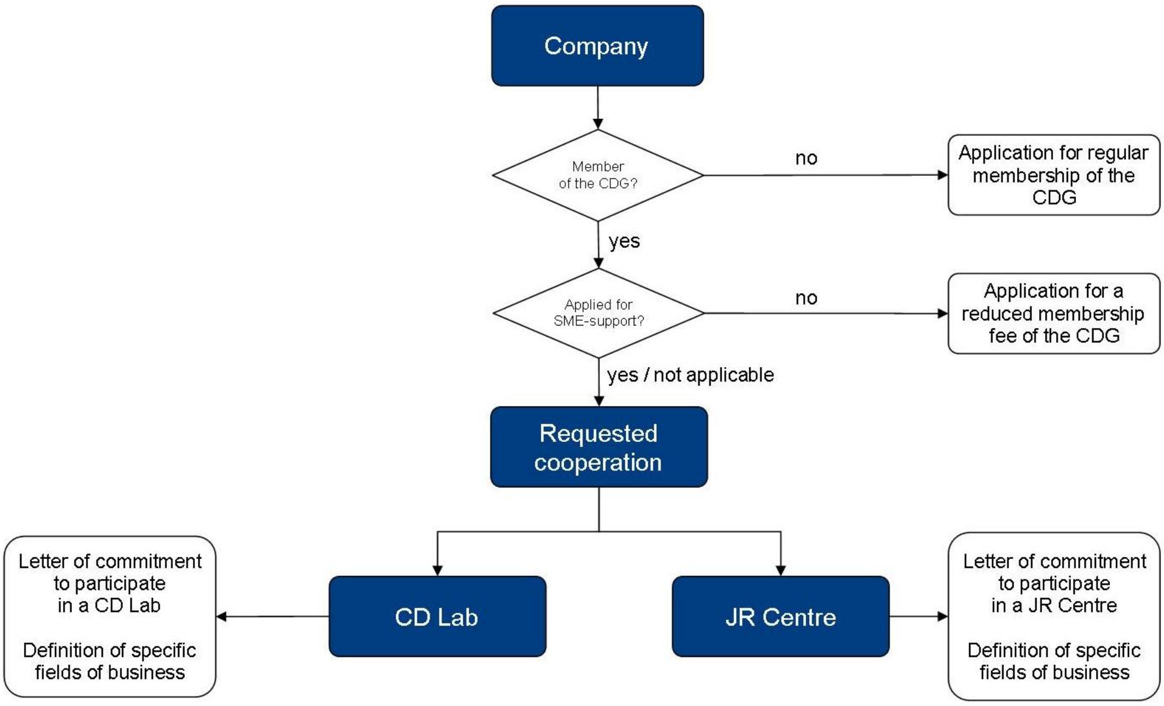

Figure 1: Application documents relevant to companies

1.3.2. Decision of the CDG Executive Board

Decisions on applications for membership are taken by the CDG Executive Board. In taking decisions, the CDG Executive Board pays particular attention to criteria such as whether there is mid- to long-term interest in research collaboration, the company's expected ability to make financial support available over a long period and the company's capacity for taking up and further developing the research results arising from the work of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre. If the commercial partner has its headquarter outside of Austria, then the benefits for Austria as a business and/or research location must be shown.

In the case of high-risk companies, the CDG Executive Board may require advance payment of the membership fee for up to 24 months, or may refuse to admit the company. For the purposes of assessment, all available company data is used to carry out a comprehensive risk evaluation of the company. The criteria for assessment include: financial data, KSV1870 ratings, the company's 'age', and its location. For example, a KSV rating of 400 or higher, a very early stage of development (start up), or a registered head quarter outside the EU are classified as indicators of increased risk. The CDG takes into account all available company data for the overall assessment.

In exceptional cases, a company may apply for a pre assessment for membership before submitting an application to establish the CD Laboratory.

As a result of its application for membership and the CDG Executive Board's decision to approve this application, the company receives an option on membership of the CDG. The option on membership may be valid for a period of 24 months.

➔ A contribution for the option is payable on application for membership of the CDG. This amounts to EUR 1.000.

The option on membership automatically converts to regular membership upon the start of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre.

1.3.3. Participation in an ongoing CD Laboratory/JR Centre

The option on membership is automatically converted to a regular membership upon the start of the company's participation in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre.

2. Financial aspects

2.1. Membership fee payable by a Regular Member

As a fundamental principle, the membership fee is related to the budget of the research work in the CD Laboratory/JR Centre with which the company is involved. The budget of a CD Laboratory/JR Centre is agreed between the Head of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre and the commercial partners. Each partner of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre is allocated an appropriate proportion of the budget, which is made up of a sum from the partner itself and a contribution from the public purse:

The CDG calculates the company contribution (i.e. the proportion payable by the company) based on transparent criteria. The company contribution generally amounts to 50 % of the proportion of the budget that is assigned to the company in question. In the case of an SME (after submission of the appropriate confirmation) the contribution will be 40 %; in special cases (for example when the company receives a significant amount of its basic funding from the public purse) it may be more than 50 %. There is a lower limit to the amount of a company's contribution.

The contribution from the public purse will be covered by public funding bodies (the Federal Ministry responsible for economic affairs or the National Foundation for Research, Technology and Development).

As the membership fee, the CDG charges the company's contribution to the budget of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre as determined in the preceding paragraph, plus a contribution to general costs of up to 7% of the amount the company pays for the research (the company's contribution to the CD Laboratory/JR Centre). The precise level of the contribution to general costs for a particular calendar year will be fixed by the CDG Executive Board in autumn of the previous year.

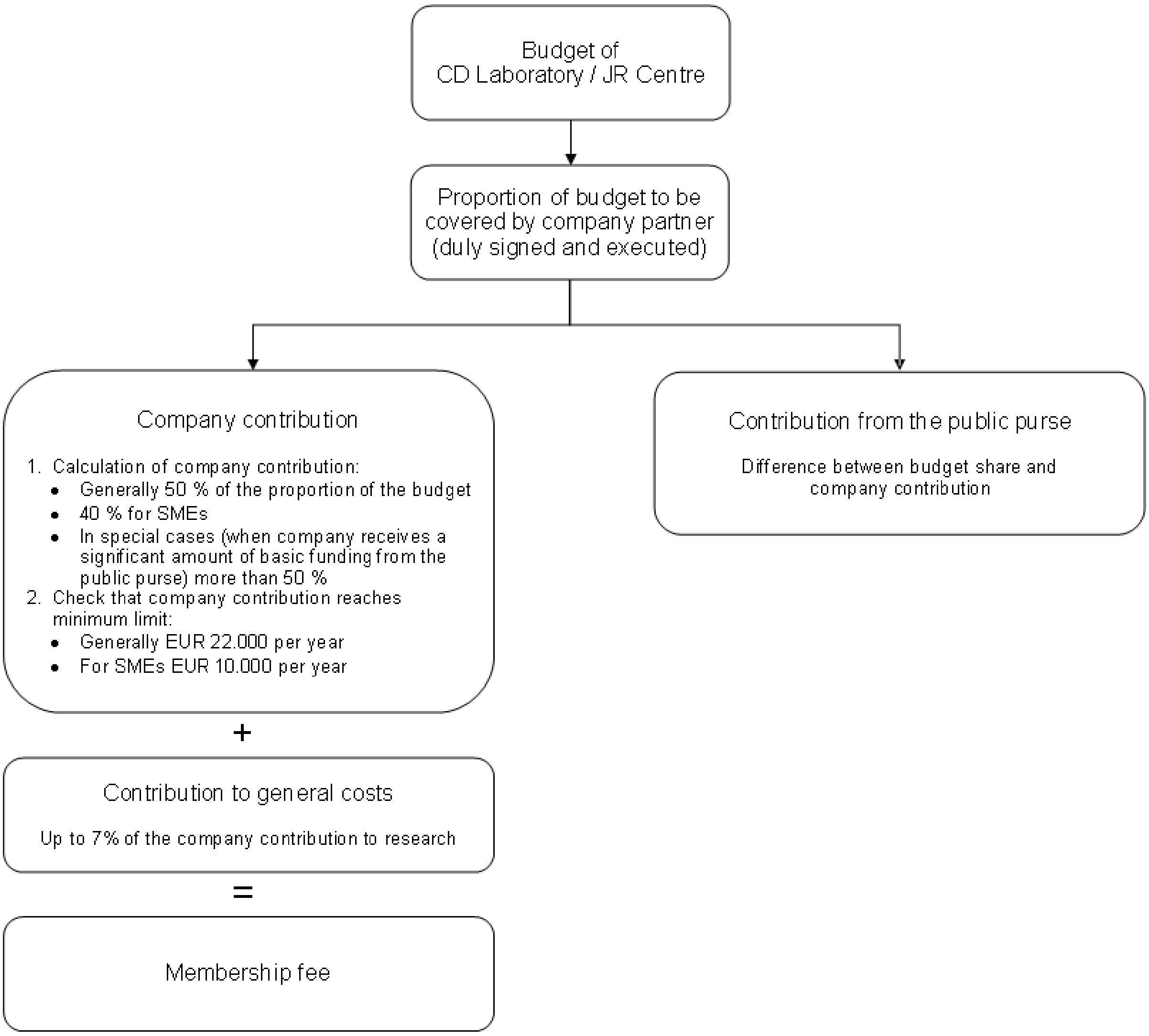

Figure 2: Membership fee payable by a Regular Member of the CDG

2.1.1. Details of the support for SMEs

Small and medium-sized enterprises based in the European Union, the European Economic Area or EFTA may apply for financial support, which covers 60 % of the proportion of the budget covered by that company over the entire duration of their participation. The CDG is responsible for calculating the level of support paid.

The European Commission established the following criteria[5] for small and medium-sized enterprises in its recommendation 2003/361/EC[6]:

[5] No responsibility is taken for the correctness of the information. The current criteria of the European Commission will be applied in every case

[6] Commission recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, 2003/361/EC, Official Journal of the European Union, L 124 of 20.5.2003, pp. 36, or any follow-up regulation

	Headcount	Annual turnover	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized enterprise	< 250	≤ 50 Mio. EUR	≤ 43 Mio. EUR
Small enterprise	< 50	≤ 10 Mio. EUR	≤ 10 Mio. EUR
Micro enterprise	< 10	≤ 2 Mio. EUR	≤ 2 Mio. EUR

Furthermore, an SME must be an "autonomous" concern. This is interpreted to mean a company that is neither a partner enterprise nor a linked enterprise: the company may not have more than 25 % shares (capital or votes) in another company and no other company may have more than 25 % shares in it.

2.1.2. Minimum membership fee

The minimum level of company contribution is currently set at EUR 22.000 per year or EUR 10.000 per year for SMEs.

If the commercial partner would like to support the establishment of a new CD Laboratory/JR Centre unit without the cooperation of any other commercial partners, the minimum contribution is related to the lower limit for the annual budget of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre. For CD Laboratories, the lower limit for the annual budget is EUR 140.000, which corresponds to a contribution of EUR 70.000 per year from the company (EUR 56.000 in the case of an SME). For JR Centres, the lower limit for the annual budget is EUR 90.000, which corresponds to a contribution of EUR 45.000 per year from the company (EUR 36.000 from an SME).

2.1.3. Contribution to general costs

In addition to the sums mentioned above, a contribution to the CDG's general costs is to be paid. This contributes to the CDG's organizational costs and serves further to build up a reserve fund for the CDG. The reserve fund is intended to provide an appropriate level of financial stability in the event that the Association suffers unforeseen financial problems. It provides the Association with a buffer against risks and can also be seen as an expression of solidarity among the Association's Members. The amount of the contribution to general costs is defined by the CDG Executive Board and is limited to 7 % of the company contribution to the CD Laboratory/JR Centre.

2.2. Determination of membership fees

An application for establishment of a new CD Laboratory/JR Centre or for expansion to an existing CD Laboratory/JR Centre must always contain a research plan, a time plan and a cost plan (for several years). The commercial partners must indicate their consent to the research plan, time plan and cost plan by means of an official signature and company stamp. Consent is taken as a firm commitment for the first year and as indicative of a serious intent to participate for the following years.

With the start of the company's participation the CD Laboratory/JR Centre, the corresponding membership fee (based on the approved research plan, time plan and cost plan) becomes due.
Before the start of a CD Laboratory/JR Centre, the budgetary data as laid out in the application will be broken down by calendar years. The resulting proportion of the budget attributed to the company will form the basis for the calculation of the membership fee.
Every year from the second year of operation of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre, the Head of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre will prepare or bring up to date the budgets for the forthcoming calendar years. These budgets must be signed officially by the commercial partners and will serve as the basis for the calculation of the corresponding membership fees for the commercial partners.
If changes are required to the originally approved multi-year budget, the Head of the CD Laboratory/JR Centre must apply for change in advance and in due time. The CDG Executive Board decides on applications for change, if necessary, on the basis of an evaluation of the content by the Scientific Board.

2.2.1. Method of payment of the membership fees

The payment of the membership fees to the CDG represents a substantial contribution to enabling the operation of the CD Laboratories/JR Centres and thus to ensuring the successful collaboration of science and the private sector. In the interests of the stability of the research activities, the membership fee is thus due immediately on receipt of the request for payment. In exceptional cases the CDG Executive Board may demand an advance payment of membership fee for up to 24 months.

2.2.2. Tax treatment of the membership fees for companies based in Austria

There is an official confirmation from the Ministry of Finance, dated 04.09.2018, that the membership fees for companies based in Austria are tax-deductible[7]:

> **The membership fee of a Regular Member of the Christian Doppler Research Association is an investment in access to scientific and technical information (Annex I, Point B, line 16 of the Research Premium Act) and thus forms part of the basis for assessing the research premium for a company's own research.**

This means:
It is possible to claim tax relief for the contribution under the heading of "own research". The total amount is eligible: the entire contribution associated with a Regular Membership of the CDG (including the contribution to supporting the scientific freedom and including the contribution to the Association's general costs), both in regard to Christian Doppler Laboratories and in regard to Joseph Ressel Centres.
It is not possible to claim tax relief under the heading of "contract research". In accordance with § 2 of the CDG Statutes, it is not the Association's aim to promote contract research. It is not possible to claim

[7] This communication may be found on our Web site at https://www.cdg.ac.at/dokumente/unternehmen/

tax relief on the option for membership (EUR 1.000 for optional members of the CDG) or for contributions from patrons (EUR 1.000 for CDG patrons).

3. Termination of membership or participation

3.1. Regular termination of membership or participation

When the (last) CD Laboratory/JR Centre in which the Member is involved concludes normally, the CDG offers the company the possibility to become a Patron of the CDG. A Patron may at any time take part in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre without again having to apply for and be granted membership of the Association.

➔ The membership fee for Patrons is currently set at EUR 1.000 per year.

If the company declines to become a Patron its membership of the CDG expires automatically.

3.2. Premature termination of membership or participation

The CDG’s funding programmes are based on the assumption that a company actively participates in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre for its entire duration of operation. However, in exceptional cases it may be necessary for a company to cease its participation in a CD Laboratory/JR Centre ahead of time and if applicable to terminate its membership of the CDG.

Notice of termination of membership must be submitted to the CDG Executive Board in writing, no earlier than the 15th month and with a period of notice of nine months from the end of the month. The notice period is calculated from the date of the postmark. Analogous to this provision, notice to cease participation in a research unit may not be given before the 15th month; notice after this time requires a period of notice of nine months from the end of the month. It is not possible to terminate membership if the company is still participating in a research unit.

Failure to sign a budget plan is not interpreted as termination of membership. In any case, the company must send a letter of termination to the CDG.

➔ If a CD Laboratory/JR Centre has to be terminated prematurely as a result of the departure of a commercial partner, the company must refund to the CDG the proportion of the residual value of any equipment purchased by the CD Laboratory/JR Centre that was covered by the public purse. The CDG is responsible for reimbursing this sum to the public purse.