



Contact

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forumjungespitzenforschung.de

Application

Please send your complete application documents by 26th October 2025, 23:59 at the latest by email to:
bewerbung@forumjungespitzenforschung.de

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Sebastian Kiss.

Applicant (m/f/d)

Name, first name

E-Mail

University

Research group/department

Academic chair/status

Project name

Abstract
for public use
(max. 1000 characters)

Application

Further team members (if existing)

Name, first name _____

E-Mail _____

University _____

Research group/department _____

Academic chair/status _____

Name, first name _____

E-Mail _____

University _____

Research group/department _____

Academic chair/status _____

Does your project already receive funding?

Which? _____

In which other competitions did you participate with your project?

I/We have read the eligibility requirements and the transparency declaration and agree with them.

Application

Short CV of all team members
(max. 1000 characters per team member)

Name, first name _____

Name, first name _____

Name, first name _____

Application

Idea description and innovation

Describe your innovative science-based idea and the research results and research findings on which your idea is based, as far as they are necessary to the genesis and understanding of the idea. Focus on potential application areas and the problem your idea or solution addresses. Highlight the added value compared to existing alternatives (e.g., higher efficiency, cost savings).

An example: A research group has developed a new method to make kinetic energy usable for energy supply. The group's idea is to apply this technique to floor tiles to harness the kinetic energy of people or vehicles for clean energy generation. The added value of their idea is that otherwise unused kinetic energy is made usable for energy production. Unlike photovoltaic technology, kinetic energy generation works regardless of weather or general lighting conditions. In the field of kinetic energy-producing floor tiles, the researchers see a greater energy yield in the long term compared to the few competing technologies.

Application

Customer value and market

Describe the potential target group or the potential market. Highlight the specific benefits of your innovation from the user's perspective. Please select at least one focus from the following list of characteristics to be addressed here from a customer or market perspective.

Efficiency | Durability | Smartness | New properties

An example: The floor tiles can be used effectively wherever there are many people or vehicles. Conventional floor coverings and building materials do not have energy-producing properties, which means that the researchers' idea is an innovation with new properties. The researchers cite cities and municipalities as a target group that could use

the floor tiles for planning public spaces. The researchers also identify discotheque operators as a potential target group (keyword: dance floor). They highlight: Any conventionally high frequented tiled floor is wasted potential and therefore potential savings in the need for resp. cost of externally sourced energy (e.g. for lighting) would be lost.

Application

Impact on society and environment

Explain what positive effects on society and environment can be expected from the implementation of your research results and findings. Take a position on at least one of the major challenges of the future listed below and describe how your innovation could contribute to meeting this societal challenge.

Fairness & social justice | Sustainability | Resource conservation | Climate-friendliness & climate-neutrality | Health & quality of life | Inclusion & gender equity | Security of supply

An example: Energy-related emissions accounted for about 83% of German greenhouse gas emissions in 2020. Accordingly, the researchers argue that emission-free energy sources are among the most climate-friendly or climate-neutral innovations. The researchers see their tiles in the context and tradition of clean renewable energies such as solar or wind energy. The team gives an estimate of how much of Germany's emissions could be reduced by their innovation. However, renewable energy sources often have one problem: security of supply. Since individual energy sources are often also dependent on external factors, they might not be able to meet the ever-increasing demand for energy in a planning-safe manner. In this sense, the team argues, their tiles have an advantage: the utilisation of a dance floor or f.ex. railway station can be forecast relatively well and reliably.

Application

Feasibility

Describe which barriers have to be overcome until the idea is ready for use or implementation. Explain which prerequisites must be created for this and which resources are necessary. In particular, explain which technical, ethical or other risks exist and, if applicable, which strategies for safeguarding or adjustment could be applied.

An example: The group has already provided evidence of the general feasibility of their method as part of their research. They mainly identify three barriers or risks for the implementation of their idea. a) Compared to conventional floor coverings, their kinetic floor tiles would be relatively expensive and the energy yield for this relatively low. Accordingly, the relationship between initial costs and energy yield should be optimized in the future. b) There is a chance that the technique developed by the researchers will not promise a higher energy yield in the long term than that

of competing technologies after all. In that case, the focus would have to be on resource and cost savings. c) The researchers also comment on the problem of data protection. The kinetic floor tiles would not only produce energy, but could also read motion data. The research group does not consider the problem to be too big, since the tiles would only be used where there is a lot of passenger or vehicle traffic, and reading out individual personal data (while complying with general data protection standards) would therefore not provide any information about individuals.

Conditions of participation

This English version is just for your information. Only the German version is legally binding. You can find the German version in the German application form. You can download it here:

<https://forumjungespitzenforschung.de/bewerben>

1. The competition „Forum Junge Spitzenforschung“

The goal of the competition is to make young scientists from Berlin aware of the application possibilities of their research and to make the innovative potential of their research visible to the public. Therefore, research-based ideas for application from young scientists (m/w/d) on an annually changing topic are sought.

The topic for 2025 is „Water & Water Management“.

The competition is organised by Humboldt-Innovation GmbH. The prizes are provided by the Stiftung Industrieforschung. The competition is organised in cooperation with the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin.

2. Eligibility

The following target groups are eligible to participate:

- Doctoral students, PostDocs and research assistants (m/f/d)
- Junior professors and senior physicians (m/f/d)

Participation is possible as an individual and as a team.

Only one submission per participant (m/f/d) or team is possible.

All ideas with a clear connection to research at Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin or Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin and other Berlin research institutions may be submitted.

Additionally, any idea submitted must be based on pre-competitive research with yet undefined exploitation.

If the idea has already been awarded in other competitions, participants must refer to this in their application. The current funding must also be stated in the application. The idea must have been developed independently by the participants and must not infringe the rights of third parties.

Please note: if you are planning to apply for a patent, please discuss this with the patent office of your institution beforehand, as participation and the presentation of your idea may be detrimental to novelty.

Conditions of participation

3. Application procedure

The application documents must be complete. Incomplete submissions **or submissions exceeding the specified scope** cannot be considered.

The current application documents can be downloaded from the following website:

<https://forumjungespitzenforschung.de/apply>

Applications can be submitted in German or English.

Deadline for submission of application documents is 26.10.2025, 23:59 (date of receipt by e-mail). Subsequent changes to the application documents are not permitted; this also applies to the composition of the participating teams. Organizer reserves the right to accept subsequent applications; organizer is not obliged to accept subsequent applications.

The application documents must be submitted via e-mail to: bewerbungen@forumjungespitzenforschung.de

4. Participant selection

In the first round, a jury will evaluate all submissions primarily according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the topic of the competition (see Conditions of participation, point 1)
- Innovative content of the idea
- Economic potential
- Social or ecological potential
- Feasibility
- Appropriate length, comprehensibility and stringency of content

The six best-ranked applicants (m/f/d) or teams will be invited to present their ideas on 17.11.2025.

The decision will probably be made by 10.11.2025.

5. Implementation of the competition

The presentations of the finalists (m/f/d) must be submitted by 13.11.2025. On the day of the Forum (17.11.2025), the finalists will present their ideas in front of a jury of experts and an audience.

1st place will receive a 12,000 EUR prize, 2nd place 10,000 EUR and 3rd place 8,000 EUR. The other finalists who attend the day of the Forum and present their idea will each receive 4,000 EUR for their further research.

The prizes will be paid exclusively to the respective research institution.

Conditions of participation

6. Confidentiality

The organiser and the partners of the Ideas Competition will treat the submitted ideas confidentially.

7. Data privacy information

The person responsible for data processing is:

Humboldt-Innovation GmbH
Ziegelstraße 30
10117 Berlin.

The data privacy officer of Humboldt-Innovation GmbH is:

PROLIANCE GmbH / datenschutzexperte.de
Datenschutzbeauftragter
Leopoldstr. 21
80802 Munich
E-Mail: datenschutzbeauftragter@datenschutzexperte.de

If you have any questions about data privacy law or your data subject rights, require further information or suspect misuse of recordings, you can contact our Managing Director Mr Volker Hofmann (vh@humboldt-innovation.de) directly.

If you have any other questions about the recordings, please contact sebastian.kiss@humboldt-innovation.de.

If you wish to exercise your right to object, simply send an e-mail to info@humboldt-innovation.de.
For further details, please refer to our transparency declaration.

Conditions of participation

8. Liability

Liability of the organiser for damages of the customer for any legal reason - including delay, impossibility, poor performance and non-contractual (tortious) liability - is excluded, unless the damage was caused by gross negligence or intent on the part of the organiser. The organiser shall not be liable for damage caused by viruses on copied data carriers.

As a matter of principle, data carriers brought by participants may not be copied onto the organiser's computers. If the organiser suffers damage as a result of a violation of this rule, it reserves the right to assert claims for damages.

The organiser assumes no liability for statements and behaviour of jurors and other persons involved in the competition.

There is no entitlement to payment of the prizes awarded. If none of the entries is deemed worthy of a prize by the jury, no prize may be awarded.

The organiser reserves the right to amend the conditions of participation or to cancel or terminate the competition at any time without notice and without giving reasons.

9. Miscellaneous

Any recourse to court of law is excluded.

The participants in the competition agree to present their idea at the closing event and to participate in public relations activities.

Participation in the competition implies agreement with the above conditions.

Privacy Notice

Intended audience

This privacy notice is addressed to all persons participating in or applying to participate in our competition „Forum Junge Spitzenforschung – Food & Nutrients“.

Definition of terms

Our privacy notice is intended to be simple and understandable for everyone. In this privacy notice, the official terms of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) are generally used. The official definitions are explained in Art. 4 GDPR.

Controller for data processing

The Controller within the meaning of Article 4 No. 7 GDPR for the data processing described in this information is Humboldt-Innovation GmbH, represented by Volker Hofmann, Ziegelstraße 30, 10117 Berlin, e-mail: info@humboldt-innovation.de (hereinafter: „we“).

Data Protection Officer
Dominik Fünkner
Proliance GmbH / www.datenschutzexperte.de
Data Protection Officer
Leopoldstr. 21
80802 Munich

datenschutzbeauftragter@datenschutzexperte.de

When contacting the Data Protection Officer, please state the company to which your enquiry relates. Please avoid enclosing sensitive information, such as a copy of an identity card, with your request.

Privacy Notice

Your rights

You have the following rights with regard to your personal data processed under the General Data Protection Regulation:

- the right of access to the personal data processed (Art. 15 GDPR),
- the right to rectification of inaccurately retained personal data (Art. 16 GDPR),
- the right to erasure ('right to be forgotten') of personal data for whose further retention there is no legal basis (Art. 17 GDPR),
- the right to restriction of processing of the retained personal data (Art. 18 GDPR),
- the right to notification pursuant to Art. 19 GDPR,
- the right to data portability (Art. 20 GDPR), the right to lodge a complaint to the competent supervisory authority for data protection (Art. 77 GDPR).

If the data processing is based on your consent, you also have the right to withdraw this consent at any time. You can find more information on this below in the section „General information on obtaining consent“.

Right of objection

Insofar as the processing of your personal data is carried out pursuant to Art. 6 para. 1 (f) GDPR for the purpose of the legitimate interests, you have the right, pursuant to Art. 21 GDPR, to object to the processing of such processing at any time on grounds relating to your particular situation. We will then no longer process this personal data unless we can prove compelling legitimate grounds for the processing. These must outweigh your interests, rights and freedoms, or the processing must serve the assertion, exercise or defence of legal claims.

Insofar as the factual prerequisites of the respective claims are met and we can identify you, we will fulfil your claims within the legally prescribed time limits.

Processing operations involving automated decision-making (including profiling, where applicable)

We do not use automated decision-making.

Privacy Notice

Data transfer to entities outside the European Union

1. General Information

1. There is the possibility that we transfer personal data to entities that are located outside the European Union or at least cannot exclude this (hereinafter: third country entity). In these cases, we must guarantee in accordance with Art. 44 GDPR that the level of protection of the General Data Protection Regulation is not thereby reduced. As a precaution, we would like to point out that the third country entity can be both a Controller and a Processor.
2. If we refer to an adequacy decision in the following declaration, this means that the third country entity is located in a country, territory or specific sector for which the EU Commission has decided that it offers an adequate level of protection. This guarantee then follows from Art. 45 GDPR.
3. Insofar as we refer to the so-called standard contractual clauses in the following declaration, this means that the third country entity has accepted the so-called EU standard contractual clauses and has thus contractually committed itself to respecting the level of protection of the General Data Protection Regulation. This guarantee then follows from Art. 46 para. 1 and para. 5 GDPR.
4. If we refer in the following declaration to the fact that you have given your consent to the transfer to the third country entity, this means that you have been informed about all possible risks of such transfers for which there is no adequacy decision or other guarantees and that you have nevertheless consented to the data transfer. This guarantee then follows from Art. 49 para.1 (a) GDPR. For reasons of transparency, we describe the corresponding risks in a separate section.
5. We are only providing this notice as a precautionary measure. It only applies if we refer to it in the following declaration. You will find an overview of the data recipients under „Recipients of personal data“.

2. Special constellation: EU standard contractual clauses and third-country entities based in the USA

1. In addition to the explanations under „Data transfer to entities outside the European Union“ - para. 3, we would like to inform you of a special constellation. In the case of transfers to third-country entities based in the USA, the possibility of relying on the EU standard contractual clauses is limited. Therefore, if we intend to rely on the EU standard contractual clauses in this context (or already do so), please note the following:
2. We will only base the transfer of personal data to US third country entities on the EU standard contractual clauses if we have first conducted a thorough review of the related facts. In doing so, we first determine a risk level (type and, in particular, sensitivity of the data concerned, scope of the data processing, purpose of the data processing, susceptibility to abuse). We then check whether the contractual commitments of the US third-country entity and the technical and organizational measures taken there (e.g. processing of data exclusively in EU-based data centres, encryption technology) sufficiently minimise the risks identified in advance. Only if we come to the conclusion that the EU standard contractual clauses are a sufficient guarantee in exceptional cases, even in the case of a US third country entity, will we rely on them.
3. We are only providing this notice as a precautionary measure. It only applies if we refer to it in the following declaration. There is also the possibility that we do not make use of it.

Privacy Notice

Note on the legal obligation to process

There is no legal obligation to collect this data. However, there is a possibility that the absence of some or all of the data, which is necessary for the processing operations based on legitimate interests (implementation of the competition), may occasionally lead to enquiries.

Special Section

Processing operations for which your consent is required (legal basis Art. 6 para. 1 p. 1 (a) GDPR)

General information on obtaining consent

- a. If we obtain your consent for processing, you have the right to withdraw this consent at any time with effect for the future. This is usually possible by sending a formless message to us (see „Controller.“ above) without incurring any transmission costs other than those according to the basic rates.
- b. Furthermore, we would like to point out that we process further personal data in the context of obtaining consent. These are, on the one hand, data relating to your identity (such as your name, your e-mail address, your IP address) and, on the other hand, log data relating to consent (time of consent, status of consent, scope of consent). We base this data processing on Art. 6 para. 1 p. 1 (c) GDPR in conjunction with Art. 7 para. 1 GDPR. The purpose is the necessity of having to prove that you have given your consent.
- c. We retain the data relating to your identity and the log data relating to your consent until the end of the third calendar year following the year in which you withdraw your consent. The legal basis for this storage is Article 6 para. 1 p. 1 (f) GDPR, whereby our legitimate interest follows from the fact that we must be able to prove within the relevant limitation period under civil law that you have given your consent and to what you have consented.

1. Use of personal data for the purpose of public relations

With your consent, Humboldt Innovation GmbH will process personal data from you for its own public relations work (publication on its website and social media channels (LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.) as well as in reports (print/digital) and other own print media).

In addition, Humboldt Innovation GmbH may, with your consent, transfer your personal data to the other universities or institutions involved in the realisation of the competition so that they can also process the corresponding data for their own public relations work (publication on their websites and social media channels (LinkedIn, Facebook, etc.) as well as reports (print/digital) and other own print media). Information on these data recipients is provided below under the item „Recipients of personal data“. In any case, the data processing is limited to the following personal data: Project title, Content of the field „Short description“ in the application form as well as contact data (name, first name, university as well as working group/department). In addition, the data concerned will only ever be published in connection with the content of the Idea Competition Spitzenforschung.

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2. Use of personal data by universities to contact you directly

With your consent, Humboldt Innovation GmbH may transfer your e-mail address, surname, first name as well as a brief description to the other universities involved in the implementation of the competition for the purpose of getting in touch with you (so-called scouting). More information on these recipients can be found below under „Recipients of personal data“. The universities may contact participants from their own institutions for the purpose of promoting knowledge and technology transfer. The content of this contact may include the offering of their own services such as consultation, events, etc., or information about external measures that promote knowledge and technology transfer. Contact will be made exclusively by e-mail. Under data protection law, Humboldt Innovation GmbH is only responsible for the transfer of your data, but not for the subsequent contact initiated by the universities.

3. Photography and filming at events within the scope of the competition

Only insofar as photo and film recordings are actually made for the realisation of events related to the competition (this is not the case at every event), the following applies:

Humboldt-Innovation GmbH will use the above-mentioned photo and film recordings for publication in its own mailings or communication and advertising channels such as the company website, reports or social media channels such as LinkedIn or Facebook and will also transfer them to other bodies or institutions involved in the implementation of the competition, which may in turn use the recordings for the same purpose.

The legal basis is your consent, which you give when registering for the event. This processing is not prevented by the fact that sensitive data according to Art. 9 (1) GDPR may also be processed. This is because the exception according to Art. 9 para. 2 (a) GDPR applies in this case, because your consent also covers the processing of this type of data (e.g. data concerning health from wearing glasses). You first grant your consent by activating the checkbox. Furthermore, you have the option to leave the sound and/or image transmission inactive throughout. If you activate the sound and/or image transmission, you also consent to the associated processing.

Processing operations, that we carry out on the basis of legitimate interests (Art. 6 para. 1 (f) GDPR)

General information on the purpose and legal basis

1. The purpose of the processing operations described below is the implementation of the competition in accordance with the conditions of participation.
2. The data processing operations described here are permissible insofar as they are necessary to fulfil a legitimate interest of the controller and this legitimate interest outweighs the interference with the fundamental rights and freedoms of data subjects caused by the data processing.
3. Automated decision-making or profiling does not take place, unless it is explicitly mentioned below.

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Your participation in the idea competition “Forum Junge Spitzenforschung”

If you take part in the above-mentioned competition, we will process your personal data to the extent necessary for the implementation of the competition. In particular, the data processing includes the following operations:

- The processing of emails sent in advance by interested applicants to our email account for applications for the competition.
- The storage and other processing of the submitted application form (see above), this contains in particular personal contact details, information on the CV and the idea that is the subject of the application.
- Transfer of the above data between the organisers of the competition (universities, scientific institutions) for the purpose of organising the competition and, where applicable, for other purposes to which you have consented.
- Evaluation of the submitted documents or the submitted idea on the basis of a common, unified evaluation procedure of the bodies or institutions organising the competition.

Duration of storage

1. Data processing that we carry out on the basis of your consent

- a. We store the data until you have withdrawn your consent.
- b. Data that we have collected for the purpose of contacting you either by us or by the other institutions involved (so-called scouting, see 2. above) will no longer be used for the purpose of initial contact after 2 years.
- c. Likewise, recordings made in the context of events or for public relations purposes of participating institutions (see 1. above) will only be used for publication within 2 years after the competition has been held. However, publications made within this period may continue to exist beyond this period.

2. Data processing that takes place on the basis of our legitimate interest (Art. 6 para. 1 (f) GDPR)

- a. We will store the data for as long as this is necessary to properly carry out the relevant competition. We will delete your data at the latest after the end of the competition, unless you have consented to further data processing or there is a legal obligation to do so (see c. below).
- b. [If applicable, storing data after the end of the competition is permissible on the basis of your legitimate interest, insofar as you require corresponding data to protect or enforce legal interests. If relevant for you, please contact us for an examination].
- c. If we are legally obliged to do so, we will process personal data for longer than specified under (a.). The legal basis in this case is Art. 6 para. 1 p. 1 (c) GDPR in conjunction with Sect. 147 of the German Fiscal Code (AO), Sect. 257 of the German Commercial Code (HGB). We may be obliged to do,

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- i. Data on your person deriving from books and records, inventories, annual financial statements, individual financial statements pursuant to Sect. 325 para. 2a German Commercial Code (HGB), consolidated financial statements, management reports and group management reports, opening balance sheets, accounting vouchers, documents pursuant to Art. 15 para. 1 and Art. 163 of the Union Customs Code (Zollkodex der Union), commercial books as well as the work instructions and other organisational documents required for their comprehension must be retained for ten years, whereby the retention period generally begins with the end of the calendar year in which the relevant document was created (Art. 6 para. 1 p. 1 (c) GDPR in conjunction with Sect. 147 Fiscal Code of Germany (AO) or in conjunction with Sect. 257 German Commercial Code (HGB)),
- ii. Data on your person deriving from received commercial or business letters, from the reproduction of the received commercial or business letters as well as from other documents relevant for taxation are to be kept for six years, whereby the retention period generally begins with the end of the calendar year in which the relevant document was created (Art. 6 para. 1 p. 1 (c) GDPR in conjunction with Sect. 147 Fiscal Code of Germany (AO) or in conjunction with Sect. 257 German Commercial Code (HGB)).

Recipients of personal data

We only transfer your personal data within our company to those departments and persons who need this data to fulfil contractual and legal obligations or to implement our legitimate interest.

Your personal data is also processed on our behalf (or that of our affiliated entities) on the basis of data processing agreements pursuant to Art. 28 of the GDPR. In these cases, we ensure that the processing of personal data is carried out in accordance with the provisions of the GDPR. Currently, the following Processor is used:

Sendinblue GmbH, Köpenicker Straße 126, 10179 Berlin. You can find more information on data protection with this provider here: <https://de.sendinblue.com/datenschutz-uebersicht>

Furthermore, we pass on personal data to the universities or university institutions mentioned below, which are involved in the implementation of the competition. The data will only be passed on in the cases described above under „Processing operations“.

- Humboldt-Innovation GmbH, represented by Volker Hofmann, Ziegelstraße 30, 10117 Berlin, e-Mail: info@humboldt-innovation.de
- Freie Universität Berlin, Kaiserswerther Straße 16-18, 14195 Berlin
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Unter den Linden 6, 10099 Berlin
- Technische Universität Berlin, Straße des 17. Juni 135, 10623 Berlin
- Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Charitéplatz 1, 10117 Berlin

Otherwise, data will only be passed on to recipients outside the company if this is permitted or required by law, if the transfer is necessary for the execution and thus the performance of a contract or, at your request, for the implementation of pre-contractual measures, if we have your consent or if we are authorised

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to provide information. Under these conditions, recipients of personal data may be, for example:

- External tax consultant
- Public bodies and institutions (e.g. public prosecutor's office, police, supervisory authorities, tax office) if there is a legal or official obligation,
- Recipients to whom the transfer is directly necessary for the establishment or performance of the contract.

Status of the privacy notice: 08.09.2023