

NFDI4ing Seed Funds

National Research Data Infrastructure for Engineering Sciences (NFDI4ing)

The NFDI4ing Seed Funds support scientists from all engineering research fields in the development and implementation of innovative ideas in data management.

Background & Goals

The 'National Research Data Infrastructure for Engineering (NFDI4ing)' consortium is part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) initiative, funded by the German federal and state governments. The common goal of the well over 50 members and participants of NFDI4ing is to develop standards, methods and services to make engineering data collection and data resources FAIR: *findable, accessible, interoperable* and *re-usable*. The NFDI4ing Seed Funds are aimed at engineering scientists who want to contribute to the future of scientific data management.

NFDI4ing Seed Funds are open to scientists from all engineering research areas. NFDI4ing addresses overarching data management issues in data-generating engineering activities, currently focussed on the following topics:

- Bespoke experiments with high variability of setups
- Engineering research software
- Provenance tracking of physical samples and data samples
- High performance measurements & computations
- Extensive & heterogeneous data requirements
- Many participants & simultaneous devices
- Field data & distributed systems

In addition, NFDI4ing offers opportunities to contribute your own ideas. The NFDI4ing Seed Funds are designed to continuously develop the consortium's work program and adapt it to the needs of the engineering community. The NFDI4ing Seed Funds provide resources to support innovative approaches to research data management in all stages of development, testing and implementation.

Application process

In order to ensure proper networking, the application for funding must be made jointly with a representative from the NFDI4ing consortium. For this purpose, please send an outline of your proposal to one of the NFDI4ing co-spokespersons. If you have not yet been in contact with an NFDI4ing co-spokesperson or don't know whom to contact, please feel free to send your request to contact@nfdi4ing.de and you will be put in touch with the right person.

Your outline should include:

- A description of your proposal or idea, and its potential scientific value
- Possible links to established NFDI4ing tasks (i.e. Archetypes, Community Clusters, Base Services)
- A rough overview of the timeline and expected milestones
- An outline of the funds required

A template that can be used for guidance can be found on our website at <https://nfdi4ing.de/resources/>.

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NFDI4ing is funded as part of the National Research Data Infrastructure (NFDI) following a recommendation of the German Joint Science Conference (GWK). The funding is provided by the Federal Government and the Heads of Government of the Länder and managed by the German Research Foundation (DFG) - project number 442146713.

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Funding Details & Timeline

The funding may be used exclusively to finance staff. Applicants must contribute own funds in the amount of one third of the total grant. The grant is limited to a maximum of €5.525 per month. This corresponds to the funding of a full-time doctoral position at a rate of €66.300 per year.

The maximum term of funding is currently limited to one year. The number of applications that can be funded over the maximum term of one year is also limited. Awards are made based on the selection criteria outlined below and the application date. The funding period begins one month after the application is approved. Applications can be submitted as of now.

Evaluation & selection criteria

The evaluation of the formal applications is carried out by the NFDI4ing steering committee, the executive committee, or the management team, depending on the extent of funding and duration. Selection criteria for funding with a brief explanation of what is expected to form part of the application are shown in the following overview:

- **Relevance to the community:**

Succinct description of the issue or the problem to be addressed, and reference to the work programs of the NFDI4ing consortium or the NFDI initiative.

- **Networking with the community:**

Please outline to what extent the proposed project contributes to the perpetuation of long-term cooperation between consortium partners or parts of the engineering community.

Does the proposed project help advance research data management work practices, tools, processes, or methods in the engineering community?

- **Networking with other consortia:**

Does the proposed project have the potential to stimulate interdisciplinary issues and the transfer of research data management solutions between NFDI consortia or different subject communities?

- **Degree of innovation:**

To what extent does the proposed solution or project go beyond the current state of the art in the respective field?

- **Qualification of the applicant:**

How clear and adequate is the proposed work program?

Are the expected timeframe and budget plausible?

Is the technical expertise of the applicant substantiated by reference to relevant work results?

Applicants should address these issues in their grant proposal. The proposal will then be reviewed by at least two independent members of the NFDI4ing steering committee for content fit, fulfilment of the selection criteria, and scientific value. You will receive a decision within two weeks of the confirmation of your application.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact contact@nfdi4ing.de.