

NFDI4ing Seed Funds 2024

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 and practitioners 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 from the get-go, the application for funding should be made in close consultation with a representative from the NFDI4ing consortium. For this purpose, please send an outline of your proposal to contact@nfdi4ing.de. We will then refer you to our subject specialists.

Your application must include:

- A brief description of your proposal or idea
- Possible links to established NFDI4ing tasks (i.e., Archetypes, Community Clusters, Base Services)
- A rough timeline, including expected milestones and possible outputs
- An outline of the required funds and their allocation

You can find a template for your application in the [download section](#) (link) of our website.

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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 €66.300.** This corresponds roughly to the funding of a full-time doctoral position for one year. If necessary, the funding can be split between project partners.

All funds must be expended within the legal year 2024. The application period begins on July 15th, 2023, and ends on September 30th, 2023. The earliest start of funding will be January 01st, 2024.

Evaluation & selection criteria

The final application is reviewed by at least two uninvolved members of the NFDI4ing Steering Committee for formal criteria, content fit, and added value. Selection criteria for funding and expectations of a proposal text 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 must address these issues in their application. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us at contact@nfdi4ing.de.