

***RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED
BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE F.R.S.-FNRS
ON 24th April 2014***

***SPECIFIC PROVISIONS REGARDING THE CALL 2014:
"LARGE EQUIPMENTS"
(GEQ)***

F.R.S.-FNRS Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique

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CHAPTER I: SCOPE

Article 1

The rules and regulations hereinafter are only applicable to the instrument enabling the funding of research programmes within the framework of the "Large Equipments (GEQ)" Call 2014 of the Fund for Scientific Research – FNRS¹ (F.R.S.-FNRS).

Article 2

The entire scientific research industry may be interested in this instrument.

Article 3

Research programmes are set to be implemented either in one or several universities of the French-speaking Community of Belgium.

Article 4

The main promoter is the person who assumes the scientific responsibility and is in charge of the administrative management of the funded research programme.

The main promoter shall decide whether s/he will conduct the research programme with one or several universities.

CHAPTER II: APPLICATIONS

II-A.: PROMOTERS

Article 5

Promoter-applicants² involved in the application must be:

- either Research Associate, Senior Research Associate or Research Director of the F.R.S.-FNRS,
- or a researcher holding a permanent position or enjoying a probationary position (equivalent to an open-ended position) within a university of the French-speaking Community of Belgium

Article 6

Promoter and co-promoter-applicants can have ongoing agreements through the "Research Project (PDR)", "Research Credit (CDR)", "Incentive Grant for Scientific Research (MIS)", or "Equipment (EQP)" instruments, or they can submit an application through one of these categories.

II-B.: SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION

Article 7

The call for "Large Equipments" applications is published on the F.R.S.-FNRS website.

The submission of an application can only be made online, either in French or in English, through SEMAPHORE, the management platform dedicated to calls for proposals at the following address <https://applications.frs-fnrs.be>

All applications are submitted to a procedure including three successive electronic validations on the dates that will be indicated on the F.R.S.-FNRS website during the announcement of the

¹ The Fund for Scientific Research - FNRS shall be understood as the F.R.S. - FNRS and its associated funds.

² The same applies to co-promoter-applicants.

call for proposals:

- a. The validation by the promoter, spokesperson responsible towards the F.R.S.-FNRS administration: it accounts as a confirmation that the application is complete.
- b. The validation by the co-promoter: it accounts as an electronic signature.
- c. The validation by the research unit (or Board of Education) of the institution to which the promoter(s) is/are related - the Authority to which the application file is transferred once the promoter(s) has/have validated the application form: this Authority can accept or refuse the application. The ultimate deadline for the validation by the research unit (or Board of Education) puts a final end to the call for proposals.

Applications that have not been validated within the time-frame of the call cannot be taken into account.

The validation dates are available in the mini-guide.

II-C. : CHARACTERISTICS

Article 8

An application enables to seek a funding for the purchase of equipment or an experimental device, whose VAT-included cost is above €200,000 -, and is equal to or lower than €500,000 -.

The F.R.S.-FNRS will cover from 60% to 90% of the budget (incl. VAT) requested for the equipment in accordance with the decision of the Board of Trustees and within the limits of its budget.

One or a couple of tenders (catalogue, price list, offers from eventual suppliers...) shall accompany the budget request.

Article 9

The technical and dedicated facilities strictly necessary for the installation of the equipment are not included in the cost thereof, nor can be considered as a contribution from the co-financing university of the promoter.

Article 10

Only equipment fees including "upgrades" are eligible.

CHAPTER III: ASSIGNMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Article 11

Allocated funds are subject to a two-year period agreement (from 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2016) between the F.R.S.-FNRS, the promoter and the host institution.

In the particular case of joint researches carried out by several promoters in several host universities, each institution takes part in the agreement, which contains all the relevant provisions regarding the equipment ownership.

Any device acquired through a grant from the F.R.S.-FNRS becomes the property of the host university, to which the grantee is attached.

The purchase of any device must be done with due respect for the provisions defined by the relevant department of the host institution.

This institution commits, however, to putting the mentioned device at the disposal of the

researcher for the time needed to pursue the research, which led to its purchase in the first place. In addition, the host institution commits not to alienating or lending the equipment without the approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

In the event there was no choice but to purchase the device with an additional financial allotment, the Board of Trustees of the F.R.S.-FNRS will settle the ownership issue with the relevant authorities.

CHAPTER IV: EVALUATION PROCESS

Article 12

See below the evaluation criteria that will be taken into account in order of importance:

CRITERIA

Qualities of the promoter(s) and possible equipment users:

CV and publications
International recognition
Main research achievements

Qualities of the research programme(s),

Feasibility
Methodology and relevance
Originality
Collaborations

Requested equipment features:

Choice in terms of technicality and performance
The need, potential duplication
Usage (utilisation rate)
Capability and Capacity (expertise, infrastructure)
Correspondence between the tender and the requested equipment

Article 13

The evaluation process consists in a remote individual examination performed by external experts, and the ranking is established by a Scientific Commission dedicated to the "Large Equipments" instrument.

This Scientific Commission is made up of:

- 9 members external to the Fédération Wallonie-Bruxelles 'FWB' (including the Presidents of the 14 Scientific Commissions of the F.R.S.-FNRS), and the President,
- 6 members belonging to the FWB,
- 1 Observer belonging to the Walloon Region

The ranking adopted by the Scientific Commission will be communicated to the Board of Trustees, which is entrusted with the funding decisions.

CHAPTER V: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Article 14

The grants at the disposal of the promoters are managed by the financial department of the institution to which they are attached. The financial department of the institution is invited to send the supporting documents to the F.R.S.-FNRS.

The deadline to send the supporting documents is set for 28th February 2017, i.e. 29 months

following the starting date of the agreement.

The financial contribution from the F.R.S.-FNRS shall not exceed the actual charged amount.

CHAPTER VI: OTHER PROVISIONS

Article 15

Any change made to the planned expenditures must receive the prior approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

The grants can be used for the duration of the granting.

The remaining amount will be recovered by the F.R.S.-FNRS.

Article 16

Any fundamental change in the ongoing research programme must obtain the prior approval of the F.R.S.-FNRS.

CHAPTER VII: PROMOTER'S RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Article 17

Any funded research programme must comply with the legal provisions in force regarding ethics.

Article 18

Promoters must submit to the rules imposed by the academic authority of the host institution where they work and observe its regulations. In addition, regarding the F.R.S.-FNRS, they must adhere to the regulation on property, protection and promotion of the research results carried out within the institution.

Article 19

Pursuant to the Regulation on the application of the Open Access policy to scientific publications resulting from research programmes supported by the F.R.S.-FNRS and its associated funds, any scientific publication resulting partially or fully from the funding of the GEQ instrument shall mention the source of this funding as follows:

"This work was supported by the Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique-FNRS under Grant(s) n° [ID number]".
