



BIST Ignite: Third Call for Collaborative Seeding Projects

Goal

To promote new collaborations among researchers from the BIST community, facilitating the exchange of knowledge among different scientific fields and exploring new approaches to address complex questions.

Ideally, by the end of the programme, the output of the collaborative research projects should provide the means for the preparation of joint multi-institutional proposals to apply for external competitive funding.

Description of the program

The BIST Ignite programme is a mechanism to foster new collaborative research among the BIST community. This programme currently has up to 200.000€/year to fund seeding research projects that have a cross-disciplinary perspective.

The projects should be aimed at exploring new questions and technological challenges through novel multidisciplinary approaches, exchanging knowledge across disciplines, exposing researchers to multidisciplinary environments, and providing new insights to push the collaboration further. At least two different BIST centers must be involved.

The BIST Ignite programme is based on a two-stage funding scheme, composed of two progressive calls.

1.- The **first stage** is an open internal call for project ideas, meant to be a seeding stage. From this initial call, five project ideas will be selected each year to be funded with 20.000€ each, and researchers will have 8 months to develop them.

2.- The **second stage** has an exploratory nature and consists on an additional award of 50.000€/12 months, for the two best projects out of the 5 selected during the first stage. The selection of projects in this second stage is based on both the preliminary results obtained in the previous seeding stage and the viability and the justification of continuing the collaboration. Both aspects will be clearly stated in the executive project report to be delivered at the end of the first stage. While in the first seeding stage no proof of concept is required, it will be fundamental for the second, exploratory stage.

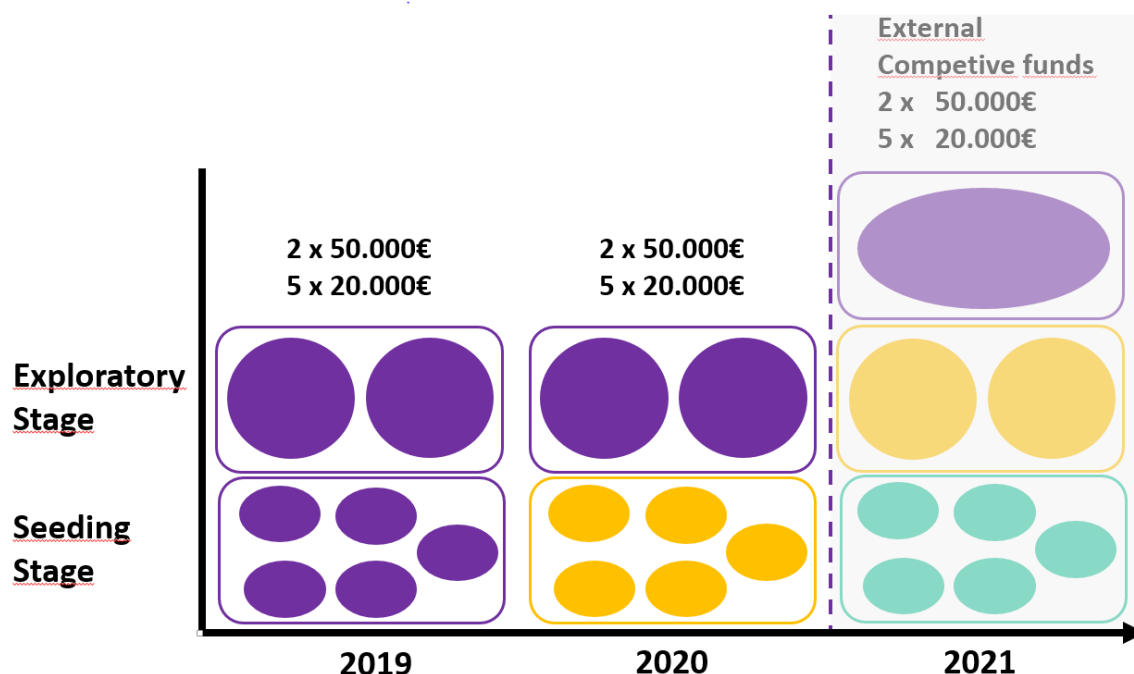
The two-stage funding scheme is aimed at stimulating the generation, participation and active contribution of collaborative partnerships among BIST centers, as well as setting the basis to

promote the generation of a pipeline of new research projects, emerging from ideas and questions that require a multidisciplinary approach. In this sense, the main goal of the BIST Ignite programme is to provide seed funding to obtain enough preliminary data and research outputs by the end of the exploratory stage, which serve as significant evidence to allow the collaborating groups to apply to more ambitious and competitive external funding calls.

Participation of non-BIST institutions

The participation of groups from non-BIST institutions is possible, when they provide expertise otherwise not available within BIST. However, at least two BIST centers must still be involved in the project and external groups need to provide their own funding.

Overall scheme of the programme



Proposal preparation and application process

Project submission to be done online, using the [Slideroom Portal](http://slideroom.com), which will remain open until midnight of the 14 January 2019. Access to the portal provided through the link in the BIST webpage <http://bist.eu/ignite-call>

The application consists of a short administrative form to be completed online, plus a project proposal of 2-4 pages, **which must reflect the scientific content and the added value of the proposed collaboration**. The budget must clearly indicate the percentage that will be allocated to each center in case the project is granted. The funds provided may be spent to

cover any expenses required for the development of the projects, with the exception of investment in equipment.

The projects should be written in a way that it is understandable scientists who are non-experts.

Ignite Programme Contact Points at BIST centers. To solve doubts and provide guidance during the proposal preparation and application process, each center has a contact point (provided below).

CRG – Elvan Boke <mailto:elvan.boke@crg.eu>

IBEC – Elena Martinez <mailto:emartinez@ibecbarcelona.eu>

ICFO – Niek van Hulst <mailto:Niek.vanHulst@icfo.eu>

ICIQ – Arjan Kleij <mailto:akleij@ICIQ.ES>

ICN2 – Jose Antonio Garrido <mailto:joseantonio.garrido@icn2.cat>

IFAE – Sebastian Grinstein <mailto:sgrinstein@ifae.es>

IRB Barcelona – Travis Stracker <mailto:travis.stracker@irbbarcelona.org>

Eligibility criteria

All applications must involve **at least two group leaders from two different scientific fields, and working in two different BIST centers. They should be equally committed to the delivery of the proposed activities.**

Associated researchers and postdocs are welcome to apply, as long as they have clearance and an acceptance letter from their group leader, to be submitted along with the proposal. The non-compliance with this criterion will render the application invalid.

Researchers holding an Ignite grant at the moment of the call's closure, will not be eligible to participate and in general, only one project submission per PI is accepted.

Evaluation Criteria

The panel of experts will review the applications for the first “seeding” stage analyzing the quality and relevance of the proposal, and determining those best matching the objectives of the present call.

Three aspects will be taken into account during the evaluation of the first seeding stage:

- Multidisciplinary and added value of the collaboration
- Novelty, and possible future impact of the idea
- Viability, both in terms of time and objectives

You may download the evaluation criteria form provided to the reviewers from the BIST webpage.

Selection process

The applications for the first “seeding” stage will be peer reviewed by a selection committee composed of both internal (BIST community) and external members through the following process:

- 1.- The internal reviewers (one per center) will carry out an initial evaluation, grading all the proposals according to the eligibility criteria. They will do so remotely, and using an evaluation guide with scores and thresholds.
- 2.- The best compliant proposals, ranking in the upper half, are then sent to external reviewers. Researchers with proposals not passing to the second stage of evaluation will be informed at this stage.
- 3.- The final decision on the winning proposals will be taken during a consensus meeting between both internal and external evaluators.

The list of internal and external evaluators will be available on the BIST webpage.

The communication of the winner projects will take place before the end of March, and funds transferred to ensure that the winning projects might start working as of the 1st April.

Unfortunately, due to limited resources, we are not able to provide individual detailed feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

2018-2019 BIST Ignite Programme Calendar - Seeding Stage

22 Oct 2018	First stage (seeding stage) call for projects opens
14 January 2019	First stage (seeding stage) call for projects closes
March 2019	Announcement of the call's results and transfer of funds
2 December 2019	Dead-line for first-stage final report