

## Call for Proposals

# for the boot-up funding of the project house “ICT Foundations of a Digitized Industry, Economy, and Society”

### Background

The Profile Area Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is in the process of setting up a Center for Digital Transformation Research (“Zentrum für beherrschbare Digitalisierung”). A major element of this center will be a project house “ICT Foundations of a Digitized Industry, Economy, and Society” (short: Project House ICT). The project house shall provide a framework for interdisciplinary research in ICT technologies and methodologies for mastering the ongoing digital transformation of almost all domains in industry, economy and society. In the long-term perspective, it will foster and host larger, third-party funded projects in all relevant areas of digital transformation research.

### 1. Type and aim of projects

To boot up the project house “ICT Foundations of a Digitized Industry, Economy, and Society”, a number of initial projects will be funded by the Profile Area ICT. It is expected that these projects will lead to proposals and subsequent third-party fundings of larger projects.

We expect project proposals focusing on ICT technologies and methodologies advancing the state of the art in all areas of the digital transformation. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Data Science & Management, Machine Learning (e.g. Big Data Analysis, Computer Vision, ...)
- Next Generation Network & Communication Systems (e.g. Spectrum Access and Radio Link / SDR, Computing, Energy efficiency...)
- Security, Privacy, Safety of Cyber-physical Systems (e.g. Secure Architectures, Software Engineering & Verification)
- Human Interfaces, Usability, Acceptance

The concrete topics should be new, creative and can be of high risk. They must not already be addressed by national or international public funding programs.

### 2. Funding concept

The boot-up funding has a budget of appr. 1.1 Mio Euros and a duration of 2 years. In the first year, 10-12 projects will be funded with 65.000 Euros. After 10 months, an evaluation will take place, and the best 5-6 projects will receive funding of 65.000 Euros for the second year. All selections will be performed by the Steering Committee of the Profile Area ICT.

Each funded project receives 65.000 Euro for the respective year, independent from the number of principal investigators in one project. The funds can be used flexibly for personnel, invest, and consumables, but not for basic infrastructure (“Grundausstattung”).

Projects can be proposed only by RWTH researchers. Each research team (professor with his/her group) can participate in a maximum of 2 project proposals.

A final report will be required.

### 3. Selection and evaluation criteria

The selection criteria for submitted proposals will be:

- Conformance to the ICT project house goals
- Scientific quality
- Potential for subsequent third-party funding
- Interdisciplinary project settings are welcome but are not a requirement

The criteria for evaluation after 10 months are:

- Achievement of the scientific project goals
- Discernable project outcome (publications, proposal preparations)
- Contribution the cooperation within the project house

### 4. Proposals

Proposals should consist of a project description (2 page max., font: Arial 11pt.) and a CV for each principal investigator (1 page each).

Structure of the project description:

- Applicant: Name, Institute, Phone, Email
- Project title: Title
- Project description:
  - Motivation and research question
  - State of the art and own contribution
  - Approach and rough work program
  - Goals with respect to publications and subsequent funding
- References

Please submit the proposals in pdf format to: [ict@profileareas.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:ict@profileareas.rwth-aachen.de)

### 5. Dates

- Deadline for proposals: 15 June 2016
- Decision: 31 July 2016
- Project start: 1 October 2016
- Project house workshop and evaluation: June/July 2017
- Final workshop: September/October 2018

### Contact

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