



The European Ceramic Society AISBL, R&D Working Group,
supported by the JECS Trust

announces the
“FRONTIERS OF RESEARCH”

OPEN TO EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS OF THE COUNTRIES AFFILIATED TO THE
EUROPEAN CERAMIC SOCIETY

The proposal aims to **promote frontier research** in the field of **materials, devices and processes** related to all the application areas of ceramics. The competition objective is **to provide seed funding** for projects for further investigation in the case of positive outcomes resulting from these preliminary activities.

The competition will select **two to four** suitable research projects, to be supported with amounts from €10,000 to €20,000 per project.

Conditions:

1) Eligibility

The following conditions must be fulfilled:

- early stage Postdocs (within 3 years from the PhD) working in an institute or university located in full member countries of the European Ceramic Society.
- the applicants should be individual members of ECerS or be associated with a National Ceramic Society affiliated to the European Ceramic Society (full member or associate member)
- the available funding is to be used in performing research in host institutes or universities located in full member countries of the European Ceramic Society and which are not the country in which the applicant is receiving their salary or grant.

2) Proposal Submission

Applicants must submit a detailed programme of research in the field described above, together with an implementation plan and timeline of the goals reached during the project.

A format for the presentation of the project is supplied as an annex to this call.

3) Factors of Merit

The main Factors of Merit by which the proposals will be judged are as follows:

- i. **Originality of the ideas** driving the proposed research project. The purpose is to stimulate novel ideas that can be considered as being beyond the current frontiers in the ceramics field for the anticipated applications.
- ii. **Collaboration between universities/institutes** of two different countries (the home organism of the applicant and the host organism). The achievement of the objectives is related to the added value offered to the applicant through a period in a foreign institution.
- iii. **Interest from industry** of a country belonging to the European Ceramic Society. In this case **a company would declare a potential interest**, but any co-funding is arranged by the institution where the research is carried out.

4) Allowable Costs

The funds from the European Ceramic Society, through the JECs Trust, must be used exclusively to cover the following expenses, which are related to the costs necessary to carry out part of the work in a foreign institution, located in a country belonging to the European Ceramic Society:

- Travel and accommodation (for long or short visits) to the host institution.
- Specific consumables (this should be detailed in the application) in the host institution.
- Use of facilities in the foreign host institution or in other laboratories, not available at the home institution.

The allowable costs, therefore, are only concerned with **research activities** to be carried out in the host institution and/or, for part of **the living expenses during a visit** of the applicant in the partner foreign institution.

The grant provided by the JECs Trust covers a proportion of the costs of the proposed project, according to the decision of the Board of the JECs Trust. Upon the evaluation of the JECs Trust, the Professors/supervisors in the collaborating institutions need to support additional costs such as part of the consumables, equipment usage, overheads, etc.

NO SALARIES AND NO OVERHEADS WILL BE FINANCED.

5) Requirements

The submission of the proposal must be accompanied by:

- iv. a signed copy of the identity document of the applicant,
- v. a CV of the applicant,
- vi. a declaration from the applicants that the project has been designed and written by themselves,
- vii. a statement issued by Directors of the institutes or Professors/supervisors involved declaring their agreement to permit the activities related to the research programme,
- viii. proof of the ECerS membership of the applicant either by means of ECerS-affiliated societies or as an individual,
- ix. proof of the membership of the Professors/supervisors of the home and host institutions,
- x. if applicable, a declaration of interest from an industrial partner.

ALL DOCUMENTS SHOULD BE WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

6) Reviewing procedures

A **Technical Review Team of Experts (3)**, selected by the Members of the ECerS R&D Working Group from the Members of the R&D Working Group or the ECerS Council will evaluate the proposals.

The **evaluation procedure** will be based on marks concerning each evaluation criterion: 1 poor, 2 average, 3 good, 4 excellent) related to the following items:

- novelty of the idea, degree of innovation, progress beyond the state of the art (regardless of level of risk)
- scientific and technical quality
- technical feasibility
- relevance of the international collaboration
- added value due to industrial interest
- ethical acceptability
- financial viability of the project.

The total of the marks for each project results in a classification proposed to the members of the R&D working group, who must approve this classification.

Before consideration by the ECerS R&D Working Group, the **JECs Trust Secretariat** will check each of the projects submitted to ensure that the conditions for assignment of the support are satisfied.

7) Commitments after the selection

After the approval of the project, the ECerS R&D Working Group will be responsible (under the Authority of PEC) for the selected projects and will monitor their progress.

This will be exercised by a “Supervisor” (one for each of the projects financed) selected from the members of the ECerS R&D WG on the basis of the competences in the topic of research, neutrality relative to the country of the applicant and of the institutes involved.

The Supervisor will monitor the project, receive communications about the stages of the activities and progress reports by the applicants.

Reports from the applicants will be submitted to the Board of the JECs Trust (midterm- and final- reports), accompanied by comments and remarks from the “Supervisor”.

Contracts will be established between the applicants and the JECs Trust in order to ensure the conformity of the money given to the conditions of the award and the activity programme to be carried out.

Confidentiality is guaranteed at all stages of the process.

8) Publication of the results:

The results of the activities supported by this competition will be submitted to **JECs** as a **first option for publishing the outcomes**.

9) Guidelines, recommendations:

The notice of the competition will be issued on the ECerS Web site.

The advertisement will be spread through the National Societies and through an e-letter addressed to all the affiliated members of the National Ceramic Societies, associated to the European Ceramic Society.

The proposals should be sent to the ECerS Secretariat **through electronic mail:**

ECerS AISBL Secretariat - Ms Véronique Huart
Ave. Gouverneur Cornez , 4 - B-7000 Mons, Belgium
Tel. +32 (0)65 403421 - Fax +32 (0)65 403458
Email v.huart@bcrc.be or ecers@bcrc.be

10) Deadlines and important requirements

- **The deadlines for applications are announced on the ECerS website: www.ecers.org**
- **After notification of the Selection Committee, a contract will be established between the applicant and the JECs Trust.**
- **The activities of funded projects will start within 6 months from the signing date of the contract, and the duration will be in the range from 6 to 12 months according to the Applicant’s request and/or the ECerS R&D Working Group, and subject to acceptance by the JECs Trust.**
- **The outcomes of the selected projects will be reported in scientific papers submitted to the Journal of the European Ceramic Society in the first instance.**
- **The successful applicants are invited to present an oral contribution, based on the activities funded by the Trust, at the next Conference of the European Ceramic Society.**

CALL FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE COMPETITION
“FRONTIERS OF RESEARCH”
PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM

Personal Details of the Applicant

Form of Address (e.g. Mrs, Miss, Ms, Mr)

Title (Dr, Mr, etc.)

Surname

First name

Company/Institution

Street or P.O. Box

City

ZIP/Postal Code

Country

Telephone with Area Code

Fax with Area Code

e-mail

Presentation Details

- 1) Title (short: max 15 words)
- 2) Locations (home institution and host institution) for the proposed project
- 3) Professor/supervisors in the Institutions involved (names and reference details)
- 4) Dates for the proposed project (starting date and duration)
- 5) Short summary overview (500 words)
- 6) Description of the project (max 5000 words)
 - State of the art
 - Objectives, beyond the state of the art
 - Experimental procedures
 - Expected results, outcomes
- 7) Benefits and impact of the proposed project
- 8) Names and affiliations of collaborators (within Home and Host Institutions or in other Institutions)
- 9) Time-schedule, Milestones and Gantt chart, including the following:
 - Report/s:
A mid-term report and a final report (in English) must be submitted to the ECS Supervisor of the project, who will send them, along with his own comments, to the J ECS Trust Committee.
The final “official” detailed report has to be prepared within at least two months after the end of the project and sent to the European Ceramic Society Secretariat.

- The planned activity should include:
 - ***The presentation of interim or final outcomes to the Conference of the ECerS***
 - ***The final preparation of at least one manuscript to be submitted to the Journal of the European Ceramic Society***

10) Budget

The budget should justify all planned expenditure (from all sources) over the lifetime of the project:

- *Consumables, in detail*
- *Use of facilities, in the Host Institution or in other Institutions for particular and specific needs.*
- *Travel expenses and accommodation related to the periods of the visits to the Host Institution*
- *Other sources of funding*
- *If applicable: co-funding to the Institutions where the activity is carried out*

The proposal submission must be accompanied by the documents listed under point 5 of the Notice of Competition:

- ✓ A signed copy of the identity document of the Applicant;
- ✓ A CV of the Applicant;
- ✓ A declaration from the Applicant that the project has been designed and written by themselves;
- ✓ A statement issued by Directors of the institutions or Professors/Supervisors involved, declaring the agreement to permit the activities related to the research programme;
- ✓ If applicable, a declaration of interest from an industrial partner;
- ✓ Proof of **ECerS Membership of the Applicant**: Country/date of the first membership, number of membership (if applicable);
- ✓ Proof of **ECerS Membership of the Professors/Supervisors** either by means of ECerS affiliated Societies or as an individual.