

Swiss Quantum Initiative Call for Proposals

Call for proposals to request support for events and conferences in the field of quantum science and technology

December 15, 2023

1. Purpose and scope

¹ The Swiss Quantum Initiative (SQI) has been set up to further strengthen the leading position of Switzerland in the field of quantum research, technology and application.

² As part of the SQI, this Call for Proposals aims at supporting events and conferences with a high relevance for Switzerland in the field of quantum.

³ Proposals to request support for events and conferences concerning the following topic areas are welcome: quantum communication, quantum computation, quantum simulation, quantum sensing and quantum metrology. Events and conferences in connection with the following related fields are also welcome: materials for quantum devices, control hardware, quantum theory, computer sciences.

2. Grant limitations

¹ The minimum amount that may be requested is CHF 3,000. The SQI does not consider Proposals for lower amounts.

² The requested amount of support from the SQI must not exceed 25% of the total costs for the event or conference. Well-justified exceptions to this rule may be considered.

3. Personal and formal requirements

¹ Natural persons are eligible to submit proposals if they meet the general eligibility requirements for the submission of Proposals pursuant to Article 14 of the SQI Funding Regulations.

² There are no set submission deadlines. Applications may be submitted at any time, but no earlier than 18 months before the event or conference and no later than 60 days prior to the event or conference.

4. Proposals and eligible costs

¹ Proposals must be submitted by email (quantum@scnat.ch) and contain the following information in one pdf attachment (maximum 3 pages):

- a. Title of the event or conference;
- b. Date, time and location;
- c. Target audiences and estimated number of participants;
- d. Names of the members of the steering committee (if applicable);
- e. Main themes and goals;
- f. Link to the event website (if applicable, in case of a series of events from a prior event);
- g. Short rationale, why this event or conference is of relevance in the context of the SQLI;
- h. Budget overview in CHF (total costs and high-level plan, no individual contracts or cost items required);
- i. Requested amount of financial support from the SQLI in CHF;
- j. Possibilities for the SQLI or its affiliates to promote the SQLI (if applicable);
- k. Leading house and contact information for the SQLI (name, email and phone number)

² SQLI events and conference grants may be used to cover the following costs:

- a. Rental of facilities;
- b. Audio-visual services and technical assistance on the days of the event or conference;
- c. Costs of meals and refreshments on the days of the event or conference;
- d. Accommodations;
- e. Local transportation.

5. Evaluation process and assessment criteria

¹ Only proposals that meet the requirements according to chapter 3 and 4 above are considered.

² SQLI event and conference proposals are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the SQLI Office.

³ Evaluation is conducted in accordance with the criteria set out in Article 19 of the SQLI Funding Regulations:

- a. Direct relation to the field of quantum science and technology;
- b. Contribution to strengthening Swiss quantum science and technology and their national and international positioning;
- c. Involvement of multiple players in Switzerland and / or internationally; not limited to one research center;
- d. Not a purely commercial event or conference.

6. Decisions

¹ Proposals up to an amount of 20,000 CHF are decided by the SQLI Office and decisions are ratified by the SQC.

² Proposals in excess of 20,000 CHF are decided by the SQC.

³ In order to reach a decision, the SQC may invite applicants to a presentation and discussion of their application.

⁴ All applicants will be informed about the outcome of the decision.

⁵ The ruling may be appealed against before the Federal Administrative Court.