EXIST-Transfer of Research

EXIST – University-based Business Startups

What is EXIST-Transfer of Research?
EXIST-Transfer of Research is a nationwide funding programme which aims to boost the number of particularly sophisticated technology-oriented spin-offs from higher education institutions and non-university research establishments. EXIST-Transfer of Research complements the broadbased EXIST Business Startup Grant with a specific measure for research-based startups whose projects depend on development work that requires a great deal of resources and comes with substantial risks.

Who can receive funding?

Funding phase I
- Research teams at higher education institutions and research establishments (up to three scientists, of whom one can be a technician and laboratory assistant)
- Startup teams at higher education institutions or research establishments (maximum of four full-time equivalents), of whom at least one person has business skills

Applications for funding phase I take place via the respective higher education institution or non-university research establishment where the research teams are based.

Funding phase II
- Technology-oriented firms founded during or as the result of funding phase I

Applications for funding phase II are made by the company (being) founded during funding phase I.

What is funded?

Funding phase I
- Particularly technically sophisticated startup projects with long development periods to demonstrate the innovation
- The drafting of a business plan to realise the business idea and the preparation of the founding of the company

Funding phase II
- Development work to realise the business idea in a marketable product and measures to start business operations

What do we need to do?
- The funding in funding phase I is applied for by the higher education institution or non-university research establishment.
- The team of researchers produces an ideas paper describing the innovative product idea and the developmental path up to the demonstration of technical feasibility and the commercial implementation concept.

- A mentor from the higher education institution or research establishment must be nominated and look after the project.
- Evidence of support from a startup network must be provided.

How does the funding work?
The funding is normally provided for 18 months in both funding phases. In the case of highly innovative projects, phase I can be extended to up to 36 months.

Funding phase I
- Staff costs
- Material expenses of up to €250,000 for objects of utility, capital goods, consumable materials, protected proprietary rights, tender awards and coaching sessions

Funding phase II
- Staff and material costs up to €180,000, but at most 75% of the project-specific costs.

How can we apply for funding?
Project applications can be submitted at any time; these are collected until 31 March / 31 August / 30 November, and then screened and evaluated. Applications should be sent to Project Management Jülich, which has been entrusted with this work by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action.

Where can we find further information?

www.exist.de

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