

HASLERSTIFTUNG

Call for Project Proposals

Hasler SmartWorld

- Information and Communication Technology for a Better World 2020 -

A research program of the Hasler Foundation open to Swiss universities, universities of applied science and other Swiss non-commercial research institutions.

Deadline for submission of short proposals: Monday, January 3rd, 2011

Start of project funding from September 1st, 2011

More information at

www.haslerfoundation.ch / www.haslerstiftung.ch / www.fondationhasler.ch

Bern, September 2010

Hasler SmartWorld

Background

Information technology provides us with an ever increasing miniaturization of computer technology that comes along with increasing computing power, higher cost-efficiency, larger storage and larger communication bandwidth. At the same time, advances in micro- and nanotechnology result in new sensor devices that allow us to integrate information sensing, processing and communication capabilities into almost all real-world objects.

Such a combination of sensing, actuating, communication and computing towards a large scale distributed information system have a huge impact on people's day-to-day lives and bears the potential of improving the quality of life while making efficient use of natural resources. Well celebrated examples are

- smart buildings including building monitoring, building management and control systems as well as building sensors,
- smart grid technologies including electricity conversion, metering and distribution, energy scavenging
- human health support in an aging society,
- environmental monitoring for health, safety and security,
- smart transportation systems and mobility, and
- interactions in the virtual world for business and pleasure (e.g. social networks).

A widespread use of billions of these devices that interact with us and our environment will lead to long-term consequences and will transform our society.

Goals of the Research Program

The Hasler SmartWorld program will support research projects providing innovative applications and foundations that enable the transition from these fascinating possibilities to information technology systems that improve our living conditions.

The envisioned complex network of systems will not be able to fulfill its true potential unless we increase our fundamental understanding of, e.g.,

- modeling and understanding relationships among interacting networks that link objects as well as humans,
- effectively constructing reliable software for large scale distributed systems,
- designing systems that are predictable and dependable including the engineering of usage-driven demonstrators,
- processing a massive amount of data from many possibly unreliable sources.

Therefore, advances in information and communication technology as well as in computer science should be in the center of all research projects in the Hasler SmartWorld research program.

Potential Applicants and Project Partners

We solicit project proposals from professors or senior researchers from Swiss universities (including institutions of the ETH domain) and universities of applied science. Joint proposals of two or more partners are welcome. Industrial participation to the proposed project is appreciated, but industrial partners have to cover their own expenses.

Proposals will be evaluated according to their scientific quality and their strategic importance to the overall program's objectives. These criteria being equal, we will give preference to project proposals where:

- The proposal shows close cooperation among research groups from universities of applied science and universities/ETH institutions or close cooperation between universities of applied science.
- The proposal supports the start-up phase of a scientist at a university, e.g. a newly appointed senior researcher or professor.

Funding Rules

Hasler Foundation applies the usual financing rules of Swiss research funding organizations but does not cover overhead expenses. The foundation expects that additional project financing will be provided from the participating institutions' own resources or other sources.

Proposals should be set up for a funding duration of at most 3 years. After 2.5 years, there will be an evaluation as part of a Hasler SmartWorld Workshop. At this time, there is the possibility to apply for a prolongation of the funding for at most one additional year.

Submission and Evaluation Procedure

All documents are to be submitted in electronic form to contact@haslerstiftung.ch. Hasler Foundation will provide the corresponding project forms on its website by November 1st, 2010.

1. Submission of short proposals: January 3rd, 2011
2. Evaluation of short proposals: Decision on acceptance of short proposals and invitation to a hearing by March 3rd, 2011
3. Hearings for invited projects: March 22nd and 23rd, 2011
4. Decision on invited projects to submit a full proposal: March 25th, 2011
5. Submission deadline for full proposals: May 16th, 2011
6. Final decision on acceptance of projects: August 31st, 2011
7. Start of project funding from September 1st, 2011

The following criteria will guide the evaluation of projects: contribution to the international state of the art in the field; expected impact; potential to improve Switzerland's position in ICT (in academia or industry); originality of the research questions and approach; adequacy of the methodology; track record of the applicants in the area of the proposal; feasibility, organization and financial planning of the proposal.

Structure of Short Proposal

The short proposal should be written in English and should contain the following three sections:

1. Administrative data (1 page):
 - Title
 - Planned duration of the project
 - Expected amount of funding from Hasler Foundation
 - Indication of own contributions (funded by home institutions or third parties)
 - Full address of the project leader
 - List of other project partners (if any)
2. Outline of the project (max. 2 pages)
3. Short CV of the project leader including a list of most relevant publications, last 5 years

Contact

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