

15/02/2023

## 2022-2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### **SUBSIDIZING SHIPTIME AND OPERATIONS OF MARINE INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT FOR DEEP SEA RESEARCH**

**(For infrastructure purchased within the framework of The Mediterranean  
Sea Research Center of Israel –MERCi)**

## **DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION 04/19/2023 AT MIDNIGHT**

The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel (hereafter “the Center”), aims to advance Israeli-based marine research in the Mediterranean Sea by supporting research time at sea (ship days) and enhancing accessibility of the required marine-based research infrastructures.

The purpose of the support [granted by the Council for Higher Education [CHE] via the Planning and Budgeting Committee [PBC] is to subsidize the large costs incurred for performing research at sea by providing resources for ship time and the operation and utilization of marine-based equipment and infrastructures. The support is available for Israeli researchers within the framework of the MERCi partnership. It should be emphasized that the support of CHE is intended for personal support of the researchers and is not intended for the institutions that are members of the Center.

**The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel hereby appeals to marine scientists from the PARTNER INSTITUTES OF MERCi to submit applications for participation in the funding of marine research activities, using the existing marine infrastructures in the Center. These infrastructures include for example (but are not limited to) underwater autonomous and remotely operated vehicles, gliders, monitoring stations, and marine observation buoys operated within the framework of the Center.**

### Conditions of Participation

1. Each proposal will be submitted by a group of researchers from at least three partner institutions in the Center. The group of researchers must choose the leading institution for the purpose of submitting the application ("the leading institution").
2. The proposal will focus on actual marine research activity in the Mediterranean Sea.
3. The funding to be provided will cover the costs of renting the Center's marine infrastructure, ship time costs to suitable vessels that enable the use of the requested equipment and other necessary costs related to the use of the equipment.
4. According to CHE guidelines, the funding will cover up to 80% of the equipment and ship time usage rates, and the researchers must complete the rest of the costs from their own sources.



5. The financed marine activity must be carried out in practice within one year of receiving the financing. Preference will be given to activities that are planned to be carried out within six months of the announcement of receiving the grant.
6. Priority will be given to researchers with defined research and funding plans to maximize the scientific potential of the requested marine activity.

The proposals will be examined by a review panel that will be comprised of members of MERCI'S Board of Directors, its Scientific Committee, and aided by external reviewers appointed as necessary.

**The financial support will be provided after the actual performance of the maritime activity and against the submission of a financial report signed by an authorized signatory of the leading institution. The receipt of financing is subject to administrative and budgetary approval in advance, to the income tax regulations, and to the CHE guidelines.**

To the extent that the funded activity results in scientific and other publications, credit will be given to the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel according to a formula that will be coordinated with the Center, and its name will be mentioned in any media publication (including social media). The Center will be allowed to publish information about the research, in advance coordination with the winning researchers, on its website and other media platforms.

**Applications must be submitted in English by e-mail to [merci@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:merci@univ.haifa.ac.il) by 04/19/2023 at midnight. Offers submitted after this date will not be accepted.**

The Center retains the right at any time, at its sole discretion and for any reason, to act as follows - to stop or cancel the tender and/or to change one of its conditions, including changing the conditions of participation and/or changing the deadline for submission and/or the amount of funding, and each participant waives any claim in respect thereto.

Applications must include:

1. The application form (Appendix No. 1) is signed by the authorized signatory of the leading institution.
2. An opening page stating the title of the study, the details of the principle researchers, the amount requested from the Center and the total amount to cover the requested marine activity.
3. A document describing: 1) the goals of the research; 2) the scientific and/or practical significance of the research; 3) the participants in the research; 4) the overall research plan and the marine activity for which the funding is requested. The document will include a summary of up to half a page, a detailed document of up to 2 pages of text. In addition, a list of introductions to the research plan and up to two pages of relevant illustrations can be included.

4. A detailed schedule for the requested marine activity.
  5. Budget breakdown for the requested activity, including breakdown of the researchers' participation and indication of additional sources for funding the continuation of the research following the marine activity.
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**Application form for participation in the support of deep-sea research by subsidizing ship time and use of heavy marine infrastructure purchased within the framework of The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel – 2022-2023**

The use of the equipment will be conducted in accordance with the "Procedure for the use of equipment and joint research infrastructures of The Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel as submitted to CHE (hereinafter - "Procedure for the use of the Center's infrastructures")

**Part I: Application for financing the operation of maritime infrastructures**

**Name of the leading applicant institution:** \_\_\_\_\_

**The requested marine infrastructure/equipment:**

The name of the equipment: \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment usage fees (reduced for partner institutions): \_\_\_\_\_ NIS

for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ days

Total estimated cost of user fees for the proposed activity \_\_\_\_\_ NIS

The financing requested as part of the calling voice (up to 80% of the usage rate):  
\_\_\_\_\_ NIS

The funding that the institution allocates for the use of the equipment (from its sources or other sources): \_\_\_\_\_ NIS

Name of the requesting lead researcher: \_\_\_\_\_

The names of the co-researchers: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II: Application for financial support of research ship time**

The requested duration of the deployment (ship time necessary): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated deployment date from: \_\_\_\_\_ to: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of the ship: \_\_\_\_\_

Sailing area: \_\_\_\_\_

The sailing budget requested from the Center: \_\_\_\_\_ NIS

Name of the principal researcher requesting the use of the equipment: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Part III: The institution's obligation

1. In case the application for participation in maritime financing and/or the operation of heavy marine infrastructure purchased within the framework of the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel ("the requested activity") is approved, the requesting institution declares and undertakes, as follows: The requesting institution will insure at its own expense all aspects of the requested activity, including equipment insurance, The students and researchers as well as any other matter expected during the requested activity.
2. The requesting institution will bear at its own expense all the expenses associated with the requested activity and the arrangements required for its realization.
3. The use of the equipment, which the institution wishes to operate, will be done in accordance with the procedure for using the Center's infrastructure, as it will be in effect from time to time.
4. The requesting institution undertakes to submit a final financial report signed by the institution's authorized signatory on the actual expenses of sea days and/or use of equipment purchased as part of the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel.
5. The requesting institution is solely responsible for the requested activity in all its aspects and related to it, including any liability, damage or expense related to it. The requesting institution releases the University of Haifa and the Mediterranean Sea Research Center of Israel from any liability in connection with the requested activity and undertakes to indemnify one of them, or both, immediately for any financial expenses incurred by them due to or in connection with the requested activity.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signatory's Signature

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_