

29 October 2015  
AZ: 574694080302

**2015/16 CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
for Minerva Centers**

in relation to the following topic:

**"Energy sustainability"**

The topic can be approached from different aspects, such as

**technology,  
environmental studies,  
natural sciences,  
lifesciences,  
political sciences,  
sociology,  
philosophical and empirical studies of the ethical aspects,  
economy.**

**Deadline 1<sup>st</sup> stage: 15 February 2016**

**Eligibility: Principal Investigators in a permanent position in the six universities and the Weizmann Institute<sup>1</sup>.**

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<sup>1</sup> Bar Ilan University, Ben Gurion University, Haifa University, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv University, Technion TIIT, Weizmann Institute of Science

The Minerva Foundation is collecting proposals for new **Minerva Centers**. It is intended to establish up to two Minerva Centers in 2016/2017.

## **I. What is a Minerva Center?**

Minerva Centers are research groups located in the universities in Israel. They are under the directorship of a Principal Investigator, who has a permanent position in one of the six universities or the Weizmann Institute in Israel. Minerva Centers deal with topics that are innovative and of special interest to the science community in Israel. The centers carry out research in cooperation with German partners. The Minerva Centers program aims at **bridging gaps, training young scientists and building networks** in the respective field of research with partners in Israel. Centers will involve excellent researchers regardless of their institutional affiliation.

A Minerva Center is designed as a **long-term effort** of a number of scientists to concentrate on a certain field of research. A center may also involve scientists from other than the host university, such as to create an inter-university community in the field. A Minerva Center is **not a project** which could be funded by a grant or the university. A Minerva Center ideally is devoted to an emerging research field which is not yet well established in Israel and which does not yet attract grants and donations.

Requirements apply to the director of a center with regard to his/her scientific track record and experience in leading projects. The director will be an outstanding, experienced research figure and is responsible for bringing together the critical mass for the subject.

## **II. Funding Objectives**

Minerva is seeking exciting topics for new centers which can be **interdisciplinary** in their approach. Proposals addressing the broad topic of "Energy sustainability" are welcome from all areas of science.

## **III. Two-stage Proposal Procedure**

This call for proposals is the first part of a two-stage procedure for collecting applications for new Minerva Centers.

### **1<sup>st</sup> stage: Invitation of thematic proposals.**

In the first stage of the proposal procedure, researchers submit outlines of exciting/promising new topics that are suitable for being best elaborated by a center. The first stage is intended to be a collection of promising ideas. A proposal can be submitted by a scientist who applies to lead a Minerva Center; a proposal can also be submitted by a scientist who proposes another scientist as a director of a center. The proposals must

include the names, the CVs and a list of not more than five publications of the potential PIs.

Thematic proposals are to be sent to Minerva. The PIs are encouraged to inform their host university about the proposals and the university is free to comment on them before submission. The Minerva Centers Committee will then carry out a pre-selection of the proposals.

**2<sup>nd</sup> stage:** Those PIs/leading scientists who passed the first stage are invited to present a more elaborated and detailed proposal. The proposal must have the support of the host university, which it states in a letter of commitment. These applications will be submitted to evaluations by at least three external reviewers each. A number of PIs will then be invited for a personal presentation and a discussion with the evaluation panel (the Centers Committee and additional scientists).

#### **IV. Funding Duration of the Center**

The lifetime of a center is limited to an initial period of six years. After an evaluation during the 6<sup>th</sup> year, the lifetime of a center can be extended for another period depending on the recommendations of the evaluation committee. This period will not exceed another six years.

#### **V. Budget of the Center**

The center will be funded by Minerva. Minerva funds will be matched with the same amount by the host institution, partially contributed in kind. Both amounts will make up the budget of the center. The budget will comprise a sum of up to € 150,000 per year.

#### **VI. Eligibility Requirements**

Principal Investigators, who are in a permanent position in one of the five universities and the Weizmann Institute, are invited to submit proposals.

#### **VII. Submission and Deadlines**

Proposals for the **1<sup>st</sup> stage** must reach the MINERVA office **by 15 February 2016**. Proposals must be submitted electronically and as one print copy by the Principle Investigator to:

MINERVA Stiftung Gesellschaft für die Forschung mbH  
Postbox 101062  
D-80084 München  
Federal Republic of Germany  
email: [michael.nagel@gv.mpg.de](mailto:michael.nagel@gv.mpg.de)

Intended further procedures are:

- Evaluation deadline 1<sup>st</sup> step: **end March 2016**

**2<sup>nd</sup> step:**

- invitation of complete applications with a deadline: **mid of June 2016**

- decision on the 2<sup>nd</sup> step proposals: **end of October 2016**

- Interviews in Israel: **November/December 2016 in Israel**

### **VIII. Documents to be Submitted**

The following information are obligatory parts of the thematic proposal in the 1<sup>st</sup> stage<sup>2</sup>:

- The signed proposal (outline). This proposal shall include a summary and an outline of the research and must **not exceed 2-3 pages**.
- The proposal should be fully comprehensible **without reference** to cited or enclosed literature.
- A short CV of the proposed director and, if necessary, CVs of other PIs as addendum. (A CV must not exceed one page each).
- A list of not more than 5 important publications per PI is required as addendum.

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<sup>2</sup> To be noted: applications that don not adhere to these rules - f.i. exceed the number of pages - are not eligible