

MIRMI Seed Funds: Round 4 for research proposals

Supported projects

The MIRMI Seed-Funds aim to stimulate new collaborations within MIRMI by supporting collaborative projects in the field of robotics and machine intelligence. The funds intend to support the kick-start of projects in an installment / starting / pre-proposal stage. Supported projects are expected to result in composing first joint publications, acquiring external funding, or getting into a MIRMI proposal writing phase. Applications for subsequent seed funds are possible.

Funding

Successful projects will receive funds for up to two (post)doctoral researchers (E13 50%) for up to six months duration. The funded (post)doctoral researchers should ideally already have an employment contract (up to E13 100%) with TUM via the individual chairs / groups at the start of the project in order to ensure fast execution. MIRMI will cover their funding for the duration of the funding period. Currently, the plan is to support up to 4 projects every 6 months.

Requirements

- Proposals must comprise at least 2 MIRMI members. Cooperation with other TUM PIs (TUM professors or TUM Junior fellows) and international collaborators is possible, if it is in the interest of MIRMI (e.g. to start a new cooperation, new MIRMI Members, etc.).
- Individual PIs can only participate in one proposal per round.
- Members of the MIRMI Board of Directors are not eligible.
- We strive for fast decisions. The outcome of the proposal evaluation by the external Scientific Advisory Board will be communicated within 6 weeks after the submission deadline. Projects are supposed to start immediately after this.
- **A short written report about the outcomes of the project has to be provided three months after the MIRMI funding has run out, at the latest. In addition, the team must produce a visible output (including the MIRMI affiliation) in the form of e.g. a poster, a video, or ideally a publication or a proposal for external funding.**
- To monitor the long term success of the program, one year after the funding has ended, a further short update on the outcomes will be requested by MIRMI.
- The funded personnel are encouraged to participate in other MIRMI activities and shall present their project outcomes in MIRMI events (e.g., internal conferences or meetings).

Proposal structure

Proposals must not exceed a total length of two pages (plus an optional, third page, of figures including captions and references). They must be written in Arial font, 11pt, with a line spacing of 1.0. Pages must have borders of 2cm. The proposal must exhibit the following outline:

1. Title (and acronym)
2. Research team (with team member name, affiliation, email and web page):
 - a. PIs,
 - b. personnel, who are to be funded (including funding duration and details of current employment contract: employer, level and “Stufe”),
 - c. plus other collaborators
3. Abstract (max. 250 words)
4. Project description (including state-of-the-art, goals, idea, ...)
5. Fit to MIRMI
6. Future perspectives (description of the work continuing the seed phase)
7. References (max 10)

Please note: Proposals not adhering to these formal criteria will be excluded from the evaluation process. In case of upcoming questions feel free to contact Elisabeth Dieterle (mailto:Elisabeth.dieterle@tum.de) beforehand.

Reviewing process

All proposals will be peer-reviewed by the independent Science Advisory Board (SAB) of MIRMI. In their evaluation, they will consider the following aspects:

- Originality (new, creative, explorative, unconventional new ideas are especially encouraged)
- Subsidiarity (the proposal is not financed by other sources)
- Impact (in society and/ or the fields of robotics and machine intelligence)
- Feasibility in the given time and budget.

MIRMI will confirm the receipt of the proposals within one week after the closing of the call. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the reviewing process (including statements and the ranking of all proposals by the SAB).

Public relations

Funded projects will be displayed on websites (e.g. www.mirmi.tum.de; www.tum.de), social media platforms (e.g. MIRMI/TUM), print publications (e.g. brochures or booklets), and other marketing purposes (e.g. printed invitation for visitors/auditors, posters for the Summit and event, postcards). Funded projects shall give credit to MIRMI in all their scientific activities (including acknowledgments in publications, conference contributions, etc.).

Disclaimer

All funds are administered through MIRMI and granted upon request and availability of funds. MIRMI reserves the right to alter funding schemes at any time.

Timeline

- **Deadline for proposal submission - Round 4: Friday, March 1st, 2024**
- Funding duration: 6 months maximum
- Applicants will receive an answer no later than 6 weeks after the closing of this call.

Projects are supposed to start immediately after this.

Contact

Proposals must be sent in one pdf-file to: community@mirmi.tum.de with the subject “application to MIRMI Seed Funds”.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Elisabeth Dieterle

Officer Research

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