

MIRMI Seed Funds - Call for Research Proposals

Round 5: Submission by February 21st

Supported projects

The MIRMI Seed-Funds aim to stimulate new collaborations of our members 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. Any variation to the offered funding scheme has to be confirmed by MIRMI. 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. Rebooking documents/procedures have to be shared beforehand and confirmed by MIRMI.

Currently, the plan is to support up to 4 projects per call.

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.).
- Members of the MIRMI Board of Directors are not eligible.
- We strive for fast decisions. We will communicate the outcome of the proposal evaluation once the review process is finished. 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 research activities
6. Future perspectives (description of the work continuing the seed phase)
7. References (max 10)

Please note: Proposals not adhering to these formal criteria might be excluded from the evaluation process. In case of questions feel free to contact [Elisabeth Dieterle](#) beforehand.

Review 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)
- **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 proposal within one week after the closing of the call. All applicants will be notified of the outcome (SAB statement) of the review for their proposal.

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), and other marketing purposes (e.g. printed invitation for visitors/auditors or posters). Funded projects shall give credit to MIRMI in all their scientific activities (including acknowledgments in publications, 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 5: February, 21st
- Funding duration: 6 months maximum
- Projects are supposed to start immediately once funding is communicated

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

MIRMI - Munich Institute of Robotics and Machine Intelligence, Technische Universität München

Georg-Brauchle-Ring 60-62

80992 München

Tel: +49 89 289 - 29408

Email: elisabeth.dieterle@tum.de