



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES BY THE SWISS NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Bernd Gotsmann and Stephan Cludius-Brandt

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Bernd Gotsmann and Stephan Cludius-Brandt a brief introduction

- **Bernd Gotsmann (IBM Research)**

- Member of the Swiss National Research Council
- President Division 2 (MINT) of the SNSF
Member of the presiding board
- Project funding – panel chair, panel member
- FLARE – panel chair
- Quantum calls – president SteCo
- MARVIS – president SteCo
- Bridge – member SteCo
- Spark - member sounding board
- Requip – panel chair, panel member

- **Stephan Cludius-Brandt (SNSF)**

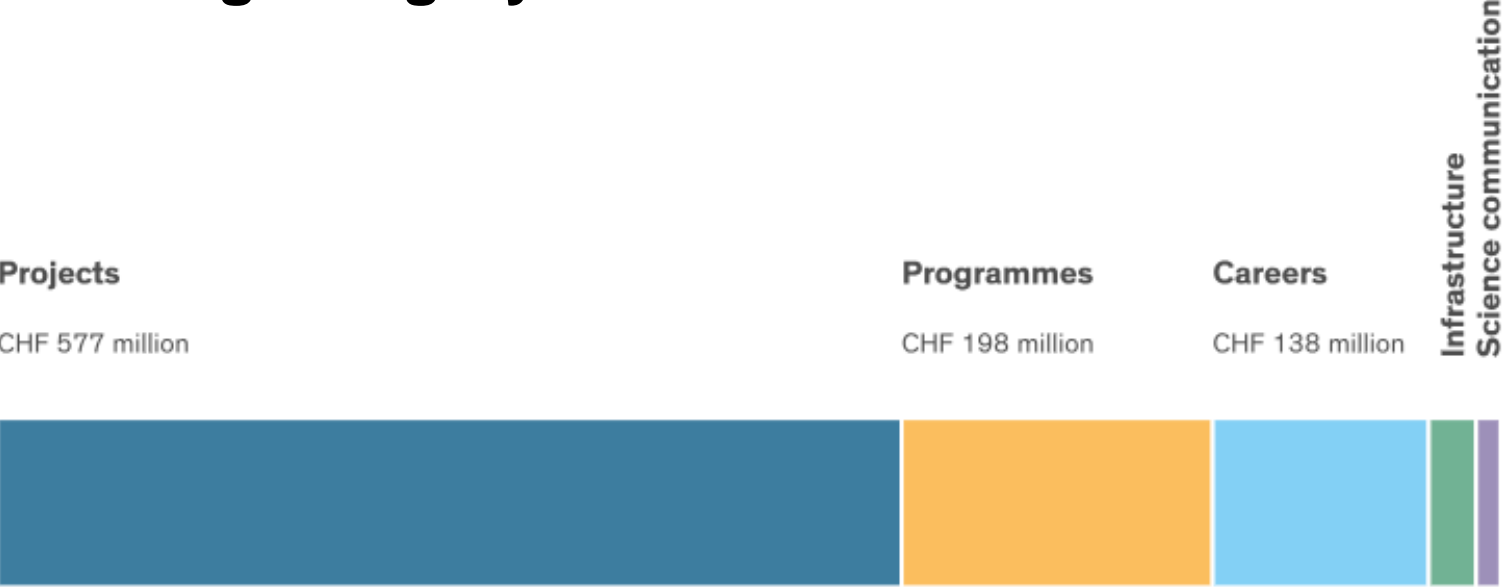
- Scientific officer at the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF)
- Head of Projects MINT of the SNSF
- Project funding – panel office chair
- Organization and implementation of calls (project funding, FLARE, MARVIS, Quantum)

Agenda

- Very short overview over funding by the SNSF
- Specific funding instruments
 - Project funding
 - Bridge
 - MARVIS
 - Spark
 - FLARE
 - Swiss Quantum call
- The SNSF is looking for new members of the National Research Council

Disclaimer: We are going to present indicators, news and rough descriptions. Please consult call documents for legally binding information.

Funding category 2023



961

CHF million

2906

Approved applications

Horizon Europe transitional measures'



CHF 235 million

Funding by research area 2023



SNSF funding instruments (not exhaustive)

- **Project funding** (open call all areas, lead agency schemes)
- **FLARE** (Funding Large International Research projects)
- **Marvis** (Space research)
- **Swiss Quantum Call**
- **Spark** (Rapid funding of unconventional ideas)
- **Bridge** (between basic science and innovation)
- Careers (Ambizione, Swiss Postdoctoral Fellowships, Postdoc.Mobility, ERC-related calls ...)
- Spirit (Intl collaboration with developing countries)
- SOR4D (Solution oriented research for development)
- COST (European networks), bilateral calls, ...
- National Research Programmes (NRPs)
- National Centers of Competence in Research (NCCRs)
- Agora
- ...

Project Funding

Aim:

With its project funding scheme, the Swiss National Science Foundation enables researchers to independently conduct research projects with topics and goals of their own choice.

Eligibility:

- Single or multiple applicants
- 3 or more applicants – one can be from abroad
- Up to 3 grants from project funding -at least one of these grants is a Lead Agency/Weave, International Co-Investigator Scheme or EU Consortium project

Deadline:

01.10.2024

Funding:

FR around 35%

Evaluation:

Reviews / Panel

Budget constraints:

- Minimum funding: 100 kCHF per project
- maximum funding per project is limited to 250 kCHF per year and applicant

Project Funding

Key Changes

- **Integration of Sinergia** into project funding
- **Evaluation:** Interdisciplinary projects are assessed by a separate evaluation panel
- **Concurrent funding:** Researchers can now hold up to three grants from project funding
- **Amount of funding for a project:** Max. 250 kCHF per year and applicant (max 4 MCHF over 4 years)
- **Applicants outside of Switzerland:** In collaborative projects with three or more applicants possible
- **Coordination costs:** If three or more applicants are involved coordination costs are eligible

Bridge - Discovery

Aim:

joint programme of SNSF and Innosuisse; funding at interface of basic research and science-based innovation; aimed at experienced researchers; explore and realise innovation potential of research results

Eligibility:

- Single or multiple applicants (max 3)
- Grants do not count as regular project funding grant

Deadline:

Next call February 2025

Funding:

SR around 20%

Evaluation:

2-step procedure; Reviews / Panel / Interviews

Budget constraints:

- Applicants from UAS or CSEM may apply for a complement of their own salary
- Infrastructure costs ≥ 100 kCHF if institution covers at least 50% of the costs
- Max 850 kCHF for 4 years per applicant

Bridge – Proof of Concept

Aim:

joint programme of SNSF and Innosuisse; funding at interface of basic research and science-based innovation; aimed at young researchers; develop an application based on their research results

Eligibility

- Single applicants
- Young researchers (Bachelor/Master; late PhDs/early PDs)

Deadline: 02.12.2024

Funding: SR around 25%

Evaluation: 2-step procedure; Reviews / Panel / Interviews

– **Budget constraints:**

- 12 months project
- Applicants' own salary up to 130 kCHF/year

MARVIS (Multidisciplinary Applied Research Ventures in Space)

Aim:

Swiss Federal Council funding programme in the field of space research, promote the development of core competencies in space research, strengthen Switzerland's position in future-oriented areas of research and innovation, focus on: contribution of space travel to a sustainable future, ensuring a rapid response in emergency situations, protecting space assets

Eligibility:

- Single and multiple applicants

Deadline: 16.12.2024

Funding: Annual budget of 3.5 MCHF (call every 2-4 years)

Evaluation: 2-step procedure

Budget constraints:

- Duration of 1–7 years (initially a maximum of 4 years is funded, extensions possible)
- 800 kCHF on average/year
- In kind contributions must be provided by MARVIS consortium (at least 100% of amount granted)

[MARVIS Website](#)

Contact marvis@snf.ch

MARVIS (Multidisciplinary Applied Research Ventures in Space)

Evaluation procedure

- Step 1: scientific-technical quality of the project (SNSF)
 - Evaluation based on the project outline: research plan, CVs, supplementary documents.
 - Remote evaluation: At least three independent reviews, one of them is from an expert from the ESA in the domains of industrial policy and technology
- Step 2: evaluation of the project according to the space, research and innovation policy (SERI)

FLARE (Funding Large International Research projects)

Aim:

facilitating the development, construction, maintenance and operation of instrumentation for major international experiments in particle physics, ground-based astrophysics and astroparticle physics

Eligibility:

- Single or multiple applicants
- Per experiment only one submission

Deadline:

15.11.2024

Funding:

46.3 MCHF currently allocated for 2025-28, 2 calls

Evaluation:

Reviews / Panel / Interviews

Budget constraints:

- Hardware
- Common funds
- Travel costs
- Salaries for technical work (not scientific)

[FLARE Website](#)

Contact flare@snf.ch

FLARE (Funding Large International Research projects)

New features in funding period 2025-2028

– Condition:

This requirement has been removed: FLARE proposals must be scientifically directly related to one or more SNSF grants or it must be demonstrated that the underlying activities are funded through other sources.

– Eligible costs:

Applicants can now request part of the salaries for scientific personnel, as described in the call document, if the corresponding tasks are of a technical nature and essential to the FLARE project.

FLARE (Funding Large International Research projects)

Challenges of this instrument:

- Coordination with Institutions, sometimes not optimal
- Long term character versus funded project durations is difficult to evaluate
- Separation of scientific and technical work => changed the regulations
- No unified way of measuring support from host institutions
- Not trivial to use it for new research directions

Recommendation:

- Prepare the presentations to be in time (!) and to address funding criteria

Swiss Quantum call

Aim:

strengthening Swiss Quantum research

Topics:

- Quantum communication
- Quantum computation
- Quantum simulation
- Quantum sensing
- Quantum metrology

Eligibility:

- Single or multiple applicants
- Grants do not count as regular project funding grant
- Special provisions for early career researchers

Deadline: next call expected for 2026

Funding: total of 16 MCHF (for call 2024); uncertain for next call

Evaluation: Reviews / Panel

Budget constraints:

- Min 100 kCHF; max 1 MCHF per annum/project on average; max 250 kCHF per annum/per applicant on average
- equipment up to 300 kCHF

[SWISS Quantum call Website](#)

Contact quantum@snf.ch

Swiss Quantum call

Noteworthy aspects

- Special provisions for early-career applicants
- Flexible budgeting
- Does not count towards the limit of max 3 SNSF funded projects

Challenges of the call (B.G.'s personal opinion)

- non-ideal coordination of stakeholders and interests
- Not (yet) too well positioned to benefit innovation and technology

Spark

Aim:

rapid testing or development of new scientific approaches, methods, theories, standards, ideas for application; projects that show unconventional thinking and introduce a unique approach

Eligibility:

- Single applicants
- PhD or three years of research experience as main source of income
- employment positions of less than 50% are permissible

Deadline:

next call 2025

Funding:

ongoing call: 10 MCHF, 552 proposals

Evaluation:

Double-blind evaluation

Budget constraints:

- Duration 6-12 months, 24 months if scientifically justified
- Grants max. 100 kCHF
- Salary of applicant fundable

Spark

Evaluation procedure

- Double-blind evaluation
- Independent evaluation by two experts
- No evaluation meeting to discuss the proposal
- Funding priorities based on the two assessments

Evaluation criteria

- Novelty / unconventionality of the proposed research project
- Scientific quality of the project
- Potential for significant impact

Call for applications for new members of the Research Council (apply by Sept 30th)

Programme Committee Thematic and Solution-Oriented Research

- The committee oversees: National Research Programmes (NRP), SOR4D, Implementation Networks, Agora, Quantum, Investigator initiated clinical trials (IICT) and BRIDGE
- 20% FTE includes evaluation panels
- Profile: Physics with broad knowledge of quantum technologies such as quantum computing, quantum sensing, and quantum applications, and preferably with industry experience

Programme Committee Careers

- The Programme Committee Careers is responsible for career funding
- 20% FTE includes evaluation panels
- Profile: Physics

Policy Committee

- The Policy Committee helps identify and evaluate gaps and areas for improvement for research and research funding
- 20% FTE includes evaluation panels

See www.snf.ch for more information



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