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**2017 Call for proposals**

**“New Team”**





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I. SPECIFICATIONS

* 1. Background to call for proposals

The Bioregate cluster brings together players in the Pays de la Loire region from the Research/Training/Innovation triangle in the field of restorative and regenerative medicine (approximately 300 people). Its vocation is to strengthen the sector competitiveness and gain an international renown.

Thus the Bioregate cluster in its initial implementation phase of five years, formally gathers universities, national research institutions, university hospitals and a business innovation center involved in this thematic area in the Pays de la Loire Region (INSERM, IFREMER, INRA, Oniris, Universities of Nantes, Angers and Le Mans, University Hospitals (CHUs) of Nantes and Angers and Atlanpole Biotherapies ) with the local authorities.

Launched in November 2015, primarily through financial backing from the Pays de la Loire Region, Bioregate opens its second and final call named "New Team" dedicated to national high level scientist attractiveness.

Regarding this 2017 call for proposals, Bioregate will fund at most one “New Team” proposal, with a funding envelope to the maximum sum of €175 k. Ideally, the project is to be completed before 11th November 2020.

NB: Members of Bioregate are not permitted to submit "New Team" proposals to the Pays de la Loire Region, as it is replaced by the current Bioregate call for proposals. However, they are eligible to submit proposals to the Pays de la Loire Region call for proposals named “Connect Talent”(funding tool for international high level scientist attractiveness ) as well as others.

* 1. Objectives of call

The aim is to help the setting up of a team working in scientific field of significant potential, developed by a high-level researcher. In particular, the researcher will resource, renew or, better still, supplement existing expertise in the field of restorative and regenerative medicine in the Pays de la Loire Region.

More specifically, the programme seeks to accompany the arrival of the high-level researcher (“CR” or “DR”), who in the medium term will drive the creation of a new team dedicated to his research thematic. In other words, this “New Team” funding tool vocation is to leverage the arrival and deployment of supplementary competences (researchers, engineers, technicians etc.), where players will organize themselves in the form of a new team. This new team’s research thematic will have previously been deemed key and necessary to the development of its future belonging research organization.

In this respect, the programme cannot be intended to support every newly hired permanent researcher in the Pays de la Loire region.

* 1. Criteria for 2017 call for proposals (eligibility and selection processes)

Several criteria will be reviewed during proposal appraisal:

* The potential beneficiaries include all the research and higher education institutions in the Pays de la Loire Region that have signed the Bioregate partnership agreement (cited on page 3). The laboratories applying for funding under the “New Team” programme must be accredited or assessed by “HCERES”.
* The arrival of the future team leader(s) from outside the Region Pays de la Loire in a regional laboratory must occur within one year after the reply to this present call for proposals. This/these researchers will thereby drive the creation or redeployment of positions of technicians, engineers, teachers, PhD students, post doctoral students etc. (apart from any recourse to Bioregate financing).

NB: Attractiveness operations can not be subsidized a posteriori.

* Strategic nature of the new theme in the regional structuring of restorative and regenerative medicine (synergies of expertise, new skill sets).
* Impact(s) on the host laboratory: restructuring of research lines of investigation, science priorities, revised organizational structure.
* Expected impact on the Bioregate collective in terms of Research, Training/Education, Innovation and global influence (how will this new researcher and his new team integrate, what plans will this person and his team be likely to implement in terms of the Bioregate collective strategy?).
* Commitment of the laboratory’s supervisory establishment to accompany the new team.
* Credibility for long-term sustainability.
* Leverage effect of Bioregate grant for the arrival of the researcher: how does Bioregate grant favour the choice of researcher to integrate a laboratory in the Pays de la Loire region?
* Strategic nature of the concerned position: justification must be supported by strategic documents: five-year plan, laboratory assessment report, opinion of the Scientific Council of the supervisory establishment, strategic diagnosis from thematic committees (“SRI”, etc.)
* Scientific excellence of applicant.
* Leverage effect of Bioregate grant on more competitive project funding and on job creation.
  1. Terms of payment

- Eligible funding envelope to a maximum sum of 175 k€

- Bioregate contract under way by 01/01/2018 at the latest

- Maximum duration of project: 3 years

- Payments will solely be released to the administrative organization to which the researcher is about to be affiliated in the Pays de la Loire Region and this oraganzination is responsible for collecting all receipts and proof of expenditure.

- Payments will be made in the form of a first instalment of 40% of the amount awarded on signing the agreement/notification of funding, then a 40% payment following a mid-term audit. The balance shall be paid after completion of the project, which is contingent upon a full project audit.

NB: Payment of the first instalment is awarded on condition that the non permanent staff proposed to implement the project have been identified if staffing is planned at the earliest stage of the project. The PI has to deliver a staffing plan (plan for the 3 first years and projected plan for the 5 first years).

- The Principal Investigator on the proposal will draw up a first progress report at mid-term project. In order to do so, he will provide: a scientific report, a balance sheet certified by his accounting officer including an itemised breakdown of costs incurred, a section on recruitment and supplementary obtained or prospective funding. The second Bioregate subsidy payment will only be released after providing evidence of project progress and appropriate use of Bioregate subsidies.

He/She will draw up the same type of report on conclusion of the project and the balance will be paid providing that the project has met its objectives and that the incurred costs are in line with eligibility criteria and planned amounts.

Reminder: mid-term and end of project audits will be reviewed by the Bioregate Executive Committee while project follow-up decisions and associated funding will be reviewed by the Bioregate Operational Committee.

Details on eligible expenses:

Bioregate solely funds operating costs related to the programme outlined in the application file. In addition, salaries of permanent staff and costs linked to infrastructure and heavy equipment are not eligible.

**Administrative organization costs, overhead costs are not eligible** and must not appear in the financial plan. These costs are considered to be a contribution from the establishment receiving the subsidies.

* Consumables
* Small equipments related to the team’s set-up costs (amount less than €20,000)
* Assignment, travel, and accommodation expenses
* Costs incurred by studies, tests, outsourced services which are carried out and billed by external entities
* Costs linked to academic and economic value creation activities
* Salaries/bonuses for non-permanent staff (Master’s, PhD or post-doctoral students, engineers, technicians, assistant engineers etc.)

**NB1: The description of the financing plan will indicate amounts excluding taxes.**

NB2: Costs incurred for academic value creation activities should represent at least 5% of the Bioregate grant. The following are considered as academic value creation activities: the organisation of or involvement in academic conferences, publishing costs, Bioregate joint promotional activities etc.). Promotional activities for the general public are not considered to be academic value creation activities but rather economic.

Costs incurred for economic value creation activities should represent at least 5% of the sum of the Bioregate grant.

NB3: **The Bioregate subsidy cannot represent more than 85% of the total cost of the applicant’s project (envelope excluding taxes).** The project leader is required to indicate his co-financing arrangements: in terms of amounts, sources and he shall further stipulate if the funding has been obtained or is prospective (and so provide the expected reply date).

NB4: Whenever possible, a breakdown of academic and economic value creation costs should be specified in the manuscript.

* 1. Procedure and schedule of the call for proposals

After the Scientific Committee of the hosting organization has reviewed the full case file, it is forwarded either by the President of the University, the director of the establishment or the research organization. The file is accompanied by the reasoned opinion of the aforementioned together. The file also includes that of the hosting laboratory director and signature/statement of commitment of the PI planning to move to Pays de la Loire region. The file is to be e-mailed to [rejane.bihan@univ-nantes.fr](mailto:rejane.bihan@univ-nantes.fr) **by 12.00 midday on the 18/04/2017**.

All supporting documents for the case file are to be submitted in English for the most part (the manuscript, financial appendix, recruitment plan and imperatively the detailed CV of the researcher in charge of the new team; as the project initiator may also provide all the other documents attesting his scientific excellence and his future position in the host laboratory, if these documents are only available in French, it is preferable to have an English summary in the manuscript). The Principal Investigator is invited to copy the English translations of the matrices proposed to include in his application form, which will be freed from parts of the present document “specifications” (§ I.) and assessment criteria (§ III.).

Once the case for funding has been officially submitted, the file is reviewed by the Bioregate Executive Committee members who will assess the request (in accordance with the aforementioned eligibility and selection criteria). The Executive Committee may forward the file to supervising organization heads of the laboratory concerned for their opinion. The file will be submitted to 2 or 3 external reviewers bound by a confidentiality agreement. The Bioregate Executive Committee will issue an initial notice and ranking of the different applications.

Each project applicant and opinions relating to them will be presented to the Bioregate Operational Committee. The project leader, together with their laboratory director or representative from the administrative organization concerned, may be called upon to present their proposal during this operational committee meeting (planned for the second half of June). The operational committee shall deliberate whilst excluding people who are directly or indirectly involved in the project or people who may have a conflict of interests. This operational committee will decide on the final selection of projects. However, should it be unable to come to an agreement, it would prompt further consultation from experts outside Bioregate to come to a decision. In any case, the project leader will be alerted of the decision by electronic means:

- By 5 May 2017 at the latest with regard to eligibility.

- By 30 June 2017 at the latest with regard to selection.

In order to facilitate the processing of applications and then the establishment of the funding agreement/notification between the University of Nantes/Bioregate and the beneficiary establishment, the Principal Investigator on the proposal is required to:

- number the pages

- give his administrative department advance notice of his application and future reply to the “Bioregate New Team” call for proposals, determine which will be the Bioregate grant administrator and specify in the manuscript: the name of this establishment, the name of the person authorised to sign a funding agreement, the name and contact details (e-mail and telephone) of the person in charge of the validation and follow-up of the funding agreement.

- NB: As the “CNRS” organization (National Center for Scientific Research) has not signed the Bioregate partnership agreement, it is not allowed to be the establishment managing the Bioregate grant.

* 1. Commitments of the Principal Investigator on the proposal

1. Transparency

- The Principal Investigator will draw up 2 activity reports: a progress report as a condition of further funding and a final report in which he will also state the follow-up given to the project.

- At the progress report point or at any other moment, the Principal Investigator commits to sharing any potential dysfunction, failure to meet objectives or any change in strategic direction linked to a risk or encountering of a major opportunity which may lead to a change in the initial description of the project (mail addressed to the operational and scientific directors of Bioregate). The project and associated funding may be halted or revised on consultation (either with the stable or adjusted subsidies amounts and/or funding reallocation to another project). The final decision regarding project continuation will be made by the Bioregate Operational Committee.

NB: if a financial penalty should occur due to a given dysfunction, the PhD student wages will be preserved by redirecting work within the team itself with a revised project or into an other team

- The Principal Investigator commits to providing all proof of expenses. Expenditure which is not justified shall not be funded by Bioregate (reimbursement will be demanded in the event of advance payment to the beneficiary, release of further instalments will be withheld in the event of non-compliance with this good management rule)

2. Promotion of Bioregate cluster and associated graphic charter

In general, beneficiaries of Bioregate funding shall actively promote the Bioregate cluster. In particular, they shall cite Bioregate in their documents and official publications, as well as in their press and media releases when dealing with Bioregate funded work. They shall also refer to the Pays de la Loire Region. For this purpose, they use the identity guidelines (Bioregate, REI “Research, Education and Innovation” and Pays de la Loire Region logos).

3. Internal communication

The Principal Investigator on the proposal, having been awarded a Bioregate grant, may be called upon to present the project and give updates on progress during governance meetings, events or general meetings organised by Bioregate. He shall therefore grant this request either in person or by sending a representative from his team.

He may also be asked to provide informations for the Bioregate internet website or any other communication medium.

4. Contribution to the Bioregate collective

The Principal Investigator shall be involved in the development of Bioregate in both the manner and theme of his choice (implementation of new actions, support for planned actions, involvement in governance, etc.).

* 1. Monitoring and assessment of selected proposals

For each project receiving funding, Bioregate requests that the Principal Investigator ensures monitoring and an indicator-based assessment, which are stipulated in the financing agreements.

This follow-up will be carried out in the form of activity reports, one mid-term (before the end of the second year of funding) and the other after the 3 year period. A presentation to the operational committee or Bioregate General Assembly could also be organised at the end of the project.

The audit of the project will be based on the attainment of objectives within the timeframe set by the Principal Investigator and mentioned in the submission file and on the indicators provided by the Principal Investigator or Bioregate Governance that will be indicated in the funding agreement. Following this audit, the operational committee will make its decision regarding further funding or payment.

* 1. Guidelines for application

It is reminded that the application must be provided **in English.** The project leader is invited to copy the manuscript matrix before replying and to use the financial form (excell file). As far as possible, the appended documents shall be provided in English, if not available, the PI will provide a translated summary including major points to be reviewed by external experts.

1. Proposal identification file
   1. including a public abstract in French and English (it will initially be circulated to the external reviewers and the winning project will appear on the Bioregate website)

NB: the abstracts are to be submitted as a Word file **in a document which is separate from the manuscript** re-indicating the Principal Investigator’s name, the host laboratory, and the project acronym at the top of the document

* 1. attesting support from the establishments/supervisory institutes and from the host laboratory the Principal Investigator is about to be integrated with

1. Description of the project

* Scientific and technical description
* Positioning of the new team in the research lab
* Administrative and financial description of the proposed project
* HR deployment plan subject to or not subject to Bioregate funding
* Prospects for stabilizing the new team

1. Stakes and prospects for the Bioregate cluster

Contributions made by the new team to the collective at the start (expertise, technologies, networks) and prospective for contributions to be made to the Bioregate collective aiming at structuring and developing a globally visible cluster and setting up an attractive offering in research-education-innovation

List of documents to be included:

- CV of the researcher being considered for recruitment

- Organisational chart of the host laboratory on reception of the researcher, and forecast of the organisation of the laboratory and team in +3/5 years

- Documents presenting the strategy of the host laboratory and the host supervisory organization (project presented to “AERES”, five-year organization contract etc.)

II. APPLICATION FILE

It is reminded that the application file should be supported by the proposed matrices and be written in English. For this purpose, the Principal Investigator is requested to copy items from § II in English-language version, it is unnecessary to keep the § I. and III; and to fill in the Excell file provided. The writer will number the pages so as to facilitate subsequent exchanges. The summaries are to be sent in Word format document separate from the manuscript, stating at the top the project acronym, the host laboratory and the name of the Principal Investigator.

* 1. Proposal identification file

**Host laboratory**

* Supervisory bodies/ Establishments linked to the host laboratory:
* Name of laboratory:
* Laboratory Director:
* Team integrated by the Principal Investigator on his arrival:

**Principal Investigator**

* Surname and first name of researcher leading the New Team (attach CV) :
* Status:
* Setup date:

**Project**

* Acronym:
* Start date:
* Duration:

**Establishment or supervisory body (1) administrating the Bioregate subsidy**

* Name of the establishment or supervisory body:
* Name/Title of the person authorised to sign a potential funding agreement:
* Name, e-mail, telephone of the person in charge of validating a potential funding agreement and responsible for the agreement follow-up:

(1) This establishment or research organization cannot be the “CNRS” as it has not signed up to the Bioregate partnership agreement.

**Public summary of the project in French** (max 1 page.) **and in English** (max. 1 page.)

If this project is awarded funding this summary may be put online on the Bioregate website and forwarded to external experts. It should include:

**-** Current positioning in the competitive environment

- Aims and objectives of the project

- Expected results

- Methodology

**Visual illustrations are welcome**

Key words associated with the project/abstract (maximum 5)

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| --- | --- |
| French |  |
| English |  |

**Signatures and reasoned opinions from the Principal Investigator, laboratory director and head of the affiliated organization in charge of administrative and financial management of the potential Bioregate grant (minimum half a page for each) (these items are mandatory to the admissibility of the project)**

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| --- |
| **Signature of the project’s scientific coordinator**  *Surname, first name, dated and signed by the project coordinator, with the words “read and*  *approved”* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Signature and reasoned opinion of the head of the laboratory (half a page)**  *Surname, first name, dated and signed by the head of the Principal Investigator’s laboratory,*  *with the words “read and approved”*  **Signature and reasoned opinion of the organization head (half a page)**  *Surname, first name, dated and signed by the head of the Principal Investigator’s organization, with the words “read and approved”* |

* 1. Description of proposal

**Description of the scientific proposal (5-6 pages)**

**Original composition of the team and expected composition at the 3 to 5 year term (1-2 pages)**

**Composition at 3-year term**

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| Position(1) | Quota worked on the submitted proposal | Cost to employer over the contract period | Amount of Bioregate grant requested | Employer | Contract start and expected end dates |
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**Composition at 5-year term**

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| Position (1) | Quota worked on the submitted proposal | Cost to employer over the contract period | Amount of Bioregate grant requested | Employer | Contract start and expected end dates |
| n°1 |  |  |  |  |  |
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(1) Specify whether it is a permanent employee, contract worker or a student and the job level as well as whether it is a job creation or redeployment.

**Position of the new team in the laboratory (1-2 pages)**

*What are the expected effects in terms of the organisation of the laboratory: the new team’s autonomy and interaction with the existing teams, visibility of the thematic area developed by the new team, impact on the durability of the Mixed Research Units (MRUs) etc.*

*In order to highlight the creation of the new team,* ***an organisational chart of the laboratory must be attached to the file for the start of the project t+0 and a forecast for the project t+3/5 term****.*

**Estimated budget for the first 3 years (use the Excell matrix)**

*Justify the amounts requested (1 page).*

*Specify whether the co-fundings have been obtained or whether requests have been made. Specify also for requested funds if replies are pending, alternatively the date of validation. Please also mention the source(s) of co fundings (lab, supervisory research organization or other co-financers such as local authorities, associations, foundations, other call for proposals etc.).*

**What factors will enable you to vouch for the stability of the team? What timeframe are you looking at for this stabilisation to be achieved? Which expected bridging funds are there in order to get to this stage? (1 page)**

* 1. Stakes and impact on the Bioregate Cluster

**How does this theme position itself within the region’s research in restorative and regenerative medicine? (about 1 page)**

**Will this new team be able to integrate new competences or techniques which are currently lacking in the Bioregate Cluster? (Half a page)**

**Which networks will this new team open up (on a national, European, global level)?**

*The main goals of this issue are as follows:*

*- provide new openings to promote Bioregate events, the Bioregate Forum for example (targeting participation) or conversely to bring in speakers as part of these events*

*- become aware of potential targets within these networks (skills attractiveness operations)*

*- provide outreach in the search for partners as part of the setting up of a European project for example*

*- ascertain whether people who have been newly incorporated in the Bioregate network are stakeholders in organisations which may influence or decide on funding on the thematic areas addressed in Bioregate and therefore whether they can provide collective leverage etc.*

**Integration plan for the new team in the development of Bioregate at the 3-year term**

Specify what the contributions of the team members may be with regard to the Bioregate collective project on the following aspects:

* Contribution to the setting up of a Bioregate training/education course offering
* Contribution to stepping up economic value creation?
* Contribution to European/international promotion?
* Contribution to governance bodies or working groups?

***As a reminder, documents to be attached to the application:***

***- CV of the researcher who is under consideration for recruitment***

***- Organisational chart of the host laboratory integrating the researcher at beginning, and forecast of the organisation of the laboratory and the team at t+3/5 year term***

***- Documents presenting the host laboratory’s strategy and the host organization (project presented to “AERES”, supervisory organization 5-year contract etc.)***

* 1. Success criteria for proposal

The final audit carried out by Bioregate will be attentive to:

- The achievement of scientific objectives

- The implementation and/or concrete plan for the economic value creation based on obtained results

- The new team’s contribution to the development of the Bioregate cluster

- The financial leverage effect of the Bioregate grant (submitting and obtaining funding of higher amounts in more competitive call for proposals, involvement of a foreign partner etc.)

- Leverage effect on employment: job creation, professional evolution of Bioregate funded students

Specify your success criteria, in the form of a table for example in order to present the type and the dates of achievements.

* 1. Principal Investigator’s proposals for external reviewing

For the purpose of speeding up the processing of applications and upgrading the data base of experts, the **Principal Investigator of the proposal must put forward at least 5 names of external experts (based outside the Pays de la Loire Region and not members of the Bioregate network)** likely to carry out an assessment of the proposal. These experts may be of national, European, or international origin. The only requirement is that they are able to review the proposal in English.

**These suggested experts must not be people with ongoing collaborations, co-publications or direct competition etc. with the partners of the proposal as it would mean that it is a case of conflict of interest. In this way, the Principal Investigator on the proposal commits to observing this rule. If it comes to light that this pledge has not been honoured, the proposal/project regardless of its progress or implementation in the selection or funding process will be cancelled.**

The Bioregate Executive Committee reserves the right to select experts from among the suggestions submitted to them or from other sources.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Surname – First name | Discipline | Laboratory | Research organization | E-mail | Telephone |
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The Principal Investigator on the proposal may also submit the names of researchers or research teams whom they do not wish to review their proposal:

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| Surname – First name | Discipline | Laboratory | Research organization |
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III. ASSESSMENT FORM

Project title:

Acronym:

Name of scientific coordinator:

Laboratory and establishment of the Principal Investigator on the proposal:

Name of reviewer (to remain confidential from the Principal Investigator on the proposal):

Host establishment/laboratory of the reviewer:

Contact details of the reviewer (e-mail and telephone):

|  |
| --- |
| The overall score is calculated out of 100. Each section is given a score using the following scale (example for a maximum score of 10 points):   * 0 missing, incomplete, or inadequate information * 2 poor * 4 average * 6 good * 8 very good or excellent * 10 exceptional   The reviews < 20 or > 80 must be especially well-argued. |

Quality of the researcher……………………………………………………………………………………/20

Comments:

Quality of the scientific proposal……………………………………………………………..……………/20

Comments:

Quality and credibility of HR deployment…………………………….……………………………………/5

Comments:

Credibility of the new team’s long-term sustainability…………………………………………………../10

Comments:

Potential leverage effect of the Bioregate grant on the attractiveness of new talent and competitive funding………………. /10

Comments:

Contributions of the new team, from start-up, to the Bioregate Cluster……………..…………. /15

Comments:

Prospects for contributions within the Bioregate Cluster………………..…………………………/20

Comments:

General appraisal of the proposal (specific and succinct comments, 5-10 lines):

Score out of 100:

Time spent by rewiever:

Self-assessment of rewiever’s level of expertise on the subject of the proposal submitted for his appraisal (score out of 10):