COST Action 18234: Computational materials sciences for efficient water splitting with nanocrystals from abundant elements

1st Call for STSM
(*Short Term Scientific Missions*)
for missions occurring until March 31th 2020

COST Action 18234: "Computational materials sciences for efficient water splitting with nanocrystals from abundant elements" is under COST, an EU-funded, intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology. COST Actions offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation.

For more information about the Action, please visit the Action's webpage: https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18234/#tabs|Name:overview

COST Action CA18234 invites applications for STSM

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) are institutional visits aimed at supporting individual mobility, fostering collaboration between individuals.

The Short-Term Scientific Missions must be aligned with the general objectives of the COST Action 18234, which targets the understanding, design and fine tuning of material properties for energy conversion processes using computer simulation approaches toward a multi-scale strategy.

Applicants and institution eligibility

STSM applicants must be engaged in an official research programme as a PhD student or postdoctoral fellow, or be employed by, or affiliated to, an institution, organisation or legal entity, which has within its remit a clear association with performing research. Early Career Investigators (ECI)[1] are specifically encouraged.

The institutions / organisation or legal entity where applicants pursue their main strand of research are considered as **Home Institutions**.

The Host Institution is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant. Applicants may identify an eligible institution within these options:

- One of the CA18234 institutions (see Action's webpage: https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA18234/#tabs|Name:overview)

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[1] Early Career Investigator (ECI) - An individual who is within a time span of up to 8 years from the date they obtained their PhD/doctorate (full-time equivalent).

- Another institution located in another Participating COST Full Member/ COST Cooperating Member
- Action MC Observer from IPC (not applicable for this Call)
- Action MC Observer from NNC (not applicable for this Call)
- The EU Commission or an EU Body, Office or Agency
- An Approved European RTD Organisation
- An Approved International Organisation

Eligible STSM applicants must submit their STSM applications online at the following web address: https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm

Duration and financial support

An STSM Grant is a fixed financial contribution which takes into consideration the budget request of the applicant and the outcome of the evaluation of the STSM application. STSM Grants do not necessarily cover all expenses related to undertaking a given mission. A STSM Grant is a contribution to the overall travel, accommodation and meal expenses of the Grantee.

STSM can have a minimum duration of 5 days. This STSM period is until **March 31th 2020**.

The following funding conditions apply:

1. Up to maximum of 160 EUR per day can be afforded for accommodation and meal expenses.
2. Up to a maximum of EUR 300 can be afforded for travel costs.
3. Up to a maximum of EUR 3,500 in total can be afforded to each successful applicant;
4. STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.
5. Specific provisions have been introduced to enable researchers from ITC[2] participating in the COST Action to request a pre-payment of 50% of their STSM Grant when they complete the first day of their STSM. In such case, the representative of the Host Institution must confirm by e-mail to the Grant Holder that the STSM applicant has officially started the mission on day 1. Only then the Grant Holder can arrange the payment of 50% of the STSM

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[2] Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, the North Republic of Macedonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Turkey

grant. The remaining 50% of the Grant is payable once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

How to apply

The applications are to be submitted no later than **January 15th 2020.**

1. All applicants must carefully read the funding rules detailed in the *COST Vademecum Chapter 8 Short Term Scientific Mission* This document is available at: https://www.cost.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Vademecum-May-2019.pdf

2. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at https://e-services.cost.eu/ - adding their bank account details to their profile.

3. All applicants must obtain a letter of invitation from the Host institution confirming that they can undertake the STSM on the given dates prior to submitting an application.

4. All applicants must complete and submit their STSM application online at: https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm.

5. Necessary documents to upload with the application:

   ✓ **CV** (including a list of academic publications – if applicable)
   ✓ **Letter of support** from Home institute
   ✓ **Written agreement from the host institution** that the STSM applicant can perform the activities detailed in the STSM work plan on the agreed dates.

6. All applicants must send the above supporting documents and the STSM filled application to the STSM coordinator Dr Jose Gomes jrgomes@ua.pt with a CC to the Administrative coordinator of the Action Smadar Amir smadaram@technion.ac.il .

7. The applications will be then assessed by the STSM coordinator and the Core Group, against the perceived contribution that the proposed visit will make and against the scientific objectives outlined in the Action Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

   (Please note that COST can request additional information to substantiate the information contained within the documents submitted by STSM applicants).

8. Evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants in two weeks after the application submission deadline.

   COST Action reserves the right for justified reasons to leave the position open, to extend the application period and to consider candidates who have not submitted applications during the application period.

   Scientific Report
   Within 30 days from the end date of the mission, the STSM grantee must submit a scientific report.

   The report must be submitted to:
   - ✓ Host institution,
   - ✓ STSM coordinator: Dr Jose Gomes jrgomes@ua.pt
   - ✓ Action's Vice chair: Prof Michele Pavone mipavone@unina.it
   - ✓ Administrative coordinator: Smadar Amir smadaram@technion.ac.il

   The report must be uploaded to the e-cost together with the host approval of the scientific report.

   Payment of the Grant is subject to a STSM scientific report being submitted within 30 days from the end date of the mission, approved by the STSM coordinator on behalf of the Action MC and by a senior researcher affiliated to the Host Institution.

   STSM grantee will be invited to the Action meeting to present the work done during the mission.

For further details, please contact:

Dr. Jose Gomes, STSM Coordinator jrgomes@ua.pt

Smadar Amir, Administrative Coordinator smadaram@technion.ac.il

Deadline for applications to be submitted: 15.1.20

Notification of application outcome: 1.2.20

Period of STSM: until 31.03.2020