

**8<sup>th</sup> Call for STSM**  
*(Short Term Scientific Missions)*  
**for missions occurring between**  
**November 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 and April 1<sup>st</sup> 2024**

*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://comp-h2o-split.eu>

**COST Action CA18234 invites applications for STSM**

Short-Term Scientific Mission consists in a visit of a host organization located in a different country than the country of affiliation by a Researcher or Innovator for the specific work to be carried out and for a determined period of time.

Short-Term Scientific Missions **benefit the STSM Grantee and the STSM Host. The STSM Grantee** receives funding for implementing a project with an international team and gains new knowledge or access to equipment or techniques not available in the home institution.

The **STSM Host** receives an international partner in their institution and can develop long lasting collaboration.

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** can be individuals affiliated to a legal entity in:

- A COST Full/Cooperating Member
- An European RTD
- A NNC

The legal entity of the applicant (institution/ organisation) is considered as **Home Institutions**.

**The Host Institution** is the institution / organisation that will host the successful applicant. The Host institution can be anywhere in the world

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

## 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 providing a contribution for travelling, accommodation and subsistence expenses, implementation of the project, delivery of the report to the COST Action MC and overall effort.

The maximum amount per STSM grant is up to 4,000€. However, in order to reflect the duration of STSM, CA18234 MC Decision is that STSM Grant sum will be based on this calculation: **200€ per day + 250€ Travelling (for more expensive travel justification is needed)**, up to the maximum allowed of 4,000 €.

Each STSM grant will be evaluated by the Core Group, based on the request of the applicant and should reflect the duration and location of the STSM.

The Grant holder can process advance payment of up to 50% of the grant, if requested by the grantee. The remaining of the Grant is payable once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

## How to apply

STSM activities must occur in their entirety within the dates specified in this call.

The applications for this Call are to be submitted no later than February 29<sup>th</sup> 2024.

You can apply **any time until February 29<sup>th</sup>**. You will receive an answer two weeks after submission.

1. All applicants must register for an e-COST profile at <https://e-services.cost.eu/> - adding their bank account details to their profile.
2. All applicants must complete and submit their STSM application online at: <https://e-services.cost.eu/stsm>. The application should include:
  - Title of STSM

- Start and end date (within the current Grant Period)
- Budget requested by the applicant
- Information about the host institution and contact person

3. Necessary documents to upload with the application:

- ✓ **Application form** (template available on e-COST) describing: Goals, description of the work to be carried out by the applicant, expected outcomes and description of the contribution to the Action MoU objectives;
- ✓ **Confirmation of the host** on the agreement from the host institution in receiving the applicant;
- ✓ **CV** (including a list of academic publications – if applicable)
- ✓ **Letter of support/ recommendation letter** from Home institute

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.

Evaluation results will be communicated to the applicants two weeks after the application is submitted.

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 to the Action MC on the work developed, main achievements of the STSM and planned future follow up activities. The report must be uploaded to the e-cost.

Grants are paid by the Grant Holder Institution after the completion of the activity and approval of all required report/documentation by the STSM coordinator on behalf of the Action MC.

However, STSMs grantees may request up to 50% pre-payment of the approved grant. This amount is subject to availability of funds and approval by the Grant Holder Institution. The request of pre-payment shall be submitted to the Grant Manager.

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

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

<https://comp-h2o-split.eu/>



**Information regarding Covid-19 pandemic**

All applicants must follow public authorities' instructions of the countries where the STSM will take place. It is highly recommended to not engage expenses before a clear view of the situation, both in the outgoing and incoming countries, and without purchasing travel cancellation insurance (General guidance is available at the following link: <https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/about-cost/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-actions/>)

***For further details, please contact:***

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*Smadar Amir, Grant Manager* [smadaram@technion.ac.il](mailto:smadaram@technion.ac.il)

**Deadline for applications to be submitted for this Call: 29.2.24.**

**You can apply any time until February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Notification of application outcome will be sent two weeks after submission.**

**Period of STSM: 1.11.2023 - 1.04.2024**