# 2nd Call for STSM

**(*Short Term Scientific Missions)***
**for missions occurring between**
**April 1st and September 20th, 2025**

*COST IG 18234: Machine learning from computational materials science data for modelling nanocrystal catalysts (**NanoCatML**)* is under COST, an EU-funded, intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology.

This grant follows *COST Action 18234: "Computational materials sciences for efficient water splitting with nanocrystals from abundant elements".*

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 COST IG18234, please visit our COST webpage: https://comp-h2o-split.eu

## COST Innovative Grant: IG18234 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 IG18234, which targets:

- ***Test machine learning algorithms (such as Neural Networks) through selection of a material test case (such as oxides, carbides, MXenes, etc.) with preference to a material of relevance to the industry and selection of a property at a few length scales and define descriptors***
- ***Data collection and selection relative to each scaling method***

## 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

## 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, and following COST IG18234 decision, 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 and if agreed by the Grant Holder financial department. The remaining of the Grant is payable once the administrative requirements have been satisfied after the STSM.

In case STSM participant is invited to attend a COST event while concurrently benefiting from a COST STSM Grant, please contact the Grant Manager to clarify his possibilities for reimbursement claim.

## How to apply

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

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

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 three 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.

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

**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 cancelation 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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**Deadline for applications to be submitted for this Call: 1.08.2025**

**You can apply any time until August 1st, 2025**

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

**Period of STSM: 1.4 - 20.09.2025**