

Open call: Boosting Projects

The Centre for Integrated Quantum Science and Technology (IQST) is inviting applications for its **Boosting Programme**. The programme supports **high-quality proof-of-concept projects** to seed larger consortia, new IQST research initiatives, interdisciplinary partnerships, and subsequent third-party funding associated with IQST (e.g. DFG Collaborative Research Centres (CRC)).

Content, Objective and Scope

The Boosting funding is organized as a "Boosting-to-CRC Application Pathway" with a clear emphasis on the acquisition of substantial follow-up funding. Funded projects should concentrate on preparatory work (e.g., pilot studies, proof-of-concept experiments, consortium building, and proposal development) aimed at major schemes such as CRCs. Priority will be given to applications that present a clear plan and timeline for submitting high-impact follow-up proposals. Only **IQST fellows** can apply. In line with CRC structures, the proposed projects must be a collaboration between **two IQST Fellows** (and must be jointly prepared and submitted).

The projects should be aligned with one the of IQST's tracks

- a) Explore: curiosity-driven science, foster interdisciplinarity and out of the box thinking.
- b) Create: mission-driven science, i.e. oriented at missions that aims to tackle current and future societal challenges in health, sustainability, mobility, safety and security, and information technologies, taking quantum physics and applying it to find new solutions.

Funding

IQST supports boosting projects with **max. 100 k€**, including personnel costs, consumables and travel costs and **is open to IQST fellows**. New **collaborations between IQST fellows** are especially encouraged. The maximum project duration is until **31.07.2027**.

Review Criteria

- Scientific excellence of the proposed project
- Relevance to IQST's mission and planned research initiatives
- Contribution to establish DFG collaborative funding e.g. a research group or CRCs
- Scientific and structural merit of the proposed integration of IQST within the planned CRC framework
- New collaborations within the IQST community

- Active participation in all IQST events and activities

General Application Information

Applicants are invited to submit their application to the IQST office via **office@iqst.org** by **15.05.2026**.

Funding available until (max project duration): 31.07.2027

For questions about your application, please contact the IQST office (office@iqst.org) or IQST directors

- Stefanie Barz, stefanie.barz@iqst.org
- Fedor Jelezko, fedor.jelezko@iqst.org

Please send your application as a **single pdf-document**.

The **application template with detailed information and required documents** is attached below and can also be found on the IQST website (<https://www.iqst.org/iqst-programmes/>).

Based on the above criteria, the IQST Board will review and evaluate the proposal and decide in a timely manner.

Application Template: Boosting Project

Project Title:

IQST PIs involved

Name	Affiliation	Email

Application Details and Required documents:

1. What is the planned research project at IQST (0,5 pages)?
2. How does the project advance the current status of research (0.5 pages)?
Please include a list of most relevant and published preliminary work.
3. How does the project lead to new collaborations within IQST (0.25 pages)?
4. How does the project help to attract significant follow-up grants, support new IQST initiatives (e.g. DFG CRC) and who is contributing in the IQST initiatives/CRC (0,5 pages)?
5. Please outline how IQST will be integrated into the proposed CRC (0.25 pages).
6. How does the research project support the mission of IQST (0.25 pages)?
7. How do the applicants participate in IQST programmes and activities (0.25 pages)? Please specify.

Total requested funding over 12 Month€

Category	Description	€
Personnel		
Consumables		
Investments		
Other (Travel, Publications)		
Total		

Application deadline: May 15th, 2026

Only applications submitted **in due time and in the proper form** will be considered in the selection process.