

ISSI/ISSI-BJ Joint Call for Proposals 2021 for International Teams in Space and Earth Sciences

This call is jointly released by ISSI (International Space Science Institute) and ISSI-BJ (International Space Science Institute – Beijing). These institutes share the same working tools and Science Committee. The applicants should indicate clearly if they are applying for ISSI, ISSI-BJ, or both. We note, because of the Covid-19 travel restrictions we offer options for hybrid meetings and online collaboration tools.

1. Purpose

The purpose of this call is to invite scientists to submit a proposal for projects from International Teams. International Teams are small groups of scientists involved in space research, working together on data analysis, theories, and models. This call is open to scientists of any nationality, actively involved in any of the following research fields:

1. Space Sciences: Magnetospheric and Space Plasma Physics, Solar-Terrestrial Sciences, Solar and Heliospheric Physics, Planetary Sciences, Astrobiology, Astrophysics, Cosmology, and Fundamental Physics in Space
2. Earth Sciences using space data

The applicants are strongly encouraged to visit the ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ websites (www.issibern.ch, www.issibj.ac.cn) prior to submitting the proposal.

2. Modus Operandi

International Teams usually consist of about 8-12 members from different institutions, and hold two (maximum three) one-week meetings at ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ. The first meeting should preferably be organized within the first 6 months from the time of approval, and the projects are carried out over a period of two years.

International Team members must firmly commit to jointly carrying out the project and to attend the meetings at ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ during the foreseen period of activity. It will be the responsibility of the International Team leader to secure this commitment at the time of project submission. The International Team leader takes the responsibility for the activities in all its phases and ensures the interface with ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ.

The International Team outcome leads to peer-reviewed publications. The authors shall include an appropriate acknowledgement to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ for the support. The International Team is requested to maintain a website on the ISSI server or on an external

server in case of ISSI-BJ, providing general information on the project and International Team.

3. Composition of an Eligible International Team

The project proposals are solicited from international scientists (a minimum of 4 different countries is mandatory, including ESA Member States). An International Team consists of 8–12 scientists, not exceeding a total of 24 person-weeks, i.e. up to 8 members for a maximum of three one-week meetings and up to 12 members for a maximum of two one-week meetings. The members should have a good distribution across gender representatives of the field, a good mix of seniority, and with multi-disciplinary expertise necessary for the project.

4. Selection Criteria

The fundamental criteria for acceptance will be (i) the scientific significance of the proposed research; (ii) the competence and ability of the team members to carry the project to a successful conclusion within the indicated time frame; the diversity of the International Team members in terms of expertise, geographic distribution, seniority, and gender representation; and (iii) the added values of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ. The proposal and the CVs of the International Team members must clearly give details on the following criteria that will be equally considered for the evaluation by the Science Committee.

Science:

- Novelty - *Does the International Team address a new question, or propose to synthesise existing knowledge in a new way? Do they develop a new approach? Is this an incremental improvement in existing work or could it lead to something more like a step change in thinking?*
- Timeliness - *Is there a good reason for doing this work now (e.g. data coming in from a space mission, new developments in a rapidly growing field)?*
- Scientific impact - *Is this an important question to the field? Will the outcome of the project solve long-standing questions and/or influence the future direction of the field in a multidisciplinary context?*
- Feasibility - *Are the tasks described in the work plan possible in the proposed timescale and with the proposed team?*
- Scientific legacy - *Will the project develop and provide to the community e.g. techniques, codes, and datasets, with long-lasting impact?*
- Implementation plan - *Is an implementation plan included and describing the contribution from each member, committed to attend the meetings, well explained in the proposal?*

Team:

- Competence - *Does the International Team composition gather multidisciplinary and depth of competence to carry out this research well and efficiently?*

- Range of expertise - *Does the International Team include the right breadth of skills and knowledge to be able to address the questions and carry out the workplan? Do the team members have broad knowledge and expertise to be able to have a productive discussion?*
- Geographic diversity - *Do the International Team members come from a minimum of 4 different countries, including ESA Member States?*
- Distribution across gender representatives of the field - *Does the team achieve a well-balanced gender ratio?*

Added value of ISSI/ISSI-BJ:

- Why ISSI/ISSI-BJ - *What are the unique capabilities of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ supporting the achievements of the science goals of the project?*
- Scientific exploitation of existing data - *Will the International Team carry out research directly using archival space data, and/or theory with direct or indirect application to data?*
- Resources requested - *Are the demands on ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ realistic and agreeing with guidelines given in this call? Is there an overlap with on-going teams (see www.issibern.ch/program/teams.html)?*

5. Contents of the Proposal

The proposal should be submitted by the International Team leader(s) and should include:

- A concise abstract summarizing all features of the proposal
- Scientific rationale
- Added value of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ for the implementation of the team activities
- List of confirmed International Team members with (appended) one-page CVs (a template will be provided after the submission of a Letter of Intent)
- Schedule of the project, i.e., number and duration of meetings, anticipated periods
- List of the expected outputs e.g., scientific papers, reviews, books, software etc.
- Facilities required (only for special requests, see Section 6)
- Financial support requested from ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ (see Section 6)
- Affiliations, addresses, telephones, and e-mails of all participants (to be appended)

The length of the proposal must not exceed five pages (excluding annexes and CVs), and should be sent as a single pdf file (<5 MB).

6. ISSI/ISSI-BJ support

Financial support:

ISSI or ISSI-BJ will support the living expenses through a per diem and accommodation of the 8-12 International Team core members, for three or two meetings, respectively, while

residing in Bern or in Beijing. Travel costs will only be reimbursed to the team leader. The leader could renounce his/her right to the travel refund in favour of another member.

Once the proposal is approved, *early-career* scientists about +/-2 years of the PhD, may be included in the International Team. As a guideline, that addition is expected to be in the order of 20% of the person-weeks allocated to the International Team. The *early-career* scientists are nominated after approval of the proposal and supported like the core members, i.e., with accommodation and living expenses through a per diem.

Logistic support:

ISSI and ISSI-BJ will freely make available: meeting rooms, projection facilities, white boards, computers if required (PC-Mac), wire or wireless Internet connection, facilities for teleconferences and for video-conferences, using Skype or equivalent, electrical adaptors, etc., and the ISSI/ISSI-BJ coffee machine.

Core membership management:

Any change to the core membership has to be avoided. In the exceptional case where a core member replacement is justified, ISSI/ISSI-BJ needs a justification, supported by a CV of the new candidate.

Additional experts invited by the team leader are expected to participate in the work of the team at no cost to ISSI/ISSI-BJ.

International Team activity output:

ISSI/ISSI-BJ, as a rule, does not fund the publication in the scientific literature of the papers resulting from the team activity in the execution of their project. However, ISSI and ISSI-BJ require that the list of papers published in the framework of the project include an acknowledgement to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ.

7. Duties of the International Team Leader

After selection, the successful International Team leader shall:

- Refine the schedule of team meetings in collaboration with ISSI or ISSI-BJ
- Establish the list of attendees in advance of each meeting so that appropriate hotel block bookings can be made and facilities can be allocated within ISSI or ISSI-BJ
- Set up and maintain a website on the ISSI server, and provide content, describing the aims of the project, the membership of the International Team and the schedule
- Acknowledge ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ's support in the papers published in the framework of the project
- Provide to ISSI/ISSI-BJ, on an annual basis, the list of papers (including an acknowledgement to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ) published in the framework of the project. This list will be part of ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ's annual report and will be used to provide metrics to the institutional and funding agencies

- Commit to contribute to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ's outreach activities in connection to the International Team outcome
- After completion of the International Team activities, provide a final report, describing the achievements of the project (see Section 8)

8. Final Report

ISSI/ISSI-BJ (and the various institutional and funding authorities) considers the final report to be of major importance by enabling them to assess the quality and potential impact of the International Team results. It constitutes a key element in the evaluation of the standard of ISSI and ISSI-BJ's performance and scientific output.

The report should be brief (one to two pages) and highlight the main scientific accomplishments. A list of published articles, with acknowledgement to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ should be included. The report should be addressed to non-specialists.

This final report should be sent to ISSI and/or ISSI-BJ no later than 3 months after the completion of the International Team's activities, and should be uploaded to the International Team's website.

9. Schedule and Application

➔ **February 14, 2021: Letter of Intent submission deadline**

- The letter of Intent should contain: Title, abstract, and research domain
- We welcome any additional information
- By e-mail to: mfalanga@issibern.ch and/or mfalanga@issibj.ac.cn

➔ **March 25, 2021: Proposal submission deadline**

- By online submission form <http://www.issibern.ch/submitproposal/>

Science Committee meeting and announcement of the results: mid June 2021

For further information and questions contact:

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