October 20, 2025

Application Guidelines for FY 2026 of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics

Notes:

(1) This "Application Guidelines for FY 2026" is an English translation of the official announcement in Japanese. Applicants should observe the accompanying Japanese Application Guidelines (https://www2.kek.jp/kokusai/us_japan/document/joint_call/2026/usjapan_application_guidelines2026_jp_final.pdf). If there should be any differences between the original call for proposals in Japanese and its translation into English, the original Japanese text is valid.

(2) This "Application Guidelines for FY 2026" provides the guidelines for the Japanese side. Although it is still undetermined whether the FY2026 call will be conducted in the United States and whether it will be a joint call, the FY 2026 call for applications is now being launched in Japan. Updates will be provided as soon as information becomes available.

The U.S.-Japan Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics was launched in 1979 and has been implemented under the *Agreement between the Government of Japan and the Government of the United States of America on Cooperation in Research and Development in Science and Technology* signed on June 20, 1988.

The specific implementation of this program is based on the *Implementing Arrangement between the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan and the Department of Energy of the United States of America Concerning Cooperation in Research and Development in Energy and Related Fields* (signed on April 30, 2013), as well as the *Project Arrangement under the Implementing Arrangement between the Department of Energy of the United States of America and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan Concerning Cooperation in Research and Development in Energy and Related Fields concerning High Energy Physics* (signed on October 6, 2015).

Since the FY2017 call, KEK has held a joint call with DOE. To support and encourage long-term collaborative research, the maximum research period for proposals has been extended to up to three years starting with the FY2021 call. In the

FY2025 call, application categories were introduced based on requested budgets and research periods to further promote flexibility and long-term planning in collaborative projects.

KEK invites research proposals to draw up FY 2026 plan of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics, as outlined below. Applicants may withdraw an approved ongoing project and submit a new proposal. Please note that the Japanese budget for FY 2026 has not been appropriated yet.

1. Program Objectives

This program solicits proposals with scope of work in the high energy physics that involves substantial collaboration with U.S. investigators.

2. Supported Activities and Research Areas

Proposals submitted to this program should support the current high energy physics experiments or technology development of mutual interest to U.S.-Japan collaborations. Seed funding requests for new ideas to incubate and develop new accelerator and detector system for application in this time scale will also be considered.

The research areas supported by this program include:

1) Research and development (R&D) to enhance the physics yield of existing or future HEP (high energy physics) experiments
   * Please note that DOE defines "HEP experiments" on the U.S side as including experiments within the Energy, Intensity and Cosmic Frontiers. Please refer to the following web page for a description of these DOE HEP program thrusts.
   https://science.osti.gov/hep/research/
2) Development of accelerator technology but not limited to superconducting cavities and nano beam technologies, for future accelerator facilities
3) Development of detectors and upgrades for high energy physics experiments
4) Development of Computational and high-performance computing techniques relevant to high energy physics
5) Development of techniques to apply Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML), Quantum Information Science (QIS), or Microelectronics to high energy physics experiments
   * Please note that DOE Office of Science (DOE SC) technology initiatives are

encouraged on the U.S. side. Please refer to the following web page for DOE SC technology initiatives.

https://www.quantum.gov/science/

6) Development of methods to improve and apply superconducting quantum devices (e.g., transmons, superconducting cavities, or computers) to improve high energy physics experiments
7) Workshops, conferences and/or travel support to incubate and develop new accelerator, detector and experimental concepts

3. Application Category (This section applies only for the Japanese side.)

Each research area has two categories to apply as below.

Category A: The budget request for Equipment & Supplies Costs exceeds 5,000k JPY in any Japanese fiscal year during the proposed research period. The maximum project period of the application for this category is 3 years.

Category B: Except for Category A. The maximum project period of the application for this category is 2 years.

If this call is conducted jointly with the U.S., the application period must be consistent between the Japanese side and U.S. side. Even in that case, applications submitted only to the Japanese side are also accepted. This category accommodates cases in which the U.S. counterpart of a collaborative research project is funded under a framework separate from the U.S.-Japan joint call. It may also include project for research currently being conducted in the U.S.

4. Eligibility

Japanese eligible applicants are researchers who belong to and are employed at the Japanese national, public and private universities or other institutions funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). The Japanese Principal Investigator should be the applicant for the Japanese side.

If this call is conducted jointly with the U.S., the U. S. eligibility requirements must comply with the requirements set forth in the relevant DOE announcement. The U.S. principal investigator may be limited to those who are affiliated with DOE laboratories. However, this does not apply to the proposals that do not have a corresponding U.S. application as specified in the “3. Application Category” section.

5. Grant Period

Category A is up to three fiscal years, Category B is up to two fiscal years. Continuation funding (funding for the second and subsequent budget periods) is contingent on (1) availability of KEK funds; (2) progress towards meeting the objectives of the approved proposal; (3) submission of required reports; and (4) compliance with the terms and conditions of the award.

Proposals seeking for renewal rewards for the same or similar scopes of work may be submitted in future calls.

6. Supporting Expenses for the Japanese side

Equipment & Supplies Cost	The cost of purchasing necessary equipment and supplies for proposed research is subject to this fund. The rental car cost and/or the registration fee for conference/workshop etc. are also subject to this category.
Travel Cost	Travel cost from Japan to the U. S. only The supported duration of the travel is until March 10th, 2027. This budget cannot be allowed for any travel to invite the U.S. researchers to Japan.

Please note;

- The personnel expenses or honorarium is not subject to this fund.
- To deliver the purchased items to the universities or institutions of collaboration members other than KEK, the necessary procurement procedures outlined on the KEK website* for this program shall be completed before placing a purchase order. The collaboration member shall be responsible for the acceptance inspection of each item purchased with this fund when it is delivered to their own university or institution. The acceptance inspection report shall be submitted to KEK within 5 working days.

  * https://www2.kek.jp/kokusai/us_japan/procedure.html (Japanese only)
- All procurement of this fund should be carried out at KEK in principle. However, when deemed necessary, the procurement can be conducted at the U.S. university or institution with which the collaboration member is affiliated. The collaboration member at such university or institution in U.S. should be responsible for coordinating this fund among the Japanese Principal Investigator, his/her own university or institution, and KEK, for not only

technical issues but also administrative and financial matters.

- The remaining balance of each project at the end of fiscal year cannot be carried over to the next year unless KEK agrees in advance.

7. Proposal and submission

● Proposal contents

The proposal should consist of the following sections:

- A Cover Page (KEK specified form in the excel format)
- Abstract (one page limit)
- Project Narrative **(for Category A: 8 page limit, for Category B: 5 page limit)**

  Applicants must strictly observe the applicable page limit. If this call is conducted jointly with the U.S., this section should generally be consistent between the Japanese side and U.S. side. This section should include the Member List Table and the Budget Request Table which are counted in the project narrative page limitation.
- Budget Justification (KEK specified form)
- Budget planning (KEK specified form)
- Other Japanese funding list (KEK specified form)

The supplementary documents can be attached to the proposal, if necessary. Unless otherwise specified in the forms, proposals should be written in English.

● Proposal forms

KEK forms corresponding to all sections mentioned above are available at the following website.

http://www2.kek.jp/kokusai/us_japan/document/joint_call/2026/forms.zip

● Submission

Japanese applicants are required to submit the proposal to KEK. If this call is conducted jointly with the U.S., U.S. Principal Investigators must submit their proposals to DOE. As mentioned in Section 3, KEK will accept proposals that do not have a corresponding U.S. application.

Japanese applicants should send the proposal to the following KEK contact by email. A single email size should be less than 5MB. Please contact KEK beforehand if the size exceeds 5MB.

<Contact information for the submission of proposals>

KEK International Affairs Division

Email koryu1@mail.kek.jp

< Submission due date>

December 22th, 2025 at noon JST

8. Selection process

All proposals to KEK will be reviewed by KEK. Upon completion of the selection process at KEK, the proposals will be reviewed jointly by between KEK and DOE.

The Japanese selection is conducted at the Research Planning Committee of KEK as described below.

	Proposals for Category A	Proposals for Category B
Document screening	Required	Required
Oral Presentation (on Jan. 28th - 29th , 2026(TBC) at KEK)	Required	Not required

Notification of the results will be sent after the Joint Committee of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics, which is currently scheduled between April 14th and 15th, 2026.

9. Review criteria

- Scientific and/or technical merit of the project
  - What is the scientific innovation of the proposed research?
  - What is the likelihood of achieving valuable results?
  - How might the results of the proposed work impact the direction, progress, and thinking in relevant scientific fields of research?
  - How does the proposed work compare with other efforts in its field, both in terms of scientific and/or technical merit and originality?
  - What is the likelihood of achieving influential results?
- Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach
  - Does the proposed effort employ innovative concepts or methods?
  - How logical and feasible are the approaches?
  - Are the conceptual framework, methods, and analyses well justified, adequately developed, and likely to lead to scientifically valid conclusions?

- Does the applicant recognize significant potential problems and consider alternative strategies?

- Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources
  - Does the proposed work take advantage of unique facilities and capabilities?
  - What is the past performance of the team?
  - Is the lead institution proposing to perform a greater portion of the scientific and technical work than any other team member?
  - How well qualified is the team to carry out the proposed work?
  - Are the environment and facilities adequate for performing the proposed effort?
- Reasonableness and appropriateness of the proposed budget
  - Are the proposed budget and staffing levels adequate to carry out the proposed work?
  - Is the budget reasonable and appropriate for the scope?
- Balance of responsibilities between the U.S. and Japanese components of the bilateral collaboration.
  - Are the responsibilities assigned to the U.S. and Japanese sides of the collaboration well balanced, i.e., are the scopes of work of comparable magnitude, with significant tasks undertaken by both sides?
  - Are the contributions by each side of the collaboration synergistic? Are any unique capabilities of either or both sides being utilized to make the proposed scope of work more compelling?

In addition to the above-mentioned criteria, the follows will be considered in the selection process in Japan:

- Conformity of the proposed scope of work with the research areas described in Section 1.
- Necessity of the collaboration between U.S. and Japan
- Rationality of the proposal that does not have a corresponding U.S. application (Not applicable if this call is limited to Japanese side only)

10. Research report

- Japanese Principal Investigators are required to make a progress report at the Research Planning Committee of KEK.
  <Research Planning Committee of KEK for FY 2025 progress reports>

Date: January 28th – 29th, 2026 (TBC)

Place: KEK Tsukuba Campus

- Japanese or U.S. Principal Investigators of the selected projects may be requested to make a progress report at the Joint Committee of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics.

  <Joint Committee for FY 2025 progress reports>

  Date: April, 14th – 15th, 2026 (TBC)

  Place: Brookhaven National Laboratory
- Japanese Principal Investigators are requested to make a report for the KEK review committee of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics which is held periodically. The next review committee is scheduled to be held in FY 2029 or later.
- Each report or publication resulting from this Program should include the notice of the support of the "U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics".

11. Important notes

Please be sure to handle research data and intellectual property rights properly and follow the safety rules of the partner institution(s) in the collaborative activities.

12. KEK contact information

For questions about the contents of applications

Prof. Makoto Tomoto

Coordinator of the U.S.-Japan Research Planning Committee at KEK

Email makoto.tomoto@kek.jp

For forms and application process

KEK International Affairs Division

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