November 5, 2026
Updated on November 11, 2026

Application Guidelines for FY 2027

U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics

The DOE announcement website has been updated with a new URL. (Updated on November 11, 2026).

Important Notice:

(1) This document is an English translation of the official Japanese Application Guidelines. If there is any discrepancy between the Japanese and English versions, the Japanese version shall prevail.

Japanese Application Guidelines
https://www2.kek.jp/kokusai/us_japan/document/joint_call/2027/usjapan_application_guidelines2027_jp_final.pdf

(2) This "Application Guidelines for FY 2027" provides the guidelines for the Japanese side. Please contact the Department of Energy of the United States of America (DOE) about the application guidelines for the proposals in the U. S.
FYI: DOE announcement of this program can be found at the following website.
Announcement Number: LAB 27-3640
https://science.osti.gov/-/media/grants/pdf/lab-announcements/2027/LAB-27-3640-000001.pdf (Updated on November 11, 2026)

Program Background

The U.S.-Japan Science and Technology 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, this program has been conducted as 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 based on requested budget and research period were introduced to promote flexibility and long-term planning in collaborative projects.

Beginning in FY2027, funds for equipment & supplies expenses to be incurred by Japanese member institutions other than KEK will be transferred to the respective institutions as subawards.

KEK invites research proposals to draw up FY 2027 plan of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics, as outlined below. Applicants with ongoing funded projects may submit a new proposal on the condition that they withdraw their ongoing project if the new proposal is selected. Projects whose research period is ending may also submit a new proposal on the same or a similar research topic after the current project period has ended.

Please note that this call is being issued before the Japanese budget for FY 2027 has been formally allocated.

1. Program Objectives

This program solicits proposals with scopes of work in high energy physics that involve 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. Exploratory funding requests for new ideas to incubate and develop new accelerator and detector systems 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 “HENP 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 Super Intelligence and Machine Learning (SI/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 accelerators, detectors and experiment concepts

Please note that the U.S. side has expressed interest in proposals within the research areas listed above that contribute to and benefit from the U.S.-Japan partnership on the Genesis Mission. Of particular interest is research addressing those Grand Challenges identified in the Genesis Mission that are relevant to the research area listed above. For details, please refer to the following document:
https://science.osti.gov/-/media/grants/pdf/foas/2026/DE-FOA-0003612-000003.pdf

3. Application Category for the Japanese side

Each research area has the following two application categories. The category must be determined based on the requested Equipment & Supplies Cost in each Japanese fiscal year during the proposed research period.

Category A: Requested Equipment & Supplies Cost exceeds JPY 5 million in at least one fiscal year during the proposed research period.

Application Period should be three fiscal years.

The corresponding U.S. application category is "Full Application."

Category B: Requested Equipment & Supplies Cost is JPY 5 million or less in every fiscal year during the proposed research period.

Application Period is up to two fiscal years.

The corresponding U.S. application category is "Exploratory Application."

Important Notes:

- The application category must be determined based on the amount of Equipment & Supplies Cost requested for each fiscal year during the research period. The JPY 5 million threshold is assessed based on the amount requested for each individual fiscal year, not the total amount requested over the entire research period.
- Applications submitted only to the Japanese side will also be accepted if the U.S. funding for the joint research is provided through a funding framework separate from this U.S.-Japan joint call for proposals. This includes research projects that are currently ongoing in the United States.
- Applicants with currently funded projects may submit a new application under the same or a similar research topic in order to further develop their research based on the results achieved to date. However, if the new application is selected for funding, the currently funded project must be withdrawn.
- Applicants whose current research projects are scheduled to end in FY 2026 may also submit a new research proposal under the same or a similar research topic, with the aim of further advancing their research based on the results achieved to date.

4. Eligibility Requirements for Japanese Principal Investigators (Applicant)

The Japanese Principal Investigator (applicant) must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be engaged in research and affiliated with Japanese national, public and private universities or other institutions funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT);
- Have completed the research ethics education provided by their affiliated institution in accordance with the Guidelines on Responding to Research

Misconduct (Decision of MEXT, August 26, 2014); and

- Be affiliated with an institution that has submitted the checklist regarding its implementation status under the Guidelines on Responding to Research Misconduct through the Cross-ministerial Research and Development Management System (e-Rad).

The Japanese Principal Investigator must be the applicant for the Japanese side.

The U. S. eligibility requirements must comply with the requirements set forth in the relevant DOE announcement. The U.S. principal investigator is 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 for the Japanese side" section.

5. Eligibility Requirements for Japanese Members

Japanese members must meet all of the following requirements:

- Be a graduate student or above engaged in research and affiliated with Japanese national, public and private universities or other institutions funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT); and
- Have completed the research ethics education provided by their affiliated institution in accordance with the Guidelines on Responding to Research Misconduct (Decision of MEXT, August 26, 2014). If a member has not completed this education at the time of application, they must complete it after the proposal is selected and before the start of the research.

6. Grant Period

The maximum grant period is three fiscal years for Application Category A and two fiscal years for Application Category B. The requested research period is not necessarily guaranteed to be approved in full. Depending on the review results, budget availability, and other factors, a shorter funding period than the one requested may be approved.

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.

7. Supporting Expenses for the Japanese side

(1) Eligible Expenses

Equipment & Supplies Cost	The cost for purchasing necessary equipment and supplies for the research.
Travel Cost	Travel expenses and associated costs for Japanese members traveling from Japan to the United States, including: ・ Travel expenses for travel from Japan to the United States. ・ Rental car expenses. ・ Registration fees for conferences, workshops, and other events, and other expenses associated with the travel. The following restrictions apply to travel: ・ Travel in a given fiscal year must be completed with the traveler returning to Japan by March 10 of that fiscal year. ・ Funds may not be used for travel to countries other than the United States. ・ Funds may not be used to invite researchers from the United States to Japan.

(2) Ineligible Expenses

As a general rule, the funds may not be used for:

1) Personnel expenses or honoraria, including payments for services provided by engineers, technicians, or other personnel affiliated with a U.S. institution of a project member.
2) Meals, boxed lunches, other food and beverage expenses, receptions, and similar expenses.
3) Expenses for the acquisition of real estate.
4) Expenses for dealing with accidents or disasters occurring during the implementation of the research.
5) Indirect costs, including overhead charged by a U.S. institution with which a project member is affiliated.
6) Any other expenses that are not directly related to the research.

(3) Administration of Research Funds

- The funds for Equipment & Supplies Cost to be incurred by Japanese member institutions other than KEK will be transferred to the respective institutions as subawards, including cases where no collaboration member is affiliated with

KEK. Further subawards are, in principle, not permitted. The template of the subawards agreement and guideline for the subawards will be announced later.

- When deemed necessary, the procurement using the Equipment & Supplies Cost fund may be conducted at the U.S. institution with which the collaboration member is affiliated. In such cases, further subawards are permitted as an exception. The collaboration member at such institution in the U.S. should be responsible for coordinating the use of this fund among the Japanese Principal Investigator, the member's institution, and the Japanese fund-transferring institution, with respect to technical, administrative, and financial matters. The guideline will be announced later.
- The funds for Travel Cost are not subject to the subawards. All procedures related to travel expenses will be handled by KEK.

(4) Carryover of Funds for Multi-year Projects

Funds should be spent within the fiscal year in which they are allocated. However, for a multi-year project, carryover to the following fiscal year may be permitted with KEK's prior approval if KEK determines that carryover is necessary for implementation of the research plan.

8. Preparation and Submission of Application Documents

(1) Required Documents

Applicants to the Japanese side must prepare and submit the following documents. Applicants must ensure that all page limits are observed. The Abstract and Project Narrative submitted to KEK and DOE must be identical in content. The paper sizes used for the Japanese and U.S. submissions may differ, which may affect the page count. Please ensure that each submitted version complies with the applicable page limit.

- A Cover Page (KEK specified form in the excel format)
- Budget planning including other Japanese funding list (KEK specified form)
- Member list (KEK specified form)
- Abstract (one page limit)

  Applicants must strictly observe the applicable page limit. If applications are submitted to both Japan and the United States, the contents of the Abstract must be identical in content between the two applications.
- Project Narrative **(for Category A: 8 page limit, for Category B: 5 page limit)**

  Applicants must strictly observe the applicable page limit. If

applications are submitted to both Japan and the United States, the contents of the Project Narrative must be identical in content between the two applications.

- Budget Justification (KEK specified form)

  Please provide the basis for calculating the expenses for which you are applying. If the application is submitted by the Japanese side only, please also explain how the necessary expenses incurred on the U.S. side will be covered.

- Supplementary materials (optional)

  Materials supplementing the research plan may be attached as necessary.

(2) Project Narrative Organization Guideline

The Project Narrative is recommended to include the following sections:

- **Background/Introduction:** Explanation of the importance and relevance of the proposed work as well as a review of the relevant literature.
- **Project Objectives**: This section should provide a clear, concise statement of the specific objectives/aims of the proposed project.
- **Progress Report (for Renewal Proposals Only)**: The Project Narrative of a renewal proposal must include a separate section that includes a description of results of the work accomplished during the current project period (since the last new or renewal award), an analysis of how the results relate to the activities proposed to be undertaken during the renewal period, and a description of any changes that affected the overall direction of the research being performed. Include an estimate of any remaining funds from the current project period at its anticipated end.
- **Proposed Research and Methods**: Identify the hypotheses to be tested (if any) and details of the methods to be used including the integration of experiments with theoretical and computational research efforts.
- **Timetable of Activities:** Timeline for all major activities including milestones and deliverables.

(3) Language and Forms

Unless otherwise specified in the forms, applications must be written in English. Download the complete set of application forms from the following website. Forms identified as “KEK-designated” must be completed using the designated forms.

Application forms:
http://www2.kek.jp/kokusai/us_japan/document/joint_call/2027/forms.zip

(4) Submission

Applicants to the Japanese side must submit their applications to KEK. If an application is also submitted to the U.S. side, the U.S. applicant must submit it in accordance with the DOE call for proposals.

Please submit the application by email to the contact listed below. The size of the email must be less than 5 MB. If the file size exceeds 5 MB, please contact KEK in advance.

<Japanese side application submission contact>

KEK International Affairs Division

Email: koryu1@mail.kek.jp

< Application deadline>

January 15, 2027, 7:00am (Japanese Standard Time)

9. Selection process

Applications submitted to the Japanese side will be reviewed by KEK, and applications submitted to the U.S. side will be reviewed by DOE. After the reviews on both sides have been completed, a joint review will be conducted by Japan and the United States.

The Japanese-side review will be conducted by the Research Planning Committee for the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics. Details will be communicated separately to applicants.

Review	Category A	Category B
Document review	Required	Required
Interview review (planned for Feb. 8th -9th , 2027 at KEK)	Required*	Not required

*Applicants in Category A are required to submit their presentation materials to the KEK International Affairs Division (koryu1@mail.kek.jp) by January 27, 2027.

The results will be notified after the Joint Committee of the U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics, scheduled to be held in the late April 2027.

10. 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?
  - For renewal proposals only: Is the proposed work an appropriate outgrowth of, continuation to, or successor of the currently supported research?
- Appropriateness of the proposed method or approach
  - How logical and feasible are the approaches?
  - Does the proposed research employ innovative concepts or methods?
  - 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?
  - Is the proposed research aligned with the research areas by reference in the Section 2 of this Application Guideline?
  - How does the proposed plan include intentional mentorship of project personnel?
  - Additional points may be awarded if the proposed plan to recruit and retain students and early-stage investigators provides sufficient mentorship.
- Competency of applicant's personnel and adequacy of proposed resources
  - For renewal proposals, what is the past performance and potential of the research team?
  - How well qualified is the research team to carry out the proposed research?
  - Is the lead institution proposing to perform a greater portion of the scientific and technical work than any other team member?
  - Are the environment and facilities adequate for performing the proposed effort?
  - Does the proposed work take advantage of unique facilities and capabilities?

- 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 following will be considered in the selection process in Japan:

- Conformity of the proposed scope of work with the research areas described in Section 2 of this Application Guidelines.
- Necessity of the collaboration between U.S. and Japan
- Rationality of the proposal that does not have a corresponding U.S. application

11. Research report

- Japanese Principal Investigators are required to provide an annual progress report to the Research Planning Committee of KEK.
  <Research Planning Committee of KEK for FY 2026 progress reports>
  Date: February 8th – 9th, 2027 (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 2026 progress reports>
  Date: in late April, 2027 (TBD)
  Place: KEK Tsukuba Campus
- Japanese Principal Investigators may be 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 must acknowledge support from the "U.S.-Japan Science and Technology Cooperation Program in High Energy Physics".

12. Important notes

In collaborative research activities, research data and intellectual property rights must be handled appropriately, and the safety rules of the partner institution must be observed.

13. KEK contact information

For questions about the contents of applications

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Email: makoto.tomoto@kek.jp

For questions about application documents and submission

KEK International Affairs Division
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Email: koryu1@mail.kek.jp