

**NExT Initiative**  
**Call for proposals « Attractiveness »**  
**Terms of reference**

**Call for proposals to identify and attract researchers and research professors in Nantes**



Official launch of the call for proposals : December 03, 2018

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## Background, objectives and description of the call for proposals

The members of the NExT Initiative have set the strategic objective of strengthening their current efforts to discover, attract and foster the development of the talents on the Nantes site, and especially to recruit new profiles, in France and abroad.

In this context, the NExT Initiative is launching a call for proposals with the aim to identify researchers and research professors wishing to join one of the founding establishments of NExT<sup>1</sup> or CNRS in Nantes to conduct their research activities and teaching.

The call for proposals aims to foster mobility development, develop projects in Nantes and to personally advise and support applicants with their project to settle in Nantes. Projects contributing to the excellence of the site on the 2 priority axes of NExT<sup>2</sup> will be favored.

The first step is to identify potential talents (identification based on the letters of intent) and to support them with the hosting arrangements. The second step is for pre-selected candidates to submit an application for one of the NExT Talent devices (Junior or Senior)<sup>3</sup>

- **The aim of the NExT Junior Talent device** is to support the arrival of high potential scientific profiles on the Nantes site until obtaining a statutory position in one of the NExT founding institutions or at CNRS in Nantes. With this talent device, young researchers will have the means they need to develop their own research project and to get international recognition more quickly.

Resources allocated over 3 years :

- up to 225 000 euros gross salary<sup>4</sup> for the young researcher
- 150 000 euros gross for the research team (PhD student, postdoctoral fellow...)
- 120 000 euros gross for equipment and costs related to research

- **The aim of the NExT Senior Talent device** is to support the arrival on the Nantes site of experienced researchers with a statutory position. This talent device is for a researcher a stepping stone for his research activities in one of the NExT founding institutions or at CNRS in Nantes.

Resources allocated over 3 years :

- 250 000 euros gross for the research team (PhD student, postdoctoral fellow...)
- 270 000 euros gross for equipment and costs related to research

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<sup>1</sup> The 4 founding members of NExT are The University of Nantes, the Ecole Centrale of Nantes, the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire of Nantes and the Inserm Grand Ouest.

<sup>2</sup> See the list of thematic areas at the end of this document.

<sup>3</sup> NExT has dedicated fundings received from PIA credits, Région Pays de la Loire and Nantes Métropole to support the NExT junior and senior talent devices.

<sup>4</sup> i.e. an annual salary of 75 000 euros gross maximum fixed on the basis of the grids of the hosting institution.

## To apply

The project leaders are invited to submit a letter of intent. The template document can be downloaded from our website : <http://next-isite.fr/attractivite-2018/>

The letter of intent must be sent to [aap@next-isite.fr](mailto:aap@next-isite.fr) (please, specify e-mail subject : AAC Attractivité 2018\_...)

## Selection process

Step 1 : preselection of candidates on the basis of a letter of intent.

Letters of intent will be evaluated by the NExT Founders Representatives Committee according to the following criteria :

- Quality of the CV
- Quality of the scientific and educational project
- Contribution of research and training thematics to the NExT priority areas
- Integration potential of the candidate into the hosting institution (component and research laboratory)

The pre-selected projects get personal support from the identified hosting institution to:

- Consider how to recruit the researcher in the short and medium term
- Prepare the application file (NExT Junior and Senior Talent) for the second step of the selection process.

Step 2 : Selection of the Junior or Senior successful candidates on the basis of a complete application file.

## Timeline

- Launch of the ongoing call for proposals: December 3, 2018
- Review of letters of intent, 3 times per year, by an independent Evaluation Committee :
  - Wave 2019-1 : February 2019
  - Wave 2019-2 : June 2019
  - Wave 2019-3 : October 2019

**NExT priority thematic areas****Health of the future: This priority focuses on three themes:**

The innovative biotherapies for the treatment of multiple pathologies which lead to or are characterized by the loss of function of an organ, tissues, cells or genes and which require replacement (transplantation), reparation, regeneration (cell therapy regenerative medicine) or reprogramming (regenerative medicine);

- Therapies related to oncology and nuclear medicine, using theranostic approaches for treating different types of cancer : these approaches combining targeted therapies (eg. immunotherapies) and/or combined (eg. radioimmunotherapies, combined immunotherapies) and diagnostics (eg. multimodal imaging) lead more and more to healing or at least to overall survival benefit.
- These innovative and preventive therapeutic approaches are supported by advances in precision medicine: multiparametric approaches to massive data enabled by new epidemiological, bioinformatic and biological tools, putting the patient at the center of a unique and personalized treatment.

**Industry of the future:** On the basis of scientific excellence in areas such as process engineering and material characterization, ocean engineering and hydrodynamics, robotics, numerical modeling, simulation and optimization, the objective of the NExT project is to develop the following 2 themes:

- Advanced production technologies: the energy gain through the lightening of structures (the transition from metal to composites) is a first issue. The replacement of raw materials related to the oil sector by sustainable sources (eg . plant fiber) or from recycling is a second issue. These gains and replacements require innovative processes. In this context, we should think of an optimal relationship between man and robotics, from the point of view of societal acceptability and technicality.
- Ocean engineering: mastering energy production technologies of sustainable origin at a reasonable cost, with the possibility of integrating multi-use to optimize the use of land are key issues. In the naval field, the drastic reduction of ship consumption while maintaining high seas maneuverability should be allowed in the very short term.