

## TU DELFT - FRANCE INITIATIVE (TDFI)

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Launched during President Macron's State Visit in April 2023, the **TU Delft - France Initiative (TDFI)** seeks to swiftly integrate a robust R&D dimension into pivotal sectors associated with both sustainable development and digital transition. These sectors lie at the core of the bilateral relationship and play a vital role in fostering European technological sovereignty. TDFI, a consortium led by the French Embassy in the Netherlands and TU Delft, aims to facilitate ambitious collaborative research endeavors between TU Delft and key French academic and research institutions. Through a Sponsorship Committee, industrial partners can contribute to the funding of the research projects. Furthermore, the initiative places a significant emphasis on enhancing student and researcher mobility.

The first phase of TDFI, spanning from 2023 to 2027, centers around sustainable aviation. A pioneering pilot project named LISA, focusing on composite materials, has been initiated during the summer of 2023 through a partnership between ISAE SUPAERO and TU Delft.

Calls for application to this program are published on an annual basis.  
Deadline for applications: October 1, 2024.

#### Eligibility conditions

This program will support ambitious collaborative research projects between TU Delft and major French academic and research institutions, with a strong focus on student and researcher mobility. The first part (2023-2027) is devoted to enhancing **sustainable aviation** and focuses on a key area of innovation: new and second life light materials (focusing on circularity and sustainability).

Projects should aim to reach scalability and are expected to have an interdisciplinary approach. The expected impact is to attain considerably higher levels of circularity and sustainability in the aerospace manufacturing industry and the aviation industry, in the light of relevant EU policies. The project should therefore pursue a 10 to 15 % reduction of weight and/or to increase the usage of recycled materials by 10 to 15 %. The call is open to projects from low to high TRL.

The call for applications is open to researchers as well as to master students at TU Delft and affiliated research organizations and from French research and academic institutes active in the abovementioned fields. Companies can participate in the project if they are associated with an academic partner. **Only applications co-submitted** by researchers employed by universities in France and/or TU Delft are eligible.

#### The project's evaluation criteria

- Scientific quality of the project and its expected impact on sustainable aviation;

- The overall quality and competence of both research teams;
- Active participation from early career researchers, especially PhDs or Postdocs;
- The intensity of cooperation and complementarity between both teams.

## Selection Process

Eligible projects will be assessed by the Scientific Committee of the TDFI consortium. The evaluation will be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

## Operating mode

**The duration of the support:** up to three years

**Typical amount per project:** around 60k€ per year

**Progress report on a yearly base.**

Funding is granted on an annual basis for up to three consecutive years.

Only research and mobility expenses approved by the Board are eligible. Any other funding necessary for the implementation of the joint projects must be provided by the partner laboratories' own resources or by other sources.

Fostering collaborations in Europe

The **renewal continuation** of the funding for the following year(s) is subject to:

- **A progress report** mentioning the scientific results and the mobilities. (1 page in free-format);
- **A financial report** stipulating costs made and expected expenses in the following year

Both reports must be sent to the scientific committee.

## Eligible expenses

Only expenses for research and mobility (students and researchers) approved by the Board are eligible. Any other funding necessary for the implementation of the joint projects must be provided by the partner laboratories' own resources or by other sources. Part of salary costs may be covered.

## Intellectual property

Necessary measures regarding the intellectual property protection will be identified according to each project and agreed by the parties involved.

## Project follow-up

**A final report is required no later than three months after conclusion of the project.**

The French and the Dutch teams must send a joint report to the TDFI consortium before October 1. EOB, 2024. Publications resulting from this partnership must mention the support granted by the TDFI consortium.

## Practical procedures for a project's submission

- Call open as of: July 24 2024
- Application deadline: October 1, 2024
- Announcement of Grantee(s): Mid October 2024
- Project(s) start: November 2024

## **Application**

Candidates have to fill out [this form](#). Evaluation will comprise a review of the application by the scientific committee of the TDFI consortium, in accordance with their terms of reference. The TDFI Executive Committee will take the final decision. Applicants may receive an invitation to present their project to the Scientific Committee. The procedure is as follows:

- 1- transmission of eligible projects to the scientific committee;
- 2- The Scientific Committee reports its evaluations to the Board;
- 3- the board meeting prepares a shortlist;
- 4- pitch of a selection of projects to the board;
- 5- final selection and allocation of funding.

## **Mobility Grants**

The Consortium offers mobility grants for Master students / PhD Candidates / Postdocs and researchers participating in the research projects.

## **Contacts for the program**

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