

Theme Call 2020

INSTRUCTIONS

The Lund Institute of advanced Neutron and X-ray Science (LINXS) invites proposals for a new Theme relating to the application of x-ray and neutron based science to socioeconomic, environmental, health, cultural or industrial challenges, to complement the existing Themes. We encourage new proposals to develop topics in applied research where neutrons and x-rays make a difference and where “applied” can encompass private and/or public sector applications as well as global challenges (as defined by [Horizon Europe](#) or the United Nations [Sustainable Development Goals 2030](#)).

LINXS is an advanced study institute whose mission is to promote science and education focusing on the use of neutrons and X-rays, to attract world-leading scientists for short- and long-term focused research visits, and to create national and international networks.

WHAT IS A THEME?

LINXS works under strategic focus areas reflecting broad research priorities: Soft Matter, Life Science and Hard Matter. Within these focus areas, the activities of LINXS are organised into Themes that run for 1-3 years and aim to bring research communities together. A Theme is connected to one or more of the focus areas. The research focus of a theme relates to the development and application of neutron and x-ray techniques to answer scientific questions and considers data acquisition, experiments, data analysis, simulation and theory. A Theme is coordinated by a Core Group and the activities are organised within and by Working Groups with specific foci.

LINXS welcomes applications from research groups at partner organisations who would like to drive funded activities under a Theme framework as well as support the realisation of the LINXS vision and mission. For this call, LINXS welcomes Theme proposals relating to the application of x-ray and neutron based science to socioeconomic, environmental or industrial challenges to complement the existing Themes.

Note that LINXS intends to regularly open calls for Themes depending on budget availability and future calls will be opened in other science areas.

ELIGIBILITY - WHO CAN APPLY?

LINXS welcomes applications for Themes from the community at LINXS partner organisations. The current partner is Lund University. Anyone with tenure, tenure-track or a permanent position at partner organisations can apply as the lead

applicant for a Theme. Researchers from non-partner organisations can, and are encouraged, to be involved in a Theme application, but not as lead applicant.

LINXS welcomes applicants with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We regard gender equality and diversity as a strength and an asset.

RELEVANCE – CONTRIBUTION TO LINXS MISSION AND VISION

The evaluation will consider the potential contribution of the Theme and its proposed activities to the LINXS vision and mission. A Theme should involve research using and developing x-ray and neutron techniques and reach across different scientific domains. A key goal should be to open up and develop new user groups and new interactions between different user/development groups through relevant and strategic Theme activities.

Anyone wishing to apply is encouraged to contact someone from the LINXS management to discuss their idea prior to submission.

PROCEDURE

The call follows a **two-stage application process**:

- **Stage 1** consists of the submission of a concept application by the lead applicant using a template – this is a short application describing the key aspects of the proposed Theme. A few applications will be selected, through an external and independent evaluation procedure, and invited to proceed to Stage 2. No new call will be published for Stage 2.
- **Stage 2** consists of a more developed version of the application, which includes a development plan with the timeline of operations, the descriptions of foreseen working groups and potential members, the level of engagement of the Core Group and Working Group members, and details on foreseen activities. Stage 2 applications will be evaluated based on their scientific ambition and scope. One Theme will be selected.
 - The application should be written in English due to the external evaluation procedure.
 - Applications are officially submitted by email in one searchable pdf file to submissions@linxs.lu.se
 - An acknowledgement of receipt is sent to the lead applicant.

Note that LINXS encourages reapplication for proposals that are not selected.

TIMELINE

- **Deadline for Stage 1 applications: 2020-10-30 17:00 PM CET**

- Invitation to Stage 2: 2021-01-08
- **Deadline for Stage 2 applications: 2021-03-19 17:00 PM CET**
- Final decision date: 2021-04-30
- Earliest date for Theme start: 2021-06-01

COSTS THAT CAN BE COVERED

Applicants are encouraged to contact LINXS for more information on costs that can be covered. Please note that approval of the Theme does not entail approval of any submitted potential costs. Decisions on the Theme costs covered in the LINXS budget, and the activity plan, are made on a yearly basis following budgetary discussions with all LINXS Themes.

Personnel costs: Typically, a contribution is made to the salary to the lead applicant and 1-3 key participants (such as Core Group and/or Working Group member), as long as they are employed at the partner organisation. Core Group and Working Group members from external organisations may have travel and accommodation related to LINXS work covered.

Activity costs: conferences (including hosting and travel of keynote speakers), Core Group and Working Group meetings, workshops, hackathons, sabbaticals (hosting and travel of guest researchers), schools, seminars, training and outreach. The list is non-extensive and LINXS welcomes activity ideas that contribute to the success of the Theme.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Each Theme is expected to report annually, listing activities and scientific achievements, as well as a final report at the end of the Theme duration. The final report should list the Themes' scientific contribution, societal impact and research activities. All Core Group members are also expected to take part in survey and evaluation activities.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applications will not be distributed or publicised by LINXS, but are not, in principle, confidential. LINXS does not encourage the inclusion of confidential material.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The LINXS Management will gather the applications received and check the formal eligibility of applications. All timely and eligible applications will be sent to the LINXS external Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) for evaluation. The SAB consists of six international experts; two in each LINXS focus area (i.e. soft matter, hard matter, and life science).

The SAB will then evaluate and rank all applications (description, participants, and activities) according to the set evaluation criteria, which include:

1. Scientific excellence, impact and timeliness, and potential to contribute to the advancement of and breakthroughs with x-ray and neutron science at large-scale facilities.
2. Relevance to one or more of the LINXS focus areas, and potential to bring different scientific communities together and exploit interdisciplinary, intersectorial and/or inter-methodological engagement.
3. Potential to enhance existing user communities and/or open up new user communities (including industry and public sector, if relevant) for synchrotron and neutron-based science (premium on both).
4. Relevance to the LINXS vision, mission and goals, and strategic balance in view of existing. Themes and the diversity of activities at LINXS.
5. Excellence, networks and capacity of the suggested Core Group and potential Working Groups. It is expected that these include members external to partner organisations (currently Lund University). The target (but not a requirement) is 50% fellows from non-partner organisations active in Core and Working Groups.
6. Emphasis will also be given to horizontal criteria (as applicable): sustainable development, equal opportunities & non-discrimination, and gender equality.

The SAB submits their Stage 1 recommendation and selection. The management group formally decides and invites applications to Stage 2. The SAB may suggest modifications or merging of proposals with the aim of developing a strong, balanced scientific programme at LINXS.

The Stage 2 evaluation is performed by the LINXS management group together with the SAB, considering budget availability and operational capacity. The formal decision is made by the LINXS management group in agreement with the SAB.

CONTACT PERSONS

Potential lead applicants are encouraged to contact the LINXS management in order to discuss their ideas prior to submission, the relevant contacts are:

Stephen Hall (LINXS Director, stephen.hall@linxs.lu.se)

Marie Skepö (LINXS Vice-Director, marie.skepo@linxs.lu.se)

Oxana Klementieva (LINXS co-director, oxana.klementieva@linxs.lu.se)

Anna Ntinidou (LINXS Head of Administration, anna.ntinidou@linxs.lu.se)

LAST APPLICATION DATE STAGE 1

30 October 2020 17:00 PM CET