

COST Action CA15220 - Quantum Technologies in Space  
Date 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018

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## 5th CALL for Short Term Scientific Missions (STSMs)

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Deadline for the applications: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
Total budget of STSM-grants for this call: 2,000 € (max 800€ per STSM)  
The STSM has to be completed before 30.04.2018

### THE APPLICANT:

The applicant can be a student, a PhD student, a PostDoc or a staff member in an institution located in a COST Country of our Action (these countries are listed on [http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA15220?parties](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15220?parties) ).

The Applicant must obtain the agreement of the host institution before submitting the STSM application<sup>1</sup>.

### HOME & HOST INSTITUTION:

The home and host institution can be organizations of either the public or private sector. An STSM may only be approved if involving a trip from a home institution in a COST country of the Action to a host institution in a COST country of the Action.

Please note that applications for an STSM from a COST country of the Action to non-COST Institutions associated with our Action will also be considered (for a list of please check: [http://www.cost.eu/COST\\_Actions/ca/CA15220?parties](http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/ca/CA15220?parties) ).

Applicants from non-COST institutions of our Action are advised to contact the STSM Coordinator for more information about how to proceed with the application.

Visits from an Institution of a COST country to an Institution of the same country cannot be supported.

### DURATION:

Minimum duration of 5 working days and a maximum one of 1 month<sup>2</sup> for any given STSM.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

The financial support provided by the STSM scheme is intended to cover part, but not necessarily all, of the costs of the proposed visit. The financial contribution for an STSM will be a fixed grant based on the Applicant's budget request and the evaluation of the application by the STSM assessment committee. Indicative values for the requested amount for daily allowance and travel expenses are 60 Euro and 300 Euros, respectively, although there is not a strict limit on these numbers. The total amount requested per STSM should not exceed 800

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<sup>1</sup> If needed, STSM grantees must make their own arrangements for all health, social, personal security and pension matters.

<sup>2</sup> For Early Career Researchers (Researchers within 8 years of work experience since PhD - minus career leave, such as medical, maternity/paternity, military), an extension can be approved.

Euro. Exceptions to this maximum set amount will be considered, if properly justified, on a case-by-case scenario. Advanced payment is not possible.

## BEFORE the STSM

### APPLICATION PROCEDURE & DEADLINES

A formal STSM application has to be sent by e-mail to the Action's Manager Dr. Gary Hall (G.Hall@qub.ac.uk), who will make a formal check, as well as to the host institution. The application should consist of:

#### 1) For the MC members of the COST Action:

a) A cover letter, where the applicant should clearly indicate the science topic, the relevant working group, as well as to shortly state how the proposed STSM is relevant to Quantum Technologies in Space. For more info on the science topics and on the Working Groups refer to the action MoU available at

[http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain\\_files/CA/Action\\_CA15220/mou/CA15220-e.pdf](http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain_files/CA/Action_CA15220/mou/CA15220-e.pdf)

b) A copy of the "COST STSM Application form" that has to be submitted by the applicant using the on-line registration tool: <https://e-services.cost.eu/w3/index.php?id=91>

The following information has to be provided online:

- Applicants data: name, work place, address etc.
- The planned dates and duration of the STSM
- Information about the proposed STSM: title, a short, appropriate, and informative description (including references if appropriate) and a statement of relevance of the proposed STSM to Quantum Technologies in Space.
- A short CV (1 A4 page maximum)
- Total and break-down budget
- Bank details

c) A letter of acceptance from the Host institution of the STSM

#### 2) For Senior Scientists:

a) A cover letter, where the applicant should clearly indicate the science topic and the relevant working group as well as to shortly state how the proposed STSM is relevant to Quantum Technologies in Space. For more info on the science topics and on the Working Groups please refer to the action MoU:

[http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain\\_files/CA/Action\\_CA15220/mou/CA15220-e.pdf](http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain_files/CA/Action_CA15220/mou/CA15220-e.pdf)

b) A copy of the "COST STSM Application form" that has to be submitted by the applicant using the on-line registration tool: <https://e-services.cost.eu/w3/index.php?id=91>

The following information has to be provided on line:

- Applicants data: name, work place, address etc.
- The planned dates and duration of the STSM
- Information about the proposed STSM: title and a short, appropriate, and informative description (including references if appropriate)

- A short CV (1 A4 page maximum)
  - Total and break-down budget
  - Bank details
- c) A description/work-plan of the proposed visit (in PDF format); no more than two A4 pages. Applicants should explain how the proposed STSM is of relevance for the Quantum Technologies in Space. Also, they must mention if they have already been granted a previous STSM grant, and they should also provide the Host Institute name, the name of the scientist in the Host Institute they collaborated with, and the dates of the previous STSM visit.
- d) A letter of acceptance from the Host institution of the STSM.

### **3) For Early Career Researchers and PhD students:**

- a) A cover letter, where the applicant should clearly indicate the science topic and the relevant working group as well as to shortly state how the proposed STSM is relevant to Quantum Technologies in Space. For more info on the science topics and on the Working Groups please refer to the action MoU: [http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain\\_files/CA/Action\\_CA15220/mou/CA15220-e.pdf](http://w3.cost.eu/fileadmin/domain_files/CA/Action_CA15220/mou/CA15220-e.pdf)
- b) A copy of the "COST STSM Application form" that has to be submitted by the applicant using the on-line registration tool: <https://e-services.cost.eu/w3/index.php?id=91>

The following information has to be provided on line:

- Applicants data: name, work place, address etc.
  - The planned dates and duration of the STSM
  - Information about the proposed STSM: title, a short, appropriate, and informative description (including references if appropriate)
  - A short CV (1 A4 page maximum)
  - Total and break-down budget
  - Bank details
- c) A description/work-plan of the proposed visit (in PDF format); no more than two A4 pages. Applicants should explain how the proposed STSM is of relevance for the Quantum Technologies in Space. Also, they must mention if they have already been granted a previous STSM grant, and they should also provide the Host Institute name, the name of the scientist in the Host Institute they collaborated with, and the dates of the previous STSM visit.
- d) A detailed CV.
- e) A letter of acceptance from the Host institute of the STSM.
- f) A letter from either the Host or Home institute indicating any extra financial support that may be given to the applicant, if (applicable), and
- g) In the case of applicants who are PhD students, a support letter for the proposed visit from their advisor.

**There is no deadline for this call, which will be closed when the available budget will be entirely used (and anyhow no later than 15<sup>th</sup> April 2018).**

### **EVALUATION PROCESS AND RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT**

The STSM applications can be submitted anytime within the deadline. The assessment of the STSM applications will be carried out by the STSM evaluation committee (STSM coordinator, Chair & Vice-chair and WG Leaders). The committee will evaluate the submitted STSMs on a "first come - first served basis" and take decisions within one week from submission. The STSM applicants of the successful proposals will be informed immediately after the committee evaluation procedure, by a Grant Letter notifying the amount of financial support provided. The Applicant has then to notify the acceptance of the grant by returning the letter, with his/her signature, within one week after receipt.

## AFTER the STSM is completed

### **STSM SCIENTIFIC REPORT:**

The grantee is required to submit to the Action's Manager Dr. Gary Hall (G.Hall@qub.ac.uk) within 2 weeks after the completion of the STSM a short scientific report with the following information:

- Description of the work carried out during the STSM
- Description of the main results achieved
- Future collaboration with the host institute (if applicable)
- Foreseen publications (if applicable)
- Confirmation by the host institution of the successful execution of the STSM (as a separate e-mail message)
- Other comments (if any)

Please note that successful applicants will be invited to prepare a short cover story (with photos preferably) to be placed on the Action Webpage, after the completion of the STSM.

### **NOTICE OF COMPLETION:**

The STSM coordinator will assess the final report and, in case of approval, will send a "notice of completion" of the STSM to the Grant Holder. The Grant Holder will then execute the payment of the fixed grant directly to the grantee or the host institution, as requested in the application.

*Catalina Curceanu*  
(STSM Coordinator of the COST Action CA15220)