Occitanie Collaborative Projects

Supporting research excellence and innovation

Context and objectives:

The Institute for Quantum Technologies in Occitanie (IQO) brings together all the Occitan key-players in the field, including academic research institutions but also private companies. It aims at fostering knowledge sharing and to achieve scientific excellence in this research field, strengthening research transfer and preparing students and engineers around quantum technologies.

With financial support from the Occitanie Region through the Défis Clés programme, the Institute for Quantum Technologies in Occitanie, through Montpellier University, INSA Toulouse and Toulouse University, will provide funding of up to €120,000 over three years for collaborative research projects in Occitanie.

The call is aims at projects involving:

- 2–3 academic partners based in Occitanie. The eligible research units are:
  - Montpellier campus: L2C (UMR 5221), IES (UMR 5214), LIRMM (UMR 5506), IMAG (UMR 5149), IGCM (UMR 5253), LUPM (UMR 5299)
  - Toulouse campus: LPCNO (UMR 5215), LAAS (UPR 8001), CEMES (UPR 8011), LCAR (UMR 5589), LPT (UMR 5152), IMT (UMR 5219), LCPQ (UMR 5626), LNCMI (UPR 3228)

The funding is designed to provide flexibility and agility, allowing the partners to allocate the budget according to the specific needs of the project. Possible uses include, for example: PhD positions; postdoctoral positions; small equipment; research visits and mobility; other costs necessary to support the collaboration. If the project includes funding for a PhD, the Key Challenge can cover a maximum of 50% of the total cost of the PhD. Co-funding will therefore be required. The following are not eligible under this call for proposals: fluids, computers, laboratory consumables, and raw materials.

Expenditure covered by this call may only be incurred after the project has been approved by the Key Challenge Steering Committee, expected by February 2027. The project leader must provide evidence of the full completion of the project and, consequently, of

expenditure of the full amount allocated to the announced equipment, by 31 December 2029.

Selection criteria:

Projects should:

- Address a timely, promising, growing or emerging research topic;
- Build on strong research areas in Occitanie, particularly:
    - Quantum technologies, including quantum sensing, measurement, quantum communications (with a particular focus on space applications), and quantum simulation;
    - enabling technologies, including materials, optics and electronics;
- Contribute to strengthening European technological autonomy and sovereignty.

How to apply:

Download the call application form here. Fill in the document in English. Save the document in a single pdf file with a maximum size of 5 Mo. The file name should be the following:

2026_IQOINNOV_Acronym_CoordinatorFamilyName.pdf

Send the pdf file by email to bureau@iqoc.fr, by **15 December 2026, 11:59 PM**.

Applications will be acknowledged within five working days.

Selection procedure:

After verifying its eligibility, each application will be sent to two independent reviewers. A steering committee session will be held in February 2027, in order to select the projects on the basis of the reviewers' reports. Final results will be announced by 28 February 2027. Non-preselected projects will receive a report thereafter.

Contact:

For more information about the call, please contact Virginia Fernández by email to bureau@iqoc.fr.

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