

Version of 16 July 2013

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Implementation regulations for the awarding of Ambizione Energy Grants

of 13 August 2013

The National Research Council

based on Article 1 paragraph 6 of the Regulations concerning Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants

issues the following Implementation Regulations:

Article 1 Principles

¹ The Federal Council's Dispatch on the "Coordinated Swiss Energy Research Action Plan - Measures for the Years 2013-2016" calls for the targeted funding of young energy researchers. In principle, energy research is funded primarily at institutions involved in the setup and operation of inter-university competence centers (Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research, SCCER).

² Within the scope of this funding, the SNSF awards Ambizione Energy Grants to researchers (junior scientists) for an independent basic research project in energy research which may or may not be use-inspired. The project is conducted at a research center of a Swiss higher education institution.

³ The research project must contribute to the establishment of competences in energy research.

⁴ Subject to any deviating provisions in these Implementation Regulations, the Regulations concerning Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants apply.

Article 2 Personal and objective requirements

¹ Junior scientists who wish to apply for an Ambizione Energy Grant must actively conduct energy research pursuant to Article 1 paragraph 1.

If the research center of the higher education institution at which the applicant wishes to carry out the research project is participating in a newly established inter-university competence centre (SCCER), the applicant must also submit a written confirmation from the SCCER management guaranteeing both the scientific integration of the research work at the competence center and the scientific independence of the grantee.

Article 3 Call for proposals

The SNSF may issue and evaluate calls for proposals for Ambizione Energy Grants that are separate from the regular Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants.

Article 4 Submission procedure

¹ Ambizione Energy Grant applications must be submitted in English.

² The added value for energy research must be explained in the research plan.

Article 5 Assessment criteria

In addition to the assessment criteria set out in the Regulations concerning Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants, the following evaluation criterion is applied: significance of the project for the establishment of competences in Swiss energy research.

Article 6 Evaluation procedure

¹ The evaluation procedure for Ambizione Energy Grants is conducted in accordance with Article 8 of the Regulations concerning Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants.

² The SNSF may deviate from this procedure by choosing not to make a pre-selection, but rather to limit the evaluation of applications to the second phase of the procedure.

Article 7 Amount of the grant

The SNSF may set the amounts of Ambizione Energy Grants independently of Ambizione, Ambizione-PROSPER and Ambizione-SCORE grants. The grant amounts to a maximum of CHF 900,000 for three years.

Article 8 Duration of funding

Ambizione Energy Grants are awarded for a maximum of three years. If the research center of the Swiss higher education institution offers the prospect of a professorship, the SNSF may approve a follow-up grant in response to a written request giving reasons.

Article 9 Funding pursuant to the "Coordinated Swiss Energy Research Action Plan"

¹ Pursuant to the Action Plan, the SNSF avails itself of special funds for financing energy research.

² The awarding of Ambizione Energy Grants is dependent on the quality of the applications and on the available funds. The SNSF reserves the right not to exhaust the funds earmarked for a particular call and to use such funds to finance other measures that contribute to the establishment of competences in Swiss energy research (in particular, SNSF professorships in energy research, AP Energy Grants).

These Implementation Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2013.