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## **Regulations on the awarding of Assistant Professor (AP) Energy Grants**

**13 August 2013**

The National Research Council,

based on Article 48<sup>1</sup> of the Funding Regulations <sup>2</sup> issues the following Regulations:

### **1. General**

#### **Article 1 Principle**

<sup>1</sup> 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 junior 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).

<sup>2</sup> The Swiss National Science Foundation (hereinafter "the SNSF") awards grants for projects in energy research ("AP Energy Grants") to researchers who intend to pursue an academic career and are employed as assistant professors or will be employed as such in the near future (junior researchers) at a Swiss university in order to establish competences in energy research.

<sup>3</sup> The SNSF awards grants for projects in energy research ("AP Energy Grants") to researchers at universities of applied sciences if they intend to pursue an academic career and are employed as assistant professors or will be employed as such in the near future in order to establish competences in energy research.

<sup>4</sup> Assistant professors are generally employed at a research center of a higher education institution that participates in an inter-university competence center for energy research (Swiss Competence Center for Energy Research, SCCER).

<sup>5</sup> AP Energy Grants may be applied for in all disciplines of energy research.

#### **Article 2 Duration and type of funding**

AP Energy Grants are awarded ad personam. The duration of funding is limited to four years.

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<sup>1</sup> Amendment; funding regulations of 27.2.2015, in force since 1 January 2016.

<sup>2</sup> [www.snsf.ch](http://www.snsf.ch) > About us > Statutes & legal framework

## 2. Formal requirements

### Article 3 Personal requirements

Junior researchers who wish to apply for an AP Energy Grant must fulfil the following criteria:

- a. Employment as assistant professor (with or without tenure track) at a Swiss university or comparable employment at a university of applied sciences which generally participates in a newly established or planned inter-university Competence Center for Energy Research (SCCER). The position must contribute to the establishment of capacities and competences in energy research;
- b. The assistant professor's employment at a Swiss university or comparable employment at a university of applied sciences must have commenced no earlier than 12 months before the submission date of the application or must be due to commence on the project start date at the latest;
- c. At least 80% of the working hours (for applicants at Swiss universities) or 70% of the working hours (for applicants at universities of applied sciences) must be devoted to the research and to the further training<sup>3</sup>;
- d. Employment under an AP Energy Grant is not to be confused with an SNSF professorship, which is a separate funding scheme.

### Article 4 Objective requirements

<sup>1</sup> Applicants must submit their proposals for AP Energy Grants in accordance with the relevant requirements using the official SNSF forms. The proposals must comprise all details and documents specified as compulsory.

<sup>2</sup> The applications must be submitted in English.

<sup>3</sup> The compulsory documents include the following written confirmations from the rector's office or the presiding board of the research center of the Swiss higher education institution:

- a. Confirmation that employment in the newly created position contributes to the planned establishment of capacities and competences in energy research and precise description of the position and career prospects at the relevant research centre of the higher education institution, particularly in view of further employment immediately after the period of funding.
- b. If employment is imminent, an additional confirmation that the applicant has been chosen for an assistant professorship (with or without tenure track) at a Swiss university or for a comparable position at a university of applied sciences. The envisaged start date of the employment must be mentioned.
- c. An assurance that the successful applicant will be scientifically independent and will be granted access to the infrastructure needed to conduct the project.
- d. In the event of employment at a Swiss university: an assurance that the successful applicant will be granted the right to award doctorates.
- e. If the research center of the higher education institution is participating in an SCCER, the applicant must submit a written confirmation from the SCCER management guaranteeing both the applicant's scientific integration at the competence center within the scope of the research work and his/her scientific independence.

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<sup>3</sup> Amendment of 22 October 2013, in force with immediate effect

## **Article 5                    Submission of applications**

<sup>1</sup> The Swiss National Science Foundation issues public calls for proposals for AP Energy Grants and sets the deadline for submission.

<sup>2</sup> The applications must be complete and submitted to the Administrative Offices of the SNSF by the submission deadline for the current call. The punctuality of proposals is regulated in Article 14<sup>4</sup> of the Funding Regulations.

## **3.                    Evaluation procedure**

### **Article 6                    Responsibility**

The Research Council of the SNSF is responsible for scientific evaluation and decisions with regard to applications. The Research Council may delegate the evaluation to specialised evaluation bodies.

### **Article 7                    Assessment criteria**

<sup>1</sup> Applications that meet the formal requirements are scientifically evaluated.

<sup>2</sup> The following assessment criteria are applied:

- a. Applicant's scientific track record (research and teaching experience at home and abroad, high-level scientific publications) or, for applicants at universities of applied sciences, experience in use-inspired research (in particular, professional experience and an independent contribution in the area of research-based development and innovation, independent contributions to patents).
- b. Scientific quality of the planned research project pursuant to the criteria mentioned in Article 24<sup>5</sup> of the Funding Regulations or, for applicants at universities of applied sciences, the quality of the research project and its relevance for use-inspired research.
- c. Possibility of integrating the applicant into the Swiss higher education institution system.
- d. The project's significance for the establishment of capacities and competences of an SCCER or for energy research as a whole.

### **Article 8                    Assessment procedure**

<sup>1</sup> The responsible evaluation bodies evaluate the submitted AP Energy Grant application on the basis of the submitted documents and the obtained external reviews.

<sup>6</sup> The SNSF informs the applicants of the decision of the National Research Council to either award or not award an AP Energy Grant by means of a written ruling giving reasons.

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

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

<sup>2</sup> The awarding of AP 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, Ambizione Energy, SNSF professorships in energy research).

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<sup>4</sup> Amendment; funding regulations of 27.2.2015, in force since 1 January 2016.

<sup>5</sup> Amendment; funding regulations of 27.2.2015, in force since 1 January 2016.

## **Article 10 Follow-up applications**

<sup>1</sup> In principle, no follow-up grants are awarded for AP Energy Grants.

<sup>2</sup> In exceptional cases, a follow-up grant may be awarded in response to a written request giving reasons.

<sup>3</sup> A follow-up grant may only be awarded if the corresponding funds are available for energy research and if the follow-up grant brings substantial added value to the establishment of competences in energy research.

## **Article 11 Legal effects of the award**

Applicants who are awarded an AP Energy Grant become grantees of the SNSF.

## **4. Grant; eligible costs**

### **Article 12 Amount and composition of the grant**

<sup>1</sup> An AP Energy Grant amounts to a maximum of CHF 1,200,000 for 48 months.

<sup>2</sup> Eligible costs are costs linked to the realisation of the project, such as salaries for doctoral students, academic and technical employees, material of enduring value, expendable items, travel expenses and other project-related costs.

<sup>3</sup> All salary-related costs of the grantees are not eligible.

## **5. Transitional and final provisions**

### **Article 13 Further provisions**

Subject to any specific provisions in these Regulations, the provisions of the Funding Regulations and the General implementation regulations for the Funding Regulations apply.

### **Article 14 Entry into force**

These Regulations enter into force on 1 September 2013.