Screening Guidelines of the Call for Proposals on the OPEN MIX LAB Program for FY 2027

The screening of the "Call for Proposals on the OPEN MIX LAB Program" will be decided by the National Institutes of Natural Sciences Research Collaboration Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Committee") in accordance with these screening guidelines.

I. Screening Policy

Researchers will cooperate with domestic and foreign researchers regardless of existing research fields, and select research projects and workshops that meet the purpose of contributing to the development and progression of innovative research through inter-organizational collaboration.

II. Stakeholders Exclusion

The exclusion of stakes concerning the evaluation shall be as follows:

① If a member of the committee is a joint researcher of a theme under application, he/she shall not join the evaluation.

② If a member of the committee uses his/her judgment that he/she falls under any of the following items in relation to the principal applicant and joint researcher of a theme under application, he/she shall not join the evaluation.

(a) Established kinship ties or equivalent close personal relationship

(b) Close partnership to engage in joint research

(For example, a person who has a close relationship by carrying out joint research, writing a joint research paper, or being a member of a research group with the same purpose)

(c) Affiliation in identical research units (Researcher, etc. in identical courses)

(d) Same affiliation (Researcher in the same department)

(e) A confrontational relationship or competitive relationship where the result or evaluation of the theme under application may possibly lead to a direct benefit for a member of the committee

III. Screening Process, etc.

1. Screening Process

① The committee will conduct a document screening of the research theme proposed by the applicant representative based on the

"application form." However, for the young researcher support type, the start-up type and the smart cloud lab pioneer type a document screening will be conducted by the screening group established under the committee.

② For research co-creation type projects and theme setting type, the committee will conduct screening interview as necessary, based on the results of the document screening.

③ Based on the results of document screening by the committee, the Steering Committee of the Co-Creation Strategy General Headquarters will decide the theme for adoption.

2. Focal Points for the Screening

(1) Research Goals and Targets

Are the research objective and content novel and innovative based on flexible ideas and innovative methods through inter-organizational collaboration?

In the case of technology development type, is important technology development that will promote research through inter-organizational collaboration in the future the goal?

(2) Inter-Organizational Collaboration System

Is a National Institutes of Natural Sciences employee included in the principal investigator or joint researcher and is it a research system for conducting innovative research through inter-organizational collaboration? (Excluding technology development type)

(3) Research Outline

Is the research outline concrete and highly feasible within the specified time frame? Regarding the theme setting type, is the proposal in line with the theme?

(4) Medium or Long-Term Ripple Effects

From a medium- to long-term perspective, can we expect ripple effects such as the "creation of new fields through the establishment of innovative technology" and "collaboration with industry"? (Excluding technology development type)

(5) Expenses

In light of the research goals and outline, are the research expenses reasonable?

3. Screening Procedure

(1) Implementation of the Document Screening

The document screening which shall be conducted individually by the committee shall focus on each element of the Screening Guidelines III. ″2. Focal Points for the Screening″ and an evaluation shall be conducted and comments given from the following Table 1. In addition, in the case a member of the committee falls under the category of a "stakeholder" in the theme under screening, he/she shall declare such fact and the member of the committee shall note comments only and not make an evaluation.

Table 1

Evaluation Items	
	(1) Research Goals and Targets
	(2) Inter-Organizational Collaboration System
	(3) Research Outline
	(4) Medium or Long-Term Ripple Effects
	(5) Expenses
Comprehensive Evaluation	
Comment	

Evaluation Classification	
4	Very good proposal
3	Good proposal
2	Somewhat inadequate
1	proposal

(2) Interview Screening

In the interview conducted by the committee, an evaluation based on Table 2 shall be made and comments shall be given. In addition, in the case a member of the committee falls under the category of a "stakeholder" in the theme under screening, he/she shall declare such fact and the member of the committee shall note comments only and not make an evaluation.

Table 2

Evaluation Classification	
4	Very good proposal
3	Good proposal

2	Somewhat inadequate proposal
1	Inadequate proposal

IV. Others

1. Disclosure,

Publication, etc.

(1) The screening process shall be closed to the public.

(2) Regarding the screening result, applicants shall be given notification individually and regarding the selected research theme, the following information shall be disclosed in the NINS website.