



“Associate Teams” Program: Call for Projects 2024

The Associate Teams are an essential element of the Institute's international policy. This program is one of Inria's main tools to support bilateral scientific collaborations and to promote and strengthen its strategic partnerships abroad. Inria has been supporting these collaborations since 2002, and each year more than eighty teams are active.

An Associate Team is a joint research project created between an Inria project-team and a research team abroad. The two partners jointly define a scientific objective, a research plan, and a bilateral exchange program. Associate Teams (ATs) are funded for 3 years.

In order to promote and develop these collaborations by supporting research projects of excellent scientific level, Inria's Department of International Relations (DRI) launches an annual call for proposals.

1. 2024 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Each year, the DRI defines the program's objectives. Regional and thematic priorities reflect the institute's international strategy to anchor its presence in the world and develop strong partnerships with certain countries.

For the 2024 call, an Associate Team proposal must correspond to one of the program's objectives set out below:

Europe (geographical): *See details in Appendix 1 (page 06)*

 Partnerships

- **Germany:** Inria-DFKI and Inria-CISPA
- **Netherlands:** Inria-CWI
- **Norway:** Inria-Simula
- **United Kingdom:** Inria-London
- **Switzerland:** Inria-EPFL

→ **North America:** *See details in Appendix 2 (page 08)*

 Target Country

- **Canada**

 Network

- **United States:** Inria@SiliconValley

→ **Latin America:** *See details in Appendix 3 (page 09)*


 Partnerships

- **Inria Brazil**
- **Inria Chile**

→ **Asia and Oceania:** *See details in Appendix 4 (page 10)*

 Target Countries

- **Japan**
- **South Korea**
- **India**


 Exploratory zones

- **Singapore**
- **Australia**

→ **Africa and Middle East:** *See details in Appendix 5 (page 12)*

 Target Country

- **Africa:** all countries

 Exploratory zone

- **Israel**

→ **Multizone:** *See details in Appendix 6 (page 13)*

 JLESC Consortium

- **North America / Asia / Europe**

→ **Co-financing:** *See details in Appendix 7 (page 14)*

Collaboration with one of Inria's partners who have committed to supporting Associate Teams, either through a joint call for proposals, or by arranging complementary funding:

- **India:** DST-CEFIPRA (terms to be specified)
- **China:** CAS
- **Brazil:** FAP São Paulo and FAP Rio de Janeiro (to be confirmed)
- **Chile:** PUC and UTFSM Universities (to be confirmed)

2. PROPOSAL OF A NEW ASSOCIATE TEAM

- **Application**

It is recommended that Inria researchers contact the International relations correspondents in their Inria Centers to help redact the Associate Team project, regarding both administrative and scientific aspects.

The list of DRI correspondents in the Inria Centers is available at the following address:

<https://intranet.inria.fr/Inria/Directions/Relations-internationales/DRI/Les-Correspondants>

The project submitted must fall within the framework of the 2024 call (see paragraph "1. 2024 PROGRAM OBJECTIVES" on page 01).

The Inria principal applicant of an Associate Team must be a member of a project-team (EP). The scientist who coordinates the project on the French side fills in the online form on the dedicated platform (<https://drisi.inria.fr/eaEquipeAssociee/new>), and attaches the document presenting the scientific project on the same platform.

The document template for the presentation of the scientific project is available:

- in Word version: <https://partage.inria.fr/share/page/site/appel-2024-equipes-associes/document-details?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/892c7391-b7c8-4653-9edd-f2ca789a1a6b>
- in Latex version: <https://partage.inria.fr/share/page/site/appel-2024-equipes-associes/document-details?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/98a3cf35-19d4-4ba5-b486-6b0a4aa78404>

- **Selection process for Associate Teams**

The quality of proposals is assessed by an **ad-hoc or existing scientific committee** at each Center. The person in charge of the "Associate Teams" program at the DRI will be invited to participate in the Centers' selection committees as a guest.

Inria's General Management, acting on a proposal from the DRI, then uses these assessments to select successful projects.

Selected projects are subject to the Defense and Security Officer's (FSD) approval and will only be confirmed once this validation has been obtained¹.

The selected projects must be formalized through an agreement between Inria and the partner institution.

- **Funding**

Inria allocates funding of 7000 to 12 000 euros per year per Associate Team². These amounts are subject to the overall budget allocated to the DRI after general arbitration and may be revised accordingly.

For co-funding, please refer to [appendix 7 on page 14](#).

¹ Projects submitted to this call for projects will be examined under the PPST (Protection du potentiel scientifique et technique et intelligence économique). For more information: <https://www.enseignementsup-recherche.gouv.fr/cid27031/protection-dupotentiel-scientifique-et-technique-et-intelligence-economique-p.p.s.t.html>

² Up to 12,000 euros/year for the first two years for Associate Teams outside Europe and up to 9,000 euros/year for Associate Teams in Europe.
Up to 10,000 euros/year in the third year for Associate Teams outside Europe and up to 7,000 euros/year for Associate Teams in Europe.

The Inria budget of the Associate Team will only be used for exchanges between the partner teams and the advancement of joint research by funding the mobility of researchers.

➤ **Eligible Expenses:**

The budget allocated to an Associate Team allows for the funding of:

- Exchanges - travel and short and medium-term stays (from a few days to a few weeks)
 - of researchers, engineers, post-docs, PhD students and trainees*
 - between France and partner countries (including trainees)
 - between the partner country and France, up to a maximum of 20% of the total budget allocated for the year.
- Organization of joint workshops/workshops (travel and accommodation expenses)

➤ **Ineligible Expenses:**

This budget does not cover participation in conferences, internships scholarships or stipends, equipment purchases, or publication costs. More generally, expenses not listed in the "Eligible Expenses" section are not eligible.

**Special case of trainees:*

- *The budget may be used for travel and short or medium-term stays of trainees from an Inria team to the partner.*
- *Due to national regulations regarding internship stipends in France, it is not possible for the Institute to cover the travel expenses of an intern (internship agreement) from the partner institution to visit an Inria team.*
- *The budget of an Associate Team cannot be used to pay a stipend for interns from the partner institution hosted by Inria teams. The Associate Team principal investigators may, however, submit a request for support for the hosting of an internship under the Inria International Relations Department "Internships" program. Applications for this program are made throughout the year on the DRISI platform (<https://drisi.inria.fr/internshipSujet/new/1>). Although funding is not automatically granted (this is a selective program with a defined budget), support for internships within the framework of an Associate Team is identified as a priority for the program.*

A notice on the use of the 2024 budget will be available in early 2024 and sent to Associate Teams for further details on how to use and allocate the budget.

3. CALENDAR

- **Inria**

June 29, 2023	Launch of the call
July 11, 2023 - 13:30 hrs	Information webinar about the program for Inria PTs
September 19, 2023 - 13:30 hrs	Information webinar about the program for Inria PTs
October 16, 2023	Deadline for submission for the general call and Inria-side submissions for the specific calls
October-December 2023	Evaluation of proposals
January 2024	Official decision and notification of results and budget decision

- **Specific calls and complementary funding**

Attention! These calls for proposals and complementary funding require a **double submission** (to Inria and to the partner). Partners must ensure that they comply with the submission procedures and timetable established by their funding agency or institution.

For partners in India, please refer to the specific call with DST- CEFIPRA	Timetable and conditions to be indicated by the partner
For partners in CAS institutions in China, please refer to the specific CAS-Inria call	June 16, 2023 - October 16, 2023
Brazilian research support foundations of Rio de Janeiro (FAPERJ) and São Paulo (FAPESP)	To be confirmed by the partners
PUC and UTFSM universities in Chile	To be confirmed by the partners

For specific calls and additional funding: please refer to appendix 7 on [page 14](#).

4. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Follow-up**

Any change in circumstances having an impact on the running of the Associate Team must be reported as soon as possible to the DRI's International Programs Manager (change of manager by Inria or the partner, EP affiliation, etc.).

A brief annual report will be requested at the end of years 1 and 2. A report will then be requested at the end of year 3 (final year).

- **Information requests**

For further information or questions, please contact the International Programs Manager at DRI: [Natacha Régis](#)

Please also feel free to contact the International Correspondents at your Center.

Appendix 1: Europe (geographical)

Inria-DFKI (Germany)

Inria and the DFKI (Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz) signed a memorandum of understanding in January 2020, committing to implement a joint program for research and innovation. This program will focus on areas related to AI for Industry 4.0, AI for wearable technologies, AI and cybersecurity, human-robot cooperation, and other topics.

Associate Team projects with the DFKI are eligible for the 2024 campaign. As the program aims to extend its collaborations to Japan, submissions involving a partner from Japan are eligible under this call.

Inria-CISPA (Germany)

In 2023, Inria and the CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen Franco-German scientific collaboration in the field of cybersecurity.

The parties intend to bring their respective national perspectives, reflecting them in the European context.

All CISPA departments are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program as part of the Inria-CISPA partnership.

Inria-CWI (Netherlands)

The CWI (Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica) and Inria have a long history of cooperation and scientific dialogue, the two institutes recently strengthened their collaboration and formalized their partnership by signing a new strategic agreement a few months ago.

Scientific cooperation is strengthened by the creation of joint projects and research teams in field areas such as quantum computing, human interaction, energy, cryptography, digital health machine learning, and software engineering.

CWI research groups in these scientific fields and in Inria research fields are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of the Inria-CWI partnership.

Inria-Simula (Norway)

Inria and Simula Research Laboratory, a research organization in Norway (<https://www.simula.no>), signed an agreement at the end of 2020 with the intention of building a partnership that aims to develop collaborations in HPC, Intelligent Systems, Cardiac Modeling, Cryptography, and Quantum computing as well as all scientific fields of interest to Inria.

Simula's departments in Inria's research areas are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of the Inria-Simula partnership.

Inria-London (United Kingdom)

Inria and University College of London (UCL) signed an agreement at the end of 2019 to strengthen and structure the impact of scientific collaborations between the institute and its London partners, first and foremost UCL, particularly around the themes of artificial intelligence, machine learning and statistics, as well as all scientific fields of interest to Inria.

UCL departments in Inria's research fields are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of Inria-London. As the program is intended to grow, submissions for Associate Teams with other London partners, as well as with Cambridge and Oxford universities, are also eligible for the 2024 call.

Inria-EPFL (Switzerland)

Inria and EPFL (École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) have been working together since 2015 on issues of common interest, linked to new uses of the Internet, particularly those of applications linked to Big Data and the Cloud.

EPFL faculties in Inria research fields are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the Inria-EPFL framework, for a bilateral project. It is also possible for Inria PTs to join forces to submit an Associate Team project via a sponsoring PT, with a partner at EPFL.

Appendix 2: North America

Canada

Canada is a priority country in the Institute's international strategy. In April 2023, Inria signed an agreement with the University of Waterloo, to strengthen existing links with Inria teams and develop new collaborations.

Associate Team projects with any Canadian partner (a university or also a research center such as Fields Institute, Vector Institute, MILA, AMII, IVADO) are eligible for the 2024 campaign, with no thematic restrictions.

Projects with the University of Waterloo and/or in the fields of Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, Digital Health, Cybersecurity are particularly encouraged.

Inria@SiliconValley (United States)

The Inria@SiliconValley program, launched in 2011, helps to structure and strengthen research and innovation collaborations between Inria and California, through a network of researchers from Inria project-teams and Californian universities.

<https://project.inria.fr/siliconvalley/>

All California research institutions are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within Inria@SiliconValley, with no thematic restrictions.

Appendix 3: Latin America

Particular attention will be paid to frugal digital projects, which could involve the IRD.

Inria Brazil

Created in 2020 on the basis of a partnership between Inria and LNCC (Laboratório Nacional de Computação Científica), the Brazilian national scientific computing laboratory based in Petrópolis), Inria Brazil, through a network of partners, aims to support research and innovation projects between Inria, LNCC and other Brazilian research and innovation partners.

<https://project.inria.fr/inriabrasil/>

Associate Team projects with the LNCC and/or another Brazilian research and innovation partner (university, research foundation, company) are eligible for the 2024 campaign, without thematic restrictions.

Projects in the fields of HPC, Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Scientific Computing are particularly encouraged.

Inria Chile

Created in 2012, Inria Chile aims to structure and strengthen scientific collaborations in digital sciences and technologies between Inria teams and those of Chilean universities, while promoting increased collaboration with the industry.

<https://www.inria.cl/en>

All Chilean academic partners are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program within the framework of Inria Chile.

Appendix 4: Asia and Oceania

Japan

Japan is a target country in the Institute's international strategy. Cooperation agreements are underway with the NII (National Institute of Informatics), the NICT (National Institute of Information and Communications Technology), and the AIST (National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology).

All Associate Team projects with Japanese partners are eligible for the 2024 campaign. Projects with the NII in the fields of open science, the AIST in the fields of artificial intelligence, and the NICT in the fields of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and next-generation networks (5G/6G) are particularly encouraged.

South Korea

South Korea is a target country in the institute's international strategy. The main academic partner is KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology), with which a cooperation agreement has been in place since December 2020. Complementary to KAIST, ETRI (Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute) is also a partner, with an agreement signed in November 2021, as is KISTI (Korea Institute of Science and Technology Information), with an agreement signed in June 2023.

Associate Team projects with the following Korean partners are eligible for the 2024 campaign, without thematic restrictions: KAIST, ETRI, KISTI, POSTECH (*Pohang University of Science and Technology*), and SNU (*Seoul National University*).

India

India is a target country in the institute's international strategy.

All Associate Team projects with Indian partners are eligible for the campaign. 2024. Projects with IIT Delhi (*Indian Institute of Technology Delhi*) and IISc (*Indian Institute of Science*) Bangalore are particularly encouraged.

Singapore

Singapore is an exploratory zone in the institute's international strategy.

All Associate Team projects with academic or research partners in Singapore are eligible for the 2024 campaign. Projects with NTU (*Nanyang Technological University*) in artificial intelligence, as well as with A*STAR (*Agency for Science, Technology and Research*) in all Inria fields are particularly encouraged.

Australia

Australia is an exploratory zone in the institute's international strategy.

All Associate Team projects with Australian partners are eligible as part of the 2024 campaign. Projects with universities in the Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide regions are particularly encouraged.

Appendix 5: Africa and Middle East

LIRIMA (Africa)

LIRIMA (*International Laboratory for Research in Computer Science and Applied Mathematics*), created in late 2009 by Inria and seven other institutions in sub-Saharan Africa and the Maghreb, is the fruit of close collaboration between researchers from Inria and research institutions in these countries.

To support the development of new actions, submissions from institutions in African countries not yet partnered with LIRIMA are also accepted as part of the 2024 campaign. The list of current partner institutions is available on the LIRIMA website: <http://lirima.inria.fr/fr/institutions-partenaires/>

All of Inria's fields are eligible, and special attention will be paid to projects dealing with frugal digital technologies, which may involve the IRD in particular.

Israel

Israel is an exploratory zone in the institute's international strategy.

All Israeli academic partners are eligible for the "Associate Teams" program. Projects in the field of artificial intelligence are particularly encouraged.

Appendix 6: Multizone

JLESC (AmNorth America / Asia / Europe)

The JLESC (*Joint Laboratory for Extreme Scale Computing*), focuses on the development of algorithms and software for high-performance computing on large-scale supercomputers and distributed computing infrastructures. The founding partners of JLESC are Inria and the University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign UIUC (USA). Other members are ANL- Argonne National Laboratory (USA), BSC- Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Spain), JSC- Jülich Supercomputing Center (Germany), and Riken Center for Computational Science (R-CCS) (Japan). University of Tennessee-UTK (USA) is an associate member.

<https://jlesc.github.io>

Associate Team projects within the JLESC framework can be submitted with all JLESC members: UIUC (USA), ANL (USA), BSC (Spain), JSC (Germany), Riken CCS (Japan) and UTK (USA) only within the scientific scope of the JLESC.

Appendix 7: Co-funding

Inria establishes specific agreements to support Associate Teams with international partners, either through joint calls for proposals or by providing additional funding.

Attention! These calls for proposals and complementary funding require a double submission (to Inria and the partner). Partners must ensure that they comply with the submission procedures and timetable established by their funding agency or institution.

For the 2024 campaign, specific calls have been launched with DST-CEFIPRA for India and CAS in China and are to be confirmed for the Brazilian research support foundations of the States of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo (FAPERJ and FAPESP) as well as for Chilean universities (PUC and UTFSM).

→ **(Calendar and details to be specified) Call with the Franco-Indian Center for the Promotion of Advanced Research (CEFIPRA), mandated by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).**

Submissions for Associate Teams with India are open to any Indian academic or research partner.

To be eligible for DST-CEFIPRA co-funding, Associate Teams must align with one of the themes that will be published soon. The information will be shared with International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as it is available.

As part of the specific agreement with DST-CEFIPRA, co-selected Associate Teams with India may receive a total funding of at least 20,000 euros per year for three years (at least 10,000 euros per year from Inria funding and the equivalent from DST-CEFIPRA).

The link to the DST-CEFIPRA call text will be shared with International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as it is known.

Please note that a specific document template for the presentation of the scientific project must be completed and included in the file on DRISI. It will be shared by International Correspondents for dissemination along with the call text.

In this specific case, do not hesitate to contact Natacha Régis if you are considering an application with India to receive the information directly.

→ **(June 16 - October 16) Additional funding within the framework of the partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences - CAS.**

Associate Teams submitted with institutes affiliated with CAS commit to their Chinese partner submitting a funding application according to the procedures established by CAS.

All institutes affiliated to CAS in Inria's research domains are eligible for the joint Inria-CAS call. The list of institutes is available at <http://english.cas.cn/institutes/>.

Under the specific agreement with CAS (China), Associate Teams with CAS may receive a total funding of at least 20,000 euros per year for three years (at least 10,000 euros per year from Inria funding and the equivalent from CAS).

Link to the call text: <https://partage.inria.fr/share/page/site/appele-2024-equipement-associates/document-details?nodeRef=workspace://SpacesStore/c9b80eee-7158-46fc-b098-97ac5568c5ff>

→ **(Co-financing to be confirmed) Additional funding from the research support foundations of Rio de Janeiro (FAPERJ) and São Paulo (FAPESP) in Brazil.**

Associate Teams submitted with researchers from the states of Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo may also receive financial support from the research support foundations (FAP) of these states, but this co-financing is still to be confirmed.

The information will be shared with International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as it is known.

→ **(Co-financing to be confirmed) Possible additional funding from two Chilean universities (PUC, UTFSM).**

Associate Teams submitted with researchers from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile and the Federico Santa María Technical University may also potentially benefit from co-financing, which is still to be confirmed.

The information will be shared with International Correspondents for dissemination as soon as it is known.