

Dear HALO-community,

the DFG has published a call for collaborative initiatives to fund new and innovative instrumentation for major research facilities, please see:

https://www.dfg.de/foerderung/info_wissenschaft/ausschreibungen/info_wissenschaft_20_13/index.html

In a first step a **concept proposal** has to be submitted. The concept proposal will be reviewed by DFG and, if approved, DFG will then issue a call for specific instrument proposals by individual PIs within in a second step. Non-university institutions alone are not eligible to apply within this funding scheme, however, joint proposals between universities and non-university partners are possible.

We have discussed with the respective DFG contact person (Dr. Michael Royeck) asking if HALO would qualify as such a major research facility, and if it would be appropriate to submit (in a first step) a concept proposal to enable funding of the development, testing, and implementation of new instrumentation on HALO. Dr. Royeck replied that there are no formal or general reasons not to try it.

Therefore, we suggest to prepare and submit a concept proposal for the “Advancement of the Scientific Instrumentation of HALO” within this program. The deadline for submission of such a 10-page concept proposal is the 30th of June 2020. If evaluated positively, a call for specific instrument proposals would be issued by DFG in 2021.

If you have ideas for new and innovative new instrumentation for HALO and if you want to be part of this suggested activity, we propose the following procedure:

- We ask you to submit a short **expressions of interests** for new instruments, which you want to develop and deploy on HALO.
- Your expressions of interest should consist of **one page**, describing the instrument concept and illustrating the positive and tangible effects on the relevant fields of research. Please also explain why the instrument is distinct from currently available HALO-instruments, and what the particular relevance, originality, and topicality of research projects is that would necessarily require this advanced instrumentation.
- Furthermore, you should provide a rough estimate of the expected costs (at this stage the involvement of design organizations is not required), also quantifying follow-up costs and discussing possible contributions of the applying university.

Assuming that we will receive a critical number of expressions of interest, we would put together a concept proposal for the advancement of the scientific instrumentation of HALO. We will distribute the text among those who have submitted an expressions of interest. We can decide later, if we would need a meeting to finalize the concept proposal, or if an e-mail discussion is sufficient.

Please submit your **expressions of interests** until **30 April 2020** to anja.schwarz@uni-leipzig.de. In case of questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Manfred Wendisch, Jörg Schmid, and Anja Schwarz