

Usage guideline – Joachim Herz Award



as of February 3, 2025

The “Joachim Herz Award” is endowed with funding of up to EUR 500,000, typically allocated on the basis of a grant agreement between the Joachim Herz Foundation (JHS) and the institution (public or non-profit organization based in Germany) of the award-winning applicant based on the award guidelines and the following usage guidelines.

1 Distribution of funds

After the jury has selected the award winner or the award-winning team, the JHS will formally grant the award by means of an award letter.

The committed funds can be drawn down from 01.10.2025.

By drawing down the funds, the award winner or the award-winning team and the recipient institution accept the award guidelines and these usage guideline. A corresponding form for requesting funds is enclosed with the award letter.

2 Use of funds

The funds disbursed may only be used for the specific purpose of scientific research in connection with the project presented by the award winner or a group of award winners in the application.

Only pre-competitive research projects are eligible for funding. This means that the project must be at a stage after basic research and before market maturity (usually technology readiness level 3-6).

The awardee decides on the scientific use of the funds within the scope of the award-winning project.

The funds can be allocated to any costs covered by the cost plan submitted with the application and approved with the award.

The funds cannot be used to cover the overhead costs of the recipient institution.

3 Funds utilization period

The funds can be used within a period of up to 3 years. The term begins on the first day of the period for which funding is requested for the first time as part of the call for funds, at the earliest on the calendar day following the date on which the award is granted, but at the latest within six months of the award being granted.

4 Notification obligation

Should the awardee change institution or discontinue research activities in connection with the award-winning project, the JHS must be notified.

5 Withdrawal and recovery of funds

JHS reserves the right to revoke an award and assert a claim for repayment if incorrect or incomplete information was provided in the application, if the conditions of approval are not observed or if there are other important reasons for revocation. This is particularly the case if conditions arising from the award guidelines, these usage guidelines or the award letter, such as in particular the appropriate use of the funds and the obligation to notify in accordance with section 4, are not fulfilled.

- In case of uncertainty, the German version of this document applies. -