

# ERS-Forum

## Kármán Conferences

### Open Call

The **Exploratory Research Space @ RWTH Aachen (ERS)** is a structure to support the generation of new and unconventional research ideas. Organized meetings, workshops etc. aim at overcoming the barriers between different disciplines and fostering the interdisciplinary exchange between scientists.

Outstanding international meetings on novel research topics can be promoted as **“Kármán Conferences”**. Kármán Conferences help to develop interdisciplinary topics at RWTH Aachen University and position them in a competitive international environment. Proposals from emerging research fields that are expected to have a high impact on RWTH's future scientific profile are given priority support. Interdisciplinary topics at the interfaces of natural, engineering or medical sciences, but also humanities and economics are predestined for hosting a Kármán Conference. For the organization of a Kármán Conference, an ERS subsidy of up to 25,000 € per conference may be requested.

#### 1. Type and Aim of Measure

Kármán Conferences shall help to evaluate and sharpen a scientific topic with possible relevance to the research profile of RWTH Aachen University. Thus, they are a „working meeting“ of a confined scientific community and do not aim at creating international visibility for a topic rather established, already. Documentation and publication of the conference contributions is not recommended in order to foster a trusting atmosphere and open discussion of yet unpublished results from cutting-edge research. Typically, meetings are lasting three to five days. The number of attendees should be limited to 70-100, approximately.

Kármán Conferences also aim at supporting young scientists and encourage the exchange with well-established senior scientists and professors at eye level. The conference chair and vice-chair are responsible for the content and conduct of the meeting, the invitation of speakers as well as the selection of discussion leaders and attendees.

#### 2. General Conditions

Any full professor of RWTH Aachen University may apply for a subsidy to organize a Kármán Conference. The proposal has to be submitted by the conference chair together with a vice chair person from a different faculty of RWTH. A short report is requested within two months after the meeting (scientific outcome and possible follow-up activities; number of participants, feedback of participants based on questionnaire; financial report; lessons learned for organization of further conferences).

#### 3. Proposal Structure and Content

The proposal should contain the following information:

- Conference title, planned date and venue (if already known)
- Contact details of applicants, i.e., conference chair and vice-chair (two different faculties)
- Topic of the conference and its relevance to the respective scientific community
- Expected long-term impact on research profile of RWTH Aachen University
- Preliminary meeting schedule including preliminary list of keynote speakers
- Cost frame for entire organization
- Length of proposal: 2 pages max., type size: Arial 11, line spacing: 1.5, Language: English or German

#### 4. Further Information and Application

This is an open call. Please submit your proposal any time via email to:

RWTH Aachen, Abteilung 4.1 – Forschungsprofil und IP-Management  
Iris Schümmer  
E-Mail: iris.schuemmer@zhv.rwth-aachen.de  
Phone: 0049 241 80 96504

#### 5. ERS Steering Committee

Prof. Tim Brümmendorf, Faculty 10 | Prof. Stella Neumann, Faculty 7 | Prof. Heinz Pitsch, Faculty 4  
Prof. Matthias Wuttig, Faculty 1 | Dr. Elke Müller, Head of Division 4.0, ZHV

**We strongly recommend to check the provided [RWTH Guideline „Kármán Conference“](#) and to contact us before submitting a proposal.**

