

Alliance Industry Program

Type:	Funding programme
Submission deadline:	15-Apr-2026
Funded by:	Health + Life Science Alliance Heidelberg Mannheim
Reach:	Mannheim and Heidelberg

The following text does not reflect the entire content of the announcement, but contains individual extracts from the guideline.

Purpose

The Alliance Industry Program aims to systematically strengthen the integration of industry partners into the innovation campus and further expand the region's innovative strength. The focus is on specific projects in the fields of cancer and cardiovascular research, neuropsychiatric disorders, genomics, synthetic immunology, molecular engineering, medical technology, novel applications of AI concepts and deep tech in health and life sciences. The active involvement of industrial players in the Alliance's interinstitutional ecosystem is intended to accelerate the region's economic development and achieve stronger networking between academic research and industry in the long term.

Funding is provided exclusively for pre-commercial research projects (e.g., research up to proof of concept, in vitro/in vivo), for example in the following areas:

- Target validation and prioritization
- Assay development for drug screening
- Development of preclinical models
- Validation of biomarkers or companion diagnostics
- Development of novel methods and technologies
- AI applications, App development, software tools...

The initiative allows industry access to academic excellence, high-caliber research infrastructure, and proximity to academic innovations. The academic partner benefits from practical research with translational potential, additional resources, and a stronger third-party funding base.

Funding measures

The industry program comprises two funding lines: (1) Postdoctoral Translation Funding and (2) Match-Making Funding

These funding measures are in line with the Alliance's principle of providing seed funding for joint projects that have the potential to develop into long term collaborations and foster the transfer of knowledge into applications and products. A defined project proposal can only be submitted for one of the two funding lines.

1. Postdoctoral Translation Funding

The Postdoctoral Translation Funding creates a unique platform for Alliance postdocs who want to combine their scientific excellence with industrial practice and applications. The candidates will experience unique co-mentoring from the industry partner and expanded career options in science and product development.

The Alliance supports postdocs at Alliance institutions who already work or intend to work in industrial collaborations with up to €25,000 for consumables per year for up to two years.

Prerequisite: The industry partner commits to covering the postdoctoral researcher's salary at an Alliance institution in full for up to two years. The academic partner provides infrastructure, laboratories, and covers additional consumables costs for the project duration.

2. Match-Making Funding

Research projects between Alliance researchers and industry partners are funded if the industry partners commit to actively investing in the project for up to two years.

Re-applications for further development of previously awarded projects are generally not possible.

The project funds are provided proportionally by industry and the Alliance – with projects receiving a maximum of €200,000 from the Alliance over a period of up to two years. An industry contribution of at least 50% of the Alliance's share is required.

This means that, with maximum funding of €200,000 for up to two years from the Alliance, industry partners must contribute at least €100,000 as direct cash to the Alliance academic partner institution.

Projects with higher direct industry contributions are desirable and will be given priority during the review process.

Application

Alliance researchers and industry partners are called upon to work together on project proposals, submission needs to be done by the principal investigator of an Alliance institution. Funding recipients are exclusively PIs at Alliance institutions.

Applications are evaluated on quarterly basis, with the next deadline on April 15, 2026.

By submitting the application, the applicants confirm the accuracy of the information provided and ensure the consent of the partners involved. Only complete applications will be accepted. Applications should be submitted in English.

Project proposals

The targeted promotion of the call to relevant interest groups – in particular researchers, industry partners, and existing collaborations – will primarily be carried out by the TTOs, BioRN and other drivers of the regional innovation ecosystem.

Funding

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Source: Health + Life Science Alliance Heidelberg Mannheim

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Further information

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