

Call for Projects TALENTS 2027

Deadline: November 16, 2026

Presentation of the call

1. CONTEXT

As part of the I-SITE Excellence Program (PEI) of the University of Montpellier (UM) and the France 2030 Investment Program, the University has aimed for each Research Pole to develop ambitious, long-term scientific actions, known as “Long Thematic Projects” (PTL). In this context, the UM Chemistry Research Pole proposes a PTL centered around the theme “**CHIMie durable pour l’ENergie**”, CHIMENE, which will fund projects in the fields of energy and environment, placing sustainable development at the heart of their scientific approach. Sub-themes, crucial for addressing societal challenges, have been defined within the PTL CHIMENE (See Appendix).

2. OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE

The TALENTS call for projects is based both on the [selection of ambitious, breakthrough scientific projects](#) led by faculty members and researchers (EC/C) within the Chemistry Research Pole, and on the [recruitment of high-potential candidates](#) who may apply for prestigious funding (ERC, PF-MSCA, etc.) and/or academic or research positions (EC/C). To support the career development of the recruited early-career researchers, mentoring activities will also be implemented.

This year, [3 fixed-term Researcher contracts \(CDD\)](#), each for a duration of 18 months, covering the thematic axes of the PTL (See Appendix), will be funded. These early-career researchers will be recruited under a fixed-term project contract (Articles L332-24 to L332-26 of the French Civil Service Code). In addition, each contract will include an [€8,000 budget](#), primarily intended to cover travel expenses aimed at enhancing the international visibility of the laureate’s work and, where appropriate, to contribute to the funding of specific equipment required for the project. The applications of the fixed-term Researcher candidates proposed by the laureates of the call for projects will be reviewed and approved by the PTL Steering Committee (COPIL).

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- This call for projects is restricted to teams within the main perimeter of the Chemistry Research Pole (IBMM, ICGM, ICSM, IEM).
- The project must align with the PTL CHIMENE themes (See Appendix) and meet the PTL’s ambition.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects will be evaluated primarily according to the following criteria:

- Project quality
- The project’s credibility in achieving its objectives and leading to an application for prestigious funding by the recruited candidate
- Impact on the ecological transition and sustainable development objectives, in accordance with the UM SDTE¹.
- Identifying, at the application stage, a candidate who meets the ambitions of the PTL and the scientific strategy of the project leader will be considered an asset. The candidate for the fixed-term Researcher contract will be evaluated for approval by the PTL Scientific Committee.

¹ Ecological Transition Master Plan

5. FUNDING AMOUNT AND FINANCING TERMS

Each selected project will receive funding covering 18 months of salary at INM 596, i.e. k€82.39 per fixed-term contract, together with an €8,000 operating/travel budget.

All expenses must be incurred exclusively for the selected project, in accordance with the UM administrative framework and the eligibility conditions of this call for projects. Any amount incurred by the institutes outside the selected project, or any unspent amount, will be reclaimed from the institute.

6. CALL FOR PROJECTS TIMELINE

Opening of the call for projects

Submission deadline

Review by the COPIL of Researcher fixed-term contract candidate applications proposed by the laureates for approval

September 2026

November 16, 2026 at 12 pm

February 1–15, 2027

Announcement of results

March 2027

Start of fixed-term contracts

On a rolling basis, before the end of 2027

7. COMMITMENTS OF THE PROJECT LEADER

- Promote gender parity and equality between women and men during the candidate selection process;
- Display the UM and FRANCE 2030 logos on all documents relating to the implementation of the project;
- Submit to the PTL coordination team, no later than 2 months after the end of the project, a scientific report that may be used in UM communication materials, according to a template provided by the PTL;
- Systematically apply the UM publication affiliation guidelines;
- Comply with provisions relating to open science and the French Law for a Digital Republic (open-access publication). Project leaders from laboratories under UM supervision must deposit the full text of publications in the HAL-UM open archive (<https://hal.umontpellier.fr/>);
- Where applicable, take the necessary steps to obtain the research authorizations/approvals required in regulated sectors (Nagoya Protocol, genetically modified organisms, use of animals for scientific purposes, health data, use of genetic resources and sharing of resulting benefits, bioethics, etc.);
- In designing and implementing the project submitted under this call for projects, comply with the values and principles of scientific integrity intended to guarantee the honesty and scientific rigor of all research work, as referred to in Article L.211-2 of the French Research Code and set out in the National Charter for Research Integrity and the University of Montpellier (UM) Charter on Scientific Integrity.

8. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The application form must be sent to the Director of the relevant research unit for a reasoned opinion. The Director will forward all proposals from the unit by email before the submission deadline to hala.bachour-haddad@umontpellier.fr. The project must be written in English or French and submitted in PDF format.

The form must be submitted using the following file name: Acronym_LASTNAME_FIRSTNAME

Contacts :

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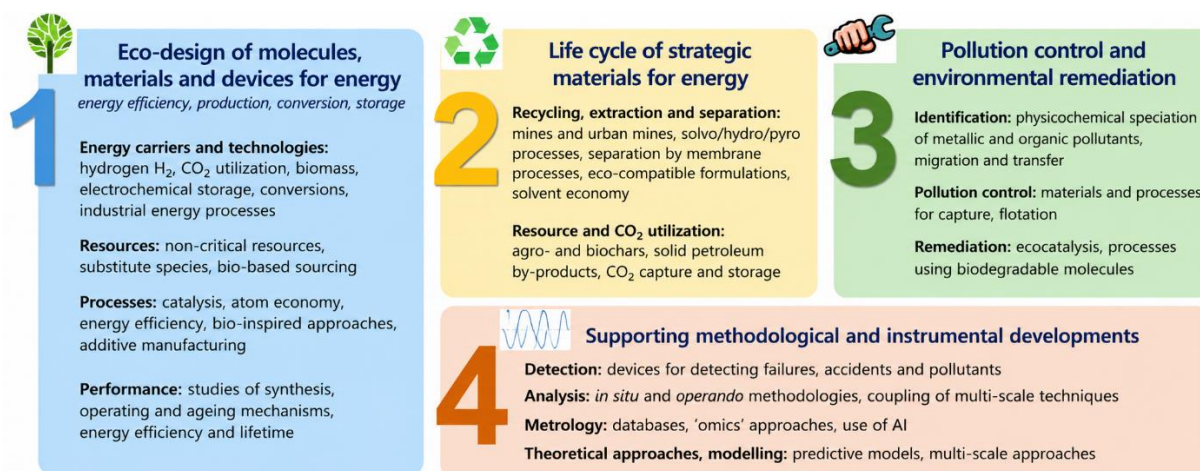
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APPENDIX

The PTL CHIMENE is structured around the following four themes:



Theme 1: Eco-design of molecules, materials and devices for energy. The rational design of molecules, materials and devices for energy production, conversion and storage, as well as for energy savings, is at the heart of this theme. It includes research on the design of molecules, materials and devices, the use of non-critical or substitute resources (unrecovered co-products, abundant and recycled elements, etc.), the development of atom- and/or energy-efficient manufacturing approaches and processes (additive manufacturing, morpho synthesis, nanomaterials, etc.), and the creation of resilient devices. This eco-design approach, aimed at improving energy performance, draws in particular on strong expertise in catalysis (homogeneous, heterogeneous, electro-, nano- and biocatalysis) and innovative manufacturing technologies. This theme also aims to study the ageing of materials and devices under operating conditions in order to optimize their performance and service life.

Theme 2: Life cycle of strategic materials for energy. This theme focuses on the extraction and use of strategic materials from conventional mines as well as renewable resources (urban mining) for the manufacture of energy-system components. It therefore aims to secure the supply of strategic materials (Co, platinum-group metals, Li, rare earths, etc.). Solvo-, hydro- and pyrometallurgical extraction and separation processes will be considered, with preference given to eco-compatible formulations and approaches that reduce solvent use. Membrane processes will also be explored, together with the development of materials and processes for CO₂ capture, storage and valorization, and biomass valorization. Finally, methods for reducing and/or valorizing synthesis co-products, as well as those from energy materials and devices, will be examined.

Theme 3: Pollution control and environmental remediation. This theme brings together research on the fate in the biosphere of contaminants and ultimate waste arising from energy applications (renewable/carbon-based/nuclear), particularly at production and/or storage sites. It is based on the identification and physicochemical speciation of metallic and organic pollutants, as well as processes for environmentally responsible pollution control and remediation of aquifers, soils and air. These include, for example, membrane processes for water treatment, materials for pollutant capture and decontamination by flotation.

Theme 4: Supporting theoretical, methodological and instrumental developments. Supporting the three previous themes, this cross-cutting axis covers developments in detection, analysis and metrology. Particular emphasis will be placed on *in situ* and *operando* analyses and on coupling techniques to obtain novel experimental results at different spatial and temporal scales. The development of tools/sensors for detecting device/system failures, accidents in facilities and pollutant levels, as well as the use of artificial intelligence, for example for data processing, will be investigated.

Finally, all theoretical approaches developed to obtain predictive models at the different relevant scales will also be considered.