

Call for Continental Scientific Drilling Proposals

The **International Continental Scientific Drilling Program (ICDP)** invites proposals for pioneering research through continental drilling that will help reveal Earth's history and address global challenges. As a multinational initiative supported by 21 member countries and UNESCO, ICDP offers a unique platform for scientists to address fundamental questions about our planet and pressing societal issues. Projects are encouraged under ICDP's four core themes: Geodynamic Processes, Geohazards, Georesources, and Environmental Change. In the proposal evaluation process ICDP will primarily consider scientific quality and global relevance. Technical and financial aspects as well inclusivity and contribution of early-career scientists will also be taken into consideration.

Strategic Funding and International Collaboration

ICDP employs a co-mingled funding principle, typically contributing 5–70% of total project costs, with the remainder sourced from national agencies or other partners. This model has achieved notable leverage: ICDP has invested roughly US\$60 million in over 60 projects, facilitating more than US\$240 million from additional sources. ICDP supports projects showing strong scientific merit, international collaboration, and clear societal relevance. All proposals should align with the [ICDP Science Plan](#) and may include [land-sea drilling](#) in partnership with the International Ocean Drilling Programme (IODP³).

Proposal Types – NEW in ICDP: Fast-track Proposal

ICDP's tiered proposal system provides a rigorous and transparent assessment process, now expanded to include four distinct proposal types ([proposal writing guidelines](#) must be strictly followed):

1. **Preliminary Proposal (Pre-Proposal):** A concise document (up to 10 pages) presenting initial project concepts for early scientific review by the ICDP Science Advisory Group. Please note that ICDP has introduced updated guidelines for resubmitting pre-proposals to improve proposal quality and increase the chances for success.
2. **Workshop Proposal:** Submitted following a successful Pre-Proposal to request funding for organizing an international workshop to develop the project in greater detail.
3. **Full Proposal:** The most comprehensive submission (up to 20 pages) to request funding for drilling and to be developed after a successful workshop. Full proposals must include all scientific, technical, budgetary, and management aspects of the proposed drilling project for thorough evaluation.
4. **Fast-track Full Proposal – NEW:** ICDP introduces a fast-track route for Full Proposals, designed to bypass the standard Pre-Proposal and Workshop stages. This option enables researchers to respond rapidly to exceptional scientific opportunities requiring immediate funding and integration into ongoing drilling projects. Fast-track proposals must address broad, high-impact scientific questions and demonstrate the need for expedited ICDP support.

Proposals targeting geothermal drilling or lacustrine drilling

Principal Investigators who plan to submit a proposal to ICDP in the area of geothermal research are asked to consider the information on [ICDP Geothermal Support](#). Principal Investigators who wish to submit a proposal for drilling lacustrine sediments, particularly in East Africa, are strongly encouraged to read the [ICDP Lake Drilling Support](#).

Deadline

Submit proposals by **January 15, 2026** via email to proposal.submission@icdp-online.org.

Eligibility

This call is open to Principal Investigators from ICDP member countries; international collaboration is a pre-requisite.

Member countries

Australia, Austria, Belgium, China, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America.

More information

For detailed proposal guidelines, a video on the ICDP Proposal Writing Workshop (explaining how to prepare and submit proposals), and contact information for the ICDP Office, please visit: <https://www.icdp-online.org/proposals/>.