

WSS¹⁰⁰

WERNER SIEMENS-STIFTUNG
JAHRHUNDERTPROJEKT

The Werner Siemens Foundation was established on November 7, 1923, by Carl von Siemens' daughters Charlotte and Marie in Schaffhausen, Switzerland. In the following years, Werner von Siemens' daughters, Hertha and Anna, and Carl von Siemens' daughter-in-law, Eleonore (Nora), further increased the foundation's capital.

Today, in its philanthropic work, the Werner Siemens Foundation (WSS), based in Zug, supports the start-up phase of outstanding research and innovation and excellent scientists with their exceptional research ideas in the life, natural and technical sciences (www.wernersiemens-stiftung.ch/en/projects) with substantial amounts. One goal is for the funded projects to continue independently after a few years or for the resulting innovations to be used in practice. The projects must address relevant problems or challenges of our time in a knowledge-oriented manner and at the same time have a high potential for application (TRL >3), including in new fields. The projects are located at universities, colleges and research institutions in Germany, Austria or Switzerland.

Announcement of an Ideas competition for a WSS research center Technologies for Sustainability (Technologien für eine nachhaltige Ressourcennutzung) in connection with WSS research awards

To mark its 100th birthday in 2023, the Werner Siemens Foundation intends to fund a WSS centennial project: a WSS research center on „Technologies for Sustainability“, («Technologien für eine nachhaltige Ressourcennutzung») to be located in Germany, Austria or Switzerland, with a total financial volume of 100 million Swiss francs for a funding period of ten years.

Prior to the decision on the funding of the planned WSS research center, a corresponding ideas competition will now be held for the scientific community in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. The best up to 5 ideas in the aforementioned topic area with their researchers as idea providers—individuals or groups, also „high potentials“ of earlier experience levels—are to be selected and awarded a WSS research prize, each endowed with 1 million Swiss francs in research money. This should also commit them to subsequently develop a concept for a WSS research center „Technologies for Sustainability“ («Technologien für eine nachhaltige Ressourcennutzung»).

The sustainable use of our planet's resources is arguably one of the crucial issues for the future of mankind: energy, air, water, food, raw materials, habitat on land and at sea, to name just a few aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals SDGs.

Which findings and technologies from the whole range of natural and engineering sciences based on original, also unconventional and risky ideas of excellent researchers can contribute here in the long term and significantly to a successful pursuit of the SDGs in the WSS research center „Technologies for Sustainability“ («Technologien für eine nachhaltige Ressourcennutzung»)?

The integration of competences from the life sciences, social sciences, economics or other scientific fields should, in all freedom of research, only follow the necessities of the respective research, but are not demanded per se. This also applies to inter- and transdisciplinary as well as cross-location cooperation and partnerships with business enterprises and societal institutions.

The call for ideas is initially not addressed to institutions, but to research personalities, who should, however, already now present at which—as funding partner and for a spatial accommodation necessary—host institution (university, college, research institution in the DACH region) the WSS research center would be established for the realization of the proposed research idea. The presentation should include a concise description of the idea and objectives, mission and work areas as well as the initial situation and personal track record in a maximum of 10 pages.

Submission of ideas in German and English is requested by January 10, 2023 by email to wss.jahrhundertprojekt@wernersiemens-stiftung.ch

The WSS Research Prizes are awarded by the Werner Siemens Foundation's Board of Trustees in consultation with the Family Board on the basis of the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board (www.wernersiemens-stiftung.ch/en/foundation/scientific-advisory-board), whose individual members and, in particular, Matthias Kleiner (matthias.kleiner@wernersiemens-stiftung.ch), the member entrusted with overseeing the ideas competition, are also available in advance to advise on any questions that may arise.

The award winners will be notified in the first quarter of 2023, followed by a festive award ceremony on June 16, 2023 in Lucerne.