Teknologiateollisuus

AI Investment in the Technology Industries of Finland: Hiring AI Researchers in Member Companies

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS AND TERMS

In What Format and to Whom Should the Application be Submitted?
The application, along with its attachments, should be compiled into a single PDF document that includes all the required documents as per the application guidelines. The application should be addressed to the Technology Industries of Finland (hereinafter TIF) at:
Email: johtoryhma@teknologiateollisuus.fi

What Should the Application Include?

The application must include at least the following:

1. A description of the research project for which the researcher will be hired, including:
   a. a project description with an overall timeline
   b. a summary of the project description that can be published
   c. biannual goals of the research project and indicators for tracking them
2. A job description for the recruited researcher and a comprehensive CV of the individual.
3. An estimate of the total salary costs, the amount of the grant being applied for (maximum 50% of salary costs including direct ancillary costs for a period of 2 years), and the entity to which the grant from Technology Industries will be paid.
4. A description of the intended impact of the project on the company's competitiveness and growth.

The company must indicate in the application which parts of the application are confidential.

What Are the Evaluation Criteria for Applications?

General eligibility criteria:

1. The company is a member of Technology Industries of Finland.
2. The research is related to artificial intelligence and aims to create a competitive advantage and/or growth for the company.
3. The researcher holds a doctoral degree or is a doctoral student in a field related to artificial intelligence.
4. 50% of the direct salary costs will be covered for a maximum period of two years, based on an annual application submitted retrospectively.
5. A research plan and budget must be submitted as attachments to the application form.

6. The company (or another company within the same group) has not previously received this specific grant from Tekno. If multiple applications are submitted, the company will be asked to prioritise.
7. The employment relationship must be new and not already ongoing.
8. The research topic must be lawful and ethical.

The evaluation criteria for applications are:
1. The significance of the applied research to the company (impacts on competitiveness and growth)
2. The competence of the selected researcher: experience in applied AI research, collaboration with companies, publications, and recognitions (the researcher's suitability for company-driven applied research and consideration of geopolitical risks)

What Is the Minimum Competence Requirement for the Recruited Researcher?

The recruited researcher must have completed at least 50% of a doctoral degree in computer science, statistics, electrical engineering, mathematics, or another relevant field, and have a minimum of three years of relevant work experience in machine learning, statistics, artificial intelligence, or a related field.

Who Participates in the Evaluation of Applications?

Representatives of Technology Industries of Finland, AI Finland, and the Technology Industries of Finland Centennial Foundation evaluate the applications and compile a summary evaluation report with a recommendation, which is then presented to the Executive Committee of the Board of Technology Industries of Finland.

Are the Applications Confidential?

Yes, the evaluators treat the applications as confidential. The summary of the project description is public, as is the summary of the evaluation report, which does not disclose any information the company has marked as confidential.

Does the Recruited Researcher Need to Be Identified at the Application Stage?

Yes.

Is a Funding Agreement Made for the Research Project?

Yes. A contract is made between Technology Industries of Finland and the applying company for an approved project. The agreement is based on the project application and the project decision made by the Executive Committee of the Board of Technology Industries.

How Is the Project Reported?

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The company must report on the progress of the research project to Technology Industries of Finland every six months. However, any significant changes related to the project must be reported immediately.

In the semi-annual report:
• the achievement of the biannual sub-goals presented in the project application is assessed using the corresponding indicators
• the realization of the competitiveness and growth impacts outlined in the application is evaluated within the company.

Is the Applied Research Conducted in the Company Public?

No. After the project ends, the company publishes a research summary, which is public.

How Does Technology Industries of Finland Pay the Grant?

Technology Industries of Finland pays its funding contribution semi-annually in arrears based on an application.

Can the Payments Be Suspended?

Payments can be partially or fully suspended by decision of the Executive Committee if the interim goals of the research project are not met.

What Happens to Payments if the Company Resigns from the Organization or Ceases Operations During the Project?

Technology Industries of Finland will discontinue payments. The support is intended for members only.

What Happens if the Recruited Researcher Stops Working on the Project?

Technology Industries of Finland will suspend payments. If an equivalent or more qualified replacement researcher is not recruited within six months, the payments will be terminated.

Does Technology Industries of Finland Pay Half of the Direct Salary Costs Including Ancillary Costs if the Actual Salary Costs Exceed the Applied Amount?

No. Technology Industries of Finland will pay no more than the grant amount specified in the application.

Will Technology Industries of Finland Pay the Full Requested Grant if the Actual Salary Costs Including Ancillary Costs Are Lower Than in the Application?

No. Technology Industries of Finland will pay a maximum of 50% of the actual salary costs including direct ancillary costs.