NOF CORPORATION Open Innovation Program 2025
Outline of Application Guidelines

1. Purpose

We present research topics and conduct commissioned (or joint) research with universities, public research institutions, start-up companies, etc. in Japan and abroad through an open call screening system. The Company will actively utilize the results obtained through commissioned (or joint) research.

2. Eligibility for Application

Researchers and businesses belonging to national and public private universities, public research institutions, technology start-up companies, etc. In the case of team research with the participation of multiple researchers and business operators, applications will be made by the representative.

3. Research Themes and Recruitment Technologies

THEME 01 Thermal Management Materials and Technologies

With the continued expansion of 5G/6G, AI, EVs, and IoT, there is a strong demand for advanced heat dissipation materials and technologies.

- High thermal conductivity and processability polymer composites
- Materials and technologies for cooling systems in servers and EVs
- Materials and technologies for converting thermal energy to other forms

THEME 02 Next-Generation Solar Cell Materials

We welcome submissions of materials and technologies that contribute to improving performance, such as flexible, high-efficiency, and tandem types.

- Novel encapsulants with high barrier performance and weather resistance
- New organic/inorganic materials for improved efficiency and longevity
- Materials and technologies to reduce manufacturing costs

THEME 03 Next-Generation Display Materials (Ultra-High Definition, VR, AR)

We seek materials and technologies that contribute to high definition, wearable use, reduction of manufacturing process costs, and power saving.

- Materials and technologies to significantly reduce μLED production costs
- Materials and technologies for high-definition VR/AR displays
- Highly durable transparent conductive films for flexible displays

THEME 04 Secondary Battery Materials

We are looking for materials and technologies that contribute to safety, higher capacity, lower cost, and fast charging performance of current lithium-ion batteries, as well as solid-state batteries and post-lithium-ion batteries

- Novel solid electrolytes with high ion conductivity and safety
- High-capacity materials using silicon, sulfur, etc. for new cathode/anode
- New polymer binders with high adhesion and stability

THEME 05 Next-Generation Semiconductor Materials

We are soliciting materials and technologies that improve productivity in the pre- and post-process processes of chip miniaturization, 3D multilayer stacking, new materials (such as high dielectrics that take advantage of perovskite structures), and pre- and post-process processes

- Novel insulating films with high insulation and thermal conductivity
- New encapsulants with high heat resistance, high thermal dissipation, and low thermal expansion

4. Duration of the commissioned (or collaborative) research

In the case of commissioned research, in principle, one year from April 2026 is assumed. In the case of joint development agreements and licensing agreements, the necessary period is discussed and set each time.

5. Cost and Usage

We assume research and PoC expenses in the range of several million yen to tens of millions of yen per project. Depending on the content of the proposed research, we will discuss it individually. Depending on the research results, we are prepared to continue research in the next year and beyond.

6. How to apply

Please go to the application form site from the "Apply for the program" button on this site, fill in the necessary information for each item, and make a proposal. Please fill in the information you need to include only publicly known information. As a document, if necessary, we would appreciate it if you could send us information related to your proposal, such as information about the company, characteristics, research (technical) papers, and information showing research capabilities.

7. Screening and Selection

The review will be conducted by an in-house team headed by the head of the Research Planning Office of the Company's Research Division and a group of experts from ABeam Consulting Co., Ltd. After reviewing the submitted documents, we will contact you for an interview review of the promising proposals extracted. If a confidentiality agreement is required during the interview screening, we will conclude and discuss it. Acceptance is confirmed by both parties agreeing to conduct the commissioned research at the meeting and signing a joint research agreement.

8. Judging criteria

Proposals are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Outline of proposed seeds and technologies, performance (advantages over existing technologies and unique features).
- Expectations for technological perfection and commercialization.
- The possibility of application to a wide range of fields, not limited to a specific field.

In addition, the applicant's past track record in the research field is not necessarily a necessary requirement, but rather the proposed technical content, the applicant's research enthusiasm, enthusiasm, and future potential.

9. Application Secrets

The Company will not use the personal information of applicants for purposes other than those related to screening and research cooperation. Please check our policy on the protection of personal information (https://www.nof.co.jp/english/privacy-policy).

The contents of the proposal will be handled internally for the purpose of screening only within the Company, but we will not conclude a confidentiality agreement, so please disclose only the information that we believe can be disclosed to the Company. Please refer to the "Application Terms" of the program for the Company's policy on accepting disclosure of unknown technical information that has not been granted rights.

10. Notification of Examination Results

After the document screening, applicants will be notified of the screening results by email.

11. Conclusion of a contract (joint) research contract

Prior to the start of the research, we will conclude a commissioned (joint) research agreement between the university, research institute, and startup to which the finalized applicant belongs. In principle, the contents of the contract shall be based on the template set by the Company, but we will also respond to consultations regarding the use of templates owned by each university, research institute, and startup. If a contract (collaborative) research contract cannot be concluded, the acceptance will be canceled.

12. Attribution of the Deliverables of the Commissioned (or Joint) Research

The handling of intellectual property rights obtained because of research, and the acquisition of research equipment shall be agreed upon in the contract.

13. Publication of Adoption Results

After signing a commissioned (or joint) research agreement, the applicant and the university. If there is consent from a research institution or affiliated company, the results of the selection will be published on the web page.

14. Research evaluation

Progress meetings will be held at an appropriate frequency, and a performance report will be prepared at the end of the period.

15. Application/Judging Schedule

Application Period
(Web input of research proposal outline) November 10, 2025, to January 21, 2026
(Online joint briefing session scheduled to be held　November 21, 2025)
Document screening:　Late January 2026
Interview:　Early February – Late February 2026
Announcement of Winners:　End of March 2026

16. Contact

ABeam Consulting Co., Ltd. Secretariat Email address: info@nof-oi2025.com

Department in charge of NOF CORPORATION.
Research Division, Research Planning Office in charge: Sawada
4-20-3 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo Tel (+81)3-5424-6776