

Dear Colleagues,

A special call for proposals for IUTAM Symposia focused on diversity in any dimension relevant to IUTAM is now open. Proposals must be for Symposia to be held in 2026. A call for such Symposia to be held in 2027 will be opened at a future date.

Symposia are one of IUTAM's major areas of activity in order to promote mechanics. On the recommendation of the IUTAM Diversity Advocacy Group (DAG), and with the approval of the IUTAM General Meeting of Members, money is set aside for funding of a limited number of IUTAM Symposia designed to enhance diversity within IUTAM and within the international theoretical and applied mechanics community.

There is a desire for IUTAM Symposia to promote new areas in the field of mechanics, or fields with high societal impact, and with an attendant high risk. In addition, IUTAM values *Excellence* and *Diversity* as supporting principles for pursuing the objectives of IUTAM and maintaining the highest standards in all its activities. IUTAM understands diversity as the range of human differences, including but not limited to race, gender, age, subject of expertise and geographic representation. IUTAM values diversity as a supporting principle for pursuing its basic objectives and maintaining the highest standards in all its activities. IUTAM encourages the chairs of Symposia to favor a diverse participation.

An example of a proposed Symposium that would be welcome in response to this call is one led by an early career researcher with the program of speakers consisting only of early career researchers. Attendees not giving presentations or displaying posters could be from any stage of career. It would also be sensible for a supporting organizer to be an experienced researcher not at the early career stage.

Another example of a proposed Symposium that would be welcome in response to this call is one to be held in a region of the world that is not very active within IUTAM or in a region of the world where research in theoretical and applied mechanics is in a relatively early stage of development and growth. Such a Symposium could be led by a researcher from the country or region in which the Symposium is to be held or by a researcher from elsewhere who is motivated to organize the Symposium.

Another example of a proposed Symposium that would be welcome in response to this call is one focusing on important emerging topics relevant to theoretical and applied mechanics. A proposal to hold such a Symposium should be forward-looking and also highlight innovative developments. The proposer should bear in mind that a few IUTAM Symposia each year already focus on emerging topics in theoretical and applied mechanics. Therefore, a proposal that focuses on emerging areas in response to this call should present a persuasive case that the emerging topic or topics identified are of special significance and importance to subject of diversity within theoretical and applied mechanics. A persuasive case might be linked to other aspects of diversity such as the career stage of participants or the region of the world in which the Symposium is to be held.

Please note that the previous three paragraphs should not be interpreted as prescriptive or restrictive. IUTAM welcomes any proposal that makes a case for a benefit in terms of any dimension of diversity, including those identified above in the third paragraph of this call.

IUTAM requests your help as a Representative of an Adhering or Affiliated Organization of IUTAM to spread information about the present call for proposals. Such help would include spreading the news about this call and its opportunities to researchers in your country and to researchers from and in countries not currently very active in IUTAM nor in the international theoretical and applied mechanics community. Your help in encouraging top researchers in your community and elsewhere to submit high-quality Symposia proposals would be greatly appreciated.

Proposals must be submitted on the form that is available online on the IUTAM website. To make a submission, please visit

<https://iutam.org/notices/call-for-proposals-for-iutam-symposia-2026-diversity-now-open>

where the link to the proposal form is provided. Please e-mail your proposal to IUTAM Secretary-General Robert McMeeking at rmcm@ucsb.edu. Please include “IUTAM Diversity Symposium Submission” in the subject line of your e-mail.

The deadline for submission of proposals is 31st October 2025.

The proposals will be evaluated by the Symposia Panels. Final decisions approving or declining proposals will be made by the IUTAM Board of Directors in consultation with the IUTAM Diversity advocacy Group.

Please do not apply for the additional \$3,000 travel/registration grant. If a proposal is approved, the organizers will thereafter be given an opportunity to apply for that grant by making a persuasive case in a concise e-mail transmitted to the Secretary-General.

Please feel free to spread information about the call in the mechanics community around you.

Sincerely yours,
Robert McMeeking
Secretary-General of IUTAM
<https://iutam.org/>