

FY2026 ARC-Space Joint Research Program Proposal Submission Guidelines

Jun 23, 2026
ARC-Space, The University of Aizu

1 Objective of the Program

ARC-Space aims to promote research in the field of space informatics, which integrates space science and informatics, through industry-academia collaboration, and to provide the results to the academic community, thereby contributing to the vitalization of research in the field and to the advancement of its technological development. ARC-Space was certified as a joint usage/research center for Lunar and Planetary Exploration Archive Science, by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) in FY2019. (The certification was renewed in April of FY2025.)

Lunar and planetary exploration archive science refers to a form of research in which new insights are obtained by combining data obtained and accumulated through past lunar and planetary exploration and observational research with the latest knowledge and analysis techniques.

As one of the major activities of ARC-Space, we will be offering Joint Research Program for research carried out between researchers in the academic community and faculty members of ARC-Space. We will be calling for themes that promote the lunar and planetary exploration archive science and contribute to the community through, among other things, enhancing the value of lunar and planetary exploration data, the development/maintenance of analysis tools, and the provision of services.

2 Details of the Program

We are accepting applications for the following projects related to Lunar and Planetary Exploration Archive Science. A limited number of projects are expected to be selected. The research projects will be either “research and investigation or prototype evaluation in the preliminary stage of full-scale R&D with the aim of adding value to lunar and planetary exploration data and/or developing analysis tools,” or “full-scale R&D, including collaboration with industry, with the goal of adding value to lunar and planetary exploration data and developing and maintaining practical data analysis tools”. (The allocated research budget is not more than 2,000,000 yen per project.) R&D proposals that do not request research funding are also welcome. These proposals may involve the use of ARC-Space infrastructure for data and service delivery, joint software development based on open-source software (OSS), or collaborative research and discussions with ARC-Space faculty members.

<Examples of themes for application>

- (a) Analysis of lunar and planetary exploration data
- (b) Research and development of analysis tools for lunar and planetary exploration data
- (c) Development and evaluation of new analysis methods for lunar and planetary exploration data
- (d) Development a system for the release and distribution of lunar and planetary exploration data and analysis tools.

3 Qualified Applicants

Joint Research will be conducted by the following (1), (2), and (3). Those who fall under (1), (2), or (3a) must be listed in an application form. At least one faculty member of ARC-Space must be included as a Principal Investigator or a Co-Investigator. For proposals aiming to develop products for practical use, we encourage the involvement of companies and other organizations in R&D.

PIs and Co-Is must undergo research ethics training offered by their universities, research institutions, or JSPS prior to the start of joint research.

(1) Principal Investigator

PI must be one of the following.

- a. Faculty members of national, public, and private universities, researchers of research institutes(including ARC-Space), or equivalent researchers (including technical staff of national, public, and private universities)
- b. Individuals recognized as equivalent to (a) by the Director of ARC-Space

(2) Co-Investigators

Co-Is must be one of the following.

- a. Faculty members of national, public, and private universities, researchers of research institutes (including ARC-Space), or equivalent researchers (including technical staff of national, public, and private universities)
- b. Individuals from the private sector (including venture companies) or independent engineers/researchers
- c. Graduate students of national, public, and private universities
- d. Others who are deemed as particularly necessary by the Director of ARC-Space

(3) Research Collaborators

Research Collaborators must be one of the following.

- a. Researchers or graduate students of overseas universities or research institutions
- b. Others engaged in the research in collaboration with the PI or Co-Is.

4 Implementation Period

The period of the joint research is from the date of notification of acceptance to March 31, 2027 (Wednesday).

5 How to Apply

(1) You can download the application form (Form 1) from ARC-Space's website. Please refer to the following URL:

<https://arcspace.jp/jointresearch:top>

(2) E-mail the completed application form (A4 size) in Microsoft Word format (.docx) to the address in 12 Submission Address and Contact Information.

(3) Before applying for the program, applicants may consult with the ARC-Space's faculty members regarding the joint research themes, research content, expenses, the selection of researchers from among the ARC-Space's faculty members, participation of companies and other topics, if necessary.

(4) Application forms must be in English or Japanese.

(5) Graduate students participating in the joint research must be covered by insurance coverage equivalent to or greater than the Personal Accident Insurance for Students Pursuing Education and Research (including the liability insurance) of the Japan Educational Exchanges and Services.

6 Research Expenses, etc.

(1) Eligible Expenses

The following expenses can be applied for when conducting joint research.

- a. Outsourcing expenses (software development, provision of services, etc.)
- b. Expenses for the purchase of goods/consumables (limited to those used for joint research)
- c. Honoraria for research supporters (students, etc.)
- d. Travel expenses (limited to travel expenses for visits to ARC-Space and presentations of joint research results)
- e. Other (not applicable to the above)

(2) Payment Method

ARC-Space will reimburse the joint research expenses upon request based on the designated documents submitted by the successful applicant for expenditures of less than 500,000 yen, for (1b) through (1d) above. However, ordering and acceptance inspection of (1a) and items of 500,000 yen or more will be conducted by ARC-Space.

Items purchased for 100,000 yen or more will be regarded as equipment of the University of Aizu, and the handling of such items after the joint research period will be stipulated and notified separately.

7 Application Period

Jun 23, 2026 (Tuesday) - July 13, 2026(Monday)

8 Adoption of Joint Research Proposals

- (1) Acceptance or rejection of a joint research proposal will be discussed by the Proposal Solicitation and Selection Committee and decided by the Steering Committee.
- (2) During deliberations, applicants may be asked to provide explanations as necessary.
- (3) We will notify applicants of the acceptance or rejection results after August 24, 2026. Please note that if accepted, the title of the research project, the names and affiliations of the applicants will be posted on ARC-Space's website.

9 Joint Research Report

- (1) Please submit the "Report on ARC-Space Joint Research" (hereinafter referred to as "Research Report") in either English or Japanese to the email address provided in "12 Submission Address and Contact Information" by April 22, 2027 (Thursday). Microsoft Word / Microsoft Excel files are accepted.
- (2) Please note that if you fail to submit the Research Report by the deadline without a particular reason, you will not be eligible to apply for this program in the following year. The template for the Research Report will be provided to selected applicants separately. For reference, the FY2025 Research Report template can be found at the following URL: https://arcspace.jp/doku.php?id=jointresearch:ay2025_jointresprog_cfp
Please note that the template will be updated for FY2026.

10 Publication of Results

- (1) After the research period, the results of the joint research will be published on ARC-Space's website based on the contents of the "Publication Status of Results" in the Research Report. At this time, inquiries may be made to the PIs of selected research

projects regarding the publication status of the results after the submission of the Research Report.

- (2) Applicants may be asked to present their research plans and results at conferences organized by ARC-Space.
- (3) If accepted researchers publish the results of joint research (including academic papers, conference presentations, etc.), please indicate in the acknowledgements section that the research was conducted jointly by ARC-Space.

An example of an acknowledgment letter can be found at the following website (<https://arcspace.jp/doku.php?id=ja:misc:acknowledgments>).

Please refer to the following example sentences.

- This work was supported by MEXT Promotion of Distinctive Joint Usage/Research Center Program Grant Number JPMXP0723830458.

- (4) In addition, please submit information on the publication, bibliographic information on the paper, a copy of the paper, etc. to the e-mail or mailing address in 12 Submission Addresses and Contact Information.

11 Handling of Intellectual Property Rights Arising from Joint Research

In principle, intellectual property rights arising from joint research shall belong to the inventor in the case of an invention, etc., and to the author in the case of a publication. In consideration of the role of ARC-Space, it is assumed that software such as analysis tools, data to which value has been added, and services developed, and other products of the joint research shall be published at the same time as the Research Report is submitted and will be available for free use by researchers.

However, depending on the progress of the research, a period of exclusivity of up to one year after the end of the joint research period may be set. Regarding the server resources required for publication, applicants will be able to use the resources currently in operation at ARC-Space.

12 Submission Address and Contact Information

Mailing Address:

90 Kamiawase, Tsuruga, Ikki-machi, Aizuwakamatsu, Fukushima 965-8580 JAPAN
Administrative Office of Aizu Research Center for Space Informatics, The University of Aizu
(Planning and Collaboration Division)

Tel.: +81 242-37-2511 (business hours: 8:30-17:15)

Fax: +81 242-37-2546

E-mail: [arcspace-jimu \[at\] u-aizu.ac.jp](mailto:arcspace-jimu[at]u-aizu.ac.jp) (Please replace "[at]" with "@")

[Reference]

If you need to consult with ARC-Space's faculty members regarding the joint research themes, research content, expenses, the selection of CIs from among the ARC-Space's faculty members, participation of companies, and other topics (see 5(3)), please refer to the list below.

Professor DEMURA Hirohide	demura [at] u-aizu.ac.jp
Senior Associate Professor OGAWA Yoshiko	yoshiko [at] u-aizu.ac.jp
Senior Associate Professor HIRATA Naru	naru [at] u-aizu.ac.jp
Associate Professor HONDA Chikatoshi	chonda [at] u-aizu.ac.jp

Associate Professor OKUDAIRA Kyoko
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