

JST Basic Research Programs (CREST Type, PREST Type) and Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology --- Outline and Its Future

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The outline and future of JST's two undertakings will be presented in this speech. One is "JST Basic Research Programs" and the other is "Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology."

JST Basic Research Programs are aiming at the accomplishment of generic goals of science and technology (Strategic Sectors) designated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). JST has four kinds of main basic research programs called CREST, PRESTO, ERATO, and ICORP. In this speech, CREST (team-type-research) and PRESTO (individual-type-research) will be discussed with a focus on the field of life science, where JST (i) sets research disciplines (Research Areas) according to each Strategic Sector, (ii) designates a most suitable Research Director to supervise each Research Area, and (iii) widely invites research proposal applications from researchers corresponding to each Research Area. Awarded researchers can carry out their research for 3 to 5 years under the supervision of Research Directors.

Special Coordination Funds for Promoting Science and Technology is a budget entrusted to JST by MEXT for the coordination of implementing important matters that are essential for science and technology promotion in accordance with the Council for Science and Technology Policy. This speech will briefly introduce the series of activities concerning projects launched under this fund, such as inviting applications of new proposals, managing working groups for screening and evaluation of its projects, and administering the on-going projects.