

# An ERC grant from the point of view of an ERC grant holder

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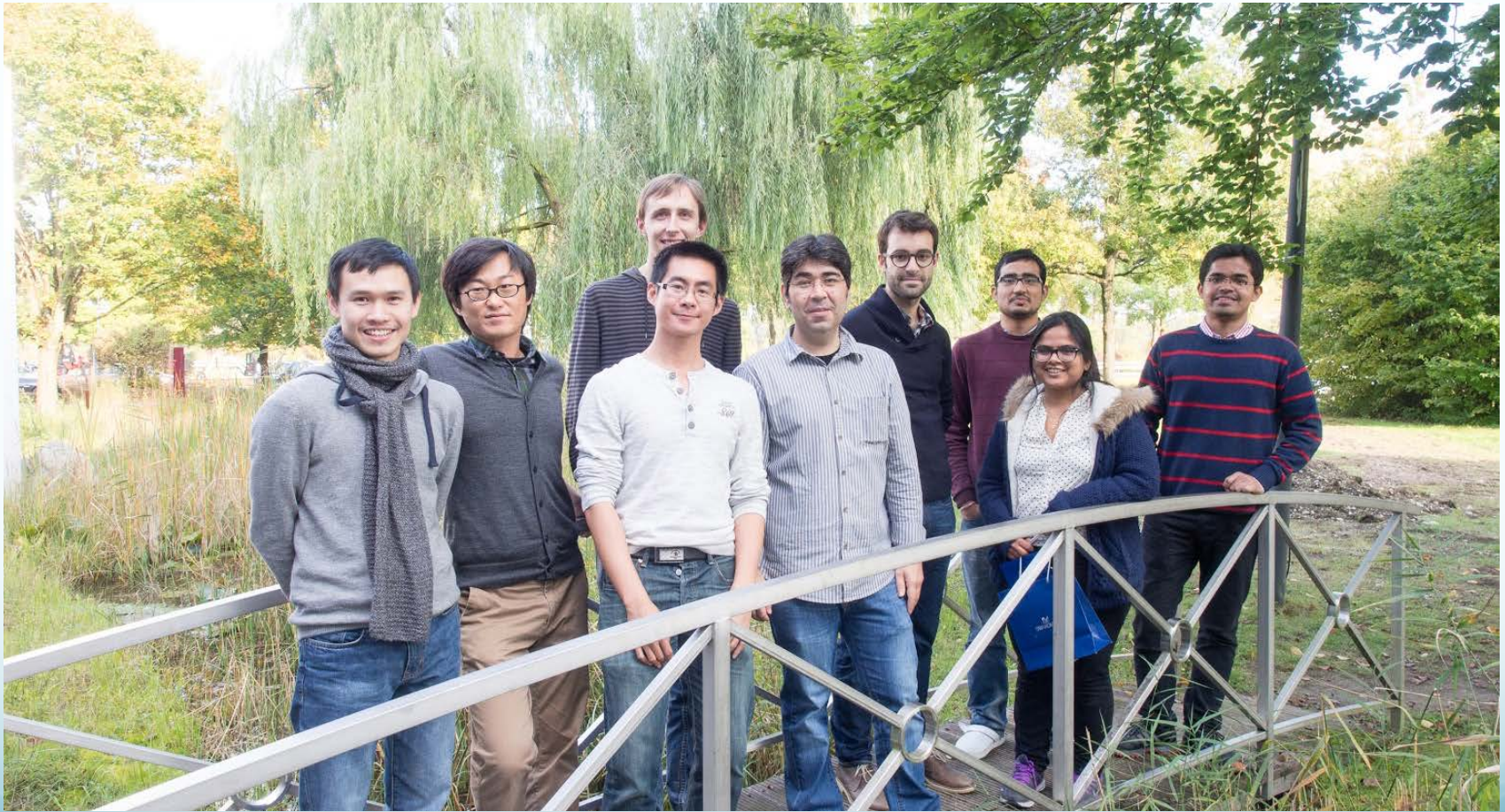
ERC Group Attoselectronics



ERC Research Group Attoselectronics  
Laboratory for attosecond physics (LAP)  
Max-Planck-Institut für Quantenoptik  
Garching, Germany



# An ERC funded group at MPQ Garching



# ERC Grant “Attoselectronics”

- A research topic in ultrafast optics
- Gain fundamental insights on material dynamics on very fast time scales
- Connection with the future of modern technologies



# While preparing the pro



- Identified 3 (**major**) important questions-topics
- Try to convince that these 3 topics are indeed important, by projecting on the future of different fields of science (near that of yours)
- Ambitious by realistic at the same time
- Try to convince the reader ( reviewer) you are the **one**.



# How do they know you are the one



Because your CV is good for your scientific age

Because you have published well on the topic

Citations, major journals, invited talks at  
Conferences or workshops

Because your job has earned you already  
a permanent position

Because you may have won some scientific distinctions or honors before

Because you can demonstrate that the expertise missing can be really found(  
you cannot promise that the missing knowledge will be acquired by establishing  
collaboration with S. Hawkins( if do not show evidence)

You will have to prove that people will like to cooperate  
with you on the missing parts.



# You are invited to Brussels

Find a good hotel and take some rest. Go there the day before.

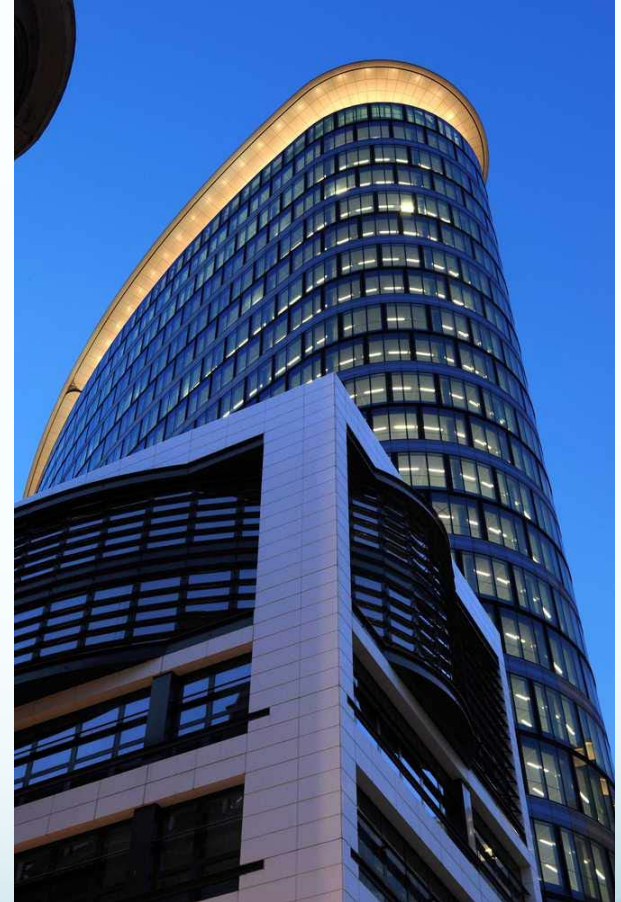
Start with a short, concise presentation of yourself and your achievements.



1/3 of the talk must be understandable to ALL panel members. No equations, no formulas unless this is the main topic.

Highlight the 3 most important topics again

Explain why others failed so far (don't name them rather the opposite) or what is really needed to successfully reach the research goals



# Interview ( good practices and the phycology)

- The Panel is comprised by experts in different fields whose vote for you important.
- If they cannot understand you, why is the suggested work really important for the advancement of science or technology?
- Just like in all your talks, make eye contact with ALL panel members.
- One of them is the secretary don't overdo it...
- Make sure that you **also satisfy the experts in your field** who are in the panel. Although each panel member has his/her own vote the opinion of the topical experts counts in the final decision. ( consensus must be reached)





# Show me the Money



- Remember that getting the funds is equally important to properly using them. That is your goal to advance your research.
- But EU funds for research are treated exactly the same way as all other projects in EU.
- All investments have a lifetime of 5 years. An instrument you buy the second year must be co-funded by another project which you may not have.
- I can offer an example





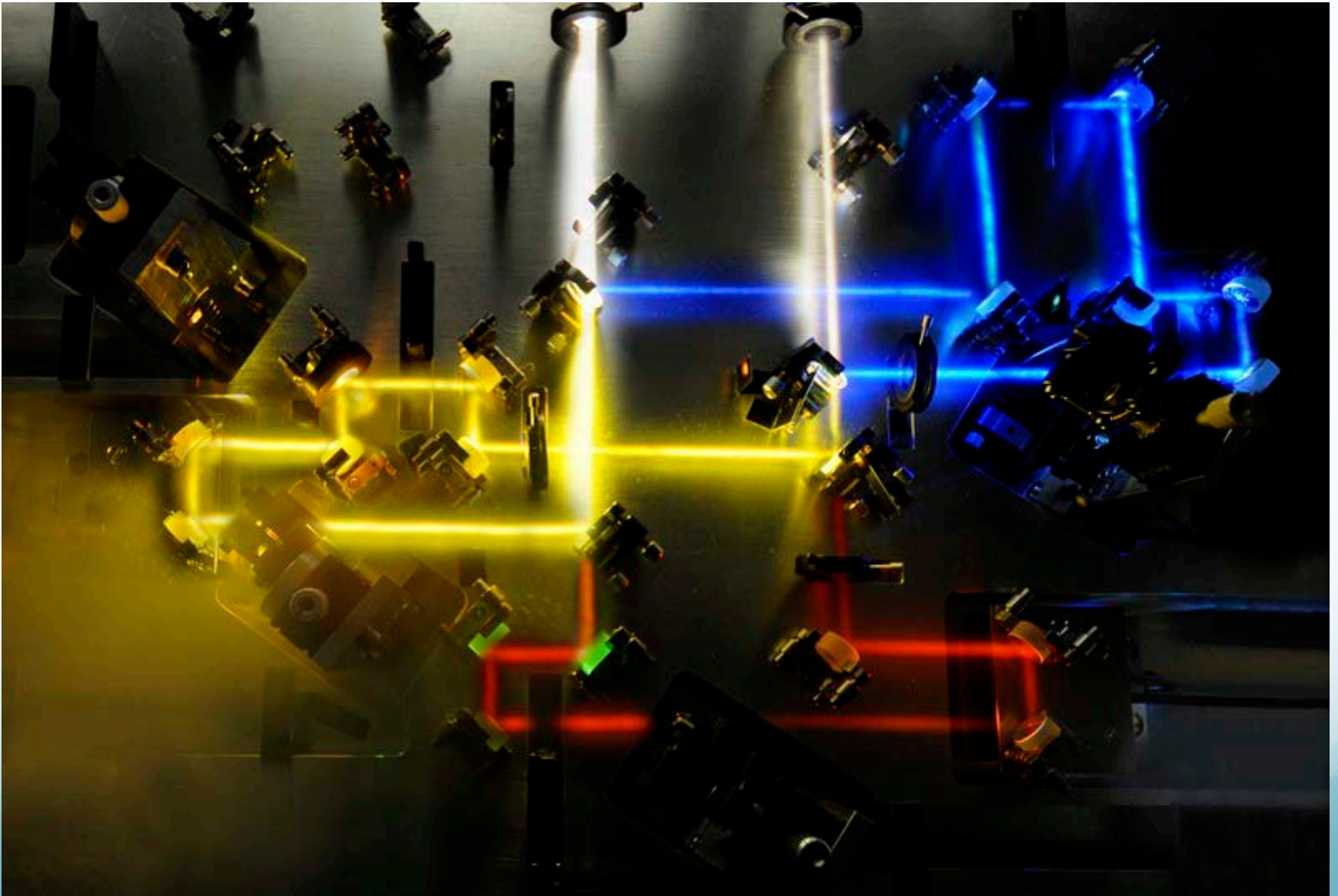
# Finding a host

- Attracting some 1.5 ME is not negligible, sometimes also can be not enough.
- Finding a very well established host can support you
- Finding a less established place may allow you to negotiate a longer term perspective for your career to.
- It is up to you what is really important.

# Is there more: Proof of concept

- ERC supports efforts towards commercialization of technologies and findings that emerge from ERC project.
- This is something that actually exists since many decades in America.
- For example a vaccine, a method that simplifies a chemical or technological processes.
- I applied for a POF to commercialize a scientific instrument which is called a light field synthesizer that emerges in my research group.

# Making a technology commercial





# You will be evaluated only by entrepreneurs

- You need to learn speaking their language ( it is different than that of scientist)
- You need to convince that there is a market
- That you will be able to identify a market
- That in the end of the single year you will have package that can be commercialized

# Again when you get the money...

- If you need to buy hardware you will have to have another project that will co-fund the rest 4 years.
- For me this is currently a severe situation
- A solution must be found in cooperation with Brussels.

# Any questions?

Thank you!