

SciPost Sponsorship Agreement

Preamble

The SciPost Foundation - The SciPost Foundation (hereafter SciPost) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, implementing and maintaining innovative forms of electronic scientific communication and publishing. It is registered under Dutch Chamber of Commerce nr 65280083, RSIN 856049487 (its charter is available online at the [Foundation's webpage](#)). Its Board is composed of a Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer (respectively Prof. J.-S. Caux, Dr J. van Mameren and Dr J. van Wezel). Board members do not receive any salary or financial compensation in any form for their work for the Foundation. The Foundation has an **Advisory Board**, giving advice to the Foundation's Board on all matters relating to the Foundation's activities.

Activities - SciPost operates the [SciPost.org](#) interactive online portal for the benefit of the international scientific community and further interested parties. SciPost implements the **Genuine Open Access** principles of Community Ownership, Open Infrastructure, Copyright to Authors, Open Access, Open Citations, Fee Free, Non Profit, Open Finances and Academic Editing.

SciPost offers fully professional publishing facilities including:

- open access to all publications in all its Journals (Creative Commons licenses)
- no subscription fees for readers or article processing charges for authors
- copyright to authors
- innovative open forms of refereeing with pre- and post-publication review/comments
- strict decoupling between financial and editorial matters
- top-quality editorial work performed exclusively by active professional scientists
- DOI registration and professional metadata handling through **Crossref**
- permanent archiving in **CLOCKSS**
- full integration with Crossmark and FundRef (funding info metadata)
- open citations through participation in the Initiative for Open Citations

The portal currently has **Journals**, **Submissions**, **Commentaries** and **Theses** sections.

Journals - SciPost provides a full publishing infrastructure run by and for scientists. SciPost implements an open **peer-witnessed refereeing procedure**, leading to the highest possible editorial standards. During refereeing, manuscripts are hosted on the **Submissions** section of the portal. The editorial activities are performed by Editorial Fellows, their collective being known as the **Editorial College**. All Fellows are professionally active academics, who do not receive financial compensation for their work for the Foundation. The functioning of the Editorial College follows the regulations detailed in the **Editorial College by-laws**.

Our pioneering Journal SciPost Physics has been awarded the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) Seal, and is listed in Google Scholar and Web of Science ESCI (Core Collection).

The **Commentaries** section offer a means for professional academics to post moderated comments on and supplementary material to any published academic paper or preprint, and the **Theses** section offers a centralized database of links to academic Theses (Habilitation, PhD, Master's).

Openness: highest quality, lowest cost - A fundamental principle underlining all of SciPost's activities is openness. This means in particular that SciPost guarantees free online access to all publications in all its Journals (free for readers; all articles are published under the terms of a Creative Commons license (most commonly CC-BY)), and does not charge any article processing fees for publishing (free for authors). All editorial activities are performed by professional academics as part of their normal professional duties. SciPost thus achieves the highest possible standards of academic quality and open accessibility while maintaining costs at the lowest achievable level.

Financing and sustainability: the role of institutional backers

Besides relying on the service of professional scientists, SciPost must also rely on the support of organizations which are positively impacted by its activities, directly or indirectly: (inter)national funding agencies, universities, national/university/research libraries, academic consortia, governments and ministries, foundations, benefactors and further interested parties. This sponsorship is used to cover:

- Development, maintenance and operation of the web infrastructure at SciPost.org;
- Administration of all site-related activities;
- Production of publications in all SciPost Journals;
- Provision of metadata services for academic organizations;
- Development of new publishing-related services for the international scientific community.

Web infrastructure - The site is developed and maintained by officers appointed by the Foundation. Costs include server access and maintenance costs, web certificates, professional consultations, and external costs such as Crossref, CLOCKSS and similar membership-related fees.

Administration - SciPost's administrative layer involves among others: coordination with the Advisory Board, recruitment to and communications with the Editorial College, performance of day-to-day editorial administration, recruitment of and coordination with Sponsors, recruitment, training and supervision of all officers, representation, and supervision of all site-related activities.

Production - The production costs per article on SciPost are substantially lower than the current norm for Open Access publications. Currently, the average cost is estimated to be below €400 per paper. This covers all steps of the peer-witnessed refereeing process, plagiarism checks, proofs handling, production of the version of record of the article, metadata handling and online publication of the article on SciPost.org.

Metadata services - As part of the publication process, SciPost collects information on authors' affiliations and (via funding acknowledgements) on the grants and associated funders which contributed to supporting the research whose results are being published. SciPost digests, organizes and formats this information and makes it publicly available on its [organizations page](#).

Development - SciPost has an ambitious long-term plan aimed at developing a number of innovative tools related to scientific publishing. In a first instance, these projects concern new Journals, the development of the Theses database, bibliographic support for authors, advanced metadata management, article citation metrics and many others.

Financial statements - All details of SciPost's finances are made publicly available. A detailed yearly financial statement covering all of SciPost's activities is published online on our [finances page](#) after the end of each financial exercise.

SciPost Sponsors Board

Acting as a representative body, the Sponsors Board is constituted by the collective of organizations which provide the main financial backing for SciPost. SciPost relies on its Sponsors Board to counsel it in all its operations and to help determine its development priorities.

The Sponsors Board has a yearly virtual general meeting, organized and chaired by a representative of the SciPost Foundation. During this meeting, Sponsors-related topics are discussed, recommendations to the SciPost Foundation can be put forward and voted on by Sponsors, and general issues on any of SciPost's activities can be discussed.

Types of Sponsors

Sponsors typically fall into one of the following categories: International/national funding agencies; National/university/research libraries; Consortia (of *e.g.* universities or libraries); Government (through *e.g.* education/science ministries); Foundations; Benefactors of any other type.

Benefits

All sponsorship-originating funds are used to provide services to the academic community worldwide, without any restriction. The [organizations](#) page provides details on the beneficiaries of SciPost's activities, in particular on each organization's number of associated publications.

Despite the fact that all its services are provided openly, SciPost nonetheless provides its Sponsors with a mark of appreciation and recognition for their donations in the form of:

1. A seat on the SciPost Sponsors Board, including access to yearly meetings;
2. Inclusion in the online listing of Sponsors on the SciPost website;
3. Preview of further online tools planned by SciPost during their development stage. Sponsors are welcome to provide feedback and request specific features.

Editorial decoupling

SciPost strives to implement the highest achievable standards in its editorial workflow. One crucial precondition for this is independence of the Editorial College. Sponsors are thus entirely decoupled from all editorial work performed and decisions taken for all submissions to and publications in SciPost Journals. To guarantee editorial independence, the Sponsor waives any claim on publication or posting decisions taken by the SciPost Editorial College and its Fellows.

Sponsorship level and duration

Sponsorship level is compiled by calendar year, and can be agreed upon at any point before or during the year of sponsorship. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, the date of this Agreement sets the initial date from which the sponsorship is active (for example, an organization committing to 3 years of sponsorship in June 2019, will be counted as a Sponsor in 2019, 2020 and 2021).

SciPost does not set a fixed amount for an individual organization's sponsorship level for a given year. Instead, to compile an appropriate sponsorship level, the Sponsor can base itself on:

- the target average per-publication cost declared by SciPost (for 2019, this is set to: €400);
- the recent NAP (number of associated publications) for the organization (viewable on the [organizations page](#)) and its extrapolation to the immediate future;
- the fraction of organizations which sponsor SciPost (also viewable on the [organizations page](#)), bearing in mind the extra burden represented by non-sponsoring organizations;

- the yearly financial statements of SciPost (reflecting the financial health of the initiative) published on the [Foundation page](#).

To reduce administrative overhead, SciPost suggests a minimal sponsorship level of €1000 per organization per year. Smaller sponsorship levels are still welcome, but do not lead to the above-mentioned benefits.

We welcome sponsorship via consortia, in which case SciPost and the consortium representatives shall coordinate in order to set a reasonable minimal sponsorship level. Note that if the consortium itself is not a legal entity, each individual member must sign a separate Agreement.

SciPost has been designated as a Public Benefit Organisation (PBO; in Dutch: Algemeen Nut Beogende Instelling, ANBI) by the Dutch Tax Administration. Natural and legal persons making donations to a PBO may deduct their gifts from their Dutch income tax or corporate income tax (see the [PBO page](#) of the Dutch Tax Administration).

Activation procedure

In order to become a Sponsor, one must simply fill in the required details on page 5 of this Agreement, and email this to admin@scipost.org. After formal agreement on all detailed terms (duration, donation level) and official signature by both parties, payment shall be arranged in coordination with SciPost's financial administration.

Term, renewal and termination

This Agreement will be valid for the entire calendar years stated in the Agreement (running for the 1st of January of the first year, to the 31st of December of the last year). A renewal notice will be sent to existing Sponsors four months before the end of any current Agreement.

Any party may terminate this Agreement at any time on the material breach or repeated other breaches by the other of any obligation on its part under this Agreement, by serving a written notice on the other identifying the nature of the breach. The termination will become effective thirty (30) days after receipt of the written notice, unless during the relevant period of thirty (30) days the defaulting party remedies the breach forthwith by written notice to the other party.

Governing law and dispute resolution

This Agreement shall be governed by Dutch law and the parties irrevocably agree that any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Agreement will be subject to and within the jurisdiction of the Dutch courts.

General

This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between the parties and supersedes all prior communications, understandings and agreements (whether written or oral) relating to its subject matter and may not be amended or modified except by agreement of both parties in writing.

The invalidity or unenforceability of any provision of this Agreement shall not affect the continuation in force of the remainder of this Agreement.

Contact

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SciPost Sponsorship Agreement

Through the present Agreement,

Organization _____

Represented by _____

Contact email _____

Postal address _____

(optional) in Consortium _____

hereafter named the Sponsor, agrees to become a Sponsor of SciPost, including membership of the SciPost Sponsors Board, under the terms and conditions contained in this document.

Date, duration and sponsorship level

The Membership Agreement shall have the following detailed terms:

Years covered _____

Donation level (yearly) .. _____

SciPost will communicate with the Sponsor upon receipt of the signed Agreement (and, if applicable, yearly thereafter). The agreed donation is to be paid yearly, within 60 days of invoicing.

Signatures

On behalf of the Sponsor,

On behalf of SciPost,

Prof. Jean-Sébastien Caux
Amsterdam

The signed copy should be scanned and emailed back to admin@scipost.org.