Dear German Host Scientists,

One of the prospective applicants in our postdoctoral funding programme PRIME asked you to act as her/his host researcher and supervisor during the PRIME research phase in Germany. Thank you very much for considering this request. Your invitation letter is an essential part of the application.

Please read the following information before drafting your invitation letter:

PRIME is a highly competitive funding scheme for postdoctoral researchers. We are delighted that so many excellent early-career researchers submit their application. However, with only 25 to 30 new fellowships to be awarded each year, the high number of applications leads to rigorous selection procedures. The average funding ratio in the previous selection cycles has rarely exceeded 15%.

To be a serious contender for a fellowship, applicants clearly need to have an above-average academic track record. Their research project must be highly innovative and of high quality. The host institutions in Germany and abroad must provide the perfect research environment to implement the proposed project. Based on the idea of researcher training, a PRIME fellowship should enable the candidate to acquire additional scientific/methodological skills. The fellowship is intended to pave the path to an independent research career and position the candidate as a serious competitor for more advanced positions in research.

If you are strongly convinced that the candidate fulfills these requirements and if you fully endorse the submitted research project, please support the applicant with an invitation letter that details the support to be provided and outlines the longer-term career perspectives in the German research landscape.

Should you, however, identify a considerable deficiency in the candidate’s profile regarding the programme specifications, we strongly recommend that you discuss the matter with the candidate. In this case, it might be more suitable for her or him to look for alternative funding opportunities.

The information provided here is in no way intended to discourage you from supporting an excellent application with your invitation letter. Our intention is to disclose the reality of this highly competitive funding programme to avoid misconceptions.
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**Invitation Letter**

*Please insert your invitation letter here. Since the evaluation and selection process will be conducted by international reviewers, we kindly ask you to provide your letter in English.*