Who we are
The Cluster of Excellence “Munich Center for Quantum Science and Technology” (MCQST), funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) under Germany’s Excellence Strategy, comprises two of Germany’s most successful universities, the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU) and the Technical University of Munich (TUM), as well as the international renowned partner institutions Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Walther-Meissner-Institute, and Deutsches Museum. More than 50 research groups from disciplines of quantum science and technology are covered, including physics, mathematics, computer science, electrical engineering, material science, and chemistry, from basic research to applications. For more information visit www.mcqst.de.

Our program
To support young talents in their transition from postdocs to independent researchers, MCQST offers Junior Researcher START Fellowships. With a total budget of 300,000 € for a funding period of two years, the fellows have the opportunity to start their own scientific project in one of the research areas of MCQST. The funds are flexible and may be spent in accordance with DFG rules for instrumentations, staff, consumables, and travel, as well as for the fellows’ own salaries. Laboratory and office space will be provided by one of the MCQST Principle Investigators (PIs).

Requirements
Eligible candidates are at the beginning of their academic career and have completed their doctoral degree in physics, mathematics, computer science, chemistry, or engineering within the last four years. Research experience in quantum science and technology is of advantage and should be documented by publications in high-level academic journals.

Applications for the Junior Researcher START Fellowships should include:

- Curriculum vitae (two pages max, without photo)
- Research outline (two pages max)
- Complete list of publications and talks
- Doctoral certificate
- Support letter from MCQST host committing to offer laboratory and office space*
- Two letters of recommendation, at least one from an external expert*

Please send the application documents to support@mcqst.de by 21 February 2022.

*MCQST host and reviewers should send their letters directly to the above address.

Miscellaneous
The MCQST Executive Committee, together with an international Advisory Board, will select the Junior Researcher START Fellows. In a two-stage selection process, candidates who successfully pass the first stage will be invited for an interview in Munich. Selection criteria are scientific excellence and an original research proposal. The start dates of the fellowships will be fixed individually in agreement with the MCQST office, but should begin no later than 1 January 2023.

MCQST is committed to increasing the number of individuals with disabilities in its workforce and therefore encourages applications from such qualified individuals. Furthermore, MCQST seeks to increase the number of women in those areas where they are underrepresented and therefore explicitly encourages women to apply. For questions, please contact Dr. Tatjana Wilk (tatjana.wilk@mcqst.de).