



WSS Research
Centre catalaix

RWTHAACHEN
UNIVERSITY

WSS Research Centre catalaix | RWTH Aachen University | Worringerweg 2 | 52074 Aachen GERMANY

catalaix-Junior Principal Investigator position (f/m/d) in WSS Research Centre catalaix

The **WSS Research Centre catalaix** aims to transform the chemical industry into a multidimensional circular economy with a focus on plastic materials. In an interdisciplinary approach with a focus on catalysis, methods are being developed to transform established linear value chains into circular recycling technologies.

We aim to strengthen the catalaix team by creating a **catalaix-Junior Principal Investigator (JPI) position in the field of polymer design, polymer synthesis and characterization using renewable or circular raw materials**.

Our goal is to support young researchers on their path to an academic career. To this end, we offer postdoctoral researchers the opportunity to establish their research group.

The funding amounts to up to 1.5 million euros over a period of up to five years, with an evaluation after four years.

Research Focus: We are looking for an outstanding young scientist who wishes to implement exciting ideas on sustainable technical polymer chemistry. Topics of interest are innovative and scalable polymer syntheses from renewable and recyclable building blocks in connection with the chemistry, catalysis, and theory of depolymerization. The WSS Research Centre catalaix aims at an integrated catalyst-process-product design of long-term recyclable monomers, polymers, and additives through modularization based on tailor-made chemical building blocks to combine required material properties with environmental compatibility and recyclability. The proposed research should lead to innovative circular plastics that will be developed in collaboration with the catalaix team. The possibility of technical implementation and broad application of the research should be a central research focus.

Research Environment: The catalaix-JPI will be embedded in the chemistry department of RWTH Aachen University. Close collaboration within the catalaix team and especially with the catalaix groups of the Chemistry Department is expected. Laboratory and office facilities and access to relevant infrastructures will be made available. The envisioned catalaix-JPI is expected to greatly benefit from the comprehensive expertise of the catalaix consortium, their guidance while establishing themselves as an independent young researcher with perspective to a future professorship.

Desired Profile: The successful applicant has demonstrated excellence in research through a university degree and a doctoral degree in a related field (e.g., chemistry, chemical engineering, polymer science, materials science, mechanical engineering with focus on material technology). A competitive track record of scientific publications is expected. Post-doctoral experience is desired, but not required. Willingness and ability to lead a group and cooperate in interdisciplinary teams is essential.

Application: Please submit the required documents according to the provided templates at www.catalaix.com/en/catalaix-JPI until **01.09.2025** to application@catalaix.rwth-aachen.de. The selection of funding recipients takes place on a competitive basis. In case of success, a start latest in Q1 2026 is expected.

We are excited to offer close cooperation in a collegial environment. The envisioned catalaix-JPI is expected to greatly benefit from the expertise of the catalaix team and their guidance while establishing themselves as an independent young researcher.

Sincerely

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Regina Palkovits

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Jürgen Klankermayer

Project Leaders of the WSS Research Centre catalaix,
on behalf of the catalaix PIs within the Chemistry Department

Project Leaders

Prof. Dr. rer. nat.

Regina Palkovits

Prof. Dr. rer. nat.

Jürgen Klankermayer

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TEMPLATES FOR APPLICATION

www.catalaix.com/en/catalaix-JPI

APPLICATION E-MAIL

application@catalaix.rwth-aachen.de

PHONE

+49 (0)241 80-26451

Aachen, July 2025

Hosts of catalaix-JPI

Heterogeneous Catalysis and Technical Chemistry

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Regina Palkovits

Translational Molecular Catalysis

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Jürgen Klankermayer