



Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
Chemical Sciences

CALL FOR THE SUBMISSION OF IDEAS FOR NEW RESEARCH PROGRAMMES: “CHEMTHEM INITIATIVES”

Deadline: 5 July 2010

Chemical Sciences introduces a free competition for research programmes

What is a ChemThem initiative?

Chemical Sciences (CW) is seeking ideas for new research programmes (ChemThem initiatives) and invites researchers to contribute to this process. If you have a fantastic research idea in which (bio)chemistry or chemical technology plays a leading role, but you lack the resources to tackle this scientific challenge, then this call to nominate a theme for a ChemThem initiative might be just what you are looking for.

A ChemThem initiative must contain a chemical or molecular sciences problem that will be tackled via challenging and innovative research approaches. The programme addresses new research areas, the potential of which shall be determined with risky research. Pursuing the boundaries of knowledge will lead to the generation of ideas that shall eventually provide the driving trend in the (sub)discipline concerned. The initiatives should primarily be rooted within chemistry but may contain multidisciplinary components or assume another broader character. In this case, the other partners should be stated in the nomination.

A successful ChemThem initiative contains the following elements:

- The research is innovative frontier research
- The programme is unique within its discipline
- The programme can serve as a showcase to convey the strength and beauty of (bio)chemistry or chemical technology
- The research to be carried out is of the highest scientific quality.

Besides the usual free competition for projects (TOP/ECHO subsidy round) CW has set aside an additional M€ 5 for 2010, which shall be used for this free competition for research programmes. A typical ChemThem initiative shall have a budget of about M€ 2.5, within which about 8 temporary personnel positions can be appointed. However, different amounts per programme are possible.

Who can nominate a free theme for a ChemThem initiative?

Ideas for a ChemThem programme can be proposed from the full breadth of chemistry by the workgroup leaders of the CW study groups. The workgroup leaders can submit their (jointly prepared) idea, preferably in a wider context, and have agreed with each other about this in advance. A maximum of one nomination can be proposed per main contact person. In the application, they should also indicate which research groups could have a shared research interest.

Over the past year, the CW study groups have supplied their visions of the future and these could serve as a source of inspiration for the submission of themes for ChemThem initiatives. A modified overview of these visions can be requested in due time from the NWO Chemical Sciences office.

How shall the programme nominations be evaluated and selected?

The Chemical Sciences Board shall evaluate the theme nominations submitted and choose those most suitable for setting up one or more ChemThem initiatives.

Themes for ChemThem initiatives shall be selected in accordance with criteria such as the scientific quality (frontier science), the innovative and ambitious nature, and policy considerations (added value of the theme compared to current large initiatives, uniqueness within the discipline, extent to which it showcases the strength and beauty of chemistry, etc.).

Submitters of the initiatives selected shall be involved in the further elaboration of the programme. A ChemThem programme offers a single open round in which scientists working at universities and institutes acknowledged by NWO can submit project proposals.

Interesting themes that cannot be implemented in 2010/2011, might later still serve as future initiatives for the Chemical Sciences.

Structure theme nominations for ChemThem initiatives

The theme nominations for a ChemThem initiative should address at least the following points and be submitted on no more than two pages A4:

- Title ChemThem initiative
- Aims, subsidiary aims and ambitions of the programme
- Intended research approaches for realising the ambitions
- Size programme budget
- Contact details
- Overview of scientific groups with a shared research interest
- Suggestions for members of the potential programme committee in the event that the ChemThem initiative is chosen for further elaboration

Suggestions for the ChemThem initiatives can be sent to the e-mail address: chemthem@nwo.nl.

Timeframe

Mon 5 July 2010	Deadline submission themes for ChemThem initiatives
July/August 2010	CW Board analyses themes submitted
Mid-September 2010	Announcement of themes chosen for ChemThem initiatives
End 2010	Elaboration of the ChemThem initiatives
Start 2011	Launch of Calls for Proposals within the ChemThem initiatives

Further information can be obtained from Arlette Werner, +31 (0)70 344 0835, a.werner@nwo.nl