



**Chemical Sciences**

# **Basic Equipment for Research Themes in Chemical Focus Areas (BAZIS)**

**Subsidy Round 2011**

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Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

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# 1 Introduction

**This brochure describes the objective, conditions, criteria and guidelines for the BAZIS (Basic Equipment Critical Areas in Chemistry) programme.**

## 1.1 Sector Plan Physics and Chemistry

The Sector Plan Physics and Chemistry is aimed at strengthening the knowledge infrastructure for these disciplines at Dutch universities. With effect from 2011, the government will make an annual budget of M€ 20 available divided equally across both disciplines. For each discipline, M€ 7 will be made available via direct government funding to the universities (total of M€ 14 for education and research). The other M€ 6 will be distributed via indirect government funding: one half via the Foundation for Fundamental Research on Matter (FOM) and the other half via NWO Division for the Chemical Sciences (NWO-CW). NWO-CW will use its own funds to double this amount to M€ 6.

The funds for the lines of action 'Education and 'Enhancing direct government funding' will be made available directly to the universities (*eerste geldstroom*). These funds are intended for seven institutes/combinations of institutes.

The Implementation Sector Plan Committee under the leadership of Prof. Douwe Breimer advises the Minister for Education, Culture and Science about the distribution of the funds. This committee has asked the universities to write a profile plan on the basis of which the funds will be distributed across them. The committee will also use these profile plans to determine the *zwaartepunten* per university.

The universities submitted their profile plans on 1 December 2009. Based on these plans, the Implementation Sector Plan Committee has issued an advice to the Minister for Education, Culture and Science concerning the spending of a M€ 14 annual budget for these plans over the period 2011-2016. Based on this advice, the Minister has taken a decision. An overview of the awards (and the *zwaartepunten* per university linked to these) can be found via this link:

[http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOP\\_85YBRC/\\$file/1%20juni%202010\\_Advies%20commissie-Breimer.pdf](http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOP_85YBRC/$file/1%20juni%202010_Advies%20commissie-Breimer.pdf)

## 1.2 Use of indirect government funding in the Sector Plan

Just like the Sector Plan Physics and Chemistry, the aim of NWO Chemical Sciences (CW) is to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure in the Netherlands. CW realises this, for example, via the Regiegroep Chemie and in the CW strategy (strategy memorandum 2011-2014: *Chemie maakt toekomst mogelijk*; available in June 2011: [www.nwo.nl/cw](http://www.nwo.nl/cw)). CW deploys various grant instruments to strengthen the knowledge infrastructure such as TOP, ECHO and Investment Subsidy NWO Medium. These grants are open to chemistry researchers at all Dutch knowledge institutes and universities and in these funding rounds the research subject is not specified. The funds received via indirect government funding from the Sector Plan, which will be awarded by CW, will also be distributed within a free competition (no subject specified). These funds can be applied for by researchers who fall within a *zwaartepunt* of the Sector Plan.

The M€ 6 per year with which CW will implement the Sector Plan Physics and Chemistry will be – alongside the usual free competition (TOP, ECHO and Investment Subsidy NWO Medium) – spent as follows:

In 2010-2011 and 2011-2012: BAZIS grants (Basic Equipment for Research Themes in Chemical Focus Areas) for 'workhorse' equipment. You will find further information about this grant in this brochure.

In 2011-2012 and 2012-2013: ECHO-STIP grants (Excellent Chemical Research – Sector Plan Indirect Government Funding Newcomers Project). With this grant, CW will create a low threshold entry point to indirect government funding aimed at new professors who submit an outstanding project proposal within the *zwaartepunten* of the Sector Plan. For this grant M€ 8 will be available.

In 2013-2014 and 2014-2015: TOP-PUNT grants for further strengthening the *zwaartepunten* from the Sector Plan. This grant can be applied for by professors/teams of professors who are working in the critical areas at the chemistry departments of the Physics and Chemistry Sector institutes. Eight million euro per year will be available for this on top of the normal TOP/ECHO free competition. This will enable further strengthening of the *zwaartepunten*.

Further information about the last two grant instruments will be published later via the NWO-CW website: [www.nwo.nl/cw](http://www.nwo.nl/cw)

### 1.3 Equipment in the Sector Plan: BAZIS

The BAZIS grant will benefit the urgent need to rectify the shortfall in equipment within chemistry. During the first two years of the Sector Plan (2010/2011 and 2011/2012) an extra application possibility will be opened up for the *zwaartepunten* with a budget of M€ 3 per year, over and above the normal Investment Subsidy NWO Medium (at CW in 2011/2012 M€ 1.4) and NWO Large (M€ 20 for all divisions of NWO in 2011/2012). Unlike Investment Subsidy NWO Medium and Large, no matching of the institutions is requested.

This brochure is valid for the period 1 June 2011 to 1 June 2012.

## 2 Aim

The BAZIS grant is intended for requests for workhorse equipment to strengthen the *zwaartepunten* in chemistry as defined in the Sector Plan Physics and Chemistry.

The BAZIS grant will enable a rectification to the shortfall in equipment, something that is both very desirable and necessary within chemistry.

## 3 Guidelines for applicants

### 3.1 Who can apply

Applicants should state within which research theme in a chemical focus area (*zwaartepunt*) their application falls. For each *zwaartepunt* only one BAZIS proposal can be submitted in this round. The application should be submitted by a dean of the faculty/institute(s) to which the *zwaartepunt* belongs. Moreover, the application must list the group leaders of the research groups in the *zwaartepunt* that will use the requested equipment.

No similar proposal from the same *zwaartepunt* can be submitted in the Investment Subsidy NWO Medium round of 2011-2012.

Research themes in a chemical focus area (*zwaartepunten*), which have already been awarded a BAZIS grant in the previous round (2010-2011), are not eligible to submit a BAZIS grant application in this round.

### 3.2 What can be applied for

Per BAZIS grants an amount between € 100,000 and € 1,000,000 can be requested. No cofunding is required from the institute. The application can consist of one piece of workhorse equipment or a package of workhorse equipment. The equipment must clearly contribute to strengthening the *zwaartepunt*. If a package of equipment is requested, please list the equipment in order of your priority.

Workhorse equipment is equipment that a) is viewed by peers as standard equipment for a well-equipped lab and b) is available for many researchers in the *zwaartepunt*, which ensures a high utilization rate.

#### 3.2.1 Fundable costs

Only the acquisition costs of the equipment applied for are fundable.

#### 3.2.2 Non-fundable costs

The following costs are not fundable:

- Costs for infrastructure facilities, such as costs for buildings or modifications to these and facilities that can be assigned to the standard infrastructure for the discipline concerned;
- Personnel costs, also not for the exploitation and realisation of research with the facility, as equally other personnel costs;
- Maintenance and use of equipment.

### 3.3 When can applications be submitted

The deadline for submitting proposals is **Wednesday 31 August 2011, 17.00 hours**.

### 3.4 Drawing up an application

An application form is available via the electronic application system. The application must be written in English.

### **3.5 Specific conditions**

The Board for Chemical Sciences reserves the right to require an application to be amended on scientific, policy or budgetary grounds as a condition for granting.

### **3.6 Submitting an application**

Applications are submitted via the electronic application system Iris. To gain access to the Iris system you must request an access code via the NWO website [[www.iris.nwo.nl](http://www.iris.nwo.nl)]. Further information about Iris can be found on the NWO website. For technical questions please contact the Iris helpdesk ([iris@nwo.nl](mailto:iris@nwo.nl), tel. +31 900 696 4747).

## 4 Assessment procedure

### 4.1 Procedure

#### 4.1.1 Eligibility

Only complete applications submitted on time and which fall under 'What can be applied for' (see Section 3.2) will be processed. The programme office checks the eligibility of the proposal, i.e. whether the proposal satisfies the administrative and technical criteria imposed, see Sections 3.1-3.6.

Only applications which satisfy all the conditions are admissible and are processed further. If an application does not satisfy all the criteria, the programme office will contact the applicant. Major and irreparable defects will lead to the application not being processed further.

Before it assesses the content of a proposal, the Board for Chemical Sciences will test whether the research proposed falls within one of the *zwaartepunten* as defined by the Sector Plan Physics and Chemistry. Further information about the *zwaartepunten* can be found via this link:

[http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOP\\_85YBRC/\\$file/1%20juni%202010\\_Advies%20commissie-Breimer.pdf](http://www.nwo.nl/files.nsf/pages/NWOP_85YBRC/$file/1%20juni%202010_Advies%20commissie-Breimer.pdf).

The divisional board reserves the right to reject applications at this stage if they do not satisfy the general conditions stated above. If the applicant has doubts as to whether his or her application meets the general conditions prior to submission, he or she is advised to contact the programme office. Admissible research proposals are assessed by a selection committee.

#### 4.1.2 Assessment, ranking and final decision

In a written assessment round the members of the selection committee assess the applications submitted. After this written assessment round the applicants are given the opportunity to respond to the questions of the selection committee.

During an evaluation meeting, the selection committee shall then discuss each application submitted. The application and the applicant's responses to the questions posed will provide the basis for the committee's final assessment. The committee supplies the application with a reasoned assessment supported by figures. It then ranks the proposals. Each of the evaluation criteria are assessed separately.

The selection committee then advises the Board for Chemical Sciences about the proposals submitted. Based on this advice and the funds available, the Board for Chemical Sciences then decides which proposals will be funded. Where necessary, policy considerations can be involved in the decision-making process and these will be announced before the meeting at which the decision will be made.

### 4.2 Criteria

Applications submitted for the BAZIS grant will be assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

**I - Importance of the equipment for the *zwaartepunt***

In the assessment of the criterion 'importance of the equipment for the *zwaartepunt*' the following aspects will be covered:

- The necessity/urgency of the equipment. To what extent is the equipment necessary for strengthening the *zwaartepunt* and the continuation of the research within the *zwaartepunt*?
- Effectiveness of the investment. What is the relationship between the size of the investment and the number of users and/or usage? What is the expected utilisation rate of the investment?
- If a package of equipment is requested, please list the equipment in order of your priority. Please discuss the necessity/urgency and effectiveness in the application for each piece of equipment (or for each coherent package of equipment).

**II - Financial/technical criteria**

For this criterion the application will be assessed for:

- Soundness of the budget:
- To what extent are the accommodation and maintenance of the investment safeguarded?
- To what extent is the investment embedded in a satisfactory infrastructure?
- To what extent are replacement/modernisation anticipated in the future?
- To what extent is the continuity of the investment safeguarded after the grant period?

**4.3 Composition of committee**

The applications for the BAZIS grant will be assessed by CW's Investment Subsidy NWO Medium committee. The composition of the committee will be announced after the conclusion of the BAZIS round.

## 5 Other information

### 5.1 Contact

This call is available via the BAZIS website ([www.nwo.nl/CW/BAZIS](http://www.nwo.nl/CW/BAZIS)), where an application form with notes can be downloaded as well. For further information please contact:

C.M. (Cynthia) Markus, MSc  
phone +31 70 349 4438  
email [c.markus@nwo.nl](mailto:c.markus@nwo.nl)

or

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email [i.hamelers@nwo.nl](mailto:i.hamelers@nwo.nl)

### 5.2 Timeframe

The following timeframe is a rough guideline. Applicants can follow the progress of the assessment procedure via their Iris account.

May 2011	Preliminary notice
End May 2011	Call, application forms & guidelines available
31 August 2011 (17.00 hours)	Deadline for submitting applications
31 August – 9 September 2011	Eligibility check
12 September 2011-	Written assessment by selection committee
November 2012	Applicants' responses
December 2011	Selection committee ranks the proposals
January 2012	Funding decision Board for Chemical Sciences
Early February 2012	Announcement of decision
Mid February 2012	

### 5.3 Nederlandse versie

De Nederlandse oproep is beschikbaar via [www.nwo.nl/CW/BAZIS](http://www.nwo.nl/CW/BAZIS). Via deze site kan ook een aanvraagformulier worden gedownload. Voor meer informatie kunt u contact opnemen met:

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## 5.1 Other investment grants

An overview of investment grants at NWO (-CW) is given below, together with the expected deadlines. Further information about the grants listed can be obtained from the website [www.nwo.nl/cw](http://www.nwo.nl/cw) or by phoning the office, +31 (0)70 344 07 40.

<b>programme</b>	<b>deadline</b>
Investment Subsidy NWO Medium	31 August 2011, 17.00 hours
Investment Subsidy NWO Large	1 November 2011, 17.00 hours