Investment Grant NWO Large

Call for proposals

Science
Social Sciences and Humanities
Applied and Engineering Sciences
Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development

2019-2020
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Chapter 1: Introduction / Investment Grant NWO-Large

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Investment Grant NWO Large programme has been an NWO funding instrument for more than two decades. The programme funds costly large-scale research facilities that make use of very advanced equipment or innovative data collections. This facilitates innovative developments in scientific research that can also be valuable for society and industry.

A round of proposals for Investment Grant NWO Large is usually held once every two years. In this current round, researchers can once again apply for funding for such research facilities. The programme continues to focus on investment in innovative developments in science. In addition, there is also space in this programme for investments that are part of facilities which have been included in the National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities (2016) (see www.nwo.nl/programme-roadmap).

1.2 Available budget

The budget available for this Call for proposals totals 20 million euros.

1.3 Validity period call for proposals

This call for proposals is valid for the 2019-2020 round and consists of two phases:

- the phase for submitting letters of intent;
- the phase for submitting detailed proposals.

The deadline for submitting the letters of intent is 14:00 CET on Tuesday 3 December 2019;
the deadline for submitting proposals is 14:00 CET on Thursday 13 February 2020.
Chapter 2: Goal / Investment Grant NWO-Large

2  Goal

The funding instrument Investment Grant NWO Large aims to encourage investment in scientifically innovative equipment or data collections that are of national and/or international importance. With the grants under this programme, NWO strengthens the scientific infrastructure of Dutch knowledge institutions. The investments in very advanced equipment or innovative data collections have national and/or international scope and have the aim of improving the chances of scientific innovations and breakthroughs that are of value to science, society and business.

NWO thinks it is important for new investments – where applicable – to be well-aligned with the facilities or clusters of the National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities.
3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

To ensure that the priorities and commitment of the submitting institutions are safeguarded, applications may only be submitted by the principal applicant on behalf of the highest administrative body of the relevant knowledge institution or the intended official secretary of a consortium.

A consortium is a partnership of two or more of the knowledge institutions listed below.

The following knowledge institutions may submit applications:
- Dutch universities;
- University Medical Centres;
- KNAW and NWO institutes;
- Royall Library of the Netherlands (KB);
- the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- the Dutch-Belgian Beamline (‘Dubble’) project at the ESRF in Grenoble;
- NCB Naturalis;
- the Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- the NL eScience Center;
- the Princess Máxima Centre for Paediatric Oncology.

3.2 What can be applied for

The Investment Grant NWO Large is meant for the purchase of equipment for carrying out scientific research or for setting up, linking and enriching scientific data collections. There is space for investments in the area of facilities or clusters in the current National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities, as well as highly innovative investments that are independent of the Roadmap. Projects that are already in receipt of grants under the Roadmap cannot receive a further (double) grant for the same investment.

In principle, applications that are a collection of small investments will not be eligible for a grant unless there is a clearly coherent package of investments. The selection committee will test this, based on the criteria as listed in Section 4.2.

The size of the grant to be applied for in this call for proposals is at least €1,000,000 for investments in the social sciences and the humanities, and at least €1,500,000 for all other scientific fields.
Chapter 3: Guidelines for applicants / Investment Grant NWO-Large

Only project-specific costs¹ are eligible for a grant. The internal purchasing procedures and/or guidelines of the applicant apply. Funding for personnel costs may only be applied for if the equipment or facilities concerned cannot be purchased and hiring in the necessary personnel expertise is more expensive than deploying existing personnel with the same expertise.

If funding is requested for personnel costs (or if personnel costs are entered as a co-funding contribution), then it should be argued why these personnel costs are necessary. In the budget, a detailed description should also be given of the separate tasks and costs. The size and specification of personnel costs must be in agreement with the standards established for this in the Approval of funding for scientific research of NWO and VSNU. The agreement can be consulted via www.nwo.nl/financiering/hoe-werkt-dat/salaristabellen (in Dutch).

Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the staff member has been or will be appointed:
- for university institutions, salary costs are funded in accordance with the VSNU salary tables that apply at the time a grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/salary-tables);
- for university medical centres, salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables that apply at the time a grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/salary-tables);
- for personnel of universities of applied sciences and other institutions, salary costs are funded on the basis of the collective labour agreement of the employee concerned, based on the Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017, the guide to government tariffs from the Ministry of Finance.
- for the Caribbean Netherlands, the national government appoints civil servants on the BES islands (Bonaire, St Eustatius and Saba) under conditions different from those in the European Netherlands (www.rijkstdienstcn.com/werken-bij-rijkstdienst-caribisch-nederland/arbeidsvoorwaarden).

3.2.1 Costs eligible for funding

Costs eligible for funding are:
- costs of investments in scientific equipment;
- costs of investments in databases;
- personnel costs for the setting up of databases and the initial digitisation of the bibliographic system if this cannot be purchased;
- personnel costs for employees with specific and essential technical expertise that is necessary for the development or construction of a facility if this cannot be purchased.

3.2.2 Costs not eligible for funding

Costs not eligible for funding are:
- costs that have previously been funded or have been paid for in another manner from university or public funds;
- costs for infrastructural facilities, such as the cost of buildings or modifications to those buildings, and facilities that can be considered part of the standard infrastructure;
- costs for regularly available ICT infrastructure that is provided by the institutions concerned or is already available nationwide, for example through the IT facility SURF;
- data collections (and any associated software and bibliographies) that are already available in a different way;
- other personnel costs, including personnel costs for the exploitation of the facility and the carrying out of research using the facility;
- maintenance and use of equipment (exploitation costs, consumables).

¹ For a detailed definition of project-specific costs, see Article 1.4(3) of the 2017 NWO Grant Regulations.
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- if an applicant or co-applicant cooperates with other institutions that are not eligible for funding on the basis of the call, then these ineligible institutions will bear their own costs.

3.2.3 Co-funding contribution by institution

The funding of proposals takes place on the condition of co-funding by the institution involved. The institution’s own contribution should be at least 25% of the total amount of the investment (NWO contribution + institution’s contribution to the investment). This contribution can be made both in cash and in kind. The applying institution will provide, together with any other institutions involved, a contribution to the material costs of the investment required. Personnel costs directly related to the construction and development may also be submitted as part of the institution’s own contribution.

The submitting administrative body will state in the letter of submission how the investment in a national facility fits within policy of the institution(s) involved. This is because the investments will often shape for a long period of time the reputation of the institution where they are made. In addition, it is vitally important for the institution to create the best possible conditions for optimal exploitation of the facility. The applying institution should also commit itself to its own contribution, including on behalf of any other institutions involved.

Support from the boards of other institutions can be mentioned in the letter of submission from the submitting board or on the form.

3.3 When can applications be submitted

The Investment Grant NWO Large 2019-2020 round consists of two phases (see Section 3.4) and therefore has two deadlines.

1. Letters of intent must be submitted to NWO by 14:00 CET on 3 December 2019.
2. The deadline for submitting applications is 14:00 CET on Thursday 13 February 2020.

3.4 Drawing up the application

The Investment Grant NWO Large 2019-2020 round consists of two phases:

3.4.1 Phase 1: compulsory submission of letter of intent

Prior to submitting the applications, lead applicants have to announce the initiative electronically by submitting a Letter of intent in ISAAC. A letter of intent consists of:
- a brief explanation of the investment topic;
- an indication of the group of researchers involved;
- if applicable, a statement as to whether there is alignment with a facility or cluster on the National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities;
- if you can see no alignment with the Roadmap, you should state this explicitly;
- the lead applicant;
- the contact details.

The obligation to submit and publish a letter of intent has been introduced to promote cooperation between initiatives. This also gives NWO information before the actual submission of the applications regarding the diversity of investment proposals and the forthcoming volume of applications, which enables it to be proactive in dealing with the further procedure.
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NWO will place submitted letters of intent on the Investment Grant NWO Large programme page. Note: the language for submitting a letter of intent is English.

3.4.2 Phase 2: submission of application

The application consists of the following parts:
- the completed application form;
- the signed letter of submission from the highest administrative body of the institution;
- if applicable, a cover letter from the Roadmap facility coordinator.

Letters from persons other than the coordinator are not valid. In this cover letter, the coordinator states:
- how and why the proposed facility fits within the area and the priorities of the Roadmap facility;
- what the importance of the proposed investment is within the investment plans of the Roadmap facility.

No documents other than those stated above may be submitted.

For the application, you should use the application form that can be downloaded from the NWO grant page (at the bottom of the web page www.nwo.nl/nwo-large or from the online application system ISAAC.)

Note: applications for which no letter of intent has been submitted by the deadline given in Section 3.3 will not be considered.

All parts of the application must be written in English, including all annexes, and must be submitted in PDF format via the electronic system ISAAC. The maximum size of the completed form is 30 pages A4. The letter of submission and, if applicable, the cover letter are attached as separate documents and are not part of the maximum 30 pages mentioned above.

3.5 Grant conditions

The NWO Grant Regulations 2017 and the Approval of funding for scientific research apply to all proposals.

Open Access
All scientific publications based on the creation and use of the infrastructure built by means of a grant derived from this call for proposals are to be immediately (at the time of publication) freely accessible worldwide (Open Access). There are various ways for researchers to publish Open Access. A detailed explanation regarding Open Access can be found at www.nwo.nl/openscience-en.

Data management
Good research comes with responsible data management. Wherever possible, NWO wants research data generated by publicly funded research to be made freely available on a lasting basis, for reuse by other researchers. NWO also wants to raise awareness among researchers about the importance of responsible data management. Applications should therefore comply with NWO’s data management protocol. This protocol consists of two steps:
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- **Data management section**
The data management section is part of the research proposal. Researchers are required to answer four questions about data management within their intended research project. This means that before the research starts, the researcher will be asked to think about how the data collected needs to be ordered and categorised so that it can be made freely available. Measures will often need to be taken during the production and analysis of the data to facilitate their later storage and dissemination. Researchers can state which research data they consider to be relevant for storage and reuse.

- **Data management plan**
After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. The data management plan is a specific elaboration of the data management section. In the plan, the researcher indicates whether existing data will be used or whether new data collection will be involved, and how this data will then be made FAIR, i.e. Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable.

**Depositing research data at DANS**
Research data that originate from projects funded by NWO in the area of the humanities and the social sciences should be freely accessible to the KNAW and NWO institute Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), or be available in a similar manner to that of DANS for use by third parties within two years of completion. Further information about NWO’s data management protocol can be found at: www.nwo.nl/datamanagement-en.

**Nagoya Protocol**
The Nagoya Protocol became effective on 12 October 2014 and ensures a fair and reasonable distribution of benefits emerging from the use of genetic resources (Access and Benefit Sharing; ABS). Researchers who make use of genetic sources from the Netherlands or abroad for their research should familiarise themselves with the Nagoya Protocol (www.abslocalpoint.nl). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary action with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

**Ethical aspects**
It is important that before the research begins, all research proposals deal carefully with any ethical issues that the scientific research might raise in practice. For certain research projects, a statement of approval is needed from a recognised medical research ethics committee (MREC) or the Central Authority for Scientific Procedures on Animals (CCD) for animal experiments. In addition, a licence is needed in accordance with the Dutch Population Screening Act (WBO) for certain research proposals. Further information about the MREC is available through the Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects (CCMO). Information about the CCD is available from the Dutch Association for Animal Experiment Committees (Dutch acronym NVDEC). Information about the WBO can be obtained, for example, from the Health Council of the Netherlands.

Researchers who make use of infrastructure are responsible for ascertaining whether their research proposal raises ethical issues and, if applicable, for obtaining a statement of approval from the appropriate ethics committee(s) and/or obtaining a licence in accordance with the WBO, or from a similar organisation.

NWO endorses the Animal Experiments Openness Code and the Biosecurity Code of Conduct. Researchers who wish to make use of infrastructure with the help of NWO funding must endorse and comply with the existing codes. These projects can only start if NWO has received a copy of the ethical statement of approval and/or WBO licence (if applicable).

If, after consulting with the applicant, NWO is of the opinion that an ethical assessment is needed for an application, then the applicant is still required to take measures for an assessment by an ethics committee. If the necessary statement of approval from the ethics committee is not obtained, NWO will withdraw the funding.

**Research integrity**
In its Grant Regulations, NWO has stipulated that all research funded by NWO must be carried out in accordance with nationally and internationally accepted standards of scientific practice as laid down in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the research proposal, the applicant undertakes to comply with this code of conduct. In the case of a possible or actual violation of the above-mentioned standards in the course of research funded by NWO, the applicant must inform NWO of this immediately and provide it with all the
documents relevant to the case. Further information on the code of conduct and NWO policy in the area of research integrity can be found on the website: [http://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/scientific-integrity-policy](http://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/scientific-integrity-policy).

### 3.6 Submitting an application

**Submitting a letter of intent**

Letters of intent are submitted via ISAAC (see also Section 3.4). Main applicants/project leaders should submit their letter of intent but they can enter a colleague’s contact details if they wish to.

**Note:** Official secretaries should take account of the fact that the information they are providing in the form will be published on the website and is therefore public information.

**Submitting an application**

An application can only be submitted through the online application system ISAAC. Applications not submitted through ISAAC or submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration by NWO.

A main applicant/project leader must submit the application using his/her own ISAAC account. A main applicant/project leader who does not yet have an ISAAC account should create such an account at least one day before submitting the application, so that any registration issues can be fixed in time. If the lead applicant already has an account with NWO, they do not need to create a new account to submit a new proposal.

When submitting the application in ISAAC, data have to be entered online, as well as uploading the completed forms. It is therefore also advisable to begin the application process at least one day before the deadline for this call for proposals, so that any problems with your account or with entering data can be solved.

For questions of a technical nature, please contact the ISAAC help desk; see paragraph 5.1.2.
4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

4.1.1 General

The Investment Grant NWO Large grant procedure consists of two phases:

- Phase 1: letters of intent
- Phase 2: applications

**Phase 1**

The letters of intent are not included in the assessment by the referees or the selection committee. The letter of intent has to be submitted by the deadline. If no letter of intent is submitted on time, the proposal (see phase 2) will not be taken into consideration.

**Phase 2**

For the selection of the applications that are taken into consideration, NWO will appoint a selection committee that will be given the task of carrying out the assessment within the frameworks established in this call. The selection committee will be composed of experienced senior researchers with a broad knowledge of scientific developments and experience with large scientific consortia/institutes. In addition, one or more experienced experts from business or society may have a seat on the selection committee.

The applications, cover letters, referees' reports, advice from the Permanent Committee for Large-Scale Scientific Infrastructure (PC-GWI), response of the applicants, and the site visit form input for an independent assessment by the committee. It cannot be expected that the referees, both domestic and foreign, will have detailed knowledge of the Dutch infrastructural landscape, which the committee members do have. Moreover, referees cannot compare all the applications with one another. Consequently, the committee members clearly have an additional and weighting responsibility in the procedure.

4.1.2 Personal interests

The Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all individuals and NWO staff involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process ([www.nwo.nl/code-conduct](http://www.nwo.nl/code-conduct)).

4.1.3 Data management

The data management section in the application is not assessed and is therefore not included in the decision on whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the committee can make recommendations regarding the data management section. After a proposal has been awarded funding, the applicant should draw up a data management plan based on the data management section. Applicants can use the recommendations of the referees and the committee when writing the data management plan. The project can start as soon as the data management plan has been approved by NWO.

4.1.4 Rating

NWO will assign a rating to each application. This rating will be made known to the applicant with the decision about whether the application has been awarded funding. The following ratings can be assigned:

- excellent
- very good
- good
- unsatisfactory
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Only applications that are rated ‘excellent’ or ‘very good’ for criteria 1 and 2 will be eligible for funding. Applications must at least be rated ‘good’ for criterion 3. For more information on how the criteria are weighted, see Section 4.2, and for information on the ratings, see www.nwo.nl/qualifications.

4.1.5 Admissibility

The first step in the procedure for assessing the applications is to test whether an application satisfies the conditions described in Sections 3.1, 3.3, 3.4 and 3.6 of this call for proposals. The NWO office performs this test and advises the Executive Board on the admissibility of the applications received.

4.1.6 Peer review and PC-GWI advice

For all admissible applications, NWO will request at least two referees’ reports. Referees are independent advisers who are experts in the specialist field of the proposal. The referees assess the proposal based on the assessment criteria as set out in Section 4.2. The referees’ reports are sent in anonymised form to the applicant for a written response.

The applicant can provide a maximum of five suggestions for referees as well as a maximum of three people who cannot act as referees. This is not mandatory. Referees:
- do not work in the Netherlands;
- have not worked with the (co)applicants in the past three years;
- are people the (co)applicants are currently not working with or are not expecting to work with in the near future. This applies to all forms of cooperation, not only joint publications.

The non-referees and referee suggestions can be submitted in ISAAC together with your application.

The Permanent Committee for Large-Scale Scientific Infrastructure (PC-GWI) is asked to advise on one aspect of assessment criterion 2.a, which is – if applicable – the alignment of the proposal with a facility or cluster of the National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities. The applicants are sent the opinion of the PC-GWI and have the opportunity to include it in their response.

4.1.7 First meeting of selection committee

The selection committee subsequently assesses the applications, including the cover letters, referees’ reports, the advice of the PC-GWI, and applicants’ responses, based on the assessment criteria formulated in Section 4.2. For each application, the committee considers the arguments of the referees (and checks them against each other) and checks whether the response constituted a proper reaction to the criticism from the referees’ reports, and, if necessary, it also includes the advice of the PC-GWI. The referees’ reports and the advice of the PC-GWI are important in giving guidance for the final assessment, but the committee weighs up the arguments and comes to an independent assessment. Moreover, unlike the referees, the committee can see the quality of the other applications submitted. During the first meeting, the selection committee makes a provisional list of the applications with the highest chance of being awarded funding.

4.1.8 Site visit

Subsequently, a delegation of the committee will visit the sites associated with the highest-ranked applications. During the site visit, the delegation will have the opportunity to pose questions, including new questions that have not yet been posed by the referees or the PC-GWI.

The applicants can respond to these questions during the discussion with the committee delegation. In this approach an additional hearing and rebuttal takes place. The site visit is an important part of the assessment and can lead to an adjustment of the assessment, score and ranking of the proposal.
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4.1.9 Second meeting of selection committee

During the second plenary meeting, the committee will draw up a final ranking based on the written material and information obtained from the site visits. Based on this ranking and the available budget, the selection committee will advise the executive board of the NWO on which applications should be awarded a grant.

4.1.10 Decision

The executive board of NWO takes a decision about funding or rejecting applications. NWO will subsequently inform the applicants about the outcome of the selection procedure.

Indicative timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 December 2019</td>
<td>Deadline for submission of letter of intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 February 2020</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting applications (full proposals) via ISAAC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 February – end-February 2020</td>
<td>Assessment of admissibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-February 2020 – mid-May 2020</td>
<td>Consulting referees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-May – end-May</td>
<td>Rebuttal: applicants have approximately two weeks in which to give their response</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-June</td>
<td>First meeting of selection committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Site visits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>end-October</td>
<td>Second meeting of selection committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>end-November 2020</td>
<td>NWO decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.2 Criteria

Full proposals submitted in the context of this call will be assessed according to the following three criteria:
1. Scientific quality (subsection 4.2.1)
2. Scientific and/or societal impact (subsection 4.2.2)
3. Technical, financial and organisational aspects (subsection 4.2.3)

In the assessment, the criteria will be weighted as follows:
Criterion 1 and criterion 2 each makes up 50% of the final score. A proposal must score at least ‘good’ for criterion 3 in order to be eligible for funding; a higher score for criterion 3 will not influence the final score. The final score of a proposal is therefore determined only by the assessment of criteria 1 and 2.
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4.2.1 Criterion 1. Scientific quality

The importance of the investment for science and the potential to attract researchers
Investments in large research facilities under Investment Grant NWO Large must lead to a greater chance of scientific innovations and breakthroughs in the scientific field concerned.

The following aspects are assessed:
- the contribution of the investment to scientific quality, originality and innovation of the intended research programme;
- the quality of the research team involved: the researchers’ international position and cooperation, and suitable composition of the team as regards expertise, competences and diversity;
- the potential of the research facility to attract Dutch and foreign researchers;
- the effectiveness and internal coherence of the package of investments.

4.2.2 Criterion 2. Scientific and/or societal impact

a. National importance and international positioning and image

Aspects considered during the assessment are:
- how the investment fits in the long-term planning of the scientific field concerned;
- how the investment is embedded in the (long-term) research strategy of the institution making the application, and the national coordination;
- alignment of an investment – where applicable – with a facility or cluster on the current National Roadmap for Large-Scale Research Facilities; this aspect is applicable if a comparable investment is concerned or an investment in a certain type of research area is also covered by facilities of the roadmap.
- the national and international positioning of the investment: does the Netherlands have a prominent position in the field concerned? What are the international developments in that field? And will the investment contribute towards strengthening the position of the Netherlands in this field?
- will the investment help to produce a nationally or internationally leading or unique facility?

b. The importance for society, industry and other scientific fields

Research facilities are also interesting for other scientific fields, industry, civil-society organisations, and for innovative government bodies. Large-scale research facilities function as a magnet for new knowledge, which creates an outstanding climate for both large and small companies.

The potential for scientific and/or societal impact is evaluated in the assessment of the application, in relation to the following aspects:
- the potential for the investment having a scientific and/or societal impact in the short and long term;

2 If foreign research groups have already assumed a leading international position, there may still be other reasons to make an investment, such as assuming a position considered necessary to strengthen the national interest. In the case of Dutch participation in the construction of or a major modification to an international research facility, the committee will assess the interest and the visibility of the Dutch contribution in the international collaboration, the design and quality of the international project the investment will be part of, and the suitability of the form and application of the Dutch contribution.
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- the way(s) in which the proposed research and potential research results could lead to them having an impact on society;
- the way in which carrying out the investment will contribute towards innovation in other scientific fields, industry or society;
- the way in which those involved look out for unforeseen opportunities for scientific and/or societal impact during the period of the project, and how they deal with such opportunities.

For more information about knowledge utilisation, see www.nwo.nl/knowledge-utilisation.

4.2.3 Criterion 3. Technical, financial and organisational aspects

In addition to the scientific quality and impact, the selection committee also assesses the feasibility of an application, by evaluating the following aspects, where applicable:

a. Technical feasibility

New technical solutions and technologies are often needed to satisfy the technical requirements of a research facility and this sometimes requires fundamental challenges to be solved. This is an opportunity to increase the impact, but also an important risk for implementation. The technical feasibility of constructing the requested facility is assessed through:
  - a suitable plan for the technical implementation, including a timeframe with milestones, deliverables and participating parties and their roles;
  - an overview of the technical challenges that play a role in achieving the desired specifications;
  - an overview of the developments necessary to solve these challenges and of parties that have the knowledge, expertise and capacity to solve these challenges.

b. ICT infrastructure

Very advanced equipment for conducting scientific research, as well as setting up, linking and enriching scientific data collections, usually also require advanced support of and through ICT infrastructure. Especially where advanced ICT solutions are concerned, it is essential to analyse these requirements in detail. It is essential that researchers clearly describe and quantify in their applications what ICT resources and infrastructure are needed, and state whether that infrastructure is already available as part of the usual facilities of the university or research institute concerned.

Where applicable, it will be assessed whether:
  - the applicants have provided a correct description of the necessary ICT infrastructure;
  - the associated costs have been properly included in the budget;
  - it has been arranged with the IT facility SURF that the SURF capacity required by the applicant is available;
  - it has been described how the ICT infrastructure will be implemented, as well as the expertise needed for this and whether members of the team have the necessary knowledge of the ICT infrastructure;
  - an appropriate policy is in place to encourage academics to ensure that data generated by the research facility (or its users) is made available according to FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) (see also subsection 3.5.2).

c. Organisation and governance

Setting up and exploiting a large research facility requires clear agreements between the national and international partners and a clear organisational framework. It is therefore important for the governance structure and the management of the research facility to be well organised. The organisation of the research
facility should facilitate its optimal realisation and exploitation. It will be assessed whether the agreements concerning the facility lead to a clear and feasible situation, by means of:

− a good embedding in the Dutch knowledge infrastructure, by means of a consortium agreement, if necessary;
− a clear decision-making structure with sufficient mandate and independence;
− a clear organisation structure that contains the tasks and responsibilities of governance and management;
− a suitable procedure for dealing with budget and time overruns;
− a sound strategy concerning procurement, intellectual property rights and commercial activities, which is in line with prevailing legislation and guidelines and for which the associated legal and contractual issues have been identified and resolved;
− a proposal for suitable performance indicators, milestones and deliverables for the purpose of periodic reporting and interim evaluation, which will provide transparent reports on, among other things, technical and financial implementation, and will clearly explain how the use of the infrastructure benefits science, industry and society.

d. Accessibility

Large-scale research infrastructure is primarily for the benefit of researchers. Easy access to the research facility, including access for external researchers, is therefore a condition for funding. The facility must at least provide excellence-driven access or implement a wide access policy. Providing solely pay-for-use access is not permitted for infrastructure. In addition to the above aspects, the following will also be assessed:

− which research groups will use the research facility;
− what part of the capacity will be available for external users;
− the average extent of use per external researcher.

e. Financial aspects

It should be clear from the application which investments are planned, what the associated costs will be, how the applicants will fund these costs, and what the commitment of the applying parties is. The following aspects will be assessed:

(1) Whether the applicants have given a complete picture of the costs and financing by providing:

− a complete and sufficiently specified overview of all costs and resources that are required for the successful implementation, exploitation and monitoring of and/or participation in the research facility, even if these are not eligible for funding. This applies to both in-cash and in-kind (expressible in money) contributions;
− if applicable, a reasoned and balanced budget for the entire research facility for a period of 10 years;

(2) Whether the applicants provide sufficient certainty about the financial income through:

− a description of the possible sources for funding and which of these will be tapped;
− the financial commitment of the institutions involved with respect to both the investment and the running costs of the infrastructure;

f. Risk analysis

The risks concerning the implementation and exploitation of the requested scientific infrastructure should be properly described and covered. Aspects that are considered in this part of the assessment are:

− possible financial and other consequences of technical risks, or not being able to achieve the technical requirements;
− realistic alternative scenarios and possible consequences for the scientific ambitions of the infrastructure;
− a good track record in the area of comparable technical solutions of the (intended) executing party, within the consortium or among other connected parties;
− possible risks related to the exploitation of the infrastructure;
− the allocation of the implementation and the funding (where possible) in phases with clearly measurable (SMART) objectives.
5 Contact and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Substantive questions

For substantive questions about Investment Grant NWO-Large and this call for proposals, please contact:

Contact person: Patricia Vogel MSc
Telephone: +31 (0)70 3440732
Email: nwogroot@nwo.nl

5.1.2 Technical questions about the electronic application system ISAAC

For technical questions about the use of ISAAC, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk. Please read the manual first before consulting the help desk. The ISAAC help desk is available from Monday to Friday, from 10:00 to 17:00 on +31 (0)20 346 71 79. You can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will receive a reply within two working days.

5.2 Other information

NWO processes the personal data of applicants in line with the NWO Privacy Policy (for more information, see www.nwo.nl/privacystatement).

A full English version of this call for proposals is available on the NWO website. The Dutch version of the call for proposals supersedes the English translation. No rights can be derived from the English translation.