Long Term Programmes

Strategy driven consortia with impact

Call for proposals

2020
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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

NWO contributes to Dutch innovation policy with a part of its programming. From 2020 onwards, this programming will be based on the mission-driven top sectors and innovation policy of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (EZK), which is aimed at solving major societal challenges. The underlying Knowledge and Innovation Agendas (KIAs) and the contributions of NWO and other parties are part of the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC) 2020-2023.

Mission-driven top sectors and innovation policy

Climate change, cyber security, ageing: Dutch society faces several major challenges. These challenges require groundbreaking innovative solutions with impact. That offers economic opportunities for public and private parties to jointly develop innovative solutions for societal issues.

Four important societal themes play a central role in the new mission-driven top sectors and innovation policy:
- Energy Transition & Sustainability
- Agriculture, Water & Food
- Health & Care
- Security

These themes have been elaborated in 25 missions that contain concrete ambitions.

There will also be a focus on:
- Key Technologies
- Public earning capacity

From ambitions to objectives

Based on the ambitions, the top sectors have jointly drawn up Knowledge and Innovation Agendas (KIAs) for each of the aforementioned six themes. In consultation with relevant stakeholders from science and society, multiannual mission-driven innovation programmes (MMIPs) have been formulated within these KIAs. For the innovation areas, the MMIPs describe the intended objective, the (sub)programme lines and the specific research and development questions to be answered. For the Key Technologies, potential multiannual programmes (in Dutch: MJPs) have been identified, supplemented with knowledge and research questions.

NWO and the KIC: research bring solutions a step closer

The contribution of scientific and practice-oriented research is indispensable for realising solutions for the challenges posed. NWO is responding to this by investing more than 100 million euros per year in research in which public and private parties collaborate on societal challenges. The research and innovation programmes of NWO for the KIC 2020-2023 contribute to answering the research and development questions linked to the societal challenges.
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Collaboration with impact

The Dutch government has never previously formulated the ambition to realise large-scale societal changes to solve societal problems. In the vision of NWO, the chances of realising the intended changes and the impact of these will be greatest if the focus lies with interdisciplinary research in which collaboration is sought with relevant knowledge institutions (including universities of applied sciences), public and private partners, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Chapter 2 of this call for proposals explains how NWO will encourage and facilitate the route from societal problem via research to impact.

NWO research programmes for the KIC 2020-2023: four main lines

NWO will focus on specific and large-scale research programmes. These programmes are organised in four main lines:

1. MISSION – Mission-driven thematic calls aimed at the priorities from the six KIAs.
2. DEMAND – Partnerships aimed at research and innovation questions from private and public partners on subjects from the KIAs.
3. STRATEGY – Large, long-term, strategic collaborations on subjects from the KIAs.
4. PRACTICE – Practice-driven instruments aimed at strengthening collaboration between universities of applied sciences, SMEs and regional partners, on subjects from the KIAs.

This call for proposals falls within the main line MISSION, in which NWO will develop a limited number of large thematic calls each year.


1.2 Available budget

This call for proposals falls within the main line STRATEGY (see Section 1.1). The budget ceiling for this call for proposals is EUR 40 million.

1.3 Validity of the call for proposals

This call for proposals is valid from 14 October 2020 until the date on which the NWO Executive Board makes its decision(s) on the full proposals. For long-term programmes (LTPs) that are awarded grants within this call for proposals, the conditions set out here will remain in force throughout the duration of the LTP. The deadline for the submission of initiatives is 26 January 2021, 14:00 CE(S)T. The deadline for the submission of pre-proposals is 22 April 2021, 14:00 CE(S)T. The deadline for the submission of a full LTP proposal is 12 months after NWO has notified the consortium of its positive decision on the consortium’s pre-proposal. The NWO Executive Board has the option to grant a consortium that has received a positive decision on its pre-proposal a one-off extension of three months for the submission of a full LTP proposal.
1.4 General framework

A consortium can apply for a grant from NWO for 30% of the LTP budget. In this connection, NWO will provide a grant equal to the private cash contribution to an LTP. The private cash contribution is thus also to be 30% of the total LTP budget. The NWO grant amounts to a minimum of EUR 9 million and a maximum of EUR 25 million.\(^1\) Additional conditions are described in Section 3.5.

Three categories of participants in an LTP initiative can be distinguished:
- knowledge institutions that are eligible for NWO grants
- other public parties, including NWO\(^2\)
- private parties.

These parties are referred to collectively as the ‘consortium partners’. Parties belonging to the category ‘other public parties’ may participate in an LTP as funders and/or as researchers. A distinction is made between the contribution from NWO and the contributions from other parties. NWO’s contribution is provided for activities that fit within the NWO Grant Rules 2017 (see Section 3.2. ‘What can be applied for?’). For this distinction, the following definitions are used in this call:

**Long-term Programme (LTP):** a coherent set of individual parts (including the project for which a grant is requested from NWO), all of which contribute to achieving the programme’s objective(s). The programme proposal must have substantial and demonstrable programmatic added value as well as a clearly distinctive character compared to other initiatives and/or networks. The programme proposal must describe the project according to the guidelines in Section 3.4.

**Project:** the set of activities for which a grant is awarded under this call.

**Joint funding:** funding of the LTP by parties other than NWO. This funding is to be reported annually and accounted for in an auditor’s report after five and ten years. Joint funding does not run through NWO. A consortium can only apply for a grant from NWO for the Project. The project budget is to be drawn up by means of the NWO modules. NWO will fund the entire project; this project represents 30% of the financial volume of the Long-term Programme, with a minimum of EUR 9 million and a maximum of EUR 25 million.

In addition to the Project for which a consortium applies for an NWO grant, other activities may also take place in an LTP.

The other conditions for funding are described in Section 3.5. The flowchart below shows the general process that has been developed for assessing LTP initiatives. The details of this process are discussed in the different parts of this call.

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\(^1\) The percentage of an LTP budget that NWO funds may be less than 30% if the LTP budget is larger than EUR 83.3 million. The private contribution may exceed the amount of the NWO grant (i.e. more than 30% of the LTP budget).

\(^2\) These could be provinces, regional development agencies, or national knowledge institutions, for example.
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Process of submission and selection of LTP initiatives

1. Opening of call
   - Develops and submits initiative to NWO
   - Role of NWO

2. Submission of initiatives
   - Role of consortium
   - Opens call; provides information
   - Product
   - Support desk (informative) for LTPs

3. Submission of pre-proposals
   - Drafts pre-proposal; conducts self-assessment based on criteria; forms consortium; reaches co-funding threshold

4. Assessment 1
   - Checks initiates submitted; provides information
   - Overview of LTP initiatives

5. Decision by Executive Board
   - Checks admissibility (is pre-proposal complete?); independent selection committee assesses pre-proposals; Executive Board decides to reserve budget for initiative (yes/no)

6. Submission of full proposals
   - Elaborates LTP plan based on committee's feedback; secures of financial contributions; sets up of programme management structure; expands consortium; makes IP agreements

7. Assessment 2
   - Offers procedural guidance (informing, for example role), checks on progress (according to conditions upon reservation)

8. Decision by Executive Board
   - Checks admissibility; processes reviews by independent referees and committee; checks IP agreements; Executive Board decides to fund LTP (yes/no)

9. Timeline:
   - Starts LTP; concerns most of the management
   - Monitors LTP; distributes funding reports

10. Active LTP
    - Decision by Executive Board on funding: grant letters; cooperation agreements

   - 6 months
   - 6 - 10 weeks
   - 12 months (max.)
   - 3 months; individually per LTP
   - 10 years
Chapter 2: Aim / Strategie - Lange Termijn Programma's

2 Aim

2.1 Long-term Programmes

This STRATEGY call enables the realisation of Long-term Programmes (LTPs). These programmes have a duration of ten years and receive a large (financial) contribution from private and public joint funders. The strategic aim of an LTP is to provide a powerful and long-term stimulus for the development of a scientific field in the Netherlands that focuses on a societal theme and/or a key technology or key technologies. The contribution from NWO provides the scientific foundation of the LTP and is necessary to get the cooperation off the ground or develop it further.

2.2 Research with societal impact

NWO believes it is important that knowledge generated from research funded by NWO also finds its way into society.

In the KIC, the programmes focus on innovative research with the aim of developing solutions for societal issues together with societal partners and in doing so creating economic opportunities. The programmes strive to realise impact\(^3\): societal changes in both the short and long-term.

In the KIC, NWO uses the Impact Plan Approach (see https://www.nwo.nl/en/policies/knowledge+utilisation). To increase the potential of the research’s societal impact, demonstrable involvement is needed from important stakeholders\(^4\) from the moment the consortium is formed until the completion of the project (see also under Section 2.3 Interdisciplinary research). https://www.nwo.nl/beleid/kennisbenutting

2.2.1 Impactplan

Societal impact is never solely an outcome of knowledge and insight from research. Furthermore, societal impact is often only realised in the years after a research project has been concluded. Knowledge utilisation is viewed as an iterative process towards societal impact. By ensuring continuous alignment between researchers and possible knowledge users from the start of the research formulation (co-creation) and during the realisation of the research (co-design), the chances of productive interactions\(^5\) and knowledge utilisation increase. And, accordingly, the chances of societal impact too. Consortia together with stakeholders draw up an Impact Plan as part of the full proposal.

The Impact Plan describes the intended productive interactions for the consortium and the action plan for realising societal impact. The pre-proposal form contains several questions that can serve as an initial step towards the Impact Plan. In the full proposal form, an elaboration of the Impact Plan should be included as an integral part of the proposal.

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\(^3\) NWO understands societal impact to mean the cultural, economic, industrial, ecological or social changes that are (partly) the consequence of knowledge and expertise generated by research. These usually occur after the research has been realised, but also require continuous attention during the preparation and realisation of the project.

\(^4\) A stakeholder is each person or group that can influence the goals being achieved or can be influenced as a result of these.

\(^5\) NWO understands ‘productive interactions’ to be exchanges between researchers and stakeholders in which knowledge is produced and valued that is both scientifically robust and societal relevant.
An Impact Plan contains a description about how knowledge utilisation from the research will lead to a greater potential of the results. The full proposal describes how the approach for achieving impact is integrated in the research design and how this will be realised by consortium partners together with stakeholders from policy, practice and industry.

2.3 Interdisciplinary research

With the KIC 2020-2023, NWO is realising an innovative approach with particular attention for interdisciplinary research. The societal challenges focused on in the mission-driven research in many cases require an integral approach in which researchers from the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences collaborate in order to contribute to complex societal issues. This requires a fitting design of and vision on the research.

How do we define interdisciplinary collaboration?

Interdisciplinary collaboration within the KIC refers to research in which knowledge and expertise from different scientific disciplines is brought together to solve problems and to explain phenomena for which knowledge from a single discipline would not be sufficient. Within the KIC, this concerns a collaboration between the scientific fields of the humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. Check our website for a complete overview.

Researchers from each of the scientific fields can initiate a collaboration. Research in the humanities and social sciences should be realised by researchers from those scientific fields and not by researchers from the domain of the natural sciences.

Consortia will be assessed as to whether they include sufficient expertise to answer the research question in its entire breadth and to achieve the desired societal impact.

Innovative from the start

A collaboration must be challenging and innovative for all researchers involved. So, for example, a collaboration does not merely mean including a legal clause or ethical condition (such as privacy) at the end of the research project. There is not one single ideal approach or method for interdisciplinary collaboration. Researchers choose the approach that best fits their research. The content of the research and the focus on achieving impact is guiding in this respect.

A further explanation of interdisciplinary collaboration can be found on NWO’s website: https://www.nwo.nl/onderzoek-en-resultaten/programmas/nwo/kennis-en-innovatieconvenant/interdisciplinaire-samenwerking.html

2.4 Collaboration with universities of applied sciences

Within the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC) 2020–2023, practice-oriented research carried out by universities of applied sciences is seen as one of the methods for achieving impact by creating a link between research and practice. Consortia are therefore invited to reflect on the opportunities that collaboration with universities of applied sciences offers for their research and, where relevant, to involve partners from universities of applied sciences in their project.
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2.5 Human Capital

Training and working are essential factors in initiating innovations and achieving impact. We understand human capital to mean the preparation of professionals and students for a changing workplace and ensuring that sufficient labour potential is present. Within the KIC, human capital has acquired an important place to make the innovation policy successful. See also the Human Capital Roadmap [only available in Dutch] of the top sectors [https://www.topsectoren.nl/human-capital](https://www.topsectoren.nl/human-capital).

In the coming years, the societal missions will place a strong call on the available labour potential in the sectors involved, and rapid societal, economic and technological developments will require workers to respond flexibly to the demands of the labour market. As an example, consortia can participate in learning communities. Learning communities are collaborations between educational institutions, knowledge institutions, companies and/or civil society organisations that ensure a close interaction between learning, working and innovating. It is expected that within these learning communities, students will be better prepared for the changing workplace and that professionals will be enabled to develop throughout their working lives. With field labs, skills labs, centres of expertise, centres for innovative workmanship, lectorates, practorates, meeting points, living labs and other similar initiatives, learning communities can be given form in everyday practice.

During the elaboration of the Impact Plan, applicants will be requested to reflect on the role of human capital in the consortium and in facilitating the desired impact. Consortia will therefore be invited from the initial thoughts about a project proposal onwards, to also consider the place that human capital could assume in the knowledge development and in the Impact Plan Approach.

Industrial Doctorate / Societal Doctorate

One of the possibilities is to deploy research personnel who have an actual and substantial link with the practice related to the research. This can be achieved with the deployment of the PhD student budget module that can be applied for in collaboration with a public or private partner, the so-called Industrial Doctorate or Societal Doctorate (see Section 3.5).

2.6 International collaboration

The involvement of foreign researchers and/or collaborating partners can provide consortia with the expertise needed to address the innovation questions and societal challenges faced. Foreign collaboration partners can also help to increase the impact of the projects and scope of the research outcomes. Consortia are therefore invited, if this aligns with the objectives of the research proposal, to make use of the budget modules Internationalisation and Money follows Cooperation to give international collaboration a place in the project design. These modules are further described in Section 3.2.
3 Guidelines for applicants

3.1 Who can apply

Main applicant
(Pre-)Proposals can be submitted by the following knowledge institutions, represented by (a mandated representative of) their highest governing board:

- Universities established in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- University medical centres;
- KNAW and NWO institutes;
- the Netherlands Cancer Institute;
- the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
- the DUBBLE Beamline at the ESRF in Grenoble;
- Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
- Advanced Research Centre for NanoLithography (ARCNL);
- Princess Máxima Center for Pediatric Oncology

The knowledge institution that submits the proposal (to be mentioned first on the application form) is to be regarded as the main applicant; this knowledge institution will also be the main beneficiary of the NWO grant. The main beneficiary is to distribute the grant among the co-applicants as co-beneficiaries. The grant may also be distributed among all applicants by means of a programme-management office (to be set up for this purpose).

Please note! There are limitations on the number of proposals that can be submitted. The same knowledge institution may act as the main applicant for a maximum of three proposals within this call. The knowledge institution serves as the main applicant for those three proposals.

Project leader
The (proposed) project leader is the person, employed by the knowledge institution that is the main beneficiary, who is ultimately responsible for the substantive and financial aspects of a project that is part of an LTP. See also Article 1.2, Paragraph 1 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Co-applicant(s)
Knowledge institutions mentioned under ‘main applicant’ and universities of applied sciences as referred to in Article 1.8 of the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW) may act as co-applicants. A consortium may have more than one co-applicant. The proposal must specify which researchers will act as sub-project leaders at the participating institutions.

3.2 What can be applied for

In this round, NWO funding can be requested for each research proposal with a minimum of 9,000,000 euros and a maximum of 25,000,000 euros.
Consortia must apply for the NWO grant for the LTP in accordance with the budget modules. A detailed budget for the first five-year period (including the number of PhD students, postdoctoral positions, etc.) will be assessed, as is customary in the application process for NWO grants. The budget for the other activities in the LTP within the first five years must also be specified. Please refer to the budget format that is made available with this call. For the second five-year period, a generic spending plan must be submitted. A further specification of this second part of the budget will need to be made on the basis of the mid-term evaluation and will serve as input for NWO’s decision regarding its contribution for the second five-year period.

The researchers to be funded by NWO must be affiliated with one of the knowledge institutions referred to under Section 3.1 or with a participating university of applied sciences, with the exception of industrial doctorates.

The budget modules (including the maximum amounts) available within this call for proposals are set out in the table below. Please request only the amount that is essential for carrying out the research.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget module</th>
<th>Maximum amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>according to VSNU rates or NFU rates[^6]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Doctorate in engineering (PDeng)</td>
<td>in combination with PhD students and/or postdoc(s), according to VSNU rates or NFU rates[^4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>according to VSNU rates or NFU rates[^4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scientific personnel (NSP) at universities</td>
<td>€100,000, per four requested PhD and/or postdoc positions, according to VSNU rates or NFU rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other scientific personnel (OSP) at universities</td>
<td>€100,000 per four requested PhD or postdoc positions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research leave</td>
<td>4x5 months, 1 FTE, according to VSNU rates or NFU rates[^4]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel of universities of applied sciences and other institutions</td>
<td>rates based on the “Research Tariffs Manual (HOT) 2017”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material costs</td>
<td>€15,000 per year per FTE, scientific position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (€150,000 to €1,500,000)</td>
<td>greater than or equal to €150,000 (for data collections, a minimum of €25,000 applies) and less than or equal to €1,500,000 with a 25% contribution from the applicant’s own research institute.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge utilisation</td>
<td>maximum 5% of the budget requested from NWO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationalation</td>
<td>€250,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money follows Cooperation</td>
<td>less than 50% of the total requested budget</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme management</td>
<td>maximum 5% of the budget requested from NWO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[^6]: For personnel living abroad, local rates will be reimbursed to a maximum of the VSNU rates.
3.3 When can applications be submitted

The deadline for the submission of initiatives is **January 26, 2021**, 14:00:00 CE(S)T.
The deadline for the submission of preproposals is **April 22, 2021**, 14:00:00 CE(S)T.

The deadline for the submission of full proposals is **12 months to the day NWO notified the consortium of its positive decision on the consortium’s pre-proposal**, at 14:00 CE(S)T.

When you submit your application to ISAAC you will also need to enter additional details online. You should therefore start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of this call for proposals. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.4 Preparing an application

3.4.1 Submission of the initiative

Download the application form from the ISAAC online application system or from the NWO website (see the link at the foot of the web page for the relevant funding instrument). Complete the application form (in English), save it as a PDF document and then upload it to ISAAC. Please note that initiatives need to have been received by NWO before the deadline; no pre-proposal may be submitted if the initiative was not submitted before the deadline.

3.4.2 Preproposal

The mandatory pre-proposal (in English) is to contain a sketch substantiating the intended LTP and the research lines it contains. The mandatory application form for this purpose is provided by NWO. In addition, the pre-proposal is to contain an estimate and substantiation of the financial resources needed to achieve the proposed research goal (see Section 3.2 ‘What can be applied for?’). The budget and letters of support are likewise to be submitted using the respective mandatory formats. Both formats can be downloaded from the funding page of the LTP programme or from the ISAAC online application system. There is no mandatory format for the (optional) declarations of intent (see the list below). The pre-proposal is to consist of no more than the maximum number of words indicated per section, along with the following attachments:

- Letters of support from participating private parties (These are mandatory for a minimum amount of EUR 900,000 in cash for the first five years of the LTP, see Section 4.1).
- Self-assessment
- Letters of support from participating public organisations (optional)
- Declarations of intent by potential participants (private and/or public) (optional)

Consortia may only submit a full proposal if the NWO Executive Board has taken a positive decision on their pre-proposal.
3.4.3 Preparing the full LTP proposal

The full LTP proposal (in English) must contain a detailed investigation plan for the first five-year period and an outline of the investigation plan for the second five-year period. The consortium must specify for the first five-year period – in any case for the NWO grant it is applying for – which costs it will apply for in accordance with the modules and which of the activities will take place. The remaining part of the budget (how the joint funding will be spent, etc.) must also be submitted. For the second five-year period, both parts of the budget may be shown in a generic form. Consortia will receive the format for this as well as the annexes to be used after they have been notified of NWO’s positive decision on their pre-proposal. When submitting a full proposal, the following documents must be supplied for assessment:

- An elaborated research plan for the first five years (using the mandatory format), including a self-assessment
- The budget of the entire LTP, including the deployment of personnel according to the modules of the NWO grant (using the mandatory format)
- Letters of support from all participating parties
- Declarations of intent for the second five-year period
- A consortium agreement including intellectual property (IP) agreements

3.5 Conditions on granting

All proposals are subject to the requirements of the NWO Grant Rules 2017 and the Agreement for Funding Scientific Research. The general terms and conditions as included in Section 3.5.1 apply to both pre-proposals and full proposals. Conditions that apply specifically to either pre-proposals or full proposals are set out in sections 3.5.2 and 3.5.3, respectively.

The parties participating in an LTP are referred to collectively as ‘consortium partners’.

3.5.1 General terms and conditions

Budgetary conditions and definition of public/private

- The definition of private joint funding is derived from that used by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/pps-toeslag-onderzoek-en-innovatie/definities/definities-pps-toeslag-onderzoek-en-innovatie). A private contribution is defined as a contribution, in cash or in kind, that does not come, directly or indirectly, from a research institution or public body.
- Knowledge institutions mentioned under Section 3.1 cannot act as private joint funders.
- Joint funding must be demonstrated by means of letters of support (written using the mandatory format that NWO has made available). A letter of support should include at least the following:
  - a description of the private partner’s interest in the theme/programme/project concerned.
  - a description of the role this private partner will play in the project or programme.
  - a characterisation of the contribution to the LTP concerned (in cash and/or in kind) and a statement that this support is unconditional.
- All contributions must be used demonstrably for the purpose of the LTP, even in cases where the contributions will not be used for the scientific part of the LTP.
- The maximum NWO grant that a consortium can apply for on behalf of an LTP is based on the amount of private in-cash joint funding pledged. To this end, the contributions of all participating private parties may be added together. The private cash contribution in an LTP must be at least 30% of the total budget.
- The NWO grant will be the same size as the private in-cash joint funding and will amount to a maximum of 30% of the LTP budget, with a minimum of EUR 9 million and a maximum of EUR 25 million for the ten-year period.
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- The knowledge institutions participating in the LTP shall contribute at least 10% in kind and/or in cash to the LTP. This amount must be entered in the budget. The costs must be directly attributable to the long-term programme and must be clearly specified in the proposal. This contribution must be spent at the knowledge institution concerned (practice-based research at a university of applied sciences and/or academic research at a knowledge institution).

- It is mandatory to reserve room in the programme budget for a 2% annual increase in the VSNU rates. This reservation is not fundable as such under the NWO conditions, but must be included in the general budget.

- A consortium may want to treat services already provided (e.g. a database or software) as an in-kind contribution. Admissibility as joint funding is not self-evident in such cases. The main applicant must contact NWO about this in advance. NWO will determine whether a concrete value can be determined for the services provided earlier. The cost price will be the starting point in this regard.

Determining the value of in-kind joint funding

- The use of personnel is valued on the basis of hours x rate, whereby the hourly rate is based on the actual salary costs (incl. a premium for social benefits and employer costs). Furthermore, 1400 hours is taken as the standard number of productive hours per year for the calculation of the hourly rate. This hourly rate may be no more than 119 euros per hour;

- The value for material in-kind contributions is determined on the basis of the cost price of consumables. The value of investments/equipment is determined based on standard depreciation costs bearing in mind the intensity of use and any existing depreciations according to applicable reporting principles;

- For in-kind contributions in the form of services or know-how (knowledge, software, access to databases or cell lines) the economic value must be established and only the actual costs that can be directly attributed to the project may be counted as joint funding. This is always without a profit margin. Furthermore, the service or know how must not already be present at or available to the applicant.

Joint funders should justify the structure and size of the in-kind contributions provided (including hourly rates) in the letter of support. NWO can request substantiation and documented evidence of the rates used and can also request their adjustment.

The following are not admissible as joint funding (whether in cash or in kind):

- standard chargeable overheads of knowledge institutions not directly related to the personnel specifically assigned to the long-term programme

- hours of permanent scientific personnel (with the exception of individuals having a tenure-track position)

- costs for PhD and postdoc positions exceeding full rates

- funding awarded by NWO

- discounts on commercial rates, including materials, equipment and services

- costs related to consultancy and/or participation in the user committee

- costs of services that are conditional. The provision of joint funding will not be subject to any conditions, with the exception of the joint funding of Industrial/Societal Doctorates. The provision of joint funding will not depend on whether or not a certain stage has been reached in the research plan (e.g. go/no-go moment)

- costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the proposal is to improve this equipment or add to its value.

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7 Funding awarded by NWO is understood to mean funding obtained through the awarding of a proposal submitted to NWO. The programme in which the funding is obtained and who the grant recipient is are irrelevant in this regard.
Self-assessment
NWO offers a tool that is to be used for a self-assessment of the intended long-term programme. This tool will enable the initiators to gain more insight into the development status of the programme in relation to the NWO assessment criteria. This self-assessment can be used by the applicants to monitor and visualise the progress. During the consortium’s interview with the selection committee, NWO will use the self-assessment as a tool to address those areas where the committee's opinion differs from that found in the self-assessment. No rights can be derived from the self-assessment, nor does it in any way replace the assessment by the independent, NWO-appointed selection committee as described in the call for proposals. In conducting this self-assessment, the consortium is permitted to involve colleagues who will not be participating in the LTP. The self-assessment is to be submitted with both the pre-proposal and the full LTP proposal.

Accounting for joint funding
The main applicant is to report to NWO on the joint funding received (both in kind and in cash) from a joint funder. In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the main applicant is to submit annual accounts. If a joint funder fails to fulfil (partially or fully) its obligations to the main applicant and/or to NWO, this may have consequences for the grant settlement (see Section 3.4.5 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017). An auditor’s statement for the LTP is to be submitted to NWO after the first five-year period and, if applicable, after the second five-year period. This statement must account for all contributions, both public and private. The contributions from the knowledge institutions themselves shall be audited by means of the education audit protocol.

Advisory body
For each LTP, an advisory body is to be established to advise on the LTP at a strategic level. This could relate to the scientific strategy and progress, but also to other issues such as the collaboration and (international) connections. Depending on whether there are already any existing structures, this body could be set up as an advisory committee, a supervisory board or otherwise. This committee will preferably comprise experts who are not involved in the LTP. The full proposal must specify who the members of this committee will be. The advisory body could also be set up already during the elaboration of the long-term programme so that it can be consulted at that stage. This is independent of NWO’s further assessment of the proposal. Once it has made a positive decision to fund the LTP, NWO will delegate one of its employees to participate in the advisory body as an observer.

LTP programme committee
A programme committee is to be set up for the LTP that will be responsible both for the management of the LTP and for the integration of and coherence between the various work packages. The programme committee will be in charge of the operational management and of coordinating the strategy and related matters with the advisory body. Upon submitting its full proposal, the consortium must indicate how the LTP programme committee will be organised in order to achieve integration of the different activities of the LTP. An NWO employee will participate in this committee as an observer.

User committee
It is recommended that the consortium set up user committees for work packages or combinations of research projects within the LTP. It is up to the consortium itself to determine which work packages or (combinations of) projects could benefit from user committees. The aim of these user committees is to stimulate public-private partnerships in each work package. The full proposal must clearly indicate which user committee(s) will be set up and who their members will be.

The user committees will be subject to the relevant provisions of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. In connection with Provision 3.3.2a, Article 1 in those Rules, by making funds available within the proposal budget for project management, NWO will fulfil the secretarial role. For that reason, the organisational tasks in connection with the user committee will be assumed by those persons within the consortium who are responsible for project management rather than by NWO personnel.
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Foreign companies
If there are strong players in a certain field abroad, those foreign companies can be involved in the consortium. The same conditions apply for both foreign and Dutch companies, including their representation in the user committee that meets at least once a year (travel and accommodation costs are to be at the expense of the company and cannot be claimed). Foreign companies may provide joint funding under the same conditions as Dutch companies. Companies from outside the Netherlands that are subject to certain national or international sanction legislation and regulations may not provide joint funding, however. The EU Sanctions map (https://www.sanctionsmap.eu) serves a guideline in this respect.

Public Partners
Public partners (excluding knowledge institutions that would otherwise be eligible for a grant) can have two roles in an LTP: they can act as joint funders or as research institutions (without a grant from NWO). If the pre-proposal mentions a public party as a joint funder, this must be substantiated by means of a letter of support written in the same format as the letters from private partners. Where a public party acts as a research organisation, the proposal must clearly define its role and identify how its activities will be funded. If the funding of these activities is not clear, NWO will not take the proposal (pre-proposal or full proposal) into consideration.

Necessity of funding
The proposal will be rejected if it is plausible that the research programme (and/or project) would or could be carried out without significant delay in the absence of NWO’s contribution.

Publications and intellectual property (IP) agreements
In the transfer of knowledge between researchers and users within NWO programmes and projects, it is important that research results are treated responsibly with a view to contributing to science and applying knowledge. On one hand, NWO wants to publish and make use of the research results as widely as possible, while on the other hand it wants to encourage collaboration between researchers and multiple organisations. NWO’s rules in this regard are stipulated in Article 4.2.4. ‘IP Rights to results’ (‘Intellectual Property (IP) Policy’) of the NWO Grant Rules 2017 (February 2019 version), which apply in this case. The full proposal must be accompanied by a consortium agreement containing agreements on intellectual property. These will be tested as to their suitability in the context of the NWO rules mentioned above.

Industrial and Societal Doctorates
Industrial doctorates (ID) and societal doctorates (SD) are understood to mean PhD students who will be carrying out their research both at a knowledge institution and within an organisation that is not an applicant or co-applicant. When organisations and knowledge institutions work closely together, the resulting knowledge is more likely to be put into actual practice. The research must be an integral part of the programme. In the event an ID or an SD doctoral student is appointed, the private or public organisation involved in the doctorate is to be responsible for at least 25% of the salary costs. This contribution may be counted as part of the minimum joint funding requirement; if so, it should always be in cash.

The prospective PhD student may be employed by either the knowledge institution or the organisation. The activities carried out by the doctoral student must qualify as fundamental or industrial research. The salary costs of that doctoral student will be reimbursed at the applicable VSNU rate. NWO will contribute a maximum of 75% of this amount, and the organisation must contribute at least 25%. Any excess salary costs, stemming from a salary that exceeds the VSNU rate, are to be covered by the public/private employer and may be counted as in-kind project joint funding. Any surplus is to be calculated on the basis of the employer’s costs minus the VSNU rates for a position at the same level. No support / grant may be transferred to the organisation.

If a consortium applies for an ID and SD doctoral student, the parties are to make agreements regarding any IP rights that the doctoral student in question could generate. In doing so, they must take into account that other project participants could have access to the research results, whether or not that takes place under FRAND (fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory) conditions.
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The NWO grant will be awarded to the knowledge institution exclusively for the purpose of the doctoral research project. It is relevant to mention in this connection that, in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, which apply in this case, all research results must be published as soon as possible in Open Access, thereby serving the public interest. All other provisions of Section 3.5, including those for Intellectual Property & Publications, apply here as well.

3.5.2 Conditions for the pre-proposal

Knowledge institutions

It is important to form a strong consortium for an LTP. Upon the consortium’s submission of the pre-proposal, a minimum of three knowledge institutions as defined in Section 3.1 must be represented as (co-) applicants in the consortium. Under these conditions, knowledge institutions may not be counted twice. Different faculties at one and the same university cannot be considered different knowledge institutions. The distribution of the activities (and of the grant being applied for) within the entire LTP programme and the project within the LTP for which the consortium has applied for an NWO grant is to be balanced among the participating knowledge institutions.

Private parties

At least one business representative should be prepared to act as a co-leader of the programme, alongside the project leader.

In the pre-proposal phase, the following requirements will be in force regarding the commitment of private parties:

- At least two private parties need to have already made a cash commitment;
- These private parties need to have jointly committed a minimum of EUR 900,000 of in-cash joint funding for the initial period of five years. All such private parties are to contribute substantial amounts. Their commitment needs to have been demonstrated by means of letters of support written using the format made available with this call.

Any lack of clarity about the (possible) contributions from private parties and/or their ability to meet the joint funding requirement throughout the further development of the project proposal will be taken into account in the assessment of the pre-proposal.

It is beneficial if the consortium has been able to secure more private in-cash joint funding upon submitting their pre-proposal. See Section 4.1.2.

Contribution to the mission-driven innovation policy

Consortia must present arguments in their pre-proposal as to how their programme will contribute to the mission-driven innovation policy. They are advised to consult with the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda (KIA) teams in advance. Pre-proposals that do not fit within the mission-driven innovation policy will not be considered.

3.5.3 Conditions for the full proposal

Knowledge institutions

In an LTP consortium, at least three knowledge institutions as defined in Section 3.1 must be represented as (co-) applicants. These must include the same parties that were specified in the pre-proposal; additional knowledge institutions may be added to the earlier group. Under these conditions, knowledge institutions may not be counted twice. Different faculties at one and the same university cannot be considered different knowledge institutions. The distribution of the activities (and of the grant applied for) within both the full LTP programme and the project within the LTP for which the consortium has applied for an NWO grant is to be balanced among the participating knowledge institutions.
Joint funding
Upon submission of the full proposal, all financial contributions (public / private, in cash / in kind) for the first five-year period of the LTP are to be confirmed by means of letters of commitment. The letters of commitment must be written using the format made available with this call. For the second period of five years, a letter of commitment is to be submitted by the knowledge institution that is applying for the grant, and declarations of intent for a minimum private cash contribution of EUR 900,000 over five years are to be submitted by the private parties.

NWO will make a contribution equal to the private in-cash joint funding, to a maximum of EUR 25 million. At least half of this private cash contribution, on the basis of which the NWO grant will be calculated, is to be used for scientific research at one of the knowledge institutions and/or participating universities of applied sciences referred to under Section 3.1.

The LTP budget provided must indicate how each of the contributions will be spent. The committee will take this into account in its assessment.

3.5.4 Open Access
As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration on Open Access to Knowledge in the Sciences and Humanities (2003), NWO is committed to making the results of scientific research funded by NWO freely available in open access on the internet. In doing so, NWO is implementing the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research openly available. All scientific publications of research funded on the basis of this call for proposals should therefore be available in open access immediately (at the time of publication). NWO accepts various routes:

- publication in an open access journal,
- deposit a version of the article in a repository or
- publication in a hybrid journal covered by one of the agreements between the VSNU and publishers. See www.openaccess.nl.

Any costs for publication in full open access journals can be incurred in the project budget. NWO does not reimburse costs for publications in hybrid journals. These conditions apply to all forms of scholarly publications arising from grants awarded on the basis of this call for proposals. Also academic monographs, edited volumes, proceedings and book chapters. For more information on the NWO's open access policy, see: www.nwo.nl/openscience.

3.5.5 Data management
The results of scientific research must be replicable, verifiable and falsifiable. In the digital age this means that, in addition to publications, research data must also be freely accessible. As much as possible, NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available for reuse by other researchers. “As open as possible, as closed as necessary” is the guiding principle in this respect. As a minimum, NWO requires that the data underpinning research papers should be made available at the time of the article’s publication. The costs for doing so are eligible for funding and can be included in the project budget. In the data management section, and in the data management template if the project is awarded funding, researchers explain how they plan to manage the data expected to be generated by the project.

1. Data management section
The data management section is part of the research proposal. Researchers are asked to prospectively consider how they will manage the data the project will generate and plan for which data will be preserved and be made publicly available. Measures will often need to be taken during the production and analysis of the data to make their later storage and dissemination possible. If not all data from the project can be made publicly available, the reasons for not doing so must be explained in the data management section. Due consideration is given to aspects such as privacy, public security, ethical limitations, property rights and commercial interests.
2. Data management plan

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. In this plan, the researcher describes whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. The data management plan must be completed in consultation with a data steward or equivalent research data management support staff at the home institution of the project leader. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within four months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will approve the plan as quickly as possible. Approval of the data management plan by NWO is a condition for disbursement of the funding. The plan can be adjusted during the research.

Further information on the NWO data management protocol can be found at www.nwo.nl/datamanagement-en.

3.5.6 Socially responsible licensing

The project could generate knowledge that is suitable for application in society. When entering into agreements on the licensing and/or transfer of research results developed under this call for proposals, the ten principles for socially responsible licensing should be taken into account, as included in the NFU report ‘Ten Principles for Socially Responsible Licensing’.

3.5.7 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol became effective on 12 October 2014 and ensures an honest 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.absfocalpoint.nl). NWO assumes that researchers will take all necessary actions with respect to the Nagoya Protocol.

3.6 Submitting an application

An application can only be submitted to NWO via the online application system ISAAC. Applications not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration. A principal applicant must submit his/her application via his/her own ISAAC account. If the principal applicant does not have an ISAAC account yet, then this should be created at least one day before the application is submitted to ensure that any registration problems can be resolved on time. If the principal applicant already has an NWO account, then he/she does not need to create a new account to submit an application. For technical questions please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see Section 5.1.2.
4 Assessment procedure

4.1 Procedure

As shown schematically in Figure 1 (page 5), the procedure has the following phases:
- Submission of initiatives
- Submission of pre-proposals
- Submission of full proposals

An independent committee will assess the pre-proposals after those have been submitted. The same is holds after the full proposals have been submitted. The procedure in both cases is explained in detail in the subsections below. For those pre-proposals that have been selected for elaboration (i.e. the LTP pre-proposals to which NWO wishes to contribute), NWO will reserve budget. This means that budget will be available for all pre-proposals that are selected for elaboration as long as the full proposal satisfies the required level of quality and meets the conditions. Consequently, competition between proposals will only take place during the assessment of pre-proposals. This also means that full proposals can be assessed as soon as the proposal, including the consortium agreement, is ready and has been submitted. The specified 12-month deadline is a final deadline.

4.1.1 Procedure Phase 1: Submission of initiatives

NWO finds it important that research themes be set up in a transparent manner and in dialogue with various parties, preferably also involving new partners. To be eligible to submit an LTP pre-proposal, consortia will need to publish their LTP initiative via the NWO website in advance. By publishing the LTP initiatives, NWO hopes to enable or increase the accessibility of LTPs for new research groups and to promote the joining of forces. It will also give NWO an idea of the diversity of research themes and a sense of how many pre-proposals it will need to process before those are actually submitted, thus enabling NWO to work proactively in the subsequent procedure.

The organisation of a matchmaking meeting or a workshop is optional, but if applicants opt to do that, they are advised to do it in consultation with one or more TKIs. This would enable the bases of support of the various TKIs to be involved. At such meetings, the relevant research community and stakeholders come together, and possible additions to the consortium can be explored. The scope of the theme and the design of the programme can also be discussed there.

Submit your programme initiative as soon as possible. In doing so, you can also announce any matchmaking meeting or workshop you have organised. NWO advises you to organise such a meeting as soon as possible, but in any case before 15 February 2020, so that you can still use any input received there in your pre-proposal.

4.1.2 Procedure Phase 2: Pre-proposal

The NWO Code for Dealing with Personal Interests applies to all persons (including NWO personnel) involved in the assessment and/or decision-making process (www.nwo.nl/code).
Admissibility

The first step in the assessment procedure is to check whether the pre-proposal can be taken into consideration: the admissibility check. This will be carried out using the conditions stated in Chapter 3 of this call for proposals. Pre-proposals received after the deadline will not be taken into consideration. Only those pre-proposals that meet the conditions will be admissible and taken into consideration by NWO. If corrections need to be made to a pre-proposal, the applicant will be given an opportunity to adjust the programme design within five working days. If the adjusted pre-proposal is not received within the set time, NWO will not take it into further consideration. This also applies to adjusted pre-proposals that do not meet the stated criteria. If received on time, the adjusted pre-proposals will be processed, following approval.

Evaluation

The pre-proposals will be assessed, using the criteria stated in Section 4.2.1, by a multidisciplinary selection committee appointed by the NWO Executive Board. The consortium will be given an opportunity to present the programme proposal orally in a presentation to and discussion with the selection committee. As soon as the date of the interview (presentation and discussion) is known, the project leader will be informed. The consortium shall be represented in any case by the project leader and one of the co-applicants and/or representatives/leaders from among the joint funders.

The selection committee will issue a positive or negative recommendation with regard to the pre-proposal, including a ranking. On the basis of their advice and any additional policy considerations\(^8\) the NWO Executive Board will decide which pre-proposals can be elaborated into full proposals.

Selection

The main applicants who submitted the pre-proposals will receive written notification of the NWO Executive Board’s decision in June 2021. Only as many initiatives will be selected for elaboration as the call’s budget allows for.

The applicants who submitted the selected pre-proposals will be given an opportunity to further develop their pre-proposal into a full proposal for the LTP. In order to stimulate the formation of new networks, the selected pre-proposals will be announced via the NWO website, including the name and contact details of the main applicant of each one. That way, interested parties may still be able to join the consortia.

Budget reservation

NWO will reserve budget for each selected pre-proposal. This means that each selected LTP can apply for a grant at the level of the budget reservation. If the proposal is of sufficient quality, there will be budget for it.

The amount of the private in-cash joint funding committed at the time of submission will be used to determine the size of the budget reservation. An amount of ten times the committed private in-cash joint funding will be reserved with the applicable maximum amounts and percentages. It therefore pays to have commitments for more than the minimum required private joint funding upon submitting the pre-proposal; NWO will make a larger budget reservation in that case.

This budget reservation will remain valid for a period of twelve (12) months under the conditions described in Section 4.1.3. Within this period, applicants can submit to NWO a full LTP proposal.

\(^8\) This can also be understood to mean the consideration of whether the combination of selected pre-proposals constitutes a strategically beneficial whole.
4.1.3 Progress and budget reservation

Submission of project plan
Within eight weeks after NWO has informed the applicants of the results of its selection of the pre-proposals, the main applicants of the selected initiatives will submit to NWO a project plan for the elaboration of their pre-proposal. This project plan must in any case include:

- an overview of the desired expansion of the consortium, and which activities will be undertaken when and by whom
- an overview of the joint funding that has yet to be obtained, including which actions will be taken to this end and by whom
- a timetable involving up to 12 months for the completion of the full proposal for an LTP.

If such a project plan has not been submitted within the set time, the budget reservation will be cancelled.

Monitoring of progress
Within six months following the submission of the project plan, the NWO KIC programme committee will assess the progress in terms of the joint funding and the expansion of the consortium, based on the project plan. If less than 15% of the joint funding that was to be obtained in those six months has been pledged by means of letters of support, or if less than 50% of the intended consortium partners identified in the pre-proposal or less than 50% of the consortium partners recommended by the selection committee have joined the consortium, the NWO Executive Board will not take the LTP proposal into further consideration.

Increase in the budget reservation
If the consortium manages to obtain so much private in-cash joint funding during the development phase that a higher contribution from NWO would be possible, the consortium can request NWO to increase its budget reservation. Such a request must be made before 16 November 2021. The mandatory format to be used for this request has been made available by NWO. All requests received will be assessed simultaneously by an independent selection committee on the basis of the same criteria used for the pre-proposals along with the additional joint funding pledged. A potentially higher contribution from NWO will depend on the available budget at that time and the number of initiatives then under consideration, as well as on the resources that will become available for STRATEGY in the following calendar year.

Role of NWO
For each LTP pre-proposal that has been selected, NWO will assign a permanent contact person. This policy officer will be the permanent point of contact for the LTP in matters related to aligning the design of the LTP with the guidelines set by NWO in this call. The NWO contact person can attend (matchmaking) meetings, for example.

4.1.4 Procedure phase 3: Full LTP proposals
Once a pre-proposal has been selected, the applicant will have 12 months from the date the positive decision was communicated to develop the pre-proposal into a full LTP proposal. As NWO will reserve budget for each of the selected pre-proposals, the subsequent full proposals will be judged on their own merits in terms of quality (hence not in competition with each other). This means that the assessment will start as soon as the proposal has been submitted. Thus, if the proposal is submitted before the deadline, NWO will start its assessment on the basis of the criteria stated in Section 4.2 earlier. As a result, your long-term programme could potentially start earlier.

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9 The letters of support must be written using the mandatory format and must not contain any conditions precedent other than that NWO must have awarded the grant.
The first step in the assessment procedure is a check to make sure the full proposal can be taken into consideration: the admissibility check. This is done using the conditions described in Chapter 3 of this call for proposals. Full proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Only those proposals that meet the conditions will be considered admissible and taken into consideration by NWO. If corrections need to be made to a proposal, the applicant will be given an opportunity to adjust the programme design within five working days. If the adjusted proposal is not received within the set time, NWO will not take it into further consideration. If returned on time, the adjusted proposal will be processed, following approval. NWO will definitely not consider the adjusted proposal if it is received after five working days. The same applies to adjusted proposals that do not meet the stated criteria.

Each full proposal for the full LTP will be submitted to five independent foreign referees (expert reviewers) for peer review. The questions for the referees will be taken directly from the assessment criteria and sub-aspects outlined in Section 4.2.2.

Rebuttal by applicants
The main applicant who submitted the programme proposal will be given an opportunity to submit a written rebuttal to the compiled referees’ reports.

Selection committee
For each full LTP proposal, the NWO Executive Board will appoint a selection committee to assess the proposal, together with the relevant referees’ reports and the rebuttal, according to the criteria stated in Section 4.2.

The consortium will be given an opportunity to present the programme proposal orally in a presentation to and discussion with the selection committee. As soon as the date of the interview (presentation and discussion) is known, the project leader will be informed. The consortium will be represented in any case by the project leader and one of the co-applicants and/or representatives/drivers from among the joint funders.

Decision
On the basis of the selection committee’s advice and any additional policy considerations, the NWO Executive Board will decide whether or not to convert the budget reservation into a grant. If the proposal is funded, the budget for the first five-year period will be allocated to the knowledge institution that serves as the main applicant. For the second five-year period, a detailed work plan and budget is to be submitted to the NWO before the end of the first period.

The data-management section in the proposal will not be assessed and is thus not taken into account in the decision whether or not to fund a proposal. Both the referees and the committee can nonetheless give advice in relation to the data-management section. Once funding has been granted to a proposal, the researcher must elaborate that section into a data management plan. The applicants may make use of the advice from the referees and the committee in that regard. As soon as NWO has approved the data-management plan, the project can start.

NWO will assign a qualification to each full proposal. This qualification will subsequently be made known to the applicants in the same letter in which NWO informs the applicants about its decision on whether or not to fund their proposal. To be eligible for funding, a proposal must not only receive a qualification of “very good” or “excellent” but also satisfy the threshold value for the four assessment criteria (see Section 4.2.3).

For more information about the NWO qualification system, see: http://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/nwo+qualification+system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>26 January 2021</th>
<th>Deadline for submitting initiatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 April 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting pre-proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late April - late May 2021</td>
<td>Committee’s selection of pre-proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early to mid June 2021</td>
<td>Executive Board’s decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Late June 2021</td>
<td>Applicants are informed as to whether or not they should elaborate their pre-proposal into a full proposal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 weeks after receipt of the decision</td>
<td>Submission of project plan for selected pre-proposals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 November 2021</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting a request for an increased reservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months after receipt of the positive decision</td>
<td>Deadline for submitting full proposals</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The assessment process of an individual full LTP proposal will start as soon as that proposal has been submitted. The deadline for this is shown in the table above. This process can also be started earlier; in that case it will follow the time schedule of the LTP in question.

4.2 Criteria

Pre-proposals and full proposals will be assessed on the basis of the criteria mentioned below. These criteria are all of equal importance. As an aid in both the elaboration and the assessment of proposals, a Guide to the STRATEGY criteria, containing a number of detailed questions per criterion, is included as an Annex. The selection committee will certainly take the questions included there, among others, into account when assessing the proposals.

4.2.1 Pre-proposals

The pre-proposals will be assessed by an independent committee on the basis of the following four main criteria.

1. Impact and strategic importance (25%)
   - Definition and analysis of the problem, contribution to solution
   - Contribution to social well-being and society
   - Economic perspective of the proposal
   - Connection strategy for involving the relevant stakeholders and end users

2. Long-term perspective (25%)
   - Degree of pre-competitive research and intention of multiple parties to continue after ten years, or strength of the rationale for choosing to limit the research period to ten years
   - Plan of action for bringing the LTP to self-sufficiency within ten years or rationale for phasing out activities afterwards
   - Phasing of the appointment of scientific personnel: added value compared to one-off appointments of a number of researchers

3. Quality of the research (25%)
   - Urgency and innovative aspects of the research
   - Scientific and methodological quality
   - Feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed plan

4. Composition of the consortium (25%)
   - Track record of the applicants, also with regard to public-private partnerships. If applicable, also the track record in terms of the cooperation between the applicants.
   - Composition of the consortium in relation to the proposed programme
   - Distinguishing capacity of the consortium, including the need for ten years of funding for the consortium
   - Clarity of the governance structure and coherence of the activities within the LTP and the commitment to linking those
   - Feasibility of joint funding
4.2.2 Full proposals

All full LTP proposals will be assessed in terms of their quality on the basis of the same four main criteria as the pre-proposals; all aspects should be elaborated in detail.

1. Impact and strategic importance (25%)
   - Definition and analysis of the problem, contribution to solution
   - Contribution to social well-being and society
   - Economic perspective of the proposal
   - Connection strategy for involving the relevant stakeholders and end users

2. Long-term perspective (25%)
   - Degree of pre-competitive research and intention of multiple parties to continue after ten years, or strength of rationale for choosing to limit the research period to ten years
   - Plan of action for bringing the LTP to self-sufficiency within ten years or rationale for phasing out activities afterwards
   - Phasing of the appointment of scientific personnel: added value compared to one-off appointments of a number of researchers

3. Quality of the research (25%)
   - Urgency and innovative aspects of the research
   - Scientific and methodological quality
   - Feasibility and suitability of the proposed plan, including the budget
   - Synergy between scientific research and other activities in the LTP

4. Composition of the consortium (25%)
   - Track record of the applicants, also with regard to public-private partnerships. If applicable, also the track record in terms of the cooperation between the applicants.
   - Composition of the consortium in relation to the proposed programme
   - Distinguishing capacity of the consortium, including the need for ten years of funding for the consortium
   - Clarity of the governance structure and coherence of the activities within the LTP and the commitment to linking those

4.2.3 Scores and threshold values

In both phases of the assessment, the selection committee will use a scoring scale of 1.0 to 9.0, for which 1.0 is the maximum score.

Only full proposals with a total score of 3.4 or better (i.e. qualification of ‘very good’ or better) are eligible for funding. Furthermore, for all main criteria the minimum score of 4.0 is required to be eligible for funding.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score range</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.0 - 1.4</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5 - 3.4</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
5 Contact details and other information

5.1 Contact

5.1.1 Specific questions
For specific questions about KIC main line 3, Strategie - Lange Termijn Programma's and this call for proposals please contact:

Dr. F.C. (Femke) Tabak
Tel. +31 (0)70 349 4599
Email: kic-strategie@nwo.nl

Dr. S. Jongerius
Tel. +31 (0)30 600 1211
Email: kic-strategie@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 helpdesk. The ISAAC helpdesk can be contacted from Monday to Friday between 10:00 and 17:00 hours CE(S)T on +31 (0)20 346 71 79. However, you can also submit your question by e-mail to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

5.2 Other information

The Dutch version of the Call for Proposals supersedes the English translation. No rights can be derived from the English translation.
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6 Annex(es)

6.1 Annex 1. Budget modules STRATEGY call

If the beneficiary is unable to reclaim the VAT paid in any of the budget modules (with the exception of ‘Personnel’), the VAT can be covered by the grant.

Explanation of budget modules for personnel

Funding for the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research can be applied for. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are or will be appointed.

− For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the VSNU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/salary+tables).

− For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/salary+tables).

− For personnel from universities of applied sciences and other institutions, the salary costs are funded on the basis of the collective labour agreement salary scale of the employee concerned, based on the Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2017.

− For the Caribbean Netherlands, the Dutch government employs civil servants on Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba under different conditions than in the European part of the Netherlands.

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget format that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules “PhD”, “PDEng” and “Postdoc”, a one-off individual bench fee of € 5,000 is added on top of the salary costs. This bench fee is intended to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO.

The available budget modules are explained below.

PhD (including MD-PhD)

A PhD is appointed for 1.0 fte for a duration of 48 months. The equivalent of 48 full-time months, for example an appointment of 60 months for 0.8 fte is also possible. If a different duration of appointment is considered necessary for the realisation of the proposed research, then as long as this is properly justified, the standard time can be deviated from. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.

In line with the NWO strategy, this category is also understood to include Industrial and Societal Doctorates. The conditions for this are described in Section 3.5.
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**Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)**

Funding for the appointment of a PDEng can only be applied for if funding for a PhD or postdoc is also applied for. The appointment for a PDEng position is a maximum of 1.0 fte for 24 months. The PDEng trainee is employed by the institution applying for funding and can realise activities within the research at an industrial partner for a specified time. If the research proposal is awarded funding, then an agreement must be concluded with the industrial partner(s) concerned. The underlying “Technological Designer Programme” should be described in the funding proposal.

**Postdoc**

The size of the appointment of a postdoc is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant’s discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 fte or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of a postdoc.

**Non-scientific personnel (NSP) at universities**

Funding for the appointment of non-scientific personnel necessary for the realisation of the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD or postdoc is also applied for. A maximum of € 100,000 per four PhD or postdoc positions applied for can be requested for NSS. This includes personnel such as student assistants, programmers, technical assistants or analysts. Depending on the level of the position, the appropriate salary table for non-scientific staff at MBO, HBO or university level applies.

The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and at most 48 full-time months. The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant’s discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 fte or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

The material budget is available to cover the costs of a more limited appointment of non-scientific personnel.

**Other scientific personnel (OSP) at universities**

Budget for other scientific personnel such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), scientific programmers or employees with a master’s degree can only be applied for if funding for a PhD or postdoc is also applied for. For this category, per four PhD or postdoc positions applied for, a maximum of € 100,000 can be applied for. The size of the appointment is at least 6 full-time months and most 48 full-time months.

The size and duration of the appointment is at the applicant’s discretion, but the appointment is always for at least 0.5 fte or for a duration of at least 12 months. The product of fte x duration of appointment should always be a minimum of 6 full-time months.

**Research leave for applicants**

With this budget module, funding can be requested for the research leave costs of the main and/or co-applicant(s). The employer of the applicant concerned can use this to cover the costs of relinquishing him or her from educational, supervisory, administrative or management tasks (not research tasks). The time that is released through the research leave grant can only be used by the applicant(s) for activities in the context of the project. The proposal must describe which activities in the context of the project the applicant(s) will carry out in the time relinquished.

The maximum amount of research leave that can be applied for is the equivalent of four times five full-time months. NWO funds the research leave in accordance with the salary tables for a senior scientific employee (scale 11) at the time the grant is awarded (https://www.nwo.nl/en/funding/funding+process+explained/salary+tables).
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Personnel universities of applied sciences and other institutions

For the funding of salary costs of personnel employed at a university of applied sciences, the following maximum rates (hourly/daily) are used, in accordance with the Research Tariffs Manual (HOT) 2017. For this, the HOT table is used on a cost-covering basis (kostendekkend). For rates for universities of applied sciences positions please see Annexe 3.

Explanation of budget module Material

For each fte scientific position (PhD, postdoc, PDEng) applied for, a maximum of €15,000 material budget can be applied for per year of the appointment. Material budget for smaller appointments can be applied for on a proportionate basis and will be made available by NWO accordingly. The applicant is responsible for distributing the total amount of material budget across the NWO-funded personnel positions. The material budget that can be applied for is specified according to the three categories below:

- Project-related goods/services
  - consumables (glassware, chemicals, cryogenic fluids, etc.)
  - measurement and calculation time (e.g. access to supercomputer, etc.)
  - costs for acquiring or using data collections (e.g. from Statistics Netherlands), for which the total amount may not be more than €25,000 per proposal
  - access to large national and international facilities (e.g. cleanroom, synchrotron, etc.)
  - work by third parties (e.g. laboratory analyses, data collection, Citizen Science initiatives, etc.)
  - personnel costs for the appointment of a post-doc and/or non-scientific personnel for a smaller appointment size than those offered in the personnel budget modules

- Travel and accommodation costs for the personal positions applied for
  - travel and accommodation costs
  - conference attendance (maximum of two per year per scientific position applied for)
  - fieldwork
  - work visit

- Uitvoeringskosten
  - national symposium/conference/workshop organised within the research project
  - costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” https://doaj.org/)
  - data management costs
  - costs involved in applying for licences (e.g. for animal experiments)
  - audit costs (only for institutions that are not subject to the education accountants protocol of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science), maximum €5,000 per proposal; for projects with a duration of three years or less, a maximum of €2,500 per proposal applies

Costs that cannot be applied for are:
- basic facilities within the institution (e.g. laptops, desks, etc.);
- maintenance and insurance costs.

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10 Per 0.2 fte scientific employee at a university of applied sciences (junior, medior and senior level, with a minimum appointment of 0.2 fte for a period of 12 months), a maximum of €15,000 material budget can be applied for each year of the appointment.

11 Citizen Science means involving citizens in research projects. Citizens can assist researchers during data acquisition (e.g. during the annual bird count), by making computer capacity available (e.g. for simulating molecular interactions such as protein configurations and computational drug design), or when formulating research questions and research projects.
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If the maximum amount of € 15,000 per year per full-time scientific position is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

**Explanation of budget module Investments (€ 150,000 to € 1,500,000)**

In this budget module, funding can be requested for investments in scientifically innovative equipment and/or data collections of national and international importance. The minimum amount that can be applied for is € 150,000.

NWO funds a maximum of 75% of the total investment costs, up to a maximum of € 1,500,000. The applying institution must contribute at least 25% of the total costs of the investment. This contribution to the investment should be confirmed in writing by the applying institution when the proposal is submitted. The costs for investments should be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:
- costs for investment in scientific equipment;
- costs for investment in datasets;
- personnel costs for the setting up of databases and the initial digitisation of the bibliographical equipment, if these cannot be purchased;
- personnel costs for employees with specific, essential technical expertise needed in order to build or develop an investment.

If funding for personnel costs is applied for, then the need for these personnel costs should be justified. If the applicant does not have this expertise available, then it should be stated that this expertise needs to be procured with these costs. The internal procurement procedures and/or guidelines of the applicant apply.

Funding cannot be requested for:
- costs of infrastructure facilities that can be regarded as part of the usual infrastructure;
- data collections and any associated software and bibliographies that are already available in other ways;
- other personnel costs, including personnel costs required to operate and conduct research with the facility;
- maintenance and use of equipment. The costs for researchers using equipment for a project can be covered via the material budget.

**Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation**

The aim of this budget module is to promote the exploitation of the knowledge resulting from the research. A maximum of 5% of the budget requested from NWO may be used for knowledge utilisation via this module. Knowledge utilisation assumes very different forms in the various science domains. Examples are producing a teaching package, a feasibility study into application possibilities, costs for the submission of a patent application, or a business developer.

In the proposal, the consortia should specify which costs are needed.

In the context of the Impact Plan Approach applicants can use this module to cover costs for the following activities:
- Specific activities to facilitate knowledge utilisation towards (intermediary) parties that are not funded in the project, such as knowledge platforms. These activities cover, amongst other things, joint learning activities, training courses and communication activities.
- **Involving interested parties (stakeholders)**: activities organised by the consortium aimed at involving stakeholders, such as consultation workshops, expert meetings, roundtable meetings, et cetera.

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12 This budget module is in line with the definition of ‘knowledge transfer’ used by the European Commission in the Community framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (OJEU 2014, C 198).

13 A stakeholder is each person or group that can influence the goals being achieved or can be influenced as a result of these.
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- **Communication**: activities organised by the consortium such as (international) learning events, development of videos, blogs, newsletters and other types of media. The hiring of communication expertise can also be included here.
- **Development of skills**: activities aimed at the development of skills that go further than the levels of the individual student, PhDs or postdocs, such as the development of courses for stakeholders or master students.
- **Monitoring and evaluation moments**: in which knowledge utilisation is a subject of discussion: such as interim evaluations and the meetings of the user committee (see also Section 3.6.5).

The above elements can also be included within the framework of the Impact Outlook approach, and costs can be specified for the purpose of looking for unforeseen opportunities and/or costs to further develop existing prospects. It is only within the Impact Outlook approach that a part of the budget can be reserved without further specification. Consequently, that part can only be used for taking advantage of unforeseen opportunities.

Travel costs for consortium partners are explicitly not fundable in this module, but the travel costs of collaborating partners and external parties from everyday practice can be funded from this module. The budget requested should be satisfactorily specified in the proposal.

**Explanation of budget module Internationalisation**

The budget for internationalisation is intended to encourage international collaboration. The budget applied for may not exceed € 250,000. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if a clear justification is provided in the proposal.

Funding can be requested for:
- travel and accommodation costs in so far as these concern direct research costs emerging from the international collaboration and additional costs for internationalisation that cannot be covered in another manner, for example from the bench fee;
- travel and accommodation costs for foreign guest researchers;
- costs for organising international workshops/symposia/scientific meetings.

**Explanation of the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC)**

The module Money follows Cooperation provides the possibility of realising a part of the project at a publicly funded knowledge institution outside of the Netherlands.

The applicant must convincingly argue how the researcher from the foreign knowledge institution will contribute specific expertise to the research project that is not available in the Netherlands at the level necessary for the project.

This condition does not apply if NWO has concluded a bilateral agreement concerning Money follows Cooperation with the national research council of the country where the foreign knowledge institution is located. On this NWO webpage you can read which research funders NWO has concluded such an agreement with [https://www.nwo.nl/beleid/internationale+samenwerking/money+follows+cooperation](https://www.nwo.nl/beleid/internationale+samenwerking/money+follows+cooperation)

The budget applied for within this module cannot be more than 50% of the total budget requested from NWO.

The co-applicant from the participating foreign knowledge institute should meet the requirements for co-applicants set out in Section 3.1 of this call for proposals, except for the condition that the co-applicant must be employed in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The rates for the personnel costs of researchers working at the foreign knowledge institute are calculated using the correction coefficients table of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants (EU, Horizon 2020), with the Dutch VSNU rates being the starting point. The table can be found on this NWO webpage [https://www.nwo.nl/documents/nwo/beleid/money-follows-cooperation/nwo-country-correction-coefficients-ccc](https://www.nwo.nl/documents/nwo/beleid/money-follows-cooperation/nwo-country-correction-coefficients-ccc)
The main applicant receives the grant and is responsible for transferring the amount to the foreign knowledge institution and for providing accountability for the MfC part of the grant. The MfC part will be accounted for as part of the overall final financial report for the project. The exchange rate risk lies with the applicant. Therefore, gains or losses due to the exchange rate are not eligible for funding.

The applicant is responsible for:
- The financial accountability for all costs in both euros and the local currency, for which the exchange rate used must be visible;
- A reasonable determination of the size of the exchange rate. If requested by NWO, the applicant must always be able to provide a description of this reasonable determination.

If more than 125,000 euros is requested within this module, the final financial report must be accompanied by an audit statement.

NWO will not issue any funding to co-applicants in countries that fall under national or international sanction legislation and rules. The EU Sanctions Map (www.sanctionsmap.eu) is guiding in this respect.

Explanation of Project Management budget module

The Project Management module provides the possibility of applying for a project management item for a maximum of 5% of the total budget requested from NWO. This item can only cover activities carried out purely in support of the project for which a grant has been requested. The applicant must provide adequate justification for this budget item.

Project management is understood to include, among other things, designing an optimal organisational structure for the consortium, supporting the consortium and the main applicant, monitoring the coherence, progress and unity of the project, and coordinating the sub-projects within the project. To the extent that these tasks cannot be carried out by the knowledge institution of the main applicant and/or co-applicant(s), they may be carried out by external parties. In the tender procedure for the selection of a third party, knowledge institutions should take the procurement rules for the public sector into account and, where appropriate, follow a European tender procedure. The main applicant’s and co-applicants’ own activities carried out within the framework of the project (or the management of the project) may not be funded from this budget module.

The budget to be requested for project management may consist of material or implementation costs and personnel costs. For personnel costs, a maximum rate of EUR 119 per hour can be charged (for rates, see Annex 6.1). The hourly rate for the personnel to be hired is to be based on a cost-covering rate and calculated on the basis of the standard for productive number of hours used by the organisation. The cost-covering rate is to include:
- (average) gross salary for the position of the employee who will contribute to the project (based on the scale of the employee concerned as determined by the collective-agreement)
- Holiday allowance and 13th month (if applicable in the appropriate collective agreement) in proportion to the appointment in FTE
- Social-security contributions
- Pension costs
- Overhead.

Project management tasks may be carried out by external parties, but that part of the (commercial) hourly rates that exceeds the above-mentioned rates is not fundable and as such may not be included in the budget.
6.2 Annex 2. Guide to the STRATEGY criteria, for the committee and the applicants

The assessment and ranking of the pre-proposals in relation to each other will take place on the basis of the criteria described in the call for proposals. With regard to these criteria, the questions formulated in this guide can be used by both the applicants and the committee when they consider the various aspects of the proposal.

6.2.1 Pre-proposal phase

In any case, the following aspects will be taken into account in the main criteria:

1. **Impact and Strategic importance**
   - Is there a clear analysis of the problem being addressed and the changes needed for a solution?
   - To what extent does the LTP contribute significantly to the general welfare / society?
   - To what extent is new or extra activity anticipated? Are there Dutch companies that can take up innovations on this theme?
   - Is the Netherlands – or will the Netherlands become – an industrial leader as a result of this programme?
   - In which areas does the programme complement the Dutch innovation ecosystem?
   - Is there an outline of actions or changes that the affiliated parties and/or the end users will need to implement in order to achieve outcome and impact?
   - Is the planned route to impact realistic?
   - Is the risk analysis of the route to impact sufficient and are effective actions proposed to reduce the risks?

2. **Long-term perspective**
   - Will there be sufficient pre-competitive research for which multiple parties have expressed an intention to provide support, even after ten years, or is there a conscious decision to phase it out after ten years?
   - Is there a clear plan of action to either allow the LTP to become self-sufficient over a period of ten years or to reduce the work in a reasoned way?
   - What is the phasing of the appointment of PhD students and PD researchers? What is the added value compared to two phases of junior researchers?

3. **Scientific quality and quality of the practice-oriented research**
   - Are the scientific objectives and problems clear?
   - Is the research programme ground breaking and focused on substantive innovation in the fields of science concerned?
   - To what extent does the proposal have the potential for breakthroughs of international stature?
   - Is the research programme thematically focused?
   - To what extent are the draft plan of approach and the methods suitable?
   - Is the risk analysis of the scientific plan sufficient and are effective actions proposed to reduce the risks?

4. **Composition of the consortium**
   - What is the track record of the [scientific, social and industrial] consortium partners in terms of research, knowledge utilisation and public-private partnerships? What is the track record in terms of the cooperation between these applicants: does the whole exceed the sum of its parts?
   - Are the researchers capable of making a very important and innovative contribution to the development of their field(s)?
   - Is the composition of the consortium, at both the group and the individual level, properly geared towards the implementation of the proposed programme? Are the most relevant scientific, industrial and societal parties involved, and how will other parties be involved in the elaboration of the LTP?
   - What is the distinguishing capacity of the consortium? Is there a convincing description of why this particular consortium should be funded for a period of ten years?
   - Is the governance structure clear and are the roles clear? Do the drivers of the programme form a balanced team?
   - Are the various different activities in the LTP convincingly linked to each other?
   - Is there a realistic estimate of possible joint funding?

The same main criteria will apply for the qualitative assessment carried out for each full proposal for each long-term programme individually. The emphasis is different compared to the pre-proposals due to
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the now more detailed phase of the proposal. The selection committee will consider the points below in any case. In addition, the feedback on the pre-proposal from the pre-proposal selection committee needs to have been incorporated in the full proposal.

6.2.2 Full LTP proposal

1. Impact and strategic importance
   - Is there an active focus on making a contribution to society / social welfare through the possible results of the LTP? Is there a detailed plan for linking research results with other stakeholders?
   - Is there an active focus on the creation of new or additional (commercial / industrial) activity?
   - Are the actions or changes that the affiliated parties and/or the end users need to implement in order to achieve outcome and impact clearly described?
   - Is there a developed connection strategy for involving the relevant stakeholders and end users?
   - Is the description of the route to impact realistic?
   - Is the risk analysis complete and are effective actions proposed to reduce the risks?
   - Is there a good link between the scientific research and other activities in the long-term programme?

2. Long-term perspective
   - Will there be sufficient pre-competitive research for which multiple parties have expressed an intention to provide support even after ten years, or is there a conscious decision to phase it out after ten years?
   - Is there a clear plan of action to either allow the LTP to become independent over a ten-year period, or to reduce the work in a reasoned way?
   - What is the phasing of the appointment of PhD students and PD researchers? What is the added value compared to two phases of junior researchers?

3. Quality of research
   - Are the scientific objectives and problems clear?
   - Is the research programme ground breaking and aimed at substantive innovation in the fields of science concerned?
   - To what extent does the proposal have the potential for breakthroughs of international stature?
   - Is the research programme sufficiently thematically focused / are different research themes sufficiently brought together?
   - Is the research plan theoretically and methodologically sound?
   - Is the research plan realistic, feasible and in line with the objectives of the LTP?
   - Is the research plan sufficiently interdisciplinary where applicable?

4. Composition of the consortium
   - What is the track record of the (scientific, social and industrial) applicants, in terms of research and knowledge utilisation, but also in leading or collaborating in a consortium? What is the track record in terms of the cooperation between these particular applicants: is the whole greater than the sum of its parts?
   - Are the researchers capable of making a very important and innovative contribution to the development of their field(s)?
   - Are all relevant parties and the top research groups involved? If not, is this adequately explained?
   - Are medior and junior researchers involved? To what extent does the programme invest in training the next generation of researchers?
   - What is the distinguishing capacity of the consortium? Is there a convincing reason why this consortium should be funded for a period of ten years?
   - Are the various different activities in the LTP convincingly linked to each other?
   - Is the programme-management structure clear and are the roles clear? Do the drivers of the programme form a balanced team?

6.3 Research Tariffs Manual (HOT) rates

The table below shows the rates described in the Research Tariffs Manual (HOT) from 2017, which apply in this call. For the entire table (only in Dutch) please see: https://www.nwo.nl/documents/nwa/nwa-orc--handleiding-overheidstarieven.
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*The first intermediate-level researcher (scale 11) stands for the PhD level; the second (scale 12) stands for the postdoc level.

The above maximum rates are based on the cost-covering rate including the applicable increments. The hourly rate is calculated on the basis of the standard productive number of hours used by the organisation. The cost-covering rate must be substantiated and is to include:

- (average) gross salary for the position of the employee who will contribute to the project
- holiday allowance and 13th month (if applicable in the relevant collective agreement) in proportion to the appointment in FTE
- social-security contributions
- pension costs.