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1 Introduction

In this Call for proposals information is provided about the application procedure for the Open Technology Programme 2023 funding round. This Call for proposals falls under the responsibility of the Dutch Research Council (NWO).

In this Call for proposals you will find information about the aim of this programme (Chapter 2), the conditions for the grant application (Chapter 3) and how your proposal will be assessed (Chapter 4). This is the information you need to submit a grant application. Chapter 5 states the obligations for grant recipients in the event you are awarded funding, Chapter 6 contains the contact details and Chapter 7 the annexes.

1.1 Background

This call describes the objectives and procedures of the Open Technology Programme 2023 of the NWO Domain for the Applied and Engineering Sciences (NWO Domain AES). It sets out the conditions governing applications submitted to NWO Domain AES for the funding of scientific research under the Open Technology Programme 2023. NWO Domain AES is part of the Dutch Research Council (NWO; see also www.nwo.nl/en). As such, NWO Domain AES provides indirect government funding.

Before submitting your application electronically via ISAAC, NWO Domain AES recommends that you visit its website (www.nwo.nl/aes) to check that you have the latest version of this brochure and that you read the guidelines carefully.

1.2 Available budget

The total grant ceiling for this Call for proposals is €27,900,000 for applications submitted and considered in the period between 16 January 2023 up to and including 15 December 2023. Applications can be submitted on a continuous basis during this period. This budget is subject to the following allocation rules:

- Applications will be submitted to a jury. Each jury will consider 18 applications in order of receipt, provided they meet the conditions for submission.
- The grant application period for the first jury opens on 16 January 2023. This period will close once 18 applications eligible for the assessment procedure have been received. This cycle will be repeated until the last such period closes on 15 December 2023.
- The expectation is that there will be 7 juries. This number may change depending on the amount of funding to be allocated by each jury. Given the different amounts of funding requested in applications, it is not possible to set a sub-ceiling for each jury.
- If a jury is considering 18 applications, funding will be awarded to the six highest-ranked applications (33%) that have been qualified as at least “very good” (scoring lower than 3.5, see also Section 4.2.5). The application must also receive a score of 4.0 or below for each of the separate assessment criteria.
- If procedural delays warrant this, the number of applications considered by each jury may be more than, or fewer than, 18. A procedural delay may arise, for example, when not all of the referees’ assessments accompanying an application have been received by the jury in good time. In this situation, NWO may decide to allow the relevant jury to go ahead with fewer than 18 applications. The application or applications affected by procedural delays will be carried forward to the next jury, which as a result will consider more than 18 applications.
- The grant ceiling of €27,900,000 is a fixed limit for applications submitted between 16 January 2023 and 15 December 2023. If the above grant ceiling of €27,900,000 is expected to be reached before 15 December 2023, no new applications will be accepted for consideration by the current jury. In this case, the jury in question may consider fewer than 18 applications. The budget for the next jury will then be set to 0 by the board.
If the grant ceiling has not been reached by 15 December 2023 and the final jury has accepted at least 6 applications for consideration, but fewer than 18, the final jury will consider these remaining applications. If the final jury has accepted fewer than 6 applications for consideration, these applications will be divided proportionally between the last two juries. In the above cases, where a jury considers more than or fewer than 18 applications, a 33% award rate may result in a non-whole number. In this case, the number of applications to be awarded funding will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

1.3 Submission deadline(s)

This Call for proposals is valid from 16 January 2023 until 15 December 2023, as long as the grant ceiling has not been reached.

Applications can be submitted on a continuous basis subject to the conditions for grant applications set out in Section 3.

If the grant ceiling is expected to be reached before 15 December 2023, the period open at that time will be closed.
2  Aim

This chapter describes the aim of the programme and the scientific and societal impact.

2.1  Aim of the programme

The NWO Domain Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES) promotes applied and engineering research in close cooperation with public and private users of knowledge in order to contribute to a sustainable and inclusive society. The scientific scope of the NWO Domain AES includes all disciplines of the engineering sciences and the application-oriented practice of mathematics, natural sciences, medical sciences and life sciences. The Open Technology Programme (OTP) focuses on this field of research and is characterised by the absence of disciplinary boundaries. Applications are examined both for scientific quality and from the perspective of knowledge utilisation. Both criteria are weighted equally in the decision-making process (see also Section 4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria). An application must contain a substantial proportion of research activities; the OTP is not intended for applications that consist predominantly of, for example, investments or activities other than research.

2.2  Scientific and societal impact

New knowledge and insights from scientific research can make an important contribution to solutions for current and future societal issues. Examples are the energy transition, health and care, or climate change. Knowledge utilisation increases the chances of research having a societal impact and is therefore an important aspect of the NWO strategy for 2019-2022.

2.2.1  Knowledge utilisation

NWO defines knowledge utilisation as an iterative process aimed at achieving impact. Through interaction and alignment between researchers and possible users of knowledge, the chances of knowledge utilisation and, accordingly, societal impact increase. Via its knowledge utilisation policy, NWO facilitates the possible contribution of research to societal issues by encouraging productive interactions with societal stakeholders during the development and realisation of the research. NWO does this in a manner appropriate to the aim of the funding instrument.

2.2.2  Customisation in approach knowledge utilisation

Depending on the aim of the funding instrument, NWO will select the approach that has the greatest chance of achieving societal impact. The primary aim of the funding instrument determines the method NWO deploys to facilitate knowledge utilisation in various phases of the project (research proposal, realisation, project completion) and the effort required from the applicant(s) and partner(s).

In this programme, the Impact Outlook approach is used. This approach is intended for researchers working on a research proposal that is specifically focused on scientific impact, or where the intended societal impact and the route towards it will become more concrete only at a later stage. NWO encourages applicants to focus more on identifying and developing opportunities for societal impact. NWO offers an e-learning module to help interested parties get started with the Impact Outlook approach. For more information, please visit the NWO website impact.nwo.nl.

The applicant can choose whether to focus the research proposal on achieving scientific impact, societal impact, or a combination of both. It is not necessary to include both types of impact to receive a good score for this assessment criterion. Either a focus on scientific impact, or a focus on societal impact, or a combination, can result in a good score. However, it is important that the application should provide a clear rationale as to why its focus is on scientific impact and/or societal impact.

Scientific impact is the impact of research on the applicant's own research field, related fields or the broader scientific field. Societal impact can be broadly defined as any cultural, economic, industrial, environmental and/or social change that is (partly) the result of the knowledge and skills gained through the proposed research.
Although applicants can choose to focus on societal and/or scientific impact, we expect applicants to have thought about how opportunities can be exploited for the form of impact that is not the primary focus. This may mean that the research proposal indicates that the opportunities related to impact will be taken up by others, and describes the applicant’s own role in enabling this.

Example: The applicant chooses to focus on scientific impact. The applicant justifies this choice and explains the potential for scientific impact. In addition, the applicant describes the opportunities for societal impact and how the project will contribute to this appropriately. If the applicant does not yet see any opportunities for societal impact from the proposed research, the applicant describes how opportunities will be explored and handled: for example, by organising midterm reflections, or by involving knowledge brokers such as a knowledge transfer officer (KTO) in scouting for opportunities, or by sharing the results with researchers and/or other parties seeking societal impact in this field. It is up to the applicant to choose and justify the appropriate method for the exploration of such opportunities.

For more information about the NWO knowledge utilisation policy, see the website: [www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation](http://www.nwo.nl/en/knowledge-utilisation).
3 Conditions for applicants

This chapter contains the conditions that are applicable to your grant application. Firstly it describes who can apply for funding (section 3.1) and what you can request funding for (section 3.2). Subsequently, you will find the conditions for preparing and submitting the application (sections 3.3 and 3.4) and the specific funding conditions (section 3.5).

3.1 Who can apply

Full, associate and assistant professors and other researchers with a comparable position* may submit an application if they have a tenured position (and therefore a paid position for an indefinite period) or a tenure track agreement at one of the following organisations:
- universities located in the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
- university medical centres;
- institutes affiliated to the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) or NWO;
  - Netherlands Cancer Institute;
  - the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen;
  - Naturalis Biodiversity Center;
  - Advanced Research Center for Nanolithography (ARCNL);
  - Princess Máxima Center.

*A comparable position refers to a researcher that has a demonstrable and comparable number of years of experience in carrying out scientific research and supervising other researchers as a full, associate or assistant professor.

Persons with a zero-hour employment agreement or with a contract for a limited period of time (other than a tenure track appointment) may not submit a proposal.

It could be the case that the applicant’s tenure track agreement ends before the intended completion date of the project for which funding is applied for, or that before that date, the applicant’s tenured contract ends due to the applicant reaching retirement age. In that case, the applicant needs to include a statement from their employer in which the organisation concerned guarantees that the project and all project members for whom funding has been requested will receive adequate supervision for the full duration of the project.

Applicants with a part-time contract should guarantee adequate supervision of the project and all project members for whom funding is requested.

Extra conditions (applies to co-applicants):
If an application includes the budget module Money follows Cooperation (MfC), the foreign knowledge institution of the co-applicant must meet the requirements set out in Article 1.1, third paragraph, of the NWO Grant Rules 2017, except for the condition that the co-applicant must be established within the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

3.1.1 Main and co-applicants

The main applicant submits the proposal via the NWO web application ISAAC. During the assessment process, NWO will communicate with the main applicant.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the main applicant will become the project leader and point of contact for NWO. The (knowledge) institution of the main applicant is the main beneficiary and will become the official secretary.

Co-applicants have an active role in realising the project. The (sub)project leaders and beneficiary/beneficiaries are jointly responsible for realising the entire project.
3.2 What can be applied for

For an application in this Call for proposals, a maximum of €850,000 (including VAT) can be applied for. For projects of an investment nature (> €150,000 in investments), the maximum AES contribution is ME 1, including VAT. The Open Technology Programme is intended for applied and engineering research as described in Section 2.1. Funding for clinical trials cannot be requested.

The maximum duration of the proposed project is 6 years. The budget modules (including the maximum amount) available for this Call for proposals are listed in the table below. Apply only for funding that is vital to realise the project. A more detailed explanation of the budget modules can be found in the annexe to this Call for proposals (Section 7.1).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget module</th>
<th>Maximum amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD student</td>
<td>No limit on number of positions, according to NFU or UNL rates¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)</td>
<td>No limit on number of positions, in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s), according to NFU or UNL rates²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postdoc</td>
<td>No limit on number of positions, according to NFU or UNL rates¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-scientific staff (NSS) at universities</td>
<td>€100,000, according to NFU or UNL rates, non-scientific staff at (NSS) universities¹ in combination with PhD student(s) and or postdoc(s)¹ Can be used up to 2 times per project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities</td>
<td>€100,000, in combination with PhD student(s) and/or postdoc(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research leave</td>
<td>5 months, 1 FTE, according to UNL rates¹</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Material costs</td>
<td>€30,000 per year per FTE scientific position, excluding any cleanroom costs, to which the cleanroom regulations apply</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (up to €150,000)</td>
<td>Can be used once only, up to €150,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments (€150,000 to €500,000)</td>
<td>Can be used once only and must be greater than or equal to €150,000 (for data collections, a minimum of €25,000 applies) and less than or equal to €500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge utilisation</td>
<td>Can be used once only, up to €25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internationalisation</td>
<td>Can be used once only, up to €25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Money follows Cooperation</td>
<td>Less than 50% of the total budget applied for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Preparing an application

The steps involved in writing your application are:
- download the application form and necessary appendices from the NWO web page (at the bottom of the grant page of the funding instrument concerned);
- complete the application form and necessary appendices;
- save the application form and necessary appendices as a PDF file (except for the financial planning, which should be saved as an Excel file) and upload these together with any compulsory annexes in ISAAC;
- fill in the requested information online in ISAAC.

Compulsory annexes:
- Completed budget form ‘Financial planning’ as an Excel file;
- Completed and signed form ‘Declaration and signature of main applicant’ as a PDF file;

¹ For personnel outside the Netherlands, the local rates are reimbursed. These rates are capped at a maximum equal to the UNL rates corrected by the NWO Country correction coefficients (CCC) table, see https://www.nwo.nl/en/money-follows-cooperation.
Letters of support in mandatory format to confirm interest and/or co-funding, as PDF files.

Optional annexe(s) only:
- If applicable: written and signed employer’s declaration concerning the tenure track position of the main and/or co-applicant(s) as a PDF file. The university’s template may be used for this;
- If applicable on resubmission after a previous application has been rejected: Statement in English as a PDF file, explaining the revisions (see Section 3.5.6).

In case NWO has made a template available, the annexe should be drawn up according to the NWO template. Annexes must be uploaded in ISAAC separately from the application. All of the annexes, except for the budget, must be submitted as PDF files (without encryption). The budget must be submitted in ISAAC as an Excel file. Any annexes other than those above-mentioned are not permitted.

You must write your application in English. The application should not exceed 13 pages of A4 (minimum Calibri point 10 or similar font), excluding bibliography and compulsory annexes. Additional documentation is not permitted.

An application can only be submitted via the web application ISAAC. Applications that are not submitted via ISAAC will not be taken into consideration.
As the main applicant, you are required to submit the application via your own personal ISAAC account.

It is important to start with your application in ISAAC on time:
- if you do not yet have an ISAAC account, then you should create this on time to prevent any possible registration problems;
- any new organisations must also be added to ISAAC by NWO;
- you also need to submit other details online.

For technical questions, please contact the ISAAC helpdesk, see contact (Chapter 6).

Does a main and/or co-applicant work at an organisation that is not included in the ISAAC database? You can report this via relatiebeheer@nwo.nl so that the organisation can be added. This will take several days. It is therefore important that you report this at least one week before the deadline.

The applicant must inform the organisation where she/he works about the submission of the application, and the organisation must accept the granting conditions of this Call for proposals.

3.4 Conditions for submission

3.4.1 Formal conditions for submission
NWO will assess your application against the conditions listed below. Your application will only be admitted to the assessment procedure if it meets these conditions. After submitting your application, NWO requests you to be available to implement any possible administrative corrections so that you can (still) meet the conditions for submission.
These conditions are:
- the main applicant and co-applicant(s) meet the conditions stated in Section 3.1;
- the application form is, after a possible request to make additions or changes, complete and filled out according to the instructions;
- the application is submitted via the main applicant’s ISAAC account;
- the application is received at or before the deadline set;
- the application is written in English;
- the application budget is drawn up in accordance with the conditions for this Call for proposals;
- the proposed project has a duration of at most 6 years;
3.5 Conditions on granting

The NWO Grant Rules 2017, the Agreement on the Payment of Costs for Scientific Research and the clean room regulation of NWO Domain AES are applicable to all applications.

3.5.1 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 publicly accessible insofar as this is possible. NWO expects that research data resulting from NWO-funded projects will be made publicly available, as much as possible, for reuse by other researchers. "As open as possible, as closed as necessary" is the applicable principle in this respect. Researchers are at least expected to make the data and/or non-numerical results that underlie the conclusions of work published within the project publicly available at the same time as the work’s publication. Any costs incurred for this can be included in the project budget. Researchers should explain how data emerging from the project will be dealt with based on the data management section in the proposal and the data management plan that is drawn up after funding is awarded.

Data management section

The data management section is part of the proposal. Researchers are asked before the start of the research to consider how the data collected will be ordered and categorised so that this can be made publicly available. Measures will often already need to be taken, during the creation of data and analysis of the data, to make its later storage and dissemination possible. If it is not possible to make all data from the project publicly available, for example due to reasons of privacy, ethics or valorisation, then the applicant is obliged to list the reasons for this in the data management section.

The data management section in the proposal is not evaluated and will therefore not be weighed in the decision whether to award funding. However, both the referees and the jury can issue advice with respect to the data management section.

3.5.2 Scientific integrity

In accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017, the project that NWO funds must be carried out in accordance with the nationally and internationally accepted standards for scientific conduct as stated in the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (2018). By submitting the proposal, the applicant commits to this code. In the case of a (possible) violation of these standards during a project funded by NWO, the applicant should immediately inform NWO of this and should submit all relevant documents to NWO. More information about the code of conduct and the policy regarding research integrity can be found on the website: www.nwo.nl/en/scientific-integrity.https://www.nwo.nl/integriteit

3.5.3 Ethical statement or licence

The applicant is responsible for determining whether an ethical statement or licence is needed for the realisation of the proposed project. The applicant should ensure that this is obtained from the relevant institution or ethics committee on time. If the project is awarded funding, then the grant is issued under the condition that the necessary ethical statement or licence is obtained before the latest start date for the project. The project cannot start until NWO has received a copy of the ethical statement or licence.
3.5.4 Nagoya Protocol

The Nagoya Protocol 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. http://www.absfocalpoint.nl

3.5.5 Co-funding

Co-funding requirement

If the total project costs exceed € 600,000, a contribution to the project costs (co-funding) by users is required, namely 25% of the sum in excess of € 600,000.

- Total project costs: necessary financial resources plus in-kind contributions.
- Co-funding: financial and/or in-kind contribution(s).
- Financial contributions: financial contributions are used to cover part of the project costs and so, together with the contribution from AES, constitute the necessary financial resources.
- In-kind contributions: capitalised personnel and/or material contributions from users

The following principles apply to co-funding:

- NWO Domain AES uses the financial co-funding to cover part of the project costs. After funding has been awarded, NWO Domain AES sends an invoice to users who have pledged a financial contribution. Once the funds have been received, they are allocated to the project.
- NWO Domain AES accepts personnel input and material contributions as co-funding on condition that these are capitalised and that they form an integral part of the project. This should be made clear in the description and planning/phasing of the research.
- NWO Domain AES is the main funder of the projects. Project applications where the co-funding from
- users exceeds the amount to be borne by NWO Domain AES will not be considered.
- NWO Domain AES assumes that providers of co-funding have a vested interest as users and so as
appliers of the research results outside science. Co-funders always participate in the user committee.
- Government agencies can play various roles in AES projects, namely: (1) as a research partner (without entitlement to AES funding), (2) as a performer of a specific assignment (at market rates) or (3) as a user. Government agencies may act as users under the same conditions as private users.
- Part of the research may be conducted by third parties. A condition is that the expertise provided in the form of man-hours is not already available at the knowledge institution(s) and is used specifically for the AES project. For personnel support by third parties, NWO Domain AES applies fixed rates in order to capitalise the number of man-hours used. For the rates, see Table 2.2, column ‘Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT’ of the most recent manual for Dutch government rates (Handleiding Overheidstarieven, HOT) on the NWO website (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables). You should choose the rate that approximates the actual labour costs most closely.
- For pledges of material resources, the cost price must be charged. Commercial rates are not accepted. For pledges of equipment, previous depreciation and intensity of use must be taken into account.
- Pledges in the form of supplies of services are possible only if the service can be itemised as an identifiable new endeavour. The service should not already be available at the knowledge institution(s) conducting the research. Applicants may wish to claim services already supplied (such as a database, software or plant lines) as in-kind co-funding. Acceptance is not automatic in these cases. Please contact NWO Domain AES. Further consultation will determine whether a specific value can be defined for this supply of services.
- Co-funding is pledged exclusive of VAT. In principle, VAT will be levied on this amount. If the co-funder is not entitled to a VAT deduction or refund, please contact the coordinator of the call to see if the cofunding can be provided free of VAT.
Only letters of support from potential users are permitted. Users providing co-funding must provide a letter of support. The co-funding to be provided by users must be confirmed and capitalised in this letter of support to the applicant, signed by a duly authorised person within the organisation. The compulsory template for letters of support should be used (see Section 7.2). These letters must state the following explicitly: 1) the importance of the research application to the organisation, 2) the importance of the knowledge utilisation plan to its operations, 3) the pledged financial contribution(s) or the specified, capitalised material and/or personnel contribution(s), and 4) the user is aware that the consortium agreement will be entered into in accordance with Section 5.1.5 of this brochure. The amounts stated in the letter of support should agree with the amounts in the project budget and with the financial planning (Excel). No conditions are imposed on the provision of cofunding and the letter of support contains no resolutive conditions.

Not allowable as co-funding

- NWO Domain AES guards against improper mixing of cash flows: co-funding can never come from direct or indirect government funding (NWO, KNAW). As a result, co-funding can also never come from the knowledge institution of the (co-)applicant(s) or from institutes which are themselves eligible to apply to NWO Domain AES.
- Discounts on commercial or other rates, including on materials, equipment and/or services
- Costs relating to overheads, AIO supervision, advice given during and/or participation in the user committee.
- Costs of services that are conditional. No conditions may be imposed on the provision of co-funding. In addition, the provision of co-funding may not be contingent upon reaching a certain stage in the research plan (e.g. go/no go point).
- Costs which are not paid by NWO Domain AES (e.g. clinical trials, costs relating to the exploitation of the research results, equipment service charges).
- Costs of equipment if one of the (main) objectives of the research application is to improve or add value to this equipment.

3.5.6 Resubmitting research applications

Research applications that were rejected in a previous AES selection procedure cannot be resubmitted until at least six months have passed since the date of the rejection decision.

If an application is resubmitted after that period, the scientific description and/or the utilisation plan must have been significantly revised. NWO Domain AES will be the judge of this. The previous referees’ commentary can serve as a guideline for the revision. When submitting the research application, the applicant should attach a statement in English explaining the revisions. If the research application has not been revised sufficiently, it will not be considered. The main applicant’s declaration should state that the application is a resubmission.

Research applications that were submitted in this Call for proposals but were not considered cannot be resubmitted until at least three months have passed since the date of the decision.
4 Assessment procedure

This chapter first of all gives an explanation of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) (Section 4.1). It then describes the course of the assessment procedure (Section 4.2) and states the criteria that the jury will use to assess your application (Section 4.3).


NWO strives to achieve an inclusive culture in which there is no place for conscious or unconscious barriers due to cultural, ethnic or religious background, gender, sexual orientation, health or age (www.nwo.nl/en/diversity-and-inclusion). NWO encourages referees and members of an assessment committee or jury to be actively aware of implicit associations and to try to minimise these. NWO will provide them with information about concrete ways of improving the assessment of an application. http://www.nwo.nl/diversite-en-inclusie

4.1 The San Francisco Declaration (DORA)

NWO is a signatory to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA). DORA is a worldwide initiative that aims to improve the way research and researchers are assessed. DORA contains recommendations for research funders, research institutions, scientific journals and other parties.

DORA aims to reduce the uncritical use of bibliometric indicators and obviate unconscious bias in the assessment of research and researchers. DORA’s overarching philosophy is that research should be evaluated on its own merits rather than on the basis of surrogate measures, such as the journal in which the research is published.

When assessing the scientific track record of applicants, NWO makes use of a broad definition of scientific output.

NWO requests jury members and referees not to rely on indicators such as the Journal Impact Factor or the h-index when assessing applications. Applicants are not allowed to mention these in their applications. You are, however, allowed to list other scientific products besides publications, such as datasets, patents, software and code, et cetera.

For more information on how NWO is implementing the principles of DORA, see www.nwo.nl/en/dora. http://www.nwo.nl/dora

4.2 Procedure

The application procedure consists of the following steps:
- Submission of the proposal
- Consideration of the proposal
- Peer review by referees
- Rebuttal
- Jury and decision-making
- Decision-making
4.2.1 Submission of a proposal  
For the submission of the proposal, a standard form is available on the funding page of this Call for proposals on the NWO website. When you write your proposal, you must adhere to the questions stated on this form and the procedure given in the explanatory notes. You must also adhere to the conditions for the maximum number of words and pages.  
After submitting the proposal, the main applicant will receive a confirmation of receipt.

4.2.2 Consideration of the proposal  
As soon as possible after you have submitted your proposal, you will hear from NWO whether or not your proposal will be taken into consideration. The main applicant will be informed whether the research application is to be considered within fifteen working days after registration of the project. NWO will determine this based on several administrative-technical criteria (see the formal conditions for submission, Section 3.4). NWO can only take your proposal into consideration if it meets these conditions.

Please bear in mind that if the research proposal is not to be considered, NWO may approach you with any possible administrative corrections that need to be made so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission. The main applicant will be given one opportunity to make the corrections, and is given a one-off period of four weeks — calculated from the date of the NWO Domain AES notification — to submit a revised version. If the required information is incomplete or is not provided by the deadline, the research application will not be taken into consideration by NWO Domain AES. Research applications that were submitted in this Call for proposals but were not considered cannot be resubmitted until at least three months have passed since the date of the decision. If the period of four weeks is insufficient, the main applicant may choose to withdraw the application via ISAAC before the end of this period. If the application is withdrawn in time, the main applicant can submit a new application at any time once the requested revisions to the documents are complete and have been implemented.

You are asked to be available during four weeks after submitting your proposal to enter any possible administrative corrections so that your proposal can (still) meet the conditions for submission.

4.2.3 Peer review by referees  
Before the jury considers your proposal, NWO will request input from at least three external referees. These are independent advisors who are expert in the subject of the proposal. They will assess the proposal based on the assessment criteria stated in the Call for proposals (Section 4.3).

A maximum of three non-referees can be registered. Applicants can register these non-referees in ISAAC when submitting the proposal. NWO will not approach these non-referees to assess the proposal as external referees.

4.2.4 Rebuttal  
The main applicant subsequently receives the anonymised referees’ reports. You then have the opportunity to formulate a rebuttal. You will be given 10 working days to submit your rebuttal via ISAAC. If you decide to withdraw the proposal, then you should do this as quickly as possible by sending an email stating this to the office and withdrawing the proposal in ISAAC. If NWO receives your rebuttal after the deadline, then it will not be included in the rest of the procedure.
4.2.5 Jury

After this, your proposal, the referees’ reports and your rebuttal will be submitted to the jury members. Jury members come from different sectors of society: universities, large knowledge institutions, industry and other societal sectors. The jury members comment on the proposal in writing, stating their reasons. They formulate these comments on the basis of the substantive assessment criteria and they give the proposal a numerical score for each assessment criterion (see Section 4.3.1). The procedure will be conducted entirely in writing. NWO ranks the proposals based on the scores given. Each jury will award funding to the highest-ranked proposals that were qualified as at least “very good” (lower than 3.5) up to an award rate of 33% of the number of proposals. The proposal must also receive a score of 4.0 or below for each of the separate assessment criteria. For more information about the qualifications, see www.nwo.nl/qualifications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score range</th>
<th>Qualification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<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>
<td>3.5–5.4</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5–9.0</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If, after the ranking of the proposals, it transpires that two or more of the proposals based on their weighted total score cannot be distinguished from each other, then there is an ex aequo situation (see Section 4.2.6).

4.2.6 Ex aequo

NWO understands ex aequo to be a situation in which two or more proposals based on their weighted score cannot be distinguished from each other. An ex aequo situation is relevant with respect to the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary. The existence of an ex aequo situation is determined as follows. The starting point is the ranking drawn up by the jury, with the final scores rounded down to two decimal points. The reference score is the score of the lowest-ranked proposal within the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary. All proposals with a score that is within 0.05 or less of the reference score will be considered. In this way, the proposals that are equal within a score of 0.1 will be selected. If an ex aequo situation occurs at the boundary of the available budget or the selection boundary, the ex aequo situation will be forwarded to the decision-making body. The decision-making body may then choose to award funding to some or all of the proposals with equivalent ratings, or to reject all such proposals. Where appropriate, this may entail a departure from the funding award rates stated in Section 1.2.

4.2.7 Decision-taking

Finally, the NWO Domain AES Board will assess the procedure followed and the advice from the jury. It will subsequently determine the final qualifications and take a decision about awarding or rejecting the proposals.

4.3 Criteria

4.3.1 Substantive assessment criteria

The applications submitted within this Call for proposals will be substantially assessed on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Scientific quality (50%)
   This includes:
   — Originality and scientifically innovative elements;
   — Design of the project (clarity, objectives, hypotheses, research methods and scientific feasibility);
   — Coherence and planning of the research lines;
   — Competence of the research group (position in science, available infrastructure);
   — The research capacity that can be deployed for the project;
2. Knowledge utilisation (50%)

The applicant can choose whether to focus the research proposal on achieving scientific impact, societal impact, or a combination of both.

This includes:

– an explanation of the reasons for focusing on scientific impact and/or societal impact;
– the competence and reputation of the research group(s) in terms of knowledge transfer and application of their own research results.
– the contribution and commitment of users and the intended composition of the user committee in order to achieve the intended scientific impact and/or societal impact.

If the primary focus is on scientific impact:

– a vision and strategy for how the research results can be disseminated and/or implemented in the applicant’s own field, related fields and the broader scientific field.
– in which way consideration will be given to increasing opportunities for societal impact during the life of the project;

If the primary focus is on societal impact:

– a vision and strategy for the ways in which the proposed research can lead to societal impact.
– the manner in which consideration will be given to increasing opportunities for scientific impact during the life of the project.

If the focus is on both types of impact:

– a vision and strategy for how the research results can be disseminated and/or implemented in the applicant’s own field, related fields and the broader scientific field.
– a vision and strategy for the ways in which the proposed research can lead to societal impact.

It is equally possible to achieve a good score for this criterion if the focus of the proposal is on scientific impact, on societal impact, or spread across both forms of impact. The score for this criterion is independent of the focus chosen; one form of impact is no better or worse than another.
5 Obligations for grant recipients

This chapter details the various obligations that - in addition to the conditions stated in Section 3.5 - apply after funds have been awarded.

5.1.1 Start of the project
The project commences after the necessary signed documents have been received by NWO Domain AES and all relevant award conditions have been fulfilled. If the latter is not yet the case, for example due to continuing negotiations over intellectual property, written permission to start the project can be requested from NWO Domain AES. In the absence of written permission, the potential financial risks are borne by the applicant(s). The starting date of the project is the date on which the project leader undertook an initial expenditure of allocated funding for the project or the date of the first appointment of personnel to the project. A project should start within 12 months after the funding is awarded.

5.1.2 Reporting
The project leader reports on the progress of the project at least once a year, in writing, and the user committee then meets to discuss the progress made. In exceptional circumstances – to be decided by NWO Domain AES – the user committee may meet less frequently. Utilisation of the research results is a fixed point of discussion. This includes cooperation with actual or potential users, knowledge protection and commercialisation of knowledge.

5.1.3 Completion of a project
Substantive and financial final reports will be requested upon completion of a project. NWO will then determine the amount of the grant.

5.1.4 Data management
After a proposal has been awarded funding, the researcher should elaborate the data management section into a data management plan. For this, applicants can make use of the advice from the referees and committee. The applicant describes in the plan whether use will be made of existing data, whether new data will be collected or generated, and how the data will be made FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable. Before submission, the data management plan should be checked by a data steward or similar officer of the organisation where the project will be realised. The plan should be submitted to NWO via ISAAC within 4 months after the proposal has been awarded funding. NWO will check 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. More information about the data management protocol of NWO can be found at: www.nwo.nl/en/research-data-management.

5.1.5 Intellectual property and consortium agreement
With respect to intellectual property (IP), the NWO IP policy applies. This can be found in Chapter 4 of the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Applicants must carry out a project funded by NWO during the time that they work for the knowledge institution. If an applicant or a researcher funded by NWO is appointed by more than one employer, then the other employer should relinquish any possible IP rights that emerge from the project of the applicant.
NWO’s ambition is that research results can be applied by partners involved in the project. NWO aims that all research results from projects it funds are made publicly accessible while at the same time encouraging parties to further develop the research results by giving them the possibility to exploit these. For the exploitation of results, it can be desirable to transfer intellectual property rights or to license the use of these to (one of) the private parties involved in the project. The basic premise is that all research results can be published with due consideration for agreements made about publication procedures.

After a proposal has been awarded funding, the conclusion of a consortium agreement is one of the conditions for starting the project. In this agreement, arrangements are made about intellectual property and publication, knowledge transfer, confidentiality, co-financing payments, progress reports, and final reports. Approval from NWO is required before the project can start. The responsibility for arranging the consortium agreement lies with the applicant. NWO will subsequently check whether the consortium agreement meets the conditions and will not itself sign the agreement.

The agreement will be signed by all parties involved in the project (the knowledge institution(s) of the applicants; users with and without co-funding). Parties can choose to use the standard text from NWO in the model agreement but they may also choose to make their own agreement or to apply existing agreements for the component parts intellectual property and publication procedure. The model agreement provides for this. The model agreement that NWO makes available must be used and can be found on the funding page of this Call for proposals. This model agreement has been drawn up in accordance with the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

Consortia preferring to make their own arrangements regarding IP and a publication procedure should indicate this choice when submitting the application. Such arrangements must be agreed within the consortium and submitted to NWO within three months of the grant being awarded, so that NWO can assess whether the agreement complies with the European rules on state aid and the conditions set out in this Call for proposals and the NWO Grant Rules 2017.

5.1.6 Socially responsible licensing

The knowledge that emerges from the project could be suitable for use in society. When agreements about licensing and/or the transfer of research results developed under this Call for proposals are made, due consideration should be given to the ten principles for socially responsible licensing, as stated in the NFU factsheet “Socially Responsible Licensing Toolkit for knowledge institutions”

5.1.7 User committee

After the project has been awarded funding, a user committee will be appointed in accordance with Article 3.3.2.a of the NWO Grant Rules 2017. The committee will follow the project and advise about the progress. More information about this committee will be provided in the award letter.

To promote the effective transfer to users of knowledge generated by the research, NWO Domain AES sets up a user committee for each research project in consultation with the project leader, based on the users proposed in the project plan.

Users of research are defined as natural or legal persons (at national or international level) who are able to apply the results of the research. A distinction can sometimes be drawn between direct users of the knowledge generated, usually companies, and end users, who buy the products from those companies. Both have their own role to play in the innovation chain and must be named in the knowledge utilisation plan. It is the explicit intention that potential technology users and end users outside the immediate circle and outside the research field of the researchers submitting the application should be involved in the project from beginning to end. Users should be able to apply the knowledge generated by the research in the medium to long term. Actual and potential users should be indicated in the research application.
A minimum of four users must sit on the user committee and should be included in the application. At least two non-academic parties must be represented on the user committee. These users are not required to contribute financially, but they should participate in the user committee. Academic users may include, but are not confined to, (associate/assistant/full) professors working at another university and interested in the proposed research. Non-academic parties include, amongst others, companies, clinics, patient associations, foundations, and civil society or public organisations. Users may include Dutch as well as foreign citizens and may work at a Dutch or foreign organisation, institute, knowledge institution, university and/or company. Foreign universities and knowledge institutions may provide co-funding as long as they are not applicants via Money follows Cooperation (MfC; see Annex 7.1).

5.1.8 Open Access
As a signatory to the Berlin Declaration (2003) and a member of cOAlition S (2018), NWO is committed to making the results of the research it funds openly accessible via the internet (Open Access). By doing this, NWO gives substance to the ambitions of the Dutch government to make all publicly funded research available in Open Access form. Scientific publications arising from projects awarded on the basis of this Call for proposals must therefore be made available in Open Access form in accordance with the Open Access Policy.

Scientific articles
Scientific articles must be made available in Open Access form immediately at the time of publication (without embargo) via one of the following routes:
- publication in a fully Open Access journal or platform registered in the DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals, https://doaj.org/);
- publication in a subscription journal and the immediate deposition of at least the author accepted manuscript of the article in an Open Access repository registered in Open DOAR;
- publication in a journal for which a transformative Open Access agreement exists between UNL and a publisher. For further information, see www.openaccess.nl/en.

Books

CC BY licence
To ensure the widest possible dissemination of publications, at least a Creative Commons (CC BY) licence must be applied. Alternatively – in case of substantial interest – the author may request to publish under a CC BY-ND licence. For books, book chapters and collected volumes, all CC BY licence options are allowed.

Costs
Costs for publication in fully Open Access journals can be budgeted in the application using the budget module for “material costs”. Costs for publications in hybrid journals are not eligible for reimbursement by NWO. For Open Access books, a separate NWO Open Access Books Fund is available.

For more detailed information about NWO’s Open Access policy, see www.nwo.nl/en/open-science.http://www.nwo.nl/openscience
6 Contact and other information

6.1 Contact

6.1.1 Specific questions
For specific questions about this Call for proposals, please contact:
dr.ir. Shirley Baert
drs.ing. Dieuwke Voorhoeve
dr.ir. Remco Fijneman
dr. Marije Behet
e-mail: ttw-otp@nwo.nl

6.1.2 Technical questions about the web application 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 on +31 70 34 40 600. However, you can also submit your question by email to isaac.helpdesk@nwo.nl. You will then receive an answer within two working days.

6.2 Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

NWO processes data from applicants received in the context of this call in accordance with the NWO Privacy Statement, www.nwo.nl/en/privacyverklaring.

NWO might approach applicants for an evaluation of the procedure and/or research programme.
7 Annexes:

7.1 Explanation of budget modules

It is possible to apply for the funding of the salary costs of personnel who make a substantial contribution to the research. Funding of these salary costs depends on the type of appointment and the organisation where the personnel are/ will be appointed.

- For university appointments, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the UNL salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables). http://www.nwo.nl/salaristabellen
- For university medical centres, the salary costs are funded in accordance with the NFU salary tables applicable at the moment the grant is awarded (www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables). http://www.nwo.nl/salaristabellen
- For personnel from universities of applied sciences, educational institutions and other organisations, salary costs will be funded based on the collective labour agreement pay scale of the employee concerned in accordance with the applicable rate at the time of awarding the grant as taken from Table 2.2, column ‘Hourly rate productive hours, excl. Dutch VAT’ from the Handleiding Overheidstarieven [HOT- Manual Dutch Government Rates] (https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables).
- 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 www.rijksdiensten.com/werken-bij-rijkjdienst-caribisch-nederland/arbeidsvoorwaarden.

NWO will apply a mandatory one-off indexing of the salary costs with respect to:

- UNL rates: for proposals submitted before 1 July and that are awarded funding after 1 July;
- NFU rates: for proposals submitted before 1 August that are awarded funding after 1 August;
- HOT rates: for proposals submitted before 1 January that are awarded funding after 1 January.

The mandatory one-off indexing has no influence on the level of the grant ceiling or on the maximum amount of the grant awarded per proposal. The level of the grant ceiling and the maximum amount of the grant awarded will remain unchanged during the assessment procedure. The mandatory one-off indexing will be applied after the decision-taking about awarding or rejecting proposals has been completed.

If co-funding is required or permitted then the one-off mandatory indexing will have no consequences for the co-funding requirement or the IP rights that can emerge from the co-funding.

The rates for all budget modules are incorporated in the budget template that accompanies the application form. For the budget modules “PhD student”, “PDEng” and “Postdoc”, a one-off individual bench fee of €5,000 can be added on top of the salary costs to encourage the scientific career of the project employee funded by NWO. Remunerations for PhD scholarship students ('bursalen') at a Dutch university are not eligible for funding from NWO. The available budget modules are explained below.

PhD student (including MD-PhD student)

A PhD student 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 the standard time can be deviated from as long as this is properly justified. However, the duration of appointment must always be at least 48 months.

Professional Doctorate in Engineering (PDEng)

Funding for the appointment of a PDEng can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student 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 that are part of 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" must be described in the proposal.

Postdoc
The size and duration of the postdoc appointment is at least 6 full 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 staff (NSS) at universities
Funding for the appointment of NSS required to realise the research project can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. A maximum of €100,000 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 NSS 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 NSS.

Other Scientific personnel (OSS) at universities
Budget for OSS such as AIOS (doctor training to be a specialist), ANIOS (doctor not training to be a specialist), doctor/researcher, scientific programmers or employees with a master’s degree can only be applied for if funding for a PhD student or postdoc is also applied for. For this category, a maximum of €100,000 can be applied for. 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.

Explanation of budget module Material
For each FTE scientific position (PhD student, postdoc, PDEng) applied for, a maximum of €30,000 material budget can be applied for per year of the appointment. In addition, a budget can be requested for the use of cleanrooms in accordance with the cleanroom regulations. 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 (e.g. 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 [CBS]), 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, etc.)
- personnel costs for the appointment of a postdoc and/or non-scientific personnel for a smaller appointment size than those offered in the personnel budget modules
Travel and accommodation costs for the personnel positions applied for
- travel and accommodation costs
- conference attendance (maximum of two per year per scientific position applied for)
- fieldwork
- work visit

Implementation costs
- national symposium/conference/workshop organised by the project researchers
- costs for Open Access publishing (solely in full gold Open Access journals, registered in the “Directory of Open Access Journals” [https://doaj.org/])
- costs for data management
- 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

Cleanroom costs
- A budget can be requested for the use of cleanrooms in accordance with the cleanroom regulations.

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

If the maximum amount for material costs is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if an adequate justification is provided in the proposal. The only exception that can be made is for conducting large-scale experiments requiring the use of specific, costly infrastructure and/or facilities. This includes, for example, the use of wind turbines or wind tunnels (delta technology).

Additional conditions applying to this exception are:
- The use of the infrastructure and/or facilities should not already be funded in advance through NWO grants or other grants.
- The use of the infrastructure and/or facilities should actually be charged to the research group.

Citizen science
Involving citizens (citizen science) can contribute to the quality of the research. With the help of citizens, data and insights can be acquired that would not otherwise be available for research. NWO also funds citizen science. Applicants can use the budget module “material, project-related goods/services, work by third parties” to request a remuneration for the involvement of citizens in projects. The budget module offers a possibility and is not a requirement. Applicants are free to decide whether it is worthwhile involving citizens in the project and what exactly they use this budget for (for example, reimbursement of expenses of citizens, skills training for citizens or technical devices for the participating citizen).

Explanation of budget module Investments (up to €150,000)
In this budget module, funding can be requested up to a maximum of €150,000 for investments in equipment, datasets and/or software (e.g. lasers, specialised computers or computer programs).
Explanation of budget module Investments (€150,000 to €500,000)

In this budget module, funding can be requested for project-related investments in scientifically innovative equipment and/or data collections of national and international importance. The costs for these project-related investments should be adequately specified and justified in the proposal. The minimum amount that can be applied for is €150,000. The maximum amount that can be applied for is €500,000.

The costs for both budget modules Investments (up to €150,000 and from €150,000 to €500,000) should be adequately specified and motivated in the proposal. Funding can be requested for:

- costs for investments in scientific equipment;
- costs for investments 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 essential technical expertise that is necessary in order to build or develop an investment.

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

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;
- costs for maintenance and use of the equipment on a project. The costs for researchers using equipment for a project can be applied for via the material budget.

Explanation of budget module Knowledge utilisation

The aim of this budget module is to facilitate the use of the knowledge that emerges from the research. The budget applied for may not exceed €25,000.

As knowledge utilisation takes many different forms in different scientific fields, the applicant needs to specify the required costs, e.g. costs of producing a teaching package, conducting a feasibility study into potential applications, or filing a patent application.

The budget applied for should be adequately 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 €25,000. The amount requested must be specified. If the maximum amount is not sufficient for realising the research, then it may be deviated from if an adequate 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.

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2 In this budget module, the definition for “knowledge transfer” as used by the European Commission in the Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation (PbEU, 2014, C198) applies.
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. At www.nwo.nl/en/money-follows-cooperation you will find an overview of research councils that signed a bilateral MfC agreement with NWO. http://www.nwo.nl/money-follows-cooperation

The budget applied for within this module must be less than 50% of the total budget applied for.

The co-applicant from the participating foreign knowledge institution must meet the conditions set for co-applicants in Section 3.1 of this Call for proposals, with the exception of the condition that the co-applicant must be employed in the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The rates for the personnel costs of researchers at the foreign knowledge institution are calculated on the basis of the correction coefficients table of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grants (EU, Horizon 2020), based on the Dutch UNL rates. The table can be found at www.nwo.nl/en/money-follows-cooperation http://www.nwo.nl/money-follows-cooperation

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 part of the overall financial accountability of the project.

The exchange rate risk lies with the applicants. 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 is requested within this module, then the final financial statement must be accompanied by an audit report.

NWO will not award 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.
7.2 Letter of support

<NB: all pieces of text in yellow should be completed or deleted>

<NB: Letters of support are unconditional and do not contain any opt-out clauses!>

<NB: Use of this template is compulsory>

To: <Name main applicant>,
<Main applicant's institute>

Subject: Letter of Support to <project title> in <name call for proposals>

<Place, date>

Dear <Name main applicant>,

With this letter I declare on behalf of <name of your organisation> our interest in and support for your research project proposal <Title project proposal> in the OTP 2023 call of NWO Domain Applied and Engineering Sciences (NWO Domain AES).

As <name of your organisation>, we have read and have been fully informed about your application in the OTP 2023 call from NWO Domain AES. We are very interested in participating in the project.

<Insert a description of your core business (type of company, size, which service, products).>

<Insert your interest in the project and the research group(s)>

<Insert the potential/interest you see/expect with regards to utilisation>

Please explain why answering the research question is important for your company. How does this solution fit in your company’s strategy?

Provided that the full proposal is granted in the abovementioned call, <name of your organisation> will:

- **[REQUIRED FOR CASH CONTRIBUTIONS:]** make a cash contribution valued at € <xxxx> (excl. Dutch VAT) to the project. This cash contribution plus any applicable Dutch VAT will be paid to NWO if the full proposal is granted [if applicable <and>]
- **[REQUIRED FOR IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS:]** make an in kind contribution as itemised in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specification of in kind item or activity</th>
<th>Price or hourly rate</th>
<th>Number of hours (if applicable)</th>
<th>Total €</th>
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Total
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“Briefly explain the in-kind contribution and state all items in terms of the price or the hourly rate. For personnel costs please bear in mind that maximum rates apply, which can be found on the AES website. Please read the call for proposals for an explanation of the in-kind contributions permitted. Explain why the in-kind contribution fits in the research proposal/planning.”

Furthermore, we state that we will actively participate in the User Committee (UC) established.

If the project is approved and granted then as a consortium partner we will share responsibility for a prompt completion of a consortium agreement, based on the template of NWO. Upon such completion we will participate in the project as outlined in this letter of support and the project proposal. As for the arrangements on Intellectual Property and Publication procedure laid down in Annex 1 of the consortium agreement, I support the decision of the main applicant for choosing <option 1: the standardised IP and Publication arrangements provided by NWO>, or <option 2: negotiating tailor-made arrangements on IP and Publication procedure>.

Yours sincerely,

<signature>............................................

<Name of an authorised representative of your organisation>
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