

INNOVATIVE MEDICAL DEVICES INITIATIVE (IMDI): Technology for staffable healthcare – demand-driven innovations

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1 Summary

Who can apply?

Legal persons and legal entities established in the Netherlands under public or private law may apply for grants. A grant application can only be submitted by a main applicant on behalf of a consortium, consisting of at least one university of applied sciences, one university/university medical centre, one care institution and one for-profit enterprise. The involvement of a secondary vocational education institution (MBO) is desirable. A university of applied sciences acts as the main applicant and the party with administrative responsibility. The other partners in the consortium are co-applicants.

What is the aim?

The aim of this call for grant applications is to further the development of technological innovations based on demand from healthcare practice and to subsequently validate these innovations in practice in a healthcare setting. Through this grant, we aim to encourage public-private partnerships to strengthen practice-oriented research into ways of ensuring sufficient staff capacity in healthcare.

Details

Applicants can request a maximum grant of €600,000. The collaborating parties must provide their own contribution/co-financing (in cash or in kind) amounting to at least 20% of the grant sum requested. The maximum duration of the project is 36 months, starting no later than 1 July 2026. The grant application can cover personnel costs (including researchers), material costs and costs for communication and implementation. In addition, part of the budget should be reserved for organisational costs and reimbursing end-users involved in the project.

When can applications be submitted?

Advance notice	February 2025
Funding round open for applications	15 April 2025
Submission deadline for detailed grant applications	14 October 2025, 14.00
Deadline for applicant responses	8 January 2026, 14.00
Interview	February 2026
Decision	Mid-March 2026
Project start date no later than	1 July 2026

2 Goal of this call for grant applications

2.1. Background

Urgency

The growing demand for care due to the ageing population, compounded by the ongoing shortage of healthcare professionals, is having an increasing impact on the affordability and accessibility of healthcare. The staff shortage in the care and welfare sector is set rise to 190,000 workers by 2033, according to a new forecast by [AZW](#), data specialist on the job market in the care sector. Even today, the shortage is significant: an estimated 55,000 care workers. Reducing workloads and making the sector more attractive are crucial to countering the shortage of staff and ensuring quality of care. To keep healthcare available, accessible and affordable in the future, the Integral Care Agreement (IZA) states that 'appropriate care' should be the norm. Achieving care that is organised appropriately calls for increasing collaboration in [regional and national care networks](#). Through this call for grant applications, ZonMw aims to contribute to this objective.

How technology can make a difference

Technology can play a key role in ensuring sufficient staff capacity in healthcare by reducing or changing the demand for care. Deploying technological innovations in self-care for use by patients and informal carers has the potential to ease the demand for healthcare professionals and simplify care procedures, freeing up healthcare professionals to devote time to other care tasks.

However, successful implementation of technological innovations in everyday healthcare practice is a complex challenge. In some cases, the technology developed cannot be readily deployed

in a practical setting. In addition, as technology takes over certain care tasks or aspects of these tasks, the working processes of healthcare professionals may change. This makes it essential that healthcare professionals and patients are willing to work with new innovations. Both healthcare professionals and patients should therefore be involved in the early stages of developing technological innovations. The same applies to the organisation where the innovation will be used and to regulatory bodies, in a concerted effort to garner as much support as possible for these changing work processes.

Responding to needs

To bring about effective change in everyday practice, it is essential that technological innovation is well aligned with the needs and demands of the sector. Healthcare institutions know the issues that healthcare professionals encounter, what they need and how technological innovations can meet the needs of both healthcare staff and patients most effectively.

To successfully implement and safeguard technological innovations in healthcare practice, it is vital that all relevant stakeholders work together from the beginning. With this call for grant applications, we are incentivising collaboration between the field (healthcare institutions and enterprises), knowledge institutions (e.g. universities of applied sciences, universities and university medical centres) and secondary vocational education (MBO).

2.2. One objective, two calls for grant applications

The [Innovative Medical Devices Initiative](#) (IMDI), a programme run by ZonMw in collaboration with the Dutch Research Council (NWO), focuses on developing and applying technological innovations in the medical sector by means of public-private partnerships (PPPs). The programme's aim is to ensure accessibility of care in people's living environment in the face of a growing shortage of healthcare workers.

Taskforce for Applied Research SIA, ZonMw and the Dutch Research Council are now joining forces to tackle challenges on the theme of using technological innovations to ensure sufficient staff capacity in healthcare. By coordinating our programming on this theme, our aim is to strengthen the societal and economic impact of our initiatives. SIA is deploying its [SPRONG scheme on technology for staffable healthcare](#) for this purpose, which focuses on bringing together and strengthening practice-based research in a multidisciplinary research group (SPRONG group) with the aim of using technology to find ways to maintain and boost staff capacity in healthcare.

ZonMw and the Dutch Research Council have set up the call for grant applications 'Technology for staffable healthcare - demand-driven innovations' under the auspices of the IMDI programme. The aim of this call is to ensure that technological innovations are developed and further developed in response to requests from everyday healthcare practice and are subsequently validated in a healthcare setting. Within the consortia that submit applications, collaboration takes place between the field (healthcare institutions and enterprises), knowledge institutions (e.g. universities of applied sciences, universities and university medical centres) and, where appropriate, secondary vocational education (MBO). The intended line of research for the grant application should be coordinated with Lectorienplatform Inzet Technologie voor Gezondheid en Zorg, PIT (a higher professional education platform focusing on the deployment of technology for health and care) with a view to exploring opportunities for collaboration. To do so, contact the chair of the PIT platform, Dr Marike Hettinga at m.hettinga@windesheim.nl. The IMDI grant call is open to applications from *all* universities and universities of applied sciences.

2.3. What is the focus of this call for grant applications?

This call for grant applications will honour applications that contain the following elements:

- Addressing a demand/need from healthcare practice regarding staff capacity in healthcare;
- Development (or further development) of one or more proof-of-concept technologies that result in plausible savings(s) in relation to healthcare workers. These technologies should be readily accessible and affordable;
- Involvement of relevant stakeholders in the design and execution of the project, up to the actual point of implementation;
- Clear description of the route to impact to achieve the intended change in care and the actions required of relevant stakeholders in this regard;
- Continuous evaluation of technology in healthcare practice and with the involvement of healthcare staff to ensure optimum integration in the workflow.

3 Conditions and obligations

You must take account of certain rights, conditions and obligations when applying for a ZonMw grant. These are based on the [Dutch General Administrative Law Act \(Awb\)](#). Section 4.2 of this Act contains specific provisions that apply to grants received from ZonMw. [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#) also apply.

3.1 Conditions

Your grant application must meet the conditions below in order to be considered.

3.1.1. Who is eligible for grant funding?

Legal persons and legal entities established in the Netherlands under public or private law may apply for grants. The consortium should consist of at least one university of applied sciences, one university/university medical centre, one care institution and one for-profit enterprise. A university of applied sciences acts as the main applicant and the party with administrative responsibility. The other partners in the consortium are co-applicants.

The following parties may be considered eligible for grant funding, or partial grant funding:

- Dutch research organisations as defined in EU state aid legislation.
- Providers of care and/or support as governed by the Long-Term Care Act (WLZ), Medical Research (Human Subjects) Act 2015 (WMO) or the Health Insurance Act (ZVW), if they perform activities that fall within their statutory duty (see 3.1.2 Avoiding state aid).
- Other businesses (including large enterprises), SMEs and private parties (including those from outside the Netherlands) may not apply for any grant funding. Their participation is at their own risk and expense; the costs they incur must be equal to the in-kind contribution they make.

3.1.2. Avoiding state aid

ZonMw does not award grants where this results or may result in unlawfully granting state aid¹. As a result, the following state aid measure applies to this funding round:

Effective collaboration

Where enterprises² and research organisations collaborate on a given project, there is a risk of grant funding being deemed illegal state aid.

Under Section 2.2.2 of the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation,³ no state aid (legal or otherwise) is said to exist if the parties to the collaboration fulfil certain conditions. If they meet those conditions, their collaboration is deemed 'effective'. For further information on these conditions and an explanation thereof, see [Appendix 1 - State Aid - Effective Collaboration](#).

In order to satisfy the conditions for effective collaboration, the project activities may only commence after a collaboration agreement has been accepted by ZonMw and signed by all parties involved in the collaboration. In other words, the project activities may not commence any sooner than this.

Further information about state aid can be found on the ZonMw webpage [State aid exemption](#).

Activity of a non-economic nature (statutory task)

If the activities of the healthcare institution(s) engaged in the project focus on developing, maintaining and implementing quality standards (including guidelines, care modules and care standards), the costs of these activities can be budgeted. Examples of these activities include:

- Identifying knowledge gaps and putting them on the agenda.
- Developing materials and methods to support implementation;

¹ Article 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU.

² An enterprise or undertaking as defined under EU state aid legislation means any entity that performs economic activities, regardless of its legal form or means of financing.

³ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627\(01\)&rid=7](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52014XC0627(01)&rid=7)

- Collecting feedback on the usability of the delivered products/quality standards, including methods for peer review and inspections;
- Ensuring and further developing public and digital accessibility and usability of all quality tools.

3.1.3 Collaboration and contributions by third parties

ZonMw encourages the participation of parties in collaborative projects. However, such projects will not receive grant funding if the arrangements lead to the provision of illegal state aid (or are deemed to have potential to do so), or if [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#) or the conditions of the call for grant applications cannot subsequently be met. Your grant application must clearly detail the following aspects of collaboration:

- Collaboration is a requirement. The consortium should consist of at least one university of applied sciences, one university, one care institution and one for-profit enterprise. It should be clear from the application whether the university of applied sciences has sought to coordinate with the PIT platform regarding opportunities for collaboration. To do so, contact the chair of the PIT platform, Dr Marike Hettinga at m.hettinga@windesheim.nl.
- The participation of secondary vocational (MBO) institutions is recommended with the aim of ensuring that the results of projects are also incorporated in practical vocational training. Secondary vocational (MBO) institutions are not classified as research organisations.
- The Socially Responsible Innovation (*Maatschappelijk verantwoord innoveren*, MVI) approach is part of the project. The project group requires a multidisciplinary character in order to ensure an integrated approach.
- The expertise available within the consortium should be sufficient to ensure that the project's objectives can be achieved.

In the grant application and budget, the following must be made clear:

- Which parties are participating. Describe how each party will actively contribute to the project; in all cases, these parties must appear in the budget as a party intending to claim a portion of the grant funding. Also include parties that will be making an active contribution to the collaborative project on their own account and at their own risk.
- Which party or parties will sign a sponsorship agreement and what their financial or in-kind contribution will be.
- Which parties will be hired or, if this is not yet known, which activities are expected to be performed by third parties, plus the related costs that will be incurred (including VAT). For additional information and the conditions applicable to hiring/contracting, see the ZonMw webpage [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and sponsorship must be definitively arranged prior to submission of the detailed grant application.

At the start of the project, a user committee will be established in line with the working method of the Dutch Research Council's Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES) domain: [User committees \[NWO\]](#).

Co-financing

A minimum co-financing requirement of 20% (in cash/in kind) of the total costs applies to this call for grant applications. At least 10% of this must come from an enterprise or other private party. The remaining 10% may be provided by a research organisation, business or other private party.

Letter of Commitment

Because ZonMw requires assurance that the parties/sponsors collaborating on any project will be legally bound to provide the agreed contribution, each collaborating party/sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment on submission of the detailed grant application. For this purpose, please use the template on the ZonMw webpage [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#).

Collaboration and sponsorship agreements

On the ZonMw webpage [Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties](#) you can find more information about the various forms of collaboration and kinds of contributions (sponsorship/contract) permitted, along with sample agreements as an aid to drawing up the relevant agreement and an explanation of the conditions the agreement must meet. The conditions referred to in the explanation and on this webpage comprise an integral part of this call for grant applications. When ZonMw requests

draft collaboration and/or sponsorship agreements, it grants funding on the condition that the agreements are deemed acceptable.

3.1.4 How much funding can we receive?

The total available grant budget for this funding round is €3,000,000. For this funding round:

- a maximum of €600,000 may be requested for each grant application for a maximum term of 36 months. ZonMw and NWO can finance **up to 80%** of the total project costs; the remainder of the project budget will be contributed by the statutory co-financing obligation (see Section 3.1.3).
- the following costs may be included in the budget:
 - o Itemised costs of employees (employees with project-related tasks – i.e. technical or preparatory tasks aimed at transfer of the MVP) employed at a Dutch university of applied sciences in accordance with the Government Rates Manual (HOT 2025, see also <https://www.nwo.nl/salaristabellen> in Dutch). An employee's rate is determined on the basis of their pay grade under the collective bargaining agreement for the higher professional education sector. Rates higher than those stated in the Government Rates Manual are not permitted. Rates lower than those stated in the Government Rates Manual are permitted, but may not be applied indiscriminately. Justification for lower rates must be given where required, for example on the basis of an internal costing;
 - o Itemised costs of employees (employees with project-related tasks – i.e. technical or preparatory tasks aimed at transfer of the MVP) temporarily employed at a university or research institute in accordance with the UNL or NFU standard rates applicable at the time the call for grant applications opens (<https://www.nwo.nl/en/salary-tables>);
 - o The project-specific costs of consumable items and the use of equipment required specifically for the project (depreciation methodology). Where the costs of durables are included, the historic cost price applies. The inclusion of commercial rates is not permitted;
 - o A personal bench fee of €5,000 is provided to PhD students (assuming a four-year position) and senior scientific assistants (assuming a two-year position). In the case of an appointment for less than four or two years respectively, this bench fee is adjusted pro rata. The bench fee is intended to cover foreign travel and accommodation expenses and the expenses of obtaining a doctorate;
 - o Third-party costs may be included where these concern project activities carried out by third parties contracted by the applicant (up to a maximum of €125/hour incl. VAT). Third parties do not include other universities of applied sciences, universities or research institutions. These parties can only be co-applicant;
 - o Cost of employing students. Students may be employed as part of the research. If a student's contribution forms part of their curriculum, they are paid the standard internship fee set by the university or university of applied sciences. If a student's contribution constitutes a part-time position as a student assistant alongside their studies, the rate specified in Scale 1 of the Government Rates Manual (HOT) will apply;
 - o Costs of the healthcare institution(s) engaged in the project which focus on developing, maintaining and implementing quality standards;
 - o Please note: the itemised costs of permanent employees of a university or research institute are not eligible for grant funding, but may be included as cost items if they are contributed by a research organisation in kind. However, permanent employees who do not have an 'academic research background' or who are employees of universities of applied sciences or applied research organisations (known in the Netherlands as TO2) are also eligible for grant funding;
 - o At least 5% of the project budget should be reserved for activities geared towards ensuring technology transfer to the practical setting, such as:
 - drawing up a business plan
 - conducting market research
 - costs of engaging HTA expertise
 - costs of patent protection for the duration of the project
 - dissemination and implementation activities
 - communication activities
- For projects costing €125,000 or more, accountancy costs of up to €3,500 may be included in the budget. In line with changes to ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants effective from 1 April 2022, a signed accountant's statement must be submitted after completion of the project, in addition to the final financial report, for projects costing €125,000 or more. Universities and university medical centres are not permitted to include accountancy costs in their budgets.

Separate arrangements have been made with these institutions concerning the mandatory accountant's statement. Please contact your financial department for further information in this regard.

If you publish according to the full gold Open Access route, you may include the cost of Open Access publications in the project budget, up to a maximum amount of €5,000. Include 'Open Access' as a separate line in your budget. For more information on Open Access, please refer to Section 3.1 and the ZonMw [Open Access](#) webpage.

Approval for funding scientific research

ZonMw has determined that the annex 'Approval for funding scientific research 2008' and the addendum, in accordance with Article 7 of the annex, do not as a whole apply to this grant. These documents will be applied in an analogue fashion, insofar as the Approval for Funding or the addendum do not conflict with ZonMw's General Grant Provisions. ZonMw's General Grant Provisions shall at all times prevail.

3.1.5 Practical conditions

- Applications must be in English.
- The following annexes to your application are mandatory:
 - Budget
 - [Letter\(s\) of Commitment](#)
- Optional annexes
 - Up to three pages (A4) containing graphics, charts or tables
- Before the project activities can begin, the cooperation agreement must be approved by ZonMw. You can submit this agreement once your application has been granted. A sample agreement can be found on the [ZonMw website](#).

If an annex is not mandatory, it will not be included in the assessment of your application. An exception is made for an optional annex that presents figures and/or tables, which will be included in the assessment.

3.2. Obligations

Certain obligations apply once a grant has been awarded. ZonMw strictly follows its [General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#) in this regard. In addition, the following obligations apply:

- **Open Access**
All publications resulting from research fully or partially funded by ZonMw must be made available through Open Access in accordance with ZonMw's Open Access policy. A number of Open Access routes are acceptable to ZonMw. In addition to articles, ZonMw encourages grant recipients to make other types of publications available via Open Access, such as monographs, books, conference proceedings and grey literature, but also research data and knowledge products developed through practice-oriented research, such as models, protocols, prototypes, digital tools and demonstrations. For more information about the ZonMw Open Access policy, conditions and opportunities, please visit [our website](#).
- **Conditions for knowledge transfer**
ZonMw strives to make the projects it funds widely accessible; therefore, the [ten principles for Socially Responsible Licensing](#) (*Maatschappelijk Verantwoord Licentiëren*, MVL; in Dutch) should be applied when licensing outcomes. If applicable, describe how claims to intellectual property rights are regulated with the parties to the collaboration and any third parties. Also indicate how these parties will comply with the ten principles.
- **User committee**
For each project that is financed, a specific user committee is set up before the project begins with a view to promoting implementation of the results. This user committee meets at least once a year. User committees are organised in accordance with the approach set out by the Dutch Research Council's AES domain (see the guidelines at [User committees | NWO](#)).

4 Assessment and prioritisation

4.1. Assessment procedure

The entire assessment procedure is coordinated by ZonMw and the Dutch Research Council. Submission of applications takes place through ZonMw. Please see the infographic '[Applying for funding in 10 steps](#)' and the [procedural information for grant applicants](#) (in Dutch) for information about the assessment procedure for grant applications.

4.1.1 Submission and assessment of grant applications

When a grant application is submitted, ZonMw and the Dutch Research Council assess whether it can be considered on the basis of the formal requirements and submission criteria. If this is not the case, the main applicant will be given the opportunity to rectify or supplement the grant application within a reasonable time (48 hours).

4.1.2 Assessment by reviewers

Each application is submitted for assessment (peer review) to at least 2 independent expert reviewers, preferably based outside of the Netherlands.

4.1.3 Right of reply

The main applicant of the follow-up application is given the opportunity to submit a written rebuttal to the pooled reviewer assessments. For this rebuttal, the main applicant will be given a minimum of six working days. As a rule, the length of this rebuttal will not exceed that of the reviewer assessments. Details of the form and length of the rebuttal will be provided at the appropriate time.

4.1.4 Pre-selection by the committee

If the number of applications is three times greater than the expected number of applications to be awarded, the assessment committee may decide to invite only a selection of consortia to attend an interview.

4.1.5 Pitch/interview

An interview with the assessment committee is part of the procedure. During the interview, the assessment committee has the opportunity to put questions, including questions not yet raised by the expert reviewers. During the interview with the committee, the candidate can respond to these questions, giving both sides the opportunity to present their views. The interview is an important part of the assessment and may result in an adjustment of the assessment and the score given to the application. An audio recording will be made of this interview. This recording will be destroyed after the assessment has been completed.

4.1.6 Assessment committee

A broad committee is formed to carry out the assessment. The final composition will be announced on the IMDI programme page.

4.1.7 Decision

The assessment committee issues a recommendation to the board of ZonMw to either approve or reject the application. The board of ZonMw will reach its decision on whether or not to approve the grant in consultation with the director of the Dutch Research Council's AES domain.

4.2. Relevance criteria

Addressing a demand/need from healthcare practice

It should be clear how the application addresses the demand or need from healthcare practice (the issue in the care system) as regards ensuring sufficient staff capacity in healthcare:

- How does the technological innovation help lighten the workload of healthcare professionals/informal carers while maintaining patient well-being and quality of care?
- Is it clear how this contribution can be measured?

- To what extent can we expect the technological innovation to be applied on a larger scale and across a broader spectrum of healthcare institutions in the future?
- Has the demand from the sector been translated into a clear, functional and defined research question?
- Does the application build on existing knowledge, expertise or fill knowledge gaps?

Selected approach to problem-solving

The application should describe one or more proof-of-concept technologies that could potentially solve the demand expressed by the sector:

- Provide a clear picture of the intended approach to solving the problem and a rationale for how this approach was formulated. In addition, provide an account of what emerged from the coordination consultation with the PIT platform.
- Is the selected problem-solving approach well founded?
- Is it clear how the selected approach contributes to demonstrable savings with regard to healthcare workers?
- What is needed to test the proof-of-concept in a practical setting and how will the results of the project be implemented in the long term?

Application in terms of impact

Provide a clear description of the steps needed to achieve the intended change in healthcare and the action required of relevant stakeholders in order to implement them (route to impact):

- Has a clear route to impact been outlined and consideration given to funding the innovation in healthcare practice after the completion of the project?
- What are the expected long-term effects and cost savings?
- What possible impact will this have on working practices? This point covers reducing the number of staff required, but also how the nature and complexity of the work will change as a result of the innovation.

Diversity

Describe how the project takes account of [diversity](#) and target group differentiation by characteristics such as [sex and gender](#), age, socio-economic situation, level of education, migration and cultural background, and sexual orientation, insofar as these are relevant to the project theme.

Involvement of relevant stakeholders

The application should clearly identify the relevant stakeholders who will be involved in the project.

- Describe which stakeholders (e.g. healthcare providers, patients, team managers, innovation managers, health insurers) are needed to realise the intended change in care or organisation of care.
- Describe how these stakeholders will be involved in the design and execution of the project, up to the actual point of implementation. In concrete terms, this involvement means consulting those concerned, seeking their advice and collaboration, and/or engaging them in decision-making with regard to the drafting of the grant application and the implementation of the project.
- Describe the intended composition of the user committee (see Section 3.2 'Obligations – User committee' of the call for grant applications for further details).

Access to data

ZonMw encourages the optimal use of data. The detailed grant application must describe how the project makes use of existing data files and/or explain why new data needs to be collected. Also indicate how you plan to share future data/results in accordance with the FAIR principles. When planning and budgeting your project, take account of the opportunities and requirements related to [FAIR data and data management](#). If you will not be collecting data, please state this in your grant application.

4.3. Quality criteria

Objective

Provide a clear and specific description of the objective(s) of the project.

Project approach

Describe the chosen methods and analyses, including theoretical and/or empirical support.

- Is there a feasible and efficient activity plan, which makes a logical contribution to answering the research question?
- Is it clear who is going to fulfil which role?
- Is it clear how the professional healthcare setting is involved in the implementation of the project?

Describe how the validation of the technological innovation takes place in healthcare practice and with the involvement of healthcare staff to ensure optimum integration in the workflow.

- Is it clear how the technological innovation will be validated in healthcare practice and with the involvement of healthcare staff?
- Has due consideration been given to user acceptance, user-friendliness and safety/ethical/legal aspects of the technological innovation?

Describe how the intended solution can be implemented/integrated into healthcare practice/the care process.

- Has consideration been given to the potential for a broader roll-out to other care institutions/other applications on a larger scale?
- Has due consideration been given to the change process (e.g. adapting to new ways of working, getting staff on board) that has to take place within an organisation when the new technology is implemented?

Feasibility

Demonstrate convincingly that the objective of the grant application can be achieved within the established timeframe and with the expertise, staffing, facilities and resources that are available.

- Are the requested resources commensurate with the nature of the project?

Project group

Describe how the composition of the project group will contribute to the quality of your research or project.

- Is the necessary expertise available from knowledge institutions and professional practice at the outset to carry out the intended practice-oriented research activities?
- Is sufficient emphasis given to dissemination of the results of the research (exploratory and otherwise) in professional healthcare practice and/or education within the network?
- Is expertise available within the consortium (or externally) to assess financial feasibility during the early stages (e.g. an early Health Technology Assessment)?

4.4. Prioritisation

The assessment committee makes its assessment on the basis of this grant application, the reviewer reports obtained and the rebuttal of these reports. The assessment committee gives due consideration to both the quality and the possible relevance of this grant application in its prioritisation of applications. Committee members score each proposal in terms of quality (1-5) and relevance (1-4). See the matrix below. On the basis of these scores, a ranking is drawn up.

Grant applications must at least be assessed as **Relevant** and **Good** to be considered for funding, while applications with lower scores will not be eligible for funding (because they do not meet the quality requirement). When determining priority, the proposals assessed as Highly relevant will be considered first, followed by the proposals assessed as Relevant (see matrix below).

The relative weighting of an application's relevance and quality will be based on the following prioritisation matrix:

Relevance (1-4) Quality (1-5)	Highly relevant	Relevant	Not very relevant	Insufficiently relevant
Excellent	1	4	Reject	Reject
Very good	2	5	Reject	Reject
Good	3	6	Reject	Reject
Sufficient	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject
Insufficient	Reject	Reject	Reject	Reject

5 Submitting your application

5.1 Submission via My ZonMw

Grant applications may only be submitted by the main applicant using ZonMw's online application system ([My ZonMw](#)). The closing date for submitting a grant application is 14 October 2025, at 14.00.

You can view the full timeline for this funding round [here](#).

5.2 Tips

- If you have never used ZonMw's system before, you will first have to register as a new user.
- For further information, see the [My ZonMw Manual](#).
- We recommend that you print out a Word version of your application (using My ZonMw) and carefully review it for errors before submitting your application digitally. Please note that some characters (such as quotation marks) may not be converted correctly if you create your application in Word and copy it into My ZonMw. You can correct these errors manually in My ZonMw.

5.3 Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application

The '[Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application](#)' must be signed by the individual with administrative responsibility and the main applicant. The signed statement can be added to the application in My ZonMw or can be emailed to ZonMw at imdi@zonmw.nl, for the attention of Daniëlle Molle. The statement must have been received no later than one week after the application is submitted.

5.4 Questions about your application

If you have any questions about your application, please contact: Angela Lansbergen-Engel, +31 (0)70 349 5348, Lansbergen@zonmw.nl.

5.5 Technical questions

If you have any technical questions about using ZonMw's online application system, please contact our Service Desk (+31 (0)70 349 51 76, servicedesk@zonmw.nl), open Monday to Friday between 8.00 and 17.00. Please include your telephone number in your email so that we can call you back if necessary.

5.6 Downloads and links

The ZonMw website contains more information on:

- [ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants](#)
- [Applying for funding in 10 steps](#)
- [What must I submit?](#)
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6 Annexes

- [Annex 1 – State Aid – Effective Collaboration](#)

Annex 1 – State Aid – Effective Collaboration

Effective collaboration should be expressed in a documented substantive commitment to the collaboration. Participants should genuinely participate in the collaboration by influencing the design and implementation of the collaboration, sharing the financial risks, operating independently from one another and actively contributing to the management of the collaboration. Contract research, providing research services and outsourcing are, by their nature, not considered to be effective collaboration.

Conditions governing effective collaboration [Section 2.2.2 Framework for State aid for research and development and innovation](#):

1. Effective collaboration refers to collaboration between
 - a. at least two independent parties;
 - b. at least one of which meets the definition of a research organisation⁴ and one of which qualifies as an undertaking, which
 - c. pursue a common objective based on the division of labour (project governance) set out in the project proposal, and
 - d. jointly define the scope of the collaboration and contribute to its implementation, and
 - e. share the associated financial, technological, scientific and other risks, and
 - f. clearly describe the activities undertaken by each party to the project in work packages and a clear corresponding budget, which clearly shows which part of the grant relates to which part of the activities and work packages, and
 - g. share the project results, and
 - h. undertake activities that fall within the primary tasks of a research organisation, in other words:
 - i. education
 - ii. independent research or development.
2. One or more parties may cover the total costs of the project (including funds obtained through a grant), thereby releasing the other parties from the financial risks associated with the project.
3. The activities envisaged fall within the categories of fundamental research, industrial research and/or experimental development.⁵
4. The components stated above must be set out in a collaboration agreement that meets the above-mentioned conditions before the project begins.
5. The above condition does not include final agreements on the market value of the intellectual property rights created and the value of contributions to the project.
6. Contract research and conducting research services are not considered to be forms of collaboration.

Terms and conditions for grant application

Your grant application should clearly describe the following aspects. State clearly which parties are participating in the effective collaboration and which parties are applying for a grant for its activities in this context.

For each of the collaborating parties specify:

- whether they are a research organisation or an undertaking (non-research organisation)
- which roles and tasks the party fulfils in the context of the collaboration
- which activities will be carried out by the party
- what part of the subsidy is intended for which party (budget)

AND

- how the main activity meets the criteria of fundamental or industrial research or experimental development.
- in a declaration, that the parties are financially and legally independent of each other.

⁴ Section 1.3(ee) of the [Framework](#) for State aid for research and development and innovation

⁵ Section 1.3(j), (m) and (q) of the [Framework](#) for State aid for research and development and innovation

Terms and conditions of collaboration agreement

In order to satisfy the conditions for effective collaboration, the project activities may only commence after a collaboration agreement has been accepted by ZonMw and signed by all parties involved in the collaboration.

You can find more information about the terms and conditions, along with a sample agreement, on the ZonMw website. You are strongly advised to make use of the sample agreement, which is drafted in line with the requirements for effective collaboration. See the [ZonMw website](#) for more information and conditions.

The collaboration agreement should include a provision on intellectual property rights. This provision ensures that:

- the results of the collaboration that do not give rise to intellectual property rights are widely disseminated;
- any intellectual property rights arising from the project are allocated to the different collaborating parties in a manner which adequately reflects their work packages, the guiding principle being that 'ownership resides with the inventor';
- the research organisations receive compensation equivalent to the market price on transfer or licensing of their intellectual property rights (or their share thereof) to the for-profit undertaking(s). A market price cannot be determined in advance and should be the result of arm's length negotiations.

A final but not yet signed version of the collaboration agreement that meets the above conditions should be submitted to ZonMw for assessment.

Implementing the project

The entire project must be carried out in compliance with the requirements for effective collaboration. If those requirements are not met or only partly met at any stage, there is a risk of providing unlawful state aid to the undertakings involved and the grant (or the relevant section of the grant) may not be awarded or, if already awarded, may be withdrawn.

Please note that it is not possible to involve a new organisation or organisations in the project once the collaboration agreement has been signed.