Please note: the Dutch version of the grant call is the authoritative version! (*Let op: de Nederlandse versie van de subsidieoproep is leidend!)*

PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure 2026

Date of publication: 1 September 2026
Deadline: **23 November 2026, 14:00 CEST**
Place: The Hague

Content

1. Summary

Who can Apply
PharmaNL is a national public-private consortium that was awarded funding from the Dutch National Growth Fund (Nationaal Groeifonds, NGF) in 2022. Among other objectives, PharmaNL aims to invest in shared infrastructure for pharmaceutical development and manufacturing, to be used by pharmaceutical start-ups, scale-ups, and academic research groups.

Public-law and private-law legal entities established in the Netherlands are eligible to apply for a grant. The grants are meant for Dutch companies, research organisations, and knowledge institutions that wish to establish and/or upgrade shared pharmaceutical infrastructure.

What for
The PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure (SDI) program line aims to build and/or upgrade infrastructure facilities for the development, scale-up, and manufacturing of (innovative) medicinal products in the Netherlands. Funding applications must align with the priority themes set out in PharmaNL's revised SDI Investment Agenda (see Part III).

Grants are subject to the condition that the infrastructure facilities should be available for shared use for at least 50% of the available time by startups, scale-ups and academic research groups at a marketed valued price

What to request
The total available grant budget for this call is € 23.3 million. Grant applications can be submitted for up to 5 million euro per project, with a maximum duration until the end of June 2030. It is mandatory to provide an own contribution of 50% of the total project cost. For more information, please refer to Section 3.1.5. 'What is the amount of the grant I can apply for?'.

When

Project idea phase	
Online information meeting project idea (register via this link, also see section 5.4)	Thursday 1 October 2026, 16:00 CEST
Project idea submission deadline*	Monday, 23 November 2026, 14:00 CEST
Deadline restore project idea (if application incomplete)	No later then Thursday 26 November 2026
Receipt by advisory committee	No later than Tuesday 9 February 2027
Grant application phase	
Online information meeting detailed application (Recording available after the event)	To be determined
Deadline for submitting detailed grant application *	Tuesday 20 April 2027, 14:00 CEST
Deadline restore detailed grant application (if application incomplete)	No later than Thursday 22 April 2027
Receipt of referees' comments	Tuesday 18 May 2027
Deadline for submitting rebuttals	Tuesday, 1 June 2027, 12:00 CEST
Committee meeting (with interview**)	End of June – early July 2027
Decision	End of August – early September 2027
Latest start date	As soon as possible, but no later than 2 months after acceptance

*) We kindly request that you remain available by telephone on the day of the submission deadline and during the days immediately thereafter. Following the submission deadline, ZonMw will verify whether your application is complete. If your application is found to be incomplete, the main applicant will be notified and will be given a **maximum of 48 hours** to provide the missing information and complete the application.

**) An interview may form part of the assessment procedure for your grant application. If applicable, you will receive an invitation in due course. The scheduling of the decision-making meeting is subject to the availability of the committee members. An audio recording will be made of the interview. The recording will be destroyed after the completion of the assessment procedure.

2. Aim of the call for grant applications

This call forms part of the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure (SDI) program line, which focuses on building and/or upgrading infrastructure facilities for the development, scale-up, and manufacturing of (innovative) medicinal products in the Netherlands. Projects must address the priority themes identified in PharmaNL's revised SDI Investment Agenda 2026 (see Part III).

Background

PharmaNL is a Dutch nationwide public-private consortium consisting of Leiden University, Campus Groningen and Pivot Park, in close collaboration with the Centre for Future Affordable Sustainable Therapy Development (FAST). PharmaNL has been awarded a grant from the NGF in 2022. The aim of PharmaNL is to provide a sustainable boost to the entire Dutch value chain of medicine development and production.

At present, the economic and societal potential of this value chain is not being fully realized, partly due to a number of identified challenges in the pathway of bringing medicinal products from the laboratory to the patient. In consultation with the PharmaNL consortium, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) has commissioned ZonMw to run the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure program.

PharmaNL program lines

The PharmaNL program is addressing these challenges based on two nationally coordinated program lines:

- The Human Capital Growth (HCG) program line aims to establish a coherent, strengthened, and hybrid lifelong learning pharmaceutical education offering at post-secondary vocational, post-bachelor, and post-academic levels.
- The Shared Development Infrastructure (SDI) program line focuses on the realization of shared infrastructures for the development, scale-up, and manufacturing of (innovative) medicinal products.

In line with the PharmaNL proposal, the PharmaNL SDI program line focuses on the development of advanced facilities that are essential for the development, scale-up, and manufacturing of (innovative) medicinal products in the Netherlands. An important condition within this program is that the infrastructure facilities must be accessible for shared use by pharmaceutical start-ups, scale-ups, and academic groups for at least 50% of the available time. Strengthening and expanding the infrastructure available for shared use can reduce the costs of research, development, and innovation. This contributes to more efficient processes for the development and manufacturing of medicinal products and shortens the time from lab to patient.

The PharmaNL program aims for (future) cohesion between the 2 program lines. Infrastructure becoming available affords opportunities to provide practically oriented education. By allowing participants to - already during their study - gain experience with advanced equipment and processes, they can be integrated more quickly at businesses and contribute sooner to the development and production of medicinal products.

Recalibration of PharmaNL investment agenda

PharmaNL charted out the investment requirements in the pharmaceutical sector at relevant parties, including (bio) science parks, businesses and knowledge institutions involved in the development and production of (innovative) medicinal products. Based on a gap analysis and expert session, an investment agenda was prepared identifying the key challenges and opportunities for, among other things, the expansion and reinforcement of the infrastructure for pharmaceutical development and production in the Netherlands.

The Investment Agenda Shared Development Infrastructure 2026 (see part III) is a recalibration of the previously defined investment agenda from 2024. This recalibration was based on the results of the gap analysis produced in Q1 2026 and the expert session of 1 April 2026.

The following themes, as described in the Investment Agenda Shared Development Infrastructure 2026, are eligible for funding:

1. *Molecular Diagnostics and Imaging*
2. *Early Discovery Infrastructure*
3. *Pharmaceutical Manufacturing*
    a. *Small scale (shared) manufacturing facilities*
    b. Sustainable manufacturing
    c. *Bioprocessing[1] and fermentation*

The 2026 investment agenda also describes additional focus areas that are broadly applicable within the three identified themes. No separate budget has been reserved for these additional focus areas. Where applicable, the proposed infrastructure can contribute to addressing one or more of these additional focus areas within the selected theme:

- *Artificial Intelligence & Data Analysis*
- *Advanced & Emerging Therapies*
- *Drug Delivery*
- *Automation & Robotics*

The substantive description of the themes and additional focus areas, including further details and any additional conditions that apply to each theme, can be found in Annex 3 - Themes in the SDI Investment Agenda 2026.

3. Conditions and obligations

You must take account of certain rights, conditions and obligations when applying for a ZonMw grant. The rights, conditions and obligations of a grant applicant are based upon the Dutch General Administrative Law Act (Awb). Article 4.2 of the Awb contains specific provisions applying to ZonMw grants. General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw also apply.

3.1. Conditions

This grant round consists of a project idea phase and a full grant application phase
Submitting a project idea precedes submitting a grant application. In order for your project idea and grant application to be processed, the following conditions must be met.

You may only submit a full grant application if your project idea has received a positive recommendation. Are you still considering submitting a full grant application despite negative recommendation? Then we kindly request you to contact us as soon as possible, but no later than four weeks after receiving the recommendation, via pharmanl@zonmw.nl.

3.1.1. Who is eligible for a grant?

Public or private legal entities established in the Netherlands can apply for a grant. The target group for the grant are Dutch companies, research and knowledge institutions that want to build and/or upgrade a shared pharmaceutical infrastructure.

3.1.2. Avoiding State aid

ZonMw will not award a grant if doing so would result, or could result, in the provision of unlawful State aid.[2] State aid may be involved where funding is granted to an undertaking. The determining factor for

[1] Bioprocessing means the use of intact, living cells, or components thereof, to generate or process pharmaceutically relevant products.
[2] Section 107 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU).

qualification as an undertaking is whether the organisation carries out an economic activity, regardless of its legal form or method of financing.

To ensure that State aid granted to undertakings is lawful, this grant round applies the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). If you have any questions regarding the application of the GBER, ZonMw recommends seeking legal advice.

General Block Exemption Regulation
This grant round makes use of the GBER, meaning that grants awarded under this funding call constitute a permitted form of State aid. As a result, specific funding conditions and budgetary requirements apply. In addition, applicants are required to make declarations regarding certain information. Further information on the GBER, as well as the requirements that must be met, can be found in Annex 1 – State Aid – GBER.

Where a collaboration involves multiple undertakings[3] that may be beneficiaries of State aid, all undertakings claiming grant funding must comply with the requirements of the GBER. This means that all conditions and obligations arising from the GBER apply in full to each undertaking claiming grant funding within the consortium. ZonMw will notify the European Commission of this funding call in accordance with Article 11 of the GBER.

Article 27 GBER - Aid for innovation clusters
Article 27 of the GBER applies when an entity meets the definition of an innovation cluster. The GBER uses the following definition for innovation clusters[4]:

'Structures or organised groups of independent parties (such as innovative start-ups, small, medium and large enterprises, as well as research and knowledge dissemination organisations, non-for-profit organisations and other related economic actors) designed to stimulate innovative activity through promotion, sharing of facilities and exchange of knowledge and expertise and by contributing effectively to knowledge transfer, networking, information dissemination and collaboration among the undertakings and other organisations in the cluster'

Within an innovation cluster, investment aid and operating aid can be granted. Investment aid can only be granted to the legal entity operating the innovation cluster. Operating aid, on the other hand, may also be granted to the operator of the innovation cluster. The operator, if different from the owner, may be a legal entity or a consortium of undertakings without separate legal personality that is responsible for managing or operating the innovation cluster. In this context, the term refers to the operator of the innovation cluster itself and not to a facility mentioned in the project. If a consortium of undertakings wants to claim operating aid, it is mandatory to stipulate in the collaboration agreement that the consortium as a whole is the operator of the innovation cluster. The collaboration agreement must be delivered to ZonMw after the project has been rewarded a grant. In addition, each undertaking must keep separate accounts for the costs and revenues of each activity (ownership, operation and use of the cluster) according to the applicable accounting standards.

In section 3.1.5. 'What is the amount of grant I can apply for?' is described which of the costs that are related to investment and operation of an innovation cluster are eligible for funding.

Article 26 GBER - investment aid for research infrastructure
In cases where the definition of innovation clusters not applies, article 26 of the GBER is applied. The eligible costs shall be the investment costs in intangible and tangible assests related to building and/or upgrading of infrastructure. Costs related to the operation of the infrastructure are not eligible for funding.

In section 3.1.5. 'What is the amount of grant I can apply for?' costs that are eligible for funding within article 26 GBER can be found.

Research organisations

[3] An undertaking as defined under EU state aid legislation means any entity that performs economic activities, regardless of its legal form or means of financing.
[4] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/NL/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX%3A02014R0651-20210801#tocId39

The primary activities of research organisations are usually non-economic in nature and therefore fall outside the scope of state aid law. Please note that if economic activities are involved, such as the rental of a laboratory, state aid law may apply, even to research organisations. In case of doubt, seek advice from legal experts within your organisation.

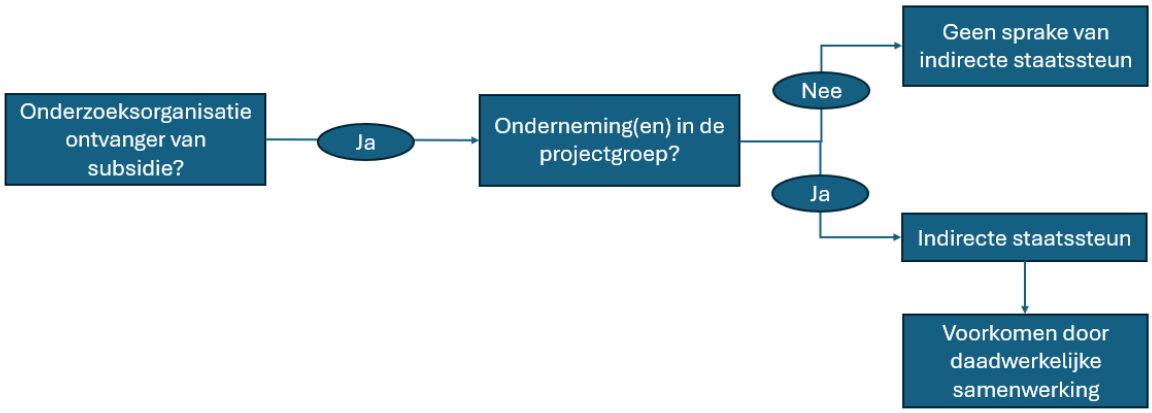
Mandatory annex avoiding state aid
Research organisations and companies wishing to apply for grants are required to add the mandatory annex 'application of state aid law framework' to the application. This annex should state the following:
- If an applicant wishes to apply for a grant as a research organisation, it must be declared that the definition of a research organisation according to the European Commission is met by an authorised representative of that organisation.
- Companies wishing to claim a grant must declare that the conditions and obligations that follow from the applicable article of the GBER are met.

In Annex 1 - State aid - GBER, you can find an overview of the specific requirements and common interests that follow from the GBER (only available in Dutch).

3.1.3. Avoiding indirect state aid

When undertakings and research organisations collaborate on a project, there is a risk of indirect state aid to companies. This may be the case if these undertakings obtain an advantage by collaborating with publicly funded research organisations, e.g. get access to knowledge developed by the research organisation without paying a market fee. According to section 2.2.2 of the framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I)[5], indirect state aid to participating companies can be avoided if the conditions for 'actual collaboration' (daadwerkelijke samenwerking in Dutch) are met. Note that this does not affect direct state aid. For funding companies, the conditions of the GBER still apply. The conditions for 'actual collaboration' must be included in a collaboration agreement that must be delivered to ZonMw subsequent to project honouration. Figure 1 shows a flow chart that can be used as an aid to determine whether indirect state aid is involved. For the conditions and explanation, see Annex 2 - State Aid - Actual Collaboration.

When drawing up a collaboration that outlines the conditions for 'actual collaboration', it is important to note that project activities can only start once the collaboration agreement has been signed by all collaborating parties involved. Project activities cannot begin prior to signing



Figuur 1. Stroomschema voorkomen indirecte staatssteun door toepassing staatssteuninstrument daadwerkelijke samenwerking

More information on state aid can be found on the ZonMw webpage State aid exemption regulations.

3.1.3. Third-party collaboration and contributions

ZonMw encourages the participation of different partners in collaborative projects. Such projects will, however, not receive a grant if the agreements would or could lead to the provision of unlawful state aid or if ZonMw's General Terms and Conditions or the conditions of the call for grant applications cannot be met.

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

If there is a collaboration between different parties, the grant application and budget must make it clear:

- Which parties are participating. Describe how each party will be actively contributing to the project; these should in any case be parties who appear in the budget as a party intending to claim a portion of the grant. Also include parties that will be making an active contribution as partners in the collaborative project for their own account and at their own risk.
- With which party or parties a sponsorship agreement will be concluded and what their donation in kind or monetary contribution will be.
- Which parties will be hired, or, if this is not yet known, which activities are forecast as being performed by third parties, plus the related costs that will be incurred (including VAT). For more information and the conditions of hire/terms of contract, see the ZonMw web page Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties.

Collaborations and sponsorship must be finalised prior to presenting the detailed grant application.

Letter of Commitment
Because ZonMw requires assurance that a project party or sponsor will be legally bound to provide the agreed amounts, each project party or sponsor must provide a Letter of Commitment, which is to be submitted together with the detailed grant application. Please use the template letter which you can find on the ZonMw web page Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties.

The following content and conditions apply:

- The letter must describe the contribution in cash or in kind (including activities to be carried out) and specify the role of the organisation (collaborating partner or sponsor).
- Each collaborating and sponsoring organisation must provide a separate copy, except for the organisation to which the main applicant is affiliated.
- The Letter of Commitment must be addressed to the organisation to which the main applicant is affiliated.
- The Letter of Commitment must be signed by a person authorised to do so.
- The Letter of Commitment may not contain any conditions other than the condition that the commitment is valid only if ZonMw approves the grant applicatio

Collaboration and sponsorship agreement
You can find more information about the various types of collaboration and contributions (sponsoring/assignment) with sample agreements on the ZonMw web page Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties as an aid to drafting the relevant agreement; the accompanying explanation contains the conditions the agreement must meet. The conditions specified on this web page and in the explanation form an integral part of this call for grant applications. Where ZonMw requests draft collaboration and/or sponsorship agreements, it awards the grant on the condition that the agreements are found to be acceptable. The draft version must be shared with ZonMw no later than one month after approval of the grant

3.1.4. What is the amount of the grant I can apply for?

- The total available grant budget is € 23.3 million. If additional grant funding becomes available, the total available grant budget will be published on the ZonMw website (www.zonmw.nl) and in the Dutch Government Gazette (Staatscourant).
- A maximum of 5 million euro can be applied for per project, with a maximum project duration until the end of June 2030:
    - **Please note:** Costs can only be included if incurred during the term of the project. The term is defined as the period between the start and end dates of the project, during which the activities for which the grant is awarded are actually carried out. The project start date must be after the date on which the decision is issued.
- The total amount of the full grant application should not deviate more than 30% from the amount stated in the project idea, taking into account the maximum grant amount of 5 million euro per project. Deviations are only permitted with prior approval from ZonMw.
- Your detailed application must be accompanied by an itemised budget completed according to a fixed format. Click here for the fixed budget format.

- The budget must be realistically substantiated. It should indicate details of how the planned project activities relate to the budget for which you are applying.

Verplichte eigen bijdrage

- An own contribution of 50% of the total project costs is mandatory. This applies to both research organisations and companies. This contribution may be in cash, in kind (e.g. by contribution of equipment or hours) or a combination of both. When submitting the detailed grant application, it should be indicated which parties are making an own contribution to the project and how the own contribution is structured (mandatory format).
    - 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. To that cause, the template can be found on the ZonMw webpage Grants and Collaborations/contributions from third parties.
- If the grant application falls within the scope of State aid law, funds obtained through another grant or through a contribution from a public legal entity (so-called public funds) cannot be counted as an own contribution, as the own contribution must be financed through private funds.
    - **Please note:** This also means that non-eligible costs are entirely borne by the company and cannot be included in this own contribution.
- For research organisations, the own contribution may come from public funds, provided that the requested subsidy falls outside the scope of state aid law.
- When contributing own funds, take into account that:
    - Research organisations are deemed to be governmental organisations and their financial resources are considered to be attributable to the state. For this reason, the resources of research organisations are designated as being publicly funded.
    - Undertakings in which the government has a predominant influence are designated as state undertaking. The financial resources of state undertakings are considered to be attributable to the state. For this reason, the resources of state undertakings are designated as being publicly funded.

Eligible costs

The following costs are eligible for funding, depending on the applicable GBER article:

- Based on article 26 and 27 of the GBER:
  Investment costs relating to the construction and/or upgrading of the infrastructure
    - Tangible fixed assets: consisting of land, buildings and installations, machines and equipment (depreciation costs applicable).
    - Intangible fixed assets: physical and financial intangible assets, such as patents, licences, know-how or other intellectual property rights.
- Based on article 27 of the GBER:
  Operating expenses, namely the personnel and administrative costs (including overhead costs) relating to the realisation, commissioning and modification of infrastructure (providing that this meets the conditions of the state aid instrument applied).
    - Animation of the cluster to facilitate collaboration, information sharing and the provision or channelling of specialised and customised business support services.
    - Marketing of the cluster to increase participation of new undertakings or organisations and to increase visibility
    - Management of the cluster's facilities; organisation of training programmes, workshops and conferences to support knowledge sharing and networking and transnational cooperation.
- The general depreciation rules apply. Investments in equipment as well as in infrastructure must be properly justified. Only costs incurred specifically for the project are eligible; interest costs are not reimbursed. Investment costs (depreciation) may be included in the project costs in proportion to their use for the project. If the full purchase price of equipment is financed, the residual value of this equipment must be taken into account. The following percentages are used for depreciation and determining residual value:
    - Computer equipment: 40% in year 1, 30% in year 2, 20% in year 3, 10% in year 4.
    - Other equipment: linear depreciation over 5 years (20% per year).
- Accounting costs are only eligible for funding if the grant falls outside State aid law or if Article 27 GBER applies (under administrative costs). For projects with a project budget exceeding € 500,000,

the eligible accounting costs for the mandatory auditor's report may be included in the budget up to a maximum of € 7,500. For projects with a budget ranging from € 125,000 up to and including € 500,000, accounting costs may be included in the budget up to a maximum of € 5,000. Accounting costs are eligible, provided they comply with State aid law, because after completion of a project it is compulsory to submit an auditor's report with the final financial statement. Universities and university medical centres may not include accounting costs in the budget. Separate arrangements have been made with these institutions regarding the required auditor's report.

- For the staffing costs of academic institutions, the VSNU (universities, etc.) and NFU (UMCs, etc.) salary tables must be used. If these tables are not sufficient, you must calculate the salary scale, scale level and FTE factor and 12 times the gross monthly salary for each position. A maximum hourly rate will apply, based on scale 16 from the *Handleiding Overheidstarieven 2026* [HOT-Manual Dutch Government Rates]. It must be justified why the rates from the VSNU and/or NFU tables are insufficient.
- If state aid law is not applicable, costs of Open Access publications must be included in the project budget, so that it is published according to the full gold Open Access route. This applies 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 3.2 and the ZonMw Open Access webpage.

Additional funding
The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development (ZonMw) may decide at a later stage to open an additional call for grant applications for projects awarded funding under this call, for example to provide an impetus for the practical application of the results.

3.1.5. Praktische voorwaarden

Project idea

- Write your project idea in English.
- Complete the application form via MijnZonMw. For more information on submitting the application form, see section 5.1 'Submission through Mijn ZonMw' in this grant call.
- A maximum of 5 million euro can be applied for per project, with a maximum duration till the end of June 2030.
- Please add the following appendixes to the project idea**:**
  - **Annex 1. Figures and tables**
    - Optional / No format / Max. 1 A4 / PDF
  - **Annex 2. Completed form on grant application theme**
    Using the fixed format, please justify in which theme of the investment agenda your application is located and describe how your application contributes to the specific criteria of the respective theme. If your application fits within multiple themes, please select one main theme.
    - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
  - **Annex 3. Planning**
    Make the planning of the project transparent using a Gantt chart.
    - Mandatory / No format / Max. 1 A4 / PDF

Grant application

- Write your detailed grant application in English.
- Complete the application form via MijnZonMw. For more information on submitting the application form, see section 5.1. of this grant call
  - **Please note:** The application form contains limits on the number of characters that can be used. Spaces also count as characters. Please take this into account when preparing your application.
- Grant applications can be submitted for up to 5 million euro per project, with a maximum duration until the end of June 2030.
- It is mandatory to include a detailed budget. Click here for the mandatory budget format.
  - The total grant amount requested in the full application may not deviate by more than 30% from the project idea, taking into account the maximum grant amount of €5 million per project. Deviations are only permitted with the approval of ZonMw.
  - If you include overhead costs in the budget, you must specify in Annex 6 which costs are included in the overhead and substantiate these with a calculation.

- Demonstrate that the proposed infrastructure is feasible given the available expertise, personnel, facilities, and resources. Substantiate this in the application form and annexes, including a business plan. The business plan must include a market analysis, a risk analysis, and a financial plan.
- In the detailed application, you must provide a public summary and a technical summary of your project (using the mandatory template). The public summary should be understandable to a lay audience, while the technical summary should be aimed at peers in the field. In the event of funding, both summaries will be published on the ZonMw website.
- Describe whether your application offers opportunities to create synergies with PharmaNL's Human Capital Growth (HCG) program line and, if so, what these opportunities are. This is not an assessment criterion but is requested to provide insight into the extent to which synergies between the program lines can be facilitated.
- Please attach the following annexes to the prepared application:
  - **Annex 1. Figures and tables**
    - Optional / No format / Max. 1 A4 / PDF
  - **Annex 2. Completed form on grant application theme**
    Using the format, please justify under which theme of the investment agenda your application falls and describe how your application contributes to the specific criteria of the respective theme. **Please note:** It is not allowed to deviate from the selected main theme chosen during the project idea phase, unless the assessment committee has decided otherwise.
    - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
  - **Annex 3. Planning**
    Gain insight into the project planning using a Gantt chart.
    - Mandatory / No format / Max. 1 A4 / PDF
  - **Annex 4. Business plan**
    Using the format, draw up a business plan. Part of the business plan is a market analysis, risk analysis and financial plan for the continuation of the infrastructure after the subsidy ends.
    - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
  - **Annex 5. Operating budget**
    The operating budget should indicate the expected revenue and expenditure for each year. This should be done for the duration of the project + the first two years after the grant ends.
    - Mandatory / No mandatory format / Excel
  - **Annex 6. Justification of overhead costs**
    Required if overhead costs are claimed. Specify from which costs the overhead is composed and substantiate this with a calculation.
    - If applicable / No mandatory format / Excel
  - **Annex 7. Letter of Commitment**
    Mandatory in the case of collaboration and/or sponsorship (financial and/or in kind). Each collaborating and sponsoring organisation must provide a separate copy, except for the organisation to which the main applicant is affiliated.
    - If applicable / Format / PDF4
  - **Annex 8. Letter of Support**
    To indicate that an organisation supports the application but does not provide a financial or in-kind contribution. The Letter of Support must be signed by a person authorised to do so.
    - Optional / No format / PDF
  - **Annex 9. Financing own contribution**
    Please substantiate for each participating party making an own contribution to the project what the financing of the own contribution looks like.
    - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
  - **Annex 10. Application of the state aid legal framework (only in Dutch)**
    For all grant-receiving research organisations and enterprises: a completed and signed declaration.
    - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF
  - **Annex 11. Declaration GBER ZonMw**
    Mandatory annex if Article 26 or 27 of the GBER is applied. A declaration must be

included for all undertakings receiving grant funding and submitted as a single combined PDF.
    - If applicable / Mandatory format / PDF / Not shared with assessors
- **Annex 12. Technical project summary SDI**
  In addition to a public summary for a lay audience, a technical summary of your project aimed at peers in the field is also required. In the event of funding, both summaries will be published on the ZonMw website.
    - Mandatory / Mandatory format / PDF / Not shared with assessors

Please note: It is not allowed to add additional annexes other than those listed above to your project idea or grant application. If an annex is submitted that is not included in the above list, it will not be considered in the assessment of your application.

3.2. Obligations

Obligations apply when your grant application is approved. For this ZonMw follows the General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw. In addition the following conditions also apply:

- **Separate accounting**
  If both economic and non-economic activities are carried out using the same infrastructure, separate accounting should be maintained in relation to the financing of, costs of and revenues from those economic activities based on consistently applied and objectively justifiable cost accounting principles (article 26 GBER)
- **Reporting for the National Growth Fund**
  There is an obligation to report from ZonMw, PharmaNL and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport to the NGF. This requires you to complete a report every year. ZonMw will inform you of further details in a timely manner.
- **Open Access**
  All publications resulting from scientific research fully or partially funded by ZonMw must be made available in Open Access, in accordance with the ZonMw Open Access policy. ZonMw accepts various Open Access routes. In addition to articles, ZonMw encourages researchers to make their results available in other formats via Open Access, such as monographs, books, conference proceedings and grey literature, but also research data and knowledge products for 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.
- **Access to data**
  ZonMw promotes the optimal use of data. In your detailed grant application, describe the possibilities of making use of existing data files and substantiate any stated need for new data collection. Also indicate your plans regarding sharing and making your future results FAIR. When planning your project and its budget, take into account the opportunities and requirements set out at FAIR data management.
- **Conditions for valorisation**
  As ZonMw is committed to making the projects it funds widely accessible, the ten principles of Socially Responsible Licensing (SRL) should be applied to the licensing of results. Please describe, where applicable, how intellectual property rights will be arranged with partners and any third parties. Also indicate how these parties will comply with the ten principles.
- **Transition to animal-free innovations**
  In line with the Dutch government's policy to stimulate the transition to animal-free innovations, infrastructure projects that involve the use of laboratory animals without contributing to this transition are excluded from funding, unless the use of laboratory animals is necessary and no suitable alternative is available.

4. Assessment criteria

4.1. Assessment procedure

This grant round consists of two phases, a project idea phase and a grant application phase. During the project idea phase the program committee evaluates the relevance and general quality of the project ideas. The committee then selects the most promising projects that best fit the relevance criteria of the program (see Section 4.2 Relevance criteria). These receive a positive recommendation

for drawing up of a detailed grant application. It is possible to submit a full grant application despite a negative recommendation. We kindly request that you contact the program team as soon as possible, but no later than 4 weeks after receipt of the recommendation, via PharmaNL@zonmw.nl (see Section 3.1 Conditions).

The full grant application is first assessed by external, independent experts (reviewers) based on the quality criteria of the call for grant applications (see Section 4.3 Quality criteria). The main applicant will receive the anonymized reviewer reports and will be given the right for rebuttal. The grant application, reviewer reports and the rebuttal are then submitted to the assessment committee for review. The assessment by committee members is the starting point for discussions on the applications during the committee meeting. When an interview is part of the assessment procedure, applicants will be invited to answer committee member questions during the committee meeting. In the end, the committee will make a recommendation on the relevance, quality and prioritisation of the applications based on the application, reviewer reports, the rebuttal and the interview. This is described in Section 4.4. Prioritisation. Finally, the ZonMw Board of Directors will make a decision on granting or rejecting the applications based on the committee its advice.

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.

4.2. Relevance criteria

- **Alignment with PharmaNL's vision and the objectives of the PharmaNL SDI program line**
  Substantiate how the application contributes to:
  - The realisation of advanced infrastructures for the development, scale-up and production of (innovative) medicinal products in the Netherlands.
  - The development of innovative pharmaceutical products and manufacturing technologies for drug development and production in the Netherlands.
  - Making these infrastructures accessible to start-ups, scale-ups and academic research groups.
  - Strengthening the Netherlands' appeal and position as a business location for pharmaceutical research, entrepreneurship and production.

- **Alignment with the investment agenda themes**
  The application aligns with one of the three themes identified from the investment agenda, as described in section 2 'Aim of the call for grant applications'.
  - Indicate under which theme your grant application falls. If your application falls under more than one theme, select one primary theme.
  - Substantiate how the proposed infrastructure contributes aligns with and fits within the description of the selected theme, as described in Annex 3 – Themes of the Investment Agenda SDI 2026 of this grant call.
  - Substantively justify the proposed infrastructure facilities and the need for this infrastructure within the selected theme.

- **Contribution to the Key Performance Indicator (KPI)**
  The application provides insight into the expected contribution to the PharmaNL KPI to support at least 100 pharmaceutical innovation projects during the program that will use a PharmaNL-funded infrastructure.
  - Substantiate to what extent the proposed infrastructure is expected to contribute to the KPI and explain the assumptions underlying this expectation.

- **The need for public funding**
  The application provides insight into why public funding is needed to realise the proposed infrastructure.
  - Substantiate why the proposed infrastructure cannot be realised fully or in part via regular market or sector financing.
  - Describe to what extent the proposed infrastructure differs from existing infrastructure facilities in the Netherlands and from projects that have already been funded within the PharmaNL Shared Development Infrastructure program. Explain any points of interface or

overlap and substantiate the added value of the proposed infrastructure. Find information here about current projects within the PharmaNL SDI program line.

4.3. Quality criteria

- **Objective and results**
  The application clearly and concretely describes the objective(s) and envisaged results. Among other things, the application includes a concrete description of the proposed infrastructure and a clear definition of the target groups that will use the infrastructure.

- **Plan of action**
  The approach is described concretely and clearly and aligns logically with the objectives and envisaged results.
  - Describe the project activities with reference to a step-by-step plan with specific milestones and/or deliverables.
  - Describe how tasks and responsibilities are allocated within the project group, and also identify any collaboration partners and other parties involved.

- **Feasibility and consolidation**
  The application demonstrates how the proposed infrastructure facility can be realised within the stated project duration and within the available budget.
  - Describe how the proposed infrastructure can be realised within the stated time period and budget with the available expertise, manpower, facilities and resources. Indicate here how budget and time overruns will be managed.
  - Substantiate how the budgeted costs are reasonably proportionate to the activities described.
  - Include a Gantt chart of the planning timeline with key milestones and activities as a mandatory annex.

  The application plausibly sets out that the proposed infrastructure can be continued after the conclusion of the grant period.
  - Use a business plan to demonstrate how the proposed infrastructure can be self-sustaining after the grant period has ended. A market analysis, risk analysis and financial plan must be part of the business plan. In that plan describe, among other things, the market demand, support from the sector and the financial and organisational preconditions.

- **Expertise and experience**
  The application plausibly sets out that the applicant or applicants have suitable expertise and experience to realise and operate the proposed infrastructure within the defined project period.
  - Describe the composition of the project group and indicate the roles of the various people/parties in the implementation of the project.
  - Describe the relevant expertise and experience of the individuals or organisations in planning, establishing and operating pharmaceutical infrastructure.
  - Describe the relevant knowledge and experience of the project group leader(s) in terms of required collaboration and leadership.

- **Organisational and decision-making structure**
  The application describes how the organisational and decision-making structure of the proposed infrastructure will be set up (including the participants, roles, duties and powers).
  - Describe how responsibilities are allocated and what agreements have been made or are yet to be made.
  - Describe how the continuity of leadership will be ensured for the duration of the project.
  - Describe how the progress of the project will be monitored and how corrective action will be taken. Also indicate how conflicts and risk management are dealt with.

- **Safeguarding the open nature and non-discriminatory access policy of the infrastructure**
  The application provides insight into how the open character of the infrastructure and a transparent and non-discriminatory access policy is guaranteed.

- Specify the percentage of the available time for which the infrastructure will be open to internal users (requesting institutions) and external users (other parties). Opening the infrastructure for start-ups, scale-ups and academic research groups is mandatory for at least 50% of the available time.
- Describe the transparency and non-discriminatory access policy. Access to the infrastructure must be open to several users and be granted on a transparent and non-discriminatory basis. Make it clear here under what conditions access to the infrastructure will be granted, how requests for access to the infrastructure will be assessed and how equal treatment of users will be safeguarded.

– **Use of infrastructure**
The application provides insight into how the infrastructure is operated and used, and what support is offered to users.
  - Provide an indication of the rates or costs of access to the infrastructure for both internal and external users. Substantiate that these rates or costs are in line with the market price or reflect the costs.
  - Describe the services that will be made available to users. Describe how users will be supported in carrying out experiments, measurements and other activities using the facilities.

You can find more information about these criteria in the leaflet containing procedural information for grant applicants.

4.4. Prioritisation

The relative weighting of relevance and quality is determined using the prioritisation matrix shown in Table 1. The committee assesses each application against the relevance and quality criteria set out in this funding call (see Section 4.2 'Relevance Criteria' and Section 4.3 'Quality Criteria').

As shown in Table 1, the committee may assign one of the following scores for quality: excellent, good, satisfactory, moderate, or insufficient. For relevance, the following scores apply: highly relevant, relevant, low relevance, or not relevant. Based on Table 1, the relevance and quality scores are converted into a numerical score (see the score indicated in parentheses, e.g. "excellent = 1"). Relevance and quality carry equal weight in this assessment. For relevance, the highest score is 1 and the lowest score is 4; for quality, the highest score is 1 and the lowest score is 5. The prioritisation is based on these numerical scores. According to this prioritisation, applications with a lower score are ranked higher than applications with a higher score. To be eligible for funding (i.e. fundable), an application must receive at least a score of "good" for quality and at least "relevant" for relevance.

Table 1: Prioritisation matrix

Prioritisation matrix		Relevance (corresponding score)			
		Very relevant (=1)	Relevant (=2)	Low relevant (=3)	Not relevant (=4)
Quality (corresponding score)	Very good (=1)	1	2	reject	reject
	Good (=2)	2	3	reject	reject
	Sufficient(=3)	reject*	reject*	reject	reject
	Poor (=4)	reject	reject	reject	reject
	Insufficient (=5)	reject	reject	reject	reject
	* Applications that are highly relevant or relevant with sufficient quality can only be funded after quality adjustment through an additional rebuttal (if sufficient budget is available).				

Themes
Every application must state which theme in the investment agenda it fits best. The committee will assess whether the application fits within that theme. The investment agenda includes an indicative allocation of the budget by theme; see Table 2.

Tabel 1: Indicative budget per theme

Thema	Indicative budget
Molecular Diagnostics & Imaging	**5 million euro**
Early Discovery Infrastructure	**5 million euro**
Pharmaceutical Manufacturing **Subthema's** • **Small Scale (shared) Manufacturing** • **Sustainable Manufacturing** • **Bioprocessing & Fermentation**	**13.3 million euro**

First, the number of fundable applications is determined based on the prioritisation matrix.

The combined relevance and quality scores result in a prioritisation ranking from low to high scores. If, after applying the prioritisation, the number of fundable applications exceeds the available budget, the committee will subsequently apply the following additional considerations:

- The committee aims to award funding to 1 or 2 applications within each theme. Any remaining budget will then be allocated to the highest-priority applications that have not yet been awarded funding, taking into account the indicative budget per theme.
- If a theme cannot be (fully) funded, the committee may decide to reallocate the remaining budget for that theme to a different theme.
- The committee may decide to award funding to the next application that fits within the available budget, even if this is at the expense of a higher-priority application that would exceed the budget.
- Since this is the final funding round under the SDI program line of the PharmaNL program, the committee may decide to award partial funding to another eligible application, starting with the highest-priority application that cannot be funded in full from the remaining budget.

5. Submitting your application

5.1. Submission through Mijn ZonMw

Project ideas/grant applications can only be submitted by the main applicant in ZonMw's online submission system (Mijn ZonMw). To submit a project idea, please locate this funding call in the overview of open calls in My ZonMw. If you have not previously used My ZonMw, you must first register as a "New User". For more information, please refer to the My ZonMw User Guide.

The deadline for submitting a project idea is **Monday, 23 November 2026, at 14:00 CEST.**
The deadline for submitting a detailed application is **Tuesday, 20 April 2027, at 14:00 CEST.**

We kindly request that you remain available by telephone on the day of the submission deadline and during the days immediately thereafter. Following the submission deadline, ZonMw will verify whether your application is complete. If your application is found to be incomplete, the main applicant will be notified and will be given a maximum of **48 hours** to provide the missing information and complete the application. In accordance with the principle of equal treatment, ZonMw must treat all parties in an equal and non-discriminatory manner. ZonMw may therefore decide not to take an application into further consideration if, after the maximum correction period of 48 hours, it still does not meet the requirements.

The complete timeline for this grant round can be found here.

5.2. Tips

- Please submit only the annexes and documents requested. Additional documents will not be considered in the assessment.
    - **Attention!** Ensure that the documents you upload are not protected/encrypted. Budgets or other files that are signed (for example, with ValidSign) often automatically have a protection or are encrypted. Make sure to remove this before uploading the file, otherwise the system will not be able to process the file properly.
    - You can check if your PDF has protection or an encryption by opening it in Adobe Acrobat, right-clicking, going to document properties, and then going to the security settings. There you can see if and how your file is encrypted. You can also open the PDF in a browser; if your file is protected/encrypted, this will be indicated in a banner at the top.
- Avoid repetition in your answers: make sure that each answer clearly adds value compared with previous answers.
- Please note the maximum word or character limits for each question on the application form.
- Claims and figures may be supported by sources, which should be included in the reference list at the end of section 4 of the application form.
- We advise you to print out a Word version of your application (via Mijn ZonMw) and carefully review it for errors before you submit it digitally. This is especially important if you have created your application in Word and then copied it to Mijn ZonMw, as some characters (such as quotes) may not be converted correctly. You can correct this yourself in Mijn ZonMw.

5.3. Statement of agreement for submission of detailed grant application

The 'Statement of agreement to your detailed grant application' must be signed by the individual with administrative responsibility and the main applicant. The signed declaration can be added to the application in My ZonMw or sent to ZonMw by email at PharmaNL@zonmw.nl. The declaration must have been received no later than one week after submission of the application.

5.4. Substantive questions

For substantive questions, please contact us by email at PharmaNL@zonmw.nl or by telephone on +31 (0)70 349 54 67. Depending on availability, you will be connected with a member of the program team (Larissa Wijnberg, Tessa Vreeman, or Marianne Swart).).

An online information meeting will be organised for this call. The information meeting for the project idea phase will take place on Thursday, 1 October, at 16:00 CEST. You can register for the online information meeting via this link. An information meeting will also be organised for the detailed application phase; further information will follow at a later stage. A recording is available upon request via PharmaNL@zonmw.nl.

Please also consult the Q&A page for frequently asked questions and answers.

5.5. Technical questions

If you have any technical questions regarding the use ZonMw its online application system, please contact the Service Desk from Monday to Friday between 8.00 and 17.00 (+31 070 349 51 78, servicedesk@zonmw.nl). Please include your telephone number in your email so that we can call you back if necessary.

5.6. Downloads en links

For more information, please visit the ZonMw website for details on:

- General Terms and Conditions Governing Grants of ZonMw
- Applying for funding in 10 steps
- What must I submit?
- Conditions and obligations
- Assessment
- Grants and collaborative third-party contributions
- State support exemption
- Datamanagement and FAIR data
- Open Access

- Implementation and impact
- Mijn ZonMw manuals
- Statement of approval for submission of a detailed grant application
- PharmaNL – Shared Development Infrastructure program page
- Investment agenda PharmaNL
- Q&A page

6. Annexes

- Annex 1 – State aid – GBER (only in Dutch)
- Annex 2 – State Aid – Actual collaboration
- Annex 3 – Themes of the Investment Agenda 2026

6.1. Annex 1 – State aid – GBER (only in Dutch)

Om in aanmerking te komen voor subsidie onder de AGVV moet, behalve aan de inhoudelijke criteria van de subsidieoproep, ook worden voldaan aan de specifieke vereisten die volgen uit de toepasselijke AGVV artikelen. Daarnaast volgen er uit de AGVV enkele gemeenschappelijke bepalingen Hieronder vindt u de specifieke vereisten en gemeenschappelijke bepalingen:

Specifieke vereisten artikel 27 AGVV – Steun voor innovatieclusters

1. Steun voor innovatieclusters is verenigbaar met de interne markt in de zin van artikel 107, lid 3, van het Verdrag en is van de aanmeldingsverplichting van artikel 108, lid 3, van het Verdrag vrijgesteld, mits de in dit artikel en in hoofdstuk I vastgestelde voorwaarden zijn vervuld.
2. Steun voor innovatieclusters wordt uitsluitend verleend aan de rechtspersoon die het innovatiecluster opereert (de clusterorganisatie).
3. Toegang tot de panden, faciliteiten en activiteiten van het cluster staat open voor meerdere gebruikers en wordt op transparante en niet-discriminerende basis verleend. Ondernemingen die ten minste 10 % van de investeringskosten van het innovatiecluster hebben gefinancierd, kunnen preferente toegang krijgen op gunstigere voorwaarden. Om overcompensatie te vermijden, is deze toegang evenredig aan de bijdrage van de onderneming in de investeringskosten en worden deze voorwaarden publiek beschikbaar gesteld.
4. De vergoedingen die voor het gebruik van de faciliteiten van het cluster en voor deelname aan de activiteiten van het cluster worden berekend, stemmen overeen met de marktprijs of weerspiegelen de kosten ervan.
5. Voor de bouw of het upgraden van innovatieclusters mag investeringssteun worden verleend. De in aanmerking komende kosten zijn de kosten van de investeringen in immateriële en materiële activa.
6. De steunintensiteit van investeringssteun voor innovatieclusters bedraagt ten hoogste 50 % van de in aanmerking komende kosten. De steunintensiteit kan worden verhoogd met 15 procentpunten voor innovatieclusters in steungebieden die aan de voorwaarden van artikel 107, lid 3, onder a), van het Verdrag voldoen, en met 5 procentpunten voor innovatieclusters in steungebieden die aan de voorwaarden van artikel 107, lid 3, onder c), van het Verdrag voldoen.
7. Voor de exploitatie van innovatieclusters mag exploitatiesteun worden verleend. De steun mag ten hoogste tien jaar lopen.
8. De voor exploitatiesteun ten behoeve van innovatieclusters in aanmerking komende kosten zijn de personeelskosten en administratieve kosten (met inbegrip van de algemene kosten) met betrekking tot:
    a. het aansturen van het cluster ter bevordering van samenwerking, informatiedeling en het verschaffen of toeleiden van gespecialiseerde en op maat gemaakte zakelijke ondersteuningsdiensten;
    b. de marketing van het cluster om nieuwe ondernemingen of organisaties aan te trekken en de zichtbaarheid te verhogen;
    c. het beheer van de faciliteiten van het cluster, de organisatie van opleidingsprogramma's, workshops en conferenties ter ondersteuning van kennisdeling, netwerking en transnationale samenwerking.
9. De steunintensiteit van exploitatiesteun voor innovatieclusters bedraagt ten hoogste 50% van de totale in aanmerking komende kosten over de periode waarvoor steun wordt toegekend.

Specifieke vereisten artikel 26 AGVV – Investeringssteun voor onderzoeksinfrastructuur

1. Steun voor de bouw of het upgraden van onderzoeksinfrastructuur waarmee economische activiteiten worden verricht, is verenigbaar met de interne markt in de zin van artikel 107, lid 3, van het Verdrag en is van de aanmeldingsverplichting van artikel 108, lid 3, van het Verdrag vrijgesteld, mits de in dit artikel en in hoofdstuk I vastgestelde voorwaarden zijn vervuld.
2. Wanneer met onderzoeksinfrastructuur zowel economische als niet-economische activiteiten worden verricht, wordt voor de financiering, kosten en inkomsten van elk soort activiteit een gescheiden boekhouding gevoerd, op basis van consequent toegepaste en objectief te rechtvaardigen beginselen van kostprijsadministratie.
3. De prijs die voor de exploitatie of het gebruik van de infrastructuur wordt berekend, stemt overeen met een marktprijs.
4. Toegang tot de infrastructuur staat open voor meerdere gebruikers en wordt op transparante en niet-discriminerende basis verleend. Ondernemingen die ten minste 10 % van de investeringskosten van de infrastructuur hebben gefinancierd, kunnen preferente toegang krijgen

op gunstigere voorwaarden. Om overcompensatie te vermijden, is deze toegang evenredig aan de bijdrage van de onderneming in de investeringskosten en worden deze voorwaarden publiek beschikbaar gesteld.
5. De in aanmerking komende kosten zijn de kosten van de investeringen in immateriële en materiële activa.
6. De steunintensiteit bedraagt ten hoogste 50 % van de in aanmerking komende kosten.
7. Wanneer onderzoeksinfrastructuur overheidsfinanciering ontvangt voor zowel economische als niet-economische activiteiten, werken lidstaten een monitoring- en terugvorderingsmechanisme uit om te garanderen dat de toepasselijke steunintensiteit niet wordt overschreden door een toename van het aandeel economische activiteiten ten opzichte van de situatie waarmee op het tijdstip van de toekenning van de steun werd gerekend.

Gemeenschappelijke bepalingen AGVV
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie als het onvoldoende aannemelijk is dat uw aanvraag aan alle definities en voorwaarden van de AGVV voldoet, of als subsidieverstrekking naar het oordeel van ZonMw leidt tot het verlenen van ongeoorloofde staatssteun in de zin van artikel 107 van het Verdrag betreffende de werking van de Europese Unie.[6]
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie als de datum van aanvang van de werkzaamheden aan het project of van aanvang van de activiteiten eerder is dan de datum van indiening van de subsidieaanvraag.[7]
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie aan ondernemingen waartegen een bevel tot terugvordering uitstaat ingevolge een eerder besluit van de Europese Commissie waarbij door Nederland toegekende steun onrechtmatig en onverenigbaar met de interne markt is verklaard.[8]
- ZonMw verleent geen subsidie aan ondernemingen in moeilijkheden.[9]
- Cumulering van subsidies (of andere vormen van staatssteun) voor dezelfde – geheel of gedeeltelijk overlappende – in aanmerking komende kosten, mag er niet toe leiden dat de maximale steunintensiteit wordt overschreden. Indien reeds door een bestuursorgaan of door de Europese Commissie subsidie is verstrekt voor dezelfde – geheel of gedeeltelijk overlappende – in aanmerking komende kosten, dan zal ZonMw slechts een zodanig bedrag aan subsidie verstrekken dat het totale bedrag aan subsidie niet meer bedraagt dan het bedrag dat op basis van de AGVV mag worden verleend.[10]
- Voeg bij het indienen van de subsidieaanvraag de AGVV-verklaring ZonMw ingevuld en ondertekend toe. Hiermee verklaart u dat uw organisatie voldoet aan bovenstaande AGVV-vereisten.

[6] Artikel 1 lid 5 AGVV
[7] Artikel 6 AGVV
[8] Artikel 1, lid 4, sub a AGVV
[9] Artikel 1, lid 4, sub c AGVV. Financiële moeilijkheden als bedoeld in artikel 2, lid 18 van de AGVV
[10] Artikel 8 AGVV

6.2. Annex 2 – State Aid – Actual collaboration

Actual collaboration must be reflected in a recorded substantive commitment to the collaboration. Participants should be actively involved in the collaboration by having an influence on the design and implementation of the collaboration, sharing the financial risks, being at arm's length (independence) and actively contributing to management of the collaboration. Contract research and the provision of research services – and outsourcing – by their very nature do not qualify as actual collaboration.

Conditions of actual collaboration Section 2.2.2 Framework for state aid for research and development and innovation (R&D&I Framework):

1. This concerns collaboration between
    a. at least two independent parties;
    b. of which at least one party fulfils the definition of research organisation[11] and one party qualifies as an undertaking, which
    c. pursue a common objective on the basis of a division of tasks (project governance) described in the project proposal, and
    d. jointly define the scope of the collaborative project and contribute to its implementation, and
    e. share the associated financial, technological, research and other risks, and
    f. provide a clear description of the activities of each party involved in the project in work packages and a corresponding clear budget, which clearly indicates which part of the grant is related to which part of the activities and work packages; and
    g. share the project results, and
    h. where the activities fall within the primary activities of a research organisation, being:
        i. educational programme
        ii. independent research or development.
2. One or more parties may bear the full project costs (including through obtaining a grant) and thereby relieve the other parties of the financial risks associated with the project.
3. The envisaged activities fall within the categories of fundamental, industrial research and/or experimental development[12].
4. The above components must be laid down in a collaboration agreement that meets the above conditions before the project starts.
5. Excluded from this are definitive agreements on the market value of the resulting intellectual property rights and the value of contributions to the project.
6. Contract research and the provision of research services are not considered to be forms of cooperation.

Conditions of the grant application
Your grant application must clearly describe the following aspects. Clearly indicate which parties are participating in the actual collaboration and which parties are applying for a grant for its activities.

Please describe for each party in the collaboration:

- whether it is a research organisation or an undertaking (non-research organisation)
- which roles and tasks the party has within the collaboration.
- which activities will be carried out by each party
- what part of the grant is intended for which party (budget)

AND

- how the activity or 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

[11] Section 1(3)(ee) R&D&I Framework
[12] Section 1(3)(j) R&D&I Framework

Conditions of the collaboration agreement
To meet the conditions of actual collaboration, the project activities can only start after the collaboration agreement has been approved by ZonMw and signed by all parties involved in the collaboration.

You can find more information about the conditions and a sample agreement on the ZonMw website. We strongly advise that you use the sample agreement, which has been prepared in line with the requirements for actual collaboration.

The collaboration agreement must include, among other things, a provision on intellectual property rights. This provision regulates that:
- the results of the collaboration that do not give rise to intellectual property rights are widely disseminated;
- the intellectual property rights arising from the collaborative project will be allocated to the different parties in the collaboration in a manner that appropriately reflects the work undertaken, on the premise that 'the inventor is the owner';
- a research organisation will receive a remuneration for transferring or licensing its (fully-owned or shared) intellectual property rights to the undertaking(s) equivalent to the market price of those rights. A market-based price cannot be determined in advance and should be done at arm's length conditions.

You must submit for assessment by ZonMw a final, but not yet signed version of the collaboration agreement that meets the conditions .

Project implementation
The entire project must be implemented in compliance with the requirements for actual collaboration. If those requirements are not or no longer met (in full or in part), there is a risk of unlawful state aid being granted to the undertakings concerned and that all or part of the grant may not be awarded or may be withdrawn.

Please note that it is not possible to add new undertakings after the signed collaboration agreement.

6.3. Annex 3 – Themes of the Investment Agenda SDI 2026

For a detailed description of the themes and additional focus areas included in the Shared Development Infrastructure Investment Agenda 2026, please refer to Part III of the Investment Agenda.

Theme 1: Molecular Diagnostics and Imaging

This theme primarily covers the pharmaceutical R&D domains “Target Pharmacology & Biomarker Development” and “Clinical Research & Development”, corresponding to domains B and E of the 4DMap.

To accelerate the development and application of molecular (companion) diagnostics and imaging, PharmaNL invites parties to submit project applications for shared R&D infrastructures in this field. These investments are intended to provide researchers and companies with access to advanced facilities and expertise.

PharmaNL aims to unlock critical capabilities in molecular diagnostics and imaging, including, but not limited to:

- Advanced optical tracing technologies (such as MRI, PET, and high-resolution microscopy).
- Facilities for molecular analysis to support biomarker identification and validation (including multi-omics technologies, next-generation sequencing, qPCR, and multiplex assays).
- Automated (robotics-driven) high-throughput systems for sample processing, screening, and/or imaging.
- AI- and machine learning (ML)-supported imaging and data analysis facilities.
- Integrated standardisation and quality assurance platforms for assays, imaging, and data processing, aimed at reproducible workflows, data integration, and interoperability in accordance with FAIR principles.
- Access to integrated platforms for multimodal in vitro imaging, screening, and diagnostics.

By making these infrastructures available, PharmaNL supports the development of new diagnostic methods and imaging technologies that can significantly improve the precision and effectiveness of pharmacotherapeutic interventions. This will not only pave the way for personalised medicine but also improve the overall quality of care and treatment outcomes.

Theme 2: Early Drug Discovery

This theme primarily covers the pharmaceutical R&D domains “Target Pharmacology”, “Lead Identification”, and “Lead Optimisation”, corresponding to domains B, C, and D of the 4DMap.

To accelerate the progression of Dutch therapeutic innovations through the pre-clinical development phase, PharmaNL invites the pharmaceutical field to submit applications within the Early Discovery Infrastructure theme. Access to these shared infrastructures and technologies enables researchers and companies to develop new therapeutic solutions more effectively and efficiently, with the goal of bringing innovations to the clinical phase more quickly and successfully.

PharmaNL aims to unlock essential infrastructures, including, but not limited to:

- AI/ML-driven drug discovery platforms.
- Advanced physicochemical characterisation technologies (such as NMR, LC-HR-MSn, and X-ray analysis).
- Target discovery and validation platforms (CRISPR, RNAi, multi-omics, and single-cell sequencing).
- Biological characterisation technologies (including target engagement, organ-on-a-chip technology, ADME-Tox, and in vitro/in vivo correlation studies).
- Support and expertise in medicinal chemistry.
- High-throughput and high-content screening, including automated robotic systems and advanced pre-clinical imaging technologies.

Theme 3: Pharmaceutical Manufacturing

This theme primarily covers the pharmaceutical R&D domains “Commercial Manufacturing and Distribution” and “Scale-up for Manufacturing of Small Molecules and Biologics, Cell-based Therapy and Therapeutic Vaccines”, corresponding to domains I and D of the 4DMap, respectively.
Within the following subthemes, PharmaNL aims to strengthen infrastructure capacity to enable the efficient, safe, and sustainable production of new therapies.

- Small-scale (Shared) Manufacturing Facilities
  To strengthen the competitive position of the Dutch pharmaceutical sector and stimulate innovation in the manufacturing processes of (bio)pharmaceuticals, PharmaNL invites parties to submit project applications within the Small-scale (Shared) Manufacturing Facilities theme. By facilitating access to small-scale automated manufacturing facilities, researchers and companies can develop new products and manufacturing methods more quickly and efficiently, thereby accelerating market readiness.

  PharmaNL aims to unlock essential manufacturing facilities and associated expertise, including, but not limited to:

  - Flexible and modular manufacturing systems and production facilities with a high degree of automation, suitable for small-scale production with minimal human intervention.
  - Small-scale pilot manufacturing facilities for process development and optimisation, where robotic systems ensure reproducibility and precision as a stepping stone towards scale-up.
  - Automated and robotics-driven production lines with AI-driven process control and quality assurance, aimed at reducing manual intervention and increasing consistency and safety.

- Sustainable Manufacturing
  PharmaNL invests in making the pharmaceutical sector more sustainable in order to contribute to a future-proof industry and enable Dutch innovations to benefit more effectively from its economic added value. Investments within this theme focus on the adoption of sustainable methods in the development and production of current and future products, with the aim of significantly reducing the environmental footprint, including through the greening of existing R&D and manufacturing infrastructures.

  Sustainable manufacturing also contributes to the strategic autonomy of the development chain. Investments in local production capacity and resilient supply chains reduce dependence on vulnerable international supply chains and enhance resilience against disruptions such as raw material shortages or geopolitical uncertainties. At the same time, autonomy and sustainability reinforce one another: local manufacturing shortens transport chains, reduces emissions, and enables faster adaptation to sustainability standards.

  Through these investments, PharmaNL aims to ensure that sustainable manufacturing infrastructures become more accessible to innovators from both academia and SMEs, while enabling providers of sustainable manufacturing technologies to modernise and innovate existing infrastructures.

  PharmaNL aims to unlock critical opportunities in sustainable (bio)pharmaceutical manufacturing processes, including, but not limited to:

  - Advanced facilities and continuous manufacturing platforms that use raw materials and energy more efficiently, including shared facilities for wastewater treatment and recycling of chemical reagents.
  - Green chemistry technologies and sustainable synthesis processes aimed at reducing waste, solvent use, and emissions.
  - Development of local production capacity for essential raw materials and APIs for which there is currently a strong dependence on non-European supply chains.
  - Integration of AI and machine learning for process optimisation and quality assurance, providing enhanced visibility and control across the entire production chain.
  - Shared sustainable pilot facilities enabling Dutch manufacturers and knowledge institutions to develop and scale up manufacturing processes for strategically important

medicines while optimising the use of materials and energy and minimising environmental impact.

- Bioprocessing and Fermentation
  To accelerate progress and application in Bioprocessing and Fermentation, PharmaNL offers investments in shared R&D infrastructures within this theme.

  Through this theme, PharmaNL aims to strengthen and unlock advanced infrastructures in bioprocessing and fermentation in order to accelerate the development, scale-up, and production of innovative medicines. This includes technologies and facilities supporting the entire value chain, from upstream bioprocess development to downstream processing and the integration of digital and data-driven process control.

  PharmaNL aims to unlock critical capabilities within the field of bioprocessing and fermentation, including, but not limited to:

  - Advanced fermentation facilities for the production of biopharmaceutical products, including optimisation of microorganisms and cell cultures.
  - Pharmaceutical biotechnology development and manufacturing facilities, ranging from formulation development to advanced delivery systems for biologics such as antibodies, nucleic acid therapies, therapeutic vaccines, and recombinant proteins.
  - Scale-up and process intensification technologies that improve the efficiency and consistency of manufacturing processes.
  - Access to innovative infrastructure for advanced purification and isolation of biopharmaceutical products.
  - Integration of digital tools and process monitoring through AI and machine learning to improve precision and control in bioprocessing.

Additional Focus Areas
The additional focus areas listed below are broadly applicable across the three themes above and may, where relevant, further strengthen and/or specialise an application. No separate budget has been allocated for these focus areas.

Artificial Intelligence and Data Analysis: The application of AI technology is rapidly becoming increasingly important across the entire pharmaceutical value chain, covering all domains A through I of the 4DMap. This requires the availability of high-quality, FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable), and AI-ready data. PharmaNL recognises the importance of this topic across all main themes and aims to stimulate the use of AI and FAIR data-driven analysis within existing and new infrastructures.

AI-driven infrastructures and platforms can be applied in R&D infrastructures focused on, for example, target identification, synthesis route development, integration of experimental and computational data, and predictive modelling. In addition, PharmaNL supports investments in infrastructure aimed at AI-driven process optimisation in manufacturing and distribution environments, such as automated quality control, process monitoring, and batch optimisation.

Advanced & Emerging Therapies: Alongside established therapeutic platforms such as small molecules and biologics, a rapidly growing landscape of advanced and often patient-specific therapies is emerging from academic centres, biotechnology companies, and pharmaceutical companies across domains A through I of the 4DMap. The technological diversity within this theme, including antisense therapies, gene and cell therapies (CAR-T, iPSCs), RNA technologies, nuclear medicine, regenerative medicine, and nanomedicines, requires specialised R&D infrastructures, GMP manufacturing facilities, vector production capabilities, and scale-up infrastructure for both centralised and decentralised production environments. Within the various main themes, the development and/or production of Advanced & Emerging Therapies may be addressed as a relevant application area.

Drug Delivery: This theme primarily falls within pharmaceutical R&D domain D1-4 of the 4DMap. The growing demand for personalised therapies is accompanied by an increasing need for infrastructure to develop complex and innovative delivery systems. PharmaNL recognises the importance of accessible facilities for formulation technologies enabling targeted delivery (such as nanoparticles, liposomes,

and hydrogels), platforms for mucosal, transdermal, or inhalable delivery, and testing infrastructures for in vitro/in vivo evaluation of drug delivery systems.

Automation & Robotics: Automation and robotics play an increasingly important role in diagnostics, drug discovery, and the optimisation of pharmaceutical development and manufacturing processes. This topic therefore spans the full breadth of the 4DMap. The integration of robotic systems with AI-driven process control creates opportunities for closed-loop processes that improve consistency, safety, and reproducibility. This subtheme is broadly applicable across the various themes of the SDI program line. PharmaNL encourages the development and accessibility of automated screening and synthesis platforms, robotic systems for small-scale manufacturing and quality control, and integrated digital monitoring infrastructures, with the aim of strengthening the efficiency and scalability of the Dutch pharmaceutical R&D ecosystem.

---

* In this Investment Agenda, “Bioprocessing” refers to the use of intact living cells, or components thereof, to generate or modify pharmaceutically active ingredients.
** In this Investment Agenda, radiopharmaceuticals, bacteriophages, cell and gene therapies, nanomedicines, and advanced vaccines are explicitly included within the Advanced & Emerging Therapies theme.