

Details on the M2i rules for participation to the M-ERA.NET 2 COFUND Call (2016)

Introduction:

Materials innovation institute (M2i) is part of the M-ERA.NET 2 consortium. M-ERA.NET 2 is an EU-funded network, established to support and increase the coordination of European research and innovation programmes and related funding in materials science and engineering, including materials for low carbon energy technologies and related production technologies. Between 2016 and 2021, the M-ERA.NET consortium will operate as a single innovative and flexible network of funding organisations. M-ERA.NET 2 will complement existing instruments and contribute to EU policies, whilst supporting the exploitation of knowledge along the whole innovation chain from basic research to applied research and innovation. M-ERA.NET 2 will implement a series of joint calls to fund excellent innovative transnational RTD cooperation, including one call for proposals (2016) **with co-funding from the European Commission (EU)** – the M-ERA.NET 2 CO-FUND Call. M2i, in its quality of member of the TKI¹ Holland High Tech, has pre-committed a **€300.000** from the TKI grant “toeslag”, to co-finance Dutch applicants in the successful transnational proposals submitted to M-ERA.NET-2 CO-FUND Call (2016). By taking part to the M-ERA.NET-2 COFUND Call, M2i aims to expose the Dutch high tech materials community to collaborative international research opportunities.

Eligibility conditions:

- the applicants are researchers of the Dutch universities or scientific institutes falling under the definition of the European Commission²;
- the proposal involves Industrial research (TRL 3-6) or Experimental Development (TRL 6-7) in one or more of the M-ERA.NET-2 topics;
- the proposal fits within the scope of the High Tech Materials (HTM) Roadmap³;
- the proposal fits within one or more of the thematic areas of M-ERA.NET-2, as well as within the scope of the High Tech Materials (HTM) Roadmap, available [here](#);
- The total *requested funding* per proposal cannot exceed € 300.000;
- A letter of commitment for the cash-co-funding must be submitted as annex to the M-ERA.NET-2 proposal, as well as to M2i at meranet-2@m2i.nl within the deadline for stage-1;
- Proposals which do not include a letter of commitment for the industrial co-funding will not be considered eligible. Temporary research positions are eligible, with a duration of max. three years;
- PhD research positions (with a duration of four years) in industrial research projects are eligible for funding under the following conditions:

¹ Topconsortium for Knowledge and Innovation

² According to the *Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (Text with EEA relevance)*

“Research and knowledge-dissemination organisation” means an entity (such as universities or research institutes, technology transfer agencies, innovation intermediaries, research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities), irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research, industrial research or experimental development or to widely disseminate the results of such activities by way of teaching, publication or knowledge transfer. Where such entity also pursues economic activities the financing, the costs and the revenues of those economic activities must be accounted for separately. Undertakings that can exert a decisive influence upon such an entity, in the quality of, for example, shareholders or members, may not enjoy preferential access to the results generated by it;

³ The Materials scope of M2i is reflected in the High Tech Materials Roadmap, updated in 2015 and available for download at <http://www.hollandhightech.nl/nationaal/innovatie/roadmaps/high-tech-materials>

- the work related to the M-ERA.NET proposal must be completed during the first three years of the M-ERA.NET proposal;
- only the cost related to the first three years of the PhD can be included in the budget for the M-ERA.NET application;
- the remaining one year will be separately funded by M2i, under a separate contractual agreement;
- the industrial commitment must be confirmed for the entire duration and budget of the PhD contract (4 years).

To ensure the conditions are well understood, the Dutch applicants wishing to submit proposals involving PhD researchers and requiring funding from M2i and are kindly required to contact M2i and discuss their particular situation well in time before submission. Contact person - Iulia Degeratu, i.degeratu@m2i.nl.

Decision-making at the national/regional level:

1. The HTSM Board decides on allocation of TKI grants for all 17 roadmaps in the scope. M2i plays a key role in **programming HTM TKI grant**, and thereby will propose the received stage-1 applications to the HTSM Board;
2. The Roadmap Council advises HTSM board on validity of TKI project/programme proposals and will recommend which proposals go to stage 2;
3. The HTSM Board will confirm the allocation of the corresponding amount of the TKI grant for the proposals successful in the M-ERA.NET-2 CO-FUND Call (February 2017). Subsequently, funding contracts will be concluded by M2i with the successful Dutch applicants in the successful M-ERA.NET-2 consortia.

What should you do as a potential applicant?

1. Read carefully the M-ERA.NET-2 Call procedure, available on the [M-ERA.NET-2 website](#);
2. Make sure your idea fits within the topics supported by the M-ERA.NET Call and within the [HTM Roadmap](#);
3. Contact an industrial partner to secure industrial **cash commitment of at least 50% co-funding** for industrial research, and **at least 75% co-funding for experimental development projects**. The transnational project may also include basic research activities, nevertheless M2i will only fund the applied research part of the projects (minimum starting TRL⁴ = 3);
4. If your project idea involves only fundamental research activities and/or has no industrial commitment, please consider submitting your proposal to NWO, the other Dutch funding agency taking part to the M-ERA.NET-2 CO-FUND Call;
5. Prepare the pre-proposal in conjunction with the other partners and submit it (in case you are coordinator) to the M-ERA.NET-2 Call, before the deadline.

IMPORTANT! Without a letter of commitment from the industry, indicating the cash co-funding to the project and contribution to the project administration costs, the proposal is not eligible for M2i funding. The signed and scanned letter of commitment must be appended to the M-ERA.NET-2 pre-proposal application. It must also be sent to M2i, at meranet-2@m2i.nl, **within the deadline for stage-1**. M2i has a wide network of industrial and academic partners that could be interested to join your proposal. Do not hesitate to [get in contact with us](#).

⁴ Technology Readiness Level

Annex – Instructions for the letter of commitment

- The proposal must be accompanied by a letter of commitment from the company.
- In the letter, the company expresses its interest as paying industrial partner in the M-ERA-NET 2 Call proposal **<title>**, which will be submitted to M-ERA-NET 2 CO-FUND Call (2016).
- The letter needs to be written:
 - In English
 - On company stationary
 - Addressed to the Dutch project leader:
<name + title>
<University>
<Postal address>

Make sure that the letter:

- explains the importance of the research subject for the company and the importance of transnational cooperation;
- arguments the fit within the [High Tech Materials - HTM Roadmap](#);
- shows the way the company plans to use the results of the research;
- details the involvement of the company in the project;
- states the contribution of the company in terms of minimum cash support for the whole duration of the project, as well as the contribution to project management costs.
- is undersigned by a person legally authorized to commit budgets on behalf of the company/department.