

**INNOVATION
EXCHANGE
AMSTERDAM**



Grants for public-private partnerships (TKI-grant)



Amsterdam UMC grants for public-private partnerships (Amsterdam UMC TKI-grant) sponsored by the dutch government (Ministry of Economic Affairs) through the Rijkdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) and Topsector Life Sciences & Health (LSH).

Amsterdam UMC TKI-grant

Goal of the Amsterdam UMC TKI-grant

The goal of the grant is to stimulate Amsterdam UMC researchers to perform research projects together with companies in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP). The funding is provided by the Dutch government (Ministry of Economic Affairs) through the Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland (RVO) and the Topconsortium voor Kennis en Innovatie Life Sciences & Health (TKI-LSH, a.k.a. Health-Holland).

Target group

The Amsterdam UMC TKI grants for PPP projects are available to all Amsterdam UMC researchers who wish to perform a research project in collaboration with an industrial party.

Subsidy amount

From € 300,000 to € 750,000 subsidy per PPP-project (i.e. exclusive of the matching contributions, see Table 1). Projects applying for less than € 300,000 or more than € 750,000 subsidy will not be considered. Similar to last year's round AMC's and VUmc's TKI grant amounts will be combined, resulting in a total budget available for Amsterdam UMC applications in the order of € 8 - 9 million.

Deadline

Friday November 20th 2020, 14.00 h

This is a compulsory deadline to register for the internal call using the template in Annex A. An Amsterdam UMC TKI grant jury will review the grant pre-application forms, which should be fully completed and sent by email before the deadline to: tki@ixa.nl.

Conditions and eligibility criteria

- ▶ The research fits within the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda 2020-2023, (see: <https://www.health-holland.com/sites/default/files/downloads/kennis-en-innovatieagenda-2020-2023-gezondheid-en-zorg.pdf>). See pages 18-36 of the KIA for the mission of the PPP-program. Please note that this mission has changed since the previous call, so please make sure your research plan falls within its scope.
- ▶ The project is not funded otherwise.

- ▶ The collaborative project involves at least one industrial partner; it will be realized at joint cost and risk and all consortium partners will make a substantive contribution to the project, not only in cash or materially, but also in kind. In other words, the project should be a true collaborative effort.
- ▶ The percentage of the project costs which can be financed from the grant depends on the type of research performed as follows:
 - o Fundamental research up to 75%
 - o Industrial research up to 50%
 - o Experimental development up to 25%

See Table 1. These categories roughly correspond to the technology readiness level of the proposal (1-3, 4-6, and 7-9) as used for EU projects (see Pre-application Form for definitions). Please note that separate work packages can be classified in different categories or even consist of parts that fall into different categories.

Table 1: Subsidy and matching percentages for fundamental research, industrial research and experimental development projects

Type of research	Fundamental (TRL 1-3)	Industrial (TRL 4-6)	Experimental development (TRL 7-9)
Maximum % PPP-allowance to be deployed	75%	50%	25%
Research organisation*	min. 10%	min 15%	min. 20%
For-Profit enterprise**	min 15%; min 10% in cash***	min. 35%; min 20% in cash***	min. 55%; min 30% in cash***

* in cash or in kind

** in cash AND in kind. The in kind contribution of personnel hours should reflect that the project is a true collaborative project;

*** SMEs may contribute in kind only, but please note that cash contributions contribute to your overall score (see section on criteria for ranking)!
NB the percentages for in kind and in cash contributions used in this Amsterdam UMC call are not entirely the same as those in the Health-Holland Match Call

- ▶ Correct classification of the project according to the type of research is very important and might be subject to additional checks if deemed necessary. Incorrect classification might lead to disqualification of the project. Please follow the advice of your business developer (BD) at IXA.
- ▶ Industrial party/ies involved in the PPP are to contribute in cash and in kind to guarantee the active involvement of the company/ies. SMEs may also contribute in cash but are not obliged to, thus they may contribute in kind only, like the academic partner(s) (see Table 1 for details). Whether an industrial party qualifies as an SME can be checked at <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/subsidiespelregels/subsidiespelregels-ministerie/ministerie-van-economische-zaken-en-klimaat/aanvraag-indienen/mkb-toets>.
- ▶ Budgeted costs should be directly related to the R&D activities, and do not include for example: bench fee costs, travel within the Netherlands, supporting/project management tasks that are not directly related to the project's R&D activities.
- ▶ As the grant is meant to support research activities at research institutes, the private partners cannot have their activities sponsored by the grant.
- ▶ In exchange for their contribution, the private partners co-devise the project, and obtain first access to the results. They also obtain an exclusive option to negotiate a license to use the results and inventions coming forth from the PPP project, and if they decide to exercise their option their contribution will be taken into account during the negotiations.
- ▶ Part of the subsidy may be allocated to external academic partners, provided that at least 75% of the subsidy will be spent by Amsterdam UMC research groups.
- ▶ In case of projects in which both AMC and VUmc participate, the main applicant will be the researcher from the location with the highest share in the budget.
- ▶ The pre- and final application should contain a description of the objectives, subject, key challenges, approach, and how the project contributes to the goals of TKI-LSH/ Kennis en Innovatie Agenda. Each part of the project classification must be well described. The degree of cooperation must be clearly stated as well as why the consortium is particularly capable of achieving the objectives.
- ▶ A detailed budget, describing the contribution of each partner (in cash and in kind) and the allocation of the budget must be provided. If the in kind contribution is made as personnel costs, the role and activities of the personnel should be clearly described. TKI-LSH requires the use of a specific Excel template for project budgets. It is mandatory to contact your AMR Project Controller (PC) or VUmc financial advisor (FA) for

help to ensure that the budget meets all requirements and for approval of the budget. Applications without an approved budget will be disqualified.

- ▶ The duration of the project is limited to four (4) years. Deadline for finalizing the project is in Q4 2025, i.e. 4-year projects should start before Q4 2021.
- ▶ The intellectual property (IP) generated in the collaborative project should remain the property of AMC, VUmc and/or other academic partners. An option to negotiate a market-conform license agreement to use the intellectual property of the academic partners (incl. AMC and VUmc) is part of the standard consortium agreement.
- ▶ A consortium agreement between all partners, should be signed within six weeks of allowance of the grant.

Special Amsterdam UMC eligibility criteria

- ▶ Proposals aiming at the further development of an Amsterdam UMC patent application or other exploitable technology (e.g. software) described in an IXA invention disclosure form, whether already licensed to an Amsterdam UMC spin-off company or not ("Preferred Projects") are granted bonus points for their ranking.
- ▶ The Amsterdam UMC wishes to stimulate Artificial Intelligence (AI) development*. Thus, projects directed towards the development of new algorithms/machine learning/ AI or improvement of existing algorithms will also receive bonus points. Please note that projects simply using existing algorithms do not qualify for this bonus.
- ▶ You will be asked to explain which part of your proposal is concerning AI development. The percentage is to be calculated by determining the ration between the part of the budget spent on AI development divided by the total project budget. This aspect will be judged by independent AI experts that will check the rationale behind your AI percentage that you will need to provide.

Criteria for ranking the proposals by the jury are:

- ▶ Scientific quality (max 3 pts).
- ▶ Feasibility (max 3 pts).
- ▶ Potential relevance to society (impact/utilization) (max 3 pts).

NB The average jury scores for scientific quality, feasibility and impact should each be rated >3 on a scale of 1-5 (a score of 15 translates into the max. of 3 pts).

* Artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare is defined as the use of complex algorithms and software to emulate human cognition in the analysis of complicated medical data. AI is the ability for computer algorithms to approximate conclusions without direct human input. What distinguishes AI technology from traditional technologies in health care is the ability to gain information, process it and give a well-defined output to the end-user. AI does this through machine learning algorithms. These algorithms can recognize patterns in behavior and create their own logic.

- ▶ Preferred Projects are granted bonus points (0.5 pts).
- ▶ AI Projects may also receive up to 0.5 bonus points, depending on what percentage of the project is rated as AI work (to be indicated by the applicant and checked by AI experts who assist the jury in this respect).
- ▶ Number of industrial partners (0.05 pts per partner, with max 0.15 pts for 3 or more partners).
- ▶ Amount of in cash contribution by industrial partner(s) (0.05 pts for every 10K cash contribution up to a max of 1.0 pts for a 200K or larger contribution). Please realize that a cash contribution can significantly increase the chance of your proposal being awarded.

Process

First inform your IXA BD and PC/FA person of your intention to submit a pre-application. They are available for support during the preparation of the proposal. Upon receipt of the pre-applications, IXA BD will first check whether they are eligible. Then the jury will review and rank them*. Applicants will be informed whether their pre-application qualifies for a possible financial contribution from the TKI grant fund, after which those that qualify are invited to submit a full proposal using a template made available by IXA. The jury will then review and rank the full proposals and decide which projects will be awarded a TKI grant. Finally IXA will check, with the aid of TKI-LSH, the proposed development stage of the project (fundamental/industrial/experimental development) to exclude having to pay back any subsidy received due to a too opportunistic classification.

Obligations for applicants

- ▶ Contact your business developer at IXA:
Amsterdam UMC researchers aiming at obtaining a TKI grant are required to involve their [IXA BD](#) in the writing and submission of the grant pre- and final proposals. If you do not know your IXA BD, please contact Nanny Appel at 020-5665056 and/or tki@ixa.nl or one of the BDs, whose contact details can be found at the IXA website (www.ixa.nl/about/teams).

* to limit the effort for applicants and jury, the number of projects going through to the final round will be limited, based on the total subsidy amount requested. This amount shall be 1.5x the total amount available, i.e. approximately 12 million euros. Assuming an average request for subsidy of 500K, some 24 projects will be invited to write a full proposal. Thus the pre-application round is very important! Please note that the maximum number of words available for questions 7 & 8 of the pre-application form (see Annex A) is not to be exceeded.

- ▶ Involve the financial department:
AMC applicants must involve the [AMR project controller](#) (PC) of their department in the preparation of the detailed budget plan to both the pre- and final application. VUmc applicants need to involve their [financial advisor](#) (“financieel adviseur overige geldzaken”; FA). We urge you to do this at an early stage. Please note that the final budget sheet of both the pre- and final application requires a signature of your PC/FA. Please note that the total budget of the final application may not differ by more than 10% from the total budget of the pre-application.
Funded applicants shall be expected to follow the budget as originally approved in the detailed budget plan. Deviations from the budget shall require written approval from the IXA organizing committee (through your IXA BD).
- ▶ Obtain approval from the director of your alliance institute:
Each Amsterdam UMC alliance institute will prescreen the pre-proposals to be submitted by its applicants for alignment with the institute’s strategic plans. Thus, the pre-proposal form will contain an obligatory checkbox for the alliance institute director’s approval.
- ▶ Secure the letter of intent / commitment from the private partners:
The pre-application must be accompanied by a Letter of Intent from and signed by each private partner. At the final proposal stage, Letters of Commitment from all partners (except AMC/VUmc) will be required.

Jury

Each proposal will be judged by four jury members, consisting of two scientists selected from the eight Amsterdam UMC alliance institutes, an IXA BD and an outside expert on impact (e.g. a life sciences venture capitalist or entrepreneur). Distribution of the proposals over the scientific, BDs and outside experts will be at random. Conflict of interest situations will be avoided, e.g. scientists cannot evaluate proposals from applicants of their own alliance institute and IXA BDs cannot judge proposals from researchers within their own portfolio. This year the pre- and final applications of a particular applicant will be judged by the same (four) jury members. They will be asked to provide limited feedback on the three selection criteria (scientific quality, feasibility and impact).

Judgement of the AI-percentage of the applications will be done by AI-experts from UvA and VU.

Following the ranking of the final applications, there will be a consensus meeting with the jury to address possible major differences in the four jury scores of each proposal. The decisions of the jury are final and binding, i.e. there will be no appeal procedure.

CHECKLIST Pre-application

- IXA BD involved
- AMR PC/VUmc FA involved
- Approval of Alliance Institute has been obtained
- The consortium consists of at least one research organisation and one for-profit enterprise
- The main applicant is located in the Netherlands
- The project has a duration of a maximum of 48 months
- Effective collaboration takes place. This means, for example, that the project is realised at joint cost and risk
- All consortium partners are making an *in kind* contribution. This means, for example, that all consortium partners should at least incur payroll costs
- At least 2/3rd of the required minimum contribution of a large enterprise consists of a cash contribution
- The research organisation contributes at least 10% of the total project costs
- The budgeted costs are directly related to the R&D activities, and do not include for example: bench fee costs, travel within the Netherlands, supporting/project management tasks that are not directly related to the project's R&D activities
- The budget form has been signed by AMR-PC / VUmc FA
- The pre-application form has been fully filled-in and signed

Calendar

Wednesday September 23, 2020	Registration open. Announcement of the TKI grant and by direct mailing to all AMC and VUmc PI's and the Amsterdam UMC Research Board (ARB). News item on call available on Amsterdam UMC intranet and IXA website (www.ixa.nl).
Wednesday September 30, 2020, from 12.00-13.00	Webinar for all Amsterdam UMC PI's interested in applying for a TKI grant. All PI's will receive an invitation by e-mail.
Tuesday November 17, 2020, 17.00h	Deadline for completing the pre-application budget sheet with your project controller/financial advisor.
Friday November 20, 2020, 14.00h	Deadline for the internal registration. Completed templates, with a systematic outline of the project and the plan for the use of the TKI grant, to be sent to: tki@ixa.nl
Friday January 8, 2021	The jury has decided on the ranking of the pre-proposals and its decision is communicated to the applicants by IXA.
Tuesday March 9, 2021, 17.00h	Deadline for completing the final budget sheet with your project controller/financial advisor.
Friday March 12, 2021, 14.00h	Deadline for full proposals, to be submitted to tki@ixa.nl . It is the responsibility of the main applicant to make clear to all consortium partners that deviating from the conditions of the template consortium agreement as provided by IXA is not possible, and that all external partners are to acknowledge this in their Letter of Commitment

Friday April 30, 2021	Final decision by the jury on the ranking of the full proposals. Proposals meeting the requirements and that are of sufficient quality will be granted.
Friday June 11, 2021	Deadline for finalizing and signing the consortium agreement.
xx November, 2025	Ultimate end date for all projects from this TKI grant round (exact date still to be announced by RVO).

Where does the money for the TKI grant fund come from?

The Ministry of Economic Affairs wishes to stimulate PPPs by allowing a 25% subsidy on private contributions to PPPs. This subsidy is managed by the Topconsortia for Knowledge and Innovation (TKIs), among which TKI-LSH. Since 2016 IXA Offices AMC and VU-Umc are administrating all private contributions to AMC or VUmc PPP's in the previous year, including those of charity foundations (except the 21 largest Dutch foundations united in the Stichting Gezondheids Fondsen (SGF), such as KWF and the Hartstichting) by retrieving the underlying contracts and invoices from our databases, listing them in an Excel file, and submitting this to TKI-LSH to determine the total amount of "grondslag" raised by AMC and VUmc. RVO (the "Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland") checks the information delivered to it by TKI-LSH and informs the Ministry of EZ how much subsidy is to be provided.

We look forward to spending another 8-9 million on your great projects, which will require quite some lobbying from you with potentially interested private partners (companies).

We wish you good luck attracting the necessary industrial funding!



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