

Grants for public-private partnerships (TKI-grant)

PILOT CALL 2024



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

Amsterdam UMC TKI-grant

Goal of the Amsterdam UMC TKI-grant

With this grant Amsterdam UMC wishes to stimulate its 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).

From 2024 the RVO changed the funding regulation, this includes, among other things, new funding conditions. In this one-time Pilot Call 2024 we and Health~Holland aim to gain experience with the structure of the new regulation and the corresponding financial conditions.

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 € 200,000 to € 500,000 subsidy per PPP-project (i.e. exclusive of the matching contributions, see Table 1). Projects applying for less than € 200,000 or more than € 500,000 subsidy will not be considered. There will be a total budget available for Amsterdam UMC applications in the order of € 4 million.

Deadline pre-application

Friday May 24th 2024, 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.

General conditions and eligibility criteria

- ▶ The research fits within the central mission and one of the five focused missions that contribute to the central mission as described in the [Kennis- en Innovatieagenda Gezondheid & Zorg 2024-2027](#)
- ▶ The project is not funded otherwise.
- ▶ The collaborative project involves at least one industrial partner; it is to be realized at joint cost and risk and all consortium partners make a substantial contribution to the project, not only in cash or materially, but also in kind. In other words, the project is a true collaborative effort.
- ▶ Industrial party/ies involved in the PPP are obliged to, contribute in cash and/or in kind to guarantee the active involvement of the company/ies.
- ▶ The grant is meant to support research activities at research institutes, the private partners cannot have their activities sponsored by the grant. An exception is made for SMEs that can have 60% of their fundamental or industrial activities and 40% of their experimental activities sponsored by the grant (see Table 1).
- ▶ 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>. It is your responsibility as applicant to make sure your SME partners qualify as an SME, so be sure to ask them to provide proof of their SME status using the “mkb-toets”.
- ▶ The percentage of the project costs which can be financed from the grant depends on the type of research performed as follows:
 - o Fundamental and industrial research up to 70%
 - o Experimental development up to 60%

See Table 1. These categories roughly correspond to the technology readiness level of the proposal (1-3, 4-6, and 7) as used for EU projects (see Pre-application Form, Annex A 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) |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Maximum % PPP-allowance to be deployed | 70% | 70% | 60% |
| Dutch SME | 60 | 60 | 40 |
| Research organisation* | min. 10%-max 15% | min 10%-max 15% | min. 10%-max 15% |
| For-Profit enterprise** | min 15%*** | min. 15%*** | min. 30%*** |

* in cash or in kind

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

*** Please note that cash contributions contribute to your overall score (see section on criteria for ranking)! If an enterprise contributes in cash, it is required to be an in cash contribution owed to the research organization in the Netherlands (and not to the project concerned).

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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. The use of the specific Excel template for the TKI-project budgets is required: “2024-AUMC - tki-pilot-budget-form_PPP Subsidy”. 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.
- ▶ 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. See also the additional tab in the budget sheet ‘Toelichting kostensoorten’.

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ The duration of the project is limited to four (4) years. Deadline for finalizing the project is December 31st, 2029, i.e. 4-year projects should start before December 31st, 2025. An extension of this period is not possible
- ▶ In exchange for their contribution, the private partners co-devise the project, and obtain first access to the results. The ownership of the intellectual property (IP) generated in the collaborative project is determined according to the principle “ownership follows inventorship”. An option to negotiate a market-conform license agreement to use the intellectual property of the academic partners (incl. Amsterdam UMC) is part of the standard consortium agreement. If a private partner decides to exercise the option the financial and in kind contribution to the project will be taken into account during the negotiations.
- ▶ 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.

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).

- ▶ Preferred Projects are granted bonus points (0.5 pts).
- ▶ 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 BDs 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 or tki@ixa.nl or one of the BDs, whose contact details can be found at the IXA website ([Contact IXA teams - Innovation Exchange Amsterdam](#)).

▶ Involve the financial department:

Applicants must contact the AMR project controller (PC) or Financial advisor (financieel adviseur overige geldzaken; FA). We urge you to do this at an early stage, especially as the budget scheme and conditions have changed considerably from previous years. Please note that the final budget sheet of both the pre- and

* 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 6 million euros. Assuming an average request for subsidy of 350K, some 17 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 is **NOT to be exceeded**.

final application requires the signature of your PC/FA. Please note that the total PPP subsidy of the final application may not differ by more than 10% from the PPP subsidy requested in 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 contains an obligatory checkbox for the alliance institute director's approval and must be confirmed by e-mail by one of Alliance Institute's directors to the applicant (with cc to or to be forwarded by the applicant to tki@ixa.nl).

► **Secure the letter of intent / commitment from the private partners:**

The pre-application must be accompanied by a Letter of Intent form and signed by each private partner. At the final proposal stage, Letters of Commitment from all partners (except Stichting Amsterdam UMC) will be required. Please note that the content of these Letters cannot be changed

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.

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).

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 before May 10th, 2024
 - AMR PC/VUmc FA involved. Deadline for completing the final budget sheet with your project controller/financial advisor is May 10th, 2024
 - Approval of Alliance Institute obtained with cc to or forwarded to tki@ixa.nl
 - Consortium consists of at least one research organisation and one for-profit enterprise
 - Main applicant is from the Amsterdam UMC
 - Project duration does not exceed 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
 - 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 "2024-AUMC - tki-pilot-budget-form_PPP Subsidy" has been signed by AMR-PC / VUmc FA
 - The SME check ("mkb-toets") is done, if applicable
 - The pre-application is accompanied by a Letter of Intent and signed by each private partner.
- NB the content of the LOI cannot be changed
- The pre-application form has been fully filled-in and signed

CHECKLIST Full application

- The final-application is accompanied by a Letter of Commitment of all partners.
- The final-application form has been fully filled-in and signed.
- The budget form is signed by AMC-PC / VUmc FA. The total PPP subsidy of the final application may not differ by more than 10% from the PPP subsidy requested in the pre-application.

Calendar

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| <p>Friday April 12, 2024</p> | <p>Registration open.</p> <p>Announcement of the TKI grant and by direct mailing to all Amsterdam UMC PI's and the Amsterdam UMC Research Board (ARB).</p> <p>News item on call available on Amsterdam UMC intranet and IXA website (www.ixa.nl).</p> |
| <p>Monday April 22, 2024, from 12.00-13.00</p> | <p>Presentation at location VUmc for all Amsterdam UMC PI's interested in applying for a TKI grant. All PI's will receive an invitation by e-mail.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday April 23, 2024, from 12.00-13.00</p> | <p>Presentation at location AMC for all Amsterdam UMC PI's interested in applying for a TKI grant. All PI's will receive an invitation by e-mail.</p> |
| <p>Tuesday May 17, 2024, 17.00</p> | <p>Deadline for completing the budget sheet with your project controller/financial advisor. Time for adjustments till Friday 24th, 2024</p> |
| <p>Friday May 24, 2024, 14.00</p> | <p>Deadline for submission of the pre-application. Completed pre-application form, with a systematic outline of the project and the plan for the use of the TKI grant, signed budget sheet and Letter(s) of Intent, are to be sent to: tki@ixa.nl</p> |
| <p>Monday July 15, 2024</p> | <p>The jury has decided on the ranking of the pre-proposals and its decision is communicated to the applicants by IXA.</p> |
| <p>Friday October 11, 2024, 17.00</p> | <p>Deadline for completing the final budget sheet with your project controller/financial advisor (see page 4/5).</p> |

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| Friday October 18, 2024 14.00 | 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 January 31, 2025 | 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 March 28, 2025 | Deadline for finalizing and signing the consortium agreement. |

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

The Ministry of Economic Affairs wishes to stimulate PPPs by allocating a yearly budget to subsidize PPPs. This subsidy is managed by the Topconsortia for Knowledge and Innovation (TKIs), among which TKI-LSH (a.k.a. Health-Holland). Since 2016 IXA Offices AMC and VU-VUmc participated in the so called grondslag procedure. This grondslag was based on the worth of the PPP projects of Amsterdam UMC of previous years and formed the base for the budget allocated to Amsterdam UMC.

Since 2024 this grondslag procedure has changed. the ‘PPP Research and Innovation Regulation’ changed into the ‘PPP Innovation Subsidy Regulation’. This amended regulation includes, among other things, new funding conditions. In this one-time Pilot Call 2024, the Top Sector LSH makes €4 million PPP Subsidy available to Amsterdam UMC with the aim of allowing parties to gain experience with the structure of the new regulation and the corresponding financial conditions.

We look forward to spending another 4 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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