

Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

UK-Netherlands Co-Innovation & Testbeds Pilot for Quantum Technologies

Time Schedule

Announcement of the Call	8 September 2025
Opening of the Call	15 September 2025
Deadline for application	28 October 2025
Funding decision communicated	Mid December 2025
Project Start	Between 1 January 2026 – 1 February 2026

1. Introduction

The UK and the Netherlands both have world leading ecosystems for the development of quantum technology. Combining the expertise from both countries with fundamental knowledge of quantum science can accelerate the development of new quantum technologies.

As a concrete next step in building the strategic relationship, this bilateral call aims to support collaboration in the development, prototyping and testing of second-generation quantum technologies; with ambitions to continue this collaboration in the future.

2. Call description

Based on mutual consent, the funding organisations in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are launching a common call for projects. Participants are invited to submit joint project proposals in the research and development of innovative products and applications with a strong market potential.

3. Scope

This call invites consortia to apply high quality R&D projects on quantum technologies within the scope of the call. The aim of this competition is to strengthen collaborative research and development (CR&D) through Netherlands based and UK partnerships towards commercialising quantum technologies. The co-innovation project must focus on development, prototyping and testing of commercial quantum technologies in one or more of the following themes:

- Software services or hardware solutions to advance commercial deployment of entanglement based quantum networking.
- Quantum computing algorithms, software applications, and services development.
- Adoption of quantum sensing for commercial applications in areas such as biosensing, public infrastructure and PNT.

4. Qualification Criteria

Partners must meet the following qualifications:

- The consortium must be (co)led by two legal entities that are independent from each other, one (for profit) company from The United Kingdom and one (for profit) company from the Netherlands.
- The consortium must collaborate with at least one testbed provider in the United Kingdom and/or the Netherlands, having access to a relevant Quantum technology. Testbeds are prototype or development platform(s) to characterise, advance and demonstrate commercial quantum compute, networking, sensing solutions. The participating testbeds may be hosted at either a National lab, Research organisation or University research facility. In the case the testbed provider is not a project partner in the consortium, a signed letter of cooperation is needed as an annex to the relevant national application.
- The project must be directed at researching or developing an innovative product, process or service with the goal of commercialisation.
- The product, process or service must be innovative, and there must be a technological risk involved for all involved partners.
- The project must benefit all involved partners.
- No individual organisation, or participating country, can claim more than 70% of the total eligible project costs of the joint project.
- The project must have an obvious benefit and added value resulting from the technological cooperation between the participants (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).
- The product, process or service must be innovative and with the potential to create impact.
- A signed consortium agreement is required between project partners.
- The maximum duration of a project may not exceed 24 months.
- The project must have a civilian purpose.
- Project partners must submit national applications to their respective funding organisations to be eligible for assessment and potential funding.
- Project partners must use the same project title when submitting the national applications to their respective funding organisations.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present call in accordance with their own laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect, on a non-exchange of funds basis, and subject to budgetary availability. The amount of funding available per project partner is subject to the respective rules and regulations of the participating funding organisations.

Project partners are strongly advised, prior to submitting the application, to contact their funding organisation (see below) in order to check the eligibility of their project.

Partners from other countries can also participate, but they will not be funded by the participating funding bodies in this call. Subsequently, these partners have to secure their own funding within the deadlines for this call.

5. Application

All project partners are required to submit a related funding application to their respective funding bodies, taking into account all relevant procedures and submission rules.

- Applicants in the United Kingdom must submit their application on the ISF portal (<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search>) before 28 October 2025, 11:00 hours GMT (12:00 hours CE(S)T)
- Applicants in the Netherlands must submit their application on the e-loket (<https://mijn.rvo.nl/eloket/login-start.html>) before 28 October 2025, 17:00 hours CE(S)T (16:00 hours GMT)

The national applications of the consortium partners should be clearly linked by using the same project title.

All applications are assessed against the qualification criteria of the call before being put forward for the assessments according to the respective eligibility and evaluation criteria of the participating funding bodies.

6. Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated at the level of the participating funding organisations. The basis for the evaluation is the qualification criteria for the common call, the eligibility and evaluation criteria of the participating funding bodies, and the information provided in the national applications forms.

A bilateral consensus meeting between the funding organisations of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands will select projects to be approved based on the assessors' scores. After a common list of funded and non-funded projects has been agreed, the funding organisations will inform the applicants about the results.

7. Funding Conditions

Funding will only be provided to projects that are positively evaluated and ranked by the two participating funding organisations, and subject to budgetary availability and funding conditions stipulated by each funding organisation.

Any IPR arising from cooperative project activities under this call will be regulated in a Consortium Agreement (CA) in accordance with the relevant laws applicable to the project partners.

A signed CA on the execution and commercialisation of the projects results is mandatory for selected projects and must be sent to the funding agencies no later than 3 months after the results of the evaluation have been communicated.

The funding organisations named below will provide access to public investment for the selected projects. The support will be given to each partner by its respective funding body in accordance with their laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect, on a non-exchange of funds or soft loan basis, and subject to budgetary availability for each funding body.

8. Contact Points from each participating funding organisation:

Innovate UK

Quantum Technologies Industry Fund

Email: support@iuk.ukri.org

Phone: +44 (0) 300 321 4357

Our phone lines are open from 9am to 12pm and 2pm to 5pm UK time, Monday to Friday (excluding bank holidays).

RVO

International Innovation & Cooperation department

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9. Eligibility Criteria for each participating funding organisation:

Innovate UK

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £600k for innovative projects in quantum technologies. The aim of this competition is to strengthen collaborative research and development (CR&D) through Dutch and UK partnerships towards commercialising quantum technologies.

UK applicants must collaborate with relevant testbed [Commercial technology development infrastructure] provider in UK or Netherlands, and at least one Dutch business partner applying under the equivalent RVO funding programme to advance the development of quantum technologies and commercial use cases. The deadline for submission is 28 October 2025, 11:00 hours (GMT).

All information about the national call can be found here:

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2288/overview/d547d84e-d652-4ed6-9c85-b12ab8d785d2#dates>

RVO

Under the program funded by RVO, only R&D costs are eligible for funding. Enterprises and research institutes can apply for grant funding up to 50% depending on the type of organization and the type of activities:

- Large companies: 35% for research activities, 25% for development activities;
- SMEs: 45% for research activities, 35% for development activities;
- Universities / research organisations: 50% for research activities, 25% for development activities.

The maximum funding (grant) per project is 300.000 EUR. The total budget at RVO for this call is 600.000 EUR.

Project partners from The Netherlands need to submit an application to RVO, including a detailed project plan and budget. The application must be submitted by a for profit Netherlands company. Other Netherlands organisations can join as project partner to the Netherlands application. The deadline for submission is 28 October 2025, 17:00 hours CE(S)T. RVO invites partners for a pre-check of their project ideas.

More info: <https://www.rvo.nl/techbridge>

Other organisations

Organisations from other countries can participate provided:

- they arrange their own funding
- the project meets the eligibility participation criteria
- they respect the deadlines of the call

Information session & online matchmaking

The participating funding organisations in the United Kingdom and The Netherlands host an information session about the call on 22 September 2025. For more information about this event, interested organisations are referred to the following B2Match website: <https://www.b2match.com/e/nl-uk-quantumtech>. This website also offers the possibility for online matchmaking.