



Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the IDA and RVO

Photonics Integrated Circuits

Time Schedule

Opening of the call	2 March 2026
Application deadline	2 June 2026
Evaluation results communicated	Mid-November 2026
Project Start	January 2027

1. Introduction

Taiwan and the Netherlands both have world leading ecosystems for the development and application of integrated photonics. Both Netherlands and Taiwan have top-level expertise and skills in designing and manufacturing of photonics integrated circuits (PICs) and the integration of these PICs with electronics into electro-optical solutions.

Combining the ecosystems of Taiwan and the Netherlands brings together the knowledge and expertise of design, materials, PICs, semiconductors, packaging and applications as well as the critical capabilities of production.

2. Call overview

Based on mutual consent, the funding organisations in the Netherlands and Taiwan are launching a joint 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 integrated photonics. The aim of this competition is to support collaborations in cutting-edge research and innovation of integrated photonics, and support enabling technologies for (future) high-volume production. The following PIC relevant technologies could be part of a project (not exclusive):

- Heterogeneous integration of advanced materials (e.g. III-V, Si, Si₃N₄, LiNbO₃, and Al₂O₃, etc.);
- Pluggable module and/or Co-packaged Optics (CPO) for advanced applications;
- Advanced photonic packaging, metrology, and testing techniques;
- Novel sensing technologies using integrated photonics.

The project should work towards the acceleration of high volume production of integrated photonic solutions. Collaboration with the photonic manufacturing supply chain is seen as a key factor to accelerate market access of these technologies.

4. Qualification Criteria

Partners must meet the following qualifications:

- The consortium should include at least two organisations that are independent from each other, one (for profit) company from Taiwan and one (for profit) company from the Netherlands.
- 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 36 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.

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.

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 Taiwan must submit their application to IDA before 2 June 2026. More info: <https://tiip.itnet.org.tw> – in Chinese only.
- Applicants in the Netherlands must submit their application on the e-loket (<https://mijn.rvo.nl/eloket/login-start.html>) before June 2 2026, 17:00 hours CEST (23:00 hours CST)

The separate applications of the consortium partners should be clearly linked by using same project title (or acronym). In addition, all consortium partners are requested to submit a “Common Consortium Form (common proposal)” together with their respective applications.

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.

Incomplete or late applications may not be considered for evaluation. Applicants are therefore encouraged to start preparing their application and required documents well in advance of the deadline

All partners are strongly advised to contact their respective funding agencies for a pre-check of eligibility before submitting their application. Participation in information sessions organized by the respective funding organisation(s) is also encouraged to facilitate strong consortia and high-quality proposals.

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 joint call, the eligibility and evaluation criteria of the participating funding bodies, and the information provided in the applications form.

A consensus meeting between the funding organisations of Taiwan 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 organization:

Industrial Development Administration (IDA)

Operated by TIIP

Mr. Ted Yang

Email : tedyang@smecf.org.tw Phone:

+886 2 27044844

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)
International Innovation & Cooperation department

Mr Arnold Meijer
Email: Arnold.Meijer@rvo.nl
Phone: +31 6 4627 3471

Mr. Eddy Schipper
Email: eddy.schipper@rvo.nl
Phone: +31 6 5248 6333

9. Eligibility Criteria for each participating funding

organization: Industrial Development Administration TIIP (IDA)

The application must be submitted by a Taiwanese company. IDA does not fund universities and research organizations. However, universities and research organizations are welcome as subcontractors of Taiwanese companies. Companies can apply for grant funding up to 50% of the eligible costs depending on the industrial impact of the project in accordance with the Industrial Upgrading Innovation Platform Guidance Program.

Prior to the submission of the application forms, the applicants are recommended to get in touch with IDA for a pre-check of their project ideas and Eligibility. More info: <https://tiip.itnet.org.tw> – in Chinese only.

Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

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 Dutch company. Other Dutch organizations may join the application as project partners.

The deadline for national submission is June 2, 2026, at 17:00 CEST. RVO invites partners to participate in a pre-check of their project ideas. More info: www.rvo.nl/techbridge

Before submitting an application under this call, Netherlands applicants are strongly advised to verify that they are not considered an undertaking in difficulty within the meaning of EU State aid rules. Applications from undertakings in difficulty are generally not eligible for funding. You will be required to submit a declaration confirming that your enterprise is not in difficulty as part of your application. For more information, please visit www.rvo.nl/iom

Companies and research organizations can apply for grant funding of up to 50%, depending on the type of organization and the activities involved. Only direct R&D costs are eligible for funding:

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

The maximum grant per project is €700,000, with a total budget of €1,900,000 for this call. Eligible costs and restrictions (e.g., personnel, equipment, overhead, subcontracting) must follow RVO guidelines.