



Netherlands Enterprise Agency

2nd Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

Commissioned by the ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate and Policy

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Netherlands Enterprise Agency

2nd Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between the Netherlands and the United Kingdom

UK-Netherlands Collaborative R&D projects for Commercialising Quantum Technologies

Time Schedule

Opening of the call	2 November 2026
Online information session	11 November 2026
Deadline for application	9 February 2027
Funding decision communicated	End of March 2027
Project Start	1 June 2027

1. Introduction

The United Kingdom and the Netherlands both host world-leading ecosystems for the development of quantum technologies. By combining the expertise of both countries with their strong foundations in quantum science, we can accelerate the development of next-generation quantum technologies.

Following the success of the first pilot call in 2025, and as a concrete next step in strengthening the strategic partnership, this second bilateral call aims to further support collaboration in the development, prototyping, and testing of second-generation quantum technologies. It also reflects the shared ambition to continue and deepen this collaboration in the future.

2. Call description & objectives

Based on mutual consent, the funding organisations in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are launching this 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. The overarching goal is to foster deep bilateral knowledge exchange and drive economic growth within both nations' quantum industries.

3. Scope

This call invites consortia to submit 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 partnerships between organisations in the and the UK 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 or hardware solutions to advance commercial deployment of entanglement based quantum networking.
- Quantum computing algorithms, software applications, and hybrid workflows.
- Advance adoption of quantum sensing and imaging for commercial applications in areas such as life sciences, healthcare and public infrastructure.
- Demonstrate commercially viable industrial manufacturing and assembly processes to build hardware devices such as detectors, control electronics, laser and optical systems, vacuum and cryogenic systems to enable next generation performance for quantum computers and networking applications

We encourage projects to include Testbed Providers or pilot production lines in the United Kingdom and/or the Netherlands. 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.

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 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 9 February 2027, 11:00 hours GMT (12:00 hours CET)
- Applicants in the Netherlands must submit their application via the RVO application system ([Inloggen bij RVO](#)) before 9 February 2027, 17:00 hours CET (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

Mr Arnold Meijer

Email: Arnold.Meijer@rvo.nl

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Mr. Niels van Leeuwen

Email: Niels.vanLeeuwen@rvo.nl

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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 £400k 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 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 9 February 2027, 11:00 hours (GMT).

All information about the national call can be found on the IFS portal: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/search>

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. The total budget at RVO for this call is € 1,200,000.

Project partners from the Netherlands need to submit an application to RVO, including a detailed project plan, budget, international consortium form and public summary. 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 9 February 2027, 17:00 hours CET. RVO invites partners for a pre-check of their project ideas.

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

Before submitting an application under this call, 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.

Third-country participation

Partners from countries other than the United Kingdom and the Netherlands may participate provided they secure their own funding prior to the submission of the Netherlands and UK proposals and comply with all eligibility and submission requirements.

A signed self-funding letter of the project partner(s) from the third country should be submitted as an annex to the national applications in the Netherlands and the UK.

Any restrictions on the number of third-country partners should be clarified with the respective funding agencies.

10. Information session

The participating funding organisations in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands will host a joint information session about the call on 11 November 2026.

Potential applicants are highly encouraged to attend to learn more about eligibility criteria and matchmaking opportunities. Please refer to the official websites of Innovate UK and RVO for the latest information and registration details in due time.

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Netherlands Enterprise Agency is part of the ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.