

Information sheet projects Strategic Basic Research financed by Materinex reserved resources – version September 2024¹

1. Features

Strategic Basic Research projects financed from Materinex reserved VLAIO resources and submitted within the [cSBO](#) framework:

- Relate to innovative research that, in case of scientific success, offers a prospect for later economic applications.
- Are demand-driven and meet identified and endorsed needs of the Materinex target companies. In other words, the research presented in the project must be supported by companies, either for industrial implementation by these companies or as support for potential future products or technologies.
- The implementation of the economic applicability is done through cooperation with companies and transfer of the knowledge to these companies.
- Do not stand alone but strengthen the Materinex project portfolio to realize the strategic objectives of Materinex² and its target group(s).
- Contribute to the realization of the Materinex roadmaps³ by means of the intended knowledge building (= further technical-content deepening) and the intended knowledge building is urgent and important.

Allocation and financing of cSBOs within the regular project activities of Materinex is rather **exceptional**. The necessity for this will therefore be part of the evaluation.

2. Valorisation strategy of a Materinex cSBO project

Due to the large distance from the market, a successful cSBO project will first produce results that will subsequently be translated into concrete applications in companies via further research, development, and implementation processes.

The most important basic valorisation strategy in the design and implementation of a Materinex cSBO project is the transfer of the research results to companies. In this case, applicants must demonstrate the applicability to multiple companies. If the project shows selectivity towards one company or a limited number of companies or is strongly embedded in the product range of a specific company, support as a cSBO project is not possible.

When assessing cSBO project proposals, much emphasis is placed on the active participation of companies from the early stages of the development of a project proposal (so that the proposal meets the real needs and requirements of a group of companies). Applicants for a cSBO project must demonstrate such preparatory work and substantiate the impact of this on the project proposal.

During the project implementation of a cSBO project, an Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) is mandatory. This committee is open to all interested companies, including those established outside the Flemish

¹ For a full explanation, we refer to the 'Manual for Strategic Basic Research for Clusters for projects with an economic finality', version January 2023 (only available in Dutch), which can be found on the VLAIO website.

² Materinex aims to strengthen the ecosystem of the materials industry in Flanders in terms of research and innovation, on three innovation themes pre-selected with industrial, academic and policy stakeholders and for which roadmaps have been developed.

³ The roadmaps can be found at: [Materinex - Nexus for sustainable materials research in Flanders | Materinex](#). These roadmaps provide the framework for developing and assessing project proposals.

region, and fulfils a sounding board function. If a company wishes to join the IAB of a cSBO project, this requires a limited financial contribution during the project implementation (at least 250 euros/year for an SME or at least 1,000 euros/year for a large company or other organisation).

Companies that wish to participate in the IAB of a cSBO project must substantiate their commitments by means of a motivated declaration of intent. **At least 5 motivated and signed declarations of intent must be added to the pre-registration.** These declarations form an integral part of a cSBO project pre-application.

The intellectual property of the project lies 100% with the project implementers (in this case the research centres). The transfer of IP to companies requires a market-conform compensation. There is non-exclusive access to the results, but it is possible to obtain a 'right of first negotiation'.

3. Modalities and eligibility criteria of a MateriNex cSBO project

Applicants

- At least two research groups from at least one Flemish research centre, i.e., an organisation for research and knowledge dissemination (university, university college, (strategic) research centre) established in the Flemish Region.
- Imec, VITO, VIB, Flanders Make, VLIZ and the Flemish scientific institutions with a grant from the Flemish government can only submit a cSBO project proposal in collaboration with at least one other Flemish research centre.
- A Flemish university college always submits a cSBO project proposal in collaboration with or at least after advice from the university within the association to which it is affiliated. Flemish university colleges can only submit a project proposal in collaboration with at least one other Flemish research centre.

Financing and term

As VLAIO guideline for the size of a cSBO project budget, (1 to) 2 million euros is set for a four-year project with exceptions up to 3 million euros.

Given the task of the innovation clusters to realize innovation(s) in a relatively short period of time at a large group of companies, preference is given to short-term and smaller projects (approximately 2 years).

Support

The funding rate for the part of a cSBO proposal carried out by the research centres is 100% of the eligible costs, provided that these research centres fully comply with the European definition of research and knowledge dissemination organisation as defined in the R&D&I Framework Regulation⁴.

Data management

For all VLAIO/MateriNex cSBO projects submitted for funding, an initial Data Management Plan (DMP) (<https://www.fwo.be/media/1023898/fwo-dmp-templatedocx.docx>) must be submitted to the research coordination office of the own institution within six months after the official start date of the project. The latter will provide VLAIO with information about the presence of the initial DMP. In doing so, VLAIO follows the same procedure as FWO.

⁴ Framework Regulation (No. 2022/C414) of 28.10.2022 on State aid for research, development, and innovation.