

GENERAL PROCEDURE PROJECT SUBMISSION AT MATERINEX

V20260107

MateriNex project calls

MateriNex generally works with annual calls, although continuous submission is possible. The modalities may differ slightly per budget year. A submission must therefore comply with the rules that apply to the relevant budget year and corresponding call.

Calls may also take the form of a project accelerator. These are structured pathways leading to the submission of a project. In general, different conditions apply to these tracks.

Projects must always meet the needs of Flemish companies and fit into one of the following roadmaps:

- [materials for battery technology](#) (mobility and storage)
- [materials for building and construction](#) (low-carbon construction and resource efficiency)
- [strategic and critical raw materials](#) (ensuring supply and sustainable circular value chains)

Project types

Through annual calls:

- [cSBO](#) (strategic basic research)
- [ICON](#) (interdisciplinary cooperative research)
- [cO&O](#) (cooperative research) – research component only

Continuous submission (no call):

- [feasibility studies](#), by a consortium of at least 3 non-affiliated companies and in preparation for an ICON or another follow-up project.

Project submission process

1. Call information and support

The MateriNex team can provide additional information about the project call and the different project types and, where needed, help identify additional knowledge or industrial partners. In any case, it is advisable to involve a MateriNex innovation manager at an early stage. Applicants will receive guidance from the MateriNex team on aligning their proposal with the requirements of the project type.

Participation in the Common Interest Group for the relevant roadmap is strongly recommended.

2. Mandatory pre-application

When the project idea is sufficiently developed and the consortium has been composed, a mandatory pre-application is required for all project types.

ICON projects must be pre-notified to both VLAIO and MateriNex. The pre-application to MateriNex consists of a copy of the pre-application to VLAIO and a concise additional MateriNex document.

For cSBO projects and feasibility studies, a pre-application to MateriNex is mandatory:

- For a cSBO project, applicants must complete and submit the designated MateriNex pre-application form.
- For a feasibility study, given its limited scope, the full proposal serves as the pre-application and must be submitted to MateriNex before submission to VLAIO.

Assessment criteria

The pre-applications for cSBO, ICON and cO&O will be assessed by MateriNex in consultation with VLAIO on:

- fit with the roadmap(s)
- fit with the call modalities
- complementarity with the programmes of the spearhead clusters

Financial and procedural checks

For ICON projects, VLAIO assesses the financial health of the participating companies. Companies classified as undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for financial support from FIO.

Collaborative SPC-MateriNex projects

When the topic of an ICON or cO&O project proposal overlaps with the roadmap of one or more spearhead clusters (SPC), it may be decided, in consultation with the SPCs, to submit the project proposal as a collaborative SPC-MateriNex project. In that case, the leading SPC takes over and the procedure of the SPCs is followed. For such collaborative projects, both the companies on the industrial advisory board and the consortium companies will be asked to comply with the conditions imposed by the leading cluster. In a collaborative project, MateriNex will not charge any additional fee to project partners or members of the industrial advisory board and will leave the follow-up to the clusters. MateriNex will, however, be a member of the advisory board and participate in dissemination activities. MateriNex must also be mentioned in all communications and publications.

3. Full MateriNex project proposal

Only the pre-applied project ideas that receive a GO from MateriNex, and for ICON from both MateriNex and VLAIO, can be further developed into a full project proposal and submitted via VLAIO's KRIS portal. They are assessed by VLAIO advisors assisted by international experts.

From the pre-application onwards, the submitting consortium is guided by a MateriNex innovation manager. The project proposal is carefully reviewed and optimised in advance with the consortium members and coordinator.

4. VLAIO-approved MateriNex projects

The HBC decision letter is sent by VLAIO to the project coordinator, who must provide a copy to MateriNex.

For ICON projects approved by VLAIO, MateriNex will support the drafting of a consortium agreement using a mandatory template.(SWOK)

Monitoring, dissemination and success fee

MateriNex will co-monitor the project progress and support dissemination. For this, MateriNex will charge all project partners of each approved ICON project a one-time success fee. This fee amounts to €3,000 for a research institution or large enterprise and €1,500 for an SME.

For approved cSBO projects, the project partners may use their own template for the consortium agreement. MateriNex will co-monitor the project progress and support dissemination.

Industrial Advisory Board contribution

MateriNex will charge the members of the industrial advisory board of approved ICON and cSBO projects for an annual financial contribution in line with the FWO guidelines. This currently amounts to €1,000 for a large company and €250 for an SME. MateriNex will draw up an Advisory Board Agreement (ABA) with the members of the industrial advisory board for this purpose.

ICON and cSBO project consortia are expected to invite the MateriNex Innovation Manager to the project kick-off, key follow-up meetings and Industrial Advisory Board meetings.

Specific conditions for cO&O projects

For cO&O projects, an Industrial Advisory Board is not required, MateriNex is not involved in the consortium agreement, and no success fee applies.

Questions?

Contact us at projects@materinex.be or [Contact us | Materinex](#)