



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1st Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects between Germany and the Netherlands

Commissioned by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency

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International.

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Co-development of Next-Generation Sustainable Battery Technologies and Battery Manufacturing

Time Schedule

Announcement of the call, Battery Day NL	23 September 2026
Opening of the call	1 October 2026
Application deadline	19 January 2027
Evaluation results communicated	Early March 2027
Project start	From 1 June 2027 onwards

Please note: The timelines indicated for the Netherlands and Germany may differ. National procedures and schedules apply, and timelines may vary accordingly. Applicants are advised to consult the national funding agency for the most up-to-date and applicable information.

1. Introduction

The transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient industrial society requires a strong European battery value chain and technological sovereignty in strategically relevant future technologies. Germany and the Netherlands possess complementary scientific, industrial and infrastructural strengths that shall be systematically combined through an intensified bilateral research cooperation.

The envisaged cooperation between leaders in battery technology from both Germany and the Netherlands aims to sustainably strengthen Europe's innovation capacity and competitiveness in next generation battery technologies. The collaboration will focus in particular on novel materials and cell components as well as scalable production and process technologies.

As scaling up and market readiness are known bottlenecks for European industry¹, this cooperation focuses on bringing technologies to the next industrial level. This not only requires the participation of the most promising German and Dutch companies in the greater battery ecosystem, but may also benefit from the knowledge and experience of universities and research institutions.

The initiative directly contributes to key innovation, industrial and European policy objectives of both Germany and the Netherlands. In particular, it supports the reduction of technological dependencies on non-European actors, the establishment of strategic value creation within Europe, and the long-term security of supply for key technologies required for the energy and mobility transition.

¹ See: 'The future of European competitiveness' by M. Draghi

In line with Germany's Hightech Agenda (HTAD) and the Dutch National Technology Strategy (NTS), this collaboration aims to accelerate the transfer of scientific excellence into industrial applications and market-ready technologies. At the same time, it addresses research, piloting, scaling, and industrial implementation across the entire innovation chain.

Furthermore, the German-Dutch collaboration will establish a strong European innovation ecosystem that connects scientific excellence, industrial capabilities and application-oriented infrastructures across borders. By combining complementary expertise, the partners aim to unlock synergies, shorten innovation cycles and generate new momentum for sustainable industrial value creation in Europe.

The partners are convinced that close strategic cooperation between Germany and the Netherlands will make a significant contribution to European technological sovereignty, the decarbonization of industrial processes and the long-term resilience of critical value chains.

2. Call overview

To implement the ambitions outlined above, Germany and the Netherlands are jointly launching this bilateral call for collaborative R&D projects in next-generation battery technologies. The call is administered by Projektträger Jülich (PtJ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space, and by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) on behalf of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy.

The call supports cross-border research and innovation projects that contribute to the development, validation and industrial deployment of next-generation battery technologies. It aims to stimulate collaboration between German and Dutch companies, while encouraging the involvement of universities and research organisations where this strengthens the consortium and accelerates innovation.

The primary objective of this call is to support the development of next-generation battery cells specifically designed for strategic relevant applications for Europe. The funded technologies are expected to find their primary use in niche markets (e.g., aviation, drones, heavy-duty applications, and robotics). Applicants should note that mass markets are not (yet) directly targeted by this specific call. The focus is on establishing and scaling technological leadership in high-value segments with a clear route to industrial deployments.

3. Scope

This call invites industry-driven research and development consortia to submit high-quality collaborative R&D proposals in the field of Sustainable Next-Generation Battery Technologies and Battery Manufacturing. The call aims to strengthen European technological sovereignty by accelerating the development of scalable, market-oriented battery component and cell technologies, as well as innovative manufacturing equipment designs that reduce production costs and increase manufacturing flexibility.²

Project proposals must demonstrate a clear pathway to achieving the following key performance indicators (KPIs) at the cell level during operation at room temperature:

- Volumetric energy density: ≥ 850 Wh/L;
- Gravimetric energy density: ≥ 350 Wh/kg;
- Cell Capacity: ≥ 10 Ah;
- Cycle stability: ≥ 500 cycles until 80% of initial capacity;
- Prototype production: targeting 100 fully functional cells with:
 - o Validated cell performance, cycle stability and safety;
 - o Characterisation data supported by appropriate metrology, analytics and quality-control methods.

Proposals should at least address one of the following aspects:

- Development and integration of next-generation battery materials, including:
 - o Advanced anodes such as silicon or lithium metal;
 - o Electrolytes such as liquid, hybrid or solid-state systems;
 - o High-energy-density cathodes;
- Cell assembly with existing battery production equipment, including equipment design³ or equipment modification concepts that improve the energy- and material-efficiency, and/or flexibility⁴ of the manufacturing processes used to produce the resulting battery cell.

In addition, the consortium could address other aspects, such as (but not limited to):

- A pack-integration concept, including pack design considerations and pack-level performance assessment for the targeted application;
- Development and integration of advanced current collectors that increase energy and/power density;
- Development of pre-processing (such as pre-lithiation) and/or post-processing (such as artificial Solid-Electrolyte-Interface) steps required for new materials, electrodes or cell designs;
- In-line metrology, process analytics, quality control and digitalisation;
- Safety and abuse-tolerance assessment appropriate to the targeted application;
- Optimised cell design and demonstration in a relevant application environment, preferably with application OEMs or integrators as associated partners.

² Equipment principle: the call does not fund acquisition or build-out of standard capital production equipment or lines — partners may bring these as non-subsidised, in-kind contributions. Funding goes into technology, not capital equipment.

³ See footnote 2

⁴ Flexibility: to manufacture cells using a range of electrode and electrolyte materials

Proposals are welcome for various electrolyte types, including liquid, hybrid, or solid-state systems, provided that the targeted performance and manufacturability requirements can be met.

Overall, each project must contribute to the development (TRL 4 to 7) of scalable, market-oriented battery technologies or manufacturing equipment solutions, with a clear pathway to industrial deployment and value creation for both Dutch and German partners. This includes exploring:

- Advanced battery materials and their integration into manufacturable cell concepts;
- Material and energy-efficient, flexible battery manufacturing processes and equipment;
- In-line metrology, digital manufacturing, quality control and process optimisation;
- Battery cell concepts for strategic European applications.

The measure of sustainability indicators for determination of ecological impact or the techno-economic assessment (TEA) could be included in the proposal. The aim is to demonstrate a credible pathway towards competitive and sustainable production.

Collaboration across different areas of expertise is encouraged to ensure that results can be scaled up and lead to tangible advances in battery technology and production.

4. Qualification criteria

4.1. International qualification requirements

Projects must involve a balanced complementary partnership, requiring at least one partner from Germany and at least one partner from the Netherlands. Every project must deliver a credible route to product, not a feasibility study or lab results that are difficult to scale. To ensure cost-efficiency, existing equipment should be used. Only minor modifications to existing infrastructure are eligible for funding, major new capital investments are excluded from this call. Partners may bring these as non-subsidised, in-kind contributions. Funding goes into technology, not into capital equipment.

To ensure the quality and impact of the joint R&D projects, consortia must meet the following qualification criteria:

Consortium composition

- The consortium must include at least two legal entities that are independent from each other, one company from Germany and one company from the Netherlands.
- Where possible, the international consortium should be coordinated by an industrial company.
- The main applicant in the Dutch application must be a company.
- The main applicant in German application can be a company, university or research organisation.
- Consortia are encouraged to include partners with diverse backgrounds, expertise, and gender balance, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration and inclusive innovation, such as pack manufacturers, OEMs, system integrators and knowledge institutes.
- The consortium must clearly demonstrate the added value of international cooperation towards scalable industrial deployment, such as access to unique infrastructure, complementary expertise, validation capacity, or new market opportunities.

Innovation and impact

- The project must fit the scope of the call.
- The project must be directed at researching or developing an innovative product, process, or service with the goal of commercialization.
- The product, process or service must be innovative, and there must be a technological risk involved for all involved partners.
- Applicants should clearly outline the expected time frame for industrial application, with a preference for innovations that can be implemented within three years after project completion.
- The project must contribute to the technological sovereignty, competitiveness, and sustainability of the battery value chain in Europe.
- The results must be used primarily in Germany and the Netherlands, the European Economic Area (EEA), or Switzerland.

Project duration, structure and funding

- The maximum duration of a project may not exceed 36 months.
- Only projects with a civilian purpose are eligible for funding.
- No individual organisation or participating country may claim more than 70% of the total eligible project costs of the joint project, ensuring balanced participation.
- Eligible costs and any restrictions (e.g., personnel, equipment, overhead, subcontracting) must be specified according to the rules of the respective funding agencies.

Application and submission

- Project partners must submit national applications to their respective funding agencies, using the exact same project title to ensure clear linkage between applications.
- All partners are advised to contact their respective funding agencies for a pre-check of eligibility before submitting their application.

Consortium agreement (CA)

- A signed consortium agreement on the execution and commercialisation of the projects results is mandatory for selected projects upon approval. It ought to include clear provisions on the scope of the collaboration and the expected output, IP contributions of the parties, foreground IP ownership, data management and dispute settlement.
- The signed CA must be reported to the funding agencies no later than three months after the funding decisions have been communicated.

Third-Country Participation

- Partners from countries other than Germany and the Netherlands may participate provided they secure their own funding prior to the submission of the Netherlands and German 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 Germany.
- Any restrictions on the number of third-country partners should be clarified with the respective funding agencies.

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 agencies.

4.2. German qualification / eligibility requirements - Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)

For German applicants the funding rules of the [B@TS call](#) apply. In particular, the project proposal must address the following general requirements:

- The project must be assignable to one or more action areas of the overarching battery research framework ([Dachkonzept Batterieforschung](#)).
- It must demonstrate a quantifiable contribution to at least one milestone objective of the respective field of action (Handlungsfelder).

According to the B@TS call, the R&D focus of German applicants needs to be on the cell level. German applicants may also include work packages related to the mandatory preparatory study for pack integration, provided that this is not the primary focus of their R&D.

- A plan for measuring sustainability indicators must be submitted. Projects must evaluate at least one sustainability indicator during their duration.

Possible indicators include, for example, energy efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, water consumption, avoidance of hazardous substances, secondary raw material rates, and battery lifespan.

4.3. Dutch qualification / eligibility requirements - Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

All funding rates, project requirements, and operational frameworks for Dutch participants are based on Titel 3.8 (Internationaal innoveren) of the regulatory framework 'Regeling nationale EZ-, LVVN- en KGG-subsidies'. To qualify for funding through the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) under this bilateral call with Germany, Dutch applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Project coordination: the Dutch side of the bilateral consortium must be led by a for-profit Dutch company. Dutch universities, research institutes, and knowledge organizations are highly encouraged to participate as project partners collaborating alongside the leading Dutch commercial partner.
- Bilateral submission: the Dutch coordinator must submit a national application to RVO, while the German partner(s) must simultaneously submit a matching proposal to their respective national funding agency (PtJ). Both submissions must use the exact same project title.
- Balanced cost distribution: the joint project must feature a balanced distribution of costs across both participating countries, meaning no more than 70% of the total eligible project costs may be allocated to one single country.
- Eligible costs: subsidies apply exclusively to direct R&D activities as outlined in the regulation. These include personnel costs, depreciation costs of specific equipment, costs of materials and consumables, and limited third-party contracting. Participating parties must self-finance all remaining costs through their own contributions.

5. Application

All project partners are required to submit a related funding application to their respective funding agencies, taking into account all relevant procedures and submission rules. To ensure clear linkage between applications, all consortium partners must use the exact same project title when submitting their national applications.

- Applicants in Germany must submit their application via the designated application system (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>), before Tuesday 19 January 2027, 23.59 hours CET.
- Applicants in the Netherlands must submit their application via the RVO application system ([Inloggen bij RVO](#)) before Tuesday 19 January 2027, 17.00 hours CET.

All applications are assessed against the qualification criteria of the call before being forwarded for evaluation based on the eligibility and evaluation criteria of the participating funding agencies.

All partners are advised to contact their respective funding agencies for a pre-check of eligibility before submitting their application. Participation in the information session is also encouraged to facilitate strong consortia and high-quality proposals.

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.

5.1. Germany - Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)

Applicants in Germany must submit their application via the designated application system (<https://foerderportal.bund.de/easyonline>), using the following menu options:

- Ministerium: Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt
- Fördermaßnahme: Dachkonzept Batterieforschung
- Förderbereich: BatTS

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.

5.2. The Netherlands – Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

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.

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.

RVO invites partners to participate in a pre-check of their project ideas. More information: www.rvo.nl/techbridge.

6. Evaluation

Applications will be evaluated by the participating funding agencies. The evaluation will be based on the qualification criteria for the joint call, the applicable eligibility and evaluation criteria of the participating funding agencies, and the information provided in the national application forms.

PtJ and RVO will conduct a full evaluation in accordance with national rules. This process will be carried out by independent experts appointed by the funding agencies.

The results of the national evaluations will be discussed in a consensus meeting. Based on the national evaluation results and the consensus meeting, both funding agencies will decide which projects to approve and recommend for funding. Once a common list of approved and non-approved projects has been agreed upon, the funding agencies will notify the applicants of the results.

Applicants can expect to be informed of the evaluation results by mid-March 2027.

6.1. Germany - Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)

For German applicants the funding rules of the [B@TS call](#) apply.

6.2. The Netherlands – Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

Operational frameworks for Dutch participants are based on Titel 3.8 (Internationaal innoveren) of the regulatory framework 'Regeling nationale EZ-, LVVN- en KGG-subsidies'. For more information, please refer to www.rvo.nl/techbridge.

7. Funding Conditions

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

Any intellectual property rights (IPR) arising from cooperative project activities under this call will be regulated in a consortium agreement, in accordance with the relevant laws applicable to the project partners.

A signed consortium agreement on the execution and commercialisation of the projects results is mandatory for selected projects upon approval, and must be reported to the funding agencies before any grant payments can be transferred. It ought to include at least clear provisions on the scope of the collaboration and the expected output, IP contributions of the parties, foreground IP ownership and dispute settlement.

The funding agencies PtJ and RVO will provide public funding for the selected projects. The support will be given to each partner by its respective funding agency 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 agency.

7.1. Germany - Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)

Companies and research organisations can apply for grant funding, depending on the type of organisation and the activities involved. Only direct R&D costs are eligible for funding:

- Large companies: 50% for industrial research, 25% for experimental development
- SMEs: 50% for industrial research, 25% for experimental development
- According to Article 25(6)(a) – (d) of the GBER, companies can apply for additional bonuses
- Universities / research organisations that do not engage in economic activities: 100% on a case-by-case basis according to the requirements of state aid law
- For non-commercial research projects at universities and university hospitals, a project flat rate of 20% is granted in addition to the eligible expenses

Eligible costs and restrictions (e.g., personnel, equipment, overhead, subcontracting) must follow the [B@TS call](#).

7.2. The Netherlands – Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

Companies and research organisations can apply for grant funding of up to 50%, depending on the type of organisation 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 organisations: 50% for research activities, 25% for development activities

The maximum funding (grant) per project is € 2,000,000. The total budget at RVO for this call is € 2,000,000. Eligible costs and restrictions (e.g., personnel, equipment, subcontracting, overhead) must follow RVO guidelines.

8. Contact Points from each participating funding agency

8.1. Germany - Projektträger Jülich (PtJ)

Geschäftsbereich Neue Materialien und Chemie (NMT)

Dr. Bernhard Barwinski
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8.2. The Netherlands – Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO)

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