# IMEC.ICON CALL 2022-2: Abstract

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICATION

First of all: please read the imec.icon manual that is available on the [imec website!](http://www.imec-int.com/icon/project-documents)

**What’s new**

From Call 2022-2:

* Closer alignment of document with mandatory documents further in the request flow: new VLAIO ‘pre-application’ and ‘Full Proposal’.
* Adapted maximum size of document

From Call 2022-1:

* Societal added value no longer included in the lever calculation of the valorization (section A.3.5).

From Call 2021-1:

* All Flemish research organizations are eligible as research partner to the extent that they can be considered a SBO (strategic basic research) organization.
* Enhanced attention to valorization (section A.3) (including VLAIO’s updated valorization rules):
  + Updated selectivity criteria; target: leverage on subsidies ≥ 10 at project level (i.e., the added value in Flanders as outcome of the project results within a period of 5 years must be at least 10x the allocated public funding).

**Applications with imec**

* An Interdisciplinary Cooperative Research (ICON) project aims to bring knowledge closer to the market and translate it into demonstrators of products, services or processes within companies. Companies actively help to realize and apply the results within their own innovation roadmaps.
* An imec.icon extended abstract must be submitted by a consortium of company and research partners.
* The proposal manager is responsible for submitting all the necessary information. An extended abstract consists of multiple elements (see table hereunder). Some of the information needs to be filled in directly in the MyProjects platform, other information needs to be uploaded on the MyProjects platform in the form of a .doc and .pdf document.

**Table 1: The abstract application consists of multiple elements**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **What** | **How to submit** | **Deadline** |
| * Project metadata * Partners + MM * Steerco members * Executive summary | Directly in [MyProjects](https://imec.force.com/DplLanding) platform | Thursday 1 December 2022  12 o’clock noon |
| * Cause & context * Innovation goals and outcome * SOTA and leap of knowledge * Valorization * Details on every partner | .doc / .pdf / .pptx upload on MyProjects platform |
| *If applicable:*   * Motivation letter(s) for first-time research groups * Resubmission letter |

**Motivation letter for first-time research groups**

* First-time research groups in imec.icon that want to request research funding from imec, have to provide a motivational side letter which has to be submitted to the MyProjects platform (same deadline as the abstract document).
* This document is free format, but needs to contain the following elements:
* Which research group? (university – faculty – research group, ...)
* Why did the consortium choose this research group?
* The document needs to be signed by the Research lead of the research group.
* Length: 0,5 to 1 A4 page

Language: free choice Dutch or English

**Resubmission of an imec.icon project**

If the imec.icon extended abstract has been submitted in a previous call and was rejected, the following procedure needs to be followed:

* Prior to resubmission, a mandatory meeting has to be set up with the imec.icon program manager to discuss the feedback & modifications for resubmission. Please contact icon@imec.be in order to set up such a meeting (at least 4 weeks before the abstract submission deadline).
* Prepare a resubmission document prior to the meeting, that contains a description of the major changes between this submission and the previous one (what will be added/removed/clarified,…). This document is free format (e.g. one pager, slide set).
* The meeting will result in a decision if a resubmission can be considered.
* The resubmission document needs – apart from being handed over to the imec.icon program manager prior to the meeting – to be uploaded on the MyProjects platform (same deadline as the abstract document).
* FYI: The resubmission document will be sent to the evaluation panel together with the abstract information.
* FYI: MyProjects contains a clone function for projects that want to resubmit. This allows you to reuse information that was previously submitted. In MyProjects, go to the original project and click the “clone” button.

**Language**

* The submission should always be in English for the benefit of the international referees.

**Lay-out**

* The structure of the document, including the page numbering in the footer, should not be changed.
* Don’t forget to insert the acronym of your project in the footer.
* Please delete all instructions and guiding information for completion (purple print) before final submission! Purple print that is not removed will be counted towards the character limit.

**MyProjects**

* If you are wondering whether all the necessary information for your proposal has been filled out, you can always use the Validate button. It is located on the Dashboard tab. This does not submit your abstract.
* If you want to know what your abstract will look like (the information in MyProjects, not the information from the “offline” templates), go to Dashboard in MyProjects and click on “Generate PDF”. Note: you do not need to send this .pdf, imec takes care of this. After your abstract has been declared eligible, you will receive an e-mail with a pdf of the complete abstract.

**Character limits**

* There are strict character limits in place. Exceeding these limits will result in non-eligibility of the abstract. Bear in mind that this is a maximum and that a good application doesn’t necessarily need the maximum length.
* These character limits are excluding spaces and excluding pictures, but including everything else such as (but not limited to): titles, subtitles, tables, footnotes, endnotes, references, …

**Table 2: Overview of character limits**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Section A** | **Section B** |
| **Character limit** | Max. 16.000 | Recommended < 3.500 per industry partner and < 1.500 per research partner |

# INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FULL IMEC.ICON PROJECT

## PROJECT CAUSE AND CONTEXT

Describe the immediate cause (problem, opportunity, …) at the basis of this project, in terms of the innovation ambitions and goals of the company partners looking to create added value with a novel service / product / process... What is the context of these innovations: are they tackling a societal problem, a technological breakthrough, an issue proper to the partners or to a given market segment, ... Explain these innovation ambitions and identify the unsolved technical or scientific problems, requiring research beyond the state-of-the-art (SOTA), necessary to realize these innovations. These problems will be the research challenges of this project.

Describe how the partners found each other around these problems.

X

## PROJECT CONTENT

### A.2.1. PROJECT SUMMARY

What are the project’s general objectives and research goals? Which results do you want to achieve by the end of the project? With which results do you want to make a difference? Identify and list the project reusable results individually.

What do you expect to be the concrete end results of this project? Will it be mainly new knowledge, patents, reports, software libraries, apps, business models, user insights, market knowledge, technological advancements, algorithms, …

Describe the (main) demonstrator or proof of concept that this project will deliver.

X

### A.2.2. STATE-OF-THE-ART AND RELEVANCE WITH RESPECT TO THE STATE-OF-THE-ART

In order to achieve the project research goals and realize the intended deliverables, explain what unsolved technical or scientific problems are to be expected that will need further research to be solved. Position these problems and your proposed solutions against the relevant SOTA and explain how the project will advance the SOTA.

How does the project relate to and/or build on results of other (past or running) projects tackling related issues? Are there other projects dealing with the same topic (imec, Flanders, EU, rest of the world)? How is your project different from these projects?

Ensure that the research challenges are quantified and verifiable versus the SOTA, so as to clearly state the level of ambition of the project.

X

#### RESEARCH BEYOND STATE OF THE ART (ICON)

#### GENERIC RESEARCH RESULTS (ICON)

### A.2.3. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Describe the implementation of the project. Briefly discuss the project setup and the work packages.

X

Identify and describe any ethical aspects ([[1]](#footnote-2)) that will be applicable in your project and in the valorization of the project results. For those elements that are part of the project, introduce the outline of the plan to handle these issues ([[2]](#footnote-3)).

X

Describe why a collaborative project is needed to realize these objectives and what the added value of the cooperation between the partners is.

X

#### APPROACH

#### WORK PROGRAM

#### OVERVIEW OF THE DELIVERABLES/MILESTONES AND RESULTS

#### GANTT CHART

#### OVERVIEW OF THE STAFFING

#### RISK ANALYSIS

### A.2.4. EXPERTISE AND RESOURCES

#### REAL COLLABORATION (ICON)

### A.2.5. JUSTIFICATION OF THE RESEARCH TYPOLOGY

## IMPACT

As stated briefly in section A.1, the project and its research objectives originate from the innovation ambitions of the companies. In this section, describe the outcome of these ambitions in more detail – assuming that the project objectives will be achieved – looking at the necessary steps to create added value with these innovations. Describe briefly what your company will do with these results (e.g., improve a product, launch a new product, improve a process, ...). Describe the impact on your business (with emphasis on the entities in the funding region(s)): new activity, expansion/continuation of a main activity, sub-activity, ...

Per company partner (including nonprofit organizations): describe how the project results will be used in the company partner’s innovations in the market beyond the project. Provide relevant contextual information, including: market dynamics and size (total available - serviceable available - serviceable obtainable market), your business model, competitors and differentiators / substitutions, financial benefits gained through this project's innovation explained both qualitatively and quantitatively.

X

### A.3.3. PATH TOWARDS VALORIZATION

### A.3.4. ADDED VALUE FOR THE FUNDING REGION

#### ECONOMIC IMPACT

#### SOCIETAL IMPACT

Assuming that you manage to achieve the intended results, Quantify the total intended economic valorization in Flanders. This includes among others new jobs, sustained jobs and investments. Over the course of the valorization period, the project must achieve at least 10X leverage (this leverage is by default calculated on a 5-year period after the end of the project). If your project has a societal impact, then please elaborate here briefly.

X

### A.3.1. STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

### A.3.2. ADDED VALUE FOR THE COMPAnies

### A.3.5. SYNTHESIS

Fill in the following table with a synthesis of the added value for the funding region at project level. The actual numbers translated into euros in the Full Proposal will be the basis for the application of the selectivity criterion of VLAIO: for the companies, the added value must be > 10x the funding amount.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Impact | Impact (EUR) |
| New or sustained employment | ... FTEy new ([[3]](#footnote-4)) | *X* |
|  | ... FTEy sustained ([[4]](#footnote-5)) | *X* |
| Investments | ... (concentrate on classes and types of investments, e.g., production buildings or equipment, testing infrastructure, ...) | *X* |
| Total impact (EUR) | | *X* |
| Lever (= total impact / expected subsidy) | | *X* |

### A.3.6. SWOT RELATED TO THE VALORIZATION

1. Partner information

### <NAME PARTNER 1>

#### Company information

**Flemish establishment that will execute the project and valorize the project results**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| VAT number or number of the establishment unit (CBE [[5]](#footnote-6)) | *X* |
| name of the establishment unit | *X* |
| address of the establishment unit | *X* |

**Employment figures of the Flemish establishment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| current number of employees on the payroll (FTE) | *X* |
| current number of self-employed and/or freelancers on an invoice basis (FTE) | *X* |

#### Valorization track record

If you were granted public (VLAIO/Innoviris) funding in the past, briefly discuss to which extent the valorization commitment has been or will be fulfilled. (Max 1 paragraph)

X

#### Partner perspective

Describe the current activities and/or products of the partner.

* Brief presentation of the partner: mission / ambition, short history, main focus markets / products, size in turnover and FTE (point to the partner website for more details).
* What is the relevance / strategic importance of this imec.icon project for the partner? What is the motivation of the partner to participate in this project?
* Does the project fit within the research roadmap of the company?
* What is the relevant research capacity and expertise of the partner needed in the consortium? Link this to the value chain/network.
* Why is the partner important for this project (what part of the project would have to be removed if the partner wouldn’t be in the project)?
* To what extent will the partner contribute to the intended step w.r.t. the state-of-the-art

Provide your perspective on the project.

Discuss aspects such as economic impact of project results for the company (revenue), resulting economic impact for the funding region(s) (employment, investments), impact of subsidy.

X

#### Estimated subsidies to be requested

If you plan to request public funding from VLAIO/Innoviris[[6]](#footnote-7), estimate the subsidy that you will request (as a ball-park figure, no need to be 100% correct). Your budget can be estimated by multiplying your effort (number of person months) with a typical cost of 13 k€ per person month, possibly increased with the costs of planned subcontracting or investments.

The subsidy percentage for VLAIO funding consists of these 3 components, which can be added together if applicable:

* Basic subsidy percentage: 25% for development activities and 50% for research activities
* Extra subsidy percentage related to company size: + 20% for small enterprises, +10% for medium enterprises
* Extra subsidy percentage of +10% in case of intensive collaboration between the industry partners, and if the consortium consists of at least 1 SME (that will request funding) or the consortium operates in an international context

The overall maximum subsidy percentage for VLAIO funding is 50% for development activities and 60% for research activities.

The subsidy percentage for Innoviris funding consists of these 3 components, which can be added together if applicable:

* Basic subsidy percentage: 25% for development activities and 50% for research activities
* Extra subsidy percentage related to company size: + 20% for small enterprises, +10% for medium enterprises
* Extra subsidy percentage of +15% if the ICON-consortium consists of at least 1 SME (that will request funding)

The overall maximum subsidy percentage for Innoviris funding is 80%.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Planned effort of the partner | *… person months* |
| Estimated budget of the partner | *… €* |
| Subsidy percentage to be requested | *… %* |
| Estimated subsidy to be requested | *… €* |

#### Undertaking in Difficulties

The company expects to comply with the terms and conditions for Undertaking in Difficulties (UID - OIM) ([[7]](#footnote-8)). Indicate what is applicable to your organization:

Note that undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for public funding. More specifically, if your company qualifies as an undertaking in difficulty and you intend to apply for public funding, this will have to be remediated before the full project proposal is submitted.

Partner (tick one, as applicable):

o is not UID now, nor by FP filing deadline (call 2022-2: 2 February 2023)

o is UID now, but planning to remedy by FP filing deadline (call 2022-2: 2 February 2023)

o will not apply or will not be eligible for financial support (and will not contribute to the 50/50 research/companies budget balance), and hence intends to participate with own funds

### <Research group 1>

Describe the current activities of the research group and motivate the participation and contribution in the imec.icon project. The indicative questions below can help you:

* What expertise of the research group will be used in this project?
* Why is your research group important for this project (what part of the project would have to be removed if you wouldn’t be in the project)? What’s the main contribution to this imec.icon project?
* Motivate the relevance of the project for the research strategy of the group.

X

1. Domains with potential ethics issues: Human embryos & fetuses; Human beings; Human cells or tissues; Personal data; Animals; Environment, Health & safety; Dual use. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. If applicable, the analysis of the ethics issues raised by your project methodology will have to be included in the Full Proposal and should comprise:

   - the identification and analysis of the ethics issues;

   - an explanation of how you will mitigate these issues in practice; and

   - an indication of the necessary expertise available or required. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. FTEy: one person full-time during one year [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Sustained employment refers to employment that would be lost in case the project is *not executed* but that can be safeguarded because of the project. Only 50% of the financial impact of sustained employment can be taken into consideration for the lever computation. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Crossroads Bank for Enterprises [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. References for subsidy regulations actual details:

   Innoviris: <https://innoviris.brussels/nl/program/rd-projects>

   VLAIO: <https://www.vlaio.be/nl/media/668> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. An undertaking (firm, company, organization) in difficulty is explicitly excluded from state aid. The definition and rules are outlined in the [Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32014R0651&from=EN) on state aid compatibility with the internal market, article 2 point 18.

   In Dutch: Onderneming in Moeilijkheden (see [OIM](https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject/voorwaarden/ondernemingen-moeilijkheden-komen-niet) for more details and calculation methods). [↑](#footnote-ref-8)