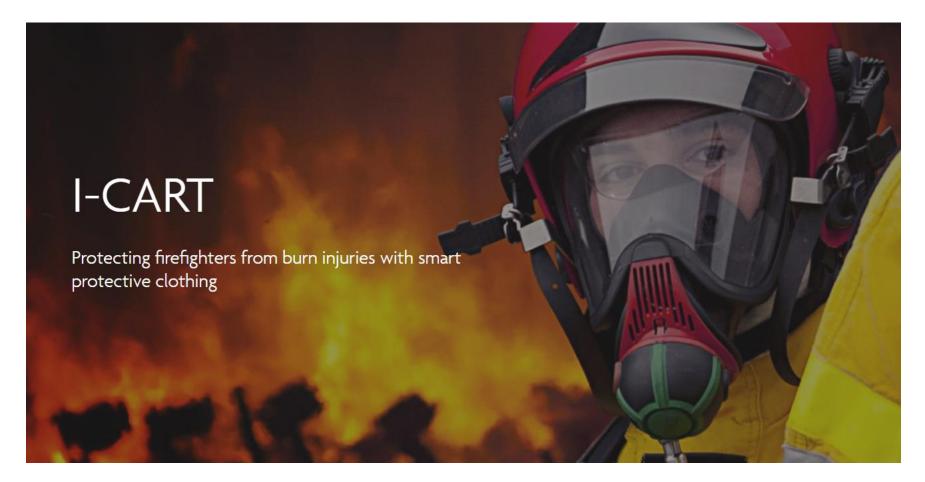


IMEC.ICON INFORMATION SESSION



Click on the image for the video





IMEC.ICON INFORMATION SESSION

AGENDA

- Introduction to imec
- imec.icon program, project modalities and IPR model
- Example projects
- Application procedure
- VLAIO and Innoviris funding
- Next steps
- Extra: tips and tricks

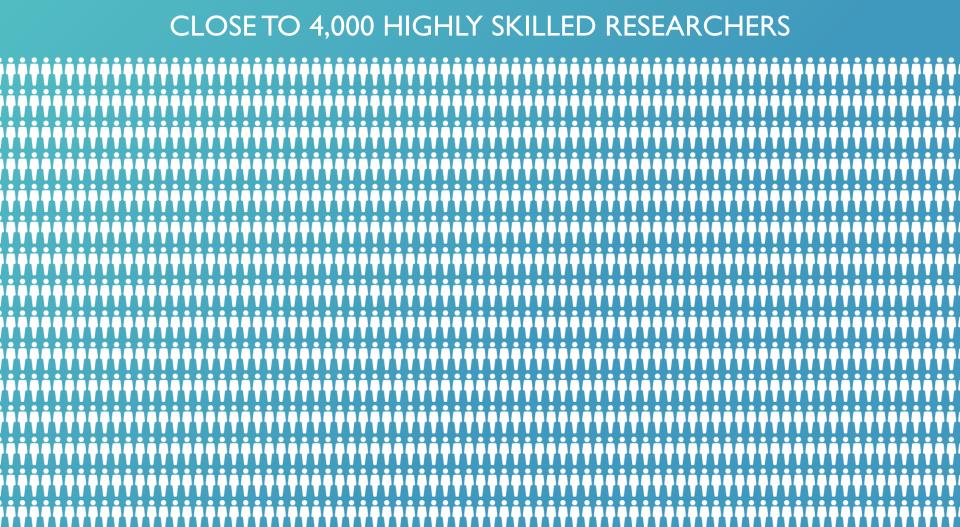


AGENDA

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imec is the world-leading R&D and innovation hub in nanoelectronics and digital technology.





IMEC RESEARCH DOMAINS



SMART CITIES



SMART MOBILITY



SMART INDUSTRIES



SMART INFOTAINMENT

OPTICAL I/O



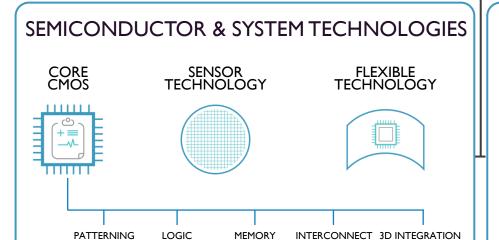
SMART HEALTH



SMART ENERGY



SMART EDUCATION



TECHNOLOGY TECHNOLOGY TECHNOLOGY

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS

NETWORKING

DIGITAL PRIVACY & SECURITY

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE







IMEC BUSINESS MODELS TO CREATE IMPACT







IMEC BUSINESS MODELS TO CREATE IMPACT







IMEC BUSINESS MODELS TO CREATE IMPACT









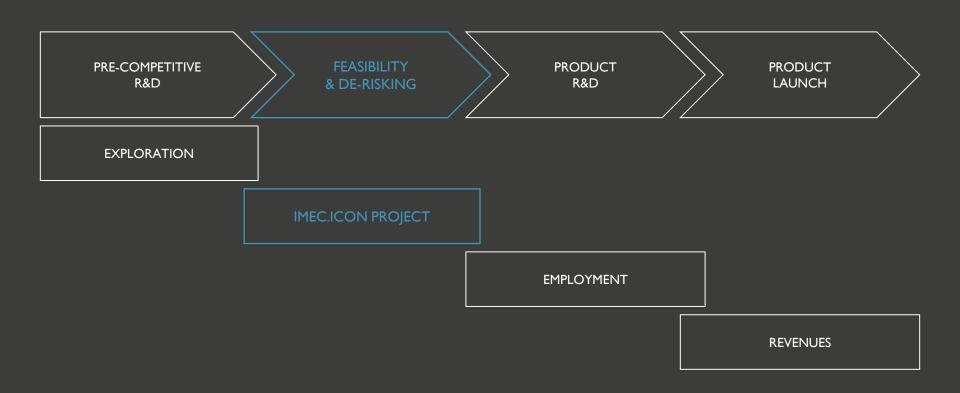
low-barrier access applied research between imec and industry

AGENDA

- Introduction to imec
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THE POSITION OF IMEC.ICON IN THE R&D LIFE CYCLE





POSITIONING AGAINST TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVELS (TRL)

TRL I – basic principles observed

TRL 2 – technology concept formulated



TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

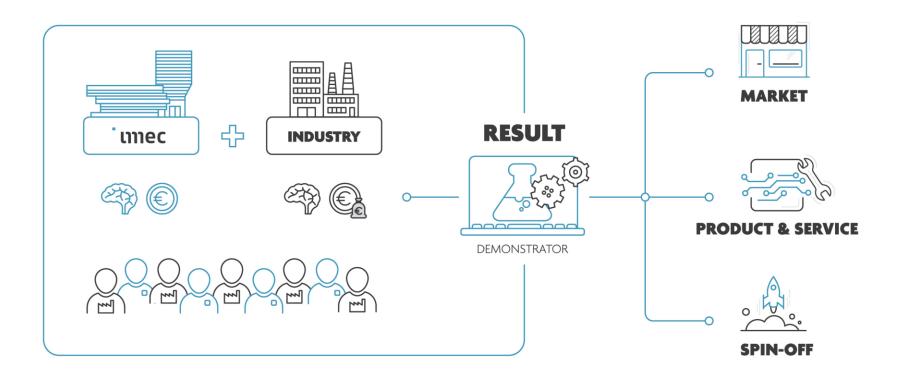
TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment



INTERDISCIPLINARY COOPERATIVE RESEARCH

VALORIZATION





IMEC.ICON CHARACTERISTICS



ICT and nanoelectronics-related digital products, services and business models



Balanced consortiumbalanced contribution of industry
and research partners



Demand-driven relating to a real need in industry or society



Interdisciplinary approach tackling technological, legal and social challenges, new business models, etc.



Cooperative research with a focus on valorization for all industry partners involved



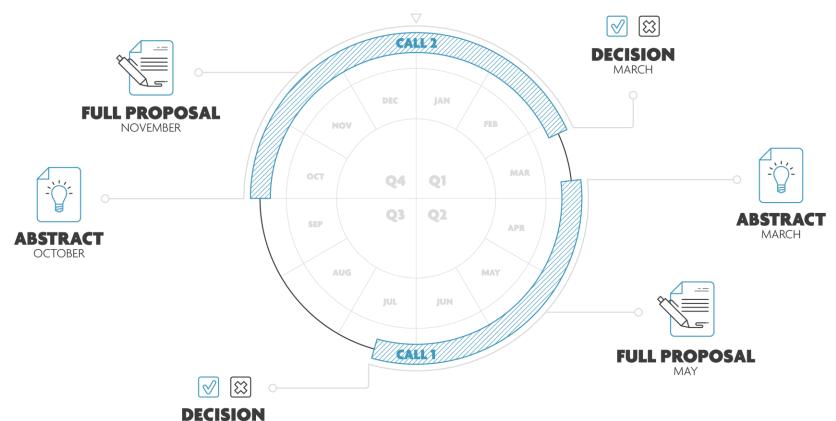
2-year duration



IMEC.ICON - YEARLY CYCLE

FAST PROCEDURE FOR ROADMAP ALIGNMENT

JULY



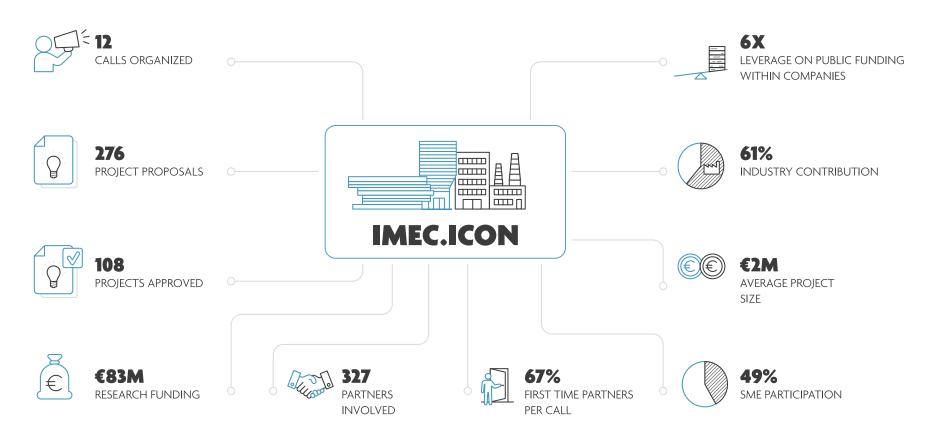


IMEC.ICON EVALUATION PROCESS



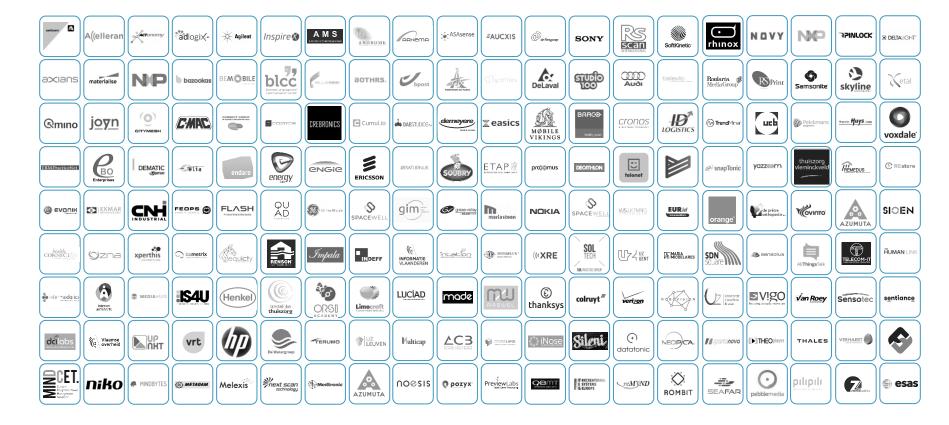


IMEC.ICON KEY FIGURES 2012 – 2020





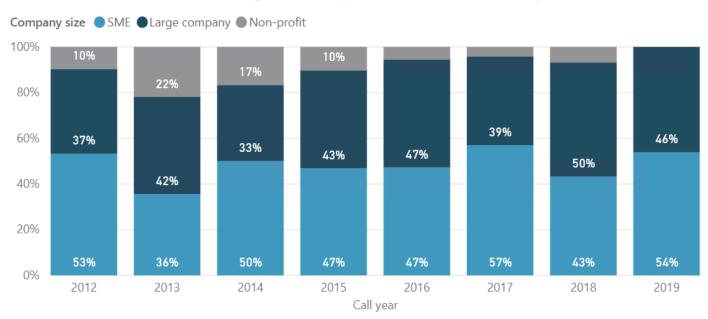
300+ IMEC.ICON PARTNERS AND COUNTING





EVOLUTION OF SME PARTICIPATION

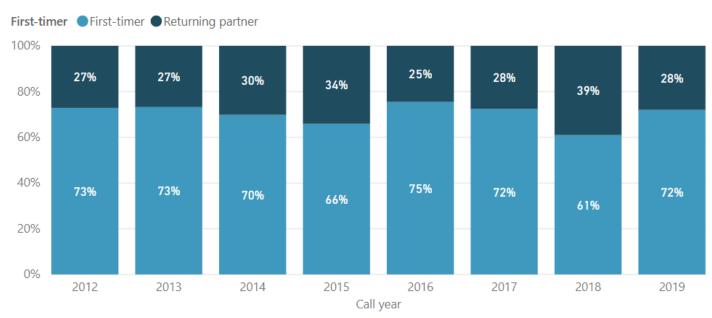
Fraction of SMEs, large companies and non-profits





EVOLUTION OF FIRST-TIME PARTNERS

Fraction of first-timers and returning partners





IMEC.ICON CONSORTIUM

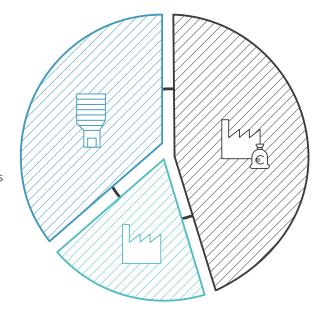
RESEARCH GROUPS



- imec (min. 1)
- Flemish universities
- Other

FUNDED RESEARCH GROUPS

- imec dotation: imec & Flemish universities
- Own budget: other research groups







MIN. 3 FLEMISH COMPANIES

(+ Brussels region, Belgium, international)

FUNDED INDUSTRY PARTNERS

- VLAIO (Flanders)
- Innoviris (Brussels region)

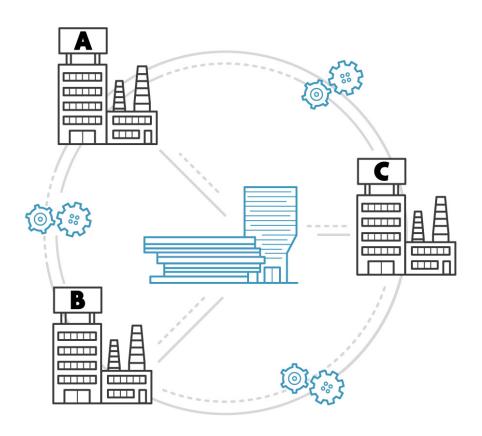
INDUSTRY PARTNERS WITH OWN FUNDING

- Allowed
- Don't count for the 50/50





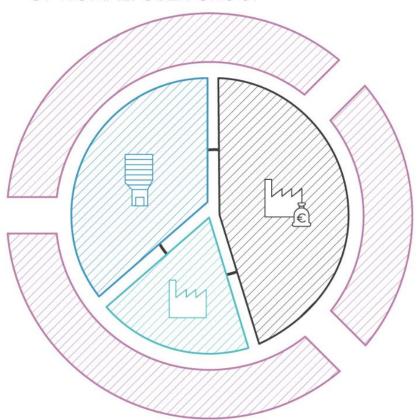
KEY INGREDIENT: CLOSE COLLABORATION





IMEC.ICON CONSORTIUM

OPTIONAL: USER GROUP



USER/STAKEHOLDER GROUP

- NOT A FORMAL PARTNER
- IS LINKED TO THE PROJECT TO:
 - provide specific input
 - gather requirements
 - act as a sparring partner
 - validate project results
 - provide certain data

...



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FLANDERS MAKE

PARTNERS WITH IMEC IN IMEC.ICON PROJECTS

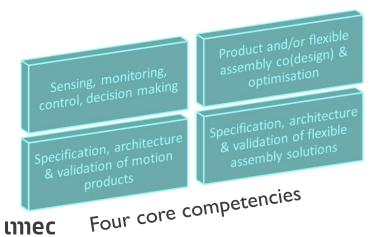


450+ highly specialised researchers

Two application areas



Flanders Make = the Strategic Research Centre for the Manufacturing Industry



Unique infrastructure



Contact: marc.engels@flandersmake.be

SMART EDUCATION IN IMEC.ICON

- Objectives
 - Enable evidence-based validation of effects of EdTech in schools
 - Increase adoption rate for EdTech through involvement of schools
- Schools can receive funding from imec budget
 - Funding of staff costs and operational costs
 - Specific options for Flemish schools: PWB and TADD



RESULTS AT THE END OF THE IMEC.ICON PROJECT



Proof-of-Concepts / demonstrators

- Minimum experimental setup needed to validate innovation goals
- Ranging from pure technical tests to real-life validation
- Not a pilot ready for commercialization



Incorporate the value of the project for your company from the start

⇒ involve customers and end users using living labs or user groups



IMPACT OF AN IMEC.ICON PROJECT



- Added value of the project for your company and for Flanders
 - Economic
 - Company results
 - Investments
 - Qualitative employment
 - Social/cultural
 - Added value to target group
 - Impact and anchoring in Flanders



Plan and prepare your valorization path early on

⇒ kick-off your valorization mid-project



VALORIZATION



Demonstrate credibility towards external partners and generate business impact



Launch new product-line or improve current products



Launch new spin-off company, joint-venture or external startup



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR)

- IPR model in imec.icon is fixed
- Starting IPR discussions upfront is strongly advised



IMEC.ICON IPR MODEL CONCEPTS



Background

All pre-existing knowledge a partner contributes to the project

- Necessary to perform the project
- Needs to be identified, substantiated and listed in the project description and consortium agreement

Foreground

All results obtained during the execution of the project

- Foreground is to be reported to the steering committee (i.e., project deliverables)
- Types of IPR protection: patent, copy right, trademark, trade secret



OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS RIGHTS

Ownership

Each partner is and remains sole owner of own Background and Foreground

Exception: co-ownership when Foreground is created by two or more parties and when it is impossible to divide and unambiguously attribute parts of the results to each partner

Access Rights

During project execution

License to Background and Foreground free of charge

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For valorization after project

License to Background and Foreground deemed granted if needed to valorize own project results

Remark: no exclusive access to Foreground is possible in imec.icon



ACCESS RIGHTS FOR VALORIZATION

BASED ON WORK PACKAGE (WP) STRUCTURE

	Same Work Package	Different Work Package
Foreground	Royalty-free (extra conditions: see below)	Favorable
Background	Market conditions	Market conditions

Conditions

Access is required for exploitation of industry partner's own Foreground

Balanced collaboration between industry partners and research groups

For royalty-free access

Intensive collaboration in WP between industry partner and research group on Foreground topic



IMEC.ICON IMPACT ON FLEMISH COMPANIES PORTFOLIO IMPACT STUDIES 2015 AND 2017 – NON-ECONOMIC EFFECTS

Reported effects at project's closing

Effective collaboration

Enhanced knowledge and competence

Tapping into new knowledge domains

Development of demonstrator

Increased scale of research activities

Reported effects at moment of survey

Adaptation and fine-tuning of product roadmap

Expansion to new markets

Growth in existing markets

Increased turnover

Accelerated product or process development

Expected effects for next two years



New product development

Launch of new products

Increased employment

Stronger reputation and branding



IMEC.ICON IMPACT ON FLEMISH COMPANIES

PORTFOLIO IMPACT STUDIES 2015 AND 2017 – AGGREGATED (29 + 22 COMPANIES)





GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

















INVESTMENTS IN JOBS AT COMPANY LEVEL







INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE



BUSINESS REASONS TO CONSIDER IMEC.ICON

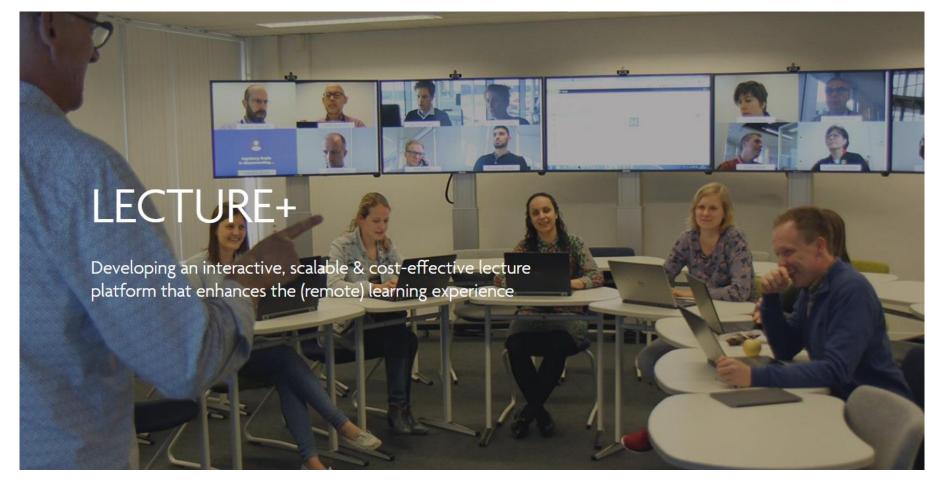
- imec's technologies and expertise can provide companies with significant product or service differentiators
- imec.icon enables multi-faceted collaborations: between companies and knowledge institutions, between different companies in a value chain or an ecosystem and between different disciplines or domains of expertise
- imec.icon helps companies deal with co-innovation and adoption-chain risks
- imec's large network of researchers is well-connected to the Flemish innovation ecosystem and helps companies find possible partners
- imec.icon projects deliver tangible results and support an iterative approach
- imec.icon is a low barrier program to work with imec in applied research



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Click on the image for the video

SMART EDUCATION PROJECTS



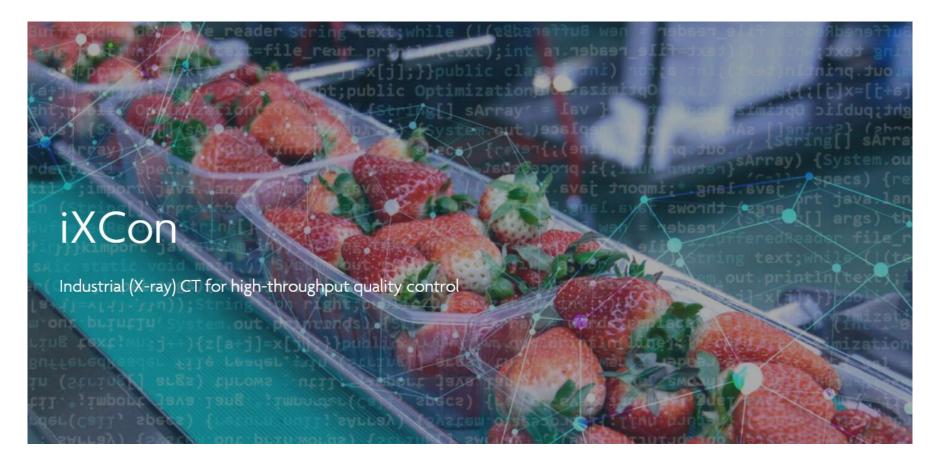












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Click on the image for the video

SMART INDUSTRIES PROJECTS















SMART HEALTH PROJECTS















PROJECTS IMEC.ICON CALL 2019-2







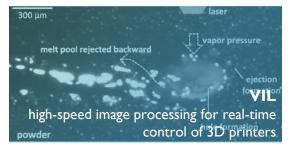














SMART INFOTAINMENT PROJECTS















AI-FOCUSED PROJECTS

























IOT-FOCUSED IMEC.ICON PROJECTS





















HARDWARE-FOCUSED IMEC.ICON PROJECTS

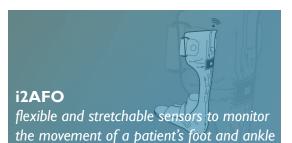
























PROJECTS IMEC.ICON CALL 2019-1



























These are the words from Patrick Catthoor, Business Development Manager at Aucxis. About six years ago, the company, together with 7 other partners, submitted an imec.icon project proposal. Two years later, this resulted in a unique solution for hospitals to manage inventory and logistics processes more efficiently. For Aucxis, it also resulted in an ongoing collaboration with 2 of the partners. It is a good example of how imec.icon - which celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2020 - can make a difference for companies. And this for both large and small companies, and active in a wide range of sectors.

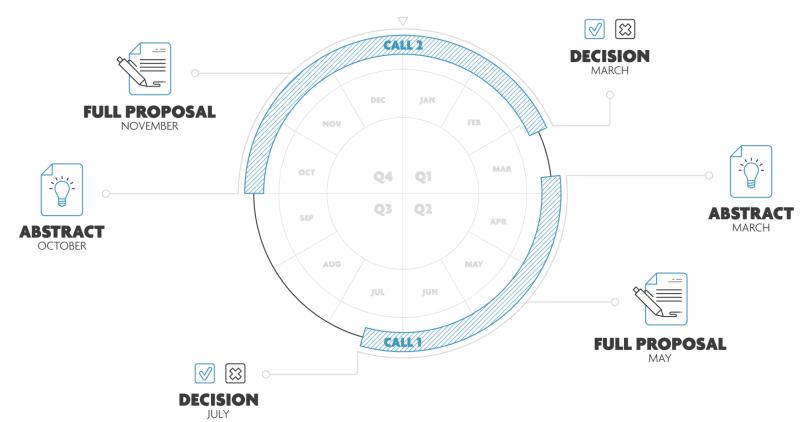
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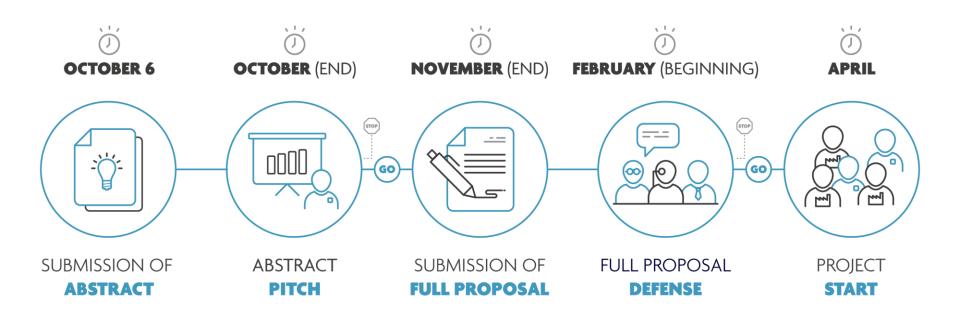
IMEC.ICON - YEARLY CYCLE

FAST PROCEDURE FOR ROADMAP ALIGNMENT





IMEC.ICON EVALUATION PROCESS CALL 2020-2





ABSTRACT PHASE: EXTENDED ABSTRACT



Content Abstract:

- Cause and context of the project
- Innovation goals and outcome
- State of the art and leap of knowledge
- Valorization and Social/economic benefit
- Information on the partners



Templates available on imec website



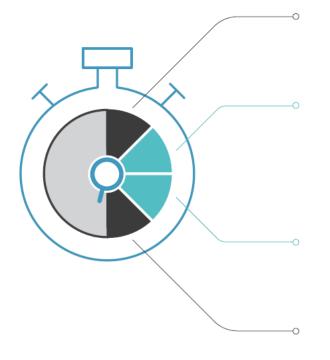
ABSTRACT PHASE: EVALUATION PROCEDURE



- Submit your abstract
- Receive feedback and questions from experts
- Pitch/rebuttal
 - Oral pitch
 - Very short presentation with rebuttal on the feedback and questions from experts (15')
 - Followed by a short Q&A (30')
 - Written pitch
 - Written rebuttal on the feedback and questions from experts



PITCH FLOW





PANEL ONLY

Expressing the most important remarks & questions



Pitch presentation



Q&A

PANEL ONLY

Discussion + scoring

*Consortium presence: max. 5 consortium members, incl. research lead and project lead



IMEC.ICON JURY



- One jury for all abstracts
- External domain experts
- Focus on general quality, valorization & fit



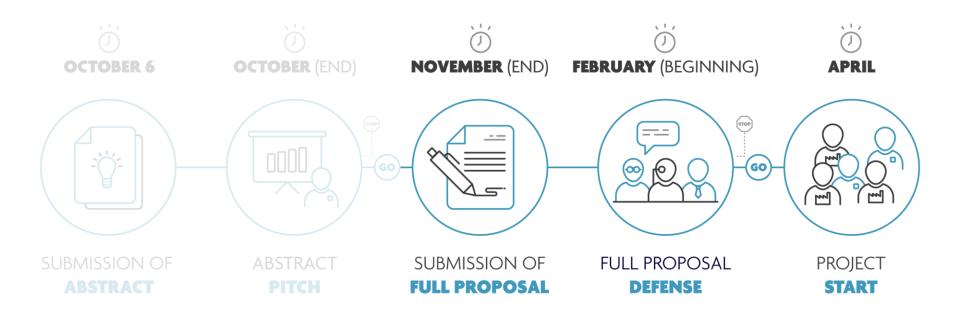
ABSTRACT PHASE: EVALUATION CRITERIA ALIGNED WITH VLAIO AND INNOVIRIS R&D CRITERIA

- Clearly defined and realistic research objectives
- Good social/economic valorization perspectives and high added value of the project
- Strong cooperative nature of the consortium and market-driven character of the project
- Well-balanced and sufficient effort contribution and realistic timing



IMEC.ICON EVALUATION PROCESS CALL 2020-2

FULL PROPOSAL PHASE



There will be a specific info session on the full proposal evaluation

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INFO SESSION ON FULL PROPOSAL

NOVEMBER @ VLAIO BRUSSELS

- 10am − 12.30pm: General info session
 - Detailed session with tips & tricks
- 12.30pm 2pm: lunch and 1-on-1 sessions
- 2pm 3.30pm: Sessions specific on valorization (industry partners)
 - Co-organized with VLAIO Team Bedrijfstrajecten (Innovatiecentrum)
 - Strongly advised for first-time applicants



FULL PROPOSAL PHASE

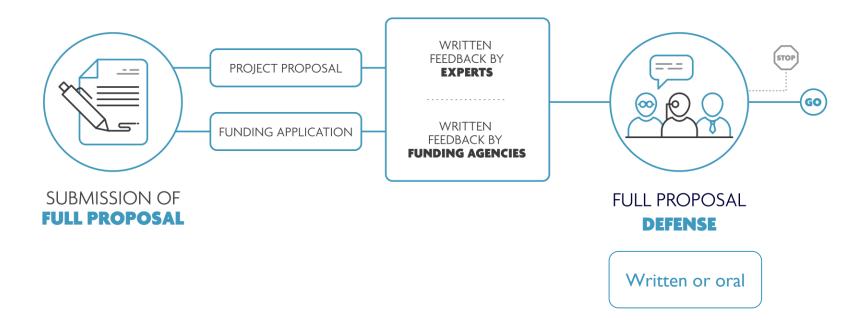


High-level content Full Proposal:

- Information on the whole imec.icon project
 - Cause and context, Innovation goals, Implementation
- Partner-specific information
 - Valorization information
 - Requested funding (if applicable)

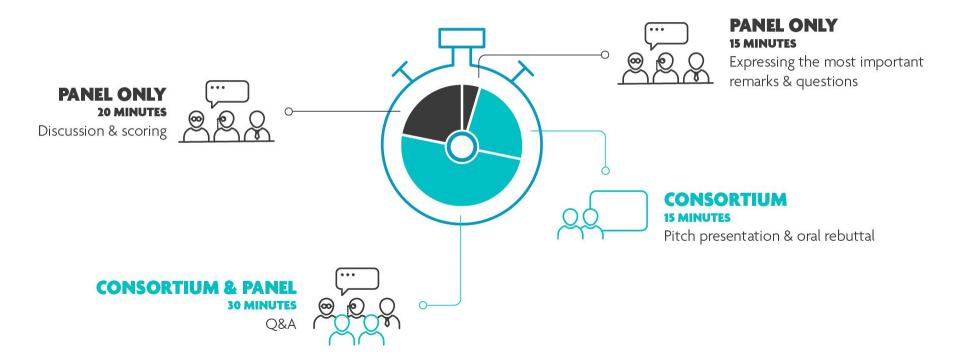


FULL PROPOSAL PHASE: EVALUATION PROCEDURE





DEFENSE FLOW 80 MINUTES PER CONSORTIUM





IMEC.ICON FULL PROPOSAL JURY

- Oral defense before expert panel: pitch, oral rebuttal and Q&A
 - No instruction meeting any more
 - Written feedback from experts and VLAIO for oral rebuttal and update of business cases
- Panel of international experts
 - Experts independent from imec and the project proposals
 - Well-balanced: expert panel covers broad research scope of imec
 - Same expert panel for all proposals (with priority readers)
- Panel reviews both quality and impact of proposals
 - Result of oral defense: approval/rejection advice for VLAIO and imec
- Procedure under VLAIO governance
 - Chairman: VLAIO representative
 - Secretary: imec.icon program manager



FULL PROPOSAL PHASE: EVALUATION CRITERIA

ALIGNED WITH VLAIO AND INNOVIRIS R&D CRITERIA

- General criteria for research projects
 - Objectives: clear innovative character, real challenges, leap of knowledge,...
 - Potential to achieve objectives: feasible workplan, identified risks, available expertise,...
 - Impact: realistic and convincing business case for each partner
 - Details on the business case in a confidential part
 - Potential to realize impact: strengths or remarks on market potential, real market(s) of realistic growth, accessibility by the partners, external factors, regulations,...
- ICON specific criteria
 - Effective collaboration between partners: broad common goal, clear contribution for each partner, interdisciplinary approach,...
 - Genericity of research: application potential of the research results outside the consortium
 - Research by research groups beyond SOTA: clear added value w.r.t. the state of the art
 - Compliance with EU state aid rules: IPR model and term sheet



POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR THE FULL PROPOSAL

Project funding imec and VLAIO	√	✓	×
Industry funding VLAIO/Innoviris	√	×	Not evaluated
	imec EB selects projects based on full proposal evaluation ranking		

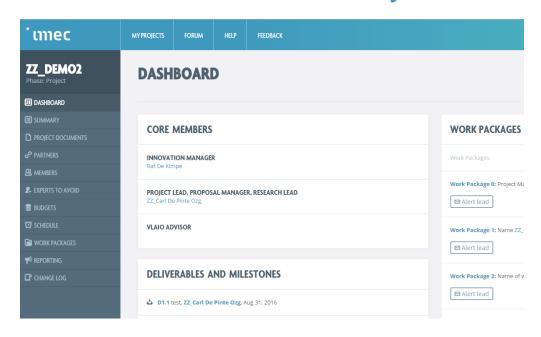


HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

ABSTRACT AND FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION: VIA MYPROJECTS

MyProjects:

- Submitting your application
- Follow-up
- Reporting





Tutorials on how to submit



SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL VIA MYPROJECTS

The Proposal manager is responsible for creating and submitting the proposal

■ Already a user in MyProjects?⇒Use the button in MyProjects

Start a new application

- Not a user in MyProjects?
 - Register via website

Start your new abstract as from July 15 no test project necessary



NEED ACCESS TO MYPROJECTS

 If you are not a Proposal manager, but you need access to the platform, contact your proposal manager

- How to give access as Proposal manager:
 - Add the member
 - Give him a specific role or the role 'generate user'
 - The member will receive a mail with login information



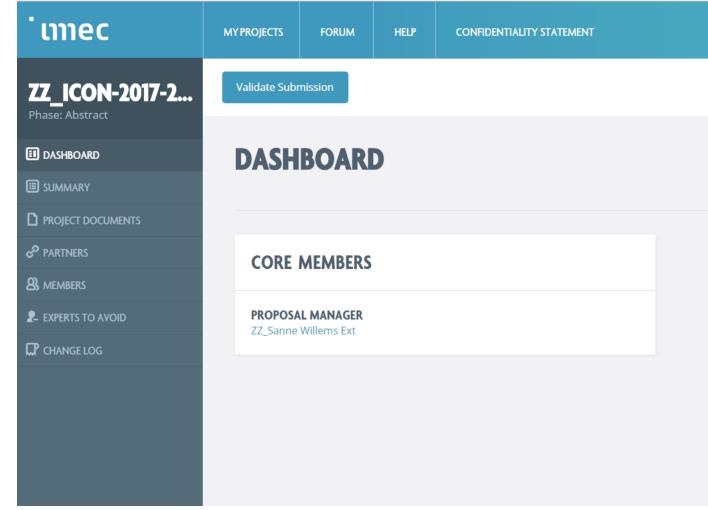
MYPROJECTS

OVERVIEW OF THE ROLES

Role	What?	Who?	Access	How?	User?	Obliged?
Project lead	representative of the External partners	Project lead	all access	By editing Summary	Y	Abstract
Research Lead	Representative of the Research partners	Research Lead	all access	By editing Summary	Υ	Abstract
Proposal Manager	Responsible for the submission proposal	Proposal manager	all access	By editing Summary	Υ	Abstract
Core Role Delegate	For administrative support	e.g. Co-workers of the core roles	all access	By editing member	Υ	No
Financial Lead	submitting financial report		can view project information + upload documents + access to edit the financial report	By editing member	Υ	Full Proposal
Financial Lead without personnel cost details	submitting financial report		can view project information + upload documetns + access to edit the financial report excluding personnal costs	By editing member	Y	no
Workpackage Lead		Workpackage lead	can view project information + upload documents+ access to edit the status report for own workpackages	By editing WP	Y	Project ongoing
Generate User (no specific role)			can view project information + upload documents	By editing member	Y	no
Legal lead			no access	By editing member	N	no
Steer Co			no access	By editing member	Y	Project ongoing
Primary Contact for imec	Will be contacted by imec for important communication (decisions,)		no access	By editing member	N	Abstract
University Lead	submitting financial report		can view project information + upload documents + Can change financial information of different research groups of one university	By editing member	Υ	no

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ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: VIA MYPROJECTS

TO DO'S

	Add directly	Upload		
Content	 Project metadata Partners + MM Members + roles Experts to avoid 	 Abstract doc (doc/PDF) Resubmission letter Motivation letter 	Pitch slides (ppt)	
	Deadline: October 6		I day before pitches	

!! Check VAT number of partners !!



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: VIA MYPROJECTS

DIRECTLY IN MYPROJECTS

- Project metadata
 - Acronym
 - Project lead research lead proposal manager
 - Executive summary
- Partners + MM
- Members
 - Primary contact
 - Core role delegate
- Experts to avoid



Check VAT number of partners



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: VIA MYPROJECTS

ABSTRACT DOCUMENT

- Cause & Context
- Innovation goals and outcome
- SOTA and leap of knowledge
- Valorization
- Details on partners



Abstract not eligible if over character limits

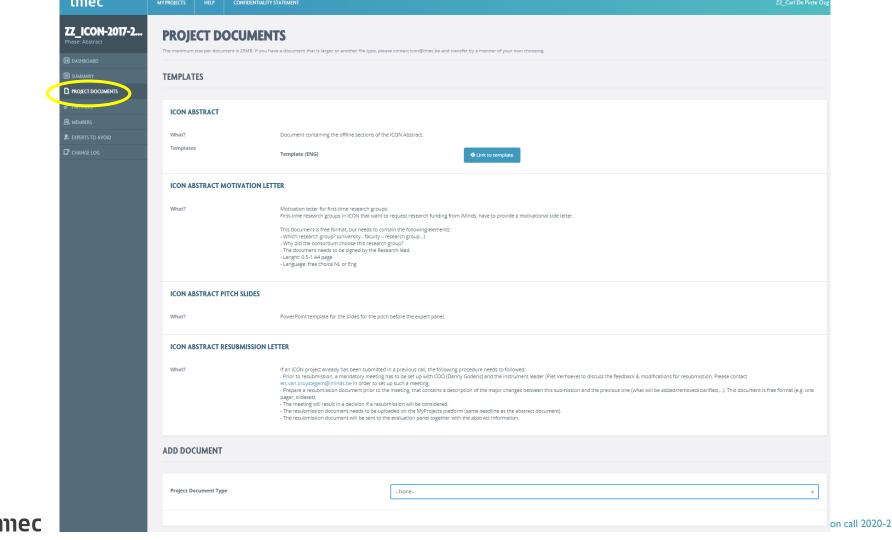
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION: EXTRA DOCUMENTS EXTRA DOCUMENTS

Pitch slides

If necessary:

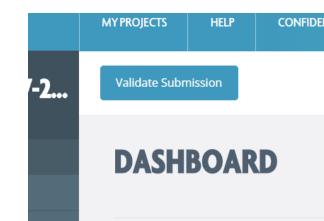
- Resubmission letter
 - If your project has been submitted before in ICON AND if you have approval from imec to resubmit
- Motivation letter for new research groups
 - If it's the first time the research group participated in ICON





VALIDATE AND SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT

- Steps to submit your project as a proposal manager
 - I. Start your application
 - (i) don't wait until the end of September
 - I. Fill in all information and upload the necessary documents
 - Validate to check if all information is correct.
 - i you can validate as many times as you want
 - 3. Submit the project using the submission button







ICON NDA AND LOI

- Non Disclosure Agreement (NDA)
 - Recommended to use from abstract phase onwards
 - Own choice consortium
- Letter Of Intent (Lol) or Letter of Declaration (LoD)
 - Mandatory at full proposal phase
 - LOD for VLAIO application/LOI for all other partners
 - Template not be changed. May be submitted in English or in Dutch
 - Content:
 - Intention of each partner to implement its own task package
 - Acceptance of the imec.icon Consortium Agreement
 - Termsheet with IPR framework



IMEC.ICON NDA AND LOI



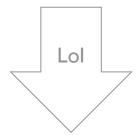
Today
First talks on the project



Recommended as soon as project talks start



October
Abstract submission



Recommended as of abstract submission



November Full proposal submission



Mandatory (part of full proposal submission)



CONTRACTS TO BE SIGNED AFTER PROJECT APPROVAL

- Collaboration Agreement (CA, Samenwerkingsovereenkomst)
 - Binding for all parties
 - imec (incl. universities) and all industry partners
 - Stating imec's and all partners' research input
 - Aspects: project description, operations through steering groups, ownership of results, publication rights, background IPR, ...
- User group Agreement (if applicable)



AGENDA

- Introduction to imec
- imec.icon program, project modalities and IPR model
- Example projects
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- Next steps
- Extra: tips and tricks



APPLYING FOR VLAIO OR INNOVIRIS FUNDING

- Funding application within the imec.icon procedure
 - VLAIO (Flemish region)

Innoviris (Brussels region)

AGENTSCHAP
INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN





AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN

FUNDING BY

www.vlaio.be

FUNDING BY VLAIO: ELIGIBILITY

- For organizations (companies or non-profit) with activities in Flanders
- For innovation topics in all domains, restrictions for military and dual use applications: https://www.vlaio.be/nl/subsidies-financiering/onderzoeksproject/voorwaarden/projecten-met-militair-tweeerlei-gebruik-dual
- Since October 2017: no funding for companies in difficulties (European definition):
 - Criteria for all companies: equity is less than 50% of the share capital
 - For large companies, two extra criteria:
 - Debt to equity ratio > 7,5
 - EBITDA interest coverage ratio < 1,0
 - More information on http://www.vlaio.be/onderneming-in-moeilijkheden



FUNDING BY VLAIO: BUDGET

- Budget contains:
 - Payroll costs: gross salary \times (factor 1,00 1,68 depending on benefits one may have)
 - Other costs: max. € 40.000/FTE (of which max. € 20.000 indirect costs, direct costs to be listed)
 - Possibly large subcontractors (> € 8.500, offer with price detail needed)
- Funding = percentage of budget

AGENTSCHAP INNOVEREN & ONDERNEMEN

FUNDING BY VLAIO: PERCENTAGES

- Basic funding percentage
 - 50% for research activities; 25% for development activities
 - Differentiation based on important challenges and risks
 - Considering activities per partner or per work package
- Extra funding
 - SME
 - Upto +20% (SE) and upto +10% (ME)
 - No longer +10% for collaboration within an ICON-context
- Basic funding + extra funding:
 - min. 25%
 - Overall max. 60% for a research project and max. 50% (45%) for a development project



FUNDING BY VLAIO: RESEARCH/DEVELOPMENT

- Basic funding percentage
 - 25% for a development project
 - 50% for a research project
- Differentiation based on important challenges and risks
- Which knowledge will be used?
 - No funding when purely using existing know-how
 - Development: new knowledge applied to your business
 - Research when step forward w.r.t. state-of-the-art
- Considering activities per partner/work-package



FUNDING BY VLAIO: CRITERIA

- Innovation goals: innovative character, challenges,...
- Potential to reach the innovation goals: feasibility manpower, expertise,...
- Impact: business case, focus on delta with project,...
- Potential to reach impact: market access, go-to-market strategy,...
- Additionality: why is funding needed?



FUNDING BY INNOVIRIS: ELIGIBILITY



Companies which:

- Develop all or some of their activities within the Brussels-Capital Region
- Are not in difficulty, in accordance with the European legislation
- Are proposing a R&D project presenting the development, completion or implementation of an innovative product, process or service
- Can show their ability to finance their share in the project
- Have fulfilled their obligations in the context of previous support initiatives granted by the Region.
- SMEs and Large Enterprises



FUNDING BY INNOVIRIS: RESEARCH VS DEVELOPMENT



- imec.icon industry partners can apply for R&D funding
- R&D project
 - Industrial Research: series of activities carried out with a view to acquiring new skills and innovative scientific knowledge designed to develop a product, procedure or service.
 - **Experimental Development:** activities designed to apply the results of industrial research in the form of prototype products, procedures or services.
- Not exclusively Brussels partners within imec.icon consortium (at least 3 in Flanders)



FUNDING BY INNOVIRIS: PERCENTAGES



- Basic funding percentage of Budget
 - 25% development project
 - 50% research project
- Extra funding
 - SME

SE (+20%) / ME (+10%) (in case of doubt: contact Innoviris)

- Collaboration +15% when, considering the project part for which funding is granted,
 - Contains at least 1 SME as project partner and
 - None of the partners contributes more than 70% of the budget \rightarrow in ICON-project fulfilled
- Basic funding + Extra funding: min. 25% max. 80%



FUNDING BY INNOVIRIS: IMPORTANT EVALUATION CRITERIA



- Strategic and economic impact (Incentive effect of the financial aid, FP, BP, ...)
- Valorization: economic impact for the Brussels Region
- Adequate valorization information is part of eligibility for Innoviris application
- Attendance full proposal info session incl. preliminary discussion with Innoviris adviser is strongly recommended, especially for companies with no or little experience with Innoviris funding



AGENDA

- Introduction to imec
- imec.icon program, project modalities and IPR model
- Example projects
- Application procedure
- VLAIO and Innoviris funding
- Next steps
- Extra: tips and tricks



THINGS TO DECIDE

- Project idea
- Consortium
 - Industry partners
 - Research partners
 - User group members (if needed)
- Proposal manager
 - Start abstract in MyProjects
 - Set up MyMinds space



EARLY-CONSORTIUM CONTACT MOMENTS

- Who?
 - Consortium with an imec Innovation Manager
- What?
 - Sparring with consortium: idea, approach,...
 - Is imec.icon the right instrument?
 - Match-making with extra partners (e.g., missing expertise)
- How?
 - Physical or online meeting
 - Optional, upon request by consortium
 - Fix a date via this form



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EXTRA: TIPS AND TRICKS

TOPICS

- Example sparring questions
- Tips for writing convincing research goals
- Specific attention points for AI projects and projects dealing with user data
- Attention points for ICON-specific evaluation criteria
- Tips for valorization



CONTACTS

CONTACTS FOR IMEC.ICON

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CONTACTS FOR ICON

- Questions regarding VLAIO funding
- Marc Tiri





- Questions regarding Innoviris funding
- Stijn Maas





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IMEC.ICON TIPS AND TRICKS

CONTENTS

- Example sparring questions
- Tips for writing convincing research goals
- Specific attention points for AI projects and projects dealing with user data
- Attention points for ICON-specific evaluation criteria
- Tips for valorization



EXAMPLE SPARRING QUESTIONS

Research challenges

- What are the innovation goals and research challenges? Are they clearly formulated?
- How do they relate to the SotA? Are the research challenges sufficiently ambitious?
- What will be the demonstrators and how will they validate the innovation goals?

Consortium

- Is the consortium capable of tackling the research challenges?
- Is the required expertise available?
- Are the contributions of the partners balanced and a good fit for the research challenges?
- Will the consortium engage in real collaboration?

Valorization

- What are the valorization plans of the industry partners? How will they integrate the technologies and project results into their products/services?
- How will the industry partners (together or separately) bring (parts of) the innovation to the market? What is the likelihood that they will be successful?
- Are there any parties missing in the consortium for successful valorization? If so, how will they be involved in the project (e.g., through user groups, ...)?



ICON RESEARCH GOALS

- 1. Converge and align on the overall project objective(s)
 - What do you aim to achieve in the project?
 - What will the demonstrator look like?
- 2. Identify the difficult problems to be solved in the path to the realize the deliverables
- 3. Identify the research goals
 - Ensure the goals are ambitious
 - Improving on the SotA → research challenges
 - While still in line with the competence and the means of the partners
- 4. Define measurable success criteria for the research goals



ICON RESEARCH GOALS CHARACTERISTICS OF GOOD GOALS

- Specific: what challenging problems need to be solved
- Concise: capture the essence of the challenge
- Realization that can be verified: measurable, preferably quantified
- Success criteria must be positioned against the SotA
 - SotA scope: worldwide, EU, market segment, organization
 - Is a measure of the risks and ambitions
- Innovation goals are not to be confused with project activities or deliverables!



ICON RESEARCH GOALS

FICTIVE EXAMPLE

Innovation objective: gain competitive edge with a consumer TV with world class display

Requires research to make substantial steps in specific domains:

Concrete research goals	Ambition	State of the art	Specific criteria	Measurable
Resolution (pixel density)	$\uparrow \uparrow$	Best in class: I 50 pixels/cm	200 pixels/cm	Y
Color gamut	$\uparrow\uparrow$	Rec.709	Rec.2020	Υ
Brightness	↑	LCD: 600 nits;	800 nits	Υ
Power	\	AMOLED: 15mW/cm ²	5mW/cm ²	Υ
Compatible with common semiconductor processes	+	11th generation fab processes	Per fab requirements	Verifiable
Radiologists QoE	1	MOS = 4.0 on reference monitor	MOS = 4.4	Y



PROJECT APPROACH SPECIFIC ATTENTION POINTS

- Al projects
 - Need credible approach to
 - collecting sufficient and relevant data
 - training Al algorithms
 - validating Al algorithms
 - Within 2-year project duration and with the project partners / user group members

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- Projects dealing with user data
 - Compliance with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
 - Consultation of mandatory ethical committees and voluntary ethical boards
 - Data management and governance plan
 - Suggestion: DMPonline (https://dmponline.dcc.ac.uk/)
 - Can be part of research activities



ICON-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

ATTENTION POINTS

- Real collaboration
 - Collaboration (also between industry partners) is a clear goal of the project
- Generic character of research
 - Broader applicability of the results of the research groups beyond the consortium and the use cases of the companies
 - Research activities are independent from the industry partners
 - In case of possible conflict of interest: explain how it will be handled
- Research beyond the state of the art
 - Only high-risk research activities can be funded at 100%
 - Ensuring beyond SotA character of research activities is an important responsibility of the research lead
- Compliance with EU state aid rules
 - Now handled in Letter of Intent



VALORIZATION BY INDUSTRY PARTNERS

ATTENTION POINTS

- Sufficient valorization in Flanders/Brussels is key for funding: need increase in qualitative employment and/or investments
- Business case should give convincing economic rationale
 - Unique Selling Propositions (UPSs) of envisioned innovation for target market
 - Credible go-to-market strategy
 - Realistic revenue increases
 - Extra employment and/or investments
- Requests for research funding must be substantiated: elaborate on ambitions beyond the state of the art and the risks of the company's activities
- Check for fundability with VLAIO and Innoviris
 - E.g., against Undertaking-in-Difficulty / "Onderneming-in-Moeilijkheden" (OIM) requirements



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