

Notes on Co-funding for STW projects

Technology Foundation STW's mission is to realise knowledge transfer between the technical sciences and users. STW does this by: 1) bringing scientific researchers and potential users together; 2) funding excellent scientific and technical research.

With its responsibilities for the Technical Sciences (TS), STW is part of the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO; see also www.nwo.nl). In this capacity, STW provides indirect government funding. STW reimburses the cost of personnel temporarily appointed to the project in the research institute and the project-specific costs of materials, travel and/or equipment. With the direct government funding it receives, the research institute is responsible for co-funding the project in the form of providing the necessary infrastructure and the supervision of project staff.

STW has set funding limits for research under the programmes. It also applies a graduated scale calculation based on the total project costs.

If a funding proposal remains below the threshold set, a contribution to the project costs by users is voluntary. If the total project costs of the research proposal exceed the threshold set, a contribution to the project costs by users is compulsory (co-funding). The level of these amounts can differ depending on the STW programme. The guidelines for submitting proposals under the various STW programmes can be found on STW's website (<http://www.stw.nl>).

Irrespective of whether the co-funding pledged is compulsory or provided on a voluntary basis, it must satisfy specific criteria in order to be accepted by STW as co-funding. These criteria, together with explanatory notes, are given below. STW does of course highly appreciate any form of co-funding.

For the acquisition of rights to results of the research - whether or not on the basis of co-funding you have provided – see STW's General Funding Conditions (<http://www.stw.nl/Infobalie/Aanvragers.htm>).

Notes on criteria concerning co-funding

- STW uses the financial co-funding to meet part of the project costs. After approval of the project, STW sends an invoice to users who have pledged a financial contribution. Once the funds have been received, they are allocated to the project.
- STW accepts personnel and material contributions as co-funding on the condition that they are capitalised and form an integral part of the project. This should be made clear in the description and planning/phasing of the research.
- STW is the main funding provider in the projects. Project applications where the co-funding from users exceeds the amount provided by STW are not considered.
- STW assumes that co-funding providers are interested in the project as a user and therefore in applying the research results outside science. Co-funders always participate in the user committee.
- Government agencies can play a variety of roles in STW projects, namely: (i) as a research partner (without entitlement to STW funding), (ii) as a subcontractor of a specific assignment (at market rate) or (iii) as a user. Government agencies may act as users under the same conditions as private users.
- The co-funding to be provided by users must be confirmed in a letter of support, which must be written in English. The letter of support must be *in English*. The letter should contain an explicit statement of the pledged financial contribution or the capitalised material or personnel contribution. The amounts stated in letters of support must

agree with the amounts in the budget put forward. Letters of support must be addressed to the project leader, not to STW.

After awarding the research proposal, STW will ask the user for confirmation of the co-funding ('confirmation of commitment by third parties') and, in relevant cases, lay down further arrangements in an agreement.

Notes on criteria concerning in-kind co-funding

- Part of the research may be realised by third parties. A condition in this respect is that the expertise provided in the form of man-hours is not already available at the research institute(s) and is used specifically for the STW project. For personnel support by third parties, STW applies fixed rates in order to capitalise the number of man-hours used (up to 1250 direct hours/year/fte) for a senior or junior researcher. The current rates can be found on the website (<http://www.stw.nl/Infobalie/Aanvragers.htm>).
- For pledges of material resources you should charge the cost price. Commercial rates are not accepted. For pledges of equipment you should take into account any depreciation costs already made, and the intensity of use.
- Pledges in the form of services supplied are only possible if the service can be itemised as an *identifiable new* endeavour. The service should not already be available at the research institute(s) conducting the research. In some cases, applicants may wish to put down services already provided (such as a database, software or plant lines) as in-kind co-funding. Acceptance is not automatic in such cases. Contact STW. Further consultations will take place to determine whether a specific value can be fixed for this supply of services and so you should contact STW about this.

Not acceptable as co-funding

- STW guards against improper mixing of different types of funding; co-funding can never come from direct or indirect (NWO, KNAW) government funding. As a result, co-funding can also never come from the research institute of the applicant(s) or co-applicants(s) or from institutes which are themselves entitled to submit proposals to STW.
- Discounts on commercial rates.
- Costs relating to overheads, supervision, consultancy and/or participation in the user committee.
- Costs of services that are conditional. No conditions may be imposed on the provision of co-funding. Nor may the provision of co-funding be contingent upon reaching a certain stage in the research plan (e.g. go/no-go moment).
- Costs which are not paid by STW (e.g. clinical trials, costs relating to exploitation of the results of the research).

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STW number: 2009/16496/STW