

Call for pre-proposals for Hyflux

Background

STW Partnership Programs foster collaboration between academic and industrial researchers. Technology Foundation STW, the Netherlands funding organisation for the engineering and application-oriented sciences, is proud to announce that it has found a partner in Hyflux CEPAration. We invite academic scientists to submit pre-proposals for research projects that may give answers to the scientific and technological challenges as described by Hyflux in the attached Partnership Program Plan.

Hyflux Int., a Singapore Stock market Company, is a leading company in liquid treatment, energy and special products and it constantly develops and acquires new technologies to strengthen its leading position and broaden its market span. The subsidiary Hyflux CEPAration Technologies (Europe) BV in Helmond carries out the corporate R&D on inorganic and hybrid inorganic/organic membrane technology.

Unique aspects of the approach of this Program:

- Operate as one large team of Universities, Hyflux Inorganic membrane R&D, and Hyflux Technology Commercialization on the realization of the program ambitions
- The team constitutes a coherent effort to contribute to the challenges put forward by Hyflux
- Management and administration of project (proposals) is according to usual STW procedures
- Scientific quality is safeguarded and guided by university professor project applicants
- The program is driven by a short time-to-market ambition and an entrepreneurial approach by all research staff involved
- All are keen on new IPR and new products
- Excellent students will be offered job opportunities

The challenge

This Partnership Program is focussed on membranes that will enable a further breakthrough in enabling applications necessitating separations on the molecular level at elevated to high temperatures.

A high need and huge market potential for membrane separation technologies exists in the replacement by membrane separations of costly and energy consuming (cryogenic) distillation processes in petrochemical industries and as alternative membranes for

desalination processes by dense reverse osmosis membrane. These membranes can also operate at elevated to high temperature and enable combination of unit operations like reaction and separation in membrane reactors. The membrane concept will be based on the cost effective and compact proprietary inorganic hollow fiber membrane concept of Hyflux.

This program addresses some **scientific challenges** in the area of ceramic and hybrid membranes for various applications and covers:

- Micro porous membranes and modules for applications including pervaporation, vapor permeation, gas separation at moderate (below 250°C) and high temperature (above 250°C), low energy & high flux desalination and alike
- Development of molecular separation membranes out of zeolite, silica, titania, amorphous carbon and hybrid materials and alike, including materials with catalytic and self cleaning ability
- Scale up of membrane and module preparation and process, fouling, lifespan
- Development of membrane reactor concepts, scaling up, fouling, lifespan
- Analysis of Initial stage of precursor and pore structure formation for micro porous membrane synthesis in combination with membrane development

Proposals can be submitted on all application areas as further defined in the Hyflux partnership program plan, which can be downloaded at www.stw.nl

Budget

For this program a budget of € 3,000,000 is available. The maximum of project costs that can be requested from STW is € 1,000,000 per project, the minimum € 400,000. Typical partnership project duration is between 2 to 4 years, but may not exceed 5 years.

Who can apply?

Scientists employed by Dutch universities or para-academic institutes eligible for STW-funding can submit a (pre-)proposal (see OTP-guidelines for eligibility criteria at <http://www.stw.nl/Infobalie/Aanvragers.htm>). Project proposals must involve two or more research groups from different engineering or scientific disciplines, because of the inherent multidisciplinary character of the Hyflux-STW Partnership Program.

Proposals and selection

The submission and evaluation process is broken down in two separate, subsequent stages: a call for pre-proposals followed by a later call for full proposals. It is not mandatory to enter a pre-proposal although this is strongly recommended. The pre-proposals will be evaluated by the program committee. The format of the pre-proposal should be according to the structure as described in annex 1 for a pre-proposal and according to annex 3 for a full proposal. The STW board will decide on the funding of the full proposals.

The pre-proposals and the full proposals must meet at least the following criteria:

- projects must contain excellent scientific research with an innovative approach, and be based on a multidisciplinary effort of at least two different researchers having different scientific expertise and/or background; the added benefit of this multidisciplinary approach should be made clear,
- a minimum preferred project size is € 400,000 and maximum € 1,000,000,
- project researchers should be willing to cooperate with Hyflux CEPAration at their pilot production site in Helmond,
- project researchers should be willing to cooperate with other universities and research groups, i.e. in the field of synthesis, testing, characterization, modeling etc.,
- projects based on out-of-the-box-thinking and completely new innovative ideas are encouraged as well.
- in case cooperation with other companies or research organizations is foreseen, please consult Hyflux first.

Beyond the scope of this program are project proposals that only concentrate on modeling.

Funding

Project grants will cover:

- personnel costs for temporary positions (including PhD, Postdoc positions, positions for technical assistants)
- material costs (including national travel costs)
- international travel costs
- costs for new equipment

The institution(s) of the applicant(s) ensure(s) the required infrastructure, the supervision and fitting into the research program of the research institute. STW may verify this with the dean or the executive board of the institute. The institutions must agree in writing to the special Hyflux partnership conditions (Annex 2).

The expertise required for the research must be available at the requesting institute(s), so that external consultants will not be necessary.

For reimbursable projects costs OTP-guidelines apply. see "richtlijnen voor het open technologieprogramma" at <http://www.stw.nl/Infobalie/Aanvragers.htm> or consult the STW program committee secretary. The STW-Board can decide not to spend the maximum available budget for this call.

How to submit?

In order to enhance the chance that your final full proposal will have a good fit with the program ambitions and scope, it is strongly recommended to first submit a pre-proposal. All pre-proposals must be written in accordance with the formal guidelines. It is in the interest of the applicant(s) to contact Hyflux prior to project submission about the project fit into the program.

Pre-proposals

Pre-proposals consist of a short description (at most 4 A4) of the proposed research, a utilization paragraph and a breakdown of the estimated budget needed for carrying out the research. The pre-proposals will be assessed by the program committee on the basis of how well they fit within the scope of the program. The program committee will formulate an advice to the applicants in a plenary session.

Full proposals

Full proposals must consist of a detailed description of the expected results, planning of the research and a utilization paragraph. The utilization paragraph should include the important industrial challenges that will be solved, the time frame to implementation and the expected bottle-necks during the implementation. Hyflux should be involved bottom-up during the preparation of the proposal. Please consult annex 3 for the format of the grant application.

The scientific quality and the utilization perspective of the full proposals will be evaluated individually first by peer review. Thereafter, the expert program committee (PC) will rank the full proposals. The decision of the STW board will be based on this ranking. Details can be found in annex 4 and 5.

Tentative time schedule STW-Hyflux partnership proposals

Call for pre-proposals open	Mon 13 April 2009
Deadline pre-proposals	Sun 7 June 2009, 23:59 hrs.
Notification to applicant's pre-proposal <i>Positive/negative advice by program committee</i>	Tue 23 June, 2009
Deadline full proposals	Tue 21 July 2009, 23:59 hrs.
Start review by experts	Mon August 10, 2009
Protocol sent to applicants	Mon September 28, 2009
Deadline protocol ready	Mon October 12, 2009
Proposals and protocols send to PC members	Mon October 19, 2009
Advice Program Committee to STW board ready	Mon 16 November, 2009
Proposal for funding send to STW board	Fri 27 November, 2009
Decision by STW board on funding	Fri 11 December, 2009
Notification to applicants	Mon 14 December, 2009

Program Committee

The program committee has been appointed by the STW Board. The committee consists of two industrial members from Hyflux and two independent, foreign expert academic members. Scientific quality and utilization perspective will have equal weights in the committee's evaluation of the proposals.

STW program committee secretary:

Dr.ing. Y.G. Roman
Van Vollenhovenlaan 661
3527 JP Utrecht
Phone: 030-6001326
Email: y.roman@stw.nl

Appendices

Annex 1: The pre-proposal
Annex 2: The special partnership conditions

For future reference only:

Annex 3: The full proposal
Annex 4: Assessment and selection criteria
Annex 5: Assessment and selection procedure
Annex 6: Utilization
Annex 7: Procedure after granting

Possibility of appeal

The applicant may appeal against a decision of the STW board by sending an objection letter including a motivation and argumentation to the general board of NWO within six weeks after the date of the granting or the rejection letter. Address: Algemeen Bestuur van NWO, Postbus 93138, 2509 AC Den Haag.

Annex 1 The pre-proposal, deadline Sunday 7 June 2009, 23:59 hours

The project outline - which must not exceed 4 pages – should be written in English with minimum font size 10 point.

STW receives your proposal by IRIS (electronic submission) in pdf format via www.iris.stw.nl

In case cooperation with other companies or (non-academic) research organisations is foreseen, please consult Hyflux first

The structure **must** be as follows:

Mention on the front page 'Partnership Hyflux' in the upper left corner

1. Title
2. Names and addresses of the applicants
3. Expertise of the applicants including max. 5 key publications
4. Describe how your project fits the scope of the program, and which aspects of the program plan will be addressed
5. Objectives of the project
6. Concise description of the planned research. At least a description should be given of the expected results and the implementation thereof in industry
7. Preliminary patent search results: essential here is that there is 'freedom to operate' i.e. no infringement on existing property rights of third parties
8. Preliminary market size estimation for the proposed application and objectives
9. Preliminary budget forecast (with a minimum STW/Hyflux contribution of 400,000 € and a maximum STW/Hyflux contribution of 1,000,000 €).
10. References (if applicable)

Upon receiving a pre-proposal STW will decide on its admission (eligibility criteria). The program committee will assess the strategic fit within the research program and its topics. On the basis of individual assessments by the program committee members, the program committee will formulate an advice to the applicants in a plenary session. The advice to submit a full proposal can be accompanied by (required or suggested) amendments to the proposal.

Notes:

- The submission of a full proposal is not limited to those that have submitted a pre-proposal.
- It is in the interest of the applicant(s) to contact Hyflux at terpstra@ceparation.com prior to project submission to discuss the best way the project can be tailored to fit into the program.
- Support from other companies or research organizations are not allowed without prior consent of Hyflux.

The program committee will evaluate the fit of the pre-proposals within the framework of the program and will use the aspects as defined in the program plan as the basis for their evaluation. Generally, the more aspects the proposal covers, the better the project may fit into the program. The program plan can be downloaded at

<http://www.stw.nl/Agenda/>

Annex 2 The special partnership conditions

Note: a more elaborate version of special conditions is given out only to those submitting a full proposal.

Issue	STW-Hyflux contract conditions	Description
Projects (article 3)	Hiring researchers	Final researcher candidates (PhD and Postdoc) for the execution of partnership projects are required to meet with Hyflux prior to signing their contract.
	Students on projects	If the project leader intends to employ BSc/MSc students or third parties in the project, he/she is required to report to STW. These students and third parties are required to sign an NDA (to be approved by STW) before they start to work on the project.
	Reporting	Every 3 months a progress report is required or as often as Hyflux may reasonably require
	Progress meetings	The program committee will select the progress meeting interval for each individual partnership project. An STW program officer will attend these meetings once per year and upon request of Hyflux.
	Location of researchers	Each PhD and Postdoc researcher will be required to execute a traineeship of 1 month at Hyflux premises in Helmond at the early start of the project. Furthermore researchers can be required to spend several months in a row (max 3) at the premises of Hyflux for the benefit of the work.
IPR (article 5)	Freedom to operate	The main applicant needs to ensure, up to his/her best knowledge, that the use of the results of the project does not infringe any third party rights. In case the applicants become aware during the project of possible infringement of third party rights by the results they shall inform STW/Hyflux immediately.
	Inventions	Any possible invention needs to be reported in writing to STW/Hyflux immediately. Researchers are expected to cooperate fully in an application of a patent.
	Ownership	Results generated by the research team in the partnership project are jointly owned by the applicant(s) that generated the result, Hyflux and STW.
	Exclusive rights to use results	Hyflux has an option to obtain an exclusive right to a particular research result of the partnership project against market price. Hyflux will inform STW of the execution of its option within 3 months after the project end. In that case the applicant(s) and STW retain at all times a royalty-free right to use such result for non commercial further research and education while further research with that result together with a commercial third party can only be made after prior written consent of Hyflux.
	Protection of results	Hyflux has the right to file patent applications to the results of a project in its sole name. In case Hyflux wishes to file a patent to a particular result Hyflux will inform STW and the applicant(s) within 6 months after this result was presented to Hyflux. Inventors will be mentioned on the patent application. As Hyflux is granted an exclusive right by filing the patent applications in its sole name, the same conditions as under exclusive rights will apply (market price and right to use results for further research and education). If Hyflux is not interested in a patent application, STW and/or the applicant in question may file a patent to those results.
Equipment and facilities (article 6)	Ownership	Equipment and facilities funded under the program will initially be owned by STW. After 5 years of the purchase date Hyflux can request ownership of the equipment in which case it will be transferred to the premises of Hyflux.
	Location	Equipment and facilities funded under the partnership program can be located either at the premises of the applicant(s) or at the premises of Hyflux during the course of the project. Access to these facilities will be required from both sides.
Confidentiality (article 7)	Confidential information	Any information gained during the course of the partnership project is confidential by nature and shall remain confidential for the duration of the project and for a period of 2 years after project end.
Publication (article 8)	Procedure	Any draft publication should be communicated to Hyflux 60 days prior to publication (including posters, website, oral presentation and the-like) for permission.
	Acknowledgement	In any approved publication the following sentence needs to be mentioned: <i>This research is supported by the Dutch Technology Foundation STW, Netherlands and Hyflux CEPAration Technologies Europe BV, under the partnership program STW-Hyflux CEPAration Inorganic and Hybrid Membranes</i>

Annex 3 Format of the full proposal *(for future reference only)*

STW receives your proposal by IRIS (electronic submission) in pdf format via www.iris.stw.nl

- ◆ *Mention on the front page 'Partnership Hyflux' in the upper left corner plus STW dossier number (if any)*
- ◆ *The maximum length is approximately 12 (twelve) pages of A4, with minimum font size 10 point*
- ◆ *The proposal must be written in English.*

Administrative data

On maximally half a page you should provide:

- ◆ Title. The title of the project has a maximum of 225 characters. For publicity purposes, a short, non-technical title or acronym is required as well.
- ◆ Name, address, phone number, fax number and e-mail address of the applicants and possible co-applicants and the telephone number of the secretary.
- ◆ Applications elsewhere. If support has been applied for elsewhere, you should give the status of this application at the time of submission.
- ◆ Please enter the following declaration with signature on this page: *We, the applicants, declare that we have taken notice of, and are in agreement with, the special partnership conditions (see Annex 2)*
- ◆ STW sends the official correspondence to the main applicant. This is the first applicant mentioned. STW assumes the main applicant will have the supervision on the project. He or she becomes the project leader and bears the final responsibility for the execution of the research and the utilization plan.

Project description

1. Summaries

The summaries should be clear to those active in the field.

Research summary

Summarize in half a page the context, problem statement, research method and expected results.

Utilization summary

Summarize the utilization potential of the expected results in half a page. Provide everything the reviewers should know about the utilization: the chosen approach and the way results will be brought into practice.

2. Composition of the group

The current group

Describe in half a page the composition of the team (academic and industrial) that will perform the research as well as the reason this team is fit for this research. Indicate the supervisors of the project, the proposed staff, and how the tasks will be divided.

Available infrastructure

This information includes available laboratory room and equipment.

Candidate researchers

In case candidates for the proposed staff positions are already known, you mention them here. Give a short explanation of their suitability for the position.

3. Scientific description

In this section of maximally four pages an expert in the field should find all information to assess the quality of the proposed research. Treat the following subjects:

Contents of the research

Provide the scientific objectives and the starting-points of the project. Describe the methods and techniques you will apply, the knowledge to be developed, and the instruments and models you will use.

Required personnel and equipment

Provide motivations for staff and equipment and possible other requirements for the research.

Time schedule and allocation of tasks

Describe the proposed course of the research over the years and how the different parts must interact. You give decision points (milestones) and moments research results are expected (deliverables). Further, you indicate if and where you see a role for Hyflux in the work plan. You need to describe the research activities as a function of time and visualize this by means of a Gantt chart.

4. Fit within the research topics of the program

Describe in half a page explicitly the fit of the proposal in the program and its research topics. These topics are described on page 1 of this call and as so-called 'aspects' in chapter 4 of the Hyflux program plan. The program committee will use this section particularly for the assessment of the fit in the program.

Connections with other research

Mention similar research that is performed elsewhere, either in the Netherlands or in the rest of the world. Describe the relation with your own research and the contacts with these groups (or the plans to establish them).

5. Utilization plan

The utilization plan of maximally two and a half pages must be clear to those with general knowledge of the application domain.

The challenge from the practice and the proposed solution

Your research will address problems encountered in industry with not-yet-existing solutions. Indicate the industrial relevance of this problem and the impulse this research gives towards the solution. Indicate which steps you will take to bring the research results into actual practice. Provide details for assessment of the feasibility and the conditions for successful application.

Market size estimation

Indicate the results of a preliminary market study to estimate the projected market size of your envisioned product application and the sources you have used to assess this.

Cooperation with Hyflux

Describe the ambitions you have in cooperating with Hyflux. Describe the way the researchers will interact with those present at Hyflux and how you foresee that traineeships of researchers at Hyflux premises will take place. Please indicate how Hyflux could use and implement the project results and deliverables coming from this project.

Past performance in utilization

Indicate the past successes that the academic team achieved in bringing academic research results into industrial practice, in relation with inorganic or hybrid membranes or related activities or otherwise.

6. Contracts and patents

If there are any contracts relevant to the proposed research project, these should be mentioned here in half a page. Mention any ties to competitor membrane companies of Hyflux. Also provide patent search results. Describe the results of the patent search that you have executed on your project goals and ambitions and what keywords you have used to browse the EPO or similar patent search databases systems. Indicate if you have patents or running patent applications in the field of the research. Make clear that there is complete freedom to operate and that the project is not infringing or developing upon rights or patent claims that are owned by other parties than the applicants. This section takes maximally half a page.

7. Budget

Present a budget table overview per project year and add specifications per cost category. All amounts are without BTW (VAT). The length of this section is at maximum one page.

- ◆ **Personnel**

You can apply for temporary staff: PhD-students, post-docs or technicians. Staff is appointed by the applicant institution after consultation with Hyflux. The actual appointment is subject to prior written permission of STW. STW may withdraw a grant if vacancies are not filled within a year after granting. The salary rates for staff can be found at <http://www.stw.nl/Infobalie/Aanvragers.htm>

- ◆ **Materials**

The costs of office and laboratory goods, small instruments and appliances must be specified here. National travel expenses of the project are also part of this budget including all costs related to travel and possible subsistence for traineeships at Hyflux premises. Standard personal computers for data and text editing will not be funded by STW.

- ◆ **Foreign travel expenses**

These are costs for foreign travel and subsistence for congress or short working visits abroad for the project.

- ◆ **Investments**

These are costs for necessary equipment and other investments for the project. Give specifications of the equipment and a cost breakdown if applicable. Indicate availability of such equipment at other universities and institutes and evaluate alternatives before requesting new equipment.

- ◆ **Overview of the total project costs**

Present a table with the planning of the staff appointments and the budgets per project year. Use the above mentioned cost categories. The contribution requested per project from STW is minimum € 400,000 and at most € 1,000,000.

8. Literature

In maximally two pages list all relevant and publicly available publications of the participating parties of the proposal, as well as relevant publications of others.

9. Key words, abbreviations and acronyms

Appendix: Potential referees.

(not to be included in the proposal; please submit on separate page)

List four (inter-)nationally renowned university expert referees in the field of the project that could potentially review your proposal. The referees should be able to review the proposal objectively and therefore should not have participated as co-author in publications of the applicants.

Annex 4

Assessment and selection criteria

Full proposals will be evaluated by peer review on scientific quality and utilization potential. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three referees. The referees will get the following issues to assess:

Scientific quality

- Originality and innovative character of the proposal
- Contribution to the aims of the partnership program
- Expected impact on the scientific community
- Research method
- Time schedule
- Budget
- Infrastructure

Utilization

- Potential economic impact
- Past performance in utilization by the applicants
- Contribution to the development of applied knowledge and aims of the program
- Impact on utilization if the project is carried out successfully
- Different steps needed (time path) to utilize the results
- Chance on patents and/or know how agreements
- Interaction and cooperation with Hyflux

Thereafter, the program committee will be asked to score the proposals on the two criteria above (based on the full proposals together with the protocols) and also on the strategic fit within the program, see annex 5 for details.

Check of the full project proposal by STW

The STW office confirms the receipt of every proposal. A check is performed whether or not the full proposal satisfies all requirements as mentioned in this document as well as the freedom to operate rule of STW. In case of doubt STW will contact the applicant and may ask for a revised version.

Pre-selection

In the project assessment and selection procedure there is no pre-selection of proposals. However, STW has the right to add a pre-selection if needed. This will only be applicable in case there appears to be a very large number of proposal applications through which the chances of getting an individual proposal funded has become very small.

Peer review

STW presents the full proposal to a number of experts in the field of the proposal. These referees are from the scientific community, knowledge institutes and relevant industry. They will, individually without any interaction with fellow referees or applicants, review the proposal on the basis of criteria for scientific quality and utilization potential. These criteria are stated in Annex 4. Per project the comments of at least three referees will be used. STW will combine the comments of the referees in a so-called protocol. In this protocol the comments of the individual referees are made anonymous. The referees will not get a copy of the program plan since they do not assess the fit into the program.

Reply (rebuttal) by the applicants

STW will send the protocol to the main applicant requesting to react to each of the individual comments of the referees.

Assessment by the expert program committee (PC)

The PC, consisting of two persons of Hyflux and two independent scientific experts in the field, will rank the full proposals. The two scientific PC members will separately give grades on a scale from 1 to 9 (see scale definition below), for the scientific quality and the other Hyflux PC members for utilization. Thereafter a preliminary ranking is made. The PC will define the final ranking during a meeting. This final ranking will be based on the average grades given by the PC members individually, the 'fit' into the program, the cohesion between the project proposals and (if necessary) other strategic arguments. The PC finalises a ranking of the proposals including an argumentation in case it wishes to deviate from the ranking obtained by averaged scores. The decision of the STW board will be based on the ranking of the proposals by the program committee. The STW-Board can decide not to spend the maximum available budget for this call.

Score

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | Excellent |
| 2 | between excellent and very good |
| 3 | Very Good |
| 4 | between very good and good |
| 5 | Good |
| 6 | between good and moderate |
| 7 | Moderate |
| 8 | between moderate and very moderate |
| 9 | Very moderate |

Annex 6

Utilization

A very important aspect is the utilization of the project results in industrial practice.

STW and Hyflux

The partnership program is cooperation between STW and Hyflux. Each party finances half the budget of 3 M€. The program duration is 5 years. The objectives of the program are driven by the ambitions of the company Hyflux. Project leaders should have the ambition to fully cooperate with Hyflux and to follow their business interest during the course of the program.

Legal matters

Between STW and Hyflux a contract has been signed. For any issues that might arise during the course of the project, the project leader can consult STW for advice. In legal matters the text of the STW-Hyflux contract prevails above the text of this call.

Program and project execution

For details about the project procedure after granting and during the execution of the partnership program and the cooperation with Hyflux, details can be found in annex 7.

Other supporting organizations

Within a partnership program it is not allowed to involve (semi) commercial research institutes or companies other than Hyflux without consent of Hyflux.

Annex 7

Procedure after granting

During the course of a project the following procedures apply. Extensive information is available in the 'Aanwijzingen voor de projectleider'. This document will be enclosed in the letter awarding the grant. It is also available from the STW office.

Granting

The first mentioned main applicant will be considered to be the principal investigator and will as such be appointed as project leader by STW. After granting, the project leader obtains a number of documents in which the legal and financial conditions are stated. The grant is available only after these documents have been signed and returned to the STW office. Initially, the credits for materials travel and investments are granted only for the first two years and the credit for staff salaries is granted only for the first three years. STW reserves the remaining budget for the "Request for project continuation" after two years.

Start of the project

The start date of the project is the date of the appointment of the first staff member. Usually, this is not the date of granting. The budget becomes available at project start and when the abovementioned signed documents have been received by STW.

User committees (UC)

For each project a user committee is established in which it is explicit who is part of this committee and who is not. The UC members alone will get access to the confidential project documentation. By default, the committee consists of at least the project leader and fellow applicants, the researchers paid through this partnership program and at least one representative from Hyflux and one program officer of STW. A STW management assistant will distribute the documents prior to the UC meetings upon request of Hyflux. Furthermore, PC members may attend the meetings. Others (e.g. students, other university staff, consultants, etc) may only attend these meeting upon invitation or after approval of Hyflux.

User committee meetings and reporting

Approximately three months after the start of the project the user committee will meet for the first time. The standard meeting and reporting frequency is 3 months. This frequency can be altered by Hyflux when the project progresses. In the meeting the project progress is discussed as well as future planning. The project leader sends a progress report to STW every half year. The project leader is the chairman of the user committee meetings unless Hyflux indicates otherwise. A program officer from STW will occasionally attend the meetings. The user committee will receive all draft publications for approval prior to publication (see annex 2 for details). This includes website information, poster and oral presentations, conference contributions and other scientific publications.

Contribution to the program

Each partnership project will contribute to the coordinating and cohesion stimulation activities as described in the program plan and as will be developed by STW and the program committee during the course of the Hyflux program. Examples are the attendance and presentation of project results on possible Hyflux program conferences, input for a possible program website etc.

Continuation of projects

For projects that last for three years or longer, the project leader must submit a continuation request one and a half year after the start of the project. To decide on the continuation Hyflux and STW will jointly decide using advice input of the scientific PC members.

Termination

A project can be terminated before the final end date in case of a strong deviation from the project workplan, or strong deviation from the approach of the partnership program without written approval from PC, or in case of gross negligence.

Possibility of appeal

The applicant may appeal against a decision of the STW board by sending an objection letter including a motivation and argumentation to the general board of NWO within six weeks after the date of the granting or the rejection letter. Address: Algemeen Bestuur van NWO, Postbus 93138, 2509 AC Den Haag.