

Partnership



STW – Danone

Specialised and disease-specific nutrition through an understanding of neuroimmune-gut interactions April 2010

Call for (pre-) proposals for Danone

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 Danone Research Centre. We invite academic scientists to submit preproposals for research projects that may give answers to the scientific and technological challenges described by Danone in the attached Partnership Program Plan.

Danone S.A. is a worldwide leading company specialised in the manufacture and supply of fresh dairy products, beverages, baby food and medical nutrition, products associated with the values of quality and health. Danone Research Centre (currently located in Wageningen but from 2012 onwards in Utrecht) carries out Danone's corporate R&D for Baby and Medical nutrition. Its major research focus areas are linked to immunology, neurology and metabolism. Danone is interested in the research and development of neuroimmune-gut interactions as targets for specialised and disease-specific nutrition.

Unique aspects of this program's approach:

- University researchers shall work together with the researchers of Danone Research Centre as one large team.
- The team constitutes a coherent effort to contribute to the challenges put forward by Danone.
- Management and administration of the project (and proposals) is according to the usual STW procedures.
- Scientific quality of the project execution is safeguarded and guided by project applicants who are university professors.

The challenge

This Partnership Program is focused on the development and understanding of new concepts for specialised nutrition (medical food and infant nutrition): From ingredient to health benefit with a focus on neurology/endocrinology, immunology and related metabolic disorders, and, in particular, on the interactions between these systems and the modulation of their activity by nutrition.

Questions that may arise are: Can neuroimmune interactions be influenced by dietary ingredients with a resulting prevention and/or treatment of immunological and/or neurological diseases such as allergy, neurodegeneration and chronic inflammation?

The goal of this Partnership Program is twofold:

- 1) To link different areas of expertise and know-how, i.e. immunology, neurology, endocrinology, physiology, metabolism, epigenetics and genetics so as to support and understand the process from ingredients to specialised nutrition products with a health benefit.
- 2) To understand the role of the gastrointestinal tract in modulating neuroimmune interactions affecting metabolic disorders, diseases and health, with the aim of defining and designing the process from ingredients to specialised products with a health benefit.

This program addresses some **scientific challenges** in the area of specialised human nutrition. The major scientific challenge is to bring together/link different disciplines in order to develop the best multifactorial therapy for immunological, neurological or metabolic diseases such as chronic inflammation, allergies, asthma, stress and obesity, and how these are linked to various metabolic diseases such as type II diabetes and cardiovascular disease, cachexia, autism and neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

Proposals can be submitted in the research areas as further defined and restricted in the Danone 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 amount for project costs that can be requested from STW is € 750,000 per project. Typical duration of a partnership project is between 2 and 4 years.

Who can apply?

Scientists employed by Dutch universities or para-academic institutes eligible for STW funding can submit a preproposal or full 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 in view of the inherent multidisciplinary character of the Danone-STW Partnership Program.

Proposals and selection

The submission and evaluation process consists of two separate, subsequent stages: a call for preproposals followed by a later call for full proposals.

The preproposals will be evaluated by the program committee. Preproposals should be formatted according to the structure described in Annex 1 and full proposals according to the structure in Annex 3. The STW Board will decide on the funding of the full proposals.

Part of this program are project proposals that meet the following fit-to-the-program criteria:

- The project proposals should address the interplay between nutrition, metabolism, immune function and neuronal regulation and address a substantial number of the following aspects (see the triangle in Figure 1 of the program plan).
- Projects should be submitted from at least two different universities or research groups.
- Projects should be multidisciplinary and should address at least two areas (circles) as depicted in Figure 1 of the program plan. However, proposals within the overlapping three areas will have the highest priority.
- Projects should focus on application/valorisation into specialised nutrition, showing clear translational capacity towards disease management and/or (secondary) prevention.
- Projects should focus on translational research and should follow the strict rules for animal ethics and clinical trial ethics, although the clinical tests will not be financed out of this program budget with the exception of small proof-of-concept trials.

Not part of this program are project proposals covering:

- Research on animal nutrition.
- Just one aspect, i.e. nutrition, metabolism, immune function or neuronal regulation.
- Clinical trials (focussed on testing a new food) except small proof-of-concept trials focussed on mechanistic studies.
- In vitro screening for new ingredients at a large-scale (libraries).
- Development of new animal models.
- Any research aiming at the development of functional foods or general food products, for instance, dieting products, that do not meet the criteria for specialised nutrition (infant nutrition and medical food).
- Research aiming at convenience food and large-scale consumer foods.
- Technical product development aspects such as taste, shelf life, texture, etc.
- Only (computer) modelling.

- DHA studies.
- Research and development on the basis of existing patents that are not owned by the university applicants themselves.
- Research topics on which there is a conflict of interest of one of the participants as a result of affiliations with Danone competitor industries.

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 institution must agree in writing to the special Danone 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 the research.

For reimbursable projects costs, OTP guidelines apply. See "Guidelines for funding proposals under the Open Technology Programme (OTP) " 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?

You are obliged to first of all submit a preproposal so as to maximise the chances of your final full proposal having a good fit with the program ambitions and scope. All preproposals must be written in accordance with the formal guidelines.

Preproposals

Preproposals consist of a short description (at most 4 pages A4, see Annex 1) of the proposed research, a utilisation paragraph and a breakdown of the estimated budget needed for carrying out the research. The preproposals 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 contain a detailed description of the expected results, planning of the research and a utilisation paragraph. The utilisation paragraph should include the important industrial challenges that will be solved, the timeframe to implementation and the expected bottlenecks during the implementation. Danone should be involved

bottom-up during the preparation of the proposal. Please consult Annex 3 for the format of the grant application.

A full proposal may only be submitted if preceded by a preproposal or upon invitation of the program committee.

The scientific quality and the utilisation perspective of the

full proposals will first of all be evaluated individually by peer review. Subsequently, the expert program committee (PC) will rank the full proposals. The STW Board will base its decision on this ranking. Details can be found in Annexes 4 and 5.

Tentative timetable STW-Danone partnership proposals

Call for preproposals open	Thursday 20 May 2010
Deadline preproposals	Tuesday 15 June 2010 11:59 hrs (am)
Notification about applicant's preproposal <i>Positive/negative advice by program committee</i>	Thursday 1 July 2010
Deadline full proposals	Thursday 19 August 2010, 11:59 hrs (am)
Review by experts	August-October 2010
Protocol sent to applicants	Friday 29 October 2010
Deadline comments applicant on protocol	Friday 12 November 2010
Advice Program Committee to STW Board ready	Friday 26 November 2010
Decision by STW Board on funding	Friday 10 December 2010
Notification to applicants	From Monday 13 December 2010

Program Committee

The program committee has been appointed by the STW Board. The committee consists of two industrial members from Danone and two independent, foreign expert, academic members. Scientific quality and utilisation perspective will carry equal weighting in the committee's evaluation of the proposals. The fit into the program will also be taken into account.

STW program committee secretary:

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Appendices

Annex 1: The preproposal
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: Utilisation
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 Governing Board of NWO within six weeks after the date of the granting or the rejection letter. Address: NWO Governing Board, PO Box 93138, NL-2509 AC The Hague.

Annex 1. Format of the preproposal. Deadline preproposals Tuesday 15 June 2010, 11:59 hrs (am)

The project outline - which must not exceed 4 pages A4 – should be written in English with a minimum font size of 10 points.

STW should receive your proposal through IRIS (electronic submission) in PDF format via <https://iris.stw.nl/iris>

If cooperation with other companies or (non-academic) research organisations is foreseen, please consult Danone first.

The structure **must** be as follows:

State on the front page 'Partnership Danone' 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. This should at least include the expected results and how these shall be applied in industry
7. Preliminary patent search results: this must reveal 'freedom to operate' i.e. no infringement on existing property rights of third parties
8. Preliminary budget forecast with a maximum STW contribution of € 750,000
9. References (if applicable)

Upon receiving a preproposal, STW will decide on its admissibility (eligibility criteria). The program committee will assess the strategic fit within the research program and its topics. Based on 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 limited to those who have submitted a preproposal.
- Only upon special invitation of the program committee selected university groups can be requested to submit a full proposal without having submitted a preproposal
- Support from other companies or research organisations is not allowed without the prior consent of Danone.
- Project proposals must involve two or more research groups from different engineering or scientific disciplines in view of the inherent multidisciplinary character of the Danone-STW Partnership Program.

The program committee will evaluate the fit of the preproposals 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

STW-Danone contract conditions	Description
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 commence work on the project.
Progress meetings	The program committee will select the progress meeting interval for each individual partnership project which is, in principle, once every 6 months. An STW program officer will attend these meetings once per year and at the request of Danone.
Location of researchers	Each PhD and postdoc researcher can be requested to execute a traineeship at Danone premises during the course of the project.
Freedom to operate	The main applicant needs to ensure, to his/her best knowledge, that the use of the project results does not infringe any third party rights. Should the applicants become aware during the project of a possible infringement of third party rights by the results, they shall inform STW/Danone immediately.
Inventions	Any possible invention needs to be reported in writing to STW/Danone immediately. Researchers are expected to cooperate fully in an application for a patent.
Ownership	Results generated by the research team in the partnership project are jointly owned by the applicant(s) that generated the result and STW. Results jointly generated by the applicant(s) and Danone are jointly owned by the applicant(s), STW and Danone.
Exclusive rights to use results	Danone has an option to obtain an exclusive right to a particular research result of the partnership project against market price. Danone will inform STW of the execution of its option within 12 months after the presentation of the project result. In that case the applicant(s) and STW retain at all times a royalty-free right to use such results for non-commercial further research and education.
Protection of results	Danone has the right to file patent applications on the results of a project in its sole name. In the event that Danone wishes to file a patent on a particular result Danone will inform STW and the applicant(s) within 6 months after this result was presented to Danone. Inventors will be mentioned on the patent application. As Danone 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 Danone is not interested in a patent application, STW and/or the applicant in question may file a patent to those results.
Confidential information	Any information gained during the course of the partnership project is confidential by nature and shall remain confidential for a period of 4 years after disclosure of such confidential information in the project.
Material Transfer	In case materials will be transferred in the project from Danone to the applicant(s), a material transfer agreement needs to be signed between Danone and the applicant(s).
Procedure	Any draft publication should be communicated to Danone 45 days prior to publication (including posters, website, oral presentation and the like) for permission.
Acknowledgement	In any approved publication the following sentence must be stated: <i>This research is supported by the Danone Research B.V. and Technology Foundation STW, the Netherlands</i>

Annex 3. Format of the full proposal. Deadline full proposals Thursday 19 August 2010, 11:59 hrs (am)

(for future reference only)

STW should receive your proposal through IRIS (electronic submission) in PDF format via <https://iris.stw.nl/iris>:

- ◆ *Mention on the front page 'Partnership Danone' in the upper left corner plus STW file number (if any).*
- ◆ *The maximum length is approximately 12 (twelve) pages of A4, with minimum font size of 10 points.*
- ◆ *The proposal must be written in English.*
- ◆ *A full proposal may only be submitted if preceded by a preproposal or upon invitation of the program committee.*
- ◆ *Project proposals must involve two or more research groups from different engineering or scientific disciplines in view of the inherent multidisciplinary character of the Danone-STW Partnership Program.*

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 utilisation plan.

Project description

1. Summaries

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

Research summary

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

Utilisation summary

Summarise the utilisation potential of the expected results in half a page. Provide everything the reviewers should know about the utilisation: the chosen approach and how the results will be implemented.

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 allocated.

Available infrastructure

This information includes available laboratory room and equipment.

Candidate researchers

If candidates for the proposed staff positions are already known then mention them here. Provide a brief explanation of their suitability for the position.

3. Scientific description

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

Content 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 other possible requirements for the research.

Time schedule and allocation of tasks

Describe the proposed course of the research over the duration of the project and how the different parts must interact. Provide decision points (milestones) and moments when research results are expected (deliverables). Furthermore, you should indicate if and where you see a role for Danone in the work plan. You need to describe the research activities as a function of time and visualise this by means of a Gantt chart.

4. Fit within the research topics of the program

Explicitly describe in half a page how the proposal fits in the program and its research topics. These topics are described on pages 1 and 2 of this call and in Chapters 4 and 5 of the Danone program plan. The program committee will use this section in particular to assess the fit in the program.

Connections with other research

Mention similar research being 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. Utilisation plan

The utilisation plan, of at most two-and-a-half pages, must be clear to those with general knowledge of the application area.

The challenge from the practice and the proposed solution

Your research will address problems encountered in industry with as yet non-existent solutions. Indicate the industrial relevance of this problem and the impulse this research gives towards the solution. Indicate which steps you will take to actually implement the research results. Provide details from which the feasibility and the conditions for successful application can be assessed.

Cooperation with Danone

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

Past performance in utilisation

Indicate the past successes of the academic team in bringing academic research results into industrial practice, in the area of specialised nutrition or related activities.

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 companies of Danone. Also provide patent search results. Describe the results of the patent search that you have executed on your project goals and ambitions and which keywords you have used to browse the EPO or similar patent search database systems. Indicate if you have patents or running patent applications in the field of the research. State clearly 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 should be no more than half a page.

7. Budget

Present a budget table overview per project year and add specifications per cost category. All amounts are exclusive of Dutch VAT (BTW). The length of this section is at most one page.

◆ Personnel

You can apply for temporary staff: PhD students, postdocs or technicians. Staff are appointed by the applicant institution. 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 Danone 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 at most € 750,000.

8. Literature

In a maximum of 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 nationally or internationally 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 should therefore not have participated as co-author in publications of the applicants.

Annex 4. Assessment and selection criteria of full proposals

Full proposals will be evaluated by peer review for scientific quality and utilisation potential. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three referees. The referees assess the following criteria:

Scientific quality

- Competency of the research team
- Originality and innovative character of the proposal
- Contribution to the aims of the partnership program
- Expected impact on the scientific community
- Research method and approach
- Timetable and deliverables
- Adequacy of budget and infrastructure

Utilisation

- Strengths and weaknesses of the utilisation plan
- Potential economic impact
- Interaction and cooperation between research and industry
- Past performance in the realisation of utilisation by the applicants
- Likelihood that the research will generate patents and/or know-how agreements
- Further steps needed for the research results to reach the business environment
- Suggestions for improvement

Subsequently, the program committee will be asked to score the proposals for the two criteria above (based on the full proposals together with the protocols) as well as for the strategic fit within the program, see Annex 5 for details.

Annex 5. Assessment and selection procedure

Check of the full project proposal by STW

The STW office confirms the receipt of every proposal. A check is performed as to 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 cases of doubt, STW will contact the applicant and may ask for a revised version.

Preselection

In the project assessment and selection procedure there is no preselection of proposals. However, STW reserves the right to add a preselection if necessary. This will be applicable in the event that there appears to be a very large number of proposal applications and, consequently, the chances of an individual proposal being 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 according to the criteria for scientific quality and utilisation 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.

Reply (rebuttal) by the applicants

STW will send the protocol to the main applicant and request a response to each of the individual comments of the referees.

Assessment by the expert program committee (PC)

The PC, consisting of two persons from Danone 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 Danone PC members for utilisation. A preliminary ranking is subsequently 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 for cases where 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. Utilisation

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

STW and Danone

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

Legal matters

A confidential contract has been signed between STW and Danone. 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-Danone contract prevails above the text of this call and above the general funding conditions of STW.

Program and project execution

For details about the project procedure after granting and during the execution of the partnership program as well as the cooperation with Danone, please consult Annex 7.

Other supporting organisations

Within a partnership program, (semi-)commercial research institutes or companies other than Danone may not be involved without the prior consent of Danone.

Annex 7. Procedure after granting

During the course of a project the following procedures apply. Detailed information is available at <http://www.stw.nl/Infobalie/Projectleiders.htm>.

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 the start of the project 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 Danone and one program officer of STW. A STW management assistant will distribute the documents prior to the UC meetings at the request of Danone. Furthermore, PC members may attend the meetings. Others (e.g. students, other university staff, consultants, etc.) may only attend these meetings upon invitation or after approval of Danone.

User committee meetings and reporting

Approximately 3 months after the start of the project, the user committee will meet for the first time. The standard meeting and reporting frequency is 6 months. 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 Danone 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 Danone program. Examples are the attendance and presentation of project results at possible Danone 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 years after the start of the project. Danone and STW will jointly decide on the continuation, possibly also based on advice from the scientific PC members.

Termination

A project can be terminated before the final end date in the event of a strong deviation from the project work plan, considerable doubts about its scientific quality or strong deviation from the approach of the partnership program without written approval from the PC, or in the event 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 Governing Board of NWO within six weeks after the date of the granting or the rejection letter. Address: NWO Governing Body, PO Box 93138, NL-2509 AC The Hague.