

Availability of Critical Raw Materials

If you are planning to conduct chemistry and/or biobased research on the availability of critical raw materials, you can apply for a PPS-i allowance for 2024 from the TKI (Top consortium for Knowledge and Information) Green Chemistry & Circularity by submitting your application by 9 July 2024 at the latest. Below please find the submission requirements.

Introduction

The TKI Green Chemistry & Circularity has made €1.5M available for public-private partnerships that conduct research on innovations relating to critical raw materials. Critical raw materials are used in many products, including electronics, solar panels, wind turbines, and medical equipment, and are of vital economic interest to the Netherlands and Europe. The availability of such raw materials for the Netherlands is under pressure due to technological and geopolitical developments. The field of chemistry plays a vital part in terms of innovation in order to ensure accessibility. The TKI is issuing this call to stimulate innovation within this specific theme and wishes to encourage young researchers and SMEs in particular to submit an application.

Application Requirements for Availability of Critical Raw Materials

➤ Applicants

We will consider applications from public-private partnerships. The primary applicant must be a researcher with a position at a Dutch knowledge institution for the duration of the project at the very least. Furthermore, at least one Dutch private party must be a (financial) participant in the partnership.

➤ Scope of the call

This call covers project plans in the field of chemistry that will realise innovations contributing to the availability of critical raw materials for the Netherlands. These innovations may focus on recycling and reuse of critical raw materials in products, extending the service life of projects, or the development of alternatives that require fewer critical raw materials for a specific project or process. The raw materials defined as critical for the purposes of this call are the 34 metals and minerals defined as such by the European Commission:

Antimony	Arsenic	Baryte	Bauxite	Beryllium	Bismuth	Boron	Coking Coal	Fluorspar
Phosphate Rock	Phosphorus	Gallium	Germanium	Hafnium	Helium	Cobalt	Copper	Lithium
Magnesium	Manganese	Natural Graphite	Nickel	Niobium	Platinum group metals	Scandium	Silicon metal	Strontium
Tantalum	Titanium metal	Vanadium	Feldspar	Tungsten	Light and heavy rare earth elements			

➤ Conditions for using the PPS innovation allowance

The terms and conditions for subsidies as described in the annex apply to the use of a PPS allowance 2024 in accordance with the PPS innovation scheme. Please read these carefully before submitting your application.

➤ Maximum programme allowance

The TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity is making available a total of €1.5M in PPS-i allowances for 2024. The maximum allowance application per project is €150.000

➤ Application submission – **template and deadline**

You cannot appeal decisions of the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity.

Applications must be submitted via a so-called allowance use plan. Allowance use plans must be drawn up in accordance with the templates in Annexes B and C. The TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity will only consider applications drawn up in accordance with this template. Applications must be submitted by e-mail to aanvragen@tkichemie.nl and silke.diedenhofen@chemistrynl.com with 'Aanvraag PPS-i-toeslag 2024 Kritieke Grondstoffen' (Application for PPS-i allowance 2024 Critical Raw Materials) in the subject line. The deadline for submission is **9 July 2024**.

Please note that we will not consider applications that are incomplete or incorrectly drawn up. If desired, you can have your application checked for completeness prior to submitting your definitive version. If you wish to have your application checked, please send your draft proposal by e-mail to silke.diedenhofen@chemistrynl.com by 2 July 2024 at the latest. Please note that this will not constitute formal submission. Your definitive version must be submitted by **9 July 2024** at the latest.

➤ Project end date

This scheme applies to research projects with an end date before or on 31 December 2029. The end date cannot be extended.

➤ Young researchers and SMEs

ChemistryNL wishes to encourage the participation of young researchers and SMEs.

➤ Required cofunding by a private party

Since a real public-private partnership is one of the RVO Netherlands Enterprise Agency's subsidy requirements for using the PPS-i allowance, cofunding by a private party is mandatory. The minimum private participation required for this call is as follows:

30% for fundamental research

50% for industrial research

75% for experimental research

The private party is expected to make both an *in-cash* and an *in-kind* contribution, with the in-cash contribution amounting to at least 50% of the total private contribution. SME partners are exempt from this requirement; they may make either an *in-cash* or *in-kind* contribution at their discretion. The public party is also allowed to invest additional resources in the project, however this will not be considered a private contribution.

Procedure

1. You are invited to submit a proposal in the form of a PPS use plan via the templates in Annexes B and C to aanvragen@tkichemie.nl and silke.diedenhofen@chemistrynl.com (specifying 'Aanvraag PPS-i-toeslag 2024 Kritieke Grondstoffen' in the subject line) **by 9 July 2024 at the latest**.
2. Following submission, a commission that includes representatives of the ChemistryNL programme boards will assess the allowance use plans for suitability in the context of the theme of Availability of Critical Raw Materials, partnership strength, innovative nature, and social and/or economic impact. The assessment commission will issue their recommendation on the basis of their assessment to the Board of Directors of the TKI Green Chemistry & Circularity.
3. The Board of Directors of the TKI Green Chemistry & Circularity is expected to make its decision on awarding the PPS allowance as requested in the allowance use plans in Q4 2024. Should the €1.5M budget prove insufficient to cover the allowance use plans deemed suitable, the Board of Directors will decide on which applications will be granted, taking policy factors and diversity of research topics into account. You cannot appeal the decision of the Board of Directors.

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Questions and information

If you have questions or require further information, please contact the Secretary of the TKI Green Chemistry & Circularity, Dr Silke Diedenhofen (phone: 06 51 08 04 45, e-mail: silke.diedenhofen@chemistrynl.com).

The TKI Green Chemistry & Circularity wishes you good luck in developing your public-private partnership projects and looks forward to receiving your application.

Other information

The whole text of this Call for proposals has been published in both Dutch and English. The Dutch version is deemed authentic. For legal interpretation the text of the Dutch version will be decisive.

Annexes:

Annex A: Terms and conditions for award and use of a 2024 PPS-i allowance

Annex B: Allowance Use Plan for Critical Raw Materials

Annex C: Budget Form (Excel)

You cannot appeal decisions of the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity.

Annex A: Terms and conditions for award and use of a 2024 PPS-i allowance

The following terms and conditions apply for the award and use of the 2024 PPS-i allowance.

1) Use of the PPS-i allowance

You will use the PPS-i allowance for the allowance use plans involving a real public-private partnership* as granted by the Board of Directors of the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity.

**Actual partnership: A collaboration between at least two independent parties to exchange knowledge or technology, or to realise a joint objective on the basis of a division of tasks, where the parties jointly decide on the scope of the partnership project, contribute to its execution, and share the risk and results. One or more parties may cover the total costs of the project, thereby releasing the other parties from the financial risks associated with the project. Contract research and conducting research services are not considered to be a partnership.*

2) The PPS-i allowance scheme

All activities to be undertaken must comply with the terms and conditions for PPS-i allowances as set forth in the *Regeling Nationale EZK-subsidies* (Scheme for National Subsidies from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy) and as defined by the RVO Netherlands Enterprise Agency ([Link](#)). The obligations of a PPS allowance recipient as defined in these schemes apply in full to your organisation in the context of the funds made available to you by the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity.

3) Private contribution

Deployment projects are partnership projects between public and private parties. In addition to the public funds (from the PPS-i allowance), the participating private parties will always be expected to make an in-kind and/or in-cash contribution. The required private contribution is higher when public and private partners work on industrial research or experimental development together than when the partnership covers fundamental research.

4) Costing method

You must calculate the costs specified for partnership projects for which the PPS-i allowance will be used in accordance with the standard methods as described in articles 10 up to and including 15 of the *Kaderbesluit nationale EZK-en LNV-subsidies* (Framework decision on national subsidies granted by the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality) ([Link](#)). The costs will be considered without VAT if the allowance recipient that incurred the costs is able to deduct VAT.

5) Availability of the allowance

The TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity will make the allowance available to your organisation as an advance under the terms and conditions applying to the use of the PPS-i allowance. The allowance will be paid in several tranches amounting to 90% of the allowance granted. The remaining 10% will be settled at the time of the final allowance review. You will receive an allowance tranche scheme with the approval of your allowance use plan.

6) Period of use

The period of use for the PPS-i allowance ends on 31 December 2029. You will not be able to use the PPS-i allowance after this date.

7) Reporting requirement

You must submit a research and financial report on the progress of activities in the previous year in Q1 of every year. This is done in the context of monitoring by the RVO Netherlands Enterprise Agency. In addition, the TKI may request information for purposes of the annual report of the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity.

8) Request for allowance review

You must submit a full *Aanvraag Vaststelling Toeslag* (request for allowance review) to the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity within eight weeks following completion of the project. Such a request for allowance review consists of a financial and research justification and an audit statement by an independent auditor when the PPS-i allowance exceeds €125,000. This limit does not apply for each (sub)project but for the total sum of the 2024 PPS-i allowance used. A statement from the Board of Directors must be included for sums not exceeding €125,000.

9) Communication

- Upon the TKI's written request, you must make up-to-date information about the partnership projects for which the allowance is used available to the general public in an easily accessible manner.
- The TKI bureau will provide support in communications relating to the use of the PPS allowance in your organisation, among other things via ChemistryNL's (social) media channels.
- You must also include the following statement or an equivalent thereof in publications resulting from an activity funded in part with an PPS-i allowance: 'This activity was cofunded by the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity with a PPS-i allowance from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy'. Please use the ChemistryNL logo where possible.
- The RVO Netherlands Enterprise Agency and ChemistryNL publish a brief description of all projects funded with a PPS-i allowance on their websites. This brief description includes the names of participating companies.

You cannot appeal decisions of the TKI for Green Chemistry and Circularity.