SME Innovation Stimulation Region and Topsectors (MIT)

Feasibility projects

The SME Innovation Stimulation Region and Topsectors (MIT) is focused on stimulating SME-entrepreneurs to act on their plans for innovation. SMEs can apply individually or in cooperation with other SMEs, for subsidy to realize innovation ambitions. There are two flavors: feasibility projects and R&D-collaboration projects.

Topsectors and MIT - instruments

Participation in the MIT is possible by aligning with innovation-activities related to one of the nine topsectors, namely: agro & food, chemistry, creative industry, energy, high tech systems & materials, life sciences & health, horticulture & starting materials, and logistics & water.

1. Feasibility projects

A feasibility project attempts to identify the technical and economic risks of a new innovation project, resulting in an educated go / no go decision. A feasibility project is comprised of a feasibility study, complemented by industrial research or experimental development where possible. The feasibility study is associated with literature research, patent analysis, identification of available technologies and potential partners, as well as market research and competitor analysis. Activities related to industrial research or experimental development are focused on gaining knowledge on development of new products, production processes or services.

Conditions & contribution per project

- The maximum amount of subsidy is € 20.000,- euro (depending on the type of project and region of application).
- Subsidy concerns 40% of eligible costs; a minimum of 60% of eligible costs has to be for the feasibility study (as opposed to experimental development).
- A flat hourly rate of € 60,- is applied for all hours in the project.
- Projects can have a maximum duration of 1 year.
- The project has to start within 4 months after application.

Application

Budget for this instrument is available both regionally and nationally. The allocation of subsidy for feasibility projects is based on a ‘first come, first serve’ principle. The period of application is will be open in the beginning of April. Because projects are honored based on a ‘first come, first serve’ principle, application on the opening date will be necessary (deadline).

2. R&D-collaboration projects

R&D projects focus on technical product, process or the development of services. The project consists of industrial research and / or experimental development. Execution happens for joint account and risk by at least two Dutch SME-entrepreneurs. Contribution of complementary knowledge and expertise results in innovative products, services or production processes..

Conditions

- Subsidy: 35% of the project costs to a contribution of € 100.000,- per partner for small MIT R&D collaboration projects up to a maximum of € 175.000,- per partner for large R&D collaboration projects.
- A maximum of € 200.000,- (small) up to € 350.000,- (large) with a subsidy of at least € 50.000,- per project.
- A collaboration consists at least of two SME companies.
- Partners need to work together in a balanced cooperation; both in the distribution of costs (no more than 70% for one participant) and in input.
- For the invested hours within the project there is a flat hourly rate of € 60, -.
- Projects have a maximum duration of two years.
- At least 4 months after submission of the application should the project start.

Application

Applications can be submitted in accordance with the tender principle: submission during a pre-determined period. The application period is often in summer. After the application period, applications are assessed on quality and there will be a ranking of projects based on score. The best projects receive the MIT grant.

More information is available: www.rvo.nl/mit

Interested? More information?

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