



CONNECT- NM
Coordination of the European
Research Community on Nuclear
Materials for Energy Innovation

A EURATOM Cofund Action



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Open Call Announcement



Summary

Table 1 – Summary information CONNECT-NM Open Call for Projects.

Call budget (EC contribution)	Deadlines
€ 13.500.000	<p><u>Phase 1</u> Opening: 20/01/2025 Cut-off date: 21/03/2025</p> <p><u>Phase 2:</u> Opening: 28/04/2025 Cut-off date: 07/07/2025</p>
Additional important dates	
<u>Info day</u>	28 January 2025
<u>Brokerage event</u>	To be defined – Beginning of April 2025

This document announces the upcoming launch of the open call for Projects of CONNECT-NM, the Co-funded European Partnership that pursues a paradigm shift in nuclear materials research, from ‘observe and qualify’ to ‘design and control’.

Projects proposed in this call need to be aligned with the specific objective of at least one of the five Research Lines (RL) of the Partnership and to contribute to realise the final product of the corresponding RL (see **Table 2** below), which are coherent with the Strategic Research Agenda and the materials ID cards produced in the preparatory coordination and support action ORIENT-NM.

Research lines

Table 2 – Specific objectives and final products of each research line.

	Research Lines (RL)	Specific objectives	Final products
RL 1	Knowledge and data management	To create the conditions for nuclear materials data to be correctly collected and stored, so as to be fruitfully analysed and used.	Nuclear materials knowledge organisation system
RL 2	Advanced materials development and manufacturing	To reduce drastically the time required to improve, develop and potentially discover new or advanced nuclear materials, along with designing and progressing advanced manufacturing processes.	Nuclear materials acceleration platforms (MAPs) and advanced manufacturing processes
RL 3	Materials and component qualification: testing,	To accelerate the qualification of nuclear	Nuclear materials qualification testbeds

	standardisation and design rules	materials for safe operation.	and accelerated qualification paths
RL 4	Non-destructive examination and materials health monitoring	To enable safer and more efficient management of the lifetime of nuclear components.	Intelligent materials health monitoring systems
RL 5	Advanced materials modelling and characterisation	To improve the capability to predict the behaviour of nuclear materials in operation.	Advanced predictive methodologies

Eligibility criteria for project proposals

Project consortia must be formed by a **minimum of three independent legal entities** from **two different [EU Member States or countries associated with the Euratom Research and Training Programme](#)**. For the rest, the call is open to research partners from all over the world, excluding persons, groups and entities that are subject to EU financial administrative sanction or are in an exclusion situation. For a detailed overview, please check [Annex B — Eligibility](#) of the Euratom Research and Training Programme, Work Programme 2023-2025.

Participants can be Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, or Associated Partners that are already part of the CONNECT-NM Consortium, as well as organisations that are currently not in the Partnership Consortium, but can qualify as one of these categories, or as Third Parties. For a list of current Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities in CONNECT-NM, please refer to Annex B of the document ***Procedures for the CONNECT-NM Open Call for Projects – Full text***, which will be available [at this location](#) soon.

Financial call conditions

Funding rate

The funding rate of Projects in CONNECT-NM, as approved on October 4, 2024, by the General Assembly of CONNECT-NM, will correspond to 50% of the cost of the activities. As established on November 28, 2024, by the General Assembly of CONNECT-NM, each Project is entitled to ask, as maximum reimbursement from the EC allocation to CONNECT-NM, an amount of **900k EUR/Project**.

Proposal submission procedure

The proposal submission procedure will occur in two steps or phases: Project Ideas and Project Proposals, with a Brokerage Event as an intermediate turning point.

The corresponding applications for each of the phases must be submitted within the established deadline (see **Table 1** above). Applications must be submitted electronically via the CONNECT-NM repository and using the templates provided.

For further details, please refer to section 4 of the document ***Procedures for the CONNECT-NM Open Call for Projects – Full text***, which will be available [at this location](#) soon.

Call reference documents for project proposers

- CONNECT-NM Open Call Work-Programme: *document that explains the topics on which Project proposals can be presented within each research line (RL), including objectives, scope, expected output and outcome, expected impact* – Available soon [here](#).
- CONNECT-NM Guide for Project Proposers: *schematic document with practical information about how to submit a proposal* – Available soon [here](#).
- CONNECT-NM Project Idea Template: *template to be used to submit Project Ideas in the first phase of the submission procedure* – Available soon [here](#).
- CONNECT-NM Project Proposal Template: *template to be used to submit full Project Proposals in the second phase of the submission procedure, including separate template for financial information and template for the Letter of Commitment that each project participant should sign upon proposal submission* – Available soon [here](#).
- CONNECT-NM Project Proposal Evaluation Criteria and Scoring System: *version for proposers (information purposes)* – Available soon [here](#).

Contacts

To support this process, a dedicated email address for inquiries will be made available soon in January 2025. This will serve as a direct channel for addressing any questions or clarifications regarding the CONNECT-NM Call for Projects.



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