

## Funding opportunities and own-contribution responsibilities for for-profit participating parties in the Proof of Concept programme

### Large enterprises

If the for-profit private partner is a participating party, has >250 FTE, or >50mln in revenues, or >43mln in total assets, the party is considered a Large enterprise. Large enterprises must make a financial own-contribution with a minimum of 50% in-cash (see Figure 1).

### Small & medium enterprises

If the for-profit private partner is a participating party, has >10 FTE, and/or >2mln in revenues, and/or >2mln in total assets, and thus does not classify as Micro enterprise (i.e. Small & medium enterprise), this party must make a financial own-contribution with a minimum of 20% in-kind and/or in-cash (see Figure 1).

### Micro enterprises

If the for-profit partner is a participating party, has  $\leq 10$  FTE, and  $\leq 2$ mln in revenues and  $\leq 2$ mln in total assets, this party is considered a Micro enterprise. Micro enterprises can request up to 20% direct funding of the total project budget. The budget requested by the micro enterprise must be matched by an equivalent or greater own contribution (in-kind). The minimum and maximum required own contribution is 5% and 20%, respectively (see Figure 1). For example, if a Micro enterprise requires €40k in materials and FTE to participate in the consortium, up to 50% of these costs (€20k) may be requested from the KWF budget (matching KWF and own contribution), provided that €20k  $\leq$  20% of the total project budget (see Figure 1). The Micro enterprise can request budget for: reagents, compensation for product (at cost price), FTE and hiring of external expertise.

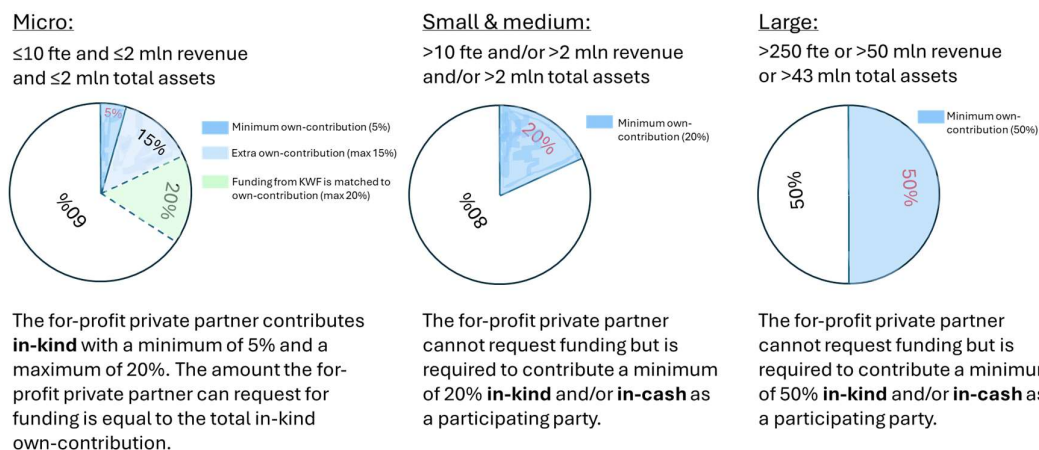


Figure 1. Schematic overview of funding opportunities and own-contribution responsibilities for for-profit private partners.



The following *general conditions* apply to all enterprises that are a participating party in the project:

- Every enterprise that is a participating party must agree to KWF's funding conditions
- In-cash and in-kind contributions of enterprises should be clearly specified in the project budget.
- The knowledge institution must retain the right to publish.
- Conditions regarding ownership of data, results and inventions must be established in a collaboration agreement in accordance with KWF's funding conditions. A draft collaboration agreement needs to be submitted together with the proposal and needs to be approved by KWF.

If a conflict of interest could arise among researchers or parties, this should be addressed in the Appendix of the project proposal form.

The following *general conditions* apply to Micro enterprises that request funding:

- Funding is allocated to the lead organisation, and payments to the Micro enterprise are processed through the lead organisation.
- Personnel costs for Micro enterprises can only be requested according to the KWF salary scales (see section 4.6.1. of the KWF Guidelines 2025).
- KWF requires access to any existing licence agreements between the lead organisation and the Micro enterprise.
- If a new license agreement between lead organisation and Micro enterprise is set up for results from the project, this needs to be approved by KWF. An exit clause must be included in such new licence agreement.

For participating Micro enterprises that request funding the following *additional conditions* apply:

- The Micro enterprise should provide information that supports the micro enterprise status.
- The Micro enterprise must provide evidence to confirm it is not experiencing financial difficulties.
- The Micro enterprise actively participates in the execution of the project.
- The requested costs must be clearly linked to the project deliverables and milestones.
- The Micro enterprise is not yet profitable (meaning the Micro enterprise is not generating a profit yet and still operating at even/loss).
- The Micro enterprise is a spin-off from a Dutch knowledge institution.
- The Micro enterprise must be registered by the Chamber of Commerce (KvK) in the Netherlands. Registration of the Micro enterprise as a participating party in GMS including proof of KvK registration is required.
- If changes occur before or during the project that may influence the micro status of the enterprise, KWF needs to be informed immediately.
- KWF reserves the right to request additional information regarding the Micro enterprise if necessary.