

PhotonDelta Call for proposals

lab equipment for Universities of Applied Sciences

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Background

Photonic integrated circuits (PIC) technology is a technology that harnesses the power of light to create energy-efficient, faster, and more accurate microchips. To ensure that the Netherlands maintains and further strengthens its position in the PIC industry, well-educated talent is needed. Within the Netherlands several Universities of Applied Sciences are running specialised programs with the focus on integrated photonics technology. The focus of these programs is on strengthening the knowledge and skills of integrated photonics technology. To reinforce the theory, practical's with specialized equipment are required.

This laboratory equipment provides students with the necessary skills they will need to be successful in the PIC industry. This arrangement, provided by PhotonDelta, is designed to facilitate the acquisition of these practical resources for the Universities of Applied Sciences within the Netherlands.

Available budget and timetable

The subsidy ceiling for this call for proposals is € 700.000,- with a limitation of € 250.000 per University of Applied Sciences. Applications for this call for proposals may be submitted at any time during the period October 2024 - February 2025. The project application are ultimately limited by the program deadline – February 28, 2025. All mentioned amounts are including VAT.

If the subsidy ceiling is reached before February 28, 2025, the subsidy round will close early. PhotonDelta will then no longer process applications. This decision will be communicated on our PhotonDelta website.

Upon receipt of an application, an admissibility check will be performed. All admissible proposals are then submitted to the Human Capital Program Council for its opinion, which is sent to the Board of PhotonDelta. Subsequently, the PhotonDelta Board determines the funding. A conclusion by the PhotonDelta Board will be taken within a maximum of 12 weeks after receipt of a complete application and all related documents. This term can be postponed once by 12 weeks.

Scope

The laboratory equipment, for which funding is requested, should be clearly related to the education of students of the University of Applied Science in relation to the subject integrated photonics. This must be motivated within the application form.

With laboratory equipment is meant: hardware (e.g. lenses, mirrors, testing and analyzing set-ups, lasers and other light sources, measurements devices). The request may include software tools or license costs if needed in combination with the laboratory equipment. The call application is limited to the maximum amount of € 250.000 per University of Applied Science .

The laboratory equipment may be used by third parties for a maximum of 20%. Knowledge institutions are not included in this limitation.

Duration

The project should start within 4 months after approval by the PhotonDelta Board. This means that the equipment is ordered within this period of 4 months.

Who can apply?

Representatives of Universities of Applied Sciences can apply on their own. They must be registered as a legal entity at the Chamber of Commerce or similar institution in the Netherlands. Their activities in the Netherlands must be substantial, or the eligible activity benefits the Dutch economy. These are the Universities of Applied Sciences as mentioned in article 1.8 from the 'Wet op het hoger onderwijs en wetenschappelijk onderzoek (WHW)'.

The person submitting the application is presumed to be authorized to do so by the Board of Governors (College van Bestuur) of the requesting Universities of Applied Sciences.

Cost eligibility

The funding per proposal is limited to a maximum of € 250.000 per University of Applied Sciences. An own contribution is required for the investment in laboratory equipment. This mandatory contribution amounts at least 15% of the total requested investment.

All mentioned amounts are including VAT.

The following cost types are eligible for (partial) reimbursement; other costs.

Other costs

Costs that are necessary and adequate in relation to the purpose of the project are eligible for reimbursement:

- Laboratory equipment;
- Installation and infrastructure costs;
- Costs for consumables, small instruments and aids;
- Necessary software tools and/or software license costs;
- Training with reference to laboratory equipment.

The maximum allowance for budget deviations between cost types is 15%. If the maximum is exceeded, prior written permission from PhotonDelta is required for approval. Requests for permission must be motivated and can be sent to humancapital@photondelta.com

Applications

Applications for the PhotonDelta program may be submitted at any time. The full application comprises the following:

- a signed application form, including appendices;
- project budget;
- relevant support documents: quotations of the requested laboratory equipment.

The subject of an application must fit within the objectives of PhotonDelta. The objectives and ambition of PhotonDelta are described in the project plan which has been honored by the National Growth Fund (available upon request). PhotonDelta is never a formal project partner in the application.

Project applications that could create a conflict of interest within PhotonDelta will not be selected.

Templates for the application form including project budget can be downloaded from www.photondelta.com/human-capital/initiatives-to-join/

The full application can be sent to humancapital@photondelta.com

Proposal evaluation

The PhotonDelta program is coordinated by Stichting PhotonDelta. The final decision on awarding a contribution lies with the PhotonDelta Board of Stichting PhotonDelta. A Human Capital Board evaluates and recommends the proposals submitted to the program.

Human Capital Program Council

When assessing the applications, the Human Capital Program Council provides advice to the PhotonDelta Board. To avoid a conflict of interest, the committee members adhere to a code of conduct.

Admissibility check

Upon receipt of an application, a check will be performed taking note of the following criteria:

- the application has been drawn up correctly and completely;
- the application has been submitted by authorized bodies or persons (section 'who can apply');
- the project costs fall within the indicated bandwidths.

If the application is deemed inadmissible, the University of Applied Sciences will be notified and provided with one opportunity to make the necessary alterations to the proposal and resubmit within 5 working days. Upon receipt the admissibility check will be performed again. The University of Applied Sciences will receive confirmation of admissibility.

Written evaluation

After the application has been declared admissible, it will first be assessed in writing by the Human Capital Board on the basis of the set ranking criteria. A concise report will be sent to the PhotonDelta Board. The ranking criteria center on:

- The requested laboratory equipment must be clearly related to education activities and provide students with the necessary skills to be successful in the PIC industry;
- Alignment with the goal and ambition of PhotonDelta, as shown in the project plan which has been honored by the National Growth Fund;
- Potential economic and societal impact.

Each criterion carries equal weight.

Conclusion

The Human Capital Board advises the PhotonDelta Board on the quality of the project proposal. Subsequently, the PhotonDelta Board determines the contribution. The University of Applied Sciences will be duly informed about the conclusions of the Board.

Program terms

Payment

If awarded the contribution is paid out in two instalments to the University of Applied Sciences. The first instalment amounts of 50% of the requested investment and will be transferred after the application has been approved by the PhotonDelta Board of Stichting PhoptonDelta. The remaining 50% will be transferred at delivery of the laboratory equipment. What is needed:

- Proof of delivery (photo);
- Invoice;
- Proof of payment;
- Final report which includes an itemized statement of all actual costs directly attributable to the laboratory equipment, prepared in accordance with the budget submitted. The eligible costs shall be supported by documentary evidence which shall be clear, specific and contemporary.

Ethical aspects

The University of Applied Sciences is responsible for determining whether an ethics statement or authorization is required to conduct the proposed study and for obtaining it in a timely manner from the relevant ethics committee. If deemed a requirement, the necessary ethics statement or permit will need to be in place before the starting date of the project, and after it has been awarded.

Disclaimer

This document takes its guidance from the *'Kaderregeling betreffende staatssteun voor onderzoek, ontwikkeling en innovatie (2014/C 198/01)'*. Any conflicting statements or misinterpretations arising from this document are superseded by this source-reference.

Stichting PhotonDelta cannot be held accountable for possible errors residing in this publication.

The participating University of Applied Sciences cannot derive any rights whatsoever from this document. Stichting PhotonDelta reserves the right to make alterations during the program if this is in the general interest of the foundation, bearing in mind that this is done in an equitable fashion.