

ICON Project
Application Document

Impact Research Partner

Version July 2025

**Important note regarding maximum document size**

The character limit for this document is 30.000 characters.

The number of characters is defined as the character count including spaces provided by Microsoft Word (i.e., the value of “Tekens (inclusief spaties)” in the dialog box “Woorden tellen” with the checkbox “Inclusief tekstvakken, voet- en eindnoten” checked).

Exceeding the character limit may result in an inadmissible application.

**Important note regarding confidentiality**

This document is forwarded as is to external experts.

Additional confidential information can optionally be provided in a separate document clearly marked as confidential on the title page.

**Important note regarding the valorisation assessment**

The assessment of the valorisation perspective for each research partner in an ICON project is an important dimension in the selection. In this dimension the nature of the “strategic research” can be evaluated in terms of broad potential economic impact in Flanders. This requires a clear vision and a concrete approach for the valorisation aspects with quantitative substantiation where possible, even if the valorisation is to be expected in the longer term.

**Summary of research impact (max 1 page)**

Briefly describe the valorisation perspectives:

* How does the research fit in the existing research roadmap?
* Describe the planned dissemination activities.
* Which applications/sectors are envisioned by the research results?
* Describe the exact research results that will be of value for industrial partners (both inside and outside the consortium) and give an indication when the results will become available?
* How will research results be transferred to industrial partners?

# Impact

In this section, we investigate how this research project will create value for Flanders. Focus on your own research results and where applicable describe per research sub-result.

The recommended length of this section is approximately 5 pages per research partner, including figures.

This section will be submitted to third-party experts. If you wish VLAIO to withhold certain information from these experts, please include it as an attachment.

## 1.1 Strategic fit of the project for the research partner

Indicate the strategic importance of the research project for the research partner. Outline how this research project fits in your research roadmap. Describe and substantiate how the research project can make a difference to the research strategy. Describe how the positioning is in relation to other research projects and how the interaction with these projects will take place.

Briefly describe the process followed to realize this project proposal and how the broader valorization potential was taken into account during interaction with potential users. List previous interactions that your research group had with other industrial partners outside the consortium in preparing this research proposal? How is their input taken into account?

## 1.2 Valorisation potential and valorisation objectives of the project

What are the existing problems or challenges by a group of companies you want to address? Which economic opportunities can arise from the proposed scientific breakthrough?

Indicate how the intended results of the research project will contribute to the solution of a problem and/or contribute to the use of economic opportunities. Formulate concrete valorisation objectives in line with the intended project results and the interaction with potential users. How big is the market/relevance of the applications? It is important to clarify which companies or sectors are envisioned as target group of the valorisation. Do not just list companies, but also clarify why the project results are important to these companies. If necessary, make a distinction between potential application domains and/or add a matrix indicating which companies have interest in which sub-results of the project (e.g. as links in a value chain). To what extent will (current or future) companies in Flanders be able to actually use the research result?

Which (R&D) follow-up process is needed in these companies to reach effective economic (or social) valorisation? If possible, provide quantifications. Finally, list any environmental factor (e.g. regulations, policy measures, etc.) that can strengthen the economic valorisation potential.

## Valorisation strategy and valorisation approach of the project

Describe your valorisation strategy and detail the valorisation plan for the research results. Discuss the efforts (bilateral follow-up R&D projects with industrial partners, licensing,…) that are envisioned as a research partner. Make a distinction during and after the project.

In case of a planned transfer to existing or new companies, it is important to indicate your intentions (and any agreements) regarding the planned interactions with the companies. In sectors where exclusive transfer is widely applied, your vision on interaction with individual companies is very relevant.

Are there valorisation agreements made between the consortium partners?

Discuss the potential risk factors (e.g. IPR, freedom to operate (FTO), legislation, availability of research data, or infrastructure, etc.) that may hinder the valorisation opportunities in Flanders. If such risk factors are present, indicate how you will deal with them.

## Added value in terms of sustainable development (if applicable).

Finally, it is important to adequately motivate and substantiate the project's contribution to sustainable development when relevant.

