

ET-EMR Project Office

Progress report 2025 Q1 [NEW FORMAT]

Project Office Directorate
Version 2.0

23 June 2025



Management Summary

Feasibility studies

Preparations have progressed for a second evaluation focussed on noise levels at the bottom of the newly drilled boreholes. An active seismic campaign has been executed in 2025 Q1 and a start has been made to equip additional boreholes with seismic and magnetic sensors. Also, a plan to measure noise from wind turbines has progressed.

Preparations have started for the second drilling campaign. These preparations include activities from all disciplines (technical, environment, contracting and communications) to ensure the start of the second drilling campaign by May 2025. In the first set of drillings good quality rock has been encountered, which will allow upcoming feasibility studies to be performed more localised and with higher detail. The second drilling campaign will focus on further research towards an optimal trajectory (from a feasibility perspective) to integrate the triangle layout in the EMR.

With regard to the ETO request to also study an L layout; the Project Office has stated the options and additional financial conditions to the Taskforce to perform a feasibility study. Upon request of the Task Force the Project Office is executing a desk study on the feasibility of integrating an L layout in the EMR and will include the 2L scenario in the economic case study.

Preparations on the Bidbook

The Project Office presented the proposal for the preparations of the Bidbook to the EMR Taskforce meeting of 28 January 2025. This proposal was a follow-up to the Ministerial Meeting of 30 May 2024 in Eupen, where the Project Office was tasked by the Ministers with the preparations for the Bidbook and host consortium proposals. The Taskforce concluded that the Project Office could proceed with the preparations of the Bidbook; further details to be worked out in dialogue with the Steering Group. The preparations for the economic case (WP3) were discussed and agreed in the Steering Group meeting of 24 February 2025. The preparations for Bidbook communications (WP5) were discussed and agreed in the Steering Group meeting of 7 April 2025. In the last two meetings of the Steering Group, it has also been discussed how WP3 and WP5 relate to the two Taskforce expert committees.

Project Office funding

It can be concluded that the overall anticipated 'in-kind' and 'in-cash' contributions can be expected to cover the budget need for the feasibility studies and preparations of the Bidbook. The final conclusion on the coverage however depends on finalization of the agreement between Nikhef and Wallonia with respect to their cash or in-kind contribution and NRW with respect to their signature of the MoU for the Joint ET-EMR Fund. The Project Office Directorate will work towards a budget re-estimation mid 2025.

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