

ET-EMR Project Office

Progress report 2025 Q2

Project Office Directorate
Version 1.0

28 July 2025



Management Summary

Feasibility studies

The second drilling campaign – with five drillings planned – is in execution. 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. Preparations have also progressed for an evaluation focussed on noise levels at the bottom of the newly drilled boreholes.

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 Task Force 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 Task Force 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 Task Force 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 Bidbook team has been installed and started to take up execution of the agreed overall plan. The scope and preparations for the economic case (WP3) and Bidbook Communications (WP5) were discussed and agreed with the Steering Group meetings of 2025 Q1. The Bidbook team is leading and McKinsey is executing the economic impact feasibility study. A plan for Bidbook Communications (WP5) is in preparation; execution by the Bidbook team is foreseen to start in 2025 Q3.

Project Office funding

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.

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