

ET-EMR Project Office

Progress report 2026 Q1

Project Office Directorate
Version 1.0

30 April 2026



Management Summary

Feasibility studies

The second drilling campaign is in execution. In the first set of drillings good quality rock has been encountered, which allows current studies to be performed more localised and with higher detail. The second drilling campaign focusses on further research towards an optimal trajectory (from a feasibility perspective) to integrate the triangle layout in the EMR. In 2026 Q1 the last drillings are being executed in Beusdael, Asse and Hoof. The drilling in Beusdael has been completed; de drillings in Asse and Hoof are still in progress. The drillings will also lead to the installation of additional seismometers and magnetic sensors.

Based on the current available information and the conclusions from the Environmental & sustainability disciplines, it was concluded that there are no showstoppers. Therefore, the EMR Environment and Sustainability teams recommend, the EMR Project Office to continue.

Preparations on the Bidbook

The Project Office presented the proposal for the preparations of the Bidbook to the ET-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 and business case feasibility studies. The Bidbook Communication Manager started in 2026 Q1.

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.

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