

ET-EMR Project Office

Progress report 2025 Q4

Project Office Directorate
Version 1.0

19 January 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 2025 Q4 the last drillings are being executed in Beusdael, Asse and Hoof. The drillings will also lead to the installation of additional seismometers and magnetic sensors.

Based on the analyses completed so far, the disciplines joined in the EMR subsurface technical teams of Subsurface and Facility Infrastructure concluded that no part of the resulting updated understanding of the subsurface suggests that construction and effective operation of ET in the EMR region is not feasible. Therefore, the EMR technical teams recommended, without reservations, the EMR Project Office to continue the feasibility studies. This recommendation was also reviewed and verified independently by the E=mc2 consortium. With this positive outcome, the ET-EMR Project Office passed this 'continue, unless moment'. The Project Office will therefore continue with the feasibility studies and the preparations to deliver the Bidbook by the end of 2026.

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 feasibility study and has started to execute the business case feasibility study. A plan for the Bidbook Communications (WP5) has been prepared; start of the Bidbook Communication Manager and execution of the plan is to start 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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