

ET-EMR Project Office

Progress report 2025 Q3

Project Office Directorate
Version 1.0

3 November 2025



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 Q3 and Q4 drillings are being executed in Beusdael, Asse and Hoof completing a total of 20 drillings in the EMR. The current drillings will also lead to the installation of additional seismometers and magnetic sensors. This provides a solid basis for the final reports on the (hydro)geology and noise conditions in 2026.

Studies in the Facility Infrastructure have provided good insights that will enable to complete the research phase by the end of this year and start a concept design Facility Infrastructure. In the Environment domain, studies have provided insights that will allow a specific research agenda to be formulated for feasibility. Full attention to this domain remains necessary.

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 includes 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 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. A plan for the Bidbook Communications (WP5) has been prepared; execution is foreseen to start in 2025 Q4.

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, though with a very limited risk budget. 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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