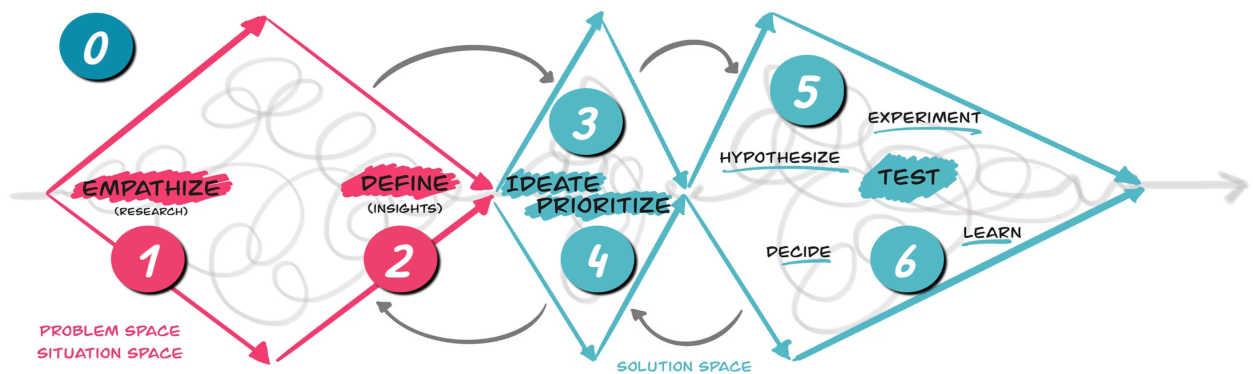


INNOVATION BOOSTER PLASTICS FOR ZERO EMISSION – CALL 7/2025

APPLICATION FOR PROJECT FUNDING

Version 1.1 - 14.11.2024



1 CALL AND FUNDING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Challenges can be submitted at any time. Approximately 2 weeks before the Ideation Workshop, a "Challenge reframing" takes place within the framework of a 1to1-workshop with our methodical partner Bambooster. The procedure in preparation for the Ideation Workshop is also coordinated here.

In a first step, only a 1-pager with all relevant details for the challenge is required. The 1-pager should contain all the information necessary for the experts to get a complete picture of the challenge. Title, short description, pain points, etc. and it should really be a maximum of one page. Text, graphics, drawings, tables, visualisations of any kind, etc. are allowed.

This 1-pager will be discussed in a 30-minute virtual meeting with the expert jury. the strengths and weaknesses of the challenge will be analysed. The degree of innovation will be considered and there will be input on any potentially necessary adjustments.

Approximately 4 weeks before the workshop date, the challenges are distributed via the Innovation Booster channels (newsletter, LinkedIn, direct mailing, etc.).

During the Ideation Workshop, solutions to the individual challenges are developed/discussed and the project teams can be formed.

After the workshop, the project teams have approx. 4 weeks to form and prepare for a funding application (pitch). This pitch in front of a jury of experts lasts 20 minutes (10 min presentation and 10 min Q&A) and should demonstrate why the project should be funded with 25,000 CHF seed money from the Innovation Booster Plastics for Zero Emission (the „Operator). For

example, this seed money can be used to conduct a feasibility study or produce a first prototype or demonstrator.

The decision for/against funding is made within 48 hours after the pitch.

Towards the end of the year, all teams will be invited to a final workshop where project results can be presented, support for follow-up projects will be given and ideas for the next call will be collected.

The projects close with a financial report and a presentation on the activities performed with the seed money.

2 RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

2.1 General Rules

The Terms of Service and Code of Conduct of the Innovation Booster Plastics for Zero Emission in their latest versions available at www.plastics4zeroemission.ch/legal **apply to their full extent to this project funding call.**

These Application Rules are intended to highlight the most important rules and add some call specific rules. Text formatted in *italic font* are citations from the Terms of Service. In the case of discrepancies between these Application Rules and the Terms of Service, the latter shall prevail.

By submitting a project funding application, you agree to abide to the Terms of Service, the Code of Conduct and these Application Rules.

2.2 Participants

All organisations and individuals fulfilling the general eligibility criteria (see [Terms of Services](#) section 4.1) that submitted one of the challenges published in this call and/or that submitted an idea to one of those challenges until the idea submission deadline are eligible to apply for seed money.

2.3 Project Teams

Each Proposition must associate at least a Research Partner (usu. as an applicant) and an Implementation Partner (usu. as a backer). (Terms of Service §57)

Additional partners, also if they didn't submit ideas or challenges, can be included in the project teams, if they fulfil the general eligibility criteria.

2.4 Lead Organisation

The name and details of the organisation which will act as the contact between the Operator and your project team. This should also be the organisation which handles the funds for the project team and is responsible for the financial reporting. Therefore, this shouldn't be an implementation partner who will contribute with co-funding.

2.5 Co-Funding

Once a Proposition is selected and validated as a Project, any Implementation Partner associated with that Project is bound to pay its financial participation; such financial participation is binding and definitive: it cannot be withdrawn, reduced or refunded at any stage. (Terms of Service §71)

This financial contribution amounts to 20% of the amount granted as Seed Money by the Operator (CHF 5.000 for the funding amount of CHF 25.000). (Terms of Service §72)

The [...] Seed Money [...] shall not be used to cover any Implementation Partner's internal expenses (e.g. labour costs). (Terms of Service §74)

2.6 Financial reporting

To close the project, every team needs to submit a "Declaration for Beneficiaries of Ideas Funded" (called "Project Report" in the Terms of Service) to the Operator to confirm that the received seed money was used exclusively for necessary expenses in connection with the idea and that all original receipts are available and can be consulted in the event of queries, checks and audits on site.

Any unused amount stays by, or must be refunded by the Operator, at the latest by the end of the Feasibility Study. (Terms of Service §74)

2.7 Payment of Seed Money and Co-Funding

The Operator sends a template for a support agreement to the project administrator within 10 days after communicating the funding decision. 50% of the seed money is paid to the funded beneficiary (which is usually also the project administrator) within 60 days after the signed support agreement with all project stakeholders' necessary details as well as the invoice was received by the Operator. The other 50% are to be paid at the end of the project, when all required documents have been provided to the Operator.

Any payment to the Operator (financial participation, reimbursement, etc.) is due within 10 days as of the notification of the invoice. (Terms of Service §70)

2.8 Important Deadlines

Wednesday, 11 February 2025: Deadline application Call 7

Tuesday, 18 February 2025: 1st badge Pre-Evaluation meeting (virtual) with Expert Jury

Wednesday, 19 February 2025, 2nd badge Pre-Evaluation meeting (virtual) with Expert Jury

Tuesday, 18 March 2025: 1st badge Ideation Workshop Call 7 @FHNW, Brugg/Windisch

Tuesday, 19 March 2025: 2nd badge Ideation Workshop Call 7 @HSLU, Horw/Lucerne

Tuesday, 15 April 2025: 1st badge Virtual Funding Pitch Call 7

Wednesday, 16 April 2025: 2nd badge Virtual Funding Pitch Call 7

Friday, 17 October 2025: Latest date to close the project and submit all relevant documents

Q4 (tba): Annual Networking Conference, @greater Zurich Area

3 SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

The application for funding must be submitted by mail to info@plastics4zeroemission.ch. If the application is based on an idea already submitted, this idea can be edited instead of creating a new idea. In this case it is important to submit the idea to the “**Plastics for Zero Emission Call 7/2025**”.

The idea then will be pitched (short 10 minutes pitch) in front of a jury of experts, where a decision about funding will be made 48h after the pitch, the latest.

4 EVALUATION CRITERIA

The expert jury will evaluate all ideas that are submitted on time and meet all eligibility criteria according to the following evaluation criteria:

4.1 Thematic focus

- How well does the idea fit the thematic focus of the Innovation Booster Plastics for Zero Emission?

4.2 Degree of innovation

- What is the degree of novelty in the technological and/or economic approach of the idea?
- How much did the idea profit from the support of the Innovation Booster so far? (Would the same idea also have been created without such a support?)

4.3 Effect

- How much potential to create sustainable economic added value for the implementation partner does the idea have?
- How much potential to reduce CO₂ emissions does the idea have?

4.4 Methodological quality

- How well is it ensured that the funds for the development and verification of the idea are used promisingly?

4.5 Gender and Diversity

- How well is it ensured that both genders are adequately represented in the project team?

5 SUPPORT TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT YOUR IDEA

The mission of the Innovation Booster Plastics for Zero Emission is not to simply provide project funding like other funding programmes. Our main goal is to generate radical innovation by building a community and providing a wide range of support. In addition to the support given to all participants during the workshops, we also provide support to individual teams during any phase of the process. Therefore, please [contact us](#) if we can help you in any way. For example:

- If you need additional project partners for your ideas, we can support you by connecting you to potential partners within our consortium and network.
- If you have already formed a team but need some additional methodical support to get to the right project idea.

Additionally, please also use the possibilities to advertise your idea and find additional project team members.