



FAQ “Manufacturing technologies” impulse programme

Question	
What does the Manufacturing technologies impulse programme promote?	<p>The “Manufacturing technologies” impulse programme funds innovation projects at the interface between research and technology transfers that Swiss companies conduct together with research institutions in the digitally-oriented “Industry 4.0 and modern manufacturing technologies” segment.</p> <p>According to the Federal Council's proposal, the additional funds for 2019 and 2020 amount to CHF 24 million. The additional funds requested by the Federal Council must be approved by parliament in its discussions between December 2018 and February 2019.</p>
What will happen to the impulse programme if parliament does not grant the additional funds requested?	<p>Innosuisse has emphasised the paramount importance of digitalisation for the future of Switzerland ever since it was established. It is therefore confident that parliament will also approve the additional requested funds. In any case, Innosuisse will consider and possibly fund applications received from the impulse programme. However, should the additional funds not be granted, this would have considerable consequences for the funding quotas for project funding in 2019.</p>
Who can submit an application?	<p>The impulse programme is primarily aimed at consortia comprised of companies and research institutions which are active on a digital basis in the field of “Industry 4.0 and modern manufacturing technologies”. On an economic front, these are mainly companies in vertical and horizontal value chains of the following industries (the list is inexhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MEM industry (mechanical, electrical and metal industry)• Food industry• Automotive supplier industry• Medical technology industry• Construction industry• Chemical industry• Pharmaceutical and biotech• ... <p>Applications from other sectors with the same thematic characteristics are also welcome.</p> <p>The industry partners or the research partners can be responsible for managing the project.</p>

<p>Which manufacturing technologies are in focus?</p>	<p>Examples of important manufacturing technologies (the list is inexhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Automation technologies/robotics ▪ Use of photonics, photonic sensors, components and systems ▪ Material processing, e.g. with light, laser or electron beams ▪ Coating and printing processes, including additive manufacturing ▪ Manufacturing processes for producing micro and nano surface structures ▪ Manufacturing processes for composite materials ▪ Precision and ultra-precision processing ▪ Master shaping, reshaping, separation and joining processes in manufacturing ▪ ...
<p>What digital technologies are of particular interest?</p>	<p>Examples of key digital technologies for innovative manufacturing technologies (the list is inexhaustive):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Simulation ▪ Artificial intelligence (AI) ▪ Vision and image processing/machine learning ▪ Digital twin/cyber-physical systems ▪ Virtual/augmented reality ▪ Internet of Things (IoT) ▪ Cloud computing ▪ Wireless communication ▪ Optical communication ▪ Cyber security ▪ ...
<p>What types of projects does the impulse programme focus on?</p>	<p>The impulse programme focuses on projects at the interface between research and technology transfer, in which larger consortia with interdisciplinary research teams collaborate with industry. Ideally, the consortia work on research-based solutions of an exploratory nature whose implementation provides multiplier effects for a wide range of uses in various areas of business.</p> <p>Projects, particularly consortium projects of an exploratory nature, will ideally (not necessarily):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ have more than one implementation partner in pre-competitive projects, at least one of which is an SME ▪ or cover a value chain through several implementation partners, at least one of which is an SME ▪ have more than one research partner, at least one of which is a university of applied sciences
<p>What is the key objective of the impulse programme?</p>	<p>The projects are intended to provide the Swiss industry with quantitative advantages such as increased productivity, production flexibility (e.g. shorter changeover times) or increased up-time as well as highlight new production possibilities.</p>
<p>What is the legal framework that forms the basis of the impulse programme?</p>	<p>The framework conditions for regular innovation project funding apply.</p>
<p>What will happen to the impulse projects when they are concluded in the final quarter of 2020?</p>	<p>Due to their exploratory and consortium character, high-quality projects with a correspondingly successful course are expected to have good opportunities for follow-up projects with specific applications for individual implementation partners.</p>

<p>Is there a limit for material costs?</p>	<p>Comparatively higher proportions of material costs and total costs are also generally eligible for funding for consortium projects, provided that the costs flow into pilot and demonstration plants with broader benefits, for example, and are reasonable in proportion to staff expenses.</p>
<p>Are there exceptions to the 50% contribution rule for implementation partners?</p>	<p>The customary company contribution of 50% of the project costs is intended to ensure that the impulse programme supports projects which deal with issues relevant to the companies and promise a direct benefit to implementation.</p> <p>The implementation partner's contribution of at least 50% of the project costs can be reduced as a result of case-by-case decisions if the projects are particularly innovative and have above-average potential for success or their results can benefit a wide range of users.</p> <p>Projects without implementation partners may also be funded, provided that the expected added value for the economy is above average, the projects aim to create significant innovations and specific follow-up projects are likely. However, Innosuisse does not fund purely academic projects. The application must therefore at least have specific advantages for the Swiss economy and be able to demonstrate a clear path to implementation (e.g. in the form of declarations of intent from future implementation partners).</p> <p>In individual cases, Innosuisse may also approve a financial contribution from the implementation partners (cash) of less than 10 percent of the research costs or completely waive the implementation partners' financial contribution to the research partners if the implementation partners' economic standing is insufficient. It will take into account the potential of the project in terms of innovation, the risks associated with the project and the sustainability of the financial burden associated with implementation of the project.</p>
<p>How detailed must the business plans be for exploratory consortium projects?</p>	<p>Concrete business plans for the envisaged commercialisation are not absolutely necessary for exploratory consortium projects, provided that the above quantitative and qualitative objectives of the impulse programme in terms of increased production efficiency or flexibility or new product innovations for the benefit of the Swiss economy can be substantiated through specific plans and reliable key facts and figures.</p>
<p>Where can I get more information?</p>	<p>In addition to information on the Innosuisse website, Innosuisse's innovation mentors and the National Thematic Networks (NTN) have been informed separately and can provide corresponding information.</p> <p>Furthermore, Innosuisse is organising two information events in cooperation with SwissMEM, Industrie 2025 and the SATW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 27 November 2018, 4.30 p.m. Windisch, Brugg, CAMPUSSAAL ▪ 4 December 2018, 4.30 p.m. Microcity, Neuchâtel. <p>Those interested in the events can register for them on the Innosuisse website.</p>
<p>Are there further measures in the pipeline in addition to the "Manufacturing technologies" impulse programme?</p>	<p>The second measure from the Federal Council's 2019-2020 action plan that Innosuisse is implementing is the promotion of digitalisation in the fields of energy and mobility via the Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research SCCER. CHF 1.5 million per year is earmarked for this purpose. This support is focused on three selected SCCERs in a separate procedure.</p>