



PSL Valorisation and Qlife launch a call for Proof-of-Concept projects 2024

PSL Valorisation and the Institut Convergences Qlife join forces to support up to 10 innovative projects with strong socio-economic potential. This call is open to any project involving one or more PSL research team(s), and covers all disciplines and fields of applications. Projects involving partnerships with research teams outside PSL are eligible, but only PSL teams can be funded through this call.

Selected projects must have a high potential impact, in economic and/or societal terms; they may aim at the creation of a startup or at any other form of transfer to the socio-economic world.

In accordance with PSL's policy of supporting the valorisation of research and expertise in the fields of humanities and social sciences, arts and design, funding will be reserved for a project involving at least one of these themes. This involvement will be assessed by the Selection Committee in light of the project's objectives, of the research teams and of the knowledge and expertise involved.

The call for projects will be cofunded by PSL Valorisation and the Institut Convergences Qlife; it will mobilize support from the Fonds National de Valorisation (SGPI-ANR) secured by PSL. The call will enable the financing of up to ten projects, including two in the field of quantitative biology, aiming at the creation of startups (or towards partnerships with existing startups) and supported by Qlife, and one reserved for projects involving at least one of the following areas: humanities, social sciences, design, arts, the other projects may cover any field and involve any mode of transfer.

[The Carnot Institute IPGG Microfluidics](#) is again associated with this call for projects to grant additional funding to the winning projects from its perimeter (after examination of their funding needs and validation by the Carnot Steering Committee).

Information meetings concerning the call, intended for all researchers and technology transfer officers within PSL, will take place in February and March 2024 (see schedule below). These meetings will include a presentation of the call followed by questions and answers, the testimony of a laureate of a previous call and the possibility of individual sessions during which project leaders can ask specific questions and obtain informal feedback on their application project.

These videoconference information meetings will take place on the following dates:

- February 27 at 10:00 am
- March 13 at 2 :00 pm
- March 28 at 5:00 pm

To participate, please register by using the following link :

<https://evento.renater.fr/survey/webinaire-de-presentation-de-l-aap-psl-qlife-lczpfars>

You will then receive, 24 hours before the meeting, a link giving access to a Microsoft Teams meeting room (accessible via your browser, even if you do not have the Teams application).

Conditions of eligibility

(See specific information below on the different project categories)

- Eligible projects must involve at least one PSL research group and be validated by the director of the unit concerned (that of the principal investigator).
- The maximal project duration is 18 months, unless duly justified.
- The highest requested funding is 100k€ (including any overhead or management costs charged by the institution managing the funds). This limit may be increased to 120 k€ for projects with special needs (for example in terms of equipment, services, etc.). These needs must be justified in the application and will be assessed by the Selection Committee.

Objectives and eligible expenses

The allocated funding must be used to prepare and / or facilitate the transfer of knowledge, results or inventions from the research groups involved, in order to foster economic and / or societal impact. It may be used to carry out technical or market proofs of concept, or legal studies (intellectual property, regulations). The funding may also cover staff costs, equipment (whatever the depreciation period), operating costs (including travel and consumables), and external contracting, corresponding to technical achievements by one or more providers (public or private), expenses for marketing studies, specialized coaching (business, legal, etc.), training, or intellectual property costs (patentability study, freedom to operate, etc.).

Concerning projects financed by Qlife, expenses must be mainly devoted to the human resources of the project. Funding for market research, specialized coaching and intellectual property is not eligible.

Selection process

The evaluation process will be supervised by PSL Valorisation, in coordination with the Qlife Steering Committee. It will be approved by the Oversight Committee (“Comité d’Engagement”) set up in relation the FNV funding allocated to PSL Valorisation.

The Selection Committee will comprise independent experts, as well as a member of the Qlife Steering Committee. Each application will be evaluated by 2 independent specialists in the relevant field, whose reports will be forwarded to the Selection Committee. The members of the Selection Committee and the evaluators will sign a statement of confidentiality.

The following evaluation criteria will be taken into account:

- Scientific and technological quality (if applicable)
Existing results, publications, scientific environment
- Innovative character and added value wrt the state of the art

State of the art description, comparison of the solution with possible alternatives

- Socio-economic impact, feasibility of the technology transfer, identified markets
Innovation and transfer approach; preliminary vision of applications, users and markets; foreseen process for the definition of a business model, for contacts with users and for market identification
- Technical and economic feasibility (resources, calendar, environment, partnerships)
Key steps, milestones, deliverables; adequacy of resources and timeline; risk management

Technology transfer and revenue allocation

In the event that intellectual property assets pre-exist the project (which is not a prerequisite), the management and valorisation of the intellectual property resulting from the project will be entrusted, for the sake of continuity, to the structure in charge of the pre-existing IP, unless there is a specific agreement between the stakeholders.

In accordance with PSL's policy of generating income from its technology transfer activities that can be reinvested in new projects, and with the rules associated with FNV funding, the income generated by the projects will be allocated in priority to replenishing the amount invested by PSL, without affecting the share allocated to researchers ("intéressement"); this rule does not apply to projects funded by Qlife.

Provisional calendar

- **January 31, 2024** : Publication of the call for projects.
- **February-March 2024** : Information meetings by videoconference, intended for all researchers and PSL's valorization officers:
 - February 27 at 10:00 am
 - March 13 at 2:00 pm
 - March 28 at 5:00 pm
- **April 15, 2024** : Deadline for sending a non-confidential abstract and a list of three experts that may evaluate the project.
- **April 29, 2024** : **Deadline for submission of applications** - closure of the call for projects.
- **May-June, 2024** : Evaluation of projects.
- **July 2024** : Communication of results.

Applications

Applications must be submitted by email to psl.valo@psl.eu, by sending two files (in Word and PDF formats), using the provided template, available from any technology transfer officers of PSL (establishments and organizations), or from the PSL Valorisation team.

Applicants should contact one of the technology transfer officers of their department, and to indicate on their file the name of the IP contact person for their project.

Please contact the valorisation department of your institution or PSL Valorisation for any additional information.

Specific information

Qlife - Quantitative Biology :

Funding provided by the Institut Convergences Qlife is reserved for the field of quantitative biology, concerning for example the dynamic architecture of the nucleus, the organization of cell membranes, intercellular communication, developmental biology, new quantitative therapeutic approaches, etc. More generally, the projects selected will aim to develop knowledge and technologies allowing a higher understanding of the functioning of living systems at all levels (molecule, cell, organism, populations), such as for example imaging techniques, data science and scientific calculation. Projects should be oriented towards the creation of startups or towards partnerships with existing startups.

Applications expected for Qlife funding may come from research groups of PSL, preferably in partnership with an identified company, created or in the process of being created. The projects will aim to:

- Strengthening the interaction between the world of public research and business ;
- The appropriation by the business world of solutions resulting from public research.
- The development of startup projects in collaboration with one or more teams from the PSL perimeter.

SHS, arts and design projects :

One funding ticket is reserved for projects involving at least one of the following fields: humanities and social sciences, arts and design. This involvement will be assessed by the Selection Committee in view of the project objectives, of the research teams, of knowledge and expertise brought into play, and of the project environment and partnerships envisaged.

PIA4 et SNA

In the context of the development of the 4th Future Investment Program (PIA4), the French state is committed to supporting innovation in areas whose issues are priorities for the French economy. These National Acceleration Strategies (SNA) are deployed in several sections, including one relating to support for pre-maturation and maturation projects. This support takes place through several national consortia dedicated to different themes.

PSL is involved in 8 of these consortia whose themes are as follows:

- Recycling and reincorporation of recycled materials
- Improvement/disruptive technologies regarding the manufacturing of battery cells
- Decarbonization of industry
- French cultural and creative industries
- Advanced technologies and energy systems
- Quantum technologies
- Development of decarbonized hydrogen
- Biosourced products, industrial biotechnologies and sustainable fuels

If you are the laureate of the PSL/QLife pre-maturation call and if the theme of your project is similar to one of those cited above, we will be able to present your project to one of these consortia.

This will allow you to obtain, among other things, if your project is selected:

- a label for your project (to be highlighted for iLab requests, fundraising, etc...)
- feedback from experts from the world of industry
- additional financing adapted to your needs

To find out more about National Acceleration Strategies, do not hesitate to contact us at psl@valo.eu

DIM MaTerRE

Projects related to themes concerning advanced materials for sustainable development and new energies in the fields of transport, housing, recycling energy, etc. may be subject to additional financing by DIM MaTerRe.

The MaTerRe DIM (Major Research and Innovation Area) is a research network funded by the Ile-de-France region with a structuring, multidisciplinary and unifying nature.

Do not hesitate to consult the [DIM MaTerRE Technology Transfert Calls](#)

