A new public-private partnership research programme called ‘Building blocks of life’ has recently been launched. Collaborations between industry, knowledge institutions and social organizations are essential to undertake the large challenges that lie ahead in the area of life sciences. The NWO programme 'Building Blocks of Life' is truly cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral and provides the unique opportunity to shape the innovative Dutch landscape. The Netherlands holds a strong position in life sciences and this programme provides a great possibility for industry and science to jointly propel innovation to maintain and reinforce Dutch (knowledge)position in this dynamic and innovative field.

***Challenging innovations***

Our understanding of the molecular basis of life has increased dramatically through recent technological breakthroughs in physics, chemistry, biology, computer science and systems analysis of massive data files. In the coming years, the Building Blocks of Life program will integrate this knowledge to facilitate a decisive step in the fundamental understanding of the molecular building blocks comprising cellular systems and new application perspectives. Challenging innovations can be foreseen in many key areas: health care (e.g. personalized medicine), qualitatively and quantitatively improved food supply, sustainable crop production, hybrid techno-biological systems, new materials and intelligent robots based on neural networks, and organisms working under extreme circumstances. These innovations are crucial for the Dutch economic potential and address important social issues. Emphasis will also be placed on the social impact and ethical reflection.

The long-term urgent challenges addressed with 'Building Blocks of Life' fit very well with the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda's of the participating Topsectors, Agri & Food, Chemicals, HTSM, Life Sciences & Health and Horticulture & Propagating stock. Furthermore, the questions addressed with this programme are well embedded in the Dutch National Science Agenda.

***Submission of research proposals***

In the first quarter of 2016, NWO will publish the first call for proposals for interdisciplinary research proposals in the area of the understanding and design of building blocks of life. NWO provides an expected budget of M€ 10 to stimulate public-private partnerships. With this call NWO anticipates to realise excellent groundbreaking research by forming durable interdisciplinary research projects in collaboration with public and private partners.

Further details of the call for proposals will be announced at a later stage on

[www.nwo.nl/buildingblocksoflife](http://www.nwo.nl/buildingblocksoflife).

***Matchmaking event November 17, 2015***

To tune scientific and industrial supply and demand, NWO is organizing a matchmaking event in the ‘Oude Magazijn’ in Amersfoort on November 17th 2015. We kindly invite you to pose your questions and needs and find out what science has to offer you so together we can ensure optimal use of innovative strength on this theme. You may also, if desired, present yourself and your ideas in a pitch. In addition, there is extensive opportunity to meet other interested parties and to learn about the details of the programme. We realize that tuning scientific and industrial supply and demand needs effort and we would like to discuss with you how to shape collaboration with public and private partners within this programme in the most optimal and durable way.

Please register for this event via the website: <http://www.nwo.nl/en/research-and-results/programmes/building+blocks+of+life/Matchmaking+event>.

Please contact Dr Marjolein Lauwen ([bbol@nwo.nl](mailto:bbol@nwo.nl)) for any further questions concerning this event.

Please contact Dr Sandra de Keijzer ([sandra.de.keijzer@fom.nl](mailto:sandra.de.keijzer@fom.nl)) for any further questions concerning this programme.

We apologize in advance if you have received this invitation from different partners.