

What is a "user project" ?

An ACTMOST user project is a micro-optics support project requested by a company that aims at the use of advanced micro-optics and micro-photonic technologies for the purpose of product innovation.

The major objective of ACTMOST is to professionally support companies at the pre-competitive level with:

- micro-optical modeling and optical design studies
- measurement assistance and dedicated micro-optics instrumentation development
- prototyping, mastering and replication of innovative micro-optic components and sub-systems
- heterogeneous integration and packaging solutions
- feasibility studies and proof-of-concept demonstrations
- reliability tests
- IPR screening services
- standardization assistance
- and much more...



Benefits for your company

- Your user project is performed by top specialists from the EU who support your company with their expertise.
- The latest cutting-edge technologies and benchmarked instruments are available to accomplish your project successfully.
- A complete one-stop-solution from design to packaging is accessible without investment-risk.
- Costs of small pre-competitive projects can be waived completely for SMEs and partially for large scale companies.
- An ACTMOST expert will assist you with the application form for waiving the project costs.
- Applications will be evaluated for financial support (every 3 months).
- If your application is positively evaluated, the project leader will co-ordinate the user project.
- The project leader will inform you frequently about the progress of your project through personal meetings and progress reports and will ensure that your company and its staff members are deeply involved in the activities .



The level of financial support is depending on the legal status of the company. For spin-off's, start-ups and SMEs, the cost of an user project can be waived up to a maximum of 60k€. For large-scale companies half of the costs can be waived up to a maximum of 30k€.

The approval for financial support of a user project by ACTMOST will depend on different evaluation criteria. The most important criteria are listed below:

- The European identity of the potential user being a registered company.
- The pre-competitive character of the request.
- The added value of the request for the company in terms of business.
- The likelihood and prospect for a follow up project -fully financed by the user-.
- The level of involvement and effort (technology, man power, material, etc) brought in by the potential user as a measure for its commitment to the project.
- The quality, value and merit of the IPR conditions for the potential user and ACTMOST.
- The relevance of the request to the quality of life of the European citizens.



How to apply?



Access to
Micro-Optics
Expertise,
Services &
Technologies

Companies can contact ACTMOST through the central contact point:

1. First contact the central contact point

- After the first contact you will receive an information package.

2. Next you will be contacted by a project leader, who is an expert in the domain of your technological challenge.

- A NDA (non disclosure agreement) will be signed at this stage to protect your IP.
- The project leader will then discuss with you the challenge to be tackled.
- The project leader will gather a team of experts to elaborate potential solutions in support of your company's innovation challenge.
- The project leader will assist you in completing the 'application form'.
- The project leader will discuss the IPR issues and the draft contract.

3. Submission of the application form

- Once the application form is completed you can submit it online.

4. Approval of the application form by the board

- Within 2 weeks after the first upcoming deadline for project proposals you will be informed about the approval of your user project.
- Deadlines for project proposals are scheduled every 3 months.
- The first deadline is 31/12/2010.

5. The project leader will contact you to make concrete appointments to start the project

- A contract including a timeline, concrete deliverables, and an IP agreement will be signed.

6. Start of the User project

- The project leader will keep you updated on the progress of the project through personal meetings and progress reports.
- The Helpdesk will contact you to check whether the project is running according to your expectations.

7. End of the project

- After the project is completed you will be asked to complete a questionnaire that inquires about your satisfaction about the support offered to you by ACTMOST.