



the Government of Flanders,

(in the following, mentioned as the “ORGANIZATION”), being aware of what are the aims of the Knowledge Innovation Community on Raw Materials (KIC-RM), that will be possibly co-funded by the European Institute of Technology and Innovation in Budapest, declare that the Government of Flanders has the following motivations to support the build-up of a co-location centre within the KIC-RM. The ORGANIZATION will be related to CO-LOCATION CENTRE WEST.

The ORGANIZATION is a regional government, represented by the Minister-President.

The ORGANIZATION has the following interest in the topics related to the Raw Materials: the Government of Flanders is convinced that the affordable access to raw materials is crucial for the resilience of the Flemish and European industry. Our companies are highly reliant on the import of raw materials and hence vulnerable for price fluctuations and security of supply. This challenge can be turned into an opportunity. Through smarter design of products, more efficient production processes, more refurbishment and re-use of products, and state-of-the-art recycling we enhance the competitiveness of our industry and boost innovation, entrepreneurship, growth and new jobs. Opportunities for growth are to be found in the waste and recycling sector (with a stable growth of 5,5 % in the past couple of decades one of the fastest growing industrial clusters in Belgium). But we also want to build on the strengths of the Flemish (critical) metals clusters, the sustainable chemistry & plastics cluster, the building and construction cluster, and the bio-economy cluster.

The ORGANIZATION expects to provide the following support to the KIC-RM: our engagement towards the KIC RM is based on a firm belief that the optimized integration of research and entrepreneurship on the one hand and common policy goals to respond to societal challenges on the other will provide the impetus for revitalized European and Flemish industrial growth, and notably the raw materials sector. Prioritizing public resources for innovation and industrial renewal is an essential ingredient for this. The public-private Flanders Materials Programme will help translate results of the KIC-RM into policy/strategies of relevant authorities in Flanders and of sector federations.

The ORGANIZATION confirms its exclusive commitment to the Raw MatTERS consortium, in applying to the 2014 EIT call for establishing a KIC-RM (published on February 14, 2014).

The ORGANIZATION expects from the collaboration with the KIC-RM:

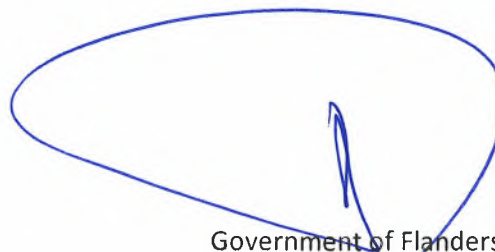
- further enhancement of regional strengths at the level of research and entrepreneurship with regard to raw materials,
- smart specialization within the (critical) metals, sustainable chemistry/plastics and recycling/waste sector strategies,

- new public-private partnerships within Flanders aimed at exploiting the entrepreneurial opportunities with regard to raw materials and interregional partnership with EU regions with complementary competences (notably via the Vanguard Initiative),
- bridging the valley of death for the raw materials sector by fostering close collaboration within the 'Knowledge Triangle', connecting higher education institutions, research organizations and business/industry.

According the aforementioned data and foresight, the ORGANIZATION, is willing to join a stakeholder forum, or supporters network, created with the scope to:

- keep updated of the initiatives and the results of the CLC and the opportunities of collaboration with the CLC, in the broadest sense, that will be disseminated by the CLC (meeting at least once a year after the foundation of the KIC Legal Entity)
- provide support to the foundation and the growth of the CLC, by helping them :
  - To develop more in detail a 'strategic roadmap' that specifies objectives, milestones and commitments
  - To support the with a 'light' management structure to strengthen the strategic capacity of the cluster platform
  - To build towards a 'partnership agreement' that will seal a long term commitment of all partners engaged in the execution of the roadmap. Operated via a 'structured dialogue', accompanied by 'account managers', supported with so-called "earmarked" budgets in the different existing governmental instruments.
- provide regularly recommendations to the CLC, aimed to improve the quality of the results and the impact of the CLC in the Raw Materials initiatives.

May 20th 2014



Government of Flanders  
Kris Peeters, Minister-President