

“Researchers could do a lot more for the acceptance of this system by actually using DOIs to link to their publications and using their Orcid IDs—and advocating that others use them too,” Braukmann said.

Related Links

[NWO PID strategy](#)

[Freya project](#)

INTERVIEW

Chemistry group gears up for funding windfall

Dutch consortium could benefit from the National Growth Fund, says its director

By Erik te Roller

A Dutch chemistry consortium celebrated its fifth anniversary last week with a hopeful eye on the National Growth Fund.

The €20 billion fund, created to boost economic growth in the Netherlands by supporting R&D, infrastructure and knowledge development, announced up to €338 million in its first funding round for Groenvermogen, an R&D programme focused on hydrogen and green chemistry.

“We actively contributed to the writing of the Groenvermogen proposal and hope we can take an active part in it,” says Bert Weckhuysen, scientific director of the Advanced Research Center Chemical Building Blocks Consortium. “But first it has to become clear how the programme will be coordinated and conducted before it will be known how much funding will go where.”

The ARC-CBBC, which held an online forum with 500 participants to mark its anniversary, brings together researchers from universities and companies to carry out projects in support of greening the economy and creating more reusable materials. Its goal is to help the chemical industry become carbon-neutral by 2050.

The consortium has a budget of €106m for 2016-26, provided by the Dutch government, the NWO research council and the participating universities and companies.

Research portfolio

Weckhuysen, who is based at Utrecht University, is one of three programme directors that have initiated and steered the group’s portfolio of research projects in the past few years. The others are Ben Feringa from the University of Groningen and Hans Kuipers from Eindhoven University of Technology.

The ARC-CBBC’s three multilateral programmes run under the consortium’s umbrella focus on biobased coatings, converting carbon dioxide into fuels and turning methane into hydrogen and carbon. All three have already delivered

scientific breakthroughs, the forum heard. There is also a fourth multilateral programme in the pipeline, which will focus on the chemical recycling of plastic waste.

In addition to this work, the consortium has trained 60 young researchers, Weckhuysen told Research Professional News, the first of whom recently found a job in industry. And it has also set up three hub laboratories at Groningen, Eindhoven and Utrecht.

“Now, five years after the start of the ARC-CBBC, we have a diamond in our hands that we will continue to polish in the coming years,” Weckhuysen says.

Related Links

[ARC-CBBC website](#)

Related Articles

[First 10 projects chosen for National Growth Fund support](#)

Netherlands news roundup: 24-30 April

This week: Advanced Grant success, science communication awards and carbon reduction funding

In depth: The NWO, the Dutch national research council, has adopted a strategy to use persistent identifiers, or PIDs, to manage its publications, data sets, participating organisations and grants.

Full story: [Research council embraces tools to streamline data management](#)

Also this week from Research Professional News

[Chemistry group gears up for funding windfall](#)—Dutch consortium could benefit from the National Growth Fund, Bert Weckhuysen tells Erik te Roller

Here is the rest of the Dutch news this week...

Netherlands gets 17 Advanced Grants

A total of 17 leading scientists in the Netherlands have [received an Advanced Grant](#) from the European Research Council in its 2020 funding round. They will each get up to €2.7 million for risky and potentially ground-breaking research. Only the UK (51), Germany (40) and France (22) hosted more winners in this