COLLABORATIVE PROJECT "MAUS" AT SUBCTECH

THE COMPANY

SUBCTECH

- location: Kiel
- number of employees: 34
- CEO:
  Dipl. -Phys. Stefan Marx
- Products & services:
  Underwater energy supply, measuring systems (Ocean Packs)

STARTING SITUATION

SubCtech is a medium-sized company that has made a name for itself with its innovative products in the field of underwater energy supply and measuring system technology. The main customers include oil and gas companies and research institutions of all kinds.

The company is part of the "MAUS" collaborative project that aims to construct and produce two prototypes of autonomous underwater vehicles. SubCtech develops the needed system module, which contains a battery and the matching battery management system. For the first time, the batteries are being developed in a way they can be flexibly configured and therefore be used for other projects. The associated management system enables automatic configuration and recording of the operating states. The flexible application options reduce costs for the development of similar batteries. In addition, the planned energy management and the intelligent underwater charging device save costs and time.

Among others, partners of the project are the University of Applied Sciences of Kiel and emma technologies. The project is managed by the research and development center of the University of Applied Sciences of Kiel.

THE GUIDELINE

FIT

Funding objective:
- Application-oriented research, innovations, and technology transfer

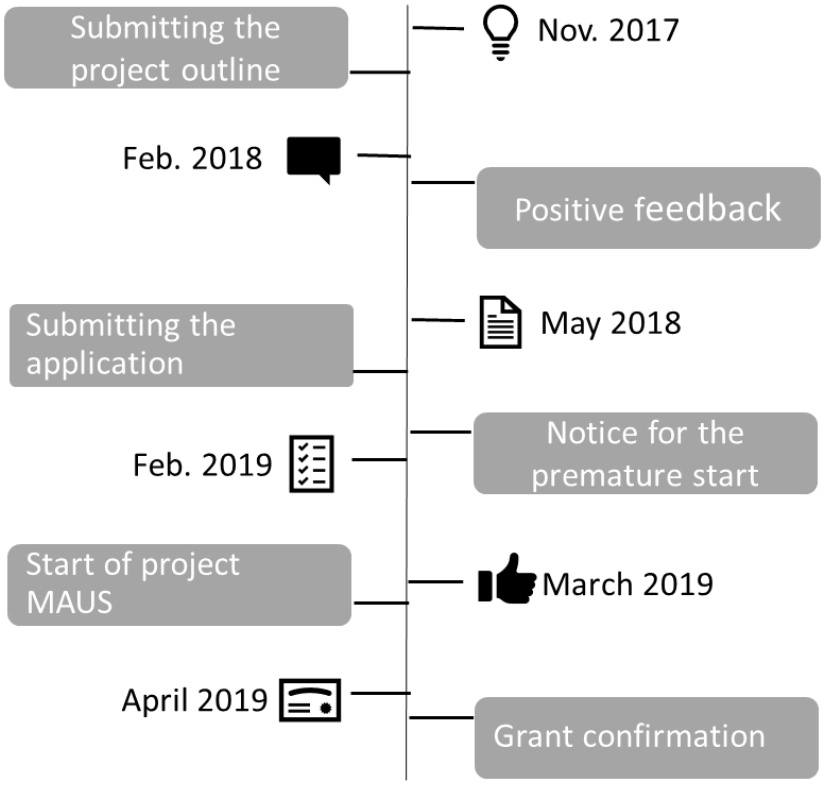
Time limits:
- Project outline has to be handed in at least three months before project start.

Responsible agency:
- Wt.sh
  (Business development agency Schleswig-Holstein)

Maximal amount of funding:
- For enterprises:
  max. 50% of the eligible costs
- For research facilities: max. 90% of the eligible costs

Prioritized projects:
- Collaborative projects
- Cooperation projects
- Research infrastructures
- Competence centers
- Innovation-oriented networks

APPLICATION PROCESS



Each partner formulated a **project outline** for his subproject, on which the wt.sh checked the general eligibility. The outline contained information about the company and the project. More detailed, it explained the technical prospects for success as well as the degree of innovation of the product. Furthermore, the technical and economic risks of the project and other possible fields of application for the product exceeding the project were displayed.

SubCtech had two major **challenges** in terms of processing. On the one hand, the technical details had to be described so that external parties would understand the project's content. On the other hand, the collaborative project itself presented a challenge. Numerous ideas and expectations of all project partners regarding the final product had to be checked and conducted to a common sense.

After receiving a **positive feedback** on the project outline from wt.sh, the project partners were able to start processing the application.

In the collaborative project, each partner had to fill out an **application form** for their sub-project. It contained information about the company and the growth potential, as well as a description of the project. Furthermore, various attachments had to be added.

THE PROJECT

MAUS

March 1, 2019 - 2022

objective:

- Development and production of two prototypes of autonomous underwater vehicles (AUV)

partners:

- Christian-Albrechts-University of Kiel
- University Lübeck
- University of Applied Science Kiel
- emma technologies
- Research and Development center of the University of Applied Science Kiel
- SubCtech

Amount of funding MAUS:

- 2.677.000 €

Amount of funding SubCtech:

- 690.526,00 €

They implied a financing plan for the entire project, information on the current market situation, competitors, and economic effects. In addition, a cooperation agreement had to be included. After completing all forms, the project management submitted the application.

In addition, the project management handed in an **application for early action**. This kind of application can be submitted to the responsible authority before the start of the project to counteract a possible loss of time due to the processing time of the application at the responsible body. In the case of MAUS, the objective was to reduce the long waiting period between submission of the application and the final confirmation of funding. The notification for the premature start of the project was sent by the wt.sh in February 2019, allowing the project to start on March 1, 2019.

Until the final confirmation of the grant in April 2019, the project management was able to prepare the projects' work, for example by hiring qualified staff. By the official start of MAUS, SubCtech was able to work on the fulfillment of its sub-project.

IMPLEMENTATION

The project is currently in the phase of implementation. To receive the awarded funding, SubCtech has to document its expenses as part of the project.

The "MAUS" project is expected to run until 2022. Subsequently, the applicant requests proof of use of the amounts paid within three months of the end of the project. In addition, SubCtech has to write reports of usage on the project and its effects for a period of five full calendar years.

RECOMENDATION

Make sufficient time for the project plan

The basis of a smooth implementation of a project lays in detailed planning. So, you should allow enough time for setting up a well thought out plan.

Communication is key

Each partner in the collaborative project must develop its sub-project so that the other project partners will be satisfied with the product. For this purpose, the ideas and wishes of the project partners must be addressed in discussions. Technical subtleties and their feasibility should be openly explained. The focus should always be on the final goal of the project.

Take notice of the environment outside the project framework

A collaborative project offers the opportunity to get to know other companies better and, for example, recognize incentives for your own corporate culture.

Include time for the bureaucracy into your planning

By the first time you get in contact with the program, allow yourself enough time to familiarize with the guidelines and application process. The website of the wt.sh and the funding guides (in German: "Förderlotsen") offer support.

FURTHER INFORMATION

REGARDING THE PROJECT

https://maus-projekt.de/#das-projekt

REGARDING THE FUNDING

https://www.schleswig-holstein.de/DE/Fachinhalte/F/foerderprogramme/MWAVT/EFRE/efre_inSH_2014_2020.html

DOCUMENTS & CONTACT

https://wtsh.de/foerderberatung/foerderprogramme/foerderprogramm-forschung-innovation-technologietransfer-fit/

EVALUATION FORM THE COMPANY 'S PERSPECTIVE

In summary SubCtech experiences the funding as financial support and will not be reluctant to consider the funding program in future projects.

However, the company would welcome a digitalization of the application and the reporting system, for example with an option to query the status of the processing online.

A Clipper Case Study

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CLIPPER
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European Regional
Development Fund

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