

Swiss-Latvian Cooperation Programme

# SUPPORT MEASURE AGREEMENT

between

The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

and

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia

on

the Support Measure

***"Partnership in Applied Research for Advanced Materials, Information and  
Communication Technology and Smart Energy"***

**SANEMTS**

Finanšu ministrija

20~~24~~ g. 14. 11. plkst. \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. Nr. 13.7/16/12/133

Reģistrēja [Signature] Z.Klāšone

The Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research, acting through the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, hereinafter referred to as "SECO" and

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Latvia as the National Coordination Unit, hereinafter referred to as the "NCU",

Together hereinafter referred to as the "Parties",

Referring to the Framework Agreement, including its Annex 1 (Country-Specific Set-Up), between the Swiss Federal Council and the Government of the Republic of Latvia concluded on 19 June, 2023, as well as to the Regulations on the implementation of the Second Swiss Contribution in the area of Cohesion issued by Switzerland and containing the general rules and procedures on the implementation of the Swiss-Latvian Cooperation Programme, hereinafter referred to as "Framework Agreement" and "Regulations",

Considering the financing of the Support Measure "Partnership in Applied Research for Advanced Materials, Information and Communication Technology and Smart Energy" (hereinafter referred to as the "Support Measure") in the Republic of Latvia (hereinafter – Latvia),

Have agreed as follows:

### **Article 1 – General provisions**

The legal Framework as defined in Article 2 in the Framework Agreement shall apply.

### **Article 2 – Objective and eligibility period**

1. The Support Measure is assigned to the following thematic area: Research and innovation.
2. The objective of the Support Measure is to develop applied research capacity and promote research collaborations between Latvia and Switzerland in the field of advanced materials, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and smart energy.
3. The Support Measure starts on 01.01.2025 and ends on 30.11.2029. Only expenditures incurred during this period are considered eligible as in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Regulations. Any costs that would incur after 03.12.2029 and do not comply with Chapter 6 of the Regulations to bring the Programme to completion will be ineligible and have to be borne by Latvia.

### **Article 3 – Obligations of the Parties**

1. Switzerland agrees to grant a contribution of up to 10,000,000 Swiss francs for the implementation of the Support Measure according to the budget (Annex B).
2. The contribution of Switzerland shall cover a maximum of 85% of the total eligible expenditures of the Support Measure as mentioned in Chapter 6 of the Regulations.
3. Switzerland's contribution to the Support Measure is based:
  - a) on the final version of the Support Measure proposal UX\_00606, dated 23.07.2024 attached to this Support Measure Agreement (Annex A); and

- b) on the conditions put forward by Switzerland as part of the final decision to support the Support Measure and communicated to Latvia by means of the letter UX\_00606, dated 30.09.2024 attached (Annex D).
- 4. In accordance with Article 7 of the Framework Agreement, the responsibility of Switzerland with regard to this Support Measure is limited to providing funds in accordance with Article 3, paragraph 1 of this Support Measure Agreement.
- 5. Latvia shall ensure the timely provision of the co-financing of the total eligible expenditures of the Support Measure, as described in Article 4 paragraph 5 of the Framework Agreement, and in Article 3.1 paragraph 1 and Chapter 6 of the Regulations.
- 6. Costs for staff of the Programme Operator and Programme Component Operator who are assigned to carry out tasks for the Support Measure, comprising actual salaries plus social security charges and other statutory costs included in the remuneration, are eligible expenditure under this Support Measure, within the limits set in the budget in Annex B of this Support Measure Agreement and in accordance with Chapter 6 of the Regulations.

#### **Article 4 – Implementation Responsibility**

- 1. The NCU, Paying and Audit Authorities shall have the roles and responsibilities as defined in the Regulations, in particular in Articles 3.1 to 3.6, and further specified in the Country Specific Set-up.
- 2. The Programme Operator of this Support Measure is the Ministry of Education and Science. It performs tasks and obligations as defined in the Regulations, point 4.10 of the Country Specific Set-up, national legal acts and other documents examined by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia governing the implementation of the second Swiss Contribution.
- 3. The Programme Components have the following Programme Component Operators:
  - a) Programme Component 1 (LACHMAT) in the area of Advanced Materials (hereinafter PC1/LACHMAT): Programme Component Operator - Riga Technical University.
  - b) Programme Component 2 (LACISE) in the areas of ICT and Smart Energy (hereinafter PC2/LACISE): Programme Component Operator - Institute of Solid-State Physics of University of Latvia.
- 4. The Support Measure shall be implemented in partnership with the following Swiss Support Measure Partners:
  - a) PC1/LACHMAT: the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa), Concrete and Asphalt Laboratory;
  - b) PC2/LACISE: Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW) School of Engineering, IEFE Institute of Energy Systems and Fluid Engineering;
  - c) PC2/LACISE: Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) Battery Electrodes and Cells group and Electrocatalysis and Interfaces group;

- d) PC2/LACISE: Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM).

### **Article 5 – Support Measure Steering Committee**

1. The Programme Operator shall establish the Support Measure Steering Committee as defined in this Article and Article 4.11, paragraph 4, 6 and 7 of the Regulations. The Support Measure Steering Committee shall assume the following tasks:
  - a) supervise the progress of implementation and make suggestions for improvements;
  - b) approve in accordance with Article 4.12, paragraph 4 and 6 of the Regulations any modifications to the Support Measure based on the proposal by the Programme Operator;
2. The Support Measure Steering Committee shall be composed of the following members:
  - a) Programme Operator as Chair and Deputy Chair;
  - b) Latvian Science Council;
  - c) NCU;
  - d) Programme Operator as Secretary;
  - e) Swiss Contribution Office (with the right to veto any decision taken by the Support Measure Steering Committee in accordance with paragraph 3 c) of Article 4.11.);
  - f) Programme Component Operators upon invitation;
  - g) Swiss Support Measure Partners upon invitation;
  - h) any other public or private sector entity from the Partner State and/or from Switzerland with a close thematic, financial or operational connection to the Support Measure could be invited as an observer by proposal of the member of the Steering Committee.
3. The following members shall have a voting right:
  - a) Programme Operator;
  - b) NCU;
  - c) Latvian Science Council.
4. Each member of the Support Measure Steering Committee with voting right shall have one vote. The Support Measure Steering Committee shall strive for reaching consensus. Otherwise, a simple majority shall be necessary for decisions.
5. The quorum shall be constituted by 3 members of the Support Measure Steering Committee with a voting right and the representative from the Swiss Contribution Office.
6. The Programme Operator shall act as secretary and shall assume the tasks as set forth in the Article 4.11, paragraph 7 of the Regulations.
7. The Steering Committee meeting shall take place at least once a year in person, in line with the Article 4.11, paragraph 6 of the Regulations. The Steering Committee may also take decisions through remote meetings and written procedure at the initiative of the Chair and the

NCU. The voting procedure for remote meetings and for written procedure shall be set in the Steering Committee's statutes.

### **Article 6 – Programme Operator competences for modifications of the Support Measure**

1. The Support Measure may be modified in accordance with Article 4.12 of the Regulations.
2. In accordance with Article 4.12, paragraph 4.a of the Regulations, the Programme Operator is entitled to modify Programme Components, provided the following conditions are cumulatively met:
  - a) the modification shall not contradict with the agreed outputs and outcomes of the Support Measure;
  - b) the modification must not change the duration of the Support Measure;
  - c) the financial consequences of the modification must be within the following limits:
    - i. for reallocations within one Programme Component: funds reallocated between different budget items must be less than 100 000 CHF;
    - ii. modifications may not be split with the intention of circumventing this restriction.
3. Switzerland shall be informed about the modification by means of the next Reimbursement Request under Article 8.2, paragraph 3 of the Regulations and the next Annual Support Measure Report under Article 4.13 of the Regulations.

### **Article 7 – Advance payments**

In accordance with Article 8.3 of the Regulations, no advance payments are foreseen in this Support Measure.

### **Article 8 – Policy Dialogue**

A policy dialogue is not foreseen for this Support Measure.

### **Article 9 – Procurement**

1. The procurements under this Support Measure Agreement shall be made according to Chapter 7 of the Regulations and point 4.10 of the Country Specific Set-up.
2. The initial procurement plan, including those procurements that are selected by Switzerland, in accordance with Article 7.2 of the Regulations, shall be annexed to this Support Measure Agreement (Annex C).
3. The periodically updated procurement plan shall be submitted to Switzerland with the Reimbursement Request.

## **Article 10 – Post-completion obligations and ownership of assets**

1. The post-completion obligations related to the assets (operating assets as well as equipment, installations) financed by the Swiss contribution under this Support Measure as well as their ownership are described in Article 4.15 of the Regulations.
2. In accordance with Article 4.15, paragraph 7 of the Regulations, the Parties decide that, for the duration and after the completion of the Support Measure, the ownership of the assets provided with the Swiss Contribution is as follows:
  - a) The ownership of the operating assets, equipment or installations (hereinafter – assets) acquired or provided during the implementation of the Support Measure will reside with the respective PC1/LACHMAT or PC2/LACISE partner responsible for acquiring, producing, or creating the respective assets. In cases where any operating assets are utilized by multiple organizations, the ownership of these assets will be assigned to the institution that has made the largest contribution, whether in terms of funding, man-hours, or materials. This ensures that the ownership of assets is allocated fairly based on the level of contribution from each partner.
  - b) The intellectual property created during the implementation of the Support Measure will be distributed among the PC1/LACHMAT and PC2/LACISE partners respectively in proportion to their contributions. A separate agreement will be established between the PC1/LACHMAT and PC2/LACISE partners to formalize intellectual property ownership and management terms, which will be signed once the parties have identified that such cooperative intellectual property has been created.

## **Article 11 – Reimbursement Procedures, Reporting, Audits, Compliance**

Reimbursement Procedures, Reporting, Auditing and compliance rules are described in the Framework Agreement and the Regulations. According to Article 8.2, paragraph 7 of the Regulations Latvia and Switzerland agree that the first report period starts on 01.01.2025 and ends on 31 December 2025.

## **Article 12 - Annexes**

The following Annexes are governed by this Support Measure Agreement:

Annex A: Final version of the Support Measure Proposal as of 23.07.2024, including Logframe

Annex B: Budget

Annex C: Initial Procurement Plan

Annex D: Decision Letter from SECO

## **Article 13 - Amendments**

The Support Measure may be modified according to Article 4.12 of the Regulations. In the cases as described in Article 4.12 Paragraph 8 of the Regulations, the modification of the Support

### **Article 13 - Amendments**

The Support Measure may be modified according to Article 4.12 of the Regulations. In the cases as described in Article 4.12 Paragraph 8 of the Regulations, the modification of the Support Measure shall be formalised by way of an amendment to this Support Measure Agreement. This shall be done by signing the amendment by the Parties. Annexes of the Support Measure Agreement shall be amended through an exchange of letters between the Parties.

### **Article 14 - Suspension and Termination**

The Support Measure Agreement can be suspended or terminated according to Article 4.16 of the Regulations.

### **Article 15 - Clause on electronic signature**

The parties expressly agree that this agreement and its amendment can be validly concluded by means of an electronic signature process and then archived exclusively in electronic form. By electronic signature, the parties mean a technical process which, on the one hand, makes it possible to ensure the identity of the signatory and his membership of the signing party and, on the other hand, guarantees the integrity of the signed document.

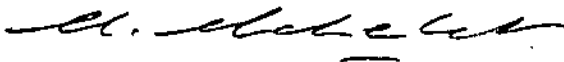
### **Article 16 – Entry into force and duration**

1. This Support Measure Agreement covers the duration of the Support Measure as stated in Article 2 paragraph 3.
2. This Support Measure Agreement shall enter into force on the date of the last signature of the Parties and remain in force until all obligations under it have been fulfilled.

Signed in Riga on 13 November 2024 in two original copies in the English language.

For the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs

For the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of  
Latvia/National Coordination Unit



Martin Michelet  
Ambassador of Switzerland to Latvia,  
Lithuania and Estonia



Armands Eberhards  
Deputy State Secretary on EU Funds Issues  
of the Ministry of Finance  
Head of the National Coordination Unit