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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@Physics.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:[REDACTED]@Physics.leidenuniv.nl)>

Sent: Monday, March 9, 2026 6:09 PM

To: [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@thepinback.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@thepinback.com)>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Gentle reminder: information needed for next steps donation tech entrepreneurs

Dear all,

First of all, let me apologize for taking so long for a full response. The reason is, as stated before, that we are enthusiastic about this opportunity – especially as it strengthens the SHiP program - but that we also want to clearly define our boundaries and, with that, the limitations of this position. This took quite some discussion. Our institute board has now made a decision and has given me the mandate to handle the next steps.

Decision LION: We support the 5-year position that is proposed, since we see it as a wonderful opportunity for SHiP to become successful

Conditions LION: We will have the lead in the hiring process, and we will (re)write the vacancy text such that it is clear that this is a 5-year position. Our HR department will be asked to help in the formulation. A follow-up position for the new person may be in a start-up company or at Nikhef, which we would fully support, but the contract at Leiden University itself will end after 5 years. Furthermore, the hired person will formally be part of [REDACTED] group, which will from then on be considered a group in both the theoretical and the experimental sections, allowing the new hire to use lab space and get access to our mechanical and electronic workshops. (NB How many hours of support are needed and available is still to be discussed.)

We think these conditions are consistent with what we have discussed before and hope we can come to a vacancy soon.

Thanks for all your efforts,

With kind regards, [redacted] 



From: [redacted] @skyfortress.ai>

Sent: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 4:52 PM

To: [redacted] @bb.leidenuniv.nl>

Cc: [redacted] 

[redacted] 

[redacted] 

[redacted] 

[redacted] 

Subject: Re: Gentle reminder: information needed for next steps donation tech entrepreneurs

Hi [redacted] ,

I wanted to give you a bit more context on where we landed after the recent discussions and outline the proposed next steps.

After alignment among the SHiP leadership, and especially following our conversation with [redacted] , we have decided not to proceed

with a predefined project description tied to a specific individual. Instead, we believe it makes much more sense to launch an open international call for the position.

There are two main reasons for this shift:

First, there is a strong consensus that an open call is the right academic and scientific process for a role of this importance.

Second, as we aim to attract as much private funding as possible, it is critical for the process to be fully transparent and supported by a real, credible selection committee.

In this setup, Leiden plays a crucial role - both as the host institution and as a guarantor of academic rigor and independence in the process.

Based on this, here is what we propose:

1. Publish an open call on the Leiden University webpages

Target deadline for applications: March 10 (ideally published by the end of next week).

Proposed job description:

Leiden University invites applications for a leading research scientist to establish and lead a new Tracking Detectors group focused on next-generation particle-physics detectors for CERN experiments.

The appointment will be for an initial period of five years. The successful candidate will be supported by dedicated engineering, technical, and laboratory facilities at Leiden University. They are expected to work closely with research teams in the Netherlands, CERN, the UK, Germany, and beyond, as well as with industrial partners, to develop a world-class research programme and deliver detector systems for experiments including SHiP and other CERN projects.

Applicants should have at least five years' experience in a major role within one or more particle-physics experiments, with clear evidence of leadership in hardware and/or physics activities. A proven track record in securing research funding and/or engaging effectively with industry is highly desirable.

The position is expected to lead to substantial commitments to the design, construction, and delivery of key detector components for one or more experiments within the timescale of the appointment. This will require the successful candidate to build and coordinate a local research team at Leiden, and to play a major role in developing our international collaboration.

The SHiP experiment will require low-mass, large-area tracking detectors. Experience with gas-based detector technologies, particularly the design, commissioning, and operation of straw-tube detectors, is therefore highly valued, though not essential. More broadly, candidates must demonstrate a strong commitment to the long-term development of tracking detector technologies for future collider experiments.

Required documents:

Curriculum Vitae
List of publications
Research statement
Two letters of recommendation

2. Proposed selection panel
(to be confirmed and formally set up with Leiden)

[redacted] J

[redacted] J

[redacted] J

[redacted] J

3. Selection process

The panel reviews applications and interviews shortlisted candidates in the second half of March.

4. Final decision on the candidate

Separately, we are attaching the donation agreement, and are ready to sign it. It would be great to align on the donation amount, timeline, and the decision-making authority of the fund in parallel, so both tracks can move forward smoothly.

Finally, could you please let us know whether, from Leiden's side, we can now proceed with:

- * finalizing the donation agreement, and

- * launching the open position without relying on a predefined form or a role description prepared by [redacted] J, but instead using the open-call framework outlined above?

Your confirmation here would help us move quickly and keep timelines on track.

I am also adding [redacted] J and [redacted] J to this thread.

Looking forward to your thoughts and guidance.

Warmly,

[redacted] J

On Tue, Feb 3, 2026 at 4:21 PM [redacted] J

<[redacted] J@bb.leidenuniv.nl> wrote:

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Toelichting grondslagen

In dit document kunt u secties vinden die onleesbaar zijn gemaakt. Deze informatie is achterwege gelaten op basis van de Wet open overheid (Woo). De letter die hierbij is vermeld correspondeert met de bijbehorende grondslag in onderstaand overzicht.

J Art. 5.1 lid 2 sub e

Het belang van de openbaarmaking van deze informatie weegt niet op tegen het belang van de eerbiediging van de persoonlijke levenssfeer van betrokkenen

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Valt buiten reikwijdte van het verzoek