

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****PROGRESS IN THE PROJECT TO UPGRADE THE OPCW LABORATORY AND EQUIPMENT STORE TO A CENTRE FOR CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY****BACKGROUND**

1. On 10 July 2017, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) issued Note S/1512/2017 entitled “Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”, explaining the new challenges and changing requirements that made it necessary to modernise and expand the capabilities of the current OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store in Rijswijk. In Note S/1561/2017 entitled “Request from the Director-General to States Parties for Voluntary Contributions to a New Trust Fund for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology” (dated 8 December 2017), the Secretariat informed States Parties of the establishment of a trust fund for this project and requested voluntary contributions.
2. The key objectives, project scope, and initial cost estimate and schedule were described in the Note entitled “Needs Statement for Upgrading the OPCW Chemical Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology” (S/1564/2017, dated 22 December 2017 and Corr.1, dated 3 January 2018). Updates on the progress made in implementing the project were provided in Notes S/1769/2019 (dated 9 July 2019), S/1859/2020* (dated 9 March 2020), S/1881/2020 (dated 30 June 2020), S/1912/2020 (dated 16 November 2020), S/1956/2021 (dated 17 May 2021), and S/1965/2021 (dated 24 June 2021) entitled “Progress in the Project to Upgrade the OPCW Laboratory and Equipment Store to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology”. Note S/1769/2019 also provided detailed information regarding the project’s expected benefits as well as its revised scope, cost, and schedule.
3. The Secretariat has provided numerous briefings on the project to States Parties at side events during regular sessions of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) and of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”). Additional briefings were provided to States Parties during the meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW on 2 October 2017, and during informal budget facilitations and meetings of the Friends of the Laboratory Group from 2018 to 2021. A pre-recorded briefing was provided to States Parties in April 2020 to present the preliminary design of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre). A presentation on the design of the ChemTech Centre was provided by the architect during the “first pillar” ceremony on 23 September 2021. The latest information on the project has been made available on the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).



4. This Note updates States Parties on the progress made in the planning and implementation of the project since the previous update in June 2021 (S/1965/2021).

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

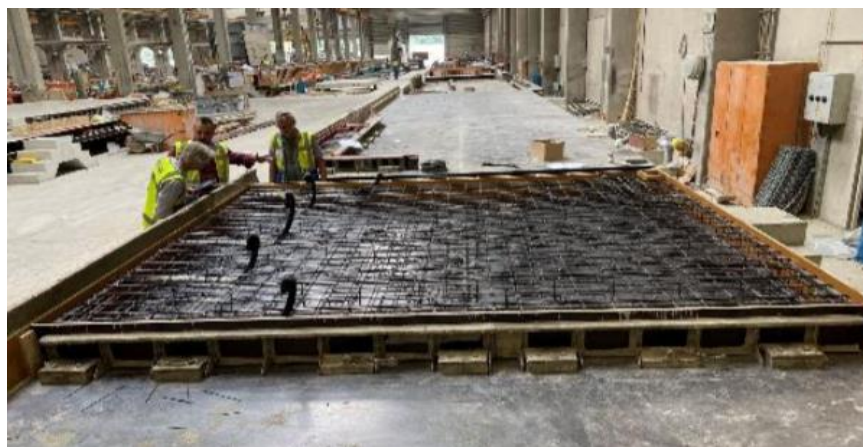
Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

5. The Secretariat continues to closely monitor the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the project. To date, owing to the mitigation efforts by the Secretariat, the pandemic has not had any material impact on the project. The Secretariat will continue with its efforts to assess and mitigate, to the extent possible, the existing and potential impact of the pandemic on the project and will keep States Parties informed.

Construction phase progress

6. Work on the detailed design and production design drawings is proceeding in parallel with construction, within the overall framework of the agreed design. Upon the completion of the detailed design for each construction element, such as the concrete foundation and superstructure of the building, the Contractor will prepare the production design drawings and then build these elements of the building. As construction of these elements proceeds, the detailed design and production design drawings of the subsequent elements to be constructed will be developed. The detailed design and construction are on schedule.
7. Ground excavation and foundation piling were completed in June and July 2021, respectively. After the traditional summer holiday period for the construction industry in the Netherlands, construction resumed in the second half of August. The installation of the concrete foundation beams was subsequently completed, while the production of a number of prefabricated concrete elements was completed off site (see Figure 1). The prefabricated ground floor was installed in October 2021 (see Figure 2), after which the mounting of the prefabricated concrete structure began (see Figure 3).

FIGURE 1: PREFABRICATION OF THE CONCRETE WALLS AT THE PRODUCTION SITES OF THE SUPPLIERS



**FIGURE 2: PLACEMENT OF THE PREFABRICATED GROUND FLOOR
(11 OCTOBER 2021)**



**FIGURE 3: MOUNTING OF THE PREFABRICATED CONCRETE
STRUCTURE (28 OCTOBER 2021)**



8. The design of loose furniture such as desks, chairs, and monitors has been completed. The procurement of these items is currently under way.

Construction tenders progress

9. The two remaining construction tenders were completed during the reporting period, as follows:
- (a) Security tender: This contains the security-related installations for the ChemTech Centre, such as the perimeter fence and access control. The contract was awarded in July 2021.
 - (b) Laboratory furnishings tender: This contains the installation of the laboratory furnishings for the ChemTech Centre, such as the fume hoods and laboratory benches. The contract was awarded in October 2021.
10. Both contracts were signed for a fixed price and are within the project's budget. The main construction tender was also signed for a fixed price within budget. As all construction-related contracts are fixed at prices within budget, the financial risk of the project is substantially reduced.

Overall implementation progress

11. Figure 4 below indicates the overall progress made in respect of project implementation. The project remains on schedule, with the construction of the ChemTech Centre planned to be completed by the end of 2022.

FIGURE 4: OVERALL PROGRESS TO DATE

	1Q 2021	2Q 2021	3Q 2021	4Q 2021	1Q 2022	2Q 2022	3Q 2022	4Q 2022	1Q 2023	2Q 2023
Construction phase										
Transition phase										
Decommissioning phase										
Project closure phase										

FINANCIAL STATUS AND REGULAR BUDGET IMPACTS

Expenditures to date

12. As at 1 October 2021, approximately EUR 6.1 million had been spent on the project. The expenditure to date, as compared to the cost estimate provided to States Parties in Note S/1956/2021, is shown in the table below. The project remains on budget.

TABLE: PROJECT BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE

ChemTech Centre Project Budget and Expenditure		
Budget Item	<u>COLUMN A</u> Current Estimate (April 2021, in EUR)	<u>COLUMN B</u> Expenditure To Date (as at 1 October 2021, in EUR)
Building costs	20,763,000	605,237
Land purchase and related costs	2,363,000	2,306,564
Design costs	1,385,000	895,596
Outside area and site infrastructure	553,000	0
Equipment costs	50,000	50,000
Furniture and workstations	924,000	0
Transition costs	316,000	0
Decommissioning of facilities	400,000	0
OPCW project management staff	1,505,501	1,006,010
Project management and advisory services	2,401,561	842,483
Contingency	1,690,000	0
Subtotal	32,351,062	5,705,890¹
Programme support costs (7%)	1,091,254	368,591
Total	33,442,316	6,074,481¹

Fundraising progress

13. To date, approximately EUR 33.7 million in voluntary contributions has been pledged or provided to the project's Trust Fund by 51 countries, the European Union, and other donors. These contributions have been made or pledged by: Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Chile, China, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, the European Union, Israel (signatory State), and other donors.

¹ These figures have been rounded off.

14. The ChemTech Centre Trust Fund remains open for further contributions. Additional contributions would provide extra assurances for the successful completion of the project and for international cooperation projects to be carried out at the Centre as soon as the building is operational.

COMMUNICATION

15. A “first pillar” ceremony was held on 23 September 2021 on the plot of the ChemTech Centre to officially mark the start of construction. The ceremony was attended by the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, the Mayor of Pijnacker-Nootdorp, the Chairpersons of the Conference and the Council, representatives from States Parties, and other stakeholders.
16. A publicly accessible webcam was placed at the construction site in June 2021. The image is accessible online (<https://bouw.live/chemtech-centre/>).

NEXT STEPS

17. In the coming months, the project team will focus on the construction of the ChemTech Centre, procurement of the loose furniture, and detailed planning for the transition phase.
18. The Secretariat will continue to update the ChemTech Centre webpage (<https://www.opcw.org/media-centre/featured-topics/chemtech-centre>).
19. The Secretariat will also continue to provide States Parties with briefings and written reports to keep them informed of the status of the project. The next report will be submitted to the States Parties in advance of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Council.