

Press Release: Final opportunity for industry and academic researchers to benefit from free access to over 30 marine biological stations and infrastructures.

Researchers from industry and academia are invited to apply for free access to facilities and research services at more than 30 international institutions. Funded by the European Union, the **ASSEMBLE Plus** programme supports researchers to carry out their own research projects using platforms and marine biological resources not available in their home institutes. The initiative helps participants to enhance their skills, create new collaborations and contribute to scientific understanding.

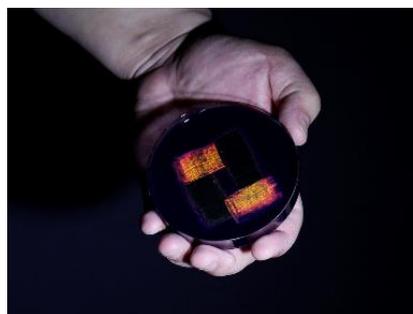
Since January 2018, the ASSEMBLE Plus Transnational Access (TA) programme has received more than 300 project proposals from European and non-European researchers. Projects have covered a wide range of marine research, including molecular biology, ecology and biochemistry, and their many [success stories](#) highlight the value of this opportunity.

Colin Ingham, CEO of Dutch biotechnology company, Hoekmine BV, received an ASSEMBLE Plus TA award to work with Station Biologique de Roscoff, France, and the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth, UK. Commenting on the value of the award, he said:

“ASSEMBLE Plus gave us access to resources that would otherwise be unavailable to us as a SME. Through our engagement with the programme, we were able to obtain and isolate structural-coloured marine bacteria. We use these brightly coloured colonies, which generate colour from nanostructures like the feathers of a peacock, for the purposes of creating colour in textiles, paints and cosmetics. The work performed within the project will contribute to a publication on the molecular genomics of structural colour (in preparation). Some of the strains were used to create works of art exhibited in Dutch Design Week, London Design Week and other international exhibitions”



Colin Ingham, CEO of Hoekmine BV



Iridescent ASSEMBLE+ marine bacteria strains (Hoek4b) isolated at the Marine Biological Association in Plymouth

The current call of the ASSEMBLE Plus Transnational Access (TA) programme opened on 10th February 2020. The award covers access costs for up to 30 days, in addition to travel, accommodation and meal expenses for up to two researchers per project.

To access ASSEMBLE Plus partner institutions from August 2020 to January 2021, applications are due by 24th April 2020. This is expected to be the last call for the TA programme and therefore the final opportunity for researchers to benefit from funding within the scheme.

For more information about the TA programme, previous award holders, eligibility or the application process, please visit assembleplus.eu/access/transnational-access or get in touch with our access officer at assembleplus_ta@embrc.eu. You can follow updates of our project on Twitter at [@ASSEMBLE Plus](https://twitter.com/ASSEMBLE_Plus)