

## FAQs

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### WHAT IS OOVERLAB?

Ooverlab is the first social web platform dedicated to the sharing of scientific assets (equipment, expertise, chemicals or biological material). It applies the emergent collaborative economy principle to the scientific sphere. It aims to meet the growing need of alternative R&D funding solutions.

### IS OOVERLAB PRESENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA WEBSITES?

Absolutely, you can join us on Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and LinkedIn.

### WHY SHOULD I USE OOVERLAB?

There are many good reasons for which to use Ooverlab. Six of them are listed here below:

1. To access scientific assets at a lower cost or even for free.
2. To access a scientific asset in a hurry/temporarily (e.g. when you are abroad or when your equipment is temporarily unavailable).
3. To avoid the waste of a scientific asset (e.g. excess chemicals or biological material).
4. To turn an underused/unused asset into an alternative funding source.
5. To find people sharing the same scientific asset needs, with which to make group purchases and benefit from scale economies.
6. To make yourself or your organization more visible, notably in order to create new efficient synergies (scientific collaborations, commercial partnerships, etc.).

### HOW DOES OOVERLAB WORK?

Ooverlab is a 'two faces' platform. Two categories of people can access its services: the providers of scientific assets on one side and the potential takers of these assets on the other side.

With a few clicks, providers can make their scientific asset(s) visible on a marketplace where they can be rented, sold or donated. Each ad placed on Ooverlab marketplace is geo-located on a map so that it provides an overview of the scientific assets present in a specific area that are available to potential takers.

In addition, Ooverlab also allows the creation of 'organisations', which may notably consist of research teams, labs, departments, hospitals, foundations or companies. Each of these organisations is endowed with a private sharing place within which members can freely share scientific assets.

### WHAT DOES IT COST?

Ooverlab is currently available as a free BETA. Even if most of the functionalities of the final version will remain free, some will require the payment of small fees to cover operating costs.



### **HOW CAN I ACCESS A SCIENTIFIC ASSET?**

It's very easy. You just have to enter one or several keywords in the search box from the homepage or the 'Marketplace' tab. A geolocation tool will allow you to select only assets present in the vicinity of a specific location. Your search can also be refined using various filters (ad type, transfer type, etc.).

### **HOW CAN I CREATE AN AD?**

Simply by clicking either on the 'Place your ad' button from the homepage or on the 'New ad' button from the 'My ads' tab of your account (you have to be logged in to create an ad). These buttons lead you to the ad creation page where you just have to enter some details about your ad (ad type, transfer type, etc.) and click on the 'Create ad' button to create your ad. Once created, the ad can either be published on Ooverlab marketplace (default option) or kept unpublished. In the second case, the ad is only accessible to you and, where appropriate, to members from the organisation to which the ad is linked. You can typically use this option to share assets with members of one of your organisations.

### **HOW CAN I JOIN/CREATE AN ORGANISATION?**

Simply by clicking either on the 'Join or create an organisation' button from the 'My organisations' tab of your account (you have to be logged in to join or create an organisation) or via the 'Create an organisation' link within the ad creation page.

### **HOW CAN I INVITE PEOPLE TO JOIN AN ORGANISATION?**

Simply by clicking on the 'Add or remove members from your organisation' button from the 'My organisations' tab of your account (you have to be logged in to invite people to join an organisation). This button leads you to the page of your organisation where organisation members can be easily added or removed via action buttons.

### **IS IT POSSIBLE TO RATE OTHER OOVERLAB USERS?**

Not in the current free BETA, but it will be possible in the final version.

### **HOW CAN I FIND THE RIGHT PRICE FOR THE SALE / THE RENTAL OF AN ASSET?**

It is not easy to answer that question. It often depends on the asset.

If you want to sell an unused asset, you can generally assume a 10-20% annual decrease (assuming the equipment to be amortized within five to ten years).

If you want to rent an underused scientific asset, you can generally assume an hourly rate corresponding to 0.01% to 0.1% of its purchase price (example: a 10,000 € equipment will usually be rented between 1 and 10 € per hour).

If you want to perform consulting services, it can be more variable. It mostly depends on your salary pretensions and on your negotiating skills!

Remember that you can also choose to transfer your asset for free, for example within the context of a scientific collaboration.



As the provider of an asset, you are generally the best person to determine the appropriate financial compensation required for its transfer. To help you in that process ask yourself how much you would pay to access this asset.

### **DOES OOVERLAB PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED THEFT/BREAKAGE INSURANCE SERVICE?**

Not yet. It is currently not possible to provide an integrated 'breakage and theft' insurance service for scientific asset rentals. Except stated otherwise, notably in a transfer convention, the provider remains therefore responsible for its asset during the whole duration of a rental. We therefore strongly suggests providers:

1. To carefully choose their takers, notably by referring to information available through the platform.
2. To use the freely downloadable standard transfer convention or another type of written agreement to determine the terms of the asset rental.
3. If possible, to only allow takers to use the asset on site, ideally under direct supervision.
4. To ask the takers of their assets to give a financial guarantee (deposit) and/or to subscribe themselves an insurance policy to protect rented assets, a process that is usually not financially heavy. Moreover, Oooverlab Management Team is currently working so as to be able soon to allow providers to access preferential rates from a partner insurance company via the platform.

Finally don't forget that Oooverlab is entirely dedicated to the sharing and management of scientific assets, in a B2B or B2I basis; it is made by scientists for scientists. This by nature considerably limits the theft/breakage risk during rentals.

### **AS A PUBLIC RESEARCHER, AM I ALLOWED TO DO CONSULTING WORK?**

Most of the time, yes. Public researchers are generally allowed to allocate part of their working time to consulting activities. Check out with your employer or in your employment contract. In some cases, part of the revenues obtained from consulting activities has to be returned to the university/the institution to which the researcher belongs.

### **WHO CREATED OOVERLAB?**

It was created by two Belgian scientists convinced that applying collaborative economy principle to scientific sphere constitutes a smart way to optimize R&D budgets and create new efficient synergies.

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