



**ROLLING CALL FOR PROPOSALS CONCERNING PROJECTS OF COMMON INTEREST UNDER THE  
CONNECTING EUROPE FACILITY IN THE FIELD OF TRANS-EUROPEAN TRANSPORT NETWORK  
MULTI-ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2020  
CEF TRANSPORT BLENDING FACILITY 2019  
ON THE BASIS OF THE COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION C(2019)2743 OF 12 APRIL  
2019 – ANNEX**

**European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS)  
Innovation and new technologies (Alternative Fuels)**

**1. SUBJECT**

In the context of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)<sup>1</sup> and on the basis of the multi-annual work programme<sup>2</sup>, a rolling call for proposals is launched under the general envelope of the CEF in order to allocate funding in the form of grants in the framework of the CEF Transport Blending Facility.

The CEF Transport Blending facility is a cooperation framework between the European Commission and Implementing Partners to support Blending Operations, as defined in the multi-annual work programme section 1.1.

The facility can contribute to accelerate the deployment of technologies, including the ones which have been developed, tested and validated by projects funded under EU's research programmes, notably by Horizon 2020<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Regulation (EU) 1316/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility, amending Regulation (EU) 913/2010 and repealing Regulations (EC) 680/2007 and (EC) 67/2010, OJ L 348 of 20 December 2013, p.129.

<sup>2</sup> Commission Implementing Decision C(2019)2743 of 12 April 2019 amending Commission Implementing Decision C(2014) 1921 establishing a multiannual work programme 2014-2020 for financial assistance in the field of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Transport sector for the period 2014-2020

<sup>3</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en>



## **2. OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES**

This call for proposals addresses the following objectives of the CEF Regulation, as described in section 1.4. of the multi-annual work programme:

- Funding Objective 1:
  - Deployment of European Rail Traffic Management Systems (ERTMS).
- Funding Objective 2:
  - Deployment of Alternative Fuels

### Type of Actions

A proposal submitted under this call must address only works, within the meaning of Article 2(5) and (6) of the CEF Regulation.

The type(s) of Actions to be funded are further specified in sections 2.1 (for ERTMS) and 2.2. (for Alternative Fuels) of the multi-annual work programme.

## **3. RESULTS EXPECTED FROM THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The results expected under this rolling call are defined in section 1.5 of the multi-annual work programme.

## **4. INDICATIVE BUDGET**

The indicative amount to be allocated on the basis of this rolling call for proposals is EUR 198 million, with the following indicative breakdown:

Per priority:

- Deployment of ERTMS: EUR 99 million
- Deployment of Alternative Fuels: EUR 99 million

## **5. INITIAL SCREENING AND APPRAISAL BY IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

The initial screening and appraisal process by the Implementing Partners is described in section 2.3.3 of the multi-annual work programme.

Applicants must engage first, as project promoters, with an Implementing Partner, which performs an initial screening of each project to be potentially supported by a Blending Operation. In order to be included in the Project Pipeline, the screening should indicate good potential for a positive outcome of overall evaluation of the Blending Operation.

As a second step, the Implementing Partner engages further with the project promoter to conduct the necessary appraisal in order to obtain the approval of the Implementing Partner's governing bodies to provide financing to the project ("due diligence" process).

As a third step, the promoter will prepare the proposal for the Action requesting the CEF Transport grant (the Grant Application form). In the framework of the CEF Transport grant, the promoter is referred to as the applicant.

Only Actions related to projects included in the Project Pipeline and supported by an approved financing from an Implementing Partner, can be awarded a grant in the context of the CEF Transport Blending Facility.

The Grant Application form submitted by the applicant will be transmitted to the Implementing Partner, who will then submit the Application File after completing its appraisal.

## 6. TIMETABLE

Date of publication of rolling call for proposals	15 November 2019
First cut-off date for the submission of Grant Application forms (by applicants)	14 February 2020
First cut-off date for the submission of Application Files (by Implementing Partners)	16 March 2020
Successive cut-off dates for the submission of Grant Application forms (subject to budget availability)	For Applicants: – 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 15 May 2020 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 28 August 2020 – 4 <sup>th</sup> : 13 November 2020 – 5 <sup>th</sup> : 15 February 2021
Successive cut-off dates for the submission of Application Files (subject to budget availability)	For Implementing Partners: – 2 <sup>nd</sup> : 15 June 2020 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> : 25 September 2020 – 4 <sup>th</sup> : 15 December 2020 – 5 <sup>th</sup> : 15 March 2021
Evaluation of proposals	Following each cut-off date after the submission of Application Files

## 7. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Proposals to the CEF Transport Blending facility include two elements:

- a Grant Application form submitted by the applicant
- Application File submitted by the Implementing Partner

Grant Application forms submitted by applicants must be:

- submitted electronically in the TENtec Information System eSubmission module. In this respect, Grant Application forms sent by applicants via e-mail or in hard copy shall not be admissible.
- submitted by the cut-off date for submission of Grant Application forms by applicants (*see sections 6. "Timetable" and 14.2. "Submission process"*).
- submitted using only the application forms (part A, B, C and D) provided on the call

webpage or (for application form part A) generated by the TENtec eSubmission module.

- duly signed by the applicant(s).
- complete: the applicant has uploaded in the TENtec eSubmission module all the application forms (parts A, B, C and D).

Application Files submitted by Implementing Partners must be:

- submitted via e-mail through a dedicated functional mailbox for this purpose. The e-mail address will be communicated separately to the Implementing Partners.
- submitted by the respective cut-off date (see section 6. "Timetable")
- complete, namely the Application File<sup>4</sup> must include:
  - the information on the approval of the Implementing Partner's financing for the project included in the Project Pipeline and to which the Action relates (as indicated in Appendix D of the work programme)
  - the Project Report<sup>5</sup>
  - the Eligibility Check List<sup>6</sup>
  - a copy of the Grant Application form (as completed and submitted by the applicant in the TENtec eSubmission module)

The applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that proposals that do not include these two elements (the Grant Application form submitted by the Applicant and the Application File submitted by the Implementing Partner) by the respective cut-off dates shall be declared inadmissible for that cut-off date. In order to be considered for a future cut-off date, a new proposal must be submitted. The same admissibility criteria apply.

## **8. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

### **8.1 Eligible applicants**

The eligibility criteria concerning applicants are described in section 1 of Appendix A of the multi-annual work programme.

For a given application, the main applicant (coordinator) must be the same entity subject to the Implementing Partner due diligence process for the project to be financed by a Blending Operation. In the case not each and every applicant is subject to the Implementing Partner's due diligence process, the Agency may hold the beneficiaries of the action jointly and severally liable for any amount due to the Agency by any one of them, including for interest on late payment if any, in accordance with Article 21 of the Model Grant Agreement.

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<sup>4</sup> Using the templates agreed between DG MOVE and the Implementing Partners and as annexed to the operational agreements.

<sup>5</sup> Idem footnote 4.

<sup>6</sup> Idem footnote 4.



For British applicants: Please be aware that eligibility criteria must be complied with for the *entire* duration of the grant. If the United Kingdom withdraws from the EU during the grant period without concluding an agreement with the EU ensuring in particular that British applicants continue to be eligible, you will cease to receive EU funding (while continuing, where possible, to participate) or be required to leave the project on the basis of Article II.16.3.1 (a) (*change of the legal situation of the beneficiary*) of the grant agreement.

### **Affiliated entities**

Applicants may designate affiliated entities within the meaning of Article 187 of the Financial Regulation, for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Action submitted for funding.

### **8.2 Exclusion criteria<sup>7</sup>**

An applicant shall be excluded from participating in call for proposals procedures where:

- a) the applicant is bankrupt, subject to insolvency or winding up procedures, its assets are being administered by a liquidator or by a court, it is in an arrangement with creditors, its business activities are suspended or it is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for under national legislation or regulations;
- b) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that it is in breach of its obligations relating to the payment of taxes or social security contributions in accordance with applicable law;
- c) it has been established by a final judgement or a final administrative decision that it is guilty of grave professional misconduct by having violated applicable laws or regulations or ethical standards of the profession to which the applicant belongs, or by having engaged in any wrongful intent or gross negligence, including, in particular, any of the following:
  - i. fraudulently or negligently misrepresenting information required for the verification of the absence of grounds for exclusion or the fulfilment of selection criteria or in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement or a grant decision;
  - ii. entering into agreement with other persons with the aim of distorting competition;
  - iii. violating intellectual property rights;
  - iv. attempting to influence the decision-making process of the Agency during the award procedure;
  - v. attempting to obtain confidential information that may confer upon it undue advantages in the award procedure;

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<sup>7</sup>Articles 136,137,139,141,142 and 225 of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (Financial Regulation) are applicable.

- d) it has been established by a final judgement that it is guilty of the following:
- i. fraud, within the meaning of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Article 1 of the Convention on the protection of the European Communities' financial interests, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 July 1995;
  - ii. corruption, as defined in Article 4(2) of Directive (EU) 2017/1371 or Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of EU Member States, drawn up by the Council Act of 26 May 1997, or conduct referred to in Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA, or corruption as defined in the applicable law;
  - iii. conduct related to a criminal organisation, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
  - iv. money laundering or terrorist financing within the meaning of Article 1(3), (4) and (5) of Directive (EU) 2015/849 of the European Parliament and of the Council;
  - v. terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, as defined in Articles 1 and 3 of Council Framework Decision 2002/475/JHA, respectively, or inciting, aiding, abetting or attempting to commit such offences, as referred to in Article 4 of that Decision;
  - vi. child labour or other forms of trafficking in human beings as referred to in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- e) the applicant has shown significant deficiencies in complying with the main obligations in the performance of a contract, a grant agreement or a grant decision financed by the Union's budget, which has led to its early termination or to the application of liquidated damages or other contractual penalties, or which has been discovered following checks, audits or investigations by an Authorising Officer, OLAF or the Court of Auditors;
- f) it has been established by a final judgment or final administrative decision that it has committed an irregularity within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95;
- g) it has been established by a final judgement or final administrative decision that the applicant has created an entity in a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or any other legal obligations of mandatory application in the jurisdiction of its registered office, central administration or principal place of business;
- h) it has been established by a final judgement or final administrative decision that an entity has been created with the intent referred to in point (g);
- i) for the situations referred to in points (c) to (h) above, the applicant for the is subject to:
- i. facts established in the context of audits or investigations carried out by the Court of Auditors, OLAF or internal audit, or any other check, audit or control performed under the responsibility of an authorising officer of an EU institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body;

- ii. non-final administrative decisions which may include disciplinary measures taken by the competent supervisory body responsible for the verification of the application of standards of professional ethics;
- iii. facts referred to in decisions of persons or entities being entrusted with EU budget implementation tasks;
- iv. information transmitted by Member States implementing Union funds;
- v. decisions of the Commission relating to the infringement of the Union's competition rules or of a national competent authority relating to the infringement of Union or national competition law; or
- vi. decisions of exclusion by an authorising officer of an EU Institution, of a European office or of an EU agency or body.

### **Remedial measures**

If an applicant/affiliated entity declares one of the situations of exclusion listed above, it must indicate the measures it has taken to remedy the exclusion situation, thus demonstrating its reliability. This may include e.g. technical, organisational and personnel measures to prevent further occurrence, compensation of damage or payment of fines. The relevant documentary evidence which illustrates the remedial measures taken must be provided in annex to the declaration. This does not apply for situations referred in point (d) above.

### **Rejection from the call for proposals**

A grant shall not be awarded to an applicant who:

- a) is in an exclusion situation established in accordance with the list above; or
- b) has misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or has failed to supply that information; or
- c) was previously involved in the preparation of calls for proposal documents where this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise.

These same exclusion criteria also apply to affiliated entities. Applicants and their affiliated entities, if applicable, must certify that they are not in one of the situations listed above.

Administrative sanctions may be imposed on applicants, or affiliated entities where applicable, if any of the declarations or information provided as a condition for participating in this procedure prove to be false.

## **8.3 Eligible Actions**

### General eligibility criteria

The general eligibility criteria concerning Actions are described in section 2 of Appendix A of the multi-annual work programme.

### Specific eligibility criteria

The specific eligibility criteria concerning Actions are described in Appendix B of the multi-annual work programme.

## **9. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The selection criteria are indicated in section 2.3.4 of the multi-annual work programme.

Their evaluation shall take into account the information included in the Application File.

### **9.1 Financial capacity**

The applicant(s) must have stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain the proposed activities throughout the period during which the Action is being carried out and to participate in its funding.

### **9.2 Operational capacity**

The applicant(s) must have the operational and technical competencies and capacity required to complete the Action for which the grant is sought.

## **10. AWARD CRITERIA**

The award criteria are described in section 2.3.4 of the multi-annual work programme.

The Commission will set up an Evaluation Committee to examine the submitted Application Files after each cut-off date for the submission of Application Files.

## **11. COMPLIANCE WITH EU LAW**

In accordance with Article 23 of the CEF Regulation, only Actions in conformity with EU law and which are in line with the relevant EU policies, in particular, in the areas of interoperability, environmental protection<sup>8</sup>, competition and public procurement, shall be financed.

Specific requirements concerning compliance with EU law for specific Actions are described in points 1.1 and 2.1 of Appendix B of the multi-annual work programme.

## **12. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

### **12.1 General principles**

#### *12.1.1 Non-cumulative award*

An action may only receive one grant from the EU budget.

Under no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the Union budget. To ensure this, applicants shall indicate in the proposal the sources and amounts of Union funding received or applied for the same action or part of the action or for its (the applicant's) functioning during the same financial year as well as any other funding received or applied for the same action.

In that respect, any proposed Action or part thereof that receive or have already received EU funding under the CEF or other EU Programmes (i.e. TEN-T, Marco Polo II, Cohesion Fund,

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<sup>8</sup> In particular, but not limited to: the Directives concerning EIA (Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28 January 2012), SEA (Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197, 21 July 2001), Habitats (Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L206, 22.7.1992, p.7) and Birds (Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26 January 2010, p.7), as well as the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22 December 2000, p.1)



FP7, Horizon 2020, ESIF, etc.) will not be funded under this call.

### 12.1.2 Non-profit principle

For projects generating income, the no-profit principle applies, as defined in Article 192 of the Financial Regulation.

### 12.1.3 Non-retroactivity

A grant may be awarded for an action which has already begun only where the applicant can demonstrate in the grant application the need to start the action before the grant agreement is signed.

In such cases, costs eligible for financing may not have been incurred prior to the date of submission of the Application File.

## 12.2 Funding form

Grants to be awarded further to this call for proposals will take the form of:

- unit contributions for proposals addressing ERTMS
- reimbursement of a specified proportion of the eligible costs actually incurred for proposals addressing Alternative Fuels

### 12.2.1 for ERTMS (Unit contributions)

The EU financial assistance for proposals addressing ERTMS is set as unit contributions determined by the [Decision authorising the use of unit contribution to support ERTMS deployment under the Connecting Europe Facility \(CEF\) - transport sector, dated 19 February 2019](#), available on the call website.

Activities	Cost category	Scenario	Sub-scenario	Unit contribution (K€)
On-board ERTMS B3 equipped vehicle	Retrofitting Prototype	International	/	900
		National	/	450
	Retrofitting Serial	International	/	110
		National	/	80
	Upgrade Prototype	International	/	600
		National	/	350
	Upgrade Serial	International	Software	18
		National	Software	15
		International	Software / Hardware	55
		National	Software / Hardware	55
	Fitment	/	/	25

Track-side 1 double track km equipped	Deployment	ETCS & associated upgrade costs	90
		GSM-R	20
		Interlocking	80
	Upgrade	/	20

*All values are per vehicle (not per cab) for on-board and per km of double-track equivalent for track-side*

#### 12.2.1.1 Eligible units

The implementation of a cost category unit will be eligible for contribution, at the earliest, from the date on which the Application File is submitted and, at the latest, to the date of completion of the Action, which should be 31 December 2023 at the latest.

#### 12.2.2 for Alternative Fuels (Co-funding rates)

The EU financial assistance for proposals addressing Alternative Fuels is set as a percentage of the eligible costs actually incurred, as provided in 2.2.1.3 of the multi-annual work programme:

Type of Alternative Fuel technology	Infrastructure	Mobile assets <sup>9</sup>		
		Trucks and buses (a)	Vessels	Railway vehicles
CNG	10%	10%	/	/
LNG	10%	10%	15% (b)	/
Electricity	15% (c)	20%	20%	/
Hydrogen	20%	20%	20%	20%

- (a) As regards support to LNG trucks, the grant amount shall not exceed EUR 3,000 per vehicle.
- (b) For the deployment of LNG vessels in inland navigation, the co-funding rate is set at 20% of the eligible costs.
- (c) For the deployment of dedicated electric charging infrastructure for the use of battery-electric buses in public transport, the co-funding rate is set at 20% of the eligible costs.

A recharging point includes one or more supply point (i.e. connector able to charge one vehicle at a time) / station (i.e. charger), costs for site adaptation, installation and connection to the electricity grid and other equipment related to the functionality of the points of supply, such as opportunity-based charging devices for buses, battery swapping facility and energy storage facility. Costs related to land acquisition, renting/leasing of facilities, permits and indirect costs, such as staffing and administrative costs, are not eligible.

As regards the mobile assets, the co-funding rate will apply to the eligible costs, which are the costs directly related to the innovative technology solution.

<sup>9</sup> As provided in section 12.2.2.1, as regards the mobile assets, the co-funding rate will apply to the eligible costs, which are the costs directly related to the innovative technology solution.

In the case of new mobile equipment, the costs directly related to the innovative technology solution have to be understood as the difference between the costs of a conventional solution and the costs of an equivalent innovative technology solution. For these cases, applicants shall provide a detailed breakdown of the costs of an equivalent conventional solution as a base reference along with a description of the nature for each of the cost items as well as a calculation of the difference of costs with the innovative technology solution for the various costs items. This difference constitutes the costs that are eligible for co-funding. In the case of retrofitting, the costs directly related to the innovative technology solution are the full costs of the adaptation of the equipment to the use alternative fuels.

#### *12.2.2.1 Eligible costs*

Eligible costs are costs actually incurred by the beneficiary of a grant which meet all the criteria laid down in Article 186 of the Financial Regulation.

The beneficiary's internal accounting and auditing procedures must permit direct reconciliation of the costs and revenue declared in respect of the Action with the corresponding accounting statements and supporting documents.

The same criteria apply to the costs incurred by affiliated entities and implementing bodies designated by the beneficiary.

Applicants should refer to points (3) to (8) of Article 8 of the CEF Regulation concerning the eligibility of costs. The full costs of purchase of equipment and infrastructure which are treated as capital expenditure are eligible under this call, provided that they are:

- treated as capital expenditure in accordance with the tax and accounting rules applicable to the beneficiary;
- recorded in the fixed assets account of the beneficiary's balance sheet; and
- purchased in accordance with the procurement rules as specified in Article II.9 of the model grant agreement.

Costs will be eligible, at the earliest, from the date on which the Application File is submitted and, at the latest, to the date of completion of the Action, which should be 31 December 2023 at the latest.

#### **Indirect costs**

Indirect costs of the Action are those costs which are not specific costs directly linked to the implementation of the Action and can therefore not be attributed directly to it.

Indirect costs are not eligible.

#### **VAT**

In line with the first subparagraph of Article 8(7) of the CEF Regulation and Article 126(3)(c) of the Financial Regulation, VAT paid by beneficiaries of grants awarded following this call for proposals is eligible except:

- deductible VAT (VAT paid by the beneficiary for the implementation of taxed activities or exempt activities with right of deduction);
- VAT paid for the implementation of activities engaged in as a public authority by the beneficiary where it is a Member State, regional or local government authority of a Member State or another body governed by public law of a Member State.

Detailed information on eligible and ineligible costs is included in the model grant agreement,

which is available on the call webpage.

### *12.2.3 Payment arrangements*

For proposals addressing ERTMS:

A single pre-financing payment corresponding to 50% of the first instalment of grant awarded as specified in the grant agreement will be transferred to the beneficiary within 30 days after the last party signs the grant agreement. No interim payment will be made.

For proposals addressing Alternative Fuels:

A first pre-financing payment corresponding to 50% of the first instalment of grant awarded as specified in the grant agreement will be transferred to the beneficiary within 30 days after the last party signs the grant agreement.

Further pre-financing payments may be made upon request and in accordance with the financial needs of the Action.

Requests for interim payments must be submitted at least every two years.

The cumulative amount of all pre-financing and interim payments shall not exceed 80% of the maximum amount of the financial aid awarded.

However, in those cases where the low complexity of the Action may require a simpler payment arrangement, the following payment arrangements may be provided for: a single pre-financing payment corresponding to 50% of the maximum grant amount awarded will be made within 30 days after the last party signs the grant agreement. No interim payment may be made.

For all proposals:

In the event that the beneficiary's financial capacity is not satisfactory, the pre-financing payment(s) may be subject to the receipt of a financial guarantee for up to the same amount as the pre-financing payment to be made.

The financial guarantee, in euro, shall be provided by an approved bank or financial institution established in one of the EU Member States. When the beneficiary is established in a third country, INEA may agree that a bank or financial institution established in a third country may provide the guarantee if the bank or financial institution is considered to offer equivalent security and characteristics as those offered by a bank or financial institution established in a Member State. Amounts blocked in bank accounts will not be accepted as financial guarantees.

The guarantee may be replaced by a joint or several guarantees provided by third parties or by a joint guarantee of the beneficiaries of an action that are parties to the same grant agreement. The guarantee will be released when the pre-financing is cleared against the interim payment, if applicable, and/or the balance of payment(s) made, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the grant agreement.

In the event that the beneficiary's financial capacity is not satisfactory, a limited joint and several financial liability for recoveries may be applied in accordance with the terms and conditions of the model grant agreement.

The final amount of the grant to be awarded to the beneficiary is established after completion of the Action, upon approval of the request for payment including, where applicable, the supporting documents as described in the model grant agreement.

For multi-beneficiary actions, a coordinator must be designated. The coordinator will be the

contact point for INEA and will have, *inter alia*, the responsibility for receiving the payment(s) and coordinating the reporting exercise(s). It is strongly recommended that beneficiaries sign an internal cooperation agreement regarding their operation and coordination, including all internal aspects related to the management of the beneficiaries and the implementation of the proposed Action. Such internal cooperation agreements shall not undermine, under any circumstances, the terms and conditions of the model grant agreement.

#### *12.2.4. Grant disbursement condition*

Grant disbursement for selected Actions will be conditional upon evidence of reaching commitment of funding sources for the full costs of the project supported by the Blending Operation within 12 months from the date of the signature of the grant agreement. Evidence will take the form of a signed declaration from the beneficiary identifying all the providers of funds and, for each provider, the form and amount of contribution. This declaration shall also confirm that the beneficiary has obtained written commitment from each provider of funds, including the beneficiary, to reserve the indicated amount for the financial support of the project.

The involvement of the same Implementing Partners in financial close is not a requirement for grant disbursement (i.e. a project may initially be supported, as evidenced by the Project Report, by one Implementing Partner, but subsequently obtain financing from other Implementing Partners or other development or other public finance institutions, as well as from private-sector finance institutions and private-sector investors other than the beneficiary itself).

### **13. MODEL GRANT AGREEMENT**

Applicant(s) will be invited to sign the grant agreement if a proposal is selected for funding. The standard model grant agreement is not negotiable and will be signed in English.

Submitting a proposal implies the acceptance of the terms and conditions of the model grant agreement, available on the call page. Applicants are invited to carefully read this document and its annexes before submitting a proposal.

### **14. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF GRANT APPLICATION FORMS BY APPLICANTS**

All practical information on this call for proposals and the evaluation process is detailed in the Guide for Applicants. It is available, together with the application forms, model grant agreement, the multi-annual work programme, the CEF Regulation, the TEN-T Guidelines, and other relevant documents, on the call page, accessible via the following link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/apply-funding/blending-facility>

Applicants are requested to carefully read all call-related documents, including the instructions given in the Guide for Applicants and other guidance documents and information, including FAQs and checklists.

Documents available on the call page may be updated while the call is open. Applicants are strongly encouraged to subscribe to the call updates, via the form available on the call page itself, in order to receive a notification whenever the call page is updated.

#### **14.1 Application forms**

Grant Application forms must be submitted using the application forms provided on the call page at the link above. Applicants are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals in the English language as the evaluation of proposals is entirely conducted in English.

The applicant(s) specified in the application form part A will be considered as the beneficiary(ies) if the proposal is selected for funding. If applicants designate affiliated entities within the meaning of Article 187 of the Financial Regulation to support the implementation of the proposed Action, the information on these affiliated entities must be encoded in the application form part A, and any relevant supporting documents must be provided.

## **14.2 Submission process**

Grant Application forms must be submitted ***electronically*** using the TENtec eSubmission module at the following link: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tentec/grant/esubmission/>

The electronic submission of Grant Application forms must be completed at the latest by each cut-off date for applicants, as indicated in section 6. "Timetable" (see also Section 7. "Admissibility requirements").

Application form part A is automatically generated by the TENtec eSubmission module. Application form parts B, C and D must be downloaded from the call page at the link above and duly completed. Application form part D may not exceed 40 pages. Once final, these must be uploaded into the TENtec eSubmission module. The same applies to any annexes or supporting documents accompanying the Grant Application form.

Applicants' attention is drawn to the fact that for application form part A, only the information encoded in the TENtec eSubmission module will be taken into account for the evaluation (notwithstanding the requirement to upload signed versions of application forms part A2.2 and A2.3). For the other forms and documents, only the last version uploaded in the TENtec eSubmission module will be taken into account for the evaluation.

Any parts of the application form that require signatures of applicants or relevant authorities must be scanned and uploaded into the TENtec eSubmission module. Information included in the uploaded forms must correspond to the information included in the TENtec eSubmission module. The forms must clearly indicate to which proposal and to which applicant they correspond and they must be perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures. Advanced electronic signatures based on a qualified certificate as defined by Regulation 910/2014 on electronic identification and trust services for electronic transactions in the internal market (eIDAS Regulation) and which comply with the signature formats specified in Commission Implementing Decision 2015/1506 shall be accepted.

Applicants must be able to provide the original documents and send them to the Commission/Agency services upon request.

## **16. INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

Further information or clarifications on the call for proposals will be published on the call webpage. Please refer to all of the following documents, available on the call webpage, when preparing the proposal:

- Multi-annual work programme
- CEF Regulation

- TEN-T Guidelines
- Application form (parts A, B, C and D)
- Guide for Applicants
- FAQs published on the call page
- Application checklists
- EU Financial Regulation
- Commission Decision on the reimbursement of personnel costs<sup>10</sup>
- Decision authorising the use of unit contribution to support ERTMS deployment under the CEF
- List of Implementing Partners of the CEF Transport Blending Facility
- List of CEF Transport contact points of Member States

Applicants are invited to regularly consult the call webpage and the INEA website/Twitter feed (@inea\_eu) until the deadline for submission of Grant Application forms.

Questions related to this call may be addressed to the call helpdesk: [INEA-CEF-TRANSPORT-BLENDING@ec.europa.eu](mailto:INEA-CEF-TRANSPORT-BLENDING@ec.europa.eu).

The answers to submitted questions will be published in a FAQ list on the call page, to ensure equal treatment of all potential applicants.

Questions related to the call should be submitted at least by

17 January 2020 (for the 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off date)

16 April 2020 (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cut-off date)

17 July 2020 (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cut-off date)

16 October 2020 (for the 4<sup>th</sup> cut-off date)

18 January 2021 (for the 5<sup>th</sup> cut-off date)

to ensure sufficient time for the last update of the FAQs by

31 January 2020 (for the 1<sup>st</sup> cut-off date)

30 April 2020 (for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cut-off date)

31 July 2020 (for the 3<sup>rd</sup> cut-off date)

30 October 2020 (for the 4<sup>th</sup> cut-off date)

1 February 2021 (for the 5<sup>th</sup> cut-off date).

However, individual technical questions related to TENtec eSubmission module will be treated until the call deadline.

Questions which are specific to a particular proposal and where the answer would provide a comparative advantage to the applicant will not be answered.

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<sup>10</sup> Commission Decision C(2016)478 final of 3 February 2016 on the reimbursement of personnel costs of beneficiaries of the Connecting Europe Facility

## **17. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725<sup>11</sup> on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by INEA.

Personal data may be registered in the Early Detection and Exclusion System by the Commission, should the beneficiary be in one of the situations mentioned in Articles 136 and 141 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046<sup>12</sup>. For more information see the Privacy Statement on the call page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-transport/apply-funding/blending-facility>

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<sup>11</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1725>

<sup>12</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32018R1046>