



# **Pilot Project 'Innovative deployable antennas'**

Call for proposals document

Version 4.0  
25 April 2025

HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page
1.0	11.07.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial version</li> </ul>	
2.0	19.12.2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second Version with call updates</li> </ul>	
3.0	15.01.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third Version with call updates</li> </ul>	
4.0	25.04.2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Reference to “list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years) (template available in Part B).” removed, this list is not required for the submission. Any relevant information is to be provided in the Proposal Template Part B.</b></li> <li>Clarification for eligibility (“at least” added)</li> <li>Contact mailbox updated to DEFIS-C2-SPACE-RESEARCH@ec.europa.eu</li> </ul>	5 and 11



CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Call for proposals: PPPA-2025-DEPLAN

BUDGET LINE: 04.200100 - 04.200100

Deadline for submission of Proposals: 27/05/2025

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS:

### PILOT PROJECT - ‘Innovative deployable antennas’

#### 1. INTRODUCTION – BACKGROUND

The European Parliament decided to finance a pilot project, within the meaning of point a) of Article 58(2) of the Financial Regulation, and entitled “Innovative deployable antennas” ([https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/BUDG-DT-759726\\_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/BUDG-DT-759726_EN.pdf)).

The Commission has decided<sup>1</sup> to implement this pilot project through the award of a **grant** following the publication of a call for proposals.

#### 2. TIMETABLE

	Steps	Date and time or indicative period
(a)	Call Opening	04/02/2025
(b)	<b>Deadline for submitting applications</b>	<b>27/05/2025 – 17:00:00</b>
(c)	Evaluation period	June 2025
(d)	Information to applicants	June/July 2025
(e)	Signature of grant agreement	Q4 2025

#### 3. BUDGET AVAILABLE

The total budget earmarked for this call for proposals is EUR 1 450 000.

Only one proposal will be funded by the contracting authority.

The contracting authority reserves the right not to distribute the funds available, if the quality of the proposals does not reach the minimum quality threshold required.

#### 4. TYPE OF ACTION

Research and innovation actions (RIA) — Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

---

<sup>1</sup> COMMISSION DECISION of 4.4.2024 on the financing of the pilot projects and preparatory actions relating to the Union Space Programme and Horizon Europe and the adoption of the work programme for 2024

## 5. ADMISSIBILITY

Proposals must be submitted before the **call deadline** (see timetable section 4).

Proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the forms provided inside the Submission System (NOT the documents available on the Topic page — they are only for information).

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents:

- Application Form Part A — contains administrative information about the participants (future coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project (to be filled in directly online)
- Application Form Part B — contains the technical description of the project (to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded)
- **mandatory annexes and supporting documents** (templates available to be downloaded from the Portal Submission System, completed, assembled and re-uploaded): detailed budget table/calculator (template available in the Submission System).

Please note that the amounts entered into the summarised budget table (filled in directly online) must correspond to the amounts calculated in the detailed budget table.

Your application must be **readable, accessible and printable**

Proposals are limited to maximum **70 pages** (Part B). Evaluators will not consider any additional pages. Shorter proposals are welcome.

You may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc).

For more information about the submission process (including IT aspects), consult the [Online Manual](#).

## 6. ELIGIBILITY

### **Consortium composition**

Only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in the action provided that the consortium includes, as beneficiaries, **(at least) three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country** as follows:

- at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State;

- and at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different EU Member States, Norway or Iceland.

As affiliated entities do not sign the grant agreement, they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).

The Joint Research Centre, international European research organisations and legal entities created under EU law are deemed to be established in a Member State other than those in which the other legal entities participating in the action are established.

### **Additional Eligibility Requirements**

In order to achieve the expected outcomes, and safeguard the Union's strategic assets, interests, autonomy, or security, and in accordance with Article 197(3) Financial Regulation, this action is implemented with regard to the following eligibility and participation conditions:

- (a), the eligible legal entity is established in an EU Member State, Norway and Iceland and its executive management structures are established in that Member State and/or country;
- (b), the eligible legal entity commits to carry out all relevant activities in one or more EU Member States, Norway and Iceland; and
- (c), the eligible legal entity is not to be subject to control by a third country or by a third country entity.

For the purpose of these conditions, 'control' means the ability to exercise a decisive influence over a legal entity directly, or indirectly through one or more intermediate legal entities. The reference to third country above shall be understood as any country other than EU Member State, Norway or Iceland.

### **Declaration of ownership and control**

A compulsory [questionnaire on the declaration of ownership and control](#) is to be filled by all project participants as part of the application. All declarations must be assembled by the coordinator and uploaded in a single file in the portal submission system. For successfully evaluated proposals that enter into Grant Agreement Preparation, an assessment of the ownership and control shall take place by the granting authority. Failure to demonstrate condition (c) above shall result in non-eligibility of the participant.

## **7. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND EXCLUSION**

### **Financial capacity**

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents you will be requested to upload in the [Participant Register](#) during grant preparation (e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require

- further information
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (see below, section 10)
- prefinancing paid in instalments
- (one or more) prefinancing guarantees (see below, section 10)

or

- propose no prefinancing
- request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For more information, see [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#).

## **Operational capacity**

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications and resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature). This capacity will be assessed together with the ‘Quality’ award criterion on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the task implementation starts.

If the evaluation of the award criterion is positive, the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity. Applicants will have to show their operational capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experience) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years; template available in Part B).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant. Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

## **Exclusion**

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate<sup>2</sup>:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts)
- guilty of grave professional misconduct<sup>3</sup> (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EU Regulation [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant)
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

Applicants will also be rejected if it turns out that:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest)

## **8. EVALUATION AND AWARD**

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An **evaluation committee** (assisted by independent outside experts) will assess all

---

<sup>2</sup> See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

<sup>3</sup> Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.



applications. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, see sections 5 and 6). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (see sections 7 and 9) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score (within a topic or budget envelope) a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

Successively for every group of ex aequo proposals, starting with the highest scored group, and continuing in descending order:

- 1) The ex aequo proposals within the same topic will be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for the award criterion 'Relevance'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Impact'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on their scores for the criterion 'Quality'.
- 2) If this does not allow to determine the priority, a further prioritisation can be done by considering the overall project portfolio and the creation of positive synergies between projects, or other factors related to the objectives of the call. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:

- 1) Relevance (40 points):
  - Background and general objectives
  - Needs analysis and specific objectives
  - Complementarity with other actions and innovation – European added value
- 2) Quality (40 points)
  - Concept and methodology
  - Consortium set-up, Project teams, staff and experts
  - Effectiveness of the work plan
  - Consortium management and decision-making
  - Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy
  - Cost effectiveness and financial management
  - Effectiveness of the work plan
  - Risk management
- 3) Impact (20 points)
  - Impact and ambition

- Communication, dissemination and visibility
- Sustainability and continuation

Award Criteria	Minimum Pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	21	40
Quality	21	40
Impact	11	20
Overall (pass) score	60	100

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Successful proposals will be invited for grant preparation; the other ones will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

**No commitment for funding** — Invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.

**Grant preparation** will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the project and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the grant.

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter). Please note that notifications which have not been opened within 10 days after sending will be considered to have been accessed and that deadlines will be counted from opening/access (see also [Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)). Please also be aware that for complaints submitted electronically, there may be character limitations.

## 9. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SET-UP OF THE GRANTS

If you pass evaluation, your project will be invited for grant preparation, where you will be asked to prepare the Grant Agreement together with the EU Project Officer.

This Grant Agreement will set the framework for your grant and its terms and conditions, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments. The Model Grant Agreement that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#).

## 10. CONTACT

Questions can be addressed to the Research Enquiry Service [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/contact-us/research-enquiry-service\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/contact-us/research-enquiry-service_en)

Or

[DEFIS-C2-SPACE-RESEARCH@ec.europa.eu](mailto:DEFIS-C2-SPACE-RESEARCH@ec.europa.eu)

## **Reference Documents**

[EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#) (for Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions)

[EU Financial Regulation](#)

[Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#)

*Additional documents:*

[EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions](#)

[Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#)