



## GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

---

### **CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP) FOR DESIGN PLATFORM- CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SELECTION OF A HOSTING CONSORTIUM FOR THE DESIGN PLATFORM**

---

**Ref. Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027 – Appendix 4**



## Contents

<b>1.</b>	<b>CONTEXT .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>CONTEXT, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND SCOPE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>AVAILABLE BUDGET .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>ELIGIBILITY .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND EXCLUSION .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>AWARD CRITERIA .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SET-UP .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION .....</b>	<b>6</b>



## 1. CONTEXT

The Chips JU Multiannual Work Programme 2023-2027 describes in its Appendix 4, related to the initiative part of the JU's activities for 2024, the launch of the Call for Design Platform, which includes two interrelated calls:

- DIGITAL-Chips-2024-CfEoI -CDP-1 - Call for Expression of Interest (hereinafter "CfEoI") for the selection of a Hosting Consortium. Provided certain conditions are fulfilled by the Hosting Entity(ies) of the Hosting Consortium, this CfEoI will entitle the selected Hosting Entity(ies) to manage the procurement of the infrastructure to be acquired under a procurement agreement.
- DIGITAL-Chips-2024-CSA-CDP-1 - Call for proposals for coordination of the Design Platform, grant funded under the Digital Europe Programme. The winning consortium would thus become the Platform Coordination Team (PCT). The type of action is a Coordination and Support Action (CSA).

In practice, to cover the activities needed for a PCT, consortia would submit two proposals, one for each of the above-mentioned calls. Each call will have its specific admissibility requirements and eligibility, exclusion, and evaluation criteria, as outlined in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Multiannual Work Programme 2023-2027.

These two calls will close on the same date.

For each of the two interrelated calls for the Design Platform, a mandatory template must be followed, namely:

- For the Call for Expression of Interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium, the template is:  
Tpl\_ApplicationForm\_CfEoI\_DP\_v1.docx
- For the Call for proposals for coordination of the Design Platform, the template is:  
Tpl\_Application\_Form\_DEP\_DP\_CSA\_v1.rtf

From an implementation point of view:

1. The proposal for the Call for proposals for coordination of the Design Platform must be submitted in the Digital Europe Programme portal, using the above-mentioned template and considering any necessary adjustments related to the submission platform.
2. The Expression of Interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium must be submitted via the web site of the Chips JU as a single zip file. For the contents of this single zip file, see section 12.



Therefore, the applicants are advised to prepare the proposal for the coordination of the Design Platform first and then complete the Expression of Interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium.

To correctly submit a proposal in each of the two interrelated calls, please closely follow the corresponding guide for applicants and fill in correctly the respective programme specific templates.

Both submitted proposals will be evaluated by one pool of experts.

Only proposals **successful in both interrelated calls** will be considered for funding.

This document aims to serve as guideline for the Call for **Expression of Interest (hereinafter “CfEoI”) for the selection of a Hosting Consortium**.

Please carefully read section “2.4. Chips-2024-CDP-1: Design platform” and section “4. DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL FOR DESIGN PLATFORM (CDP)” in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Multiannual Work Programme 2023-2027.

Please note that an applicant consortium shall submit applications to two interrelated proposals, one for each of the above-mentioned calls. This means that for completing the full application, it is advised to consult the guides for applicants corresponding to the other call:

- Guide for Applicants – Call for Proposals (CfP) for coordination of the Design Platform (Digital Europe Programme)

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Provided certain conditions are fulfilled by the Hosting Entity(ies) of the Hosting Consortium (see Section 7 below), this CfEoI will entitle the selected Hosting Entity(ies) to host and manage the virtual infrastructure, cloud-based tools and central services of the Design Platform, procured by the Chips JU.

This CfEoI is a call for EU action in the field of Semiconductors under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL).

The guide for applicants outlines the:

- background, objectives, scope and activities that can be funded as well as the expected results (sections 3)
- timetable and available budget (sections 4 and 5)
- admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; sections 6 and 7)
- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (section 8)



- evaluation and award procedure (section 9)
- award criteria (section 10)
- legal and financial set-up (section 11)
- how to submit an application (section 12)
- where to find help (section 13)
- important information (section 14)

### 3. CONTEXT, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND SCOPE

The context, expected outcomes, and scope for the call are described in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “2.4. Chips-2024-CDP-1: Design platform” and section “4. DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL FOR DESIGN PLATFORM (CDP)”.

### 4. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The available budget and specific funding conditions are described in the Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “2.4. Chips-2024-CDP-1: Design platform” and section “4. DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL FOR DESIGN PLATFORM (CDP)”.

Note that there is no budget attributed to the CfEoI alone, but budget is attributed to the interrelated call for proposals for coordination of the Design Platform, funded under the Digital Europe Programme.

### 5. TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES

Proposals must be submitted before the call **deadline 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 17:00:00 Brussels time.**

### 6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

An application for the call for Design Platform is **not admissible if it has not been introduced under the two calls.**

Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline (see timetable section 5).

An application must be submitted as described in Section 12.

The application is written in English.

Further admissibility requirements are described in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “4.5. ADMISSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS”

Failure to comply with those admissibility requirements will lead to the rejection of the application.



There are no page limits for the application, but the consortia are encouraged to keep the text concise and structured.

## **7. ELIGIBILITY**

The eligibility of the expression of interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium is described in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “4.6. Eligibility Criteria”, sub-section “4.6.1 Eligibility criteria for the Call for Expression of Interest”.

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

The financial and operational capacity and exclusion conditions for the Call for Design Platform are described in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “2.4. Chips-2024-CDP-1: Design platform”, section “4. DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL FOR DESIGN PLATFORM (CDP)”, in particular section “4.7. EXCLUSION CRITERIA”.

## **9. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The evaluation and selection procedure for the Call for Design Platform is described in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “4.9. OVERVIEW OF THE EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE”.

## **10. AWARD CRITERIA**

The award criteria for the Call for Design Platform is described in Appendix 4 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section “4.8.1. Evaluation criteria for the Call for Expression of Interest”.

## **11. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SET-UP**

If your proposal passes evaluation, you will be appointed as Hosting Entity and you will be invited to sign the Hosting Agreement.

## **12. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION**

Applications must be submitted in electronic copy via the website: <https://www.chips-ju.europa.eu/>

Application forms are available at <https://www.chips-ju.europa.eu/>

Submit your proposal in three (3) parts compressed in a unique Zip file (\*.zip), as follows:



1. The application form for the CfEoI (Chips JU Application Form):

Tpl\_ApplicationForm\_CfEoI\_DP\_v1.docx

This application form includes:

- Part A, it includes administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator, beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners).
- Part B (description of the action), it covers the technical content of the proposal.

Download the mandatory word template, fill it in and upload it as a PDF file.

2. Part B of the interrelated proposal, submitted to the Call for proposals for coordination of the Design Platform, in the Digital Europe Programme submission portal.
3. Provide signed mandate letters, if applicable. Please use the following template:  
Appendix2&4\_Annex1b\_Mandate.docx

Applications must be submitted in the correct form, duly completed and dated by the Coordinator on behalf of the Consortium.

Please note that submissions will be accepted as a unique zipped (\*.zip) file only. Use comprehensive naming convention in the individual files and the zipped file to identify the applicant and the Call.

Multiple submissions are permitted until the call deadline (see Section 5). Only the last submission will be considered for evaluation. Previous versions will be discarded.

## 13. HELP

Please consult the call page regularly, since we will use it to publish call updates.

**Contact:** [Calls@chips-ju.europa.eu](mailto:Calls@chips-ju.europa.eu)

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call to which your question relates (see cover page).

## 14. IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.