



APPLICATION FORM

Call REF: DIGITAL-Chips-2024-CfEoI -CDP-1

Application Ref: [*Design Platform*]

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Applicants must use this template for their applications (designed to highlight important aspects and facilitate the assessment against the evaluation criteria).

Character and page limits:

- *minimum font size — Times New Roman 11 points*
- *page size: A4 except where needed A3*
- *margins (top, bottom, left and right): at least 15 mm (not including headers & footers)*
- *Page limits: no page limits but the consortium is encouraged to limit the narrative to around 200 pages (that is excluding equipment fiches, cost tables, other large tables and figures).*
- *pagination instructions: each document from the application must be individually numbered in the bottom right corner.*
- *Regarding the electronic format, the preferred format is pdf*

Please abide by the formatting rules. They are not a target! Keep your text as concise as possible. Do not use hyperlinks to show information that is an essential part of your project.

Please include in the header (top left) of each page the Acronym of the Application.

Before filling in this form, please carefully read the relevant call for Expression of Interest, the Work Programme and any other reference documents related to this call available on our site <https://www.chips-ju.europa.eu/initiative>.

Please make sure that your application:

- *is submitted on the correct form, completed in full and dated;*
- *is signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant;*
- *meets the submission arrangements set out in the call;*
- *is submitted by the deadline.*

Applicants may be requested to provide additional information or to clarify the supporting documents submitted in connection with the application, provided that such information or clarification does not substantially change the proposal.

⚠ Paragraphs in italics or boxes with paragraphs in italics are intended as an explanatory guidance for the applicant and shall be deleted before applying.

⚠ Don't forget to delete this page and explanatory text in italics.

Contents

REFERENCE OF THE CALL AND PROPOSAL.....	3
PART A: INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS	4
PART B: INFORMATION ON THE ACTION	6
DESCRIPTION OF THE TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP	13
DECLARATION OF SUBMISSION	14
CHECKLIST FOR CONSORTIUM.....	15

<u>REFERENCE OF THE CALL AND PROPOSAL</u>
Call for Expression of Interest for Hosting the Chips JU Design Platform (DIGITAL-Chips-2024-CfEoI -CDP-1)
Title: Design Platform – Platform Coordination Team X
Identity of the Coordinator/Applicant: XXX

Structure of the Application

Applicants must use this template for their applications (designed to highlight important aspects and facilitate the assessment against the evaluation criteria).

The application form is structured in two main sections. In the first section, “Information on the applicants”, the application must provide administrative details about the applicants and the consortium, including contact details and legal representatives.

The second section “Information on the Action” is divided in four subsections, covering the three evaluation criteria for grants as presented in the Financial Regulation of the Union and the cost breakdown for the implementation of the Design Platform.

The application form includes a guide on how to fill it for all sections. Character font and font size for text — Times NewRoman 11 points

- Page size: A4
- margins (top, bottom, left and right): at least 15 mm (not including headers & footers).
- pagination instructions: each document from the application must be individually numbered in the bottom right corner.

PART A: INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

1 REFERENCES OF THE APPLICANTS	
Type: (choose one) Option 1: Coordinator Option 2: Applicant, not coordinator	
Hosting site¹: (choose one) Option 1: Yes Option 2: No	
1.1.1 IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT	
Official name in full:	
Acronym: (if applicable)	
Official legal form:	
Legal personality ² :	
Place of establishment or registration: (Address and country)	
Entity registration number: (Not applicable if the applicant is a public-sector body.)	
VAT number (if applicable):	
PIC Number ³ :	
1.1.2 CONTACT DETAILS	
Street address:	
Postcode:	
City:	
Region (if applicable):	
Country:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
Fax:	
E-mail address:	
Website:	
1.1.3 CONTACT PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST	
Family name:	First Name:

¹ A hosting site is a location where equipment procured in the frame of this Expression of Interest will be installed.

² Legal personality is understood as applicant's capacity to sign contracts and constitute a party in court proceedings under the applicable national legislation.

³ If you want to participate, your organisation needs to be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). Please quote your PIC in all correspondence with the Chips JU.
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

Position/Function:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
Fax:	
E-mail address:	
1.1.4 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE (PERSON AUTHORISED TO SIGN THE HOSTING AGREEMENT)	
Family name:	First Name:
Position/Function/Mandate:	
Telephone:	Mobile:
Fax:	
E-mail address:	

Any change in the addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers or e-mail, must be notified in writing to the Executive Director of the Chips JU. The Chips JU will not be held responsible if he cannot contact an applicant.

Please repeat for each applicant the above information

PART B: INFORMATION ON THE ACTION

Part B consists of a description of the activities of the Platform Coordination Team of the Design Platform as set out in the call text, including the set-up and operation of the relevant elements of the Design Platform.

Description of the Platform Coordination Team

The sections below have the purpose of guiding potential applicants in the process of submitting a complete application. The information requested below should therefore serve as orientation and should not be seen as exhaustive. Applicants may provide further details and information. Large tables will be gathered at the end of the document.

1. Excellence and Relevance

1.1 Objectives and ambition

This section starts with a global description of the Platform Coordination Team and how the project addresses the general objectives, themes and priorities of the Call.

Considering the central role of the Platform Coordination Team, the section shall start with a global description of the Design Platform and how the project addresses the general objectives, themes, and priorities of the Call.

Then describe the general and specific objectives of the Design Platform including the activities to be performed to setup, integrate, operate and use the various services and elements of the Design Platform (by the members of the consortium, by third parties in particular SMEs and start-ups but also larger enterprises).

Describe the expected outcomes including the services to be made available. Indicate any novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models.

Objectives and outcomes should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound within the duration of the project, where possible.

Describe how the project contributes to the long-term policy objectives of the call's domain/area, particularly those stemming from the Chips Act, and to the relevant policies and strategies, and how it is based on a sound needs analysis in line with activities at European and national level.

1.2 Methodology

In this section describe and explain the overall methodology/planning, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin the proposed management and running of the Platform Coordination Team.

Explain how this will enable the consortium to deliver the objectives for the Design Platform. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology/planning and how you intend to overcome them.

Based on the global description of the Design Platform and the role of the Platform Coordination Team, please give details on the phased implementation approach of the project in terms of a key milestones with due consideration of future phases of the development of the Design Platform such as any relevant procurements by the Chips Joint Undertaking, the selection of Design Enablement Teams and the launch of a fabless start-up financial support programme.

Describe how the consortium intends to make use of the cloud service procured by the Chips Joint Undertaking in the interests of the scope and objectives of this call. Describe also how the consortium envisages said cloud service in terms of services and features.

Explain in detail how the Platform Coordination Team is expected to implement all the activities set out in the Technical Description of this call. Provide a credible description of how the consortium intends to carry out the objectives of the Platform Coordination Team and how it intends to manage and coordinate all the different elements and phases of the Design Platform. Clearly refer to the cloud service infrastructure that will be hosted by the consortium.

Give a comprehensive overview of how the consortium intends to implement a start-up incubation and acceleration programme in line with the conditions set out in the call text. Explain how the consortium intends to develop framework agreements with EDA and IP vendors and include a preliminary list of targeted vendors. Explain how the cloud service can contribute to delivering said programme and optimise on-boarding of users within the context of the aforementioned framework agreements.

Next describe any national or international activities whose results will feed into the project, and how that link will be established.

Also describe how the activities of the Platform Coordination Team will complement work done in other activities of the Chips for Europe Initiative as set out in the Chips Act (competence centres, pilot lines, Chips Fund, quantum chips actions etc.). Explain any foreseen collaboration with 'first of a kind' facilities as set-out in the Chips Act.

Explain how expertise and methods from different disciplines will be brought together and integrated in pursuit of your objectives.

*Describe the **access conditions** to the Design Platform and how this will be realized, also what measures the Hosting Consortium will take to promote the use of the Design Platform. Regarding Access (Article 128(5) SBA Amendment), the proposers are reminded of the following guiding principles set out in the Call text:*

- *Access should be made available to a wide range of users across the Union as per specific conditions set-out below;*
- *Access should be granted on a transparent basis, i.e. information regarding the criteria, processes, and terms governing access to the Design Platform should be clear and transparent to ensure that potential users have a comprehensive understanding of the access framework;*
- *Access should be granted on a non-discriminatory basis, i.e. preferential treatment of potential users based on their geographic location in the Union, affiliation, etc. should be avoided;*
- *Access by EU users, i.e. users established in the Union, should be (at least) directly proportional to the financial contribution by the Union to the total costs of those activities;*
- *Access needs to be provided on transparent market terms, or on a cost-plus-reasonable-margin basis for large undertakings, while granting preferential access or reduced prices for academic institutions, start-ups and SMEs. In case of reduced prices, price differences must be monitored by the hosting consortium;*
- *Access should be granted to international research and commercial partners, if this is foreseen in Digital Partnerships and Trade and Technology Councils of the Union as part of its agreement with its international strategic partners;*
- *In case of excessive demand for access to an infrastructure, responsible organisations, in this case the PCT consortium, need to put in place mechanisms to ensure fairness, transparency, and equal opportunity for all interested parties;*

Access to the Design Platform should be based on fair and non-discriminatory principles and should be limited to Participating States of the Chips JU, meaning EU Member States, EEA countries and those countries that have been associated to Horizon Europe or Digital Europe Strategic Objective 6, under which the design platform is funded. In determining access to the Design Platform for users established in any Participating State but controlled from third countries that are not Participating States of the Chips JU, consortia must take into consideration the following two main criteria:

- *EU added value, i.e., their contribution to the objectives of the Chips Act as set out in Article 4.*
- *Economic security considerations.*

The above access criteria should also be duly considering other relevant provisions of the Chips Act Regulation (notably Recital 11, and Recital 27, such as for example those in relation to the handling of sensitive information, potential risks of infringement of intellectual property (IP) rights, unauthorised disclosure of trade secrets and IP rights, security, confidentiality, or the leakage of sensitive emerging technologies within the semiconductor sector.

Only users from organisations that can clearly demonstrate their contribution to EU added value, their alignment with European economic security shall be granted access. Users from third countries will be granted access when this is foreseen in the international obligations of the Union concerning semiconductors, as these defined in any relevant Digital Partnerships or Trade and Technology Council agreements. In this case, such users should still commit to fulfil the above access criteria.

Selected consortia will be tasked to further elaborate on the above access criteria as well as access conditions and widely publish them. Such access conditions shall duly take into consideration the following elements: security procedures (both for physical and digital), cybersecurity protection of digital systems used to operate the Design Platform, access control to facility and digital systems (including logging of access), security clearance, setup of different restricted areas with different security levels (such as the compartmentalisation of both digital and physical infrastructures).

Applicants generating/collecting data and/or other research outputs (except for publications) during the project must provide (maximum 1 page) on how the data/ research outputs will be managed in line with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).

The Design Platform is expected to contribute to skill development, especially for start-ups and SMEs, by for example offering training courses. Please describe how this will be organised, promoted and executed.

2. Impact

2.1 Pathways towards impact

At the heart of the Design Platform shall be the nurturing and development of a fabless start-up ecosystem in Europe. The proposal shall address this element, amongst others, convincingly.

Provide a narrative explaining how the Platform Coordination Team's role in the Design Platform, including but not limited to in its role as a hosting consortium, is expected to make a difference in strengthening the Union's fabless design ecosystem and spin out new start-ups in the sector. The narrative should also include the components below, tailored to your project.

In particular:

(a) Give an indication of the scale and significance of the project's contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts, should the project be successful. Provide quantified estimates where possible and meaningful.

(1) in the short to midterm in particular regarding availability of advanced chip design capacities in line with the technical description of this action.

(2) the wider impacts, in the longer term. Describe how the project will strengthen the Union's industrial competitiveness in the context of the relevant market(s), growth, integration of new knowledge and innovation capacity and bring important benefits for society.

(b) Describe any requirements and potential barriers – arising from factors beyond the scope and duration of the Platform Coordination Team – that may determine whether the desired outcomes and impacts are achieved. These may include, for example, regulatory environment; targeted markets; user behaviour. Indicate if these factors might evolve over time. Describe any mitigating measures you propose, within or beyond your project, that could be needed should your assumptions prove to be wrong, or to address identified barriers.

2.2 Measures to maximize impact

Describe the planned measures to maximize the impact of the Design Platform by providing a first version of both your plan for the dissemination and exploitation (including communication activities) as well as a plan to attract third parties, particularly start-ups and SMEs, to use the Design Platform.

Plans need to include a description of the business model related to the functioning (i.e., service provisioning) of the Design Platform, once it has been set up. The business model must outline a reasonable breakdown of the expected income via market-oriented access conditions. It should clarify how these revenues, if any, will contribute to covering a portion or the entirety of the operational expenses associated with the Platform Coordination Team.

Describe also the target group(s) addressed (e.g. end users, public at large).

Outline your strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures, such as patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc., and how these would be used to support exploitation.

3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

Please include a description of the major phases of the development and maturity of the Platform Coordination Team and the Design Platform, highlighting procurement timing, linked calls, integration, testing, validation and operationalisation within the context of a work plan. Such a roadmap and work plan shall at least include the following phases:

- a) Phase 1: The selection of the consortium in charge of the overall coordination of the Design Platform, referred to as the Platform Coordination Team (PCT); the definition of technical specifications for the procurement of the cloud service and call for Design Enablement Teams (DETs), and the launch of the project.*
- b) Phase 2: Following the definition of the relevant technical specifications in Phase 1, launch of the procurement process for the cloud service and the call for DETs.*
- c) Phase 3: Integration of all components i.e. cloud service, design assets, DETs and other relevant elements and the operationalisation of the platform. Formal launch of the platform, with availability of the cloud service on a 24/7 basis.*
- d) Phase 4: The potential launch of a scheme to support start-ups and SMEs making use of the Platform.*

The different phases of development are indicative. Consortia may propose justified deviations to this plan.

Phases are not necessarily sequential and may be run in parallel.

3.1 Maturity

Explain the maturity of the project, i.e. the state of preparation and the readiness to start the implementation of the proposed activities.

Explain any preparatory action, if any, already undertaken for the development of technical specifications of Design Enablement Teams and the cloud service.

3.2 Implementation plan and efficient use of resources

Implementation

Show that the implementation work plan (described further) is sound by explaining the rationale behind the proposed work packages and how they contribute to achieve the objectives of the project.

Explain the coherence between the objectives, activities, planned resources and project management processes.

Project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation strategy

Describe the measures planned to ensure that the project implementation is of high quality and completed in time.

Describe the methods to ensure good quality of monitoring, planning and control activities.

Describe the evaluation methods and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to monitor and verify the outreach and coverage of the activities and results. The indicators proposed to measure progress of the implementation of the Design Platform as well as access to the Design Platform should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound. The following KPIs should be included as a minimum:

- *the availability of the Design Platform for potential access by SMEs and Start Ups,*
- *the number of IP and EDA vendors with whom a framework agreement is negotiated,*
- *the quality and variety of IP hosted on the IP repository,*
- *the number of relevant training courses,*
- *the overall use of the Design Platform for any activity linked to the objectives of the Chips Act,*
- *the non-availability of the Design Platform due to maintenance, repairs, installations, etc.,*
- *the number of start-ups and SMEs supported and mentored,*
- *the contribution to skills.*

3.3 Capacity to carry out the proposed work

Consortium description, cooperation and division of roles (if applicable)

Describe the participants (Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities and Associated Partners, if any) and explain how they will work together to implement the Platform Coordination Team. How will they bring together the necessary expertise and how will they complement each other?

Be very specific in what way each of the participants contribute to the Platform Coordination Team, thus showing that each has a valid role and adequate resources to fulfil that role.

Note: When building your consortium you should think of organizations that can help you reach objectives and solve problems.

Project teams and staff

Describe the project teams and how they will work together to act jointly as a Platform Coordination Team.

List the main staff included in the Platform Coordination Team budget by function/profile (e.g. project manager, senior expert/advisor/researcher, junior expert/advisor/researcher, trainers/teachers, technical personnel, administrative personnel etc.) and describe briefly their tasks.

Consortium management and decision-making (if applicable)

Explain the management structures and decision-making mechanisms within the consortium including how decisions will be taken and how regular and effective communication will be ensured. Describe methods to ensure planning and control.

The following specific organisational structures could be included: scientific-technological organisation, procurement support organisation, access organisation, project management organisation, public relation and disseminating organisation, etc.

Note: The concept (including organisational structure and decision-making mechanisms) must be adapted to the complexity and scale of the various elements of the implementation of the Design Platform.

Hosting consortium capabilities

Provide sufficient information on the expertise in the hosting consortium in managing operating similar cloud services;

Explain how the hosting consortium intends to develop the technical specification for the Chips Joint Undertaking to procure the cloud service of the Design Platform. Emphasise the time required for the definition of technical specifications.

Explain how the hosting consortium intends to develop the technical specification for Design Enablement Teams (DETs) as well as the Infrastructure as Code to be deployed by them as set out in the Call. Emphasise the time required for the definition of technical specifications. Explain how the hosting consortium intends to manage and deploy the procured Infrastructure as Code in the various DETs.

Provide a description of how the hosting consortium intends to validate, test, manage and maintain the cloud service in close coordination with the selected system integrator. Specify what operational arrangement will be put in place to this end.

Provide a description on how the hosting consortium intends to establish and maintain a rich repository of IP, EDA tools and other design assets. Include details on how issues related to the dissemination of IP due to for example EDA license conditions will be tackled.

3.4 Work plan and resources

Please provide an overall work plan defined for the full duration of the project, with a more detailed description for the first 24 months. Please provide the following:

- 1) Presentation of the overall structure of the work plan;*
- 2) A detailed Gantt chart of the implementation of the Design Platform including all relevant elements, showing a phased approach on how the different services will become available. This should allow to present graphically the components showing how they inter-relate (Pert chart or similar). This part of the application may be printed on A3 paper and added at the end of the document separately.*
- 3) A list of work packages (a work package could cover a cluster of activities to deliver one global result) and subtasks (a work package breaks down in a number of subtasks). Work packages and subtasks are used in the Gantt chart.*

DECLARATION OF SUBMISSION

By submitting an application the applicant accepts that in case of award certain data like the name, locality and amount (amongst others) will be published.

By submitting an application, the applicant and participants of the Hosting Consortium accept the terms and conditions set out in the call for expression of interest and the model hosting agreement to be found in Annex 2 of the call for expression of interest.

I declare that all information provided in this application form and its annexes is correct.

Date:

Signature of the legal representative
of the coordinator organisation

CHECKLIST FOR CONSORTIUM

Please use this checklist to ensure that you attach all of the necessary documents

Document and content	Coordinator	Partner
All sections of the Annex 1: application form have been filled in, where appropriate, in accordance with the Call for Expression of Interest or any other document provided as guidance related to the programme concerned.	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
The declaration(s) on honour has (have) been signed and attached in original (see template in Annex 1A)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mandate letters have been signed and attached in original (if applicable; see template in Annex 1B)	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
PIC of each participant in the consortium	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A