EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE SELECTION OF HOSTING CONSORTIA FOR THE PILOT LINES

Ref. Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027 – Appendix 2

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Contents

1. CONTEXT

The Chips JU Work Programme describes in its Appendix 2, related to the initiative part of the JU's activities for 2023, the launch of the Calls for Pilot Lines.

Each Call for Pilot Line includes three interrelated calls:

- Call for Expression of Interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium
- Call for proposals for Set-up, integration and process development, funded under the Horizon Europe Programme
- Call for proposals for the operational activities of the pilot line, funded under the Digital Europe Programme

For each Call for Pilot Line, a single complete proposal will be built by the applicants. This proposal will follow the template:
Appendix2&4_Annex1_GB_2023.58_ApplicationForm.docx

This single complete proposal will be submitted to the three interrelated calls per Pilot Line considering any necessary adjustments depending on the different submission platforms of each of the interrelated calls.

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

Please note that an applicant consortium shall submit one application with three interrelated proposals, one for each of the abovementioned calls. This means that for completing the full application, it is advised to consult the other two guides for applicants (corresponding to the other two calls):

- Guide for Applicants – Call for Proposals (CfP) for set-up, integration and process development (Horizon Europe Programme)
- Guide for Applicants – Call for Proposals (CfP) for operations activities of the Pilot Line (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 manage the procurement of the tools and equipment of the pilot line to be acquired under a Joint Procurement Agreement (JPA).

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

We invite you to read this **guide for applicants**, and the Model Joint Procurement Agreement that is provided in the template:

> Appendix2&4_Annex3_GB_2023.58_JPA.docx

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)

3. CONTEXT, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND SCOPE

The context, expected outcomes and scope for each of the 4 Calls for Pilot Lines (CPL) are described in Appendix 2 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section "3. Technical description of the topics for the CPL".

4. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The available budget is described in the Appendix 2 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section "3 Budget available".

5. TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES

Proposals must be submitted before the call **deadline 29 February 2024 at 17:00:00 Brussels time.**

6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

Proposals must be submitted before the call deadline (see timetable section 5.1).

An application must be submitted as described in Section 12.

The application is written in English.

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

Furthermore, the submitted application needs to be accompanied by the requested Letters of Intent from the Participating States supporting the Hosting Consortium.

7. ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility of the expression of interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium is described in Appendix 2 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section "4. Description of the Call for Pilot Lines (CPL)", sub-section "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 of the expression of interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium are described in Appendix 2 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section "4. Description of the Call for Pilot Lines (CPL)", sub-section "7.1 Exclusion criteria for the Call for Expression of Interest".

9. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The expression of interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium will be evaluated by a group of independent experts in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in Appendix 2 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section "4. Description of the Call for Pilot Lines (CPL)", sub-section "9 Overview of the evaluation and selection procedure".

10. AWARD CRITERIA

The award criteria for the expression of interest for the selection of a Hosting Consortium is described in Appendix 2 of the Chips JU Work Programme in section "4. Description of the Call for Pilot Lines (CPL)", sub-section "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 Joint Procurement Agreement.

The Joint Procurement Agreement includes JU and national funding.

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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 six (6) parts compressed in a unique Zip file (*.zip), as follows:

1. The application form in Annex 1 (Chips JU Application Form):
   Appendix2&4_Annex1_GB_2023.58_ApplicationForm.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.
   - Description of the total cost of ownership. The cost categories are described in the application form template. This part is supported by a series of tables to be included at the end of the document.

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

2. Total budget: the summarised budget for the whole proposal, as it will be submitted to the three interrelated calls described in Section 1. This budget shall include the list of equipment as well. Please use the following template:
   Estimated_Budget_EU_CfEoI.xlsx

3. Provide a National Budget Table for the whole proposal. A template is also provided for applicants' convenience with the call documents:
   National_Budgets_Table_Template.xlsx

4. Provide signed mandate letters, if applicable. Please use the following template:
   Appendix2&4_Annex1b_Mandate.docx

5. Provide declaration(s) on honour. Please use the following template:
   Appendix2&4_Annex1a_Declaration-honour.docx

6. Provide a Letter of Intent. This letter describes the formal commitment of each Participating State (PS) active in the pilot line to financially support the pilot line and its participating Consortium members. Please use the following template:

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Appendix2&4_Annex4_GB_2023.58_Model-LetterofIntent.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.