

Clarification No 1.

Related to Call for Proposals: GSA/GRANT/01/2016 and GSA/GRANT/02/2016

Note: Questions 1 to 19 were received during the Info Day held in Prague on 8 March 2016.

1. **Question:** How does GSA plan to manage the potential overlapping among different grants?

Answer: The overlap between the recently published high-end and low-end receiver projects is minimum, as they are differentiated by end applications.

Potential overlaps between the recently published “Professional High-End Receiver” and the upcoming “Commercial Service (CS) User Terminal” will be addressed by an accurate definition the latter. For example, one main difference is the differentiators of Galileo to be leveraged: in the “Professional High-End Receiver” call the use of CS is an additional feature to be considered by the applicants, while achieving a CS-capable receiver is mandatory in the project “CS User Terminal”.

It is also to be noted that having more than one project covering a particular topic (e.g. CS) it does not represent a problem per se, providing that the topic is deemed priority and that the principle of no double-funding is respected (see next answer).

2. **Question:** Is there any incompatibility for applicants participating in one of the grants to participate in another one?

Answer: Companies already awarded in a grant procedure will not be excluded but the “no double-funding principle” will be taken into account: activities which were already funded by EU will not be eligible for funding again.

3. **Question:** The “Dual Frequency Automotive / M2M / Consumer Receiver including innovative Hybridisation Techniques” call for proposals has been announced in the 2015 Galileo Grants Plan, but it is not included in the currently open call for proposals neither announced in the list of upcoming projects. Why?

Answer: The “Dual Frequency Automotive / M2M / Consumer Receiver including innovative Hybridisation Techniques” has been updated to the “Development of low-end Receiver Core Technology” call for proposals, in the 2016 Galileo Grant Plan, by enlarging the scope and the budget of the project, targeting at transversal core technology development to be used by the pre-defined application (LBS, IoT and Social/Healthcare LBS). The scope of the project was enlarged following feedback from consultation with Member States.

4. **Question:** Is a proposal that answered to this previously planned automotive focussed call in the scope of the “Development of Low-end Receiver Core Technology” call for proposals? (linked to question 3)



Answer: The call for proposals "Development of Low-end Receiver Core Technology", which has the objective to fund projects aiming at the development of transversal core technologies, does not target automotive applications specifically. However, any proposal targeting the development of such core technologies and which is tailored and demonstrated in one of the three pre-defined application classes (i.e. LBS, IoT and Social/Healthcare LBS) can be deemed in the scope of the call.

5. **Question:** What is the rationale to have dual-frequency requirement on the mass market low end receivers?

Answer: As currently mass market receivers only work on one single frequency, the goal of this project is to incentivise industry to develop receivers for users that are not necessarily satisfied by the lowest range of receivers but also don't need to upgrade to a professional receiver .

It is the objective of the Fundamental Elements to fund actions in priority sectors as well as in those areas where the market is developing slowly on its own.

6. **Question:** Would it be possible to get a better understanding on JRC involvement? How will the JRC support be implemented?

Answer: The access to the JRC facilities is covered by an agreement between GSA and JRC at no additional costs for the beneficiary consortia.

For the two projects that have been published, the validation of the deliverables at the JRC facilities will be mandatory (however, the validation plan is up to the consortia to be drafted). The JRC facilities can also be used optionally for testing and validation activities during project development. Consortia need to agree with JRC about the testing schedule. Planning of both activities should be included in the proposal.

7. **Question:** Is the role/participation of universities/research institutes different?

Answer: The same rules apply to all the participants, following the principles of equal treatment.

8. **Question:** How is the independence and objectivity of the evaluation of the proposals guaranteed? Who is doing the evaluation of proposals? Are there any subjective elements in the evaluation?

Answer: The Authorising Officer of GSA (the Executive Director) appoints the evaluation committee which is composed of various experts from different departments of GSA, EC and JRC. The members of the evaluation committee shall sign a declaration of absence of conflict of interest and confidentiality before having access to the submitted proposals. In order to provide independence and objectivity and to guarantee the equal treatment, the submitted proposals are not assessed against one another but against the criteria as published in the call

for proposals, therefore the evaluation is done in an objective manner in line with Article 133 of the EU Financial Regulation¹ and Article 204 of the Rules of Application².

- 9. Question:** How does GSA advise the consortia to deal with missing information regarding OS Navigation Message Authentication (NMA) and CS Authentication and CS High Accuracy? And what information will be available?

Answer: At the envisaged time of publication of these specific projects more information will be available and made accessible. In particular for OS-NMA and CS, GSA will provide all the information available and will share all the updates in due time. If inputs are still missing, the consortia should highlight this accordingly. Additionally, also before and during implementation of the projects the consortia will be updated on further developments of these services.

- 10. Question:** The 60% of EU funding rate would be also applicable to universities? In H2020 there is a different funding rate for universities.

Answer: The present call for proposals is not funded by H2020 and therefore not subject to its Rules of participation.

In the call for proposals same financing conditions are foreseen for all type of applicants and therefore there is no distinction among them. GSA provided an indicative example of an expected consortium which also includes R&D centers for both calls (please refer to the last paragraph of section 8.2 of both calls for proposals).

- 11. Question:** How the repartition of the 60% contribution has to be done between the different members of the consortium ?

Answer: The allocation of the budget between the consortium members is the responsibility of the consortium. All beneficiaries are entitled to reimbursement of 60% of their eligible costs. Regarding the total funding for the project, for these particular two calls for proposals, the total costs covered by EU can reach maximum 60% of the total eligible costs. How individual consortium partners can cover 40% of costs that are not reimbursed by GSA is explained in the question below.

- 12. Question:** How are the consortium partners advised to contribute to the 40% costs not covered by GSA?

Answer:

Please refer to the paragraph "co-financing" under section 11 of the call for proposals.

¹ Regulation (EU, EURATOM) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) No. 1268/2012 of 29 October 2012 on the rules of application of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union.

13. Question: Will the next calls to come follow the same rules especially regarding the need to have a 40% contribution of the members of the consortium respectively the 7% contribution to overhead.

Answer: GSA has noted the feedback received on this topic i.e., that the applicants consider the funding levels too low. Funding levels are decided on a project by project basis following the EC rules.

It is to be noted that for actions launched as public procurement (Call for Tenders), the EU funding is 100%. For Grants (Call for Proposals) the EU contribution is assessed on a case by case basis, always in line with the EU Financial Regulation and Rules of Application.

14. Question: Which clarification are needed on the in-kind contribution?

Answer: According to Article 183(2) of the Rules of Application and Article 127 of the EU Financial Regulations, the in-kind contribution means non-financial resources (goods or services) made available by third parties to the beneficiary free of charge (e.g. seconded persons, contributed equipment, infrastructure or other assets or other contributed goods and services as eligible in accordance with Article II.19).

In-kind contributions do not involve any expenditure for the beneficiaries therefore these in-kind contribution are not to be entered in their accounts. Consequently, the corresponding costs are not eligible.

The use of his own staff or equipment by the beneficiary for the purpose of implementing the action does not represent an in-kind contribution since this use constitutes a cost for the beneficiary and is therefore a direct (or indirect) cost of the action.

15. Question: Will there be negotiation phase ?

Answer: There is no negotiaton possible in the grant procedure.

16. Question: Are there any pre-defined criteria for the financial capacity of the consortium? What is being checked in order to prove the financial capacity?

Answer: Please refer to form A6 published on the GSA website which need to be filled in by applicants (with an exception of public bodies or international organisations). There are 2 sections ('Section 1(ii)' and 'Section 2(ii)') that will be filled in by GSA with several ratios. GSA will assess financial capacity of individual applicants based on these ratios while taking into account the overall financial situation of the applicant.

17. Question: What are the affiliated entity rules applying for these calls?

Answer: Affiliated entities are those entities which are linked (affiliated) to a beneficiary through a permanent capital or legal link which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of implementation of the action.

Costs incurred by entities affiliated to a beneficiary may be accepted as eligible if the following conditions apply cumulatively:

- the entities concerned are identified in the proposal (Annex I – Description of the action).
- the entities concerned abide by the rules applicable to the beneficiary under the grant agreement including the eligibility of costs and rights of checks and audits by the GSA, OLAF and the Court of Auditors.

The affiliated entities will have to comply with eligibility and non-exclusion criteria of the call for proposals and submit the same forms as the applicant (please refer to the call for proposals).

18. Question: Would the structure of these calls for proposals be similar in the future calls in Fundamental Elements?

Answer: Yes, for grants the main structure of calls for proposals will remain mostly the same. However, the particularities of the call would be addressed differently in the technical parts.

19. Question: Is the restriction of the page limits of the technical proposals also applicable to diagrams or they can be annexed?

Answer: Diagrams, pictures, excel tables are an integrative part of the technical proposal and therefore they contribute to the length of the technical proposal. As long as the submitted documents are within the provided page limits it is up to the applicant to decide the format, organisation/structure the proposal.

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