



**Clarification Note #1**

EUSPA internal reference: 272905

**CASSINI Prize for digital space applications**

**Question 1: Could you please clarify if public research laboratories are eligible to participate in the present prize contest?**

**Answer 1:** The eligibility requirements (i.e. place of establishment and definition as SME) for the present prize contest are set in the section 6 of the Rules of Contest. For assessing whether the company is an SME, please refer to the link under the footnote 13 of the Rules of Contest and in particular to the [EU recommendation 2003/361](#). Please further note that as per the said section of the Rules of Contest joint applications by a group of participants are eligible. In such case, all participants shall fulfill individually the eligibility requirements.

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## Clarification Note #2

EUSPA internal reference: 272997

### CASSINI Prize for digital space applications

#### **Question 2: Is the topic of maritime safe navigation relevant in the present prize contest?**

**Answer 2:** The core topic of the prize contest is the detection, monitoring and tracking of plastic pollution in rivers, shores and coastal zones and to support its removal in order to support the prevention of ocean pollution. As such, the topic of maritime safe navigation is not an objective of this prize.

#### **Question 3: Which TRL level is required to take part in the competition?**

**Answer 3:** The presented solution shall be able to withstand a demonstration in an operational environment which corresponds to TRL 7 at the time of submission<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Question 4: Should the solution developed for the competition address as well plastic removal?**

**Answer 4:** The presented solution should detect and track plastic pollution as well as to support its removal; it is not expected to address the actual removal but applicants are otherwise free in their choice of technical solutions.

#### **Question 5: In case that the presented solution is a web product, can we submit the link?**

**Answer 5:** Only what has been submitted and available in the Portal itself by the submission deadline will be evaluated. If the proposed solution is a software, the applications must include Annex with the docker container, including the instructions on how to run it, as part of the application. The docker container submitted by the deadline must be working.

#### **Question 6: If the solution is a combination of hardware sensors and EO data, what is the best way to demonstrate this in the proposal?**

**Answer 5:** It is up to the applicants to demonstrate the characteristics of the proposed solution.

#### **Question 7: if the specific Call requires a "Financial capacity assessment" at any stage and secondly if there are any other financial limitations or requirements?**

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<sup>1</sup> [h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/e3000000/1/attachmentData/binaryData/h2020-wp1415-annex-g-trl_en.pdf)



**Answer 7:** The applicants' financial capacity is not an assessment criterion under the present rules of contest and therefore the financial capacity of the applicants is irrelevant for the assessment of the proposed applications.

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### Clarification Note #3

EUSPA internal reference: 276064

#### CASSINI Prize for digital space applications

**Question 8: Regarding the fact that the solution should be capable of withstanding demonstration in an operational environment, does this mean that it needs to be operational by the deadline of the applications' submission? Can you please explain the demonstrational aspect?**

**Answer 8:** Applicants should demonstrate in their applications that the solution is at least a system prototype demonstrated in an operational environment. The feasibility and capability of the solution to reliably and consistently detect, monitor and track plastic pollution in rivers, lakes, shores and coastal zones should be documented.

Regarding the demonstration, applicants are otherwise free of their choice of practical demonstrations – if the demonstration is not done in real-time, a video shown during the hearings could be an option to demonstrate the results.

**Question 9: Does the implementation need to be in the EU? Targeting a more polluted region in the world for example, but with EU stakeholders.**

**Answer 9:** There are no restrictions on the location of the operational demonstration activities of the solution presented.

**Question 10: Could we have access to a list of candidates in order to establish contact and initiate a collaboration**

**Answer 10:** There is no “partner search” tool available for this call. Research for partners should be carried out independently by interested parties.

**Question 11: Can you please elaborate on the required TRL during the proposal submission. It is TRL7 or can it be lower?**

**Answer 11:** The presented solution shall be able to withstand a demonstration in an operational environment which corresponds to TRL 7 at the time of submission<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Page 13 out of 43 [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes\\_horizon-2023-2024\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf)



**Question 12: Are UK-entities eligible to submit to the prize?**

United Kingdom based entities are eligible to participate to the prize. As UK is currently negotiating association agreements with the EU<sup>2</sup>, applicants can receive the prize only if the negotiations are concluded and the association agreement applies before the award (see section 6 - Eligibility of the Rules of Contest).

**Question 13: Does the Call requires a "Financial capacity assessment" at any stage? and secondly if there are any other financial limitations or requirements.**

The financial capacity of the applicants is not a selection criterion under the present prize contest and it therefore not to be assessed at any stage.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-auratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [rules-lev-lear-fca\\_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)