



Clarification Note #1

EUSPA internal reference – WFID: 307301

Cassini Challenges Prize Contest

Question #1: I would like to know the specific time of deadline for all the CASSINI CHALLENGE tracks (idea, prototype, and product). Is it midnight of the respective days?

Answer #1: The deadline is at 23:59 CET on the respective days.

Question #2: Is participation allowed for projects from Chile in Cassini Challenges 2024?

Answer #2: Please refer to Section 2.4 of the published Terms of Reference for the Eligibility Criteria.

Question #3: Does the video cover the same content as the application form?

Answer #3: There are no requirements specified for the video content. It can overlap with the content as the application form. It gives the team the opportunity to be creative and showcase other aspects of their solution which they consider important and were not able to express in the application form.

Question #4: Why is the Prototypes webinar so close to the deadline, contrary to the present webinar, although Prototype is more extensive?

Answer #4: This is due to internal scheduling. Applicants are welcome to ask questions about the three tracks regardless of the webinar schedule, up until 7 working days before the deadline for submission of the respective track, as outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Question #5: Can a team consist of two collaborating SMEs?

Answer #5: Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information on the content of the Applications and the relevant requirements.

Question #6: Is it possible to enter for both the prototype and product tracks?

Answer #6: Yes, eligible economic operators can apply to more than one track, provided that the proposed solution for each track fits the TRL requirements of the track and all the other requirements under the Terms of Reference.

Question #7: Can you share more data on the challenges?

Answer #7: As stated in section 2.2 of the Terms of Reference, applicants are requested to identify a pressing commercial, social or environmental challenge on Earth and propose an innovative solution which should:



- Address the challenge identified using space technology in the fields of satellite navigation, Earth observation, satellite communication or space surveillance and tracking; and
- Contribute to the EU competitiveness and innovation of the EU Space Industry.

Question #8: How many applicants were there for the 2023 idea track?

Answer #8: Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information on the Challenges.

Question #9: We have an open solution to secure integrity of satellite data after it was received, is this something which could be of interest?

Answer #9: Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information on the content of the Applications and the relevant requirements.

Question #10: How detailed do we have to show our technology? (especially without IP Protection right now)

Answer #10: Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information on the content of the Applications and the relevant requirements.

Question #11: What kind of team diversity do you expect?

Answer #11: As stated in section 2.8 of the Terms of Reference, the award criteria consider how the team addresses diversity.

Question #12: If a team submits an application for the prototype track under a company name, would it be permissible for one of its members to submit a separate application for the IDEA track as an individual, with a completely different topic?

Answer #12: Yes, this is allowed, provided that the individual also fulfills the eligibility criteria for natural persons outlined in the Terms of Reference.

Question #13: Is there a need to develop any mock-up for the second step of the challenge [on-line presentation of shortlisted solutions], if selected at 1st step? What effort is expected?

Answer #13: There is no expectation of progress on the solution between the submission of the application and the on-line presentation.

Question #14: The task of picking a task that can be solved with space data is specific to this year? What was different in previous years?



Answer #14: In the previous editions, applicants proposed solutions utilizing Galileo & Copernicus data to specified problem areas.

Question #15: is Cyber security an eligible topic (IRIS² related)?

Answer #15: Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information on the content of the Applications and the relevant requirements.

Question #16: Can Chilean-Italian university students participate in these competitions?

Answer #16: Please refer to Section 2.4 of the published Terms of Reference for the Eligibility Criteria.

Question #17: Is there a specific page limit for the proposal submission this year?

Answer #17: As the applications are submitted in the online platform interface, a page limit is no longer applicable. However, the sections of the online application form have character limits set.

Question #18: The ToR is missing details about the online presentation. Can you say more please?

Answer #18: The evaluation board will shortlist the best teams based on the award criteria which will present on-line their solution to the evaluation board. The evaluation board will re-evaluate, on the basis of the award criteria, the solution during the presentation.

Question #19: Will there be a specific webinar for the prototype track?

Answer #19: Yes. The webinar for the prototype track is scheduled for Monday 4th November, 16.30 CET and the link for registration will be published on the website.

Question #20: I understood that the prize is awarded just after the announcement. There is no more evaluation following this?

Answer #20: Yes, there is no more evaluation after the announcement of the winning teams. EUSPA encourages all winners to join the award ceremony at the CASSINI Entrepreneurship Days event in Prague.

Question #21: What about IP?

Answer #21: As per section 2.9 of the published Terms of Reference, *"Applicants will retain full ownership of the intellectual property rights on solutions developed within the framework of the contest, and exclusivity of commercial exploitation. Additionally, the winners shall include Cassini/EUSPA branding in marketing material related to the development, such as the inclusion of a logo to the app/product webpage or any other form agreed without affecting the ownership and exclusivity of the commercial exploitation retained by the candidates nor the EC/EUSPA rights."*



Question #22: Are there connections with the CASSINI business accelerator?

Answer #22: CASSINI Challenges and CASSINI Business Accelerator are part of the EU Commission's Cassini Initiative to boost space entrepreneurship. You can find out more on cassini.eu.

Question #23: if we have some eligible members and some not in the team - is it a problem?

Answer #23: Please refer to Section 2.4 of the published Terms of Reference for the Eligibility Criteria.

Question #24: Is it viable to submit an idea with a team size of 1?

Answer #24: Please refer to Section 2.4 of the published Terms of Reference for the Eligibility Criteria.

Question #25: We have noticed a discrepancy regarding the deadlines for the Cassini Challenges. The deadline stated in the Terms and Conditions and EUSPA website differs from the one displayed on the application form website once the application process begins. Could you kindly clarify which deadline is correct?

Answer #25: The deadlines specified in the Terms of Reference are correct. The dates in the online platform have been corrected to be in line with them.

Question #26: I am a start-up with two services I am bringing to market. Service A is currently an Idea and Service B is in the advanced prototype stage. The services are similar but different (different hardware and target audience). Can the same company submit an entry to multiple tracks in the same competition cycle? Can we submit applications for our services to multiple tracks? For example Service A to the Idea Track and Service B to the Prototype Track.

Answer #26: Please see Answer #6.

Question #27: Given the staggered timeline of the Prototype and Product tracks. Is it possible to submit Service B to the prototype track and then to the Product track? Service B is currently at the prototype stage until the end of this year but is planned to be a product by March 2025.

Answer #27: Yes, but the applicant must clearly demonstrate the progress made since the prototype application to qualify the solution as a product.

Question #28: I applied to your Challenge a few days ago but immediately after submitting, I realized that I had sent without having translated into English. I would not like this error to jeopardize participation and, for this reason, I ask you if it is appropriate for me to forward you the PDF translated into English.



Answer #28: The online platform has been updated to allow modifying submitted applications until the date of the deadline.

Question #29: We have an idea and also we have the prototype solution (TRL-6 at the moment). Is it allowed to apply for both prizes with two different solutions?

Answer #29: Please see Answer #6.

Question #30: The development of our prototype was partially funded from ESA BIC (50 000 EUR). Thanks to this money and our own internal budget, we reached TRL-5 earlier this year. Now we are TLR-6 and getting ready for TRL-9 in Q1 2025. Is it possible to join prototype or potentially product challenge competition with technology that was partially funded by ESA BIC?

Answer #30: Yes. According to the Terms of Reference section 2.5 Exclusion Criteria, the contest is not open to beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action. ESA BIC funding does not fall under this exclusion criterion.

Question #31: The deadline mentioned on the online platform is 02.12.2024, contrary to the deadline announced on the CASSINI website (25.11.2024).

Answer #31: See Answer #25.

Question #32: The "Prototype" webinar information on the website is still missing a time and registration link. When will this be published?

Answer #32: See answer #19. The link will be published on the website shortly.

Question #33: Is there a preferable extension in the number of pages for the "Idea application form" document that participants should not surpass?

Answer #33: See Answer #17.

Question #34: In the challenge "Terms of Reference" the following is mentioned: "Even if this track is only focused on an idea, the application should provide a strong plan for commercialisation". My question is about what points of the commercial plan you expect the applicants to emphasise? Which are of higher relevance? The "Idea application form" already highlights some key questions in each section that I assume can be taken as a reference and stating point.

Answer #34: Applicants are free to emphasise those aspects of the commercial plan which they feel would best demonstrate how their proposed solution matches the award criteria. Directly addressing the questions in the application form helps to highlight some of the relevant aspects of the application.



Question #35: Can a portion of funds allocated under the Product Track be utilized for the procurement and installation of simple infrastructure such as flux towers? Satellite data and carbon flux data, measured by the towers, operate synergistically for the proposed solution.

Answer #35: Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information on the content of the Applications and the relevant requirements.

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