



## **Clarification Note #4**

**EUSPA internal reference – WFID: 310301**

### **Cassini Challenges Prize Contest**

**Question #91: Is the VAT registration number required when completing the Declaration of Honour? I'm applying as a single natural person for the Idea Track.**

**Answer #91:** Please refer to the Template Declaration of Honour published in Annex II to the Terms of Reference. The template provides for two different sections for natural and legal persons with different required information to fill in.

**Question #92: I am working for our Portugal entity, and we are registered with ESA Star. Our Nationality survey is still listed as South Africa, since our directors have not yet relocated to Portugal. Are we eligible for Cassini Challenges?**

**Answer #92:** Please refer to the Eligibility Criteria in Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference.

**Question #93: We are a company registered in Spain. The natural person from the company which can participate as the team coordinator and the contact person is a permanent EU resident, but not an EU citizen. Are we eligible to enter the competition?**

**Answer #93:** Please see Answer #92.

**Question #94: My team and I are interested in the idea track of the hackathon and are participating from Germany. Is the hackathon held entirely online?**

**Answer #94:** Cassini Challenges is not a hackathon. Please check the website and Terms of Reference for information.

**Question #95: We were honored to have won the Cassini Challenges Prototype prize last year. Are we eligible to apply this year? The topic we intend to submit will be different from our previous submission.**

**Answer #95:** Applicants from the previous edition, including winners, are welcome to apply again. Note, however, that the contest is not open to beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action (Terms of Reference section 2.5).

**Question #96: Does participation in the Prototype track require applicants to already have a physical prototype available for submission?**



**Answer #96:** Please see Section 2.3 of the Terms of Reference for descriptions of the tracks and expected TRLs.

**Question #97:** All members of my team have dual citizenship; we are Italian and Argentine citizens. We currently live in Argentina and are interested in presenting our idea at the CASSINI Challenges. Are we eligible to apply?

**Answer #97:** Please see Answer #92. According to Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference, economic operators are considered established in the EU / Switzerland / Norway / Iceland/ UK/Associated Countries when they are nationals of one of the EU Member States / Switzerland /Norway / Iceland/ UK/ Associated Country (if natural persons). Applicants shall submit the ID of the eligible country of nationality.

**Question #98:** Can we submit our application in Spanish or if it can only be done in English?

**Answer #98:** Applications shall be submitted preferably in English.

**Question #99:** We would like to know if our solution aligns with the objectives and technical criteria of the Cassini Challenge 2024. is an innovative optical communication solution specifically designed to replace traditional cabling inside satellites.

**Answer #99:** Please see the Terms of Reference for descriptions of the contest objectives and award criteria.

**Question #100:** Can I submit the plan for my product first to the Idea track?

**Answer #100:** Applications for product ideas are welcome in the Idea track. Please see the Terms of Reference for details of expected TRLs.

**Question #101:** Can one account only participate in one competition, or can we open multiple accounts and submit more solutions?

**Answer #101:** There are no limits for the number of applications that can be submitted per each Track.

**Question #102:** Is there any age limit for this competition?

**Answer #102:** As mentioned in the Terms of Reference section 2.4, natural person applying for the contest must be at least of 18 years of age by the date of submission of the application.

**Question #103:** As the deadline was extended, I wanted to adjust my application a little, but I realised that this was not possible although there is still time until the deadline. Can you please fix this?



**Answer #103:** The online platform has been updated to allow modifying submitted applications until the date of the deadline.

**Question #104:** Is the result of a 100% ESA funded activity eligible in the prototype challenge?

**Answer #104:** Please refer to Section 2.4 for the Eligibility Criteria and to Section 2.5 (d) of the Terms of Reference.

**Question #105:** Our team consists of members from both EU and non-EU countries (some of whom are from non-associated countries). Can we apply only with our EU and associated country members while still mentioning the contributions of non-eligible members in the application form, even if they are not submitting a Legal Entity Form as Natural Persons?

**Answer #105:** Applicants are welcome to include any information deemed relevant in their application form provided that the eligibility criteria defined in Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference are fulfilled.

**Question #106:** One of our team members is from Peru, which is listed as a low - to middle-income country and might be eligible for exceptional funding under specific conditions. However, this person is also a registered individual entrepreneur in Hungary (EU country) with a Hungarian tax number. Does this mean they qualify under Hungarian eligibility rules, or does their non-EU nationality still affect eligibility?

**Answer #106:** Please refer to Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference for the eligibility criteria.

**Question #107:** If we apply as a company, do the members listed in the application form need to be official employees of the company? If so, is there a minimum duration for which they must have been employed? We are in the early stages of forming the enterprise specifically for this competition and want to ensure we meet the requirements.

**Answer #107:** Please refer to Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference for the eligibility criteria.

**Question #108:** Can you confirm our solution's eligibility for the CASSINI Challenges considering its technology area?

**Answer #108:** Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the relevant information regarding the scope of the Contest, the content of application and the eligibility criteria.

**Question #109:** Can beneficiaries of EIC's programmes apply?

**Answer #109:** Please refer to Section 2.5 (d) of the published Terms of reference.



**Question #110: In the Terms of reference it is specified that 'Start-Ups' and 'Scale-Ups' are eligible to apply, does this not include Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs)?**

**Answer #110:** Please refer to Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference for the eligibility criteria.

**Question #111: Can companies apply for both a product and a prototype - if they are two different products?**

**Answer #111:** It is possible to apply for different tracks with different solutions according to maturity of the solutions.

**Question #112: Can products apply which have already received funding through ESA programs such as ESA BIC?**

**Answer #112:** Please see Answer #104.

**Question #113: Can existing products in development with space-data integration be eligible or only entirely new products? If there is an existing non-space product TRL 8-9, is it eligible if integrated with space data?**

**Answer #113:** Applications should fulfil the respective TRL requirements and fall in the contest's technology scope at the time of submission, as defined in the Terms of Reference.

**Question #114: If we applied to the prototype idea first and in the meantime it became eligible for the product track, can we apply again for product with the same project?**

**Answer #114:** It is possible to apply for different tracks with the same solution if the requirements in terms of TRL of the solution set under the Terms of Reference are met.

**Question #115: How many applications have been received last year for the Product Track?**

**Answer #115:** The Agency is not able to share this information.

**Question #116: What are the chances if we apply with an independently developed product, where a similar product has already been awarded?**

**Answer #116:** Please refer to the published Terms of Reference for all the requirements regarding eligibility and exclusion criteria. Please note that according to section 2.8 of the Terms of Reference one of the criteria for the evaluation of applications will be Innovation.

**Question #117: Do we have the date of the ceremony yet?**



**Answer #117:** Up to this moment the date for the next Cassini Entrepreneurship Days has not been set. Any relevant information will be announced on EUSPA's communication channels.

**Question #118: Where can the past winners be found?**

**Answer #118:** Any available information can be found on EUSPA's website at the following address <https://www.euspa.europa.eu/cassini-challenges-winners-2023>.

**-End of document-**