

Clarification Notes #1, #2, #3

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Clarification Note #1

EUSPA internal reference – WFID: 320937

CASSINI Challenges Prize Contest

Questions submitted during the CASSINI Challenges Information Webinar held on 29 January at 16:00 via Teams.

Question #1: Are the info webinars recorded?

Answer #1: No, the webinars are not recorded, but the presentation slides and the questions and answers from the webinar are all published on the CASSINI Challenges website in the form of Clarification Notes.

Question #2: What is the reason of having changed the format this year, i.e. one single track vs. three different tracks in the previous year’s CASSINI Challenges edition?

Answer #2: Based on participant feedback and past applications, it was decided to focus this year’s CASSINI Challenges edition on the MVP solution stage.

Question #3: Is the award ceremony's date in Prague known with a bit more detail?

Answer #3: The date of the award ceremony in 2026 is still being determined. Please note that the June period provided in the Rules of Contest is indicative. Participants are recommended to monitor the EUSPA and CASSINI websites for updates.

Question #4: Can I apply with two solutions?

Answer #4: Yes. The Rules of Contest do not limit the number of MVPs participants can submit.

Question #5: Will the slides from the webinars be published?

Answer #5: Yes, the slides will be published on the EUSPA website after the webinar.

Question #6: Can an applicant established in or from Zimbabwe, apply?

Answer #6: Please refer to [Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest](#) for information on eligibility. Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided.

Question #7: In cases where earlier public funding supported preparatory work or individual components that enabled the submitted MVP, would this be considered double funding, or only if the same final deliverable, the complete MVP, was previously funded?

Answer #7: Please note that Section 2.5 (“Exclusion and Rejection Criteria”) of the Rules of Contest provides that the contest is not open to beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action and not all public funding. In light of this, and according to Section 2.7 (“Content of the Applications and Evaluation Process”) applicants shall Indicate whether they have received any previous EU funding related to the proposed MVP and, in case, clearly and soundly justify how the submitted MVP differs from the previously funded solution to avoid double funding.

Question #8: How relevant is the video in the evaluation process?

Answer #8: The video complements the application form. Scores are awarded as per the Award criteria for the content of the video and the application form.

Question #9: Are some examples of previous funded projects available online?

Answer #9: Information regarding winners of previous contests is provided on the [CASSINI Challenges website](#).

Question #10: Are the Challenges focused only on using data generated by missions like

Galileo, Copernicus, etc. or could solutions also build on their design processes to support the design of new missions?

Answer #10: Please refer to Section 2.2 of the Rules of Contest stating the objectives of the competition as well as Section 2.9 specifying the Award Criteria.

Question #11: Is the contest suitable only for downstream solutions or can applicants apply with upstream solutions as well?

Answer #11: Applicants with upstream as well as downstream solutions are welcome to participate in the contest subject to the terms and conditions defined in the Rules of Contest.

Question #12: Can you participate if you already won CASSINI Challenges in the past?

Answer #12: Yes, provided that the solution and applicant meet the eligibility criteria and do not fall under the exclusion and rejection criteria defined in the Rules of Contest.

Question #13: What counts exactly for EU funding? Funding directly from EU institutions or also other public sector or similar inside the EU?

Answer #13: EU funding refers to funds coming from the EU budget.

Question #14: Could you please clarify whether the concept of “leveraging EU space assets, data, or services” refers exclusively to the use of data and downstream services, or whether MVPs that primarily address satellite infrastructure (upstream)—for example, simulation tools assessing radiation exposure and its impact on satellite components—could also be considered eligible?

Answer #14: It is up to the applicant to demonstrate how their proposed solution solves the identified challenge and meets the objectives of the contest. Please also refer to Answer #11.

Question #15: Are dual-use technologies eligible to be selected as winners? If an MVP is dual-use, does it affect in any way the evaluation process / impact the award criteria (positively or negatively)? Should an applicant highlight the dual use nature of their MVP in detailing the use cases, LOIs, financial runway and in general all aspects of the "Market" section of the application.

Answer #15: The eligibility and quality of each application is assessed based on the criteria specified in the Rule of Contest. Each application shall identify a commercial, social or environmental challenge the MVP is solving.

Question #16: Regarding the prevention of double funding, if we have other EU-funded applications pending, and if we get selected for those, would our application be immediately disqualified by CASSINI Challenges, or it would be treated case by case to see there's no double funding in terms of project scale, region, etc.?

Answer #16: Please refer to Section 2.5 and 2.7 of the Rules of Contest and provide detailed information to allow a thorough assessment of the case by the Agency.

Question #17: I am 17 years old and I am the leader of my team and the main engineering, is my age a problem?

Answer #17: As stated in Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest, natural persons applying for the contest must be at least of 18 years of age by the date of submission of the application. Participants may submit their application as individual persons (both natural or legal) or as a team of persons (both natural or legal).

Question #18: Is there any limitation in the size of the company to apply? Can Freelancers apply? Is there a limitation in the date of the company creation? Can two new SMEs or freelancers apply jointly?

Answer #18: The Rules of Contest do not specify limitations as to the company size. Participants may submit their application as individual persons (both natural or legal) or as a team of persons (both natural or legal). Please see Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest for the Eligibility criteria.

Question #19: Regarding the €100,000 prize, what types of expenses are eligible, and is any financial justification required, or is it awarded as a lump sum?

Answer #19: The Cassini Challenges 2026 is a Prize Contest. According to the Financial Regulation a prize is a contribution given as a reward following a contest, there are no eligible costs, and no financial justification is required.

Question #20: If the TRL of technology is 6, would you advise to apply for CASSINI Business Accelerator?

Answer #20: Please visit the [CASSINI Business Accelerator](#) website for details on this.

Question #21: How is the contest open to upstream solutions when it requires relatively high TRL and CRL levels?

Answer #21: The prize is targeting functional MVPs with proven commercial potential. Based on entries in the previous editions of the competition and existing in the market, this encompasses upstream solutions.

Question #22: If the large part of technology development was funded by ESA, are we eligible to apply?

Answer #22: Please refer to the requirement under Section 2.5 of the Rules of Contest: beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action are to be excluded.

Question #23: Are the CASSINI Challenges 2026 focused only on using data generated by missions like Galileo, Copernicus, etc. or can we have our own missions?

Answer #23: Please refer to Section 2.2 of the Rules of Contest and Answer #21.

Question #24: I am Indian student studying for a Master's degree in Europe. Am I eligible?

Answer #24: Please see Answer #6.

Question #25: Is ESA Bass considered EU funded or not?

Answer #25: Please refer to the requirement under Section 2.5 of the Rules of Contest: beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action are to be excluded.

Question #26: Why is SSA mentioned separately from SST? Isn't EU SST the only component of the EU Space Programme tied to SSA?

Answer #26: Within the legal framework of the EU Space Programme (Regulation 2021/696), SSA and SST are mentioned separately because they represent two different levels of the program's structure: SSA is the umbrella component of the EU Space Programme, while SST is one of its three sub-components. EU SST is singled out in the Rules of Contest because of EUSPA's unique role in the operation of the EU SST Front Desk.

Question #27: To what extent are AI Tools allowed for the preparation of the content?

Answer #27: Please refer to the Rules of Contest for the terms and conditions for the submission of applications under the Contest.

Question #28: Is there an overview of funding programmes which are not allowed due to the double- funding exclusion rule, i.e. subsidized national projects?

Answer #28: Please refer to the requirement under Section 2.5 of the Rules of Contest: beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action are to be excluded.

Question #29: Do you provide technical or IP support during the preparation of the application?

Answer #29: No such support is provided to applicants.

Question #30: How are IP inputs and outputs regulated?

Answer #30: Please see Section 2.10 of the Rules of Contest.

Questions submitted to the prizes@euspa.europa.eu mailbox

Question #31: Is the contest open to mid-sized companies?

Answer #31: Please see Answer #25.

Question #32: Can an entity which is not yet incorporated in the EU be eligible for the CASSINI Challenges 2026 with the intent that if granted funding, a new company will be incorporated in the EU?

Answer #32: Eligibility conditions are set under Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest. The assessment of the eligibility is based on the information provided in the application at the time of submission of the application.

Question #33: Is the UK among the eligible countries to participate in the competition?

Answer #33: Please refer to the Eligibility conditions set under Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest.

Question #34: While preparing my application for the Cassini Challenges, I have noticed in the "Market" section that we can only upload a single file for the signed LOIs, while multiple files are expected.

Answer #34: Please merge the files into a single file.

Question #35: Is participation in an ongoing EUSPA PCP project, where the applicant acts as a supplier under a procurement contract, compatible with submitting a CASSINI Challenges application? Is the assessment of double funding risk based on EU funding received directly by the applicant at submission time, or also considers conditional future phases of PCP contracts?

Answer #35: The requirement under Section 2.5 of the Rules of Contest is clear, beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action are to be excluded (any EU funding received for the same action). Furthermore, according to Section 2.7 of the Rules of Contest, applicants shall indicate whether they have received any previous EU funding related to the proposed MVP and, in case, clearly and soundly justify how the submitted MVP differs from the previously funded solution to avoid double funding.

Question #36: Our company is incubated within the ESA Business Incubation Centre (ESA BIC) program. As point 2.5(c) of the Rules of Contest states that employees of ESA and ESA contractors are not eligible to participate in the competition, are ESA BIC–incubated startups are considered independent private entities and therefore eligible to apply, provided they do not hold ESA contracts?

Answer #36: Please refer to Section 2.5 (“Exclusion and Rejection Criteria”) point c) of the Rules of Contest.

Clarification Note #2

EUSPA internal reference – WFID: 321676

Cassini Challenges Prize Contest

Questions submitted during the CASSINI Challenges Information Webinar held on 24 February at 16:00 via Teams.

Question #37: Are webinars recorded?

Answer #37: No, the webinars are not recorded, but the presentation slides as well as the questions and answers from the webinar are published on the CASSINI Challenges website. The questions and the answers are published in the form of Clarification Notes.

Question #38: If I don’t have any idea about a specific business product, could I join a team that already submitted their application?

Answer #38: Please note that application cannot be modified after submission and please make sure that the team fulfils the eligibility requirements, see [Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest](#).

Question #39: Can a team be a consortium between different companies?

Answer #39: As stated in Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest, and provided that all the requirements and conditions under the Rules of Contest are met, participants may submit their application as individual persons (both natural or legal) or as a team of persons (both natural or legal).

Question #40: Is EUSPA providing a list of challenges to solve?

Answer #40: No, EUSPA does not provide a list of challenges. It is for the Applicant to specify

which commercial, social or environmental challenge their MVP is solving.

Question #41: Does application to the CASSINI Business Accelerator exclude application to the Challenges and do you have advice on when to apply for one or the other?

Answer #41: Applications to the CASSINI Business Accelerator and CASSINI Challenges are evaluated independently of one another and are subject to their respective eligibility, exclusion and award criteria. Please see the CASSINI Business Accelerator website and the CASSINI Challenges Rules of contest for more information.

Question #42: Our product has TRL and CRL scores above 7 and 8 in Latin America, where we have experience working with satellites and NTN for over 17 years and several active contracts, PoCs, etc. We opened our office in Portugal in January. With these points, can we participate in this process?

Answer #42: As stated in the Rules of Contest, the contest is open on equal terms to economic operators (natural or legal persons) established in the territory of the Member States of the European Union and the minimum required readiness levels of the solution are $TRL \geq 5$ and $CRL \geq 4$. For the definition of the meaning of “established” and the detailed provisions on eligibility please refer to Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest.

Question #43: If our solution has previously received support from the CASSINI Business Accelerator, are we still eligible to apply, or would this be considered other European Union funding for the same action?

Answer #43: Please refer to Section 2.5 of the Rules of Contest and provide detailed information in your application to allow a thorough assessment of the case by the Agency. Please note that the Rules of Contest, Section 2.5 state: “beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action”.

Question #44: Is the $CRL \geq 4$ requirement assessed on the solution's space application specifically, or on the underlying technology? (e.g. CRL higher in other domains)

Answer #44: The CRL requirement is assessed in the domain of the identified challenge, for more information kindly see the following link [Annex Commercial-Readiness-Level V1.pdf](#) as mentioned in Section 2.3 of the Rules of Contest.

Please note that, according to Section 2.3, non-compliance with the minimum levels above and/or failure to demonstrate compliance with said levels may result in the rejection of the application for non-eligibility.

Question #45: Applicants are requested to submit an MVP. If my solution is using a large drone, do I have to send you one? Is video sufficient?

Answer #45: Please see Section 2.7 of the Rules of Contest for the required contents of the submission based on which the solution is evaluated.

Question #46: Can the solution be a digital platform serving the space industry? Meaning enabling space companies, but being considered an IT company.

Answer #46: Please refer to Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the Rules of Contest for information regarding the theme of the contest and solution requirements.

Question #47: Are there any concrete examples of what is meant with "other EU funding"?

Answer #47: Please refer to question and answer #13 of Clarification Note 1 and to Section 2.5 and 2.7 of the Rules of Contest and provide detailed information to allow a thorough assessment of the case by the Agency.

Question #48: The minimal TRL is 5, but at the evaluation stage does a solution with a higher TRL (e.g. TRL 8) receive a higher score than a solution with a lower TRL (e.g. TRL6)?

Answer #48: Please see Section 2.9 of the Rules of Contest for information about the award criteria.

Question #49: Are all applications compared and evaluated together, independent of if they are upstream or downstream? I.e. is there a direct competition between upstream and downstream applications?

Answer #49: Applications are awarded according to the award criteria set in Section 2.9. The eligibility and quality of each Application is assessed based on the relevant criteria specified in the Rule of Contest.

Question #50: If the MVP consists of multiple parts, and one part is market validated with customers, will the whole MVP be considered CRL 4 or higher and therefore eligible?

Answer #50: Please refer to Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest for information on eligibility. Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided.

Question #51: If our product is providing a hardware subsystem for a spacecraft and so it does not leverage the data from EU programmes (but rather has potential to enhance their evolution in upstream), is it still eligible?

Answer #51: Please see Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the Rules of Contest for information about the theme of the contest and solution requirements. Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided.

Question #52: In the 3min video of presenting the MVP and the team, how much time is

expected in the team presentation from the total 3 minutes?

Answer #52: There are no requirements as to the structure of the video.

Question #53: Can an SME submit more than one application?

Answer #53: Yes. The Rules of Contest do not limit the number of MVPs participants can submit.

Question #54: Is there any information on how many applications were submitted last year?

Answer #54: Yes, 349 applications were submitted in the previous edition of the competition.

Question #55: Could supporting EU competitiveness with a hardware solution that can be used on EU Space Assets, but also has other target use cases, be eligible?

Answer #55: Please see Answer #51.

Questions submitted to the prizes@euspa.europa.eu mailbox

Question #56: The documentation mentions a two-step process: a "light" registration (eligibility assessment) followed by a "full" application. Does the March 6th deadline apply only to the initial light registration?

Answer #56: Please note that this question refers to the CASSINI Business Accelerator, and not to the CASSINI Challenges. Please refer to the CASSINI Business Accelerator website for information.

The deadline for the submission of applications for the Cassini Challenges Contest is 26 March 2026, 13:00 CET.

Question #57: Could you confirm if UK-based companies are currently eligible to participate in the CASSINI Challenges?

Answer #57: Please see Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest for information on eligibility.

Question #58: Our company is incubated within the ESA Business Incubation Centre (ESA BIC) program. As point 2.5(c) of the Rules of Contest states that employees of ESA and ESA contractors are not eligible to participate in the competition, are ESA BIC-incubated startups are considered independent private entities and therefore eligible to apply, provided they do not hold ESA contracts?

Answer #58: Please refer to question and answer #36 in Clarification Note 1.

Question #59: We understand that the MVP must be accessible via a URL to the Evaluation

Committee, and that this URL will be made public if we are awarded a prize. In its current setup, our solution requires email authentication to log in, and we want to maintain this for the shareable MVP. Does this setup comply with the Rules of Contest?

Answer #59: The field of the application form “Link to website of the MVP” refers to a public website with public information about the Applicant’s MVP, which EUSPA shall be permitted to publish in case of award, according to section 6.1.2 (d) of the Rules of Contest.

Question #60: To provide the best product experience, we will use a real use case from a current client, anonymizing all identifiable data to protect their privacy. This would require dummy data for geolocations, scoring and reporting functionalities. Does this setup match your definition of a functional MVP, as stated in the Rules of Contest and Clarification Note #1?

Answer #60: The evaluation will assess the MVP functionality based on the information provided in the application, including in the application form, video and supporting documents.

Question #61: While completing the application form, we were unable to find an option related to Defence or Security under the sections “Which market segment best describes your MVP’s primary focus?” and “Which market segment best describes your MVP’s secondary focus?”. Could you kindly advise which category would be the most appropriate to select for a solution with a defence and security application? Alternatively, we would appreciate clarification on whether this particular competition track is intended primarily for civilian markets.

Answer #61: As stated in the Rules of Contest, Applicants are requested to identify a pressing commercial, social or environmental challenge which their solution is solving. Please see Sections 2.2 and 2.3 for more information about the theme of the contest and solution requirements.

Question #62: Our MVP is currently not based on EU space data (e.g. Copernicus Sentinel) but on the Google Earth Engine API. The use of EU space data is planned for a ready-to-deploy product in the next phase. Are we currently not eligible to participate?

Answer #62: Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided. It is up to the Applicant to demonstrate how their solution fulfils the objectives of the competition and fits the theme.

Clarification Note #3

EUSPA internal reference – WFID: 321940

CASSINI Challenges Prize Contest

Questions submitted during the CASSINI Challenges Information Webinar held on 11 March at 16:00 via Teams.

Question #63: Are the info webinars recorded?

Answer #63: No, the webinars are not recorded, but the presentation slides from the webinar are published on the CASSINI Challenges website and the questions and answers are there also in the form of Clarification Notes.

Question #64: We understand that the MVP must be accessible via a URL to the Evaluation Committee, and that this URL will be made public if we are awarded a prize. In its current setup, our solution requires email authentication to log in, and we want to maintain this for the shareable MVP. Does this setup comply with the Rules of Contest?

Answer #64: The field of the application form “Link to website of the MVP” refers to a public website with public information related to the Applicant’s MVP/company, which EUSPA shall be permitted to publish in case of award, according to section 6.1.2 of the Rules of Contest.

Question #65: To provide the best product experience, we will use a real use case from a current client, anonymizing all identifiable data to protect their privacy. This would require dummy data for geolocations, scoring and reporting functionalities. Does this setup match your definition of a functional MVP, as stated in the Rules of Contest and Clarification Note #1?

Answer #65: The evaluation will assess the MVP functionality based on the information provided in the application, including in the application form, video and supporting documents.

Question #66: Could you clarify whether the MVP has to already exist before submitting the candidature for the Cassini Challenge or can it be developed after submitting?

Answer #66: The prize is targeting functional MVPs with proven commercial potential. The evaluation is based on the information provided in the application at the time of submission. Please refer to Sections 2.3 and 2.7 of the Rules of Contest.

Question #67: I guess it is a bit late for March 26th, next deadline is next year or is there one in H2 2026?

Answer #67: Please note that the deadline for the submission of applications for the CASSINI Challenges Contest is 26 March 2026, 13:00 CET. The Applicants are encouraged to check the application form and assess whether they have all information ready to apply within this deadline.

Participants are recommended to monitor the EUSPA websites for updates regarding any future editions of the contest.

Question #68: Is there somewhere we can see previous winners?

Answer #68: Information regarding winners of previous contests is provided on the CASSINI Challenges website in the section “Past Winners”.

Question #69: Can you jump back and forth between tabs in the application (can you go back after pressing ‘Save and next’ for e.g. “Applicant” or “Solution”)?

Answer #69: Yes, the applicants may use the functionalities of the application platform to go back and forth as well as coming back to the form anytime prior to final submission.

Question #70: Why is there a prevalence of EO for Norway, UK, Iceland and why do Non-EU countries need to be associated to Horizon Europe?

Answer #70: Please refer to Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest for information on eligibility.

Question #71: Is the call open to consortium of companies?

Answer #71: As stated in Section 2.4 of the Rules of Contest, and provided that all the requirements and conditions under the Rules of Contest are met, participants may submit their application as individual persons (both natural or legal) or as a team of persons (both natural or legal).

Question #72: Should we add the logo and url of company or product/solution? What is best?

Answer #72: Please provide the information requested in the application form. Please note that the field “Link to website of the MVP” refers to a public website with public information about the Applicant’s MVP/company, which EUSPA shall be permitted to publish in case of award, according to section 6.1.2 of the Rules of Contest.

Question #73: Maybe at the end of April I am not in Czech Republic and I am not sure I will be online. At the submission form, I am both the Applicant and the coordinator. Can I send someone else from my company if we are lucky and selected for the interview?

Answer #73: Each applicant shall appoint a coordinator to act as the central contact point who can nominate another person for the interview, if selected.

Question #74: Is there a limit to how old (after incorporation) the company applying can be? If so, what is this limit.

Answer #74: The Rules of Contest do not specify limitations as to the date of establishment of the company.

Question #75: How are you currently engaging with the EU space ecosystem and how do you plan to deepen this engagement? For this question, can you provide some examples, if we do not have any previous experience in space?

Answer #75: It is for the Applicant to explain its current and planned engagement with the EU space ecosystem in relation to the proposed MVP. The application is assessed based on the information provided by the Applicant.

Questions submitted to the prizes@euspa.europa.eu mailbox

Question #76: We are a health-tech company developing several deep-tech solutions. Internally, we have a unified technology library powered by generative artificial intelligence algorithms that support and feed multiple technologies within our platform. We would like to clarify whether it is possible to submit two different initiatives based on this technology framework, or if the rules require a single submission per company.

Answer #76: Yes. The Rules of Contest do not limit the number of MVPs participants can submit.

Question #77: Could you please let us know if there is a national contact point in Spain for the contest, or if all inquiries and coordination should be handled directly through the EU headquarters?

Answer #77: For questions regarding the contest, please use the prizes@euspa.europa.eu mailbox.

Question #78: Regarding the section where evidence of pilot projects and commercial contracts must be uploaded, what exactly is meant by this? The data contained in commercial contracts cannot be shared with third parties, so we would like to understand what kind of evidence could be provided instead.

Answer #78: Please see Section 2.7 of the Rules of Contest for the required contents of the submission. The evaluation will be based on the information and supporting documents provided in the application.

Question #79: I do not know why, but when I try to complete the application, it does not save the information in the various tabs. It says "cannot save". I have already lost the application content a couple of times beyond the initial tab. Is this a common problem? If so, will it be fixed? It also will not let me upload PDFs.

Answer #79: The application form is regularly tested and no errors were found. General recommendation would be to check cache, browser or content blockers.

Question #80: I am writing this email to clarify whether it is possible to submit more than one proposal to CASSINI Challenges. Could you please confirm if two submissions from the same

entity are allowed?

Answer #80: Yes. The Rules of Contest do not limit the number of MVPs participants can submit.

Question #81: We are considering applying to Cassini and would like to understand if our application is in scope. We developed the first prototype of an orbital memory unit for space-based data centers. I would be grateful if you could confirm whether our prototype orbital memory unit MVP is in scope.

Answer #81: Please see Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the Rules of Contest for information about the theme of the contest and solution requirements. Applicants can submit both upstream as well as downstream MVPs. Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided.

Question #82: I would like request a clarification regarding the eligibility criteria for the MVP track, specifically concerning the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) requirement. Our current solution is at TRL4, supported by laboratory validation and multiple subsystem tests. We are actively developing the system with a clear roadmap to reach TRL6 within the next 12 months through integrated testing and validation in a relevant environment. In parallel, we have already established early commercial traction, including Letters of Intent with potential customers. In this context, we would like to understand whether a solution with this development stage and commercial validation can be considered eligible for the MVP track. Additionally, we would appreciate guidance on how to correctly report the TRL in the application: should we indicate the current TRL (TRL4) or the expected TRL at the time of MVP validation (TRL6)?

Answer #82: As stated in the Rules of Contest, the minimum required readiness levels of the solution are $TRL \geq 5$ and $CRL \geq 4$. Please note that, according to Section 2.3, non-compliance with the minimum levels above and/or failure to demonstrate compliance with said levels may result in the rejection of the application for non-eligibility. The evaluation is based on the information provided in the application at the time of submission.

Question #83: Could you kindly advise which market segment would be most appropriate for a dual-use solution with strong defence and security relevance? Alternatively, we would appreciate clarification on whether this competition track is primarily oriented toward civilian applications.

Answer #83: Dual-use applications are considered within the scope of the space domain. Please see Sections 2.2 and 2.3 for more information about the theme of the contest and solution requirements.

Question #84: I would like to request a clarification regarding eligibility and positioning for the 2026 CASSINI Challenges. Are dual-use solutions with defence and security use cases eligible in principle, provided that the MVP leverages EU Space assets/services in line with the Rules of Contest, the application addresses an urgent commercial, social, or environmental challenge, and the proposed solution is not security-sensitive or based on classified information? More specifically, would an MVP with defence/security end users or operational use cases be considered within scope, as long as the application itself remains non-classified and aligned with

the published award criteria?

Answer #84: Dual-use applications are considered within the scope of the space domain. The eligibility and quality of each application is assessed based on the criteria specified in the Rules of Contest.

Question #85: Use of derived Copernicus/Sentinel data. Our MVP leverages Copernicus/Sentinel data indirectly, through processed or derived data products rather than through direct access to raw satellite data. Does this form of usage qualify as sufficiently “leveraging EU space data and services” under Section 2.2 of the Rules of Contest and Award Criterion 1?

Answer #85: It is up to the Applicant to demonstrate how their proposed solution fulfils the objectives of the competition and fits the theme. Please also refer to Sections 2.2 and 2.9 of the Rules of Contest.

Question #86: We currently have a pending EU funding application for a different action. No funding has been awarded or committed at the time of our CASSINI submission. Does a pending, non-awarded EU funding application trigger the double-funding exclusion under Section 2.5, or is the exclusion based solely on EU funding actually received or awarded? We wish to understand our obligations should the pending application be awarded between the CASSINI submission deadline and the prize award.

Answer #86: Please refer to Sections 2.5 and 2.7 of the Rules of Contest and provide detailed information in your application to allow a thorough assessment of the case. If needed, you will be asked for further clarifications. Please note that Section 2.5 of the Rules of Contest refers to beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action.

Question #87: Could you please advise whether it would be acceptable for the 3-minute video to be slightly longer (e.g., 3:35), or would that be an issue?

Answer #87: Applicants are requested to comply with the requirements. In case the video exceeds the 3-minute duration, the evaluation committee will only take into consideration the information included in the first 3 minutes of the video.

Question #88: Regarding document submission per team member: we would like to know whether all team members’ individual documents – namely the Declaration of Honour and the Identification Form with its relevant supporting documents – should be uploaded from the coordinator’s single account on the CASSINI Challenges application platform, or whether each individual team member is required to create their own separate user account on the platform in order to submit their respective documents.

Answer #88: Please follow the instructions of the application platform regarding the submission of supporting documents for team members. Each applicant shall appoint one coordinator to act as the central contact point.

Question #89: Regarding the role of the coordinator: the Rules of Contest indicate that each

applicant shall appoint a coordinator to act as the central contact point. We would like to confirm whether it is mandatory for the coordinator specifically to upload all documents to the platform, or whether another team member may carry out the submission on behalf of the team.

Answer #89: Each applicant shall appoint one coordinator to act as the central contact point. Please follow the instructions of the application platform for the submission of the application and supporting documents.

Question #90: We would like to confirm whether only one recent bank statement is required for the entire application (i.e. one for the applying entity), or whether each participant individually must submit their own recent bank statement.

Answer #90: Yes, one bank statement for the Applicant is required. In case of award, the bank account for which the recent bank transfer was submitted will be the one used for the transfer of the prize money.

Question #91: According to the conditions, we must be leveraging EU Space technology data, but in our case, we have a manufacturing technology for high-frequency waveguide components for aerospace applications. We do not leverage any data as such but rather would provide aerospace components to the EU Space market. Could we still apply?

Answer #91: Please see Sections 2.2 and 2.3 of the Rules of Contest for information about the theme of the contest and solution requirements. Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided.

Question #92: MVP is mentioned in this application, but in our case, we are developing a technology to manufacture waveguide components (which can be many different components for different scenarios e.g. filters, antennas, hybrids, feed networks, etc.). Currently, we have demonstrated TRL5 already with a simple waveguide prototype for testing. Does it qualify as MVP?

Answer #92: The prize is targeting functional MVPs with proven commercial potential. Please refer to Sections 2.3 and 2.7 of the Rules of Contest for information on solution requirements and submission contents. Case-by-case assessments of eligibility cannot be provided.