

INTERNAL PROJECT 2023

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

A. GOAL

The aim of this call for project proposals is to fund **one project** able to deliver **innovative scientific instrumentation, tools, methods or solutions contributing to advance the state-of-art of Concentrating Solar Thermal (CST) Research Infrastructures (RIs)**. The project outcomes, which underpin the provision of improved and advanced services, should enable research infrastructures to support new areas of research and/or a wider community of users, including industrial users. The project is also expected to improve the **interoperability of RIs and the quality of the services** offered to users of CST RIs.

The proposals should clearly explain ideas, approaches, data, roadmaps, etc. that can benefit EU-SOLARIS ERIC and are not supported by other funding sources.

B. ELIGIBILITY OF PROJECT CONSORTIA

The call of year 2023 is open to any consortia made up of R&D teams from institutions, organizations, and companies of the Member Countries (Cyprus, France, Germany, and Spain). Applying consortia must include partners from at least **three Member Countries**.

To submit the project a letter of **sponsorship by, at least, a General Assembly member is required**. This letter must be attached to the proposal.

C. CONTENT OF THE PROPOSALS

The total length of the proposal **should not exceed 5 pages**, using as a minimum a 10pt font. Each proposal should include the following information:

1. Coordinating entity name / Lead scientist
2. Name of sponsoring General Assembly Member(s)
3. Title of proposal
4. Names of researchers involved in the proposal and their affiliations
5. An abstract that should state the problem, approach, method, and significance of the project
6. Short background, deemed importance and relevance
7. Work plan, duration and milestones
8. List of deliverables
9. Expected short term and long term outcomes
10. An outline of the budget breakdown between partners, according to the work plan
11. An explanation of the cost structure (see Annex for eligible cost items) and, if applicable, in-kind contributions

D. DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The project duration should not exceed **18 months**.

E. SUBMISSION OF THE PROPOSALS

All documents related to the project proposals should be submitted by email to the Secretariat of the EU-SOLARIS ERIC to the specific email address defined for this call, which is: call2023@eu-solaris.eu. Only one email per proposal, including all related documents (Letter of Sponsorship by GA Member(s), and Proposal), should be submitted to this email address. This email should be sent to before the deadline for proposals submission to this call. This deadline is: **Friday, 22 September, 2023 before 14:00h Central European Time**.

F. EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

The evaluation of the proposals will be carried out as follows:

- a) An initial evaluation will be performed by the **Scientific & Technical Committee (STC)**, assisted in the logistics (reception, filing and distribution of proposals for evaluation, organization of teleconferences) by the EU-SOLARIS Secretariat.
- b) The STC will deliver a report assessing the eligibility of the proposals, and ranking them based on relevance, quality, and impact to the EU-SOLARIS ERIC goals (list of evaluation criteria provided in the Annex).
- c) Taking into consideration the STC report, the ERIC's Managing Director will make the final selection of the project proposal to be funded, and will submit it to the General Assembly (GA) for final approval and allocation of funds. During the process of making its final recommendation to the GA, the Managing Director may contact the project proposers to discuss adaptations of their project to better benefit EU-SOLARIS ERIC.

Tentatively, the results of the proposals evaluation process will be published by the end of **October 2023**, so the selected project is expected to start within **November 2023**.

G. FUNDING BY EU-SOLARIS ERIC

A **maximum amount of 45 000 €** for one single project is considered for funding this call.

The ERIC will interact only with the partner coordinating the project. No cost statement will be requested at the end of the project, just an invoice from the coordinating entity.

The funding will be provided as a **lump sum** to the partners in three payments.

- a) First one as an upfront payment of **50%**
- b) A second one of **30%** after the approval by the **Scientific & Technical Committee** of an intermediate report at half time of the project and;

- c) A final one of the **remaining 20%** after the approval of the final report by the **STC** at the end of the project.

The final report must be delivered not later than 30 days after the planned end of the activities. The STC can request further activities if they consider the project output is not accomplished. The proposers have a maximum 6 month to complete those further activities.

If the STC and the proposers do not reach an agreement on the level of fulfilment, the case will be presented to the General Assembly for the final decision.

An extension of the duration of the activities, without increase of costs, of up to 6 months is possible. The extension should be requested in writing by email to the Managing Director and properly justified. The request shall be done at least 30 days before the end date of the project.

For further information, please:

- Send an e-mail to call2023@eu-solaris.eu or;
- visit <http://eu-solaris.eu>

ANNEX

Items eligible for funding

1. Travel of R&D teams' members
2. Consumables
3. Minor pieces of equipment (cost < 5 000 €)
4. Publishing of results in open access journals
5. Congress fees

-No personnel costs will be considered as eligible in this call

-No indirect costs will be considered in this call

Evaluation Criteria

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| 1. Eligibility: proposers, cost frame, sponsorship, etc. | (go/no go) |
| 2. Relevance to the scope and the goals of the call | (score: 1-5) |
| 3. Scientific/technical level of proposal; concept, clarity and objectives | (score: 1-5) |
| 4. Potential impact and benefits | (score: 1-5) |
| 5. Methodology and work plan; is the study likely to be accomplished within its duration?
Deliverables. | (score: 1-5) |
| 6. Appropriateness of the budget and its use, including extent of national co-funding,
and industrial cost-share if commercial entities are involved | (score: 1-5) |

Score: 1 (lowest merit) – 5 (highest merit)

All scores are weighted equally