

# Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking

**CALL HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023**

## **Call Conditions**

Information Day

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Bernard Barani D\_HoU CNECT E1

# Before Starting

## **MUST READ**

R&I Work Programme approved on 14 December 2022, see:

<https://smart-networks.europa.eu/>

[https://smart-networks.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/sns\\_ri\\_wp\\_2023-24.pdf](https://smart-networks.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/sns_ri_wp_2023-24.pdf)

See in particular **Appendix 1: Additional Conditions of the SNS 2023 Call**  
**page 42**, detailing all **SNS call specific conditions**

## **IMPORTANT BACKGROUND READING**

FAQ's: <https://smart-networks.europa.eu/faq-2/>

# Specific Call Conditions

## Appendix 1: Additional Conditions of the SNS 2023 Call

### Notes:

- i) The SNS 2023 call conditions are based on the “General Annexes for Horizon Europe call conditions 2023-2024”<sup>27</sup>, with some exceptions and clarification that are specific to SNS and outlined in this Appendix to the Annex II to the SNS Joint Undertaking Work Programme 2023.
- ii) The conditions outlined in this appendix are complementary to the basic conditions outlined in the table provided in the definition of each funded topic of the SNS 2023 call.
- iii) Support to Stakeholders and applicants for this call will be provided through a regularly updated list of “Frequently Asked Questions”, FAQ’s, made available from the Participants’ Tender Portal.

**Call identifier:** HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023

**Opening date:** 17 January 2023

**Type of call:** single stage call

**Submission of Proposals deadline:** 25 April 2023 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

**Indicative budget:** EUR 132 million

Call Conditions are based on the **“General Annexes for Horizon Europe call conditions 2023-2024”**:

[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)

➔ Some of the provisions of the General Annexes have been amended to cover the specificities of the SNS Joint Undertaking.

# Specific Call Conditions

## Specific Conditions cover

- Admissibility
- Eligibility: topics restricted to 6G-IA members or semi restricted
- Generation of “IKOP”, In Kind Contribution to Operational Costs and related
- SME participation
- Sovereignty aspects
- Security clause for **Stream D**
- Financial Support to 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties aka Cascading Grants in **Stream D**
- Collaboration between projects

# Admissibility

**Relates to maximum page number of the Proposal;**

**Flexible approach retained:**

*The limit for a full application is **100 pages** for RIA's submitted under Stream B, C, and for IA's submitted under Stream D. Proponents are encouraged to **modulate the page number** of their proposals, from an indicative 70 pages for proposals with low number of partners and very specific focus up to maximum 100 pages for complex proposals covering multiple technological dimensions and with large number of partners.*

**The limit for a full application is 50 pages for submission of CSA's**

# Eligibility

**Relates to consortium composition**

**Target: IKOP generation**

| <b>HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023-STREAM-B (RIA)</b>   |            |
|---|------------|
| 01-01: System Architecture  | 20.0       |
| 01-02: Wireless Communication Technologies and Signal Processing                        | 24.0       |
| 01-03: Communication Infrastructure Technologies and Devices                            | 12.0       |
| 01-04: Reliable Services and Smart Security   | 16.0       |
| 01-05: Microelectronic-based solutions for 6G networks                                  | 15.0       |
| 01-06: EU-US 6G R&I Cooperation   | 3.0        |
| <b>HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023-STREAM-C (RIA)</b>   |            |
| 01-01: Complementary SNS experimental Pan-EU federated Infrastructure                   | 14.0       |
| <b>HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023-STREAM-D (IA, with FSTP)</b>                                     |            |
| 01-01: SNS Large Scale Trials and Pilots (LST&Ps) with Verticals (IA)<br>– Focused Call | 27.0       |
| <b>HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023-STREAM-CSA (CSA)</b>   |            |
| 01-01: SNS Societal Challenges  | 1.0        |
| <b>Total (M€)</b>   | <b>132</b> |

Open, IKOP  
Incentive apply

Budget half  
restricted to 6G-IA  
members

Restricted to 6G-IA  
members

No restriction from  
Gal Annexes

**Basis: Self Declaration  
in proposal**

# In Kind Contribution to Operational Costs (IKOP) – Award Criteria

**In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities (IKOP)** are legally defined (SBA) as follows:

*in-kind contributions to operational activities means **contributions by private members, constituent entities or the affiliated entities of either, by international organisations and by contributing partners, consisting of the eligible costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions less the contribution of that joint undertaking and of the participating states of that joint undertaking to those costs.***

***Estimated value of the IKOP for this Call*** by the members other than the Union or their constituent entities: **Minimum EUR 8 million.**

**→ A minimum programme level **IKOP contribution of 6%** is targeted and proposals are expected to significantly contribute to this target (but not eligibility criterion)**





# In Kind Contribution to Operational Costs (IKOP) – Award Criteria

- **In Kind Contribution to Operational Activities** is an important tool to stimulate private investments in addition to public investments as requested by the JU implementation;
- **IKOP can only be generated** by entities belonging to the « Member other than the Union » signatory to the JU. **In that case, it is the 6G-Infrastructure Association**

**Private entities** belonging to the 6G-IA will naturally generate IKOP due to the reduced funding Rate (90% RIA/CSA, 70% IA)

**IKOP specific Impact sub-criterion** : *-Extent to which the members of the proposed consortium contribute to the expected level of in-kind contribution to operational activities to help reaching the target additional investments*

**NB:** For the **non** (semi) restricted topics, this target corresponds **to 2,6% percentage of IKOP** vs the overall reimbursed budget for these projects.

**IKOP level**, tool to **break the ties** between equally marked proposals

***The IKOP percentage level of the proposal is to be specified in table 3.1k of part B***

# Small and Medium Enterprises

**Target for SME participation is at 20% at programme level.** Similar to previous programmes

**SME specific Impact sub-criterion :** *SME Participation and opportunities to leverage project results.*

**SME participation** expected to be uneven across projects;

**SME Budget** used to **break ties** between equally marked proposals

# Breaking the ties

*- **When two RIA proposals are equally ranked** and that it has not been possible to separate them using first the coverage criterion, second the excellence criterion, and third the generic Impact criterion (i.e. after step 2 of the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex), **the level of SME participation will be taken as the next criterion** to sort out the ties and if still un-conclusive, **the level of IKOP will be considered as appropriate**. If still inconclusive, the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex will be resumed from step 3 onwards.*

*- **When two IA proposals are equally ranked** and that it has not been possible to separate them using first the coverage criterion, second the impact criterion, and third the excellence criterion (i.e. after step 2 of the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex), **the level of SME participation will be taken as the next criterion** to sort out the ties and if still un-conclusive, **the level of IKOP will be considered as appropriate**. If still inconclusive, the procedure outlined in part F of the General Annex will be resumed from step 3 onwards.*

# Sovereignty Aspects

*...the Horizon Europe SNS Partnership targets a **reinforced European leadership** in the field of next generation network technologies (6G), connected devices and services, while accelerating European digital industry uptake and digitisation of economy and society. It aims at positioning Europe as a lead market and positively impact the citizen's quality of life, by supporting key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while boosting the European data economy **and contributing to ensure European sovereignty in these critical supply chains.***

➔ Introduction in the impact section of a **sub criterion** assessing the proposal contribution to the reinforcement of an EU supply side in the context of sovereignty: **EU added value in the context of EU supply side industry competitiveness and positioning in the supply chain**

# Stream D specific ranking Procedure

For HORIZON-JU-SNS-2023-STREAM-D-01-01: SNS Large Scale Trials and Pilots (LST&Ps) with Verticals – Focused Topic, **the ranking of proposals will take into account the need to cover the two identified priorities under this topic**, namely:

- **Use Case Priority 1** on connected and automated mobility (CAM) vertical and intelligent terrestrial transportation.
- **Use Case Priority 2** with following verticals (to be considered independently or in combination): Health, Smart Cities, Farming, or Education.

To ensure a portfolio covering both priorities **grants will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to one project that is the highest ranked within each of the two Priorities** provided that the proposals attain all thresholds.

In that context, **applicants are invited to clearly specify in their proposal under which Priority they are applying.**

# Security

**Stream D is subject of specific security provisions, aiming at:**

- ensuring the highest level of cybersecurity. Article 170 of the SBA establishing the Smart Networks and Services Joint Undertaking, suggest that network elements deployed for large-scale experimentation or piloting may have to follow security scrutiny assessments.
- demonstrating EU added value, with attention to the role of suppliers in the cyber-security of the network elements deployed for large-scale experimentation or piloting, as well as in the development of a sustainable supply chain from an EU perspective.

In addition any remaining security concerns in proposals need to be addressed. Typical cases include:

- 1) A test infrastructure is connected to an operational network, or is using resources from an operational network.
- 2) Large scale test infrastructure is standalone, i.e. not connected to an operational network, but utilises close-to-commercial equipment connectivity of this operational equipment (or of equipment from vertical companies trialling specific use cases) to equipment from entities established in or controlled from third countries

It has to be ensured that sensitive cybersecurity related information and project results are protected and not, other than in exceptional circumstances, **exposed, either for cooperation purposes during the project or after the project, to entities not established in Member States or controlled from third countries.**

Such security considerations are relevant for the assessment of the potential impact and, if necessary, to be considered in a security scrutiny assessment, where project results considered as security-sensitive information need to be exchanged among project partners.

# Security

As part of the security declaration **the proposal shall contain information** that:

- (a) Demonstrates that the infrastructure deployed within the proposed project shall remain, during the action and for a specified period after its completion, within the beneficiary/beneficiaries and shall not be subject to control or restrictions by entities not established in Member States or controlled from third countries.
- (b) Demonstrates that for any equipment to be deployed for the implementation of the proposed project and/or used for the management and operation of the resulting digital connectivity infrastructure, the **required documents, information and results will be duly protected and not exposed to entities not established in Member States or controlled from third countries**. This should in particular apply to suppliers of equipment as well as suppliers of relevant services.

# Security

Security Declaration specific to Stream D and assesment (**under Impact criterion**) whether

- the proposal presents a risk that potentially sensitive information from cybersecurity point of view, may be exposed within the consortium and further exploitable by third country entities to compromise an operational infrastructure or equipment's that may be used in a complete operational infrastructure.
- How the Consortium plans to address any such risk

**The part A of the proposal includes a “security issues” table** that has to be filled out by for all proposals. In the case of Stream D proposals, possible cybersecurity risks as described in the call text should be identified here, *notably under the second question of item 3 in the table “Other security issues”*. This text in part A is however limited to 1000 characters. . Further information may hence be included **in the mandatory security annex to part B**, detailing the planned mitigation measures to alleviate or suppress the identified security risks.”





# Financial Support to 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties (FSTP)

**Financial Support to Third Parties, FSTP aka “Cascading grants”** are planned for SNS-2023-STREAM-D-01-01, IA implemented under Stream D. **Up to 20%** of the budget of proposals submitted under this topic may be reserved for Third Party Financing.

## Eligible topics

- i) Additional 6G technological capabilities to the network and services test infrastructure;
- ii) Additional technological capabilities needed to support target use cases submitted at proposal level;
- iii) Additional vertical use case capabilities complementing use cases already included in the proposal;
- iv) Expansion of stakeholder base as technology suppliers or users;
- v) Expansion of proposed work in terms of additional pilot sites.

# Financial Support to 3<sup>rd</sup> Parties (FSTP)

**Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties in the form of grants.**

The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is of **EUR 300.000**

**Proposals should provide a description of the use of the financial support to third parties, addressing:**

- the targeted objectives and results;
- the reason why the target financing to third party requires to exceed the default EUR 60.000 planned for such actions;
- the different types of activities that qualify for financial support;
- the criteria for giving financial support

**It is recommended that the beneficiary providing third party financing is an entity eligible for 100% of reimbursement of the eligible costs.**

# Cross project collaboration

**Collaboration:** projects contracted under this call will be expected to enter into a collaboration agreement to jointly work on topics of mutual interests. They will be subject to a collaboration contractual clause outlined in the Model Grant Agreement

**Suggestion:** specify explicitly in your proposal your agreement to enter into such a collaborative mode.