

INFRAINNOV-03-2020: Co-Innovation platform for research infrastructure technologies

Specific Challenge: Research infrastructures, as providers of advanced services and as procurers of leading-edge technologies, have an innovation potential that has not always been sufficiently exploited. Opportunities provided by the development of components, instruments, services and knowledge for the implementation and upgrade of research infrastructures, could be better exploited to push the limits of existing technologies. There is a clear innovation potential associated with procurement from industry during the construction and upgrade of research infrastructures.

A co-innovation approach to continuously generate, scale and deploy breakthrough technologies with market and social value needs to be adopted by research infrastructures.

Scope: The aim is the establishment of an open initiative oriented towards a novel research and innovation collaborative framework engaging both the research communities in Europe using Research Infrastructures and the industry (including SMEs), for the mutual benefit of these stakeholders and the European society at large.

Under the previous Work Programme, through a pilot action, support has been provided to a wide number of proofs of concept demonstrating the potential for industrial application and exploitation of innovative solutions based on research infrastructure technologies. Proposals under this topic should focus on the most promising outcomes of the past pilot action¹ as well as on other valuable opportunities of exploitation of research infrastructure technologies for industrial applications, to further support their development and substantially raise their TRL. These opportunities should have breakthrough potential across Europe, be feasible and scalable, as well as exploitable for industrial applications having societal value.

This action allows for the provision of financial support to third parties in line with the conditions set out in Part K of the General Annexes. Being the financial support to third parties the primary aim of the action, at least 80% of the EU contribution should be used to this scope. Due to the nature of the work to be supported and taking into account that the support for the proofs of concept was already in the order of EUR 100 000 each, the contribution to a third party will go beyond EUR 60 000. The selection of the third parties to be supported under the grant will be based on an external independent peer review of their proposed work.

The calls to be launched within the grant for the selection of third parties should respect the rules and conditions laid out in Annex K of the Work Programme, in particular as regard transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality.

While the past pilot action mainly addressed the industrial applications of detection and imaging technologies in the fields of medicine, manufacturing industry, aerospace, ICT,

¹ <https://attract-eu.com/>

engineering, environmental sciences, proposals under this topic can also encompass different research infrastructure technologies.

Particular attention should be given to impact, dissemination strategy and the appropriate management of the IPR of the involved research infrastructures as well as to the cost efficiency and transparency of project administration. Proposals should enable the best conditions for the full exploitation by industrial partners of the innovation potential of research infrastructures and support technology and innovation transfer and joint development of high-tech products

Proposals should include clear indicators to monitor and assess the progress towards the action objectives.

Grants awarded under this topic will be complementary to the actions awarded under topic INFRAINNOV-04-2020. The main purpose of the collaboration agreements referred to in Article 41.4 of the MGA is to exploit related synergies and avoid overlaps. Cooperation with the projects funded under topic INFRAINNOV-02-2019 is also encouraged.

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 35 million would allow this topic to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact: This activity will:

- establish a co-innovation platform to transparently promote the use of research infrastructure technologies for industrial applications across Europe
- increase the capacity to generate, absorb and use new technologies in Europe;
- enhance the innovation capability of European Research Infrastructures;
- raise the awareness of industry (including SMEs) regarding opportunities offered by research infrastructure to improve their products, e.g. as experimental test facilities, innovation hubs, knowledge-based centres;
- support the integration of research infrastructures into local, regional and global innovation systems;
- when applicable, the socio-economic impact of past investments in research infrastructures from the European Structural and Investment Funds is enhanced.

Type of Action: Research and Innovation action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

INFRAINNOV-04-2020: Innovation pilots

Specific Challenge: Pan-European Research Infrastructures use more and more sophisticated technologies not available on the market, which require ad-hoc developments and often the use of large-scale platforms combining R&D (Research and Development), integration and validation. These platforms can also provide longer-term visibility and involvement of European industry in scientific and technological advancements and therefore ensure greater socio-economic impact.

Scope: Funding will be provided to research infrastructure networks to kick-start the implementation of a common strategy/roadmap for technological developments required for improving their services through partnership with industry. Proposals should then involve research infrastructures, industry and SMEs to promote innovation and knowledge sharing through co-creation of needed technical solutions and make use, when appropriate, of large-scale platforms combining R&D (Research and Development), integration and validation for the technological developments.

Proposals should address:

industry, infrastructure

- if not already done, the identification of key techniques and trends which are crucial for future construction and upgrade of the involved Research Infrastructures and the definition of roadmaps and/or strategic agendas for their development, in close partnership with the industrial partners, especially with innovative SMEs;
- the development of the identified fundamental technologies or techniques underpinning the efficient and joint use of the involved research infrastructures, taking into due account resource efficiency and environmental (including climate-related) impacts.
- the prototyping of higher performance methodologies, protocols, and instrumentation, including the testing of components, subsystems, materials, and dedicated software, needed to upgrade the involved research infrastructures or construct their next generation.

As the grant will not cover the full implementation of the common strategy/roadmap for technological developments, proposals should define a sustainability plan for its further implementation. Proposals should contribute to fostering the potential for innovation of research infrastructures by reinforcing the partnership with industry, through e.g. transfer of knowledge and other dissemination activities, activities to promote the use of research infrastructures by industrial researchers, involvement of industrial associations in consortia or in advisory bodies.

Grants awarded under this topic will be complementary to the actions awarded under topic INFRAINNOV-03-2020. The respective options for complementary grants of Article 2, Article 31.6 and Article 41.4 of the Model Grant Agreement (MGA) will be applied. The main purpose of the collaboration agreements referred to in Article 41.4 of the MGA is to identify and better exploit related synergies and to avoid overlaps. Proposals should also build

on results from past/ongoing projects, such as AMICI, or the one funded under topic INFRAINNOV-02-2019.

This topic targets 'Advanced Communities' which have reached a high level of integration and can focus on joint research developments. On the basis of a multiannual plan drafted taking also into account the assessment and the timing of previous grants, this work programme invites proposals addressing the following three domains:

- Innovation in light source technologies
- Innovation in detector technologies
- Innovation in accelerator technologies

The Commission considers that proposals requesting a contribution from the EU of up to EUR 10 million would allow this topic to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of proposals requesting other amounts.

Expected Impact: This activity will:

- Enhance the scientific competitiveness of European Research Infrastructures in the long-term and the further development of innovative companies;
- Facilitate the creation of both large and viable markets and structuring industrial partners in a critical mass to enable European industry to respond to demands from international Research Infrastructures;
- Support the integration of research infrastructures into local, regional and global innovation systems.

Type of Action: Research and Innovation action

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

Conditions for the Call - Demonstrating the role of Research Infrastructures in the translation of Open Science into Open Innovation

Opening date(s), deadline(s), indicative budget(s):²

Topics (Type of Action)	Budgets (EUR million)	Deadlines
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² The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.

The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.

All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.

The deadline(s) in 2020 are indicative and subject to a separate financing decision for 2020.

The budget amounts for the 2020 budget are indicative and will be subject to separate financing decisions to cover the amounts to be allocated for 2020.

	2019	2020	
Opening: 14 Nov 2018			
INFRAINNOV-02-2019 (CSA)	1.50		20 Mar 2019
Opening: 28 Nov 2019			
INFRAINNOV-03-2020 (RIA)		35.00	17 Mar 2020
INFRAINNOV-04-2020 (RIA)		30.00	
Overall indicative budget	1.50	65.00	

Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement signature:

For single stage procedure:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: Maximum 5 months from the final date for submission; and
- Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: Maximum 8 months from the final date for submission.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in General Annexes B and C of the work programme.

Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in General Annex H of the work programme. The following exceptions apply:

INFRAINNOV-04-2020	<p><i>For the criterion Excellence, in addition to its standard sub-criteria, the following aspect will also be taken into account;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent to which the proposed work will contribute to quantitative and qualitative improvements of the services provided by the infrastructures.
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Evaluation Procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in General Annex H of the work programme.

The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant guide published on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

Grant Conditions:

INFRAINNOV-02-2019, INFRAINNOV-03-2020,	For grants awarded under this topic capitalised and operating costs of 'large research infrastructures' as defined in the Article 6.2.D.4 of the <u>Model Grant Agreement</u> are not eligible.
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INFRAINNOV-04-2020	
INFRAINNOV-03-2020, INFRAINNOV-04-2020	<p>Grants awarded under these topics will be complementary between them.</p> <p>The respective options of Article 2, Article 31.6 and Article 41.4 2 of the <u>Model Grant Agreement</u> will be applied.</p>
INFRAINNOV-03-2020	<p>For grants awarded under this topic beneficiaries may provide support to third parties as described in <u>part K of the General Annexes of the Work Programme</u>. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The respective options of Article 15.1 and Article 15.3 of the <u>Model Grant Agreement</u> will be applied.</p>

Consortium agreement:

INFRAINNOV-02-2019, INFRAINNOV-03-2020, INFRAINNOV-04-2020	<p>Members of consortium are required to conclude a consortium agreement, in principle prior to the signature of the grant agreement.</p>
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