5G
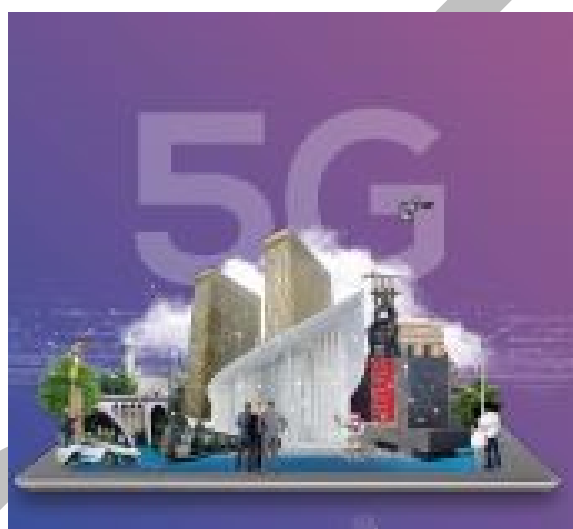
Call for Projects - FAQ

- Release 1.0: 06.08.2019

General considerations:

- Questions were rephrased or corrected in case of grammatical mistakes
- Redundant or similar questions were dropped, merged or combined in order to increase the readability of the answers.

1. Scope of the call for project

1.1. Thematic scope

Q: Does the CfP only target technological projects?

A: no, the CfP also addresses other types of projects, still, these shall rely on 5G or related technologies.

Q: Industrial research definition includes lab demos or prototypes. Is proof of network infrastructure from operators needed for this case?

A: It will depend on the precise project whether it makes sense to limit it to lab demos or prototypes or whether it already makes sense to also include field test.

Q: Are purely social projects possible?

A: Yes, projects are not required to be of commercial use only.

1.2. Geographical scope

Q: Are projects only eligible if operated within the pioneering zones mentioned in the national 5G strategy?

A: No. These pioneering zones are very suitable for the operation of pilot projects, but are not the only suitable zones. An ideal pioneering zone can host several pilot projects in parallel and / or subsequently.

1.3. Project applicants and partnerships

Q: Can universities and public research institutes lead proposals?

Yes.

Q: What is the definition of a young, small and large enterprise?

A: A young enterprise is an enterprise that was created within the last 5 years.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361. The main factors determining whether an enterprise is an SME are:

- staff headcount

- either turnover or balance sheet total

Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	or	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m		≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m		≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m		≤ € 2 m

These ceilings apply to the figures for individual firms only. A firm that is part of a larger group may need to include staff headcount/turnover/balance sheet data from that group too.

For more details: The revised User Guide to the SME definition

Q: Can you confirm that not only small companies / start-ups are eligible, but also larger international technology companies (present in Luxembourg)?

A: Yes, large companies are eligible too.

Q: What type of legal entity should the consortium be of? And should it be established before or at the moment of the application?

A: The CfP does not impose nor suggest a specific form in which the consortium should be formalised.

For the project submission, a simple memorandum of understanding might suffice. Latest for the signing of the grant agreement a formal consortium agreement needs to be handed in.

Q: In a consortium, do we have to make conventions between all the partners?

A: All partners forming a consortium shall be signing the consortium agreement. A project might include additional partners, but which are not core to the project (who are subcontractors,…). It is up to the applicants to decide about the consortium members.

Q: In case of 2 similar projects, did you make a link between these 2 project leaders?

A: The CfP does not foresee that similar project shall be merged.

Q: How many organisations have expressed interest in taking part?

A: The CfP does not include a "pre-registration", so a concrete number of organisations interested in taking part cannot be given.

1.4.   Level of co-funding

Q: Are the level of co-funding always 50%

A: No. The applicant can submit projects with levels of co-funding that are lower than the maximum level foreseen in this call.

- *A higher level of percentage is possible for certain types of projects (as described in section 1.4.).*
- *A lower percentage of co-funding than the maximum level possible can be considered an advantage over similar projects with a higher percentage of co-funding.*

Q: RFP provides no information on the total budget available in this RFP. Given this and the above clarification, it can then be estimated how many projects will be selected for co-funding in this Call.

A: With release of v1.2. of the call for projects, this information is provided. See in section 2.4. for the amounts.

Q: Could you support us for the infrastructure?

A: Yes. As an example, the set up of a signalling antenna could be supported within the co-funding. But it should either be clearly documented and reasonable to use the equipment only for the purpose of the project (and therefore consider it to 100% in the budget), or it should be clear to what extend (percentage over time and/or percentage of use over project duration) the equipment is used and therefore only consider this pro-rate of the equipment cost in the project.

1.5.   Non-disclosure and publication of project outcomes

Q: What steps are proposed about preserving the confidentiality of submissions for projects, on the Ministry/assessing team side? Will the assessors sign NDAs?

A: Yes, all people working on the evaluation of the CfP will sign a non disclosure agreement (NDA).

2. Eligible projects

2.1. Service layer

2.2. Network layer

2.2.1. Network topology and architecture

Q: Is the use of 5g NR equipment mandatory for the proposed project?

A: No. The CfP is technologically neutral, but the chosen technology should be equivalent to 5G, as described in the CfP.

Q: Do participants need to just specify who shall provide the layer of infrastructure - or also show proof of agreement with the specific infrastructure provider?

A: Applicants should hand in a proof of such an agreement: letter of support, collaboration agreement,… The eventual costs of such an underlying infrastructure should also be visible in the project budget and ideally should not be an unconfirmed estimate.

2.3. Project management layer

2.3.1. Work packages and responsibilities

2.3.2. Objectives

2.3.3. Project timeline

Q: Can a project have a delayed start (for example start after one year)? This could be due to a current lack of products / solutions availability or maturity.

Yes. If the initially planned starting date can't be met, the project leader can inform the SMC about this. If this late start also requires an extension of the project end to a later moment, the project leader shall request a change of project dates. This can be granted as referred to in section XX of the CfP.

2.3.4. Budget and funding

Q: Can we apply if we already started the project we will submit? Will the funding be only on the milestones after submission is accepted?

A: In order to be eligible, the project shall not have started before it is handed in. For a project that has not yet started before the handing in of the project, the eligibility of costs shall start by 1.10.2019.

Q: Is cofunding that has to go through a parallel evaluation process (eg FNR) considered a weakness/risk for the 5g proposal?

A: It will neither a weakness of nor a risk for the project. Of course one same cost cannot be subsidised twice.

2.3.5. Appointed human resources

2.3.6. Management capability

Q: Can one applicant submit more than 1 project

A: Yes. But the applicant should also prove that he is able to handle and manage the projects that it is submitting.

2.3.7. Risk assessment and risk management

3. Administrative details

3.1. Identification of project applicants

Q: It is not clear whether international cooperation is allowed or not.

A: The document makes no reference to Luxembourg-based companies only. Applicants from any country can apply. To be eligible, a project has to display an impact within the Luxembourg ecosystem. In section 3.1. of the CfP a support letter of network partner / network supplier and in section 1.3. the geographical scope to be explained in the application is explained.

Q: No limit of project submissions per partner is specified in the RFP

A: Indeed, there is no such limit mentioned in the CfP. In section 3.1. it is specified that a consortium can submit one or more proposals. The same applies also to single applicants. In case of multiple projects getting submitted, the applicants have to be aware that during evaluation projects will be screened upon uniqueness (section 3.1.), upon available and appropriate human resources (section 2.3.5.) and upon decent management capabilities (section 2.3.6.). *In other words: a single applicant, especially from a small entity) submitting a long list of projects will have to prove being able to handle these projects.*

3.1.1. Financial capacity and applicant details

3.2. Declaration of honour

4. Submission and grant awarding process

Q: Do evaluation experts have academic, industrial or innovation background? Are there any sub-criteria and weighting? Will we receive the detailed reviews?

A: The Experts Committee is going to be composed of experts from the academia, from business background and from the area of innovation. The sub-criteria and the weighting are meanwhile published on the CfP webpage.

Q: The inclusion of national experts in the evaluation process might create conflicts of interest. How is this addressed?

A: The experts will mainly be international experts. If still one expert has a conflict of interest for one particular project, the expert will be able to indicate this at an early stage and he then will be excluded for evaluating or rating of this particular project.

4.1. Instructions for drafting the proposal

4.2. CfP timeline

4.3. Contact Details

4.4. Submission deadline and delivery method

Q: Does the SMC eventually plan a 2nd call for projects in Q1/2020?

A: Yes, the SMC intends to launch a second call for projects in Q1/2020.

Q: No draft grant agreement is provided within the RFP. It would be helpful if such draft agreement was provided together with the RFP data package.

A: A first draft of the grant agreement is foreseen to be released by August 2019.