

5G

Call for Projects II

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in the frame of the conference

“Connecting tomorrow”

5-7 October 2021



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Introduction

In September 2018, Luxembourg's Prime Minister and Minister for Communications and Media, Xavier Bettel, presented Luxembourg's strategy for the implementation of 5G networks. Luxembourg's vision is to be amongst the leaders in 5G, while seeking to make the most of the new technology towards improving the wellbeing of its citizens and driving economic growth for the country. The Government is committed to making all necessary efforts to meet the deadlines set by the European Commission in its '5G for Europe Action Plan'. The Commission's action plan shall pave the way for the so-called 'Gigabit society' by 2025, when all urban areas, major roads and railways, are expected to have uninterrupted 5G coverage.

In June 2019, the Department of Media, Telecommunication and Digital Policy (hereafter also the "SMC"; Service des Médias, des Communications et du Numérique) launched a first call for innovative 5G projects. Not less than 29 projects were submitted, where from the first projects were ready for kick-off at the end of 2020.

While these projects have a duration of mostly two years, the Department of Media, Telecommunication and Digital Policy is launching a second call for projects, aiming at smaller projects, smaller in duration and in scope.

The assignation of the first 5G pioneer bands, namely the ones of 700 MHz and of 3,6 GHz, took place in Summer 2020. The Luxembourgish network operators are since deploying the new generation of 5G antennas. Since autumn 2020, the first public mobile 5G networks are operational in Luxembourg.

Parallel to the elaboration and publication of the national 5G strategy, the Department of Media, Telecommunications and Digital Policy has been organizing public conferences in order to create a platform of information and experience sharing in regards to the 5G technology. The first conference took place in December of 2018, while a second conference was organized in November 2019.

In Autumn 2021, the third conference on current public networks is set to take place in Luxembourg-Kirchberg. With the present call, the SMC is seeking for projects that highlight one or more benefits linked to the performance of a 5G network.

1. Scope of the Call for Projects

The present Call for Projects (CfP) is intended to allow interested parties, alone or in a consortium, to propose hand-on and/or creative 5G showcases based on 5G technologies alone or in conjunction with other communication standards and/or technologies. These projects will be relying on, or highlighting the added value of 5G or of equivalent, substitutable or complementary communication technologies.

1.1. Scope

The CfP is aimed at generating projects with a visibility at the 2021 conference “Connecting tomorrow: 5G, Broadband and beyond”. The conference is taking place from 5th-7th October 2021 at Luxembourg-Kirchberg, more precisely at the “LuxExpo The box” conference location.

The applications and services within the submitted projects are expected to highlight the use of 5G or substitutable technologies.

Projects can be proposed under three categories:

- 5G showcase
- Science communication
- Innovative conference coverage

1.2. Project duration

Projects eligible for the present CfP shall have a minimum duration of 2 months and shall be terminated latest by February 28, 2022.

1.3. Project applications and partnerships

The nature of this CfP invites single or multiple project organisers to participate. Project coordinators shall be non-for-profit organisations registered in Luxembourg. They can form partnerships with organisations from outside Luxembourg or involve contribution from businesses and research entities. Such contributions need to be specified, particularly in case of in-kind contributions.

Project coordinators may rely on sub-contractors to perform certain aspects of the project, particularly the technical layers. The nature and volume of sub-contracting has to be detailed in the application.

1.4. Level of co-funding

The present call for proposals aims at co-funding projects as follows:

1. Up to 100% of (co-)funding for projects submitted by non-for-profit organizations based in Luxembourg, not aiming at providing a commercial service or providing an economic activity in relation to the project. Project in the category “innovative conference coverage” can also be submitted by commercial entities, as long as the project is not aiming at providing a commercial service or providing an economic activity.
2. Own contribution as well as contributions by other parties are considered an advantage during the project evaluation.
3. Contributions can be in-kind and/or financial. In either case, they shall be clearly announced, reasonable and directly related to the project.

4. A lower percentage of requested funding is considered an advantage during the project evaluation. The maximum amount of funding is limited by the budget allocated to the SMC for the given funding year.

The present call for projects is based on a planned budget of co-funding of 1 million €, with an estimated average amount of 200.000 € of co-funding per project.

! Project applicants have to detail any other form of public support that might be received in relation with the proposed project.

2. Eligible projects

Projects must be submitted under one of the following three categories (2.1., 2.2. or 2.3.). While only one project is planned to be chosen for category 2.3., several projects can be chosen for categories 2.1. and 2.2. The category of the project must be clearly stated in the submission by the project coordinator.

2.1. 5G Showcase

Projects submitted under this heading are to highlight what added-value 5G (or of an equivalent, substitutable or complementary communication technologies) brings to a specific activity in the fields of arts, culture, sports or any other leisure or entertainment activity.

The project therefore should include one or more of the following aspects:

- a show / performance / live presentation that can be integrated in the programme on the main stage, meaning in the morning of the first, second or third day of the conference. The duration of such an intervention should be of 2-5 minutes.
- A workshop in the afternoon, where the subject of the project is being showcased in detail. Ideally, such a workshop is designed in an interactive way, both with the audience on location and online. Such a workshop will be programmed on the first, second or third day of the conference.
- A presence as exhibitor during the fair that will accompany the conference.

The project proposal shall furthermore contain at least one additional performance / presentation to take place after the conference itself, and at a time and location proposed by the project coordinator or defined in cooperation with the SMC. This additional performance or presentation does not have to be limited to 2-5 minutes, but can be (but must not be) longer in duration.

2.2. Science communication

Projects submitted under this heading are to explain to a wider audience specific aspects of wireless communication and of 5G technology in particular.

The project therefore should include one or more of the following aspects:

- a show / performance / live presentation that can be integrated in the programme on the main stage, meaning in the morning of the first, second or third day of the conference. The duration of such an intervention should be of 2-5 minutes.
- A workshop in the afternoon, where the subject of the project is being showcased in detail. Ideally, such a workshop is designed in an interactive way, both with the audience on location and online. Such a workshop will be programmed on the first, second or third day of the conference.
- A presence as exhibitor during the fair that will accompany the conference.

The project proposal shall furthermore detail how the efforts done in the frame of the conference will be transferred into regular activities, e.g. in the frame of an exhibition or a museum.

2.3. Innovative conference coverage

The conference is designed to attract an expected audience of up to 500 participants, wherefrom a large portion can be considered “early adopters” of ICT. At least a handful of exhibitors are expected to showcase their innovative apps and services. For the conference, therefore, the SMC would like to

complement the existing indoor connectivity (broadband, mobile networks up to 4G and wifi) with additional state of the art technologies.

With this call, the SMC is looking for one or more projects to propose innovative network coverage solutions by deploying an integrated indoor network with 5G antennas and or substitutable technologies from one or multiple vendors while offering its assets on an open-access basis to all of the network operators currently active in Luxembourg that wish to cooperate in such a pilot project. This project is done for demonstration and evaluation purposes and should provide feedback on network performances and electromagnetic fields (EMF) exposure of an integrated network.

The project application therefore should include the following aspects:

- Operate and service a live wireless network with state of the art performance levels available during the time of the conference
- A workshop in the afternoon, where the subject of the project is explained in detail. Ideally, such a workshop is designed in an interactive way, with the network operators and research bodies. Such a workshop will be programmed on the first, second or third day of the conference;
- Physical presence during the conference (as exhibitor if possible);
- Provide technical analysis of the network performances (like data throughput, latency, network saturation, etc.);
- Provide scientific measurements of EMF exposure occurred during the conference;
- Maximizing the reuse of existing infrastructures, while providing innovative and useful services to end users.

The conference coverage networks should use 5G and/or LiFi technologies. The network should cover the entire indoor area of the conference of approximately 2500m². Detailed location information will be provided once the expression of interest for the innovative conference coverage call has been introduced via 5G@smc.etat.lu.

If the network is to be within the 5G standards, it should be operated in the 3.6 GHz band using the frequency allocations of the involved Luxembourgish network operators.

Only one project per network technology is foreseen to be retained.

Any party interested in the implementation and understanding of the network structure may express their interest to provide free of charge support to the implementing project coordinator.

The applications submitted for any of the before-mentioned three categories shall address in further details the following types of information:

3. Application guidelines

Applications are considered eligible, if they are submitted on time and in due form. In order to be retained for evaluation, proposals must fulfil all of the following eligibility criteria:

- Be submitted before the deadline (see section 4.7.);
- Contain all information requested in the central application form;
 - o Additional supporting documents may be requested during the evaluation process, with reasonable response times;
- Fall within the scope of the present call for proposals;

All applications should be submitted in English language.

The application shall be based on the application form and shall not exceed 20 pages (font size and margins unchanged from the template provided, excluding annexes). Information contained in the application shall be clear and understandable by itself. Supporting documentation can be supplied as part of the technical responses. Explanation shall be tailored to answer the particular question(s) posed and shall not consist of marketing material.

References to additional information (e.g. online) is not considered.

Please address any clarification questions within the time limit defined in **Error! Reference source not found.** Questions should be addressed to the contact points listed in section 4.6. All answers will be made publicly available on the same online platform as the CfP itself. By submitting a project proposal, project coordinators automatically consent on collaborating in the measurement and the evaluation of the impact of the proposed project, such as the impact of electromagnetic waves on citizens living within the range of 5G antennae.

The project coordinators consent in collaborating with governmental bodies performing or coordinating such measurements.

Co-funded projects shall deliver one final public report, displaying the achievements made through the project period, be it on a technical level and or an end-user level.

3.1. Technical layer

In this section, the project applicants shall detail the technical services they would like to rely on.

Project applicants shall provide sufficient details about the driving elements for their project: This should include a description of the technical needs, the challenges and the feasibility of the proposed project. It should detail which technical aspects will be innovative or pioneering.

The submitted projects based on 5G or substitutable networks should emphasize around one or more of the following technical potentials of modern telecommunication networks:

1. Low latency
2. Ultra-reliable communications
3. Enhanced Mobile Broadband (ultra-high-speed connection with uniform service quality)
4. Massive IoT / massive machine type communications
5. Energy efficient transmission
6. MIMO (multiple-input and multiple-output)
7. Beamforming
8. Edge computing
9. and/ or any other new technology

The project proposals should specify whether it is requiring solely indoor coverage or whether eventually also outdoor coverage is required.

If the project involves a further showcase at additional location(s), the project proposal should indicate how the 5G network coverage is guaranteed.

Additional impact and visibility within Luxembourg and beyond Luxembourg is considered an asset. The project shall specify in its description how such an impact beyond the conference is achieved.

3.2. Social reach

This section requires the applicants to describe the social impact the project is intended to generate.

In this section, it is also important to detail how you intend to disseminate the project and the project results by your own means, through your existing communication channels and networks.

3.3. Management layer

3.3.1. Work packages and responsibilities

The proposed projects should be detailed in four work packages:

- WP 1: Project preparation and set-up: please detail which preparations are required to enable the project
- WP 2: Conference show-case
- WP 3: Further show-cases: please describe at which occasions the project show-case can be repeated in the aftermath of the conference
- WP 4: Project wrap-up: please describe how you intend to document the project and include sufficient time to submit the final report

The applicants shall detail the four work packages as laid out above. In case of multiple project partners, it furthermore should be clear which partner or sub-contractors are responsible for or involved in which work package.

3.3.2. Objectives

The main objectives addressed in the project should be clearly identified by the project applicants. Project objectives shall be SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound.

3.3.3. Project timeline

The project applicants shall indicate the duration of the project together with a planned timeline for the work packages and the main milestones and / or performance indicators.

3.3.4. Budget and funding

The project applicants shall define the budget of their project by detailing the cost categories and the allocation of the funds (in case of a consortium) per consortium member if required.

Only direct costs, meaning that can be directly attributed to the project, are eligible for co-funding:

1. Costs for personnel, directly appointed to the project;
2. Equipment (hardware / software / supplies) directly linked to the project. In case of equipment with shared use and/or with a use beyond the project period, the respective pro-rata is to be budgeted;

3. Consumables;
4. IP rights for IP used exclusively for the project;
5. Travel and training costs (only including reasonable costs that are duly justified and directly linked and essential to the project)
6. Sub-contracting
7. Other costs

Costs are eligible if they arise after the submission of the project, but before the signing of the grant agreement only in case the project is accepted for co-funding. Costs arising after the closure of the project cannot be considered.

The project proposal shall indicate the level of co-funding requested. A lower level of public co-funding is considered an advantage. The financing of costs through additional funding sources is possible unless the funding sources exclude each other.

3.3.5. Appointed human resources

The applicants have to specify which and how many human resources will be appointed to the project, as well as provide brief CVs of the key personnel driving the project (including the management staff). In case of not yet filled positions, a detailed recruitment profile can be submitted as an alternative.

3.3.6. Management capability

A proven management capability is needed to both deploy and run the projects during the short time period. Please demonstrate the management capability of the proposed management team for deployment and operations phases by providing a brief description of similar projects and their relevance to the proposed solutions.

Project applicants should shortly be described regarding the key competences and expertise they bring into the project. In case of a consortium, the partners shall furthermore detail how the consortium management is intended to be.

3.3.7. Risk assessment and risk management

Applicants need to provide a risk assessment. These risks may be of technical or financial nature or related to factors beyond the control of the applicants. The following is not an exhaustive list but serves as a basis for the applicants risk assessment:

- **Funding risks** - Risks that may arise from changes in interest rates, inflation, exchange rates and any other element that may affect the project's financial situation.
- **Design and deployment risks** - Risks that include the Infrastructure layer of the project. For instance the infrastructure being capable to host and support the research and test services and applications. Other associated risks include any delays or inappropriate design.
- **Availability risks** - Risks related to the availability of infrastructure and devices and the hosting and provision of projects and services.
- **Operational risks** - Risks associated with the operation of their project.
- **Legal/regulatory risks**: Risks related to e.g. the granting of specific authorisations.

Please provide a list of perceived project risks accompanied by brief management and mitigation plans aiming to minimize their potential impact.

The SMC then is liaising with the team of "LuxExpo the Box".

3.4. Availability of frequencies

The project applicant has to specify whether the project relies on a specific frequency / spectrum.

The network supplier of the selected projects will have to possess the relevant right of use of radio frequencies, either by requesting test frequencies or using an existing regular licence. In principle, the frequencies used for 5G networks should be the frequencies in the 694–790 MHz and 3.4–3.8 GHz radio frequency bands.

- Requests for test frequencies are submitted to the “Institut Luxembourgeois de Régulation” (ILR). The fee for test frequencies is fixed at 200 € per licence¹.
- In any case, the relevant provisions of the “loi modifiée du 30 mai 2005 portant organisation de la gestion des ondes radioélectriques” apply.

Alternatively, applicants can base the proposed project on any other spectrum band, provided the technical provider has been granted the rights of use for it for at least the period of the project duration.

The awarding of a co-funding via the present CfP does not imply any automatic granting of (test) frequencies.

3.5. Other permissions

The awarded parties are responsible to apply for and to obtain building permits or any other required permissions from the relevant authorities, including any authorisations needed under the “loi modifiée du 10 juin 1999 relative aux établissements classés”.

The awarding of a co-funding via the present CfP does not imply any automatic granting of such permissions.

In application of article 8 of the “loi modifiée du 27 février 2011 sur les réseaux et les services de communications électroniques”, the SMC will check in cooperation with the ILR and the project applicants the eventual need for notifying such electronic communication networks and services.

¹ as defined by Article 16 of the *Règlement grand-ducal modifié du 21 février 2013 fixant le montant et les modalités de paiement des redevances pour la mise à disposition de fréquences radioélectriques*.

4. Administrative details

4.1. Non-disclosure of project outcomes

The parties associated in the evaluation, the awarding or the management of the CfP will take care not to disclose commercial elements of the project that are clearly marked as such and that are appropriate as such.

The SMC and its associated partners may publicly mention and/or promote the project that is retained for funding from the moment on that the corresponding grant agreement has been signed.

4.2. Identification of project applicants

Applications are supposed to also reflect the new potentials of 5G mobile communication in the administrative project setup. Project applicants are expected to submit thematically coherent and consistent projects, for which they are invited to create relationships with new partners.

Any natural or legal person fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit a project proposal either individually or as a member of one or several consortia.

Applicants submitting a project as a single applicant should specify their partners and/or subcontractors in the sections regarding the project framework. Applicants that submit their project as a common effort need to form a consortium. If a consortium submits a project, the application should clearly indicate the identity of the project coordinator (lead applicant). This project coordinator shall act as intermediary between the funding source and the consortium.

Single applicants or consortia without a network operator as direct project partner need to submit a formal letter of support from at least one network operator to prove that the project can take place in Luxembourg.

Such a support letter should indicate:

1. Restrictions and limitations that the applicant and the network supplier have agreed for the use of the network (e.g. bandwidth);
2. Agreed timescales for the use of the network;
3. The terms of contract with the network supplier;
4. Further support letters from additional partners, supporters or beneficiaries are considered an added-value.

Any consortium may submit one or more project proposals, as long as each of the proposals differs from other proposals in technical or operational terms.

4.2.1. Financial capacity and applicant details

A sufficient combined economic and financial capacity to guarantee a continuous and satisfactory performance throughout the envisaged lifetime of the contract is necessary.

All applicants shall supply information about:

- The entity and its legal form, registered address, registration number, country of registration;
- If the applicant is partly or wholly owned by one or more other entities, the details mentioned above of these entities need to be supplied as well
- If there are dependencies between several consortium members, this needs to be specified.

On request, the following documents have to be provided during the evaluation phase of the proposal:

- In the case where the applicant is legally obliged to issue balance sheets, published financial statements of the three last financial years. In case the applicant is in business for less than three fiscal years, then the available data for the years of operation.
- If the applicant is not legally required to publish financial statements, a solemn declaration of its economic and financial situation will need to be submitted, sufficient to allow a reasonable assessment of its ongoing viability for the duration of the test period.

4.3. Diligent budget reporting and documentation

The applicants need to fully collaborate in case any question arises concerning potential double funding or infringements of state aid rules. In this regards, applicants need to keep their documentation, particularly linked to financial details, archived for the duration of 10 years and must grant access to this documentation to the Luxembourgish authorities or their duly entitled representatives.

4.4. Declaration of honour and commitments

All project partners shall submit a declaration of honour certifying that they have not been the subject of a conviction by final judgment for one of the following reasons:

- relating to the (non) payment of taxes or social security contributions;
- relating to insolvency, conflicts of interests or professional misconduct;
- relating to criminal convictions;
- participation in a criminal organization, as defined in Article 2 of Council Framework Decision 2008/841/JHA;
- corruption, as defined in Article 3 of the Convention on the fight against corruption involving officials of the European Communities or officials of Member States of the European Union and Article 2(1) of Council Framework Decision 2003/568/JHA as well as corruption as defined in the national law of Luxembourg;
- fraud;
- terrorist offences or offences linked to terrorist activities, or inciting or aiding or abetting or attempting to commit an offence;
- money laundering or terrorist financing, as defined in Article 1 of Directive 2005/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council;
- child labour and other forms of trafficking in human beings as defined in Article 2 of Directive 2011/36/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council.

Further information or proof of evidence may be requested during the awarding process.

4.5. CfP timeline

Activity	Date
Publication of call	01.07.2021
Public information session for interested applicants	07.07.2021 (11:00 AM CET)
1 st deadline for project categories 2.1. and 2.2.:	
- Date for formal applications to be submitted	08.07.2021 (12:00 PM CET)
- Eligibility check and project evaluation	08.07.-15.07.2021
- Anticipated date for grant allocation decision	16.07.2021
2 nd deadline for project categories 2.1., 2.2. and 2.3.:	
- Date for formal applications to be submitted	15.07.2021 (12:00 PM CET)

- Eligibility check and project evaluation	15.07.-02.08.2021
- Anticipated date for grant allocation decision	02.08.2021
First date of eligibility of expenses	16.07.2021
Project start	16.07.2021 or latest 1 month following the signing of the grant agreement.
Project end	Latest by 28.02.2022

Please note that this timetable is purely indicative and may be subject to change at the sole discretion of the SMC. Such changes will be notified in due time to all project applicants or interested parties.

4.6. Contact Details

The project applicant(s) shall provide a single point of contact for all matters arising from this CfP. In order to ensure consistent treatment of all respondents, any communication regarding this proposal process will be directed to designated contacts only.

The applicant or a duly mandated and informed representative must be available to discuss the details of their proposal during the evaluation process.

Please address any correspondence related to this CfP to SMC at the following email address:

5G@smc.etat.lu

4.7. Submission deadline and delivery method

The deadlines for the submission of a project proposal are as follows:

1st deadline: 08.07.2021; 12:00 p.m. CET

2nd deadline: 15.07.2021; 12:00 p.m. CET

It is up to the discretion of the applicants to submit the project for the deadline that suits them and the needs of their project best. The evaluation criteria will be the same for both deadlines.

Project applications shall be submitted electronically before the closure of the respective deadline via one of the following means:

- For file packages smaller than 10 Mb: by e-mail to 5G@smc.etat.lu)
- For larger packages: by using wetransfer.com (addressed to 5G@smc.etat.lu)

Incomplete applications will be considered during the evaluation phase, but all final documents related to the present CfP shall be submitted before the grant allocation decision.

Any applicant encountering technical difficulties during the submission process is obliged to inform SMC in due time and with the required documentation (screenshots) of the failed attempts.

4.8. Access to the conference location

Participation to the call for project does not automatically grant access to the conference location prior to the conference itself. Project applicants are requested to inform the SMC of their intention or need to check technical requirements concerning the conference location.

Further technical documentation on the conference venue can be requested by all interested parties that are intending to submit a project within the project category 2.3.

The SMC will liaise with the conference location and organise, when deemed necessary, a visit with the technical team of the conference venue will be arranged.

5. Evaluation and grant awarding process

5.1. Evaluation

Project proposals will be evaluated by the conference organization team. The projects will be assessed on the basis of the information contained in the present CfP;

- Projects handed in for the first deadline and evaluated with a sufficient score can be contracted as early as of July 16, 2021.
- Projects handed in for the first deadline and evaluated with an insufficient score might decide for a review of their application and submit the updated project for the second deadline.
- Projects handed in for the second deadline and evaluated with a sufficient score can be contracted as early as of August 2, 2021.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the award criteria:

- 1. Creativity and relevancy**
 - 1.1. Scope and size of targeted audience (both during and after the conference)
 - 1.2. Added-value of the 5G network performance regarding the showcase?
 - 1.3. How creative / innovative is the showcase?
- 2. Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
 - 2.1. Feasibility of showcasing a performance (of 2-4 minutes) during the conference
- 3. Multiplying effect**
 - 3.1. Feasibility of additional performances outside of the pure scope of the conference
 - 3.2. Involvement of additional partners and multipliers
- 4. Request for funding**
 - 4.1. Is the budget duly justified?
 - 4.2. What is the requested level of co-funding?
 - 4.3. Which own resources or in-kind support is allocated to the project application?

Each criteria will be scored from 1 to 5, with 5 reflecting a full compliance with the respective criteria.

This CfP does not commit the SMC to any specific course of action. The issuance of this CfP does not bind the SMC to accept any project, in whole or in part, nor does it bind the SMC to provide any explanation or reason for its decision to accept or reject any application.

Any costs associated with preparing the proposals in response to this CfP, and for providing any additional information required by the SMC to facilitate the evaluation process, are the sole responsibility of each respective applicant and will not be reimbursed.

The applicants shall not use names or signs that refer to, or identify the SMC, Digital Luxembourg or the Government of Luxembourg in publicity releases, promotional or marketing materials, announcements, customer listings, testimonials, or advertising without written consent from the SMC.

Luxembourgish law applies concerning the validity, scope, and interpretation of the CfP. The Luxembourgish courts are competent for any dispute or litigation concerning the grant awarding process.

6. Annex I

6.1. Legal basis

- « Loi du 19 décembre 2021 concernant le budget des recettes et des dépenses de l'Etat pour l'exercice 2021 », specifically its budget lines 00.8.12.347, 00.8.31.010 and 30.8.51.050 ;

6.2. Other potentially applicable legislation

- « Loi modifiée du 27 février 2011 sur les réseaux et les services de communications électroniques » ;
- « Loi du 30 mai 2005 portant organisation de la gestion des ondes radioélectriques » ;
- « Loi modifiée du 10 juin 1999 relative aux établissements classés » ;