

SESAR 3 JOINT UNDERTAKING

Calls for proposals:

HORIZON-SESAR-2025-DES-ER-03

Digital European Sky Exploratory Research 03

HORIZON-SESAR-2025-DES-IR-02

Digital European Sky Industrial Research 02

Questions and Answers

Edition date: 01/04/2025

Edition: 01.00

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1 Document history

Revision	Date	Description
01	01.04.2025	First Version (mostly based on Q&A at the InfoDay held on 20/02/25)

1. CALL CONDITIONS - LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

N.	Call	Question	SESAR 3 JU Answer
1	ER/IR	Where can I find the presentation and the recording of the 2025 Digital European Sky (DES) calls Info-day?	All proceedings are published in SESAR 3 JU website .
2	ER/IR	Is there any specific requirements for the consortium composition?	<p>SESAR 3 JU applies the standard HE provisions as specified in the General Annexes to Horizon Europe Work Programme. This implies that a consortium is requested to include as beneficiaries, three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and – at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries. <p>As affiliated entities do not sign the grant agreement, they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition.</p>
3	ER/IR	What is an Affiliated Entity in Horizon Europe?	<p>Affiliated entities are entities that have a link with a beneficiary, in particular legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation (Art. 190 FR).</p> <p>They participate in the implementation of the action and costs incurred by such entities may be covered by lump sums.</p> <p>The financial contribution of SESAR JU Members to the administrative costs of the JU is an annual fix amount to be split between the Members on the basis of contracted EU funding. Therefore, SESAR JU Members' affiliated entities need to be properly identified in the projects, so that their share of EU funding will be taken into account in the calculation.</p> <p>Entities that used to be linked third parties in SESAR 2020, can now participate as beneficiaries in the DES calls.</p>

4	ER/IR	Is the participation of industrial partners in the project consortia to be funded within the DES 2025 calls a requirement?	There is no general HE requirement regarding consortium composition in terms of partner type (for example industrial, research, higher education etc.). However, for the 2025 DES calls, there are specific requirements about the minimum involvement of participants in call IR2 under WA1-1, WA3-1 and 4-1 (see Annex III, BAWP 2024-2025).
5	ER/IR	Can SMEs lead a consortium? If not, can they still take part?	Yes, SMEs can be consortium coordinators. Their capacity to be coordinators will be assessed in the same way as for other types of legal entities, according to the selection and award criteria.
6	ER/IR	Are Swiss entities eligible to participate?	As stated in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe , transitional arrangements apply to Switzerland. Entities established in Switzerland can participate in these SJU calls under equivalent conditions as legal entities from EU Member States for award procedures implementing the Union budget for the year 2025 onwards. .
7	ER/IR	Are UK entities eligible to participate?	As stated in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe , the association agreement with United Kingdom has started to produce legal effects and United Kingdom is associated for award procedures implementing Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards. Therefore, legal entities established in United Kingdom can participate under equivalent conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States.
8	ER/IR	Are Ukrainian entities eligible to participate?	As stated in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe , the association agreement with Ukraine has started to produce legal effects and legal entities established in Ukraine can participate under equivalent conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States.
9	ER/IR	Are Canadian entities eligible to participate?	As stated in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe , Canada is associated to Horizon Europe Pillar II 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' and for award procedures

			<p>implementing the Union budget for the year 2024 and onwards.</p> <p>Therefore, legal entities established in Canada can participate under equivalent conditions as legal entities from the EU Member States.</p>
10	ER/IR	Are US entities eligible to participate?	<p>The SESAR programme is aligned to Horizon Europe and is open to participants from non-associated non-EU countries such as US.</p> <p>Entities established in US can take part in DES calls without receiving funding from the EU.</p> <p>However, as indicated in the List of Participating Countries in Horizon Europe, they can receive exceptional funding, if SJU considers that their participation as a beneficiary is essential for implementing the project, for example in view of their:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – outstanding competence/expertise – access to particular research infrastructures – access to particular geographical environments – access to particular data.
11	ER/IR	Are entities established in Republic of Korea eligible to participate?	<p>As of 1 January 2025, transitional arrangements apply to Republic of Korea. Entities established in Republic of Korea can participate in these SJU calls under equivalent conditions as legal entities from EU Member States, for award procedures implementing the Union budget starting from year 2025.</p>
12	ER/IR	Can an entity established in a Third Country be considered eligible for funding?	<p>The General Annexes to Horizon Europe Work Programme list the participating countries to the programme eligible for funding.</p> <p>Legal entities established in countries not listed in the General Annexes, can take part in DES calls without receiving funding from the EU.</p>

			However, they can be eligible for funding if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by SJU.
13	ER/IR	Can an entity established in a Third Country be added after the signature of a GA?	<p>Yes. In exceptional and justified cases, entities established in Third Countries can be added after the signature of the GA, without any additional EU funding.</p> <p>The entity must ensure a proper implementation of the project and comply with the criteria of the call conditions.</p>
14	ER/IR	<p>For entities established in Third Countries not automatically eligible for funding:</p> <p>“If an entity’s status is switched to an affiliated one, does this imply that it becomes also eligible for funding? “</p>	Eligibility for funding depends on the entity’s place of establishment.
15	ER/IR	Associated partners essentially do not sign the Grant Agreement, but do they sign the Consortium Agreement (CA)? Is there a timeframe when the CA has to be signed?	<p>The consortium agreement covers arrangements between beneficiaries within one single action/project.</p> <p>The Associated Partners are not eligible for funding and therefore not able to participate as beneficiaries. This means that they are in principle not signing the Consortium Agreement.</p> <p>On the contrary, the beneficiaries must have internal arrangements regarding their operation and coordination, to ensure that the action is implemented properly. A written ‘consortium agreement’ is mandatory before Grant Agreement signature (Article 7 of the Horizon Europe model grant agreement) but not at proposal submission.</p>
16	ER/IR	Can you please provide more information about the role of associated partners: which rights they have when they participate to an action under one of the DES calls?	<p>The associated partners under Horizon Europe are assigned part of the tasks of the actions and such tasks must be indicated in Annex 1 to the grant agreement.</p> <p>They participate at own costs without receiving EU funding They do not sign the grant agreement and therefore they do not acquire the status of beneficiaries.</p> <p>As set in the HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement, they are to be listed in Article 9.1 and beneficiaries must ensure that</p>

			their contractual obligations under Articles 11 (proper implementation), 12 (conflict of interests), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping) also apply to the associated partners.
17	ER/IR	Is it possible for an Affiliated entity to be the leader of a workpackage that they are involved in?	Yes
18	ER/IR	I would like to know if a newly established start-up is able to participate in the SESAR 3 calls. Are there limitations on what their role (coordinator/participant) can be in a project? Of particular interest, is how they are able to prove financial and operational capacity without having any financial history?	<p>There are no limitations on the role that entities can take in a project.</p> <p>Their participation will be assessed during the evaluation and, in particular for the operational capacity, <i>“this assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion ‘Quality and efficiency of the implementation’. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.”</i></p> <p>As far as the financial capacity is concerned, we invite you to check the Rules for legal entity validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment, where specific provisions are foreseen for newly established enterprises (e.g. start-up companies).</p>
19	ER/IR	How can we find possible companies and R&D entities that are interested in building a consortium to work in a proposal for specific topics?	We invite you to use the Partner search functionality offered by the Funding & tenders portal, to find other entities interested in forming a consortium on specific topics.
20	ER/IR	How is the funding rate applied in the lump sum budget?	In the detailed budget table for a lump sum proposal, the applicants have to choose either the 70% (IR) or 100% (ER) funding rate in the beneficiaries (BE) list sheet.
21	ER/IR	Equipment will be 70% co-funded or 100%?	It depends on the call. When filling into the detailed budget table, applicants have

			<p>to choose the funding rate which is 100% for ER and 70% for IR call.</p> <p>Guidance on how to include the costs estimation of equipment are provided in the detailed budget table.</p> <p>By default, the costs of equipment are covered as depreciation costs. If a proposal requires full costs, this needs to be well justified, and national rules need to be complied with.</p>
22	IR	For IR, is funding rate for non-profit entities 70% instead of 100%?	For the IR call, all entities are entitled to a co-funding rate of 70%, regardless of their legal nature. Therefore, the 70 % funding rate applies also to non-profit entities.
23	IR	Are R&D institutions eligible to participate in the call?	Yes
24	ER/IR	Is there any possibility for SMEs to obtain 100% funding?	There are no specific rules for SME. SMEs can obtain 100% funding if they apply to the ER call.
25	ER/IR	When can we have access to the official version of Grant Agreement from which it would be possible to know about eligibility of costs?	The HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement is already available in the call documentation in the Funding & Tenders Portal.
26	ER/IR	Do HE eligibility criteria apply to subcontractors established in non-EU associated countries in the same way as to those established within the EU?	<p>The HE Regulation does not include provisions concerning the country where the subcontractor must be established. However, subcontracting may not be used to circumvent the rules on eligibility for funding applicable to participants, i.e. to provide funding to legal entities that would otherwise not be eligible for funding under HE.</p> <p>Therefore, if the country is a country not automatically eligible for EU funding but only under exceptional circumstances as explained below, subcontractors from that country are in principle not eligible for funding, unless exceptional circumstances justify it, on a case-by case basis and after agreement with the JU.</p> <p>Please consider also the rules applying to subcontracting, laid down in the HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement (Art. 6.2.B and 9.3).</p>

27	ER/IR	Do subcontractors need to be communicated in advance to the SJU for acceptance?	Subcontracts (tasks to be subcontracted and estimated costs; not necessarily the name of the subcontractor) must be justified in the Proposal part B technical description and in the Detailed budget table.
28	ER/IR	Could you please put an example of what represents subcontracting between beneficiaries?	<p>Example: Beneficiary A subcontracts tasks to Beneficiary B.</p> <p>This is not allowed because any tasks performed by Beneficiary B (and related cost estimates) have to be input directly to the budget of Beneficiary B.</p>
29	ER/IR	Under which category should we declare external consultants?	Subcontracting category, if this is in line with the conditions set in the HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement (Art 9.3)
30	ER/IR	If applicable are the same subsidisation rules valid for affiliated entities as to full beneficiaries?	Yes, the same rules apply to affiliated entities.
31	ER/IR	How strict will be the max expected EU contribution per project, will a proposal amount over the expected indicative budget be considered as a negative point in the proposal evaluation?	As per call conditions for 2025 DES Calls, SESAR 3 JU estimates a maximum EU contribution to allow the expected outcomes to be achieved. Nonetheless, this does not preclude the submission or the selection of a proposal requesting a different amount.
32	ER/IR	To what extent are resources of subsidiaries of members (affiliated entities) fundable in SESAR 3?	<p>As set in the HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement (Art 8) Affiliated entities can charge lump sum contributions to the action under the same conditions as the beneficiaries and thus benefit from SESAR 3 JU funding.</p> <p>The financial contribution of SESAR JU Members to the administrative costs of the JU is an annual fix amount to be split between the Members on the basis of contracted EU funding. Therefore, SESAR JU Members' affiliated entities need to be properly identified in the projects, so that their share of EU funding will be taken into account in the calculation.</p>
33	ER/IR	Under DES calls how is the budget split within topics?	<p>The budget is split per Work Areas and therefore proposals submitted under different topics within the same Work Area compete for the same budget.</p> <p>However, as indicated in the Call conditions for ER3 WA2 and IR2 WA5 and WA6,</p>

			<p>the following exception applies to the standard evaluation procedure: “To ensure a balanced portfolio, grants will be awarded to proposals not only in order of ranking but at least also to those that are the highest ranked within set topics, provided that the proposals attain all thresholds.”</p> <p>Therefore, under this exception, proposals having received the highest score within each specific topic will be selected for funding, up to consumption of the available budget within the Work Area.</p>
34	ER/IR	Does 50-page limit for proposal include Exploitation/Dissemination plan (as this is separate document)?	Yes. Page limit of 50 applies to RIA and IA type of actions under ER and IR calls. This limit includes the CDE plan. The plan is not a separate document, it is within Part B of the proposal. The CDE plan is one section within the impact criterion.
35	ER/IR	Can you do intermediate uploads of the proposal? Or just a single upload?	Yes, it is possible to do intermediate uploads (submissions) of the proposals, up to the call deadline. We remind applicants not to wait for the last minute to submit.
36	ER/IR	In these calls, is gender dimension mandatory?	The integration of gender dimension is not a mandatory requirement under these calls.
37	ER/IR	What is a Gender Equality Plan and what are the implication for my organization?	<p>To be eligible, legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries that are public bodies, research organisations or higher education establishments (including private research organisations and higher education establishments) must have a gender equality plan.</p> <p>The requirements are specified in the General Annexes to Horizon Europe Work Programme.</p> <p>A self-declaration will be requested at proposal stage.</p> <p>During grant agreement preparation, and in order to be declared eligible, applicants of successful proposals will need to demonstrate that they have a valid Gender Equality Plan.</p> <p>We therefore recommend organisations falling into the category above to make</p>

			sure that they have a Gender Equality Plan.
38	ER/IR	<p>I am submitting a proposal in one of the following domains: defence, aviation, industrial technology.</p> <p>Do I need to indicate in the “Security issues table” in the proposal submission template that the proposed activity will use and/or generate information which might raise security concerns?</p>	<p>A proposal is considered as security sensitive if it involves information that may harm the EU or the Member States (sensitive or classified information - EUCI) and not because it involves security-related questions, such as dual-use goods, dangerous materials and substances, etc.</p> <p>The fact of covering topics such as defence, aviation or industrial technology in your project does not mean that your project automatically raises security concerns.</p> <p>Please note that the topics covered by 2025 DES calls have NOT been marked as “security sensitive”, because they do not entail, per se, handling of information with a security recommendation or classified information.</p> <p>When submitting any proposal, applicants must always make sure that it complies with all national security requirements (technology restrictions, national classification).</p> <p>Therefore, we invite all applicants to carefully consider the case of their proposals before ticking the corresponding box in the Security issues table.</p>
39	ER/IR	Is it possible to know when the kick-off meeting will be?	<p>Kick Off meeting is generally organised 1 month after the launch into execution of the project (e.g. 1 month after the signature of the Grant). We presume that the Grants will be signed in May 2026. This date will depend on the progress made during the Grant Preparation Phase (GAP).</p>
40	ER/IR	Is it possible to start a project before the signature of the Grant Agreement and make the costs prior to the signature eligible?	<p>SESAR 3 JU applies the standard HE provisions as specified in the General Annexes to Horizon Europe Work Programme. The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the grant agreement.</p> <p>As indicated in the Article 4 the Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA), the project starting date is usually the first day of the month following the grant signature. But</p>

			<p>the parties can also agree to a fixed starting date (if justified during grant preparation). The fixed starting date should normally be in the future (after grant signature) but it is possible to propose an earlier starting date (retroactive).</p> <p>The starting date will also affect the eligibility of costs. Therefore, by starting the action before signing the GA, you risk that the starting date will not be accepted by the granting authority (which will assess the compliance with applicable rules) or that the grant will not be signed, and no costs will be eligible (e.g. for activities implemented before signature of the grant).</p> <p>The action starting date can normally not be before the submission of the proposal.</p>
41	IR	<p>Can you clarify if submission of a proposal is legally binding for the participants of the consortium?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Post proposal submission, would an organisation then be <u>legally obliged</u> to take part to the action should the proposal be successful? - If that is the case, could the organisation redefine the scope of its contribution (in agreement with other consortium partners)? 	<p>Once a proposal is selected for funding, and invited to grant preparation (GAP), the consortium and each of its participants can, at any time, decide to withdraw and not sign the grant.</p> <p>Moreover, once the coordinator has signed the grant, beneficiaries will have 30 days to sign the Accession Forms and accede the grant. If the Coordinator does not sign, the Granting Authority may stop preparing the grant and reject the proposal.</p> <p>If a Beneficiary does not sign the Accession Form within 30 days of the Grant Agreement entering into force, the Granting Authority may terminate the Grant Agreement. In this case, in order to continue with the project, the Coordinator must: request an amendment, so that any changes needed to ensure that the project is carried out properly can be made.</p> <p>This request must be made within 30 days after the missed deadline for signing the Accession Form.</p> <p>The request for an amendment does not affect the Granting Authority's right to terminate the Grant Agreement.</p> <p>For more information, please consult the eGrants online manual.</p>

42	ER/IR	<p>I would like to address you a very specific question regarding the subcontracting costs eligibility, as we are now working on the SESAR 3 proposals preparation.</p> <p>In accordance with the Article 6.2.B Subcontracting costs, the subcontracting from affiliated entities is allowed as soon as the following conditions are met: "they have a framework contract or the affiliates their usual provider, and the subcontract is priced at market conditions. Otherwise, these affiliates may work in the action, but they must be identified as affiliated entities under Article 8 and declare their own costs."</p> <p>Would you please give me more guidance on this? Meaning, how can these conditions be proven when including an affiliated entity as subcontractor? Is there any threshold to be respected? Are there any activities excluded from this rule?</p>	<p>First of all, it is important to recall that, as a general rule, subcontracting from beneficiaries to affiliated entities is NOT allowed and the conditions referred in the enquiry shall be considered as exceptional.</p> <p>The beneficiary must prove that the framework contract has been awarded as per procurement rules, including the respect of best value for money and lack of conflict of interest.</p> <p>In terms of thresholds, the DES calls do not foresee a specific threshold for subcontracting in financial terms, however, as specified in the Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA) "<i>only limited parts of the action can be subcontracted. Limited parts means that subcontracting remains proportionate both in terms of share of subcontracted action tasks as well as in terms of share in the eligible cost. The acceptable limit is assessed by the granting authority based on the nature of the action which may vary between funding programmes and calls</i>".</p> <p>In terms of tasks, coordination tasks of the coordinator cannot be subcontracted.</p>
43	ER	<p>We have only been able to find proposal award weights for the criteria "Excellence", "Impact" and "Implementation" explicitly cited in the BAWP for IR proposals. Could you kindly specify the applicable weights for ER proposals?</p>	<p>As per call conditions for 2025 DES Calls, no weighting will be applied to any of the applicable criteria for ER proposals.</p>
44	ER/IR	<p>Can an evaluation expert contribute to a proposal and be part of the evaluation team on a different work area?</p>	<p>The SESAR JU takes all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective work of the independent experts could be compromised by a conflict of interest (CoI).</p> <p>Based on the CoI rules, an expert can be involved in the preparation of a proposal on work area X and be evaluator under work area Y, provided that there is a budget-split between the work areas, which is the case for 2025 DES calls.</p>

45	ER/IR	Where can we find information on SESAR awarded projects?	Information on awarded SESAR 2020 and SESAR 3 JU projects is available in SESAR 3 JU Projects Portal .
46	ER/IR	How should the budget of the Lump Sum proposal be defined?	<p>In the detailed budget table of a lump sum proposal, applicants provide cost estimations for each cost category per beneficiary (and affiliated entity if any) and per work package.</p> <p>The cost estimations must be an approximation of actual costs and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are subject to the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants - Must be in line with the beneficiaries normal practices - Must be reasonable/non-excessive - Must be in line with and necessary for the proposed activities.
47	ER/IR	Is there a specific approach that SJU will apply for Lump Sum?	The SJU approach about Lump Sum is described in section 3.1.2 of the project handbook. Applicants are invited to adhere to the listed principles in particular in terms of Project/WP structure.
48	ER/IR	How will the assessment of the deliverables of each WP will be done? i.e. is there a catalogue of requirements to be checked? Or how?	<p>The deliverables will be assessed by the SESAR JU as per the quality assessment of deliverables outlined in section 3.6 of the project handbook.</p> <p>The criteria for assessing deliverables are adapted to each type of deliverable. The complete list of assessment criteria will be made available at the project kick-off meeting.</p>
49	ER/IR	Is the choice between the two lump sum pre-financing options going to be made per project or are all projects going to have the same one in the Grant Agreement?	A single prefinancing of 40% is foreseen for ER projects and 60% for IR projects. The amount due, schedule and modalities will be set out in the Data Sheet (Point 4.2) of the HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement
50	ER/IR	As per the lump sum approach, is the Grant Agreement template going to be changed in the articles 19, 20 and 25 regarding adequate records related to incurred costs?	<p>The HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement applies.</p> <p>In particular, there is no contractual obligation to keep financial records for the project. There is no reporting of actual costs or use of resources. There will only</p>

			be the need to comply with record keeping under national law or internal procedures.
51	ER/IR	Could you please confirm what one item for personnel costs means in the lump sum detailed budget table: one person or one person-month?	1 item is equal to 1 person-month.
52	ER/IR	If the actual costs of an activity exceed the initial estimates in the finance table, will the funding be based on the initial estimates or the actual costs?	<p>The consortium is free to spend the lump sum as they see fit, provided the project is carried out as described in the grant agreement.</p> <p>The granting authority will assume distribution in accordance with the lump sum budget table. It might be in your interest to formalise a change of the breakdown of the lump sum shares via an amendment. Such budget transfers may be done:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within the same work package - between work packages. <p>Changes can be requested on the basis of the technical implementation of the action and for work packages which have not been declared completed and paid.</p>
53	ER/IR	What if lump sum target is not achieved due to a single beneficiary. Does that impact all?	<p>The lump sum shares are paid for work packages completed during the corresponding reporting period and accepted by the granting authority. If a work package cannot be completed due to technical reasons or force majeure, the coordinator should introduce an amendment request.</p> <p>If a work package is still incomplete at the end of the project, the lump sum share is paid partially in line with the degree of completion, and the grant is reduced by the corresponding amount. This amount is determined in a grant reduction process, including a contradictory procedure where all sides are heard.</p>
54	ER/IR	For a Work Package (WP) covering two reporting periods, do we need to foresee a single lump sum share and payment?	There is no change in project design for lump sum grants. However, given that each lump sum WP is paid at the end of each reporting period, applicants may decide to split WPs with a long duration along the reporting periods

55	ER/IR	Under what circumstances does a lump sum payout result in a lower payment to the recipient compared to the value reported on financial statements?	<p>This could be the case of partially completed work packages at the end of the project.</p> <p>You are expected to complete all work packages by the end of the project. If it is not possible due to technical reasons or force majeure, you may declare a partial work package. In this case, the lump sum share is paid partially, in line with the accepted degree of completion. This means that the amount reimbursed will correspond to the accepted part of the work package, which may be less than the part you declared as completed.</p> <p>Please bear in mind that, in the lump sum reporting, the financial statements will be automatically generated for all beneficiaries on the basis of the status of the work packages and the amounts of lump sum shares attributed to each beneficiary in the grant agreement.</p>
56	ER/IR	Can you provide a link to an example of the budget table?	<p>The lump sum budget is based on costs estimations included in the detailed budget table. This excel file is a mandatory document to be provided at the submission phase of your proposal and is available in the Funding & Tender Portal under Topic conditions and documents for each call topic.</p>
57	ER/IR	Is there going to be another opportunity before 09/2025 to ask more detailed questions on legal and financial terms regarding to the Lump Sum MGA and the payment scheme?	<p>All questions can be sent to SESAR 3 JU calls helpdesk info-call@sesarju.eu.</p> <p>We also invite to consult the Lump sum funding in Horizon Europe page where all information on lump sum funding in Horizon Europe is brought together. It includes videos, presentations and future events.</p>

2. CALL CONDITIONS - PROGRAMME AND TECHNICAL

N.	Call	Question	SESAR 3 JU Answer
1	ER/IR	Where can we find the SESAR 3 templates for project deliverables?	If the proposal evaluation and grant agreement preparation is successful, SESAR 3 templates will be distributed at kick off meeting.
2	ER/IR	Is it mandatory to include an 'Ethics' work package at proposal stage?	No, if the proposal is successful and if ethics issues will need to be addressed, a dedicated work package (and deliverable(s)) will be added to the work plan during grant agreement preparation.
3	ER/IR	<p>For the IR call, in the presentation provided during the SESAR 3 JU Calls Information Day, it is mentioned that proposals should describe how the new platform(s) will achieve the full list of nine required capabilities.</p> <p>If an entity participates for example, in one IR2 work area, WA3 (IR-3) or WA4 (IR-4) proposal, does that mean that all the capabilities will have to be addressed in the same proposal? And, if this is not the case, the submitted proposal will not be considered for evaluation?</p>	<p>For WA 3-1 and 4-1, proposals must demonstrate that the project will meet all the nine capabilities presented with 'shall' statements to pass the evaluation in the same project. It is recommended that proposals include a table explaining how each of the nine capabilities is addressed.</p> <p>In contrast, the elements listed under Scope (R&I) needs are intended as an illustration of the potential content; as stated in the specification, the list is not meant as prescriptive. Proposals may not address all the elements and may address other elements that are not on the list (provided their contribution to the achievement of the expected outcomes and alignment to the development priorities in the ATM Master Plan are well justified). However, when an R&I element in the list is addressed, the requirements stated as "shall statements" in the description of the element must be addressed.</p>
4	IR	For IR2, shall WA3-1 and WA4-1 proposals only consist of totally newly developed platforms?	Yes, the aim is to develop the next generation of ATS platforms as stated in the technical specifications.
5	IR	For IR2, WA3-1, 93 M EUR are foreseen over three projects. Do you expect to receive a proposal of each of the big manufacturers for WA3-1 and only two proposals for WA4-1?	<p>The SESAR 3 JU cannot assume how many proposals will be submitted under a given topic.</p> <p>The call defines per each WA the "maximum expected EU contribution per project.</p> <p>This means that:</p>

			<p>- in WA3-1, should more than three proposals be considered as above the threshold during the evaluation phase, and should the total of the requested EU contribution not exceed the WA3-1 total allocated budget of 93 M EURO, more than three proposals could be awarded</p> <p>- in WA4-1, similarly, more than 2 proposals above the threshold could be selected providing that the total of the requested EU contribution does not exceed the WA4-1 total allocated budget of 24 M</p> <p>In addition, the usual budgetary flexibility rules apply.</p>
6	ER	<p>It seems that ER WA1-2,3,4,5 have an expected budget of 10M EUR, however it's supposed to grant one project per call with max. contribution of 1M each. Could you please clarify?</p>	<p>We confirm that under the call HORIZON-SESAR-2025-DES-ER-03, the budget for WA 1 is in total 10 MEUR. The call defines per each WA the “maximum expected EU contribution per project”, which is the maximum amount that SESAR 3 JU agrees to finance per each selected proposal. For WA 1 (topics from 1 to 4) the maximum expected EU contribution per project is 1 MEUR.</p> <p>This means that in each topic (WA1.1-4) more than 1 proposal above the threshold could be selected, providing that the maximum requested EU contribution per proposal does not exceed 1 MEUR, and providing that the total of the requested EU contribution of all selected proposals does not exceed the WA1.1-4 total allocated budget of 10 M EURO.</p>
7	IR	<p>What opportunities are available in the SESAR Industrial Research call for exploring long-term solutions for ATC-ATC exchanges, and how do these align with the research and innovation needs of WA1.1, particularly with regards to TBO integration and global interoperability?</p>	<p>The future of ATC-ATC information exchange will only be fully realised if the platforms themselves evolve, which is a central focus of WA3-1. Furthermore, seamless ATC-ATC coordination is part of regional TBO thread in the TBO roadmap in the ATM MP. The next generation of ATS platforms (WA 3-1) must therefore enable TBO phase 3 and hence must cover ATC-ATC information exchanges required for TBO phase 3 which is also a focus of WA1-1.</p>
8	ER	<p>The guidelines states that proposals should not cover the full scope described in the call HORIZON-SESAR-2025-DES-ER-03-WA1-3, but as we</p>	<p>Yes. There are three elements in WA 1-3: quantum computing applications to ATM, post-quantum cryptography in ATM and quantum sensing applications. It is possible</p>

		are preparing a proposal, the following query arises: is it possible to cover the scope of 1. Quantum Computing (QC) applications in ATM + 2. Post-quantum cryptography in ATM and not cover the part of 3 Quantum sensing applications in a proposal or should we cover something in all these three areas?	for a proposal to address only one or two of the three elements.
9	IR	<p>It has been mentioned during the Info-day that proposals should describe how the new platform(s) will achieve the full list of nine required capabilities.</p> <p>If we participate in one IR-3 or IR-4 project, does that mean that all the capabilities will have to be addressed in this project? And, if this is not the case, the project in question will not be considered for evaluation?</p>	Yes, proposals must demonstrate that the proposed project meets all nine capabilities listed under “the targeted ATS (WA 3-1) or airport (WA 4-1) platforms shall enable the following capabilities” in the call specification. All nine capabilities must be addressed in the same project.
10	IR	The specification states that the proposed architecture for the new ATS platforms in WA3-1 must be aligned to the new service delivery model described in the Master Plan, which aims at enabling the integration of components provided by various system providers to facilitate multi-vendor solutions. However, the specification only requires one ATS system-manufacturer in the consortium. Will proposals from consortia including just one ATS manufacturer be penalised vs. proposals from consortia including two or more ATS system - manufacturers?	<p>As stated in the specification, these requirements are expressed as “minimum requirements”. Furthermore, the proposed target architecture for the new ATS platforms in WA 3-1 must be aligned with the service delivery model outlined in the Master Plan for a typical ACC. This target architecture relies on open ATM patterns enabling integration of components provided by various system providers to facilitate multi-vendor solutions using open platforms and interfaces” (ref. https://www.sesarju.eu/service-delivery).</p> <p>Independently of the number of ATS system manufacturers in the consortium, proposals must demonstrate that they align to this new target architecture that relies on open ATM patterns in a satisfactory manner. It is up to each consortium to demonstrate how their proposed approach will address these requirements which will form the basis for the evaluation.</p>
11	IR	In IR-2 WA-6-1, the list of R&I needs includes "Operation of open and certified drones in controlled airspace without dynamic airspace reconfiguration (DAR)"; since the operation of certified drones in controlled airspace	Indeed, this is an editorial mistake in the specification. The R&I need should be titled "Operation of open and specific drones in controlled airspace without dynamic airspace reconfiguration (DAR)", and is aimed at researching the operation of specific

		is covered in WA 5 for IFR RPAS and does not require DAR, this R&I need appears to not be relevant. Is this a mistake?	drones in controlled airspace beyond what is currently foreseen in the U-space regulation IR 2021/664 (which only foresees such operations through the use of DAR)"
12	IR	The text describing the scope of WA7-1 starts with "The scope covers the support to SESAR performance related activities. architecture activities (i.e. architecture modelling framework and support) and performance activities", but the description of the topic does not mention architecture, and performance was already mentioned earlier in the same sentence.	This is an editorial mistake: architecture activities are covered in WA 7-2, and the word performance is repeated by mistake. The opening paragraph should read: The scope covers the support to SESAR performance related activities. The text "architecture activities (i.e., architecture modelling framework and support) and performance activities" shall be ignored.
13		Can a European entity claim eligible costs for TRL6-7 flight tests in Europe for TBO and HCATM via ecoDemonstrator program? What costs are eligible?	Flight tests are acceptable validation techniques for all TRL levels, provided their link to the validation for the target maturity level is well justified in the proposal. The rules applicable to eligibility of flight test costs are the same rules that apply to eligibility of all other costs.
14	ER/IR	For IR there a CDE plan is requested but it has been said during the Info-Day that Dissemination is NOT part of the project, can you explain, pls?	All the DES projects are expected to produce and maintain a communication, dissemination and exploitation (CDE) plan documenting all the planned activities in these areas. The plan should cover the communication objectives, high-level messages, short publishable descriptions and a schedule of actions to be implemented across a range of channels with a view to reaching a broader, non-ATM audience. The plan should also include a strategy to disseminate the project's results as well as make best use of the project results (exploitation of project results).
15	IR	As we expect a convergency of U-space and ATM, are the U-space solutions already considered as ATM solutions? Does TRL maturity of ATM scale apply to both?	The same maturity scale and criteria apply to all SESAR solutions (whether they apply to ATM, U-space airspace, or both).
16	ER/IR	The target automation level is the same for all the proposals?	Yes, as stated in the call specifications, proposals must describe how they contribute to the achievement of automation level 4 as defined in the ATM Master Plan within a pre-defined scope and be able to revert to automation level 3 or lower outside of this scope (when a task becomes too complex for automation to handle), or

			describe how the proposed concept will effectively operate in such an environment.
17	ER/IR	Does one WP per reporting period mean that the proposal is not structured anymore on one WP per solution?	As explained in the project handbook section 3.1.2, a SESAR Solution development / research activity should be covered by only one work package (WP) per reporting period, i.e. for a project with two reporting period, the SESAR Solution development activities should be split into a first WP covering the first reporting period and a second WP covering the second reporting period.
18	ER/IR	Can one Solution be organised with different work packages?	<p>A research activity (e.g. for ER projects) or a SESAR Solution development (e.g. for IR projects) should be covered by only one work package (WP) per reporting period as per the recommendations made in the project handbook section 3.1.2.</p> <p>Applicants shall pay attention to the fact that work packages must be defined according to the duration of the Grant Agreement / reporting period and shall be considered as major sub-division of the work plan of the project. A single activity or a single task is not a WP.</p>
19	ER	Is it so that all the ER projects, addressing WA1 and WA2, are expected to achieve TRL1 at least, or it is TRL2 at least for WA2?	Projects in WA 1 must target TRL1, while for WA2 they must target TRL2. Notice that for WA1 there may be no “solution” at the start of the project, so the objective must be to define a solution and attain TRL1 at the end of the project, while for WA2 the expectation is that the proposal already outlines a concept (that has to some extent be researched before) and describes a path to attain TRL2.
20	IR	Can the scores of the ATS Platform proposals be changed after the hearings?	Yes. For WA 3-1 and WA 4-1, all applicants who have submitted proposals will be invited to participate in a hearing. The purpose of these hearings will be to clarify specific elements of the proposals and provide the necessary clarifications to allow the evaluation committee to establish its final assessment and scores enhancing the evaluation committee’s understanding of the proposals to ensure a thorough and accurate evaluation.

			The evaluation committee will integrate the information gathered during the hearing into the overall assessment, which indeed may affect the final score in areas where clarification was necessary.
21	IR	In IR2, WA4-1 refers to next generation platform for airport ops and not ATS platform?	WA 4 has two sub-work areas: WA 4-1 is focused on airport ATS platforms, and WA 4-2 is focused on airport non-ATS platforms. However, it is recognised that there may be a need to address both ATS and non-ATS platforms in the same project, e.g. to address their integration or validate the whole value chain, and for this reason the title of WA4-1 refers to airport platforms (in general) rather than ATS platforms.
22	IR	In ER-03, WA2-1: Autom. of security risk assessment. Is the purpose of the tool only to support Part-IS, or should it also support SecRAM and/or SecRA for airworthiness?	The objective is to develop automated support to reduce the effort required by aviation organisations (e.g. ANSPs, airlines, AD-SPs) to comply with Part-IS requirements to address information security risks during ATM operations at the entity level. This includes organisational procedures to ensure adequate protection when operating ATM/ANS certified ground or airborne equipment whose certification includes security objectives. However, the SecRAM/SecRA for initial airworthiness of ATM-relevant airborne equipment or ATM/ANS ground systems is not in scope.
23	IR	For IR2 fast track projects, should apply agile methodology?	There is no requirement to apply a specific methodology beyond the SESAR Solution development and validation process detailed in the project handbook section 2.2.
24	ER/IR	Can EASA be involved in a proposal and how its participation and activities should be indicated and described in the proposal?	<p>Consortia interested to involve EASA in their project, as described in the call text, can forward their queries to: SESAR requests@easa.europa.eu</p> <p>EASA will share a template with interested projects/proposals for the establishment of a service contract.</p>
25		Are costs of EASA contributions eligible and under which category	<p>The cost related to the contribution of EASA to a project beneficiary may be eligible subject to compliance with the eligibility rules under Article 6 of the HE Lump Sum Model Grant Agreement.</p> <p>The costs of EASA can be included in the detailed budget table in accordance to Ar-</p>

			<p>title 6.2 C.3 of the Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA) – purchase costs for other goods, works and services.</p>
26	EASA	<p>Any alternatives to finance EASA contribution other than from the Project budget itself - for example using an SJU/EASA underlying agreement for all projects?</p>	<p>Please see with EASA via the email</p>