Evaluation Criteria for the ACT joint call published 7 June 2016

Project no: 691712

Project title: ACT – Accelerating CCS Technologies

Instrument: ERA-NET Cofund Actions

Project start date: 1 February 2016

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**Introduction**

The selection of projects to be granted requires a two-stage approach. The proposal will be evaluated against (1) excellence, (2) impact, and (3) quality and efficiency of implementation. Sub-criteria will be used within each of these evaluation criteria to help to differentiate between the projects. The evaluation procedure is detailed in the call text. The relevant section is excerpted on the following pages.

**Evaluation**

Within the framework of ACT a **two-stage procedure** will be adopted. In the first stage, consortia are invited to submit pre-proposals.

**Stage 1:**

The pre-proposals will be assessed regarding the potential of the project, focusing on the innovative idea of the project, how the project fits with the objectives of the call, the composition of the consortia, the potential impact of the project, available funding, and the relevance to the respective national program objectives. After the submission of the pre-proposals, a selection of pre-proposals will be made. The successful consortia will then be invited to elaborate their ideas to full proposals. Unsuccessful consortia will be provided with an overall assessment of the quality of their pre-proposals.

The evaluation in stage 1 will be performed by the ACT-consortium based on an eligibility check and the criteria marked * in Table 1.

**Stage 2:**

Eligible full proposals will be evaluated in an open competition in which an independent international Expert Panel will rank proposals according to the programme’s evaluation criteria stated below. The Panel will consist of recognised experts in the field of CCS, academics as well as practitioners and innovators, who can assess the scientific as well as the innovative and practical values of the submitted projects. The Panel will be appointed by the participating ACT organisations. Applicants will have no possibility for rebuttal to the Panel’s evaluation.

Based on the ranking by the Expert Panel, and taking into account the available (national) budgets, the participating national funding agencies of ACT will take funding decisions.

A written statement on the evaluation of each full proposal will be sent by the Call Secretariat to the Main Applicants. The Call Secretariat will inform the Main Applicants of projects that have been recommended for funding. The national funding agencies will inform the applicants in their countries of what further action needs to be taken at this stage.

**Note:** Each project recommended for funding is required to have a signed consortium agreement between all partners prior to the start of the project, at least addressing the following topics:

- Internal organisation and management of the consortium
- Intellectual Property arrangements
- Settlement of internal disputes
Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria as shown in Table 1, with ranking lists produced for both the large (up to 33 mill Euros) and the small project (up to 3 mill Euros) categories.

Table 1. Evaluation criteria for ACT
(all criteria will apply for stage 2 and only those marked * will apply for stage 1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellence</th>
<th>5 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ In accordance with the objectives of the call text *</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Clarity and relevance of the project’s objectives *</td>
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<td>▪ Credibility of the proposed technology/concept – including trans-disciplinary considerations, where relevant*</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Credibility of the proposed project approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Ambition and innovation potential - e.g. beyond the current state of the art. *</td>
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<td>▪ Added value of European trans-national co-operation within CCS</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Scientific merit</td>
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<tr>
<th>Impact (potential impact of the results of the R&amp;I project)</th>
<th>5 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>▪ Expected contribution to the facilitation of the emergence of CCS (e.g. through cost reduction, involvement of relevant industrial partners, opening niche markets, surmounting major barriers)*</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Project’s ability to strengthen the competitiveness and growth of European companies</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Strength of the proposed research data management, exploitation and dissemination plans (including IPR management, where relevant)</td>
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<td>▪ Impact on any other environmental or socially important impacts, such as public acceptance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Industrial relevance*</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quality and efficiency of the implementation of the R&amp;I project</th>
<th>5 points</th>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Coherence and expected effectiveness of the project plan, including the appropriateness of task, use of methods, resource allocation and timing</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Budget allocation*</td>
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<td>▪ Strength of management structures and governance procedures, including risk management</td>
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<tr>
<td>▪ Capability of the Main Applicant (and partners) to deliver the project and to commercialize the technology further - including e.g. suitability of expertise, complementarity, balance of contributions*</td>
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Gender equality

There shall be no discrimination due to gender in the processing of applications and the implementation of the project. Under equal evaluation scores projects with gender balance will be preferred.

Scoring and thresholds

Experts will evaluate on the basis of the criteria ‘excellence’, ‘impact’ and ‘quality and efficiency of the implementation’. The criteria will be weighted equally. Evaluation scores will be awarded for each criterion, and not for the different aspects listed in the above table.
For full proposals, each criterion will be scored by the Expert Panel, using the following scale:

- 0) Unacceptable,
- 1) Weak,
- 2) Average,
- 3) Good,
- 4) Very good,
- 5) Excellent.

Half marks cannot be used. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.

Check of Formal Eligibility

The eligibility check will take into account 2 aspects:

1. **Eligibility of project participants:**
   - Are the involved project participants formally eligible according to the national/ regional AND the Joint Call criteria?
   - Preliminary estimation, is the scope of the call correctly addressed by the proposal and in conformity with the definitions of the call text?

2. **Eligibility of a proposal:**
   - Submission of all requested documents in time?
   - Application form filled in correctly/ appropriately?
   - Project structure eligible, the size and structure of project consortium, duration and costs of project?
   - Thematic focus of proposal within the scope of the call - including respective national/ regional priorities and financial allocations?
   - Same proposal submitted to other calls as well? (if applicable)

**Evaluation of project quality**

Eligible proposals will be assessed against the defined criteria, measured through scores as described above. The project quality assessment will be based on:

- Scientific (technical) excellence and targeted innovation
- Feasibility of the proposal described by a detailed work plan
- Resources/ implementation (such as is the cost calculation reasonable and well balanced?)

**Quality of the project consortium and management**

This part will cover assessment on the consortium as such, its management and capability to carry out the project. Are the project participants experienced and well qualified? Why is this combination of project participants most suitable for carrying out the project? Is the management structure adequate? Is the partnership well-balanced? – such questions will be basis for evaluation of this part.
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ACT – Accelerating CCS Technologies  

D2.2: Evaluation criteria

Impact: exploitation of results, dissemination
This part will deal with issues such as: Is there a clear exploitation strategy? How will results be published? Is there an outreach plan? Is the expected project outcome sufficiently close to the market (in case of applied RTD)? Is there economic impact for each of the project participants?

Transnational benefit and added value
Is it necessary to perform the project at transnational level, i.e. what is the added value of collaboration for the project? How does each project participants benefit from the proposed transnational cooperation? Are there medium - to long-term advantages? Handling of IPR issues?

Respecting the transnational nature of Joint Calls, the added value/ transnational benefit will be of high priority. In addition, particularly in applied science projects, in which potential beneficiaries are supposed to co-fund the project, the financial stability of the applicants is an important criterion for project viability.

Time Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 September 2016</td>
<td>Deadline Submission of pre-proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Eligibility check</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Meeting to assess pre-proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Invite applicants to submit full proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 January 2017</td>
<td>Deadline Submission of full proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 2017</td>
<td>Eligibility check</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 2017</td>
<td>Meeting of Expert Panel to assess full proposals</td>
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<td>April 2017</td>
<td>Funding recommendation and announcement of results to Main Applicants</td>
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<td>~ July 2017</td>
<td>National funding decisions and contracts completed. Start of projects</td>
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Documentation and forms
All documents are published on the ACT website: [www.act-ccs.eu/calls/](http://www.act-ccs.eu/calls/)