FF4EuroHPC: HPC Innovation for European SMEs

EuroHPC Project 951745 **https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu**

Call for Proposals for HPC Application Experiments

Guide for Proposers: Proposal submission & evaluation criteria

Identifier: FF4EuroHPC Call-1

Call title: First call for FF4EuroHPC application experiments

Project full name: HPC Innovation for European SMEs

Acronym: FF4EuroHPC

Grant agreement number: 951745

Deadline: 27th January 2021, at 17:00 Brussels local time

Expected duration of participation: 15 months, with expected commencement 1. June, 2021

The indicative total funding budget is € 3 M.

Maximum funding request per proposal: € 200,000 (covering all participants)

Funding constraints: The maximum funding that can be allocated to any Third Party, across all experiments in which that Third Party is involved, is € 150 K. While the participation of certain[1] FF4EuroHPC beneficiaries in experiments is eligible, the funding for their activities in experiments is not included within the budget for experiments.

Submission language: English

Internet address for full open call information **https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/calls**.

Proposal submission: https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/calls/submission

E-mail: ff4eurohpc-calls@scapos-tools.de

---

[1] Specified in the FF4EuroHPC Grant Agreement and excluding those beneficiaries involved in the coordination and evaluation activities linked to the open calls.

Submission Details

Submission deadline:

All submissions must be made by 17:00 Brussels local time, January 27th 2021.

Electronic submission: Proposal submission is exclusively in electronic form using the proposal submission tool accessible via the Fortissimo web-site: **https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/calls/submission**

The central component of proposal submission is the uploading of two PDF-documents (whose individual size must not exceed 5.0 MB) compliant with the instructions on proposal structure given below.

Proposal format and structure: Proposals must be submitted in English. Each proposal must comprise 2 parts: Part A (containing administrative information), Part B (containing the body of the proposal, whose structure is explained below).

Part A of the proposal contains a cover page and a set of tables to provide administrative data, including a tabular list of proposal participants. The participant list should include for each participant, if available, the Participant Identification Code (PIC) issued by the European Commission
(http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/register.html).
Note that having a PIC is not a requirement of the call. **Only requested information should be included in Part A. Addition of extraneous information such as letters of support etc will result in the proposal being rejected without further evaluation.**

The main section of the proposal – Part B - must not exceed 10 pages in length (excluding the Part B cover page). The Part B text should be no smaller than 11 point Arial font. **Proposals submitted with a Part B whose length (excluding the cover page) exceeds the 10 page limit will be rejected without further evaluation.**

ALL PROPOSERS MUST TAKE CAREFUL NOTE OF THE ABOVE RULES.

The structure of the proposal Part B (and indicative length per section) should be as follows:

1. Summary (0.5 pages)
2. Industrial relevance, potential impact and exploitation plans (3.5 pages)
3. Description of the work plan and concept (3 pages)
4. Quality of the consortium as a whole and of the individual proposers (2 pages)
5. Justification of costs and resources (1 page)

A management structure will be imposed on the successful proposals. That is, the proposal will not need to contain a description of how the management of the experiment in the

framework of the overall FF4EuroHPC project will be achieved, but should include tasks for the technical management of the experiment activities.

Proposal exemplars for both Part A and Part B can be found at

https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/ /calls/submission.

It is a requirement that these exemplars be followed and in particular that the proposal budget be provided using the embedded spread-sheets.

Indicative budget for Call-1:

FF4EuroHPC will make use of the Financial Support for Third Parties method[2] to enable the inclusion of new experiment partners. The indicative total funding budget for Call-1 is € 3 M.

The funding of Third Parties must follow the same principles as used for beneficiaries of FF4EuroHPC, which receives European Commission funding within the R&D&I programme of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking. In particular, Third Parties will receive 100% funding of eligible costs arising.

The funding for an individual experiment may not exceed € 200 K (covering all participants, but noting that the requested funding for the experiment should exclude costs for any FF4EuroHPC beneficiaries that might be involved in the experiment activities). Proposers should consider their actual needs and not target this figure. The evaluation will take into account the appropriateness of the requested resources.

The maximum funding that can be allocated to any Third Party, across all FF4EuroHPC experiments in which that Third Party is involved, is € 150 K.

FF4EuroHPC reserves the right to make the appropriate and necessary effort and budget cuts in the case that erroneous budget data is included in accepted proposals.

---

[2] Integration of new Third Parties will conform with the Horizon 2020/EuroHPC JU grant agreements

Evaluation Criteria

The FF4EuroHPC Call-1 "Introduction" document explains the targets, priorities and expectations for experiments that underly the evaluation criteria and proposers are asked to read that document carefully. To recap the key targets and priorities:

FF4EuroHPC Call-1 targets highest quality experiments involving innovative, agile SMEs and with work plans built around innovation targets arising from the use of advanced HPC services. Proposals are sought that address business challenges from European SMEs from varied application domains, but preference being given to engineering and manufacturing, or sectors able to demonstrate fast economic growth or particular economic impact for Europe. Priority will be given to consortia centred on SMEs that are new to the use of advanced HPC services.

Proposed experiments should include all participants necessary for the effective and efficient execution of the experiment and which facilitates the demonstration of the impact of addressing SME business challenges through the use of HPC systems or advanced HPC services. It is to be noted that Engineering Consultancy companies may take the role of the industrial end-user, where that is representative of the corresponding market segment / industrial sector. Proposed experiments must define the resources they need and budget for them; it should be noted that FF4EuroHPC will not be in a position to provide computing resources.

The criteria for evaluation will comprise:

1. Impact including industrial relevance and exploitation plans;
2. Soundness of concept, innovation and quality of the work plan;
3. Quality of the consortium as a whole and of the individual proposers;
4. Effective and justified deployment of resources.

For Criteria 1 to 4, each criterion will carry a score ranging from 0 to 5. Criterion 1 will have a weight of 2, Criteria 2 to 4 a weight of 1 (leading to a maximum score of 25 points). A threshold score of 3 will apply to the first three criteria.

Adherence to the proposal format and structure described previously – and notably to the prescribed page limit – will allow the independent external evaluators to evaluate the proposal against all of the above-mentioned evaluation criteria. As explained earlier in this document, failure to adhere to the proposal format instructions will lead to immediate rejection of the proposal.