



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with respect to ATTRACT Open Call

Version: September 1st 2018

The version of this document is September 1st 2018. The additions made to the August 19th 2018 version are highlighted in yellow. This version will be further updated on a regular basis by the ATTRACT Project Administrative Office (PAO) based on questions received. It should be read in conjunction with the Submission Guidelines also available on the ATTRACT website.

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2. General

2.1 How do I get answers to my questions?

- For all questions related to the eATTRACT proposal submission system, please use the “Contact Support” tab available on each page once you log into the system (upper right-hand corner).
- For all other questions, please only send emails to this mailbox: questions@attract-eu.com.

In order to ensure equal treatment, the answers will be incorporated in subsequent versions of the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document (the one you are just reading now) - regular updates will be made by the ATTRACT Project Administrative Office (PAO). Therefore please re-check the ATTRACT website <https://www.attract-eu.com/> regularly to get the latest information. Please note that questions submitted one week prior to the Call deadline are not guaranteed an answer.

2.2 What is the role of the ATTRACT Consortium Partners in the project?

The ATTRACT Consortium has been put in place to gather the necessary complementary expertise and capacity in Detection & Imaging technologies to establish the systematic framework and eco-system that will help identify breakthrough technologies within Europe’s Research Infrastructures (RIs) and their associated user communities, academic centres and Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs). The objective is to transform new knowledge into breakthrough innovations with strong industrial applications and societal added value. The Consortium also takes care of the administration of the project and handles the 3rd party funding.

The expertise of the Consortium Partners includes:

- Reaching the Detection & Imaging community and their (end-) user communities
- Innovation identification and support to funded projects
- Communication with industry and other stakeholders (e.g. private investors)
- Transforming the European Research Infrastructures (RIs) training landscape

More detailed information about the ATTRACT Consortium partners role in the project can be found at <https://www.attract-eu.com/>

2.3 Who can apply?

Project proposals shall be submitted as a joint proposal by a group of at least two independent legal entities having their seat in EU or H2020-Associated Countries. Individual persons or single entities are NOT eligible to apply to the ATTRACT Call.

2.4 How can I find partner(s) to submit a proposal?

A Speed Networking function is available on the ATTRACT website: <https://attract-eu.com/speed-networking/>

2.5 Where can I find a WORD template of the proposal template?

The WORD version of the Open Call Proposal template is now available on the ATTRACT website. Make sure to have read the Submission Guidelines before submitting it, as they contain key information to ensure the eligibility of your submission.

2.6 Is it allowed to have a University from the United States as partner in addition to the 2 or more legal entities based in Europe or in H2020 associated countries?

A US university can be a partner in a proposal. Nevertheless, it will not be allowed to benefit from the funding if the proposal is selected.

2.7 Do we have to partner with one of the nine public organisations that initiated the Call?

There is no requirement to partner with any of the organizations that initiated the Call.

3. Scope

3.1 What kind of proposal is the ATTRACT Open Call for?

Project proposals are invited in the following domains: sensors/detectors, front and back end electronics, data acquisition systems and computing, software and integration. There are no limitations in the specific scope of the proposals within these domains. Nevertheless, the ATTRACT Open Call targets proposals with breakthrough innovation potential.

The ATTRACT Consortium considers “breakthrough innovations” as highly novel technology concepts, or combinations of existing technology concepts that can lead to a significant increase in their performance or usability with respect to existing ones. They also have the potential to create an entire new range of applications and markets that can change our society.

The ATTRACT Open Call does not target incremental innovations, understood as continuation of existing technologies or practices. For example, in this context, a 20% performance increase or cost reduction is still considered as incremental.

3.2 Should the proposals address fundamental research and/or industrial applications?

The aim of ATTRACT is to link **both** breakthrough technological development for fundamental research as well envisioning industrial applications (or vice versa). As mentioned in the ATTRACT– Open Call for Proposals document, all applicant organisations should show in their proposal the potential co-innovation connections with RIs. These connections can refer e.g. to existing collaborations, email exchanges with RI personnel, naming of contact persons, etc.

3.3 The word “co-innovation” is mentioned several times on the ATTRACT website it. What does it mean?

Co-innovation means a strong cooperation between fundamental research organizations and industrial ones already in the early phases of the innovation value chain on identified win-win technology and business opportunities.

3.4 In earlier versions of the funding plans presented by the ATTRACT Consortium, 180 projects were proposed for funding but now I only see 170. What is the reason for this reduction?

Following the EC approval of ATTRACT for funding, the Consortium has taken on board the comments from the evaluators in their Evaluation Summary Report (ESR). These comments raised the issue that some of the proposed project phases should be extended in duration in order to minimize project management risks. Examples of those are the time given to the Independent Scientific R&D&I Committee (IC) to evaluate the received proposals as well as the time given for the completion of the Third Party Contract Agreements (TPPAs). Addressing these required additional management resources which then required reducing the number of projects for funding.

3.5 Which Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) are the prime target for the ATTRACT Open Call?

The ATTRACT Open Call looks for breakthrough ideas in the field of detection and imaging. Therefore the TRL is expected to be 2 or 3, as a guideline.

3.6 Are there exceptions where organisations not established in the EU or in the H2020 Associated Countries can apply to ATTRACT funding?

Yes and the list of eligible countries for funding can be found here:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/wp/2018-2020/annexes/h2020-wp1820-annex-a-countries-rules_en.pdf

4. Funding and project duration

4.1 Who will transfer the 100K Euros, where to and by when?

CERN, as ATTRACT Project Coordinator and on behalf of the ATTRACT Consortium, will transfer the 100K Euros lump sum to the certified bank account provided by the Lead Participant of each proposal selected for funding.

4.2 In the FAQ 4.1, it is mentioned that the 100k EUR lump sum will be transferred to the bank account of the Lead Participant. Thus, does the Lead Participant have the responsibility to transfer the budget to the Partners? And should it be transferred at the beginning of the project or only at the beginning of the phase involving each Partner (e.g. only at the beginning of month 3, if a Partner will work only from month 3 to month 6)?

The Coordinator has the responsibility to transfer the budget to the partners according to what has been decided within each Consortium.

4.3 What happens if the project incurs lower costs than expected? For example, is it possible to not spend the entire 100k EUR budget?

It is recommended that you make use of the entire 100k EUR. If the project uses a lower amount then the spare money will have to be transferred back to the ATTRACT Consortium. The ATTRACT Consortium will then declare to the EC the unused money by the Third Party project.

5. Deliverables and presentation of funded projects

5.1 What deliverables are obligatory if my project is funded by ATTRACT?

All funded projects are required to provide the following deliverables:

- A final project summary in PDF format of maximum 2000 characters, including spaces.
- A poster and Power Point presentation.
- A “scientific journal-type” article summarizing the main project results and methodology used to achieve them.

All funded projects are required to present the above deliverables at the ATTRACT Final Assessment Conference (FAC) in Brussels.

The three above-mentioned deliverables of the ATTRACT funded projects will be of public nature. Concerning the results generated by the ATTRACT funded projects the H2020 rules for IP apply (http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/intellectual-property_en.htm).

Nevertheless, the ATTRACT Consortium encourages all projects to openly share results beyond what is strictly required. More details about how IP is addressed in the Open Call can be found in the ATTRACT Open Call TPPA.

5.2 When will the Final Assessment Conference (FAC) take place?

The FAC is tentatively scheduled for September 2020 in Brussels. All the coordinators of the funded projects will be informed well ahead of time of the final date.

5.3 How long will the FAC meeting in Brussels last?

It is tentatively planned for 5 working days. More details will be provided closer to the date.

5.4 In the ATTRACT– Open Call for Proposals document it is mentioned that some participants may be invited to briefly present their projects to groups of master level students selected by the ATTRACT Consortium. What does it mean?

One of the longer term goals of ATTRACT is to contribute to social innovation through training of future entrepreneurs, inspired by the technologies developed within the funded projects. For that purpose, a pilot project has been organised with 100 MSc level students coming from different disciplines. These students will be put in touch with the coordinator and/or members of some of the selected funded projects with the goal of being able to explain to them (in lay terms) the relevant aspects of the technologies being developed. This exercise will also significantly contribute to the outreach activities of ATTRACT, and help the projects to present their cases to potential future stakeholders. More details can be found at <https://www.attract-eu.org/> in the ATTRACT project description details (Work Package 4).

6. Project Monitoring

6.1 How will the monitoring be performed?

The ATTRACT Consortium, supported by the PAO, will perform light monitoring of the funded projects by establishing periodic interactions (e.g. email) with the project coordinators asking for the status of their projects. The goal is to put in place a monitoring process that will provide an overview of the technical and scientific progress of the projects over the course of their funding period (Cf. question 11.2). The process is to:

- ensure that the 100 k Euros are used for their approved purpose;
- notify the Consortium management bodies of any problems that may occur;
- encourage using a simple but structured layout for the projects with agreed milestones and deliverables.

The teams of the awarded projects are required to actively assist the work of the PAO and/or its mandated representatives while conducting their monitoring activities. More details of the monitoring process can be found at <https://www.attract-eu.com/> project description details (Work Package 5).

7. Participation criteria

7.1 Do the project partners need to come from different countries? What type of legal entities do they need to be?

The project partners need not necessarily come from different countries, even one country will do. Project partners need to include at least two independent legal entities having their seat in EU Member States (MS) or H2020 Associated Countries (AC). The composition of the group of participants should support the objective of the proposed work.

7.2 Can a project partner be a subsidiary of another?

Yes it can, but the group of participants must include at least two independent legal entities having their seat in EU MS or H2020 AC. Legal independence refers to Article 8 of the [Horizon2020 Rules of Participation](#).

7.3 What is a PIC?

The Participant Identification Code (PIC) is a 9-digit number serving as a unique identifier for organisations (legal entities) participating in EU funding programmes. A tool for searching organisations and their PICs and registering for a PIC is available [here](#). For those organizations that do not have previous experience with H2020 and do not have a PIC, we highly encourage you to start the PIC request process as soon as possible. In many cases, the EC performs a financial viability check in order to grant the PIC (e.g. the case of start-ups or small SMEs).

The EC provides a link for preliminarily self-checking at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/organisations/lfv.html>

7.4 Why does each legal entity need to provide a PIC?

The ATTRACT Consortium Partners have decided to require a PIC in order to apply due diligence to the allocation of the public funds, as recognised proof of the legal existence of the organisation(s) to which the funds will be transferred.

7.5 Does each legal entity need to have a PIC at the time of submission?

No, but it will ease the process if they do (the PIC is mentioned on the first page of the submission form). Nevertheless, an approved PIC for all selected participants is required by the PAO before the Third Party Contract Agreements (TPPA) can be signed. This is currently planned to take place in Spring 2019 (Cf. question 11.1). Failing to do so may render the offer for funding obsolete and entail the reattribution of the funds to another project proposal.

7.6 What is a Lead Participant and how is the Lead Participant mandated to represent the partners applying for funding in the ATTRACT Open Call?

A Lead Participant is the organization representing all the partners jointly submitting a proposal to the ATTRACT Open Call. A Lead Participant is mandated by a Power of Attorney which is signed by the authorised representatives of all the organizations. The Power of Attorney is an integral part of the submitted proposal to the ATTRACT Open Call. More details can be obtained in the ATTRACT Open Call TPPA and the ATTRACT– Open Call for Proposals document.

8. Project proposal submission process and deadline

8.1 How do I submit my proposal?

All proposals are submitted by using the eATTRACT proposal submission system. A link is provided at <https://www.attract-eu.com/> and a user manual for applicants is also available there.

8.2 Does the submission system remember where I left my proposal preparation or do I need to start over again every time I log in?

The submission system remembers where you left your draft proposal, as long as you saved the information before logging out or leaving the portal. It allows you to retrieve the saved version every time you log in.

8.3 Is it possible to put hyperlinks in the proposal?

Yes, however we recommend writing a self-containing proposal as reviewers will need to easily access the key information in your proposal and they are not obliged to follow through the possible links.

8.4 Can I store/save different versions of my proposals until I submit the formal one?

Yes, you can store different versions of the same proposal until the submission deadline, using the same login. Nevertheless, the submission system only allows one PDF to be stored, so if you upload a new improved version of your proposal, you must delete the old one.

8.5 Can I submit different proposals (i.e. not different versions of the same proposal but separate proposals covering different topics), using the same login?

No, not under one login name. Each proposal you intend to submit needs a separate, dedicated login in the eATTRACT proposal submission system. This is to ensure a unique identification within the system.

9. Financial reporting

9.1 Could I receive an audit on my funded project?

Yes, you could. EC delegates or representatives, including the ones of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) or the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), may request an audit of your project to ensure that funding has been used for the required purposes of the ATTRACT Open Call. More details in this respect can be found in the TPPA and at:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/index_en.htm

9.2 In the course of the project, will the Lead Participant have to monitor the spending of the participants?

It will be up to each consortia to decide how to collegially manage their project. There is no obligation for the Lead Participant to monitor the spending of the participants. However any participant can be subject of an audit (Cf. question 9.1) and should comply with applicable EU legislation and guidelines.

10. Timeline

10.1 What is the timeline for the funded projects?

An indicative timeline is given below:

- 1st August 2018: Opening of the ATTRACT Open Call
- 31st October 2018 at 23:59 hrs (CET): Closing of the Open Call
- February 2019: Selection of funded projects
- April 2019: Signature of the TPPA marking the official start of the project in May, 2019
- September 2020: FAC where all the funded projects present their results

10.2 When will the project start and what is the project duration?

Each funded project will have a duration of 12 months starting on the date indicated in the TPPA, and following the signature of it.

11. TPPA

11.1 Who should sign the TPPA and in which capacity?

The TPPA needs to be signed by the person legally mandated in the status of the lead participant organisation and identified in the Powers of Attorney signed by the other participants of a submitted proposal.

11.2 Are the Terms and Conditions (T&C) in the TPPA negotiable?

No, the T&C of the TPPA cannot be negotiated. The submission of a proposal on the ATTRACT electronic submission platform implies full acceptance of the T&C.

11.3 What if the TPPA is not signed by the Legal Representative of the lead participant within 14 calendar days of receipt?

Failing to do so may render the offer for funding obsolete and entail the reattribution of the funding to another project proposal.

11.4 Where can I find the Power of Attorney form?

Such a form is not provided as part of the ATTRACT Open Call. This is the responsibility of the Coordinator of the project proposal together with other participants to agree on the scope, wording and signature process taking into account the expectations as detailed in the Submission Guidelines. It is advised to contact the legal service of your institution for this purpose and let your potential partners know about this requirement in order for them to consult their legal services so that the signature process can happen prior to the submission deadline.

12. Evaluation process, evaluation criteria and scoring

12.1 Will there be a redress procedure in case the proposal's participants want to contest the results of their proposal's evaluation?

No redress procedure will be enacted as indicated in the ATTRACT Open Call for Proposals- document. Submission of a proposal on the eATTRACT submission system implies full acceptance of this provision.

12.2 Are there eliminatory thresholds in the evaluation of each section of the proposal?

No, there are no eliminatory thresholds for the evaluation criteria in any of the proposal sections.

12.3 If I know people from the IC, should I report it?

Regarding potential conflict of interests, it is up to the IC members to signal it, as in the case of evaluators in H2020 proposal evaluations.

12.4 What criteria must the project coordinator fulfil, both in terms of legal status within the organization and in terms of how the CV will be evaluated.

There are no particular requirements for the project coordinator as long as she/he is allowed by her/his organization to submit and coordinate an ATTRACT project and ensures that the authorized person who is mandated to sign legal documents and the required power of attorney by the partners to act as coordinator is fully informed. The experience of the project coordinator does not count as explicit evaluation criteria.

12.5 Will the experience of the participants be evaluated?

The experience of the participants does not count as explicit evaluation criteria.

13. Proposal Template

13.1 Should the 100K Euros lump sum include indirect costs?

Yes, if those exist. The participants are free to allocate the 100K Euros to budget items of their choice as long as this distribution serves the purpose of the proposal, and are in line with the EU Financial Rules and H2020 Financial Guidelines. More detailed information can be found in the TPPA.

13.2 Is it possible to submit a proposal with an overall budget exceeding 100k Euros i.e. by obtaining funding different sources (public or private)? If so, should this be visible in the budget breakdown of the proposal?

Yes. Although not required, the proposal can mention the other sources of funding and how they are complementing each other in achieving the described project goals. The scope of activities to be covered by the 100K Euros lump sum by ATTRACT shall be explicitly identifiable from the overall scope. In all cases, the budget breakdown in the proposal needs only to detail the planned use of the 100K Euros lump sum from ATTRACT.

13.3 I am currently benefitting, or intending to benefit, from other EU- or national funding for detection or imaging R&D. Can I apply for both for the same scope?

No, the EC considers this as incurring in double funding. Please note that it is the sole responsibility of the participants joining a proposal to ensure that the scope proposed to be covered by the 100K Euros lump sum is not already benefitting, or foreseen to benefit, from European or National funding during the ATTRACT funding period. More information about this can be found in the ATTRACT Open Call for Proposals- document.

13.4 What is double funding according to the EC?

It is the funding of the same action (e.g. task in a project, cost-item) by two different European Union funding sources (e.g. H2020 and European Structural and Investment Funds). More official information can be found here: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02012R0966-20160101&from=EN%20\(especially%20on%20article%20129](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:02012R0966-20160101&from=EN%20(especially%20on%20article%20129).

13.5 What are the costs items that can be covered by the 100K Euros budget?

The 100 k Euros can be budgeted to/spent according to the criteria of eligible costs in H2020.

13.6 In the Open Call Proposal template, in the organization contact person's name and email cells, should this be the legal representative or the real contact person?

In the template the organization contact person should be the person that will be participating in the project. If your project gets awarded then the Third Party Project Agreement must be signed by the person of your organization that has the power to sign it.

13.7 When calculating the salary for participants in a proposal should I apply the rules set in “ATTRACT-Grant-Agreement.pdf” (which seem to apply for salaries of ATTRACT personnel) or in some other H2020 document?

The calculation of the personnel costs must be in line with the EU Financial Rules and H2020 Financial Guidelines. More detailed information can be found in the TPPA as well as in the H2020 Annotated Grant Agreement under items audits and costs.

13.8 How detailed should the budget breakdown be? Is it ok to give an overview of the costs (e.g. personnel 70%, equipment 10%, services 20%) or do you advise to list more details (e.g. exact number of working hours of the personnel)?

It is not required to calculate the exact working hours of the personnel. It will be enough to break the budget into the different budget line costs.

13.9 Are patent costs eligible costs under ATTRACT’s proposals?

Patent costs are eligible costs.

13.10 Are legal analysis costs eligible costs under ATTRACT’s proposals?

Legal Analysis costs are eligible costs.

13.11 Is subcontracting allowed in ATTRACT’s proposals?

Subcontracting is allowed if compliant with the provisions lead in the EU Financial Rules and H2020 Financial Guidelines.

13.12 Can National funding be considered as double funding?

Yes if this funding is earmarked as originally coming from a European Union funding e.g. Structural Funds.

13.13 Can funding coming for international organisations (e.g. CERN or ESO) be considered as double funding?

No unless if this funding is earmarked as originally coming from a European Union funding e.g. Structural Funds.

13.14 Can I submit the same proposal under different funding schemes?

If these different funding schemes are all EU funding schemes, you run the risk of double-funding if more than one funding schemes accept your proposal. The definition of double funding can be found in the answer to question 13.4.

14. Continuation of ATTRACT in H2020

14.1 I have seen in different presentations of the ATTRACT initiative that a phase 2 is foreseen. What are the plans?

Yes, a phase 2 is foreseen to further fund some selected projects from phase 1. The ATTRACT Consortium intends to apply for a continuation of the call in the next EC Research Infrastructures Work Programme within H2020 2018-2020. If funding is granted, the ATTRACT phase 2 will be implemented as a continuation of ATTRACT phase 1 in late 2020. The ATTRACT initiative also envisions a continuation in the FP9 programme. The Consortium will establish a dialog with the EC to study the possibility to substantially upscale ATTRACT up to 1 B Euros. A preliminary idea is to repeat the phase 1 and 2 of ATTRACT in H2020 within FP9 to seed fund and market scale as many breakthrough projects as possible.

14.2 When will we know which projects proceed to phase 2? Is the selection criteria already known?

The selection criteria for those projects for passing to phase 2 are yet to be determined by the ATTRACT Consortium, in discussions with the IC and the Project Advisory Committee (PAC). They will be specified in the proposal submitted to the EC (Cf. question 14.1.) and align with the ATTRACT overall philosophy of co-innovation between RIs and industry, including the aspects of breakthrough technology and innovation; societal added value and openness. The IC will judge all projects presented in the ATTRACT FAC and determine which ones will proceed to funding phase 2.

14.3 Would ATTRACT help with the scaling up of a successful project after the initial seed funding? Are there additional possibilities to find private investors?

ATTRACT envisions a phase 2 within H2020, to be discussed with the EC for scaling up a limited number of projects that the IC considers to be worthy of it. Also all projects funded by ATTRACT must present the deliverables specified in the documentation available on the web in the FAC in Brussels. This will be an opportunity to contact potential private investors attending the event.

15. ATTRACT Project activities

15.1 If my project gets funded would I need to attend any events organised by the ATTRACT Consortium?

Yes, attendance of at least one project member to the ATTRACT Final Assessment Conference in Brussels will be compulsory (foreseen from 21-25th September 2020).

Although not obligatory, the ATTRACT Consortium will also strongly encourage attending:

- ATTRACT projects Kick-off meeting (CERN premises 20-21 May, 2019)
- Pre-Final Assessment Conference event in Grenoble (ESRF premises 15-17th April 2020)