

ECMWF Copernicus Grants



Copernicus Joint Services

CJS Copernicus Energy Hub Call for Proposals

Call ID: 2026_CJS2_G161
ISSUED BY: ECMWF Administration Department Procurement and Grants Section
Date: 27/05/2026
Version: 01



Funded by the European Union

Implemented by



Table of Contents

1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Overview.....	4
1.2 About ECMWF.....	4
1.3 Legal framework.....	5
1.4 Definitions and abbreviations.....	5
2 SCOPE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS	6
2.1 Copernicus Energy Hub bridging Copernicus and the Energy Sector.....	6
2.2 Budget overview and Project duration.....	8
3 SCOPE OF ACTION 2026-1: DEMONSTRATING THE VALUE OF COPERNICUS FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR.....	8
3.1 Overview.....	8
3.2 Implementation principles.....	9
4 REQUIREMENTS FOR DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES.....	13
4.1 Mandatory Deliverables.....	13
4.2 Mandatory Milestones.....	16
5 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION	17
5.1 Eligible Entities.....	17
5.2 Roles in the Proposal.....	18
6 FUNDING PROVISION	19
6.1 Lump Sum Grant.....	19
6.2 Budget categories.....	20
6.3 Maximum Grant amount.....	20
7 SELECTION PROCESS	20
7.1 Admissibility criteria.....	21
7.2 Eligibility criteria.....	21
7.3 Financial and operational capacity.....	22
7.4 Exclusion criteria.....	23
7.5 Award criteria.....	25
7.6 Evaluation procedure	26
7.7 Debriefing and review procedure	26
8 SUBMISSION PROCESS	27
8.1 Overview of the Call Package.....	27
9 CALL DEADLINE AND TIMELINE	28
10 OVERVIEW OF KEY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ELEMENTS.....	28
11 CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION	30

12 REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS AND CONTACTS..... 31
13 ANNEXES 31

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Overview

Copernicus is the European Union's flagship Earth-observation programme created to achieve operational monitoring of the atmosphere, oceans, and continental surfaces. It aims to provide reliable, validated information services for a range of environmental and security applications.

Copernicus collects environmental information from in situ systems such as ground stations, which deliver data acquired by a multitude of sensors on the ground, at sea or in the air, and is also served by a set of dedicated satellites (the Sentinels) and contributing missions (existing commercial and public satellites).

Copernicus has a user-driven approach and provides six free-of-charge operational services to respond to societal needs: Atmosphere, Marine, Land, Climate Change, Security and Emergency.

The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) implements two of the six Copernicus services on behalf of the European Commission: the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) and the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) and contributes to the operation of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS).

Since launch, both CAMS and C3S have successfully contributed to Copernicus' mission to deliver freely accessible operational data and services providing users with reliable and up-to-date information related to our planet and its environment. Users range from actors in the national and European policy domain, businesses and industry players, as well as European citizens.

This Call for Proposals aims to support the 27 EU Member States and Copernicus participating states, which currently are Norway, Iceland, the United Kingdom, and Ukraine (pending ratification of the relevant agreement between the European Commission and the Government of Ukraine) (hereinafter referred to as 'Countries'), in leveraging C3S products together with those from at least one additional Copernicus service to develop society-relevant demo cases that empower energy communities in the context of the Copernicus Energy Hub (CEH). More specifically, this Call for Proposals seeks to advance the global clean energy transition by strengthening the investment, technical, and institutional decision-making capacities of key actors in the energy sector. In doing so, it supports progress toward international climate and sustainability objectives while reinforcing Europe's energy security, resilience, and competitiveness in line with EU policy priorities.

This Call for Proposals sets out the terms, conditions, and requirements that proposed Participants must comply with when submitting a project proposal and participating in the ECMWF grant procedure.

1.2 About ECMWF

ECMWF is an independent intergovernmental organisation supported by 35 states.

ECMWF is both a research institute and a 24/7 operational service, producing and disseminating numerical weather predictions to its Member States. This data is fully available to the national meteorological services in the Member States. The Centre also offers a catalogue of forecast data that can be purchased by businesses worldwide and other commercial customers. The supercomputer facility (and associated data archive) at ECMWF is one of the largest of its type in Europe and Member States can use 25% of its capacity for their own purposes.

The organisation was established in 1975 and now employs around 500 staff from more than 30 countries.

A description of ECMWF’s activities and infrastructure can be found at:

<https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/what-we-do>

1.3 Legal framework

This Call for Proposals is based on the Contribution Agreement between the European Union, represented by the European Commission and ECMWF on the implementation of the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring and Climate Change Monitoring Services, which entered into force on 22 July 2021.

1.4 Definitions and abbreviations

Affiliated Entities	means entities affiliated to a Beneficiary – via legal or capital link – which participate in the Project with similar rights and obligations as the Beneficiaries (obligation to implement Project tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions).
Applicants	means all legal entities listed in the Proposal as prospective Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, and Associated Partners.
Application	means the Proposal together with the supporting documents and information, as outlined in section 8.1 of this Call for Proposals.
Associated Partners	means entities which participate in the Project, but without the right to charge costs or claim contributions.
Beneficiaries	means entities which are responsible to implement Project tasks and have the right to charge costs and claim contributions and which sign the Grant Agreement (either directly or via an accession form).
C3S	means Copernicus Climate Change Service.
CAMS	means Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.
CEH	means Copernicus Energy Hub.
CEMS	means Copernicus Emergency Management Service.
CLMS	means Copernicus Land Monitoring Service.
CMEMS	means Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service.
Copernicus	refers to the Earth observation component of the European Union’s Space Programme, looking at our planet and its environment to benefit all European citizens. It offers information services that draw from satellite Earth Observation and in-situ (non-space) data.
Countries	means EU Member States and Copernicus participating states.
Deliverable	means a Project output that must be produced by the deadline outlined in the Grant Agreement and submitted to ECMWF.
EC	means European Commission.
ECMWF	means European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts.

EU	means European Union.
Grant	means a financial contribution by way of donation by ECMWF under the Copernicus Programme.
Grant Agreement Template	refers to terms and conditions for Copernicus Grants through ECMWF.
Milestone	means a control point in the Project that helps to chart progress.
Subcontractors	means entities contracted by a Beneficiary for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the Project.
Participants	means all legal entities participating in the Project as Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors (see section 5.2 for details on the roles).
Project	means the set of activities, resources, and funding designed to achieve specific objectives and Results in a defined timeframe and presented in the Proposal to this Call and funded as a result of this Call.
Project Implementation	means the phase – following the Grant Agreement signature – when the Project/Grant is executed.
Proposal	means a response to this Call for Proposals, consisting of the technical description, estimated budget and proposed Participants.
Result	means any tangible or intangible effect of the Project, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.
Submission Portal	means the web-based proposal submission portal ProContract that the Applicants are required to use to submit their Proposal.

2 SCOPE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2.1 Copernicus Energy Hub bridging Copernicus and the Energy Sector

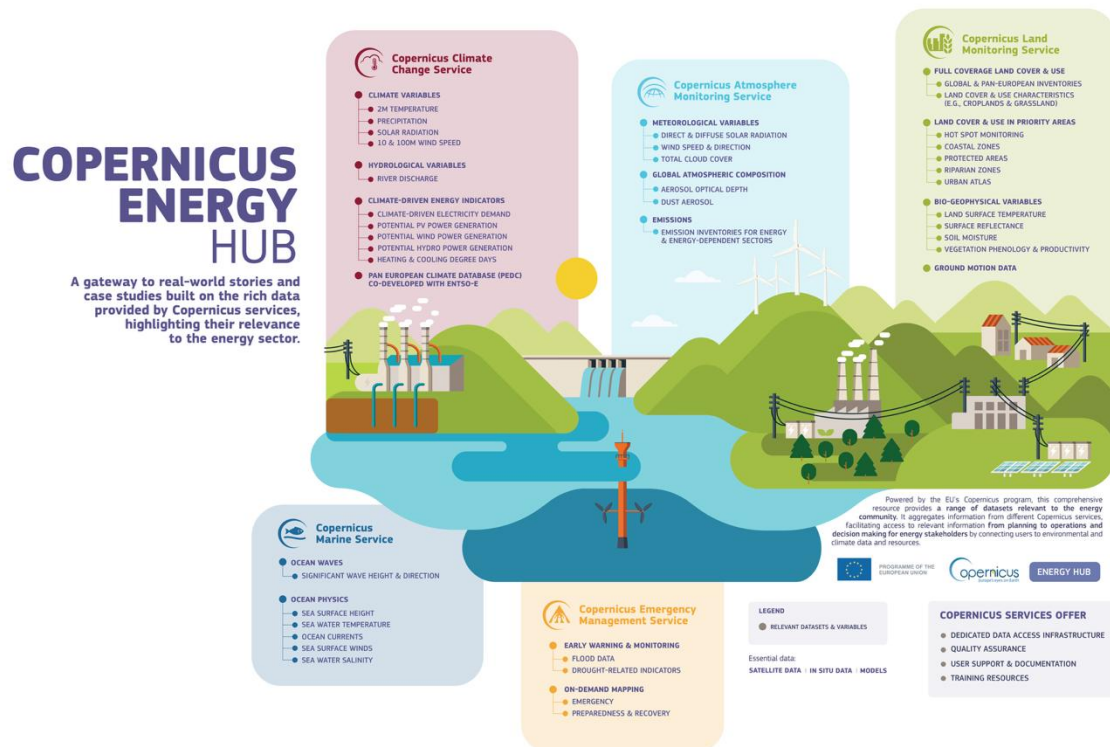
The global energy sector is rapidly evolving, with increasing variability in renewable resources, rising demand, climate-related risks to infrastructure, and shifting geopolitical pressures. In this context, the Copernicus Programme provides comprehensive Earth observation information across six thematic services, offering a unique operational foundation to support this transition.

Operated by ECMWF, the Copernicus Energy Hub (CEH) brings together Copernicus resources relevant to the energy-related user communities and showcases how Copernicus information supports energy production, planning, transmission, and distribution. By highlighting practical applications across diverse energy domains, it helps users identify relevant data, explore new opportunities, and integrate Copernicus information into operational and strategic workflows.

Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) provides climate and energy indicators based on reanalysis, seasonal forecasts and climate projections, as well as other relevant datasets that support energy decision-making at horizons from historical analysis to long-term change. Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service (CAMS) delivers solar radiation, air quality and atmospheric composition

information crucial for renewable energy forecasting and environmental assessment. Copernicus Emergency Management Service (CEMS) provides hazard related information for preparedness and risk assessment. Copernicus Marine Environment Monitoring Service (CMEMS) supports offshore renewable energy development, while the Copernicus Land Monitoring Service (CLMS) supplies the land and water data needed for site selection, biomass assessment and environmental monitoring.

With data from all the Copernicus services, with the exception of Copernicus Security Service (CSS), the CEH contributes to the EU's efforts to build a more sustainable, resilient, and secure energy system.



This infographic presents the main categories of environmental variables and domains covered by relevant Copernicus Services for the energy sector, such as wind speed, solar radiation, land use information, and river discharge. Together, these services offer a comprehensive, operational earth observation backbone that strengthens planning, forecasting, infrastructure protection and resilience, enabling a more secure and sustainable energy transition.

Demo cases funded under this Call for Proposals are expected to reinforce and expand the CEH ecosystem by demonstrating practical, real-world applications of Copernicus data for energy-sector decision-making at European, cross-border and global levels, translating Copernicus data into actionable insights for public-interest energy decisions.

The CJS CEH Call for Proposals is implemented through a single Action, reflecting a key priority identified: **Demonstrating the value of Copernicus for the energy sector.**

2.2 Budget overview and Project duration

The overall indicative amount made available under the CJS CEH Call for Proposals is **Euro 900,000.00** to fund an indicative number of 3 Proposals. The Grant will take the form of one single fixed amount (single lump sum), covering all costs of eligible activities linked to the Project Implementation.

Please note that the table below is intended solely to provide an indicative overview for the Action, for complete and accurate information on all the elements required, you must refer to the relevant sections below.

Action 2026-1: Demonstrating the value of Copernicus for the energy sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indicative ECMWF financing amount for each Project: between Euro 280,000.00 (minimum) and Euro 300,000.00 (maximum).• Indicative number of funded Proposals: 3.• Proposals are expected to have a duration of 18 months.
---	---

3 SCOPE OF ACTION 2026-1: DEMONSTRATING THE VALUE OF COPERNICUS FOR THE ENERGY SECTOR

3.1 Overview

Applicants are expected to demonstrate the value of C3S data products for the energy sector, using either dedicated energy-sector products or raw data. C3S data products for the energy sector include the European Climate and Energy Indicators based on ERA5, the corresponding indicators derived from climate projections, the Pan-European Climate Database (PECD¹) co-developed with ENTSO-E, and the forthcoming Global Climate and Energy Indicators, which are expected to progressively replace the existing European datasets.

Proposals should address concrete energy-related needs with clear operational, societal or policy-relevance. These may include, but are not limited to, renewable energy investment and planning, climate risk management and resilience of energy systems, climate-informed assessments of energy demand and supply, and energy security and system efficiency. Proposals should demonstrate clear relevance to European, global or cross-border energy security priorities and policies. These should also include meaningful engagement of relevant energy stakeholders.

Proposals must make substantial use of C3S data and integrate at least one additional Copernicus Service. Applicants should demonstrate how C3S data can be combined with other relevant Copernicus datasets and, where appropriate, ECMWF meteorological data. This should cover relevant time horizons, including historical baselines, near-term variability and long-term climate change. Where relevant, proposals may also incorporate socio-economic data, energy demand data, or system-level information.

¹ Copernicus Climate Change Service (2024): Climate and energy-related variables from the Pan-European Climate Database derived from reanalysis and climate projections. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS). [DOI:10.24381/cds.f323c5ec](https://cds.clms.copernicus.org/dataset/doi:10.24381/cds.f323c5ec) (Accessed on 24 April 2026).

Proposals should aim to extend the use of Copernicus datasets to new energy-related contexts, at European or global level. Where feasible, proposals should embed Copernicus data into existing energy platforms, tools, reports or initiatives to enhance practical use, visibility, and uptake.

Proposals must clearly avoid duplication with existing or ongoing activities funded under C3S, CAMS, CMEMS, CLMS, and CEMS - including the C3S demo cases for the Mediterranean², and contracts and Grants funded through the C3S and CAMS National Collaboration Programme (NCP)³.

3.2 Implementation principles

Applicants must ensure that their Proposal is fully aligned with the objectives of this Call for Proposals and Action and with the broader aims of the CEH.

In the Proposals, Applicants need to follow the three implementation principles below, articulating how the activities will: 1) **strengthen uptake** of Copernicus products and services in the energy community; 2) **enhance communication, user outreach, and visibility** of CEH in the energy community; 3) **ensure sustainability**, including continued use or further development beyond the Project Implementation period.

1) **Strengthening uptake in the energy community**

Proposals should demonstrate the value of C3S data products for the energy sector. They should address concrete energy-related needs with clear operational, societal, or policy relevance. These may include, but are not limited to, renewable energy investment and planning, climate risk management and resilience of energy systems, climate-informed assessments of energy demand and supply, energy security and system efficiency.

Proposals should demonstrate clear relevance to European, global, or cross-border energy priorities and policies. They should also include meaningful engagement with relevant energy stakeholders.

Applicants are encouraged to use existing C3S energy products, where relevant. However, proposals may also build on raw C3S data, provided that they demonstrate clear added value for the targeted application.

For reference, existing C3S energy products include:

- the C3S Pan-European Climate Database (PECD⁴) for energy and when available, the forthcoming Global Climate and Energy Indicators, which will supersede the PECD;
- the European Climate and Energy indicators based on ERA5 and climate projections. Please note that indicators based on ERA5 are updated every month, supporting real-time demo cases.

² <https://climate.copernicus.eu/demonstrator-cases-support-renewable-energy-transition-across-mediterranean-0>; <https://climate.copernicus.eu/demonstrator-cases-support-renewable-energy-transition-across-mediterranean-1>; <https://climate.copernicus.eu/demonstrator-cases-support-renewable-energy-transition-across-mediterranean>.

³ <https://climate.copernicus.eu/greece>; <https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/hungary>; <https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/norway>; <https://atmosphere.copernicus.eu/poland>.

⁴ Copernicus Climate Change Service (2024): Climate and energy-related variables from the Pan-European Climate Database derived from reanalysis and climate projections. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS). [DOI:10.24381/cds.f323c5ec](https://doi.org/10.24381/cds.f323c5ec) (Accessed on 24 April 2026).

A core objective of this Call for Proposals is to promote practical uptake of Copernicus products within the energy community. Proposals should show how Copernicus data can support real-world workflows, planning, operations, and investment decision-making.

Proposals must make substantial use of C3S data and integrate **at least one additional Copernicus Service** (e.g. CAMS, CEMS, CLMS, CMEMS), as relevant to the demo case.

Applicants should demonstrate how C3S data can be combined with other relevant Copernicus datasets and, where appropriate, ECMWF meteorological data. This should cover relevant time horizons, including historical baselines, near-term variability, and/or long-term climate change. Where relevant, Proposals may also incorporate socio-economic data, energy demand data, or system-level information.

Proposals must include a clear and structured technical description of the demo case. This should cover, at minimum:

- Objectives of the demo case and expected impacts, including operational, societal, or policy relevance.
- User requirements analysis, identifying key users, stakeholders, and relevant policy drivers at global, EU or other regional level, and defining the main actionable requirements (user, data, and service requirements) that shape the activity.
- Data inputs and infrastructure, demonstrating a fit-for-purpose selection of Copernicus datasets
- Justification of data choices explaining how selected datasets address the targeted energy challenge and enable actionable insights.
- Technical design, describing the end-to-end workflow of the demo case, including data flows, key processing components, and how outputs are delivered to and used by stakeholders.
- Integration of additional data, where relevant, to enhance real-world applicability.

Proposals should aim to extend the use of Copernicus datasets to new energy-related contexts at European or global level.

Where feasible, proposals should embed Copernicus data into existing energy platforms, tools, reports, or initiatives. This is to enhance practical use, visibility, and uptake.

Proposals should include clear outputs that support decision-making, such as reports with a set of clear infographics, and, where appropriate web-applications or visualisation tools.

Applicants are encouraged, where relevant for the demo case, to form consortia across multiple countries, including EU Member States and Copernicus participating states, to support wider adoption and cross-border impact.

2) Communication, User Outreach, and CEH Visibility in the Energy Community

Applicants are required to develop a **Communication and User Outreach Plan**, which should:

- Clearly articulate how results and lessons learned from the demo case, including the use of specific Copernicus datasets, will be communicated to the broader energy community, including targeted outreach to relevant stakeholders at international, national or regional levels as appropriate.

- Include communication materials that explicitly highlight the added value of Copernicus data and services in addressing concrete energy-sector needs (e.g. renewable energy investment and planning, system resilience, climate risk management, energy demand-supply assessment, and security of supply). These materials shall provide practical illustrations of how the integration of Copernicus datasets supports actionable outcomes, including investment decision-making, decision support, and operational improvements for energy stakeholders.
- Use multiple channels (e.g. CEH website, community events, national or regional stakeholder meetings, reports, visuals, infographics, webinars or online demonstration).
- Be aligned with C3S branding guidelines⁵.
- Include a user story as a central communication output of the project, demonstrating in a concrete and accessible way the added value of Copernicus data for the energy sector. The user story shall clearly describe the user context and specific energy-sector need (e.g. renewable energy investment, system resilience, or energy planning), how Copernicus (in particular C3S data products) were used and integrated with other relevant data sources. The user story shall as well include how these data informed decisions, investment strategies, or operational workflows, the resulting benefits, lessons learned, and implications for replication or scaling. The story shall at least include one user quote supported by graphical, analytical, or visual outputs illustrating the results. The user story will serve as a key dissemination and uptake instrument, designed to communicate tangible impacts to decision-makers, demonstrate real-world applicability, and support wider adoption of Copernicus-based solutions across the energy community.

3) **Sustainability and Further Development beyond the Project Implementation Period**

This Call for Proposals seeks to support activities that are strategically aligned with broader European, regional or international priorities related to the clean energy transition, energy system resilience, climate risk management and security of supply, through the operational use and integration of Copernicus datasets, in particular those from the C3S.

Applicants must clearly describe:

- How the Project may generate **concrete follow-up opportunities**, such as integration into existing national or regional planning processes, international energy initiatives, regulatory frameworks or sectoral platforms, including pathways for embedding Copernicus (notably C3S) datasets into decision-making, modelling frameworks, or operational tools.
- How the Project outcomes may be **maintained, scaled or operationalised** beyond the funding period. This may include integrating Copernicus datasets into recognised energy platforms, planning workflows, or analytical systems, and the continued use of C3S-derived indicators and climate information across relevant time horizons (historical, near-term, and long-term).
- The strategy for ensuring **long-term uptake by energy-sector stakeholders**, including capacity-building, documentation, stakeholder ownership, or continued collaboration with relevant actors (e.g. energy system operators, planners, policy-makers, and industry stakeholders). This includes a clear approach to expanding the user community beyond the initial project participants, by engaging additional users across geographical regions and

⁵ <https://climate.copernicus.eu/branding-guidelines>.

energy sub-sectors, and by promoting adoption of Copernicus-based outputs within existing networks, platforms, and initiatives to ensure sustained and growing use of project results.

- Any commitments, governance structures or partnerships that strengthen long-term sustainability.

Proposals must demonstrate a **clear user-driven approach**, with targeted involvement of relevant energy-sector stakeholders embedded from design through validation of the demo case, ensuring that Copernicus datasets are applied in real decision contexts and that outputs respond directly to operational, policy, or strategic needs in the energy sector.

Expected impact

The demo case is expected to deliver the following impacts:

- **Demonstration of the operational value of Copernicus (in particular C3S) data** for the energy sector, including their application to concrete use cases such as renewable energy investment and planning, climate risk management, and energy system resilience.
- **Strengthened user uptake and engagement**, through active co-design with energy stakeholders, the development of user feedback loops, and the creation of user stories demonstrating how Copernicus data support real decision-making processes.
- **Contribution to wider societal and policy priorities**, by linking Copernicus-based outputs to key challenges such as the clean energy transition, energy security, and system efficiency, and by supporting integration into existing platforms, networks, or decision-making frameworks.

Targeted stakeholders

This Call for Proposals targets a broad range of energy and climate stakeholders, including:

- **International institutions and organisations** (e.g., European Commission DG ENER, ACER, IEA, IRENA, WMO).
- **Regulators and system operators** (including national regulatory authorities, transmission system operators (TSOs), and regional operators).
- **Energy market actors** (including traders, market operators, suppliers).
- **Public sector authorities at national, regional or local level** with formal responsibilities for energy or climate energy decision making (e.g. ministries responsible for energy or climate policy; regional energy authorities; local or metropolitan authorities responsible for urban energy planning, district heating and cooling systems, or the development and implementation of local sustainable energy and climate action plans).
- **Climate and environmental service providers** (e.g. organisations delivering climate and weather services for energy applications; consultancies or companies supporting climate-informed energy planning, renewable energy assessment, or energy system risk and resilience analysis; providers of decision-support tools for energy actors based on Copernicus data).
- **Research organisations and academic institutions.**

- **Sectoral associations and think tanks** (e.g., ENTSO-E, SolarPower Europe, WindEurope, EMBER).

4 REQUIREMENTS FOR DELIVERABLES AND MILESTONES

Applicants are encouraged to ensure that the work plan remains focused and efficient by limiting Deliverables to the mandatory ones and only those strictly necessary to achieve the expected outcomes of the Action. Additional Deliverables should only be proposed where they clearly add value or are indispensable for monitoring progress. Where appropriate, Deliverables may be merged or the frequency of updates reduced in order to avoid unnecessary fragmentation and reporting burden. Similarly, the number of Milestones should be restricted to those required and those that are essential for tracking the effective implementation of the Project. This approach strengthens the clarity and relevance of the work plan, ensures proportionality between effort and reporting, and allows resources to be concentrated on achieving substantive results.

4.1 Mandatory Deliverables

The following Deliverables are mandatory and must be included in all Proposals.

Mandatory Deliverable	Submission time
User Requirements Collection and Analysis	By month 3 of the Project Implementation
Detailed design of the demo case and updated work plan	By month 3 of the Project Implementation
Communication and User Outreach Plan	By month 3 of the Project Implementation
Demo case - Technical Documentation	By month 15 of the Project Implementation
Demo case Impact and User Uptake Assessment Report	By month 15 of the Project Implementation
Four Quarterly Implementation Reports	By month 4, 7, 10, and 16 of the Project Implementation
Interim Report	Within 60 days after the end of the interim reporting period (i.e. from month 1 to month 9 of the Project Implementation)
Final Report	Within 60 days after the end of the final reporting period (i.e. from month 10 to month 18 of the Project Implementation)

User Requirements Collection and Analysis

This Deliverable shall document a structured stakeholder analysis and the systematic collection and assessment of user needs and requirements relevant to the demo case. It shall identify key energy sector users and stakeholders, describe their roles and decision contexts, and summarise the priority needs, expectations and constraints that the demo case aims to address.

Detailed design of the demo case and updated work plan

This Deliverable shall provide an updated and consolidated design of the demo case and its implementation approach, including:

- a concise technical and scientific implementation plan describing the analytical workflows and processing steps supporting the implementation of the Demo case, including the use of Copernicus data products and services;
- the approach to validation, quality control and user verification;
- an assessment of key technical, organisational and implementation risks and proposed mitigation measures;
- a refined stakeholder and user engagement plan; and
- a description of the expected impacts of the demo case for energy sector users and decision-making.

Communication and User Outreach Plan

This Deliverable informs ECMWF on how the Project develops a strategy and materials for awareness raising, including both wide and targeted user outreach and promotion. This Deliverable:

- details how the Project raises awareness and promotes the use of Copernicus products and services for the energy sector.
- details how the Project allows ECMWF to communicate the activities and expected impacts arising from the Project (e.g. how the Project is supporting EU environmental policy and strategies).

Demo case – Technical Documentation

This Deliverable shall provide comprehensive technical documentation of the implemented demo case. It shall describe how the demo case addresses a clearly defined energy-related user need with demonstrated decision relevance and how energy sector users and stakeholders were actively involved in the development and/or testing phases. The documentation shall detail the substantial use of C3S data products combined with products from at least one other Copernicus Service and explain the applied technical and scientific methodology, including modelling, processing and validation workflows.

The Deliverable shall also describe how the demo case showcases the benefits of Copernicus-based workflows for energy decision-making, including the communication of uncertainties, assumptions and limitations. It shall provide insights into data access, interpretation and workflow integration, including identified limitations or capacity needs, demonstrate effective collaboration between climate service providers, energy authorities, operators and technical partners, and assess the potential for replication or transferability to other users, regions or energy system contexts in Europe or globally. Relevant communicable outputs, including clear narratives and visuals suitable for dissemination through the CEH and related outreach activities, shall be included or referenced.

The demo case must be conceptually described in the Proposal, including:

- objectives,
- methodology,
- expected outcomes,
- participating stakeholders and users, and

- indicative timeline.

A user story linked to the demo case shall be developed and afterwards published on the website (e.g. with the link to the developed tool/application), describing the uptake process and user benefits. The user story shall include, as a minimum:

- the challenge addressed and the key users,
- the Copernicus-based solution implemented through the demo case,
- the Copernicus data products and services used,
- the implementation workflow,
- key benefits and outcomes for the user, and
- at least one user quote and supporting graphical information (e.g. infographics or visuals).

Demo case Impact and User Uptake Assessment Report

The report shall summarise the developments and assess the outcomes of the Project in terms of how effectively the demo case meets identified energy sector user needs and requirements. It shall synthesise user feedback, including testimonials where available, and describe the uptake status of the demo case at the end of the Project Implementation.

This Deliverable shall focus on the added value of the demo case for the energy user community, in particular with respect to operational decision-making, planning and risk management, and relevance to European, national, regional or cross-border energy priorities (e.g. clean energy transition, security of supply, system resilience, climate risk management).

The report shall also provide an outlook on potential follow-up actions, including how the demo case results could be further developed or operationalised, replicated or scaled to other users, regions or energy contexts, and/or integrated into ongoing or future CEH activities.

The Deliverable must provide ECMWF with structured feedback arising from the implementation of the demo case, including lessons learned during implementation, user engagement activities, assessment of the fitness for purpose of Copernicus data and services in the energy context, and identification of gaps, limitations or new user needs.

Four Quarterly Implementation Reports

Quarterly implementation reports are brief publishable summaries of progress for each quarter of Project Implementation. Each quarterly implementation report covers a reporting period of three months, with an additional 30 days allocated for report preparation, and shall be submitted to ECMWF in months 4, 7, 10, and 16. No quarterly implementation report is required in month 13, as that reporting period is covered by the interim report. Similarly, no separate quarterly implementation report is required for the final reporting period, as it is covered by the final report. A template will be provided by ECMWF.

Interim Report

The interim report includes a technical part and a financial part of Project Implementation and covers the reporting period from month 1 to month 9. A template will be provided by ECMWF.

Final Report

The final report includes a technical part and a financial part of Project Implementation and covers the reporting period from month 10 to month 18. A template will be provided by ECMWF.

4.2 Mandatory Milestones

The following Milestones are mandatory and must be included in all Proposals.

Mandatory Milestones	Achievement time
Participate in the ECMWF Grantees' Info-Day	During month 1 of the Project Implementation
Organise Project Kick-off Meeting with ECMWF	By month 1 of the Project Implementation
Organise Project Interim Review Meeting with ECMWF	Within 60 days after the end of the interim reporting period
Demo case – Demonstration	By month 15 of the Project Implementation
Organise Project Final Review Meeting with ECMWF	Within 60 days after the end of the final reporting period
Organise Progress Meetings with ECMWF	Up to 4 Progress meetings during the Project Implementation
Participate in the C3S General Assembly	Once per calendar year
Participate and Present the Project Activities at ECMWF/C3S Events	Once per calendar year upon ECMWF request

ECMWF Grantees' Info-Day

The Grantees' Info-Day (online), organised by ECMWF, provides an overview of the legal, financial, administrative, technical, and project management requirements applicable during Project Implementation to support the successful implementation of the Projects and ensure a common understanding of applicable rules and obligations.

Project Kick-off Meeting with ECMWF

The Beneficiaries will organise the kick-off meeting (online) to present the overview of Project Implementation to ECMWF stakeholders.

Project Interim Review Meeting with ECMWF

The Beneficiaries will organise the interim review meeting to present the technical and financial progress of the Project.

Demo case – Demonstration

The Beneficiaries will organise a session with ECMWF for the demonstration of the demo case developed.

Project Final Review Meeting with ECMWF

The Beneficiaries will organise the final review meeting to present the technical and financial outcome of the Project.

Progress Meetings with ECMWF

The Beneficiaries will organise up to 4 progress meetings with ECMWF to be held during the Project Implementation.

Participation in the C3S General Assembly

The C3S General Assembly is organised once per year as an in-person event. Participation in this event is mandatory for all Projects in every calendar year.

Participation and Presentation of the Project Activities at ECMWF/C3S Events

The participation and presentation of Project activities at other relevant events may be required by ECMWF. In-person or online participation is mandatory for all Projects upon request from ECMWF. Concerning the meetings, events, and workshops listed above, please note that these may be held either online or in-person. Applicants are expected to budget for a total of 5 days per year, with 2 participants per meeting.

5 ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION

5.1 Eligible Entities

According to the Contribution Agreement between the European Union and ECMWF referred to in section 1.3 above, participation in the Call for Proposals shall preferably be open to legal entities established in the Countries (namely the Member States of the European Union and Copernicus participating states) in accordance with the conditions laid down in the [EU's Space Programme Regulation](#).

It is currently ECMWF's expectation that, in practice, entities established in other states may exceptionally be eligible and subject to specific scientific or other requirements (as specified in this Call for Proposals), as well as express prior approval by the European Commission. This applies to Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, Subcontractors, and any other third party involved in the Project.

If duly justified in the Proposal and upon approval of the European Commission:

- Legal entities from Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Türkiye are also eligible to participate as Associated Partners. **Their participation should be justified according to ALL the following three criteria:**
 - Thematic and geographic relevance: the country is relevant for the implementation of the demo case.
 - Capacity and cooperation: the entities legally established in those countries should have the capacity to meaningfully contribute to and add value to the project outcomes. Their participation could be either as observers or directly enhance project impact through activities such as data sharing, scientific collaboration, and stakeholder engagement.

- Energy and/or climate policy representation: the country participates in, or aligns with, regional and/or European policy frameworks and facilitates its implementation.

Other countries not listed above may be considered under exceptional circumstances, provided that strong justification is given and ALL three eligibility criteria outlined above are fulfilled.

- International organisations of European Interest (i.e., international organisations the majority of whose members are EU Member States or whose headquarters are in an EU Member State) are also eligible to participate as Associated Partners.

If, at the time of Grant Agreement signature, the European Commission's approval is still pending, the status of the entities above will no longer be of Associated Partners in the Project. They may, however, still potentially support the Project as external stakeholders.

5.2 Roles in the Proposal

The CJS CEH Call for Proposals entails different types of participation in the Proposal:

- Beneficiary
- Coordinator
- Affiliated Entity
- Associated Partner
- Subcontractors

A brief overview of the roles is provided below. Please refer to the Grant Agreement Template for detailed information on the rights and obligations of each role in the Project.

Beneficiary

The Beneficiary is legally responsible for the Project Implementation by signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. There is always a Beneficiary of the Grant; whereas – if not required for the implementation of the Grant – there can be Grants without other roles such as Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, and Subcontractors. In case of Grants with multiple Beneficiaries, they are jointly responsible of the Grant implementation. The Beneficiary coordinating the Proposal preparation and the Grant implementation (Coordinator) signs the Grant Agreement and the other Beneficiaries sign the accession forms to the Grant Agreement with ECMWF.

Coordinator

The Beneficiary coordinating the Proposal preparation and the Grant Implementation – on behalf of and mandated by all the other proposed Participants – is defined as Coordinator. If awarded, the Coordinator is responsible for Project monitoring and administration of the financial contribution. The Coordinator is the main point of contact with ECMWF at Proposal preparation stage, as well as at Grant implementation stage. Even in case of a mono-beneficiary Grant with no other Participants, that Beneficiary is considered the Coordinator.

Affiliated Entities

Affiliated Entities are entities with a legal or capital link to a Beneficiary (which is neither limited to the Project nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation) which participate in the Project with similar rights and obligations to the Beneficiaries, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement and therefore do not become Beneficiaries themselves. Affiliated Entities are eligible for participation and funding.

Associated Partners

Associated Partners are entities which participate in the Project with no funding and without signing the Grant Agreement with ECMWF. They may not charge costs or contributions to the Project, and the costs for their tasks are not eligible. They might be stakeholders with an interest in the Project but limited or no active participation in Project Implementation. They might be entities from third countries not eligible to receive funding from ECMWF, but who can participate with their own funds.

Subcontractors

Subcontracting refers to entities with whom a Beneficiary has concluded a contract for the externalisation of specific tasks or activities which form part of the Project. Beneficiaries must have the necessary operational capacity to perform the Project themselves, and they remain solely responsible for the implementation of the Project. Subcontracting should be exceptional and not cover core activities. Therefore, subcontracting should be limited to clearly defined parts of the Project and must not exceed 20% of the total eligible costs. Subcontractors can be identified during the preparation of the Proposal, or during the Project Implementation subject to approval by ECMWF in line with the terms and conditions of the signed Grant Agreement.

6 FUNDING PROVISION

The ECMWF financial contribution under the CJS CEH Call for Proposals will be awarded as a lump sum.

6.1 Lump Sum Grant

For lump sum Grants, the payment of the lump sum contribution will be based on the work carried out and reported. The lump sum contribution will cover the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' expected eligible (direct and indirect) costs for the Project. If the Project is implemented properly, the amounts will be paid as agreed in the signed Grant Agreement. The Grant amount is fixed, and the contribution will be paid out after the end of the reporting periods if the work is completed. The work to be completed includes the activities described as part of the objectives, Milestones, and Deliverables that are linked to the Work Packages of the Proposal (Annex I – Technical Description).

A detailed budget for each entity participating as Coordinator/Beneficiary/Affiliated Entity and per each Work Package is required at Proposal stage (Annex II – Estimated Budget). The detailed budget of the Proposal should be based on cost estimations, and it will be the basis to define and justify the lump sum. The cost estimations must be an approximation of the actual costs projected to be incurred by the Coordinator, Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities and they must be:

- in line with the same general eligibility rules as in actual costs Grants as defined in the Grant Agreement Template Clauses 6.1 (a), (d), and (e).

- in line with the Coordinator's, Beneficiaries' and Affiliated Entities' normal practices.
- reasonable/not excessive.
- in line with and necessary for the activities proposed.

Cost estimations that are clearly overestimated or underestimated will lead to a decreased score in the evaluation of the Proposal under the award criterion concerned (see sub-section 7.5). Following the result of the evaluation and the recommendations of the evaluators, the overall lump sum is fixed in the Grant Agreement. Once awarded, lump sum contributions will not require costs reporting.

6.2 Budget categories

The budget categories are:

- Personnel costs;
- Travel, accommodation and subsistence;
- Computing;
- Other direct costs;
- Subcontracting;
- Indirect costs.

Indirect costs are a 25% flat-rate of the total direct costs (A, B, C and D), excluding the direct costs for subcontracting (E).

Subcontracting costs can be up to 20% of the total costs (direct + indirect). Exceptionally, if duly justified in the Proposal, the 20% cap may be exceeded. If the contribution of the Subcontractors is critical for the Project Implementation, please also consider involving them as Beneficiary. Subcontractors may be identified in the Proposal, but this is not mandatory. It is sufficient that the tasks to be subcontracted and the corresponding estimated costs are clearly described in the Proposal. The identification of specific Subcontractor(s) may take place during Project Implementation, in accordance with applicable procurement principles and subject to the relevant checks and formal approval by ECMWF.

The estimated budget of the Project must be expressed in EURO. In case the 'total costs' differ from the 'requested ECMWF contribution', specify what is funded from other sources (see 'Annex I – Technical Description', section 3 table 'Additional resources and contributions not costed on the proposal budget').

6.3 Maximum Grant amount

The maximum Grant amount awarded by ECMWF may differ from the requested ECMWF contribution in the Proposal. Request for changes – if any – will be part of the Grant Agreement Preparation stage.

7 SELECTION PROCESS

ECMWF evaluates each Proposal based on the information provided by the proposed Participants in the Application submitted in reply to this Call for Proposals, and the answers provided in the Submission Portal.

The selection process has two phases:

- Checks on admissibility and eligibility criteria for participation, for exclusion, and financial capacity assessment;
- Evaluation of award criteria, including estimated budget and operational capacity.

Proposals that do not comply with the eligibility and admissibility criteria, that are subject to exclusion, or that fail the financial capacity assessment will be rejected.

At any stage, ECMWF may ask proposed Participants to provide additional information/supporting documents and/or to clarify the documents submitted in connection with the Proposal.

The proposed Participants must be and remain eligible for the entire duration of the Project (see sections 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4 below).

7.1 Admissibility criteria

- Applications must be submitted before the Call deadline.
- Applications must be submitted electronically via the Submission Portal which can be accessed via <https://procurement.ecmwf.int>. Paper submissions are not possible.
- The Coordinator – on behalf of and mandated by all the other proposed Participants – must respond to all items in the online questionnaire in the Submission Portal, providing, where applicable, the application form, supporting documents and any other required document.
- Applications must be submitted using the forms provided in the submission system and in the Call Package.
- Applications must be complete and contain all parts and supporting documents required.
- Applications must be readable, accessible and printable.
- Page limits will apply to ‘Annex I - Technical Description.’ The limit for ‘Annex I - Technical Description’ is 28 pages (excluding the cover and ‘Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Applicants’). If ‘Annex I - Technical Description’ exceeds the 28-page limit, excess pages will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- Applications must be written in English.

7.2 Eligibility criteria

Entities eligible for funding

According to the Contribution Agreement between the European Union and ECMWF referred to in section 1.3 above, participation in this Call for Proposals shall preferably be open to legal entities established in the Countries (namely the Member States of the European Union and in Copernicus participating states) in accordance with the conditions laid down in the EU’s Space Programme Regulation. It is currently ECMWF’s expectation that, in practice, legal entities established in other countries may exceptionally be eligible and subject to specific scientific or other requirements (as specified in this Call for Proposals, as well as express prior approval by the European Commission). This applies to all proposed Participants. Accordingly, ECMWF is required to reserve the right to exclude legal entities from calls at any point in time. All proposed Participants must meet all eligibility criteria throughout the entire duration of the Grant award procedures as well as throughout the entire duration of the implementation of their Grant Agreements signed with ECMWF.

Entities eligible to participate with no funding

If duly justified in the Proposal and upon approval of the European Commission, the following entities are eligible to participate as Associated Partners:

- Legal entities established in the following countries: Albania, Andorra, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Switzerland and Türkiye. **Their participation should be justified according to ALL the following three criteria:**
 - Thematic and geographic relevance: the country is relevant for the implementation of the demo case.
 - Capacity and cooperation: the entities legally established in those countries should have the capacity to meaningfully contribute to and add value to the project outcomes. Their participation could be either as observers or directly enhance project impact through activities such as data sharing, scientific collaboration, and stakeholder engagement.
 - Energy and/or climate policy representation: the country participates in, or aligns with, regional and/or European policy frameworks and facilitates its implementation.

Other countries not listed above may be considered under exceptional circumstances, provided that strong justification is given and ALL three eligibility criteria outlined above are fulfilled.

- International organisations of European Interest (i.e., international organisations the majority of whose members are EU Member States or whose headquarters are in an EU Member State).

Multi-beneficiary Grants

Under this Call for Proposals, only multi-beneficiary Grants are eligible. A Grant is considered multi-beneficiary where the Proposal - and, if awarded, the resulting Grant - involves at least two legal entities participating as Beneficiaries that are separate legal entities and are independent from each other. The Beneficiaries may be legally established either in the same eligible country or in different eligible countries.

For the purpose of fulfilling the multi-beneficiary eligibility criterion, only entities participating as Beneficiaries shall be taken into account. Entities participating as Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, or Subcontractors shall not be counted. For multi-beneficiary Grants, a Coordinator must be clearly identified. The Coordinator shall be responsible for the submission of the Proposal and shall act as the primary contact point with ECMWF.

7.3 Financial and operational capacity

Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the Project throughout the period during which the Project is carried out. The Applicants' financial capacity is assessed based on the 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity', included in the supporting documents of the Call Package. The 'Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity' must be submitted by

all Beneficiaries and Affiliated Entities with the Proposal. If ECMWF considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, it may require: further information; an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility of Affiliated Entities; prefinancing paid in instalments; or propose no prefinancing; request that the Applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire Proposal.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement their tasks in the Project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in comparable projects). This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 3 'Management 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. If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the Applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity. For this assessment, Applicants are required to provide the following information in 'Annex I – Technical Description' of the Application Form: description of the proposed Participants; and, for Coordinator, and for each of the Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, and Associated Partner (refer to 'Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Applicants'), up to five most relevant previous projects, connected to the subject of this Call for Proposals and list and CVs of the key personnel involved in the Project. Additional supporting documents may be requested if they are needed to confirm the operational capacity of any Applicant.

7.4 Exclusion criteria

European Union (EU) Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) Database

The purpose of [EDES](#) is the protection of the European Union's financial interests against unreliable persons and entities applying for EU funds or having concluded legal commitments with the European Commission, other European Union Institutions, bodies, offices or agencies. In particular, the EDES ensures:

- The early detection of persons or entities which pose a risk to the European Union's financial interests.
- The exclusion of persons or entities from receiving European Union funds (Article 137(1) of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The imposition of a financial penalty on a recipient (Article 140 of the EU Financial Regulation).
- The publication, in the most severe cases, on the European Commission's internet site of information related to the exclusion and where applicable the financial penalty, in order to reinforce their deterrent effect (Articles 142 of the EU Financial Regulation).

ECMWF makes use of the EDES to verify whether individuals or organisations are suitable entities to receive funding from the European Union. The grounds for exclusion are listed under article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. They include:

- Bankruptcy and insolvency situations.
- Non-payment of taxes or social security contributions.

- Grave professional misconduct.
- Fraud, corruption, participation in a criminal organisation etc.
- Serious breach of contract.

The proposed Participants including, where relevant, any other relevant third party that would participate in the Project or receive payment from the Beneficiaries in connection with the Project – must confirm that they and persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control in their organisation are NOT listed on the EDES database and must accept that the ECMWF will reject any proposed Participants who are so listed.

European Union (EU) Restrictive Measures

Restrictive Measures (sanctions) are the tool in the EU’s common foreign and security policy (CFSP), through which the EU can intervene where necessary to prevent conflict or respond to emerging or current crises. Entities subject to EU restrictive measures are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, or Subcontractors.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change Service and the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, must ensure that any of the proposed Participants is not included in the list of EU Restrictive Measures.

Consequently, the Coordinator must ensure that none of the Beneficiaries, Affiliated Entities, Associated Partners, Subcontractors, and any person who may receive, directly or indirectly, funds under the Project are included in the lists of EU Restrictive Measures. This requirement is specifically detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

As a minimum – by using the www.sanctionsmap.eu website – the Coordinator must undertake the following checks of all proposed Participants:

- Country check (country of registration of the legal entity / holding company (if applicable));
- Organisation / holding company check (using search function);
- Individual check (using search function).

The Coordinator and the other proposed Participants must complete the ‘COP Restrictive Measures Form’ available in the Call Package as per the instructions thereof.

The proposed Participants should note that, as this forms part of ECMWF’s obligations to the European Commission, failure to complete and return this form may lead to exclusion from the grant procedure.

EU Conditionality Measures

Conditionality Measures are additional protections for the EU budget when breaches of the rule of law principles affect or risk affecting EU financial interests introduced in 2021. Conditionality Measures may be put in place in the context of the general regime of conditionality for the protection of the EU budget established by Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2020/2092 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on a general regime of conditionality for the protection of the Union budget. This conditionality regime allows the EU to take measures – for example suspension of payments, suspension of implementation, termination or prohibitions on entering into new legal commitments with Concerned Entities – to protect the EU budget.

ECMWF, as the entrusted entity for the implementation of the Copernicus Climate Change Service and Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, is required to ensure Conditionality Measures are duly applied vis-à-vis concerned entities. Further requirements with respect to Conditionality Measures are detailed in the Grant Agreement Template.

The proposed Participants must confirm and ensure for the whole duration of the Grant Agreement that none of them or any other third party – that would participate and receive payment in connection with the Project – is affected by the Conditionality Measures described above, and must accept that ECMWF may reject any proposed Participant or any other third party that are so affected.

7.5 Award criteria

If admissible and eligible and if the financial capacity assessment and exclusion criteria checks are satisfactory, the Proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following award criteria: 1. Excellence; 2. Impact; 3. Management and efficiency of the implementation. Proposals will be assessed on their ability to demonstrate effective integration of Copernicus Services, user-driven development, and delivery of actionable outcomes for the energy sector.

1. **Excellence** refers to the extent that the proposed work and outputs correspond to the description of the specific objectives of the Action and the overarching objectives of Copernicus and the CEH. The following aspects will be taken into account: Soundness of the concept; Use of C3S and other Copernicus services products, including relevance of selected datasets, methods and good practice; proposed outcomes.
2. **Impact** refers to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description of the expected impacts of the Call and more specifically the specific impacts identified for the Action. The following aspects will be taken into account: Pathways to impact; Communication and user outreach activities; Feedback to C3S on user requirements; Stakeholder involvement in co-design and validation of the demo case; Relevance and contribution to concrete societal and policy challenges in the energy domain; Sustainability and quality of impact.
3. **Management and efficiency of the implementation** refer to the management and implementation plan and will determine the efficiency of the Proposal to obtain excellence and impact. The following aspects will be taken into account: Project management and quality assurance; Capacity and complementarity of the proposed experts; Quality and effectiveness of the work plan and appropriateness of allocated resources; Risk assessment and mitigation actions; Diversity and inclusion. The estimated budget of the Proposal (Annex II – Estimated Budget) and the operational capacity of the proposed Participants ('Appendix I - Operational Capacity of Project Applicants', included in 'Annex I – Technical Description') will be also assessed against the proposed activities under this criterion.

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria 'Excellence', 'Impact' and 'Management and efficiency of the implementation' (and not for the different aspects listed for each criterion).

For full applications, each criterion will be scored out of 5. Equal weighting will be applied to the three award criteria. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold applying to the sum of the three individual scores will be 10. Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available Call budget.

7.6 Evaluation procedure

Ranking

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements - admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks - and then evaluated, for the award criteria, by an evaluation panel composed of qualified experts, and then ranked according to their overall score. As a result, the Action will have a ranking list.

In the event that two or more Proposals receive the same overall evaluation score, the priority order will be determined as follows:

1. Proposals with the highest score under criterion 2 'Impact'.
2. Through a strategic assessment based on the complementarity and added value of each Proposal, taking into account higher-ranked Proposals, the objectives of the Call for Proposals, and the overall strategic priorities of the C3S programme and the Copernicus Energy Hub. The strategic assessment will be documented in the Evaluation Report.
3. Proposals which addressed well the measures for diversity and inclusion (see sub-section 3.5 of 'Annex I Technical Description').

ECMWF reserves the right to withhold the allocation of any or all available funds or to reallocate such funds in a manner differing from that specified in section 2, based on the Proposals submitted and the evaluation results.

Evaluation results

At the end of the evaluation all Applicants will be informed of the evaluation results via an information letter.

As possible outcomes of the selection process, Proposals may be recommended for funding within the budget available and according to quality score or included in the reserve list in case additional funding becomes available or rejected.

Please note: invitation to the Grant Agreement Preparation stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the Grant can be awarded (e.g. exclusion check, etc.).

Timing

The timing for evaluation and Grant Agreement Preparation is as follows:

- Information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 4 months from the deadline of the Call for Proposals.
- Indicative date for the signing of Grant Agreements: around 6 months from the deadline of the Call for Proposals.

7.7 Debriefing and review procedure

During the selection process, proposed Participants will be notified, via information letter sent to the Coordinator, only if there are issues with admissibility, eligibility, financial capacity and exclusion checks. At the end of the selection process, all the proposed Participants will be informed about the evaluation results of the Proposals via an information letter sent to the Coordinator.

Upon receipt of an information letter, proposed Participants may request a debriefing and/or a review if there is an indication that there has been a procedural shortcoming or a manifest error of assessment in the evaluation of the Proposal.

The debriefing and review request must focus solely on aspects related to the selection process. Applicants may raise concerns regarding procedural irregularities, factual errors, manifest errors of assessment, or abuse of power. However, mere repetition of the Proposal content or disagreement with the evaluation outcome or reasoning are not considered.

For detailed guidance please consult the 'Grants Debriefing and Review Procedure' provided here: <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants>.

8 SUBMISSION PROCESS

8.1 Overview of the Call Package

The Call Package is composed of this Call document and:

- Application Form;
- Supporting Documents;
- Grant Agreement Template;
- Guidelines for Applicants.

In addition, the Coordinator will have to fill an online questionnaire on the Submission Portal, once registered. A copy of the online questionnaire is provided with the Call Package.

The Proposal is composed of three parts:

- Annex I - Technical Description (where the technical proposal is presented in maximum 28 pages), including 'Appendix 1 – Operational Capacity of Project Applicants' (page limit does not apply to Appendix 1).
- Annex II - Estimated Budget (where the detailed budget for each Beneficiary and Affiliated Entity and per Work Package is presented).
- Annex III - Administrative Information (administrative details for each Beneficiary, Affiliated Entity, Associated Partner and, if identified at application stage, Subcontractors).

With the Proposal, the supporting documents below are required:

- Legal Entity Form.
- Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity.
- COP Restrictive Measures Form.

All proposed Participants are required to use the templates provided in the Call Package and available on the Submission Portal. For additional information on the Call Package, please consult the 'Guidelines for Applicants' available on the Submission Portal and here: <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/about/grants/copernicus-grants>.

The Coordinator must register on the Submission Portal via one of the following links: <https://procontract.due-north.com/register>, or <https://procurement.ecmwf.int>.

The Coordinator is responsible for submitting the Application Form and the supporting documents via the Submission Portal (as PDF or other formats allowed by the portal), on behalf of and mandated by all the other proposed Participants. Therefore, the Coordinator will have to confirm in the online questionnaire – available in the Submission Portal – that they have been mandated by all the other proposed Participants involved in the Proposal to act on their behalf in all matters pertaining to the Proposal including, but not limited to, submitting responses to the questionnaire and to upload the required forms and documents on their behalf.

Please note that registration must be completed as early as possible and, in any case, sufficiently in advance of the Call for Proposals deadline. As the registration process is managed by an external provider, delays may occur which are beyond our control. Failure to register in a timely manner may result in the registration not being processed on time. Late registrations are at the Applicants’ own risk and without any guarantee of completion before the Call deadline.

More detailed information on the submission process, the application form and supporting documents can be found in the ‘Guidelines for Applicants’.

The proposed Participants may also be asked at a later stage for further documents (e.g. for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

ECMWF does not reimburse expenses incurred in connection with the preparation and submission of the Proposal. ECMWF accepts no liability whatsoever, whether in contract, tort or otherwise in relation to the Call for Proposals or in respect of any costs, damages or expenses incurred by Applicants or any third party.

9 CALL DEADLINE AND TIMELINE

The CJS CEH Call for Proposals opens on	1 June 2026
Last date for clarification requests	13 August 2026
Last date for publishing clarifications	18 August 2026
The deadline for the CJS CEH Call for Proposals is	24 August 2026, at 14:00 (CEST)
The outcome of the evaluation is expected between	December 2026 – January 2027
The signature of the Grant Agreement is expected between	February 2027 – March 2027

10 OVERVIEW OF KEY LEGAL AND FINANCIAL ELEMENTS

This section presents an indicative and non-exhaustive overview of key legal and financial elements relevant at Proposal preparation stage and – in case of award – at Grant implementation stage.

Non-cumulative award and no double financing

Each Beneficiary may not get more than one Grant under this Call for Proposals. The Applicants must specify in the application form any applications and awarded grants/tenders relating to the Call for Proposals’ Action or to the same work. The same costs cannot be funded more than once by ECMWF.

Retroactivity

No Grant may be awarded retroactively for projects already completed. The Project starting date and duration are fixed in the Grant Agreement. Normally, the starting date will be after the Grant has been signed. A retroactive starting date - prior to the Grant Agreement's signature - may be exceptionally granted for duly justified reasons, subject to agreement with ECMWF. However, it can never be earlier than the date on which the evaluation results notification (information letter) is sent to the Applicants.

No-profit rule

Grants must not have the purpose or effect of generating a profit within the framework of the Action. If there is a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + ECMWF Grant over costs), it will be deducted from the final Grant amount.

Multiple submission and participation

Applicants are strongly encouraged to be involved in no more than one Proposal under this Call for Proposals, either by submitting it as prospective Coordinator or by joining it as part of a project consortium. While this is not a mandatory requirement, multiple participations are discouraged and will only be accepted if duly justified.

Legal commitments

By submitting Proposals in response to this Call for Proposals, Applicants are acknowledging that they are indicating their intention and willingness to enter into a Grant Agreement under the terms and conditions set out in the Call for Proposals and in the Grant Agreement Template. Submission of a Proposal implies acceptance of these terms and conditions. Successful Applicants shall be bound by the obligations, terms, and conditions of the Grant Agreement, including the obligation to provide accurate, sincere, and complete information throughout the grant procedure. However, ECMWF is under no obligation to award a Grant based on any Proposal received. The Proposal shall remain valid for nine months after the closing date for this Call for Proposals.

Initial pre-financing rate and payments

In case of award, there will be three payments: initial pre-financing; interim payment (mid-term); final payment.

Payments	Reporting period from Month	Reporting period to Month	Deadline for reporting	Deadline time to pay
Initial Pre-financing	NA	NA	Coordinator providing ECMWF with a completed and signed payment request as soon as possible after signature of the Grant Agreement	After 60 days from receipt by ECMWF Finance of the completed and signed payment request
Interim payment	1	9	Within 60 days after the end of reporting period	After 60 days from the receipt by ECMWF Finance of the completed and signed payment request after the approval of the interim

				report and the notification to this effect by ECMWF
Final payment	10	18	Within 60 days after the end of reporting period	After 60 days from the receipt by ECMWF Finance of the completed and signed payment request after the approval of the final report and the notification to this effect by ECMWF

The initial pre-financing payment may be granted for up to 50% of the estimated budget. The amount shall be determined on the basis of the outcome of the financial capacity assessment carried out by ECMWF. Different initial pre-financing rates can be applied by ECMWF in case of non-satisfactory outcome of the financial capacity assessment on the grant recipients.

The interim payment ceiling during the Grant implementation is 80% of the maximum Grant amount total budget. The remaining budget, if due, will be paid after the final reporting.

Ownership of the Results and intellectual property rights (IPR)

In Grants, Results are owned by the Beneficiaries that generate them. Therefore, ECMWF does not obtain ownership of the Results produced under the Project. However, ECMWF, the European Commission and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use the Results, Deliverables, reports and other documents relating to the Project for the purposes of the Copernicus Programme as well as for its own internal purposes. Furthermore, ECMWF, the European Commission and other entities mentioned in Clause 2.3 of the Grant Agreement Template have the right to use Beneficiaries’ materials, documents and information (notably summaries for publication, Deliverables and any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) and Results for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes. For the terms and conditions on IPR, please refer to the Grant Agreement Template.

11 CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

ECMWF reserves the right to retain all documents submitted by the proposed Participants in response to the Call for Proposals. Any information in such documents that is proprietary and confidential to the proposed Participants will be handled confidentially by ECMWF provided it is clearly and specifically identified as such. Such obligation shall not apply if such information is or was obtained from other sources that do not bind ECMWF as to confidentiality or if the information is in the public domain.

ECMWF may make Proposals available for evaluation purposes to authorised people including its governing body, committees, and professional advisers in addition to ECMWF’s own personnel under the same conditions of confidentiality.

The reply to any Call for Proposals involves the recording and processing of Personally Identifiable Information (PII) such as name, address, and PII included in the CVs. Please also note that all personally identifiable information processed by ECMWF will be treated in accordance with ECMWF Policy on Personally Identifiable Information Protection (PIIP) available at <https://www.ecmwf.int/en/privacy>.

Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any Personally Identifiable Information requested that are required for evaluating the application in accordance with the Call for Proposal will be processed solely for that purpose.

12 REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATIONS AND CONTACTS

Please submit your queries via the Submission Portal. For more information on how to contact ECMWF via the Submission Portal, please refer to the 'Guidelines for Applicants to the CJS CEH Call for Proposals'.

13 ANNEXES

This Call for Proposals comprises:

- Application Form: Annex I - Technical Description; Annex II - Estimated Budget; Annex III - Administrative Information.
- Supporting Documents: Legal Entity Form for Public Entities; Legal Entity Form for Private Entities; Legal Entity Form for Individuals; Declaration Form for Economic and Financial Capacity; COP Restrictive Measures Form.
- Grant Agreement Template.
- Guidelines for Applicants.