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Ref.: ESA-CIP-POE-DT-lr-sp-LE-2022-688

Frascati, 16 November 2022

Subject: The Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Research Fellowship 2022 (under ESA EISI procedure)

Dear Sirs,

On behalf of the European Space Agency (ESA), I am pleased to invite you participate to the Call for Research Proposals of the Climate Change Initiative (CCI) Research Fellowship 2022.

The main objective of this initiative is *“to support early-career scientists in the field of Earth Observation for Climate Research, and to date the Climate Change Initiative has funded twenty-four research fellowships to further improve and exploit ECV products. To continue this research-excellence, ESA is calling for new proposals under the umbrella of the CCI Fellowship scheme”*.

Host Organisation’s Candidates shall propose a 2-year research plan contributing to at least one of the following areas:

- A. Exploitation of the Climate Change Initiative Essential Climate Variables to improve our understanding of carbon, water and energy cycles and investigate the long-term response of our climate system.
- B. Cross-ECV research topics ranging from (but not exclusive to) teleconnections, tipping points, ice-ocean-atmosphere interactions, ocean surface currents, sea level budget closure, atmospheric trace gases, land-atmosphere exchange, terrestrial hydrology, and climate and human health.
- C. Topics related to the exploitation of CCI ECVs in the context of Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP), for example systematic observations based forcing datasets, model evaluation for process understanding, parameterization development, constraints on water and energy cycles, model benchmarking, or any aspect of the interface between climate models and observations.
- D. Projects should also aim to improve interactions between CCI community members and other laboratories/universities involved in climate research activities.

1. Call for Research Proposals Package

Please note that this Call for Research Proposals package was published on the Climate Office Web Page (accessible from www.climate.esa.int) on the date of this letter. The Call for Research Proposals package includes the following documents:

- Appendix 1 - CCI Call For Post-Doctoral Research Proposals 2022 and Annex A to Appendix 1 – ESA CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE;
- Annex B to Appendix 1 – CCI EISI Project Proposal;
- Annex C to Appendix 1 - PSS form;
- Appendix 2 - Draft CCI EISI Agreement.

2. Conditions for proposal submission

In order to respond to this Call, you must submit all of the documents described in Appendix 1 - CCI Call For Post-Doctoral Research Proposals 2022.

Your attention is drawn in particular to the requirement to submit with your proposal a specific statement from the Host Institution confirming acceptance of the draft Agreement (Appendix 2). Offers without such a statement or with reservations to the Draft Agreement will not be considered for evaluation. Only in the case national laws do not allow conditions to be accepted in the partnership agreement, this should be clearly pointed out in the required letter from the Host Institution and proposal template.



3. Eligibility criteria

You shall satisfy the eligibility criteria defined in Article 18 of the ESA Procurement Regulations applicable *mutatis mutandis* and in Section 3.1 of Appendix 1.

Projects will be funded under the CCI Programme, and participation is restricted to institutions which have their registered office in one ESA Member State that contributes to the CCI¹: **Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.**

Your proposal and all supporting documents must be sent by e-mail to: climate.office@esa.int and should be written in English using exclusively the documents contained in Appendix 1 to 3 above or referred to therein.

In case of a selection of a Proposal for award, the Applicant shall complete their ESA-STAR registration from “Light Registration” to “Full Registration” upon notification by the Agency. Full Registration is a pre-condition for placing an EISI Agreement. The registration as an ESA Entity includes the obligation to subsequently fill in the Agency Questionnaire and its yearly updating through “ESA-STAR”. Further information on the registration process can be found on the Industry Portal pages.

4. Conditions and contract with the Host Organisation:

For selected project proposals, ESA will place a contract (see **Appendix 2 - Draft Agreement** of this call for proposals) with the Host Organisation for a maximum of **110,000 Euro per 2-years**, as a co-funding contribution to a standard post-doctoral position.

ESA funding shall contribute to cover at maximum 70% of costs associated to the salary, travel and publications of the Candidate. The maximum ESA contribution to this cost is **110,000 Euro**.

5. Timeline

Below are the indicative dates and the steps relevant to the present Call:

- Call opens on **21st November 2022**;
- Submission deadline on **31st January 2023**;
- Notification to applicants by **mid-March 2023**;
- Intended start of successful candidates in **April - June 2023**.

6. Evaluation criteria and selection process

All Proposals which meet the eligibility conditions will be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee against the evaluation criteria identified here-below. Over a maximum of 100 points given to the proposals during evaluation, only Proposals scoring above 60 will be considered for funding by the Award Authority.

Proposals will be selected on the basis of a peer review process by the Evaluation Committee including ESA staff experts. The selection process will be carried out on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Scientific background and experience of the Candidate and the Host Organisation, including the adequacy of the proposed computing facilities, feasibility of data access requirements;
2. Relevance of the proposed work to Programmatic Areas (identified in Section 2.1);
3. Excellence of the scientific proposal demonstrating the expected contribution to science beyond the state of the art;
4. Adequacy of the proposed methodology, work plan, scientific approach;
5. Financial capacity to perform the project.

After the selection process, ESA will send an e-mail to all candidates informing them about the outcome of their application.

¹ The CCI is not a mandatory ESA programme and only Member States that have subscribed to the programme may participate as Host Organisations.



The Agency reserves the right to award several agreements.

7. Communications:

Any questions relating to this Call must be sent, by e-mail to climate.office@esa.int , not later than one (1) week before the Closing Date.

Applicants are asked to note that each response which the Agency makes goes through an internal review process, and that the response will be published once this internal review process has been completed.

8. Confidentiality:

Any document submitted in reply to this Call for Proposal shall become the property of ESA. However ESA will solely use any commercial, confidential or proprietary information included in the Proposal for cost reference purposes and for the purpose of the evaluation of the Proposal and the selection of a Beneficiary. Unsuccessful Proposals will be disposed of in accordance with ESA's regulations.

9. Kick-off


Successful proposals will receive the EISI CCI Agreement signed. Should any Candidate wish to withdraw from the procedure, that Candidate shall write to climate.office@esa.int before the EISI Agreement's Kick-Off date.

10. Closing Date

Your proposal and all supporting documents must be sent by e-mail to: climate.office@esa.int by no later than **31st January 2023** (the Closing Date).

Yours faithfully,

Benjamin
Jusset

 Digitally signed by Benjamin Jusset
Date: 2022.11.15 15:26:34 +01'00'

Benjamin Jusset
Head of Operations & Ground Segment
Procurement Division