



Connecting Europe Facility

Call for proposals

for the selection of the SESAR Deployment Manager and the awarding of a framework partnership agreement and the specific grant agreement (Article 9 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 409/2013)

(CEF-T-2021-SESAR DEPLOYMENT MANAGER)



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1. Introduction

This is a call for proposals for an **EU framework partnership for grants** in the field of Transport under the **Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)**.

The regulatory framework for this EU Funding Programme is set out in:

- Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council ([EU Financial Regulation](#))¹;
- the basic act (CEF Regulation [2021/1153](#))².

The call is launched in accordance with the CEF work programme for 2021-2027³ and will be managed by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport.

The general objective of this call for proposals is to renew the Management level of the deployment governance, defined in Article 9 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 409/2013 (Deployment Regulation).

The specific objectives of this call are:

1. to select the SESAR Deployment Manager defined in Article 9 of the Deployment Regulation) for the period from 1 June 2022 to 31 December 2027;
2. to award a Framework Partnership Agreement in accordance with Article 9.5 of the Deployment Regulation;
3. to award a Specific Grant Agreement from 01/06/2022 up to 31/12/2024 under the Framework Partnership Agreement for the execution of the Deployment Manager tasks.

The present **Call Document** outlines the:

- Background, objectives, activities that can be funded and the expected results (Sections 2 and 3);
- Available budget and timetable (sections 4 and 5) ;
- Admissibility, documents, submission, including mandatory documents, and eligibility conditions (Sections 6 and 7);
- Criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (Section 8);
- Evaluation and award procedure (section 9);

¹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1153 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7 July 2021 establishing the Connecting Europe Facility (OJ L 249, 14.7.2021, p. 38).

³ Commission Implementing Decision C(2021) 5763 final of 5.08.2021, concerning the adoption of the work programme for 2021-2027 and the financing decision for the implementation of the Connecting Europe Facility - Transport sector.

- Legal and financial set-up of the Specific Grant Agreement (Section 10).

You are also encouraged to visit the SESAR Deployment Manager's [website](#) to consult the activities undertaken so far.

2. Background

The European Union set out to modernise and harmonise the management of air traffic in Europe through the **Single European Sky** (SES) initiative⁴. The SES combines economic regulation and technological innovation measures in a legal framework that defines provisions, mechanisms and implementing bodies, which are largely driven by partnerships involving a wide range of aviation stakeholders.

The **Single European Sky Air traffic management Research (SESAR)** project represents the technological dimension of the SES. It aims to modernise Europe's air and ground ATM infrastructure and operational procedures thus contributing to a smarter, more sustainable, better connected and accessible air transport. SESAR is an essential enabler for the implementation of the broader SES initiative.

The SESAR project comprises an innovation cycle with three interrelated phases: definition, development and deployment, the latter includes the industrialisation and implementation processes. These phases are driven by partnerships such as the SESAR Joint Undertaking and SESAR Deployment Manager, which involve air navigation service providers (ANSP), airport operators, airspace users, research organisations, academia, ground and airborne equipment manufacturers, professional staff representatives, institutional and SES bodies (European Defence Agency, European Union Aviation Safety Agency, Network Manager) and intergovernmental organisations (EUROCONTROL and the European Space Agency). Dedicated legal instruments define SESAR's governance and implementing mechanisms and financial incentives.

The SESAR Definition phase

The **European ATM master plan**⁵ defines the SESAR vision for a modern, interoperable and efficient ATM in Europe towards the 2040 horizon. It identifies the essential operational changes that need to occur throughout the European ATM network and the relevant R&D and deployment objectives for its achievement. In particular, the 2020 edition of the European ATM Master Plan defines the '**Digital European Sky**' as the expression of the SESAR vision for a modern and efficient ATM system to be achieved by 2040. The Digital European Sky shifts the focus on the performance of systems and services and addresses the double challenge of digitalisation and decarbonisation of air transport as part of Europe's Green Deal and the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy.

⁴ Regulations (EC) No 549, 550 and 551/2004

⁵ <https://www.atmmasterplan.eu/>

The SESAR development phase

The development phase performs all ATM-related research, development and validation activities identified in the European ATM Master Plan. It delivers **SESAR Solutions**⁶, which are new or improved operational procedures and technologies that contribute to the modernisation of the European and the global ATM system. Each solution includes the relevant documentation addressing: operational services and environment descriptions; safety, performance and interoperability requirements; technical specifications; safety and security assessments; regulatory recommendations and human and environmental performance reports.

The **SESAR Joint Undertaking**⁷ (SJU) is a public-private partnership acting as the single Union body responsible for managing the SESAR development phase. The SJU was established for the first time in 2007 under the Union's FP7 R&D Programme and continued under the Horizon 2020 R&I Programme. By the end of 2021, it will be replaced by the new **SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking** that will be established under the Union's Horizon Europe programme.

The SESAR deployment phase

The deployment phase includes the industrialisation and implementation processes that enable the operational use of SESAR solutions:

- *Industrialisation*: Many of the SESAR solutions require the use of standards to prepare them for industrial production before they are integrated to existing ATM systems. There is no central European coordinator for standardisation. However, there are efforts amongst the SESAR partners to draw up an industrialisation strategy aiming to creating the necessary preconditions for SESAR solutions to obtain the so-called "V4 maturity" that ensures a smooth and timely transition to the implementation process. This includes the identification of the need for new or updated standards. The European ATM Standards Coordination Group (EASCG) is coordinating the ATM-related standardisation activities, essentially stemming from the European ATM Master Plan, in support of SES implementation.
- *Implementation*: Once validated and industrialised, the new SESAR solutions should be rapidly implemented in the operational environments to reap, without delay, performance and economic benefits. ATM solutions are implemented in three ways:
 1. **Voluntarily**, when, without any legal requirement, stakeholders implement them individually and based on local needs where they bring most benefits;
 2. **Mandated by regulation**, when they must be implemented within a certain timeframe across a defined geographical area, or by specific stakeholders, to generate network benefits, but can still be implemented locally and individually without specific coordination at Union level;

⁶ <https://www.sesarju.eu/activities-solutions>

⁷ <https://www.sesarju.eu/>

3. **Mandated by regulation and coordinated implementation**, when, because of their significant impact on network performance, they must be implemented in coordination and synchronisation with groups of stakeholders and in specific geographical areas.

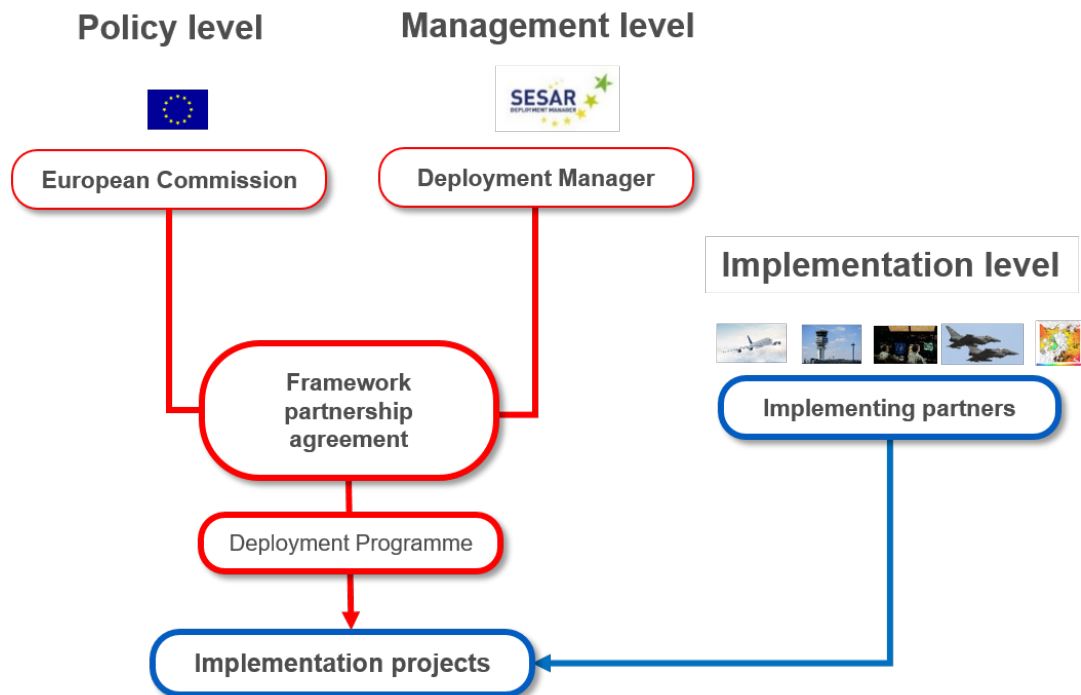
To facilitate and accelerate the implementation of essential ATM functionalities based on SESAR solutions, the Commission set up the **SESAR deployment framework** defined in the Deployment Regulation that relies on three main instruments:

- 1) **Common projects** (Article 4 of Deployment Regulation) are Commission Implementing Regulations mandating the coordinated and synchronised implementation of specific ATM functionalities based on SESAR solutions and that comply with three criteria:
 - they contribute to achieving an “essential operational change” defined in the European ATM Master Plan;
 - they are ready for implementation;
 - they require synchronised implementation.

The SJU in cooperation with the SESAR Deployment Manager and with the close involvement of European ATM stakeholders, develops the content of the common projects and proposes them to the Commission. The Commission assesses the proposed content and the consensus it achieves amongst stakeholders. After endorsement by Member States through the Single Sky Committee, the Commission adopts a legally binding implementing regulation mandating the implementation of the common projects.

The ‘pilot common project’, set up by Regulation (EU) N° 716/2014, was the first common project established under the SESAR deployment framework and included 6 ATM functionalities. Together with the selection of the SESAR Deployment Manager, it was a pilot exercise for the entire SESAR Deployment Framework which was largely reviewed from 2017 to 2021. The pilot common project was ultimately replaced by common project one (CP1) established by Regulation (EU) N° 2021/116 on 2/2/2021, as a result of the review. The review also highlighted the need for a more dynamic ATM modernisation process driven more by operational and economic needs. On the one hand, the review pointed to the lack of maturity of some solutions underlying ATM functionalities and the absence of effective enforcement measures as contributing to delays in implementing the pilot common project. On the other hand, it also allowed to identify functionalities that did not fully comply with the requirements of common projects, namely in terms of not providing significant benefits for the ATM network, not being ready for implementation or not requiring synchronised implementation throughout the network. The audit performed by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) in 2019, complemented this review and its recommendations provided an important input to it.

- 2) **The SESAR Deployment governance** (Section 1 of chapter III of the Deployment Regulation) is a cooperative process amongst operational stakeholders, the Commission, Member States and SES bodies to agree on which ATM solutions need to be deployed, where, by who, by when and how. This process is managed through the three levels of governance illustrated below:



The European Commission is responsible for the policy level and the SESAR Deployment Manager is responsible for the management level. The Implementation level consists of the **implementation projects** selected by the Commission to implement common projects, as defined in Article 10 of the Deployment Regulation. These projects are proposed and carried out by consortia of operational stakeholders acting as implementing partners.

The Policy and Management levels are bound through the FPA, which is the subject of this call for proposals. The Commission selects *implementation projects* through calls for proposals published and managed by the European Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Executive Agency (CINEA), who is in charge of the call for proposals, the selection process and the management of the grants for the implementation projects that will be launched under the CEF programme. The selected projects will implement the deployment programme and will be subject to the rules and procedures of CEF programme.

The Deployment Manager function is appointed by the Commission through a call for proposals, such as the present one. The Commission appointed the SESAR Deployment Alliance AISBL (SDA) for this function for the duration of the Union's 2014 – 2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework. SDA's mandate will expire on 31 May 2022.

- 3) **The Deployment Programme** (Section 2 of Chapter III of the Deployment Regulation). Common project regulations define what needs to be deployed, where, when and by who. The deployment programme defines how the common project ATM functionalities should be implemented. It translates the common projects into a common and consistent work plan and frames the scope of the related *implementation projects*.

Moreover, it defines how those projects and the related investments should be synchronised.

The deployment programme is developed by the Deployment Manager with the involvement of stakeholders and ATM related bodies, and approved by the Commission.

You may consult the latest version of the deployment programme on:

[Deployment Related Documents](#) or [Publications – Deployment Programme | SESAR DM \(sesardeploymentmanager.eu\)](#)

The Deployment Manager is currently updating the deployment programme to adapt it to the CP1. The Commission expects to approve the new deployment programme in early 2022. It will be published on the webpages mentioned above.

The new edition of the deployment programme will be included as an Annex to the FPA resulting from this call for proposals and will constitute the main reference for the work of the future Deployment Manager and for the *implementation projects* set up by the implementing partners.

We strongly recommend that you read very carefully the Deployment Regulation before you prepare your application.

3. Objectives — Activities that can be funded — Expected impact

3.1. Objectives of the Framework Partnership

Framework partnerships are long-term cooperation instruments that serve as umbrella for regular or recurrent grants in the same field or area and under a common *Action Plan*. They are formalised through **Framework Partnership Agreements (FPA)**. An FPA is a prerequisite for being able to apply for these grants, which are formalised in **Specific Grant Agreements (SGA)**, but does not create any legitimate expectations or entitlement to the grants.

FPA beneficiaries are identified on the basis of a standard evaluation and award procedure and then invited to submit their proposals for grants (closed calls addressed directly to the framework partners). Please note that this call for proposals aims to award both the FPA for the period 2022-2027 and the first SGA for the period 2022-2024. Depending on the availability of Union budget and the results of the first SGA, the Commission reserves the right to award additional SGAs during the FPA duration.

Please note that operational stakeholders who intend to contribute to future implementation projects as implementing partners but who will not contribute to the functioning of the future Deployment Manager, should not join the applicant's consortium for the FPA. Their implementation projects, if selected, will be funded through multi-beneficiary grant agreements (MGAs) awarded by CINEA through separate calls for proposals under the CEF multi-annual programme 2021-2027. These projects will have to comply with the deployment programme, which will associate the MGAs with the FPA.

3.1.1. Tasks and obligations of the SESAR Deployment Manager and its members

If you are selected to undertake the role of SESAR Deployment Manager, you will have to ensure the timely and efficient execution of the responsibilities defined in the Deployment Regulation, which consist in:

- (a) developing, proposing, maintaining and implementing the deployment programme;
- (b) associating the operational stakeholders that are required to implement common projects;
- (c) establishing transparent governance, consultation and decision-making mechanisms and processes that ensure efficient synchronisation and overall coordination including, where necessary, project management of the implementation projects and the related investment in line with the deployment programme;
- (d) ensuring effective management of risks and avoidance of conflict of interest;
- (e) advising the Commission on issues related to the implementation of common projects and on setting up new common projects;
- (f) implementing Commission decisions and ensuring and monitoring their implementation by the implementation level;
- (g) identifying the most appropriate financing mechanisms combining public and private funding to support the deployment of common projects;
- (h) monitoring implementation of the deployment programme;
- (i) reporting to the Commission;
- (j) ensuring appropriate coordination with National Supervisory Authorities;
- (k) ensuring appropriate coordination with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

In addition, the SESAR Deployment Manager shall establish cooperative arrangements with the Network Manager⁸, the SESAR 3 Joint Undertaking and the European Defence Agency. The SESAR Deployment Manager shall also seek assistance from the manufacturing industry through cooperative arrangements aiming to receive, inter alia, information on the industrialisation of products.

You will find all the definitions relating to the above mentioned responsibilities in the Deployment Regulation.

To fulfil these responsibilities, you must address the following elements in your application:

- For the responsibilities referred to in (a), you must develop guidance material to support operational stakeholders in understanding and implementing the deployment programme.
- For the responsibilities referred to in (a), (b) and (c), you must establish appropriate and transparent and non-discriminatory mechanisms to consult/involve all stakeholders that are required to implement common projects. The Deployment Manager will play a key role in assisting stakeholders in ensuring consistency of their projects with the common projects and the deployment programme.
- For the responsibilities referred to in (d), you must establish and maintain a risk register identifying clear, implementable and measurable mitigation actions, mainly driven by

⁸ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/123

the Deployment Manager, and propose a policy and rules for avoiding conflict of interest.

- For the responsibilities referred in (e), you must develop programme management mechanisms for the potential implementation of technological and operational enablers that are required to implement common projects, as identified in the deployment programme.
- For the responsibilities referred to in (i), you must ensure regular reporting to the Commission on the execution of the Deployment Manager tasks defined in the SGA, on the implementation of the deployment programme and provide the Commission with access to technical and financial data relating to the implementation of the deployment programme and to the deliverables.
- For the responsibilities referred to in j) and k) you must ensure effective cooperation and coordination between the Deployment Manager and entities participating in deployment processes identified in the Regulation.

The SESAR Deployment Manager is also encouraged to establish cooperative arrangements with other bodies/organisations, such as, inter alia, the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and Eurocae, on relevant standardisation activities, and bodies representing professional staff.

In accordance with Article 6(7) of the Deployment Regulation, Member States and the Network Manager shall include the investments related to the implementation of common projects in the performance plans and the Network performance plan. The Performance Review Body⁹ is tasked to review the performance plans, including the verification of their completeness. For this purpose, the SESAR Deployment Manager shall provide the Performance Review Body with the relevant data on the implementation of common projects.

The new SESAR Deployment Manager shall take over the role of coordinator of the on-going implementation projects that have been awarded grants under the previous CEF programme (2014-2020). The SESAR Deployment Manager shall also be the coordinator of the future implementation projects that will be awarded with CEF grants under the 2022-2027 work programme (see below).

All members of the Deployment Manager shall implement at least one implementation project or a part of it.

In your application, you must clearly identify in the Action Plan how you intend to implement all of the above mentioned responsibilities over the entire duration of the FPA (up to 2027). You must propose an efficient, cost-effective, lean and transparent organisation ensuring the management and supervision of all the technical, administrative and financial activities that are necessary to fulfil the mandate of SESAR Deployment Manager.

All members of the SESAR Deployment Manager should contribute with their own resources, expertise and infrastructure to executing the tasks of the SESAR Deployment

⁹ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) N° 390/2013.

Manager in the most effective and efficient manner. Sub-contracting should be limited to duly justified case (see section 10.4).

Co-existing Framework Partnership Agreements and Multi-beneficiary Grant Agreements

The current SESAR Deployment Manager is working under SGAs in the context of a Framework Partnership Agreement that has expired on 31 December 2020 (FPA1). FPA1 covers the current Deployment Manager tasks that are funded as a CEF Programme Support action through SGAs managed by DG MOVE. The last SGA will terminate on 31 May 2022. In addition, FPA1 also includes SGAs for the ongoing implementation projects (IP SGAs). The IP SGAs are managed separately by CINEA.

The FPA and SGA that are the subject of this call, will be managed only by DG MOVE. They will only cover the SESAR Deployment Manager function. They will not cover the future implementation projects, which will fall under the MGAs established by CINEA through separate calls for proposals. The new FPA and the future MGAs are separate instruments, but they will be linked by the Deployment Programme through a dedicated Annex to the MGAs.

The new FPA, FPA1 and its IP SGAs and the future MGAs will coexist indicatively until the end of 2024.

Coordination of implementation projects

The new SESAR Deployment Manager shall become the coordinator of the on-going IP SGAs and of the future implementation projects under the MGAs managed by CINEA.

Therefore, the new SESAR Deployment Manager is required to replace the current one (SDA AISBL) in FPA1, which will have to be amended accordingly, and it will also have to become the coordinator in all the future MGAs.

The coordination tasks for the implementation projects are defined in the general conditions of the MGAs. Although the MGAs are not the subject of this call, you must be aware that the coordinator of the MGAs may not delegate or subcontract coordination tasks to any other beneficiary or third party (including affiliated entities).

In derogation to the general conditions, **a special condition in FPA1 allows the coordinator to subcontract support tasks related to the technical, financial and administrative coordination. Please note that this will not be possible under the new FPA or under the MGAs.**

The members of the consortium appointed to be the new Deployment Manager may support the coordinator of the new FPA by contributing to the implementation project coordination tasks. The related costs may be declared in the context of the implementation project grants (MGAs), which may be funded up to 50% of the eligible costs, while the new FPA coordination costs (only for the Deployment Manager function) may be funded up to 100% of the eligible costs (see section 10.4).

Consortium Agreement and internal arrangements

The SESAR Deployment Manager partners shall conclude a **Consortium Agreement**, including the **internal arrangements** (Article 7 of the model SGA – see Annex 11), establishing the structures and mechanisms for the organisation and coordination of the consortium applying for the Deployment Manager function. These mechanisms shall ensure a balanced share of responsibilities in the governance and in the implementation of the role of SESAR Deployment Manager for each category of participating operational stakeholders (Airspace users, airport operators, air navigation service providers and the Network Manager). The Consortium Agreement shall contain provisions that cover, as a minimum, the following aspects:

- a) Organisation of the consortium's financial, administrative and technical operations ensuring a sound, efficient and transparent management of the Deployment Manager's tasks defined in sections 3.1.1 and the *Activities* defined in 3.3;
- b) Allocation of tasks and responsibilities amongst its members;
- c) Arrangements for its members' financial contribution to the Deployment Manager tasks, including those tasks as the coordinator of Implementation Projects;
- d) Avoidance and management of conflict of interest;
- e) Dispute resolution;
- f) The conditions for accession of new entities to the Deployment Manager; these conditions shall ensure equal treatment of potential applicants and be accessible to them in order to ensure transparency (e.g. via a website); such conditions shall provide for a possibility of accession to the Deployment Manager of any eligible entity that adds value to the work of the Deployment Manager in terms of effectiveness and representation; nevertheless, the size of the Deployment Manager shall be kept to the level allowing effective and efficient operations;
- g) Stakeholder consultation and cooperation.

The Consortium Agreement shall respect the terms of the Deployment Regulation.

3.2. Objectives of the Specific Grant Agreement (SGA)

The SGA will define the specific *Activities* necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Deployment Manager. These activities constitute the *Action*. The Commission will provide financial support to the SESAR Deployment Manager to carry out the *Action* as a Technical Assistance action for the period 2021-2024 in the Multi-Annual Work Programme for 2021-2027 for the allocation of Union financial support in the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) - Transport sector.

These *Activities* do not include role of coordinator of *implementation projects*, which is not the subject of this call and which will be defined in separate grant agreements (MGAs) awarded by CINEA.

The SGA shall include at least the *Activities* listed in Section 3.3 below. These *Activities* may comprise one or more *Tasks* and, if necessary, *Sub-Tasks*. The Commission and the SESAR Deployment Manager may decide to amend individual *Activities*, *Tasks* and *Sub-Tasks* during

the implementation of the *Action*. The Commission may also decide to terminate individual *Activities, Tasks* or *Sub-Tasks* or propose additional ones within the scope of the *Activities*. Any modification to the *Activities, Tasks* or *Sub-Tasks* must be approved by the Commission and shall be formalised by a written amendment to the SGA.

3.3. Activities that can be funded

In application form annexed to this call document, you shall include a detailed description of how you intend to organise, manage and implement the *Activities, Tasks* and *Sub-Tasks* listed below. The description shall include at least:

- The resources that you intend to allocate to the *Activities* (including for example staff and subcontracts) and an indicative estimation of their distribution amongst the *Tasks*;
- The milestones;
- The deliverables, in addition to those for the continuous and periodic reporting (Article 21 of the model SGA), and their respective delivery dates (See part B of the application form);
- The critical risks associated to the *Activities*.

You shall address, as a minimum, the following *Activities* in the Action Plan and in the description of the Action of your application. You may propose additional duly justified *Activities, Tasks, sub-Tasks* or deliverables:

Activity 0: Action management and coordination

- This Activity shall address the obligations set out in Article 7 of the model SGA (See Annex 11) and any other tasks necessary for the efficient and effective management of the Action and in accordance with the Consortium agreement and internal arrangements.

Activity 1: Maintenance of the deployment programme

- This *Activity* shall address the obligations under Articles 9.2(a) and 11 of the Deployment Regulation.
- The *Tasks* under this *Activity* shall, at least, include:
 - Developing and proposing to the Commission updates to the deployment programme that may be required to take into account issues that may arise during the implementation of CP1, because of modifications of the CP1 Regulation or in case a new common project is adopted.
- Expected deliverables:
 - Draft proposal for updating the deployment programme (if necessary).
 - Documentation supporting the draft proposal, including the results of the stakeholder consultation and a summary of the proposed changes (if necessary).

Activity 2: Monitor the implementation of the deployment programme

This *Activity* shall address the obligations under Article 9.2(d), (f) and (h), of the Deployment Regulation.

- The Tasks under this *Activity* shall, at least, include:
 - Monitoring the implementation of the deployment programme and the related implementation projects.
 - Developing and maintaining a risks/issues register, including mitigation actions, and a Risk Management Plan.
 - Developing and maintaining the deployment programme guidance material aiming to support/inform operational stakeholders on the implementation, monitoring and planning aspects of the deployment programme, ensuring consistency with the European ATM Master Plan.
 - Monitoring and updating the CP1 cost-benefit analysis by assessing, reconciling and reporting on the planned and the actual costs and benefits of the implementation projects. This task should consider the capital expenditure and related amortisation reported by Member States to the Commission through their performance plans. For this purpose, the deployment manager shall cooperate closely with the National Supervisory Authorities and the Performance Review Body. The analysis should also assess the impact of Union funding on the implementation projects.
 - Developing, upon request of the Commission, specific or complementary cost-benefit analyses (e.g. CBA for specific stakeholders, sensitivity analysis of ATM functionalities, etc.).
- Expected deliverables:
 - Deployment programme guidance material
 - Risk Management Plan
 - Update(s) of the CP1 cost benefit analysis
 - Specific cost-benefit analyses (as required)

Activity 3: Associate operational stakeholders and support the setup and synchronisation of implementation projects

- This *Activity* shall address the obligations under Articles 9.2(b), (c), (f) and (j), 9.7 and 9.10 of the Deployment Regulation.
- The *Tasks* under this *Activity* shall, at least, include:
 - Associating the operational stakeholders required to implement common projects by raising their awareness on the SESAR deployment framework and the related incentive mechanisms, facilitating their participation in or cooperation with the SESAR deployment framework partnership (deployment manager and implementing partners).

- Establishing and implementing mechanisms and decision-making processes that ensure efficient and timely synchronisation and overall coordination of implementation projects and the related investments in accordance with the deployment programme.
 - Supporting stakeholders in setting up and aligning proposals for implementation projects, avoiding conflict of interests.
 - Establishing and implementing cooperative arrangements with the Network Manager; the SESAR Joint Undertaking and the European Defence Agency in accordance with Article 9(7) of Regulation (EU) N° 409/2013.
 - Establishing means of cooperation/coordination with stakeholders that are not part of the FPA to ensure, as far as possible, a wide alignment and synchronisation of projects with the deployment programme.
 - Establish cooperative arrangements with EASA and Eurocae for the certification and standardisation aspects related to common project ATM functionalities.
 - Coordinating with the National Supervisory Authorities to ensure the alignment between the implementation projects and the National Performance Plans (contents, planning and budget).
 - Supporting all implementing partners by providing efficient and timely back-office services, including training and information on these obligations.
- Expected deliverables:
 - Cooperative arrangements
 - Communication and dissemination plan(s)

Activity 4: Identify financing mechanisms to support deployment

- This *Activity* shall address the obligations under Article 9.2(g) of the Deployment Regulation.
- The main task for the Deployment Manager shall be to support operational stakeholders in making the best use of existing financial or operational incentive mechanisms and to explore, also in close cooperation with the European Investment Bank, possible new mechanisms for funding the implementation of common projects.
- Expected deliverables:
 - Proposals on deployment funding/financing mechanisms

Activity 5: Advise the European Commission on the implementation of common projects

- This *Activity* shall address the obligations under Article 9.2(e) of the Deployment Regulation.
- The *Tasks* carried out under this *Activity* cannot be precisely identified at the start of the SGA. The Commission may ask to activate some of them in the course of the SGA and some may require stakeholder consultations. In the course of the SGA, the Commission may also propose to the Deployment Manager to perform other *Tasks* under this

Activity. You should take this into account when estimating the amount of resources, including contingencies, for this *Activity*.

- The *Tasks* under this *Activity* shall include, inter alia:
 - Supporting the Commission in establishing and reviewing common projects.
 - Advising the Commission with regard to technologies and enablers (such as DSL, ADS-B/C, etc.) that affect the implementation of common projects. This shall include assessing the status of their industrialisation or implementation, proposing as appropriate, implementation, rationalisation or mitigation plans, providing programme management support and participating in the relevant expert groups on subjects relating to, but not limited to, communication, navigation and surveillance applications.
 - Supporting the Commission in its activities aiming to achieve global interoperability of ATM systems. In particular, this support shall be provided in the framework of Annex 1 to the Memorandum of Cooperation on civil aviation R&D, ATM modernisation and global interoperability between the USA and the Union.
- The deliverables required in this *Activity* will depend on the precise scope of the *Tasks* and may need to be identified once the *Tasks* are clarified. However, we can anticipate that the Deployment Manager will have to deliver as a minimum:
 - Thematic reports / technical opinions / stakeholder consultations
 - Work plans, and their updates, in the context of the Appendix 3 to the Memorandum of Cooperation with the USA
 - Contribution to yearly reports in the context of Annex 1 to the Memorandum of Cooperation with the USA

Activity 6: Reporting to the European Commission

- This *Activity* shall address the obligations under Article 9.2(i) of the Deployment Regulation.
- The *Tasks* under this *Activity* shall at least include:
 - Monthly coordination with the Commission’s DGMOVE – Aviation Directorate and the single European sky Unit to report on and assess the progress of the work.
 - Providing the Commission with progress reports on the implementation of the SGA.
 - Providing the Commission access to data technical and financial data relating to the implementation of the deployment programme and deliverables.
- Expected deliverables:
 - SESAR deployment annual progress reports (Article 21.1 of the SGA). The first report shall cover the period from the starting date to 31/12/2022, then a yearly report from January to December up to the end of the *Action*. The report shall include, inter alia:
 - the summary of the Deployment Manager’s activities with regards to all of the above-mentioned tasks and an assessment of the functioning of the SESAR framework partnership and its governance;

- the status of the implementation of CP1 summarising the progress made on the implementation of each ATM functionality and of all the related *implementation projects*, including those not supported by Union funding;
 - an assessment of the implementation of mitigation measures addressing deployment issues;
 - the performance achievements measured for the CP1 ATM functionalities with due regard to EU-wide performance targets;
 - the actual costs and measured benefits anticipating important deviations from CBA.
- Formatted data and statistics on specific indicators;
 - Publishable fact-sheets.

Activity 7: Transition from the current Deployment Manager

- This is a temporary *Activity* aiming to ensure a seamless transition of responsibilities and, as appropriate, ongoing *Tasks* and *Sub-Tasks* from SDA AISBL, the current Deployment Manager, to its successor, which will result from this call for proposals.

The current Deployment Manager will terminate its mandate on 31 May 2022 and the new Deployment Manager shall take over its responsibilities on 1 June 2022. **The transition period and, therefore this *Activity* should end by 31 May 2022.**

This *Activity* is scheduled to start once the new Deployment Manager has signed the new FPA and SGA with the Commission. However, the Commission may authorise the start of the work under this *Activity* after the closing of this call for proposals. For this purpose, the Commission may propose that during the transition period, before signing the FPA and SGA, you coordinate with SDA in view of ensuring the seamless transition of the Deployment Manager function and the timely handover of any relevant documentation or tools. In this case, in addition to the information and documentation available in this call document, during the transition period SDA will provide you with further information and documentation that is necessary to become acquainted with the Deployment Manager tasks and with the systems and processes that SDA has put in place. If you accept the Commission's proposal to anticipate the start of the work as indicated above, the costs you may need to incur during the transition period may be considered as eligible under the SGA, subject to the successful conclusion of the selection process and to signing the FPA and SGA with the Commission at a later stage. In any case, this *Activity* cannot be activated and the related costs will not be eligible before the date on which you submit your application.

For the sake of efficiency and cost effectiveness, the selected candidate shall endeavour to take maximum advantage of existing mechanisms (for example the existing consultation platforms), tools (for example, dedicated IT tools) and other cooperative or contractual arrangements put in place by SDA.

Please note that the transition and handover to the new SESAR Deployment Manager does not require the latter to takeover the SDA AISBL legal entity.

- The *Tasks* under this *Activity* shall at least include:
 - Coordination with the current Deployment Manager for familiarisation on operational aspects, that are necessary for the handover of responsibilities (on-going *Activities*, stakeholder consultation mechanisms, etc.).
 - Establishment of a common transition plan with SDA that shall include, for example and as appropriate, arrangements for:
 - Accessing and transferring data included in the STAR¹⁰ Database;
 - Transferring existing cooperative arrangements;
 - Novating service, supply and technical support contracts;
 - Transferring physical infrastructure including IT equipment.
- Expected deliverables:
 - Common transition plan by the end of the transition phase.

3.4. Expected impact

The timely, synchronised and coordinated deployment of SESAR solutions will effectively contribute to achieving the SES performance objectives and the overall environmental and economic benefits expected from ATM modernisation. The SESAR Deployment Framework set up by the Deployment Regulation aims to identify priorities, establish implementing mechanisms and involve all the relevant stakeholders in a joint effort to deploy a new ATM system. The Deployment Manager plays a central role in coordinating and synchronising stakeholders and investments for the implementation of common projects. Building on the experience of the first Deployment Manager, the new Deployment Manager is expected to further enhance cooperation amongst ATM stakeholders, improve the efficiency of the coordination and synchronisation tools and accelerate the pace of the SESAR deployment, aiming to complete the implementation of CP1 by the legal deadlines.

4. Available budget

The available call budget is **EUR 10 000 000** (Ten-million-euros), which will be allocated to the SGA covering the period 2022-2024. The Commission reserves the right to propose additional SGAs from 2025 to 2027, depending on the availability of Union funding.

We reserve the right to not award all available funds, depending on the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

¹⁰ Database developed and maintained by SDA AISBL.

5. Timetable and deadlines

Indicative timetable and deadlines	
FPA and SGA	
Call opening:	29 October 2021
<u>Deadline for submission:</u>	<u>31 January 2022– 17:00:00 CET</u> <u>(Brussels)</u>
Evaluation:	February 2022
Information on evaluation results and invitation for grant preparation:	March 2022
FPA and SGA signature:	1 June 2022

6. Admissibility and documents

You must submit your application before the call deadline indicated in Section 5.

Your proposal must be **complete** and contain all the requested information and all the following annexes and supporting documents:

- **Application Form:**
 - ▶ **Part A – Administrative part:**
 - Contains administrative information about the participants (coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities). This part is common to the FPA and SGA.
 - ▶ **Part B1 – FPA Action Plan 2022-2027:**
 - Contains the Action Plan that describes how you propose to fulfil the Deployment Manager responsibilities defined in Section 3.1 for the entire duration of the FPA, from 2022 to 2027.
 - ▶ **Part B2 - SGA Description of the Action 2022-2024:**
 - Contains the detailed description of the *Activities, Tasks* and *Sub-Tasks* in accordance with Section 3.3.
 - ▶ **Part C – SGA Estimated budget for the Action:**
 - Contains the estimated costs for the execution of the *Activities* included in the SGA Description of the *Action*. **You must clearly indicate all the sources of revenue covering the full costs of the Action (i.e. both eligible and ineligible costs) and the allocation of costs amongst the members of the consortium.**
- **Mandatory annexes and supporting documents:**
 - CVs (standard¹¹) of the core team

¹¹ [Online Manual](#) p. 34

- Applicants' activity reports of last year
- List of previous key projects over the last 4 years

At application submission, the coordinator of the consortium will have to confirm that it has the **mandate to act** for all applicants. Moreover, the coordinator will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that the participants comply with the conditions for receiving Union funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.).

Before signing the FPA and SGA, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a **declaration of honour**. Proposals without full support will be rejected.

Your application must be readable, accessible and printable.

We may ask you, at a later stage, for further documents (for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

Applicants will be informed in writing about the results of the selection process.

7. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria are used to determine whether you are allowed to participate in the call for proposals and to submit a proposal for the FPA and the SGA for the Action. They apply to lead applicant and co-applicants, and include affiliated entities, where applicable, and to the activities for which a grant is requested.

7.1. Eligible entities

7.1.1. General conditions

The following conditions apply for each applicant.

In addition to the criteria set out in Article 197 of the Financial Regulation and as stipulated in Article 11 of the CEF Regulation, the following entities are eligible to apply for funding:

- legal entities established in a Member State;
- legal entities established in a third country associated to the Programme under the conditions set in Article 5 of the CEF regulation;
- legal entities created under Union law;
- International organisations.

In compliance with Article 11 of the CEF Regulation, legal entities established in a third country, which is not associated to the Programme, may exceptionally be eligible to receive support under the Programme where this is indispensable for the achievement of the objectives of a given project of common interest. In this case, you must provide a duly documented justification in your applications.

Only proposals submitted by one or more Member States or, with the agreement of the Member States concerned, by international organisations, joint undertakings, or public or private undertakings or bodies, including regional or local authorities, are eligible.

Natural persons are not eligible.

The identity of the applicants and compliance with general eligibility conditions will be verified through the documents provided during legal entity validation (copy of the resolution, decision or other official document establishing the entity, etc.).

7.1.2. Special conditions

Applicants must be operational stakeholders as defined by article 2.10 of the Deployment Regulation¹².

7.2. Consortium composition

Proposals must be submitted by a consortium that complies with the following conditions:

- It must be composed of a minimum three operational stakeholders (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities) from at least two different eligible countries.
- It must be composed of groupings of operational stakeholders or individual operational stakeholders, and may include operational stakeholders from eligible third countries under the conditions defined in the CEF programme.

Operational stakeholders may participate in the Deployment Manager through FAB structures.

The consortium must designate a coordinator.

The members of the consortium shall accede to the FPA by signing an accession form.

Participation of the Network Manager

The Network Manager, falling under the definition of operational stakeholder under the Deployment Regulation, is eligible to become a member of the SESAR Deployment Manager. Its contribution to the work of the Deployment Manager must be compliant with the mandate defined in Regulation (EU) 2019/123, in particular, concerning the tasks identified in Article 7(2)(g) and 7(3)(d), (e) and (f). Task 7(3)(d) aims to support operational stakeholders in executing their obligations that are placed on them, in deploying air traffic management or air navigation services (ATM/ANS) systems and procedures in accordance with the ATM Master Plan, in particular the common projects set up in accordance with Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 409/ 2013. The Commission expects that the Network Manager will provide the widest support to all Deployment Manager responsibilities, including, potentially, coordination tasks also under the MGAs.

¹² “operational stakeholders’ means the Network Manager and civil and military: airspace users, air navigation service providers, airport operators;”

As the Network Manager is solely financed by Member States through the air navigation charges (Article 25 of Regulation (EU) 2019/123), all the costs resulting from its contribution to the Deployment Manager function are not eligible for EU funding.

You must clearly and in an exhaustive manner indicate in your application all the tasks that would be carried out by the Network Manager, which may also include FPA tasks.

The European Commission has appointed EUROCONTROL as the legal entity fulfilling the role of Network Manager¹³. Consequently, if the Network Manager will be part of the Deployment Manager Consortium, EUROCONTROL will sign the FPA and the SGA. EUROCONTROL shall ensure a clear separate reporting and accounting of its Network Manager and non-Network Manager resources.

If the Network Manager is a member of the consortium, the cooperative arrangements with the Network Manager mentioned above shall be included in the Consortium Agreement. These arrangements shall address the usage of the Network Manager's tools, processes and experts to support the tasks of the Deployment Manager.

7.3. Single applicant

By way of exception, the application may be submitted by one applicant, whether established specifically or not for the *Action*, provided that:

- it is formed of several legal entities, in accordance with the previous paragraphs, complying with the eligibility, non-exclusion and selection criteria set out in this call document and implementing together the proposed Action;
- the application identifies the said entities.

For the purpose of declaring eligible costs, the entities composing the applicant shall be treated as affiliated entities in accordance with Article 187 of the Financial Regulation.

7.4. Eligible activities

The *Activities* set out in Section 3.3 are eligible for funding.

Activities linked to the Deployment Manager's role as coordinator of *implementation projects* are not eligible for funding under this call or under the FPA. These coordination activities will fall under the future MGAs.

In preparing your proposal you should take into account the results of projects supported by other EU funding programmes. The complementarities must be described in the project proposals (Part B of the Application Form).

Your proposal must comply with Union policy interests and priorities (such as environment, social, security, industrial and trade policy, etc.).

Financial support to third parties is not allowed for this *Action*.

¹³ Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2019/709 of 6 May 2019 Appointment of the Network Manager

The proposal for the SGA should be consistent with the *Action Plan* submitted for the FPA. Only applications that have first been awarded the FPA will be considered eligible for the SGA.

7.5. Geographic location (target countries)

Your proposal must relate to activities taking place in the eligible countries (See Section 7.1).

7.6. Ethics

The *Activities* must comply with:

- highest ethical standards; and
- applicable EU, international and national Law.

Activities involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics rules (which become part of the Grant Agreement in the form of ethics deliverables, e.g. ethics committee opinions/notifications/authorisations required under national or EU law).

7.7. Security

Activities involving EU classified information must undergo security scrutiny to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific security rules (detailed in a security aspects letter (SAL) which is annexed to the Grant Agreement).

These rules (governed by Decision [2015/444](#)¹⁴ and its implementing rules and/or national rules) provide for instance that:

- projects involving information classified TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET (or equivalent) can NOT be funded
- classified information must be marked in accordance with the applicable security instructions in the SAL
- information with classification levels ‘CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL’ or above (and ‘RESTREINT UE/ EU RESTRICTED’, if required by national rules) may be:
 - created or accessed only on premises with facility security clearing (FSC) from the competent national security authority (NSA), in accordance with the national rules
 - handled only in a secured area accredited by the competent NSA
 - accessed and handled only by persons with valid personnel security clearance (PSC) and a need-to-know
- at the end of the grant, the classified information must either be returned or continued to be protected in accordance with the applicable rules

¹⁴ See Commission Decision 2015/544/EU, Euratom of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

- action tasks involving EU classified information (EUCI) may be subcontracted only with prior written approval from the granting authority and only to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission)
- disclosure of EUCI to third parties is subject to prior written approval from the granting authority.

Please note that, depending on the type of activity, facility security clearing may have to be provided before grant signature. The granting authority will assess the need for clearing in each case and will establish their delivery date during grant preparation. Please note that in no circumstances can we sign any grant agreement until at least one of the beneficiaries in a consortium has facility security clearing.

Further security recommendations may be added to the Grant Agreement in the form of security deliverables (e.g. create security advisory group, limit level of detail, use fake scenario, exclude use of classified information, etc.).

Beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to national/third-country security requirements that could affect implementation or put into question the award of the grant (e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc.). The granting authority must be notified immediately of any potential security issues.

8. Financial and operational capacity - Exclusion

8.1. Financial capacity

Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the *Action* and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be carried out on the basis of the documents which applicants will be requested to provide during grant preparation (e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on Union funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for all beneficiaries, except:

- public bodies (entities established as public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations
- if the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000.

If needed, it may also be done for affiliated entities.

If we consider that your financial capacity is not satisfactory, we may require:

- further information;
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility for all beneficiaries or joint and several liability of affiliated entities (see below, section 10.5.3);

- pre-financing paid in instalments ;
 - pre-financing guarantees (see below, section 10.5.1)
- or
- propose no pre-financing
 - request that you are replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

The financial capacity check will be done only once at FPA level, for all applicants since the SGA will be awarded in parallel.

8.2. Operational capacity

Applicants must have the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement the *Action* and contribute their share (including sufficient experience in projects of comparable size and nature). They must provide appropriate documents attesting to that capacity.

In particular, in accordance with Article 9.4 of the Deployment Regulation, you must demonstrate, inter alia, your capacity to:

- (a) represent operational stakeholders that are required to implement common projects;
- (b) manage multinational implementation programmes;
- (c) understand funding and financing mechanisms and financial programme management; and
- (d) use existing structures to involve all operational stakeholders.

This capacity will be assessed on the basis of the competence and experience of the applicants and their teams, including operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain it by the time the implementation of the *Activities* starts.

Applicants will have to show their capacity via the following information:

- general profiles (qualifications and experiences) of the staff responsible for managing and implementing the project
- description of the consortium participants
- applicants' activity reports of last year
- list of previous projects (key projects for the last 4 years).

Additional supporting documents may be requested, if needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

8.3. Exclusion

Applicants which are subject to an **EU exclusion decision** or in one of the following **exclusion situations** that bar them from receiving EU funding can NOT participate¹⁵:

¹⁵ See Articles 136 and 141 of EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant’s debts);
- in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant’s debts);
- guilty of grave professional misconduct¹⁶ (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership);
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership);
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership);
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#) (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership);
- created under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the framework partnership).

Applicants will also be refused if it turns out that¹⁷:

- during the award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information;
- they were previously involved in the preparation of the call and this entails a distortion of competition that cannot be remedied otherwise (conflict of interest).

9. Evaluation and award procedure

9.1. Evaluation

The proposals will have to follow the **standard submission and evaluation procedure** (one-stage submission + one-step evaluation).

An evaluation committee will assess all proposals. Proposals will first be checked for formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, see Sections 6 and 7). Proposals found admissible

¹⁶ Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

¹⁷ See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation [2018/1046](#).

and eligible will be evaluated against the operational capacity and award criteria (see Sections 8 and 9) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals with the same score a **priority order** will be determined according to the following approach:

1. Score obtained under the 'Priority and urgency' criterion
2. Score obtained under the 'Maturity' criterion
3. Score obtained under the 'Catalytic effect' criterion
4. Score obtained under the 'Impact' criterion
5. Score obtained under the 'Quality' criterion.

All proposals will be informed about the evaluation result (**evaluation result letter**). Only the successful proposal will be invited for grant preparation.



No commitment for funding — an invitation to grant preparation does NOT constitute a formal commitment for funding. We will still need to make various legal checks before grant award: legal entity validation, financial capacity, exclusion check, etc.

Grant preparation will involve a dialogue in order to fine-tune technical or financial aspects of the proposal and may require extra information from your side. It may also include adjustments to the proposal to address recommendations of the evaluation committee or other concerns. **Compliance will be a pre-condition for signing the FPA and SGA.**

If you believe that the evaluation procedure was flawed, you can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures set out in the evaluation result letter).

9.2. Award criteria

The evaluation of the proposals will take into account the following award criteria, as appropriate:

(1) Maturity: assessing the maturity of the action in the project development. The criterion will measure, among others: i) the readiness/ability of the project to start by the proposed start date and to complete by the proposed end date, ii) the status of the contracting procedures and of the necessary permits, and iii) information on the financial availability needed to complement the CEF investment;

(2) Quality: evaluating the soundness of the implementation plan proposed, both from the technical and financial point of view, the architecture and design approach, the organisational structures put in place (or foreseen) for the implementation, the risk analysis, the control procedures and quality management and the communication strategy of the applicant. Moreover, when applicable, it will also assess the information related to the maintenance strategy proposed for the completed project;

(3) Impact: assessing, when applicable, the economic, social and environmental impact, including the climate impact, and other relevant externalities. This criterion may be substantiated by a Cost Benefit or Cost Effectiveness Analysis (CBA or CEA) or, in the absence of such tools, other forecast of end-user take-up, in which case the evaluation will

look at the soundness, comprehensiveness, and transparency of the analysis as well as proposed means to monitor its impact. Moreover, when applicable, the criterion will assess, among others, the innovation and digitalisation, safety and interoperability and accessibility aspects of the proposal, as well as its cross-border dimension, effect/contribution to the network territorial accessibility.

(4) Priority and urgency of the Action: evaluating the correspondence of the proposal with the sectoral policy objectives and priorities, measuring its EU added-value and where applicable assessing the possible synergies with other sectors. For military mobility, this criterion will also serve to assess the potential of dual-use (civil-military)¹⁸;

(5) Catalytic effect of Union assistance: evaluating the financial gap (for instance the need to overcome financial obstacles generated by insufficient commercial viability, high upfront costs or the lack of market finance), the capacity to mobilise different investments sources, the capacity to trigger important overall investments with limited EU support and when appropriate the extent to which externalities justify the CEF financial support.¹⁹ It shall assess the catalytic effect of the EU financial support and determine whenever possible the actual co-funding rate to be granted.

As a standard practice, a score is assigned for each of the criteria on a scale from 0 (insufficient) to 5 (excellent).

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Maturity	3,5	5
Quality	3,5	5
Impact	3,5	5
Priority and urgency of the Action	3,5	5
Catalytic effect of Union assistance	3,5	5
Overall (pass) scores	17,5	25

Only the highest ranked proposal, amongst those that pass the individual thresholds AND the overall threshold, will be considered for funding — within the limits of the available call budget.

¹⁸ As regards the military priorities, the Commission will consult the EU Military Staff (EUMS). EUMS indicated that its assessment will be based on the following two points: i) to what extent the proposed project contributes to enhanced strategic deployment of military forces in the EU for missions, operations and routine activities; and ii) to what extent the project eliminates identified gaps on the Member State's infrastructure network, including bottlenecks currently undermining military movements.

¹⁹ As regards the Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Facility, for applications supported by an Implementing Partner, the catalytic effect will be evaluated on the basis of the capacity to mobilise different investments sources and the capacity to trigger important overall investments with limited EU support.

10. Legal and financial set-up of the Specific Grant Agreement

If you pass the evaluation for the FPA we will evaluate your proposal for the SGA in accordance with the same award criteria in Section 9.

The SGA will set the framework, the terms and conditions for your grant, in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

The Model SGA that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found in Annex.

The SGA can only be signed if the FPA has been signed and can only be signed before the end date of the FPA.

10.1. Starting date and duration

Unless otherwise agreed with the Commission, the new Deployment Manager will start its mandate on 1 June 2022 and will end on 31 December 2027.

The starting date and duration of the *Action* will be fixed in the SGA. Normally, the starting date will be after signing the SGA. However, the Commission may exceptionally grant retroactive application for duly justified reasons .

The duration of the *Action (SGA)* will be from the starting date until 31 December 2024. Extensions will be possible only exceptionally, for duly justified reasons and through an amendment to the SGA.

10.2. Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for the *Action* will be reflected in Annex 1 of the SGA.

10.3. Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc.) will be fixed in the SGA. The amount of the grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Please be aware that you may be asked to request an amendment to reduce the grant awarded if your project encounters major delays during the project implementation. If you do not comply with this request, we may have to terminate the grant (*see art 32*).

The grant will be a budget-based actual cost grant. This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and costs that were *actually* incurred for the *Action* (NOT the budgeted costs).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the SGA up to 100% of the eligible costs. The Commission reserves the right to review the funding rate for potential future SGAs after 2024.

Grants may NOT produce a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). For-profit organisations must declare their revenues and, if there is a profit, we will deduct it from the final grant amount.

Moreover, please be aware that the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance with the FPA or SGA (e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc.).

10.4. Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

Please be aware that project management costs (including related tasks, such as consortium-internal progress meetings, project reporting etc) should not exceed 10% of total costs for the project. Costs exceeding this limit will be rejected during grant preparation.

10.4.1. Budget categories

A. Personnel costs

- A.1 Employees
- A.2 Natural persons under direct contract
- A.3 Seconded persons
- A.4 SME owners

B. Subcontracting costs

C. Purchase costs

- C.1 Travel and subsistence
- C.2 Equipment
- C.3 Other goods, works and services

D. Other cost categories

- D.2 Studies

E. Indirect costs (n/a)

10.4.2. Specific cost eligibility conditions

To ensure the most effective use of the limited Union funds available for this call, the Commission will apply a strict approach on accepting costs that are eligible for Union funding under the FPA/SGA.

The eligible costs must be related to expenditure strictly necessary for the execution of the Activities and Tasks described in Section 3.3 in accordance with the following conditions:

Personnel costs

- average personnel costs (unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices):
Yes

Resources allocated to management and supervision activities shall be personnel employed by the members of the Deployment Manager. The responsibility for these management and supervision tasks shall not be sub-contracted to third parties. However, subject to the Commission's prior approval, you may propose to subcontract, in duly justified cases demonstrating that none of the consortium members can provide the required expertise, external staff or services to support these tasks.

Subcontracting

- country restrictions for subcontracting costs: Yes, subcontracted work must be performed in the eligible countries
- Sub-contracts must comply with the procurement rules defined in the general conditions of the relevant grant agreements. In particular, you must demonstrate having selected the best value for money and justify the procedures applied.
- Costs for external experts that are proven to be essential for the execution of the tasks in Section 3 and if that expertise cannot be provided by the members of the consortium, **are eligible**.

Purchase costs

- Travel and subsistence expenditure shall be actual costs.

Equipment costs

- Only expenditure for the purchase of equipment that is proven to be essential to carry out the tasks of the Deployment Manager is allowed up to its entirety.

Other costs categories

- Costs for financial support to third parties: **not allowed**.
- Cost for hosting internal meetings, meaning meetings between Deployment Manager personnel and sub-contractors or between Deployment Manager members, **are not eligible**.
- Technical and financial studies, analyses and reporting **are eligible**.
- Stakeholder consultation campaigns **are eligible**.
- Costs for offices, running costs, office equipment, consumables, promotional events or material **are not eligible**.
- Costs relating to the legal, financial or fiscal setup of the consortium **are not eligible**.

Indirect costs

- Indirect costs **are not eligible**.

Other

- Implementation project coordination costs **are not eligible** under the FPA/SGA.
- VAT is **not eligible**.
- Costs incurred by the Network Manager **are not eligible**.

- in-kind contributions for free are allowed, but cost-neutral, i.e. they cannot be declared as cost
- only costs for activities carried out in eligible countries are eligible

10.5. Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the SGA.

In your proposal, you must pay special attention on setting up processes that ensure high quality, effectiveness and timeliness of all deliverables. For example: ensuring the readability of documents by adopting simplified formats, keeping their length to a minimum, always provide an Executive Summary for large documents. You should also propose a 'Dashboard of deliverables' that should be updated on a regular basis.

After SGA signature, you will normally receive a **pre-financing** to start working on the project (float of normally **40%** of the maximum grant amount). The pre-financing will be paid 30 days from entry into force and, if required, submission of a financial guarantee-whichever is the latest.

There will be one or more **additional pre-financing payments** linked to a pre-financing report.

In addition, you will be expected to submit a yearly progress reports not linked to payments.

Payment of the balance: At the end of the *Action*, we will calculate your final grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, we will ask the coordinator to pay back the difference (recovery).

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of your consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by us — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement (*see art 22*).

Please also note that you are responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

10.5.1. Pre-financing guarantees

If a pre-financing guarantee is required, it will be fixed in the SGA. The amount will be set during grant preparation and it will normally be equal or lower than the pre-financing for your grant.

The guarantee should be in euro and issued by an approved bank/financial institution established in an EU Member State. If you are established in a non-EU country and would like to provide a guarantee from a bank/financial institution in your country, please contact us (this may be exceptionally accepted, if it offers equivalent security).

Amounts blocked in bank accounts will NOT be accepted as financial guarantees.

Pre-financing guarantees are formally NOT linked to individual consortium members, which means that you are free to organise how to provide the guarantee amount (by one or

several beneficiaries, for the overall amount or several guarantees for partial amounts, by the beneficiary concerned or by another beneficiary, etc.). It is however important that the requested amount is covered and that the guarantee(s) are sent to the Commission in time to make the pre-financing (scanned copy via Portal AND original by post).

If agreed with the Commission, the bank guarantee may be replaced by a guarantee from a third party.

The guarantee will be released at the end of the grant, in accordance with the conditions laid down in the SGA.

10.5.2. Certificates

Depending on the type of action, size of grant amount and type of beneficiaries, you may be requested to submit certificates on the financial statements. The schedules and thresholds for each certificate are fixed in the SGA.

10.5.3. Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries will be fixed in the SGA.

For beneficiaries, it is limited joint and several liability with individual ceilings — each beneficiary up to their maximum grant amount

In addition, the granting authority may require joint and several liability of affiliated entities (with their beneficiary).

10.6. Other Provisions concerning the implementation of the SGA

For security rules and ethics rules, values, communication, dissemination and visibility of funding; IPR, consequences of non-compliance and other specific rules for carrying out the *Action* please refer to the specific provisions of the model SGA.

For IPR, you must provide the list of the background related to the *Action* and the rights of use on results (Annex 5 of the SGA).

10.7. Specific rules for using the SESAR Trademark

SESAR is a registered trademark of the European Union. The partners of the SESAR Deployment Manager and their affiliated entities or implementing bodies may use the SESAR trademark in the context of the *Action*.

The new SESAR Deployment Manager may design its own visual corporate identity. However, it shall include the common SESAR project logo provided by the Commission.

11. How to submit your application

You must submit your application for the FPA and the SGA together in one application under this call.

Applications must be submitted in the correct form, duly completed and dated. They must be submitted in five paper copies (one original clearly identified as such, plus four copies), include a digital copy on a USB flash drive, and must be signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant organisation.

All additional information considered necessary by the applicant can be included on separate sheets.

Applications must be sent to the following address:

By registered mail, to the following address:

European Commission
Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport
DM 28 - 0/110 - Mail/Archives
B-1049 Brussels
Belgium

Or

by hand-delivery, (evidence will be constituted by the acknowledgement of receipt), or by courier service (evidence will be constituted by the acknowledgement of receipt) to the following address:

European Commission

Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport - DM 28 - 0/110
Avenue du Bourget 1
B-1140 Brussels (Evere)
Belgium

Applications sent by fax or e-mail will not be accepted.

The proposal must be submitted before the call deadline in Section 5. After this deadline applications can no longer be submitted.

Once you have submitted your application, you will receive a confirmation e-mail (with date and time of your application). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your application has NOT been submitted.

12. Contact

Contact

Questions should be sent to the following email address:

MOVE-E3-SINGLE-SKY-UNIT@ec.europa.eu

Please indicate clearly the reference of the call and topic to which your question relates.

13. Important



IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended.
- **Consult** the DG MOVE Website regularly. We will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.

The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding).

For EU framework partnerships, the consortium must be formed at FPA level. Only entities which are part of the FPA can become beneficiaries in the grants awarded under the framework partnership.

- **Coordinator** — In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They will get a part of the grant money and must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to get grant money). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons it is recommended to set up internal arrangements that allow you to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances (in all cases, even if not mandatory under the Grant Agreement). The consortium agreement also gives you the possibility to redistribute the grant money according to your own consortium-internal principles and parameters (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute its grant money to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows you to customise the EU grant to the needs inside your consortium and can also help to protect you in case of disputes.

- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). You may be requested to lower your estimated costs, if they are ineligible (including excessive).
- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by us at the end of the project.
- **No double funding** — There is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget (except under EU Synergies actions). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances declared to two different EU actions.
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and you make sure that cost items are clearly separated in your accounting and NOT declared twice (see [AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, art 6.2.E](#)).
- **Resubmission** — Proposals may be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.
- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in this this Call Document (and the documents it refers to). Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them doesn't, they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.
- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, you will be informed via a call or topic update. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.
- **Language** — You can submit your proposal in any official EU language (project abstract/summary should however always be in English). For reasons of efficiency, we strongly advise you to use English for the entire application. If you need the call documentation in another official EU language, please submit a request within 10 days after call publication (for the contact information, see *section 12*).
- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- beneficiary names
- beneficiary addresses
- the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise your rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm your commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2018/1725 of 23 October 2018 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 and Decision No 1247/2002/EC. Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with

Annexes

The following Annexes can be downloaded at:

[Grants- Calls for proposals in the field of transport](#)

Annex 1 – Reference documents

- a) TEN-T Regulation 1315/2013
- b) CEF2 Regulation 2021/1153
- c) Multi-annual work programme 2021-2027 for the implementation of CEF-Transport sector for the period 2021-2023 (C(2021)5763)
- d) Financial Regulation 2018/1046
- e) Deployment Regulation (Regulation (EU) N° 409/2013)
- f) Common project one Regulation (Regulation (EU) N° 2021/116)
- g) Staff Working Document on ‘Accelerating the modernisation of the Union's air traffic management infrastructure through more effective common projects’
- h) Deployment programme 2018
- i) Special Report of the European Court of Auditors 11/2019
- j) European ATM Master Plan
- k) SESAR Solutions catalogue 2021
- l) Memorandum of Cooperation between the United States of America and the European Union on ATM modernisation, civil aviation research and development and global interoperability

The following additional documents may be downloaded from the SESAR Deployment Manager web page: <https://www.sesardeploymentmanager.eu/>

- m) List of current implementing partners (Implementing Partners | SESAR DM (sesardeploymentmanager.eu))
- n) List of implementation projects funded under CEF
- o) SESAR Deployment Programme guidance material

- Annex 2 – Application Form ***
- Annex 3 – Legal identity forms**
- Annex 4 – Financial identification form**
- Annex 5 – Budget table template***
- Annex 6 – Timetable template***
- Annex 7 – Member State letter of support template**
- Annex 8 – Environmental compliance file**
- Annex 9 – Declaration of Honour for beneficiaries**
- Annex 10 – Model FPA***
- Annex 11 – Model SGA***
- Annex 12 – Model MGA**

* We will provide these documents within two weeks of the publication of this call for proposals on the same link indicated above.