

# EIC PRIZE ON A LOW COST SPACE LAUNCH

## Frequently Asked Questions

Treatment of Documents, publications, videos provided in support of submission.

**1. Can an applicant include other documents such as technical certificates, articles published in congresses or scientific journals and videos as proofs?**

The application must be related to a specific solution, which needs to be described in regards to the award criteria. So, any document (e.g. a certificate or articles) that an applicant includes in their application must be related to the solution which is being described. An application cannot consist of only such documents.

The entire part B should not be longer than **150 pages** (including any documents such as certificates or articles). Excess pages will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the application, thus circumventing the page limit. Therefore, evaluators will not check video links, in order to ensure fair treatment of all applications.

TRL, maturity

**2. What is the expected TRL (Technology Readiness Level) for the submitted application? How far does the solution need to go? Does the solution need to be commercialised already?**

No minimum TRL level is required to apply to the Prize.

The technical implementation award criterion (n.2) will assess the level of technological maturity of the solution in terms of (i) launch system, (ii) ground segment and (iii) production against a number of optional milestones depending on the qualification logic.

The challenge of this Prize is to develop a European technologically non-dependent solution for launching light satellites into Low-Earth Orbit (LEO), which will enable dedicated low-cost launches with committed schedule and orbit. However, at the time of application, it is not required that the solution has reached the maximum level of maturity.

**3. What happens if no European Micro Launcher reaches the orbit before the Prize deadline in June 2021? Will it be enough to be above the 20 points threshold in the technical implementation award criterion?**

No minimum TRL level is required to apply to the Prize and at the time of application, it is not required that the solution has reached the maximum level of maturity.

No sub-criteria linked to a sub-score and no compulsory milestone are foreseen for the technical implementation criterion. The Jury will evaluate the solution and give a global score based on the quality of the application and on the qualification logic of the solution.

Application

**4. Participants are invited to declare their intention to participate by registering their interest –What’s the purpose of this registration? Will participants receive feedback upon submitting the title and abstract of the application?**

The purpose of the non-mandatory registration is to allow the Commission to properly plan the evaluation, in terms of number and competences of members of the jury.

**5. Are joint applications permitted?**

Joint applications by a group of participants are admitted. In this case, the participants must appoint a 'lead participant' to represent them towards the Commission. The participants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Rules of Contest.

**6. If a participant is in a position to support several “lead participants”, can it be part of and win several awards?**

The same participant can be part of more than one consortium applying with different applications providing it meets all the eligibility criteria set out in the Rules of Contest (RoC).

Only one prize will be awarded to the application that best meets the award criteria.

**7. How do you guarantee the confidentiality of the jury and of the access to the information?**

The whole content of your application will only be shared with members of the jury and relevant Commission staff, under confidentiality rules. The hired experts that will support the Commission in the evaluation process will be contractually bound to non-disclosure and confidentiality for all information and proceedings that will be evaluated.

Budget proposal

**8. Should a budget proposal be completed?**

As this is an inducement Prize and not a grant, the application is not related to a project proposal.

Applicants shall fill in the application template with the necessary information.

Eligibility

**9. Does the general rules of call for proposals in Horizon 2020 for eligibility criteria apply to this prize?**

The Prize has defined specific eligibility criteria, which may differ from the Horizon 2020 rules (e.g. no minimum number of participants). For more information, please refer to Section 4 of the Rules of Contest.

**10. In the footnote n.6 of the Rules of contest, it is stated that “Finalists will be asked to provide evidence in support of the declarations of honour proving that more than 50% of the development and deployment costs correspond to activities implemented in the EU.” In these circumstances, must applicants from an associated country develop solution in a Member State?**

Indeed, for the objectives of this prize it is important to ensure that the solution is developed and deployed in the EU. Therefore, as part of the application package, all applicant(s) shall declare on their honour that they comply with the conditions specified in the rules of contest (paragraph 4.1.2) regarding development and deployment of the solution in the EU. The three finalists will be asked to provide evidence in support of their declaration.

**11. How can I find the list of countries that comply with the security requirements?**

Countries must comply with the security requirements at the time of the application. There is no fixed list of such countries.

All EU Member States comply with the security requirements listed in the Rules of Contest.

Applicants who are not from an EU Member State shall provide evidence of their national legislation equivalent to the security guarantees as requested in the Application Template ([Part B](#)).

**12. Can UK applicants participate in this action?**

Following the entry into force of the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement<sup>1</sup> and in particular Article 127(7), UK participants are no longer eligible to participate in actions under EU programmes, which involve access to security-related sensitive information. UK residents and entities may therefore not apply under this action.

Award criteria

**13. How do you define "low-cost"? What's the measure, other competing companies or current offerings in the market?**

Low-cost is evaluated in terms of cost-efficiency and economic viability of the proposed solution with respect to the market. The cost efficiency will be evaluated, in particular, under the Excellence criterion, while the economic viability will be evaluated in particular under the Service Sustainability criterion.

**14. What are the parameters in general for the evaluation?**

The parameters for the evaluation are defined by the award criteria in the Rules of Contest.

**15. Does company funding play a role and if so, how?**

The company funding will be taken into account to evaluate the economic viability of the solution, in particular, in terms of soundness and sustainability of business plan.

**16. How is the current progress of the companies evaluated, e.g. likelihood of successful vehicle development with respect to infrastructure (production and test capabilities, etc)?**

The evaluation will focus on the proposed solution. It will consider its economic viability in terms of soundness and sustainability of the business plan (e.g. pricing policy, revenues, investment, costs, market share, market forecast, return on investment).

It will also consider the technical implementation in terms of launch system, ground segment and production maturity.

**17. How is environmental friendliness taken into account?**

The eco-friendliness aspect is evaluated under the Excellence award criterion in terms of optimisation of the solution for the long-term impact on the Earth's atmosphere and environment (e.g. harmful emissions, use of toxic chemicals, space debris).

**18. Do signed/binding customer launch agreements as well as letters of intent play a role?**

Launch agreements and letters of intent will be taken into account to evaluate the maturity and quality of the solution, notably under the Service Sustainability award criterion.

**19. With respect to the scoring, is there a more granular decomposition of the scoring system to be used by the judges? Is there a more detailed judging guideline document?**

No sub-criteria linked to sub-scores are foreseen for any of the award criteria.

The Jury will evaluate the solution against the three award criteria and give a global score for each criterion in line with the description in the Rules of Contest.

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<sup>1</sup> Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.