



## PUBLIC CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS FOR ENEA PROJECTS

#### FUNDED BY ENEA'S PROOF OF CONCEPT PROGRAMME – POC ENEA 2023

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

ENE A has created a fund to finance proof of concept projects (hereinafter “PoC Programme” or simply “Programme”), to support the development of technologies with a low TRL (Technology Readiness Level) generated within its laboratories.

In particular, the short-term funds provided for by the Programme are targeted to the implementation of development projects with potential to demonstrate the feasibility of a technology or product concept with the aim to promote its transfer to industry.

The funds will be provided through an ENE A internal order specifically intended for the implementation of the projects.

There is no funding planned for industrial partners.

The Programme may fund project activities that involve;

- construction or improvement of a prototype for commercialization;
- commercial feasibility or scale-up testing;
- demonstration of risk mitigation for a potential investor/industry or licensee, in the case of a patent;
- addressing and overcoming a specific gap identified by the industry that hinders its attractiveness for investors

#### 2. SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The Call does not constitute a public offer under Article 1336 of the Italian Civil Code and is not binding on the subjects who have expressed their interest.

In addition, the Administration does not assume any obligation towards the participating subjects, who will have no claims whatsoever against ENE A.

The purpose of this public call is to identify industrial partners interested in co-financing and developing, in collaboration with ENE A, the Proof of Concept project proposals listed in Annex A.

The duration of all PoC projects must not exceed 18 months, with only one possible extension, to be considered only in the event of proven exceptional circumstances and, in any case, for a period of no more than 6 further months; each of them may receive a grant from the Agency not exceeding 60,000 euros, which will be added to the co-financing share of the partner, in the form of a financial contribution to be paid to ENE A, to cover at least 10% of the "direct costs" of the project. The contributions of personnel and existing equipment and facilities, which do not generate a cash outlay, are intended to be provided in kind to the project by the Parties.

The ENE A funding and the partner's co-financing will contribute into an internal ENE A order specifically aimed at the implementation of the single Proof of Concept Project.





The project partner's co-financing will be paid to ENEA in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in the collaboration research contract that the parties will enter into for the implementation of the project.

In addition to the co-financing of the total eligible costs, each party will contribute to the project, within what is provided for in the relevant collaboration research contract, with an in kind contribution relating to the provision of personnel already in the workforce and equipment and infrastructure already at disposal.

### 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

Companies and institutional investors with legal personality are eligible to submit an Expression of Interest to become potential industrial partners.

Potential partners must meet financial and economic reliability requirements. ENEA will verify any outstanding financial obligations (out-of-court and/or judicial) against it, the existence of prejudicial acts and the economic situation of potential industrial partners by requesting a Chamber of commerce company registration or other tools.

Potential partners that do not meet the aforementioned requirements will not be considered for their expressions of interest.

### 4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Expression of Interest must be submitted using (or in accordance with) the form attached (**Annex B**), duly completed and signed by the legal representative or a person with legally delegated authority.

The aforementioned Expression of Interest must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023** via certified e-mail, if available, to [enea@cert.enea.it](mailto:enea@cert.enea.it) or by ordinary mail to [proofofconcept@enea.it](mailto:proofofconcept@enea.it) indicating "**PoC ENEA 2023 – Expression of Interest**" in the subject.

ENEA reserves the right to verify the accuracy of the information declared through appropriate random checks.

### 5. EVALUATION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Once the economic and financial reliability requirements have been verified, the selection of the partner with whom to collaborate will be made by ENEA, at its own discretion, by an evaluation committee, according to a series of criteria which refer, in particular, to the prospects of exploitation of the technology to be developed, as provided in the expression of interest and the amount of co-financing.

### 6. COMMUNICATION OF THE RESULTS

The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the participants via certified e-mail, if available, or by ordinary mail.

### 7. DEFINITION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROOF OF CONCEPT PROJECTS

Following the acceptance of the expression of interest, the selected partners will participate in the definition and submission of the PoC Project, subject to the signing of a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

During the project definition phase, the activities and roles of the partners will be specified, with particular reference to the value of the contribution made available within the framework of the collaboration, both in financial and in-kind terms.

### 8. EVALUATION AND FUNDING OF PROJECTS





The submitted PoC Project proposals will be evaluated by a Commission specifically assigned to that, based on pre-defined criteria, including, in particular, the market and innovation potential of the Project, and the participants will be ranked in order of their performance.

The financing of PoC Projects will be guaranteed up to the limit of available funds, by following the order of the final ranking approved by the ENEA Director General. Projects with the following themes will only be financed up to a maximum of 40% of available resources:

- a) technologies for offshore wind power and floating photovoltaics;
- b) binary cycle or Thermal use geothermal systems;
- c) energy storage systems for electrical energy, excluding electrochemical storage systems and hydrogen-based storage systems;
- d) digital Twin Modelling (Mediterranean climate models, energy application, biomedicine);
- e) production of food proteins using innovative methods that use an integrated management of biological resources and/or the valorization of biological or industrial waste and residues.

Before the start of each funded PoC project, a collaborative research contract will be signed between ENEA and the industrial partner.

## **9. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The results obtained during the project will be owned by ENEA. The industrial partner acquires an option right for an onerous exclusive license, on terms that will take into account the financial and in-kind contribution provided by the partner to the project, on any patents or other Intellectual Property rights filed by ENEA to protect such results (foreground) and/or on the ENEA background that may be necessary, to be exercised within six months from the conclusion of the project activities.

## **10. PUBLICATION**

This call will be effective from the date of its publication on the ENEA institutional website.

## **11. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

The processing of personal data sent by the interested parties will be carried out in accordance with the measures and obligations imposed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Legislative Decree 30.6.2003, no. 196, "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali" and subsequent amendments, for purposes related to the procedure in question, both for the examination of the expressions of interest received, and for the potential development of a proof of concept project on patents in collaboration with ENEA, pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1, letters b) and e) of the aforementioned Regulation.

Personal data will be kept for a period of time which will not exceed the achievement of the purposes.

