

**Call for proposals for projects of common interest
in the field of the trans-European transport network
under the European Economic Recovery Plan work programme 2009**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Subject:

This call for proposal under the European Economic Recovery Plan (hereafter "EERP") is established under the European Economic Recovery Plan work programme 2009¹ (Commission Decision C(2009) 2183). The EERP work programme defines the general and specific objectives, the results expected in relation to this call as well as the eligibility and general award criteria.

1.2. Date of publication:

The date of publication of this call is 31 March 2009.

1.3. Indicative budget:

The indicative budget available under this call is €500 million.

In parallel to this EERP call for proposals, calls for proposals are also being launched under the multi-annual work programme in the fields of European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS, indicative budget: €240 million), Intelligent Transport Systems for Road (ITS Road, indicative budget: €100 million) and Motorways of the Seas (MoS, indicative budget : €30 million). In addition, an annual call for proposal with an indicative budget of €80 million is being launched.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. General objectives:

In the wake of the financial crisis that has begun to spread to the real economy in 2008, the European Union is threatened with recession. In addition, there is a clear need for Europe to accelerate its investments in infrastructure.

In the light of these concerns, the European Council at its meeting of 11 and 12 December 2008² endorsed the European Economic Recovery Plan³, setting out how

¹ available on the TEN-T EA website:

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/ten_t_ea/call_for_proposals_2009_en.htm

² The conclusions of the Presidency of the European Council meeting in Brussels on 11-12 December 2008, 17271/08, point 9

³ COM (2008) 800 final, 26.11.2008

Member States and the European Union can coordinate their policies and provide new stimulus to the European economy, targeting that stimulus to the Community's long-term objectives.

An important part of the EERP was the proposal to increase Community investment in defined strategic sectors and in particular in infrastructure projects, with the objectives of giving an immediate boost to the economy and helping develop the path to a stronger and sustainable economy for the future. In particular, a €500 million call for proposals for trans-European transport (TEN-T) projects is foreseen in the EERP.

The aid to be granted under this work programme will therefore be focused only on TEN-T projects which can clearly demonstrate that:

- the Community support will enable works to start in 2009 or, at the latest, in 2010;
- the bulk of the activities to be supported by this Community funding will be implemented in 2009 and 2010.

2.2. Specific objectives:

Aid may be granted to the following types of works projects:

- as a first priority, new projects of common interest, as defined in Article 7 of the TEN Guidelines⁴, which are sufficiently mature to be largely implemented in 2009 and 2010, which can clearly demonstrate their contribution to the TEN-T priorities, and which were not intended to be supported by other Community programmes (in particular the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund);
- as a second priority, ongoing projects, or parts of a project, which are progressing satisfactorily and where the work phase could be accelerated over 2009 and 2010 through the injection of new Community funds. These ongoing projects may have already received financial aid through TEN-T calls for proposals launched in 2007 or 2008, either under the multi-annual or annual work programmes. However, the overall rate of support to these projects will not exceed the values foreseen in Article 6(2) of the TEN Regulation.

2.3. Results expected:

The expected results of the EERP call for proposals are defined in Section 3 of the EERP work programme.

3. ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

3.1. Eligibility criteria:

The eligibility criteria for applicants and for projects, as well as the grounds for exclusion, are defined in Section 5 of the EERP work programme.

3.2. Selection criteria:

⁴ Decision n° 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 on Community guidelines for the development of the Trans-European Transport Network (OJ L 228, 09.09.1996, p.1) as last amended by Council Regulation n° 1791/2006/EC of 20 November 2006 (OJ L 363, 20.12.2006)

The selection criteria (i.e. technical and financial capacity) applicable to applicants which are not public sector bodies⁵ or bodies governed by public law⁶ are defined in Section 6 of the EERP work programme.

3.3. **Award criteria:**

The general award criteria against which each proposal will be evaluated are specified in Section 7 of the EERP work programme.

For the purpose of the evaluation, these criteria will be grouped in the following four blocks of criteria:

- relevance
- maturity
- impact
- quality

When assessing the maturity of the proposed project, particular attention will be given to the ability to start work early and incur costs in 2009 and 2010.

During the external evaluation, each block of criteria will be given a score between 0 and 5 points (with 5 being the maximum). The minimum threshold for an individual block of criteria is 3 points. In other words, external experts will not recommend for funding any proposal which does not obtain 3 points for one (or more) block(s). The Commission's evaluation committee will use the expert's opinions as a basis for formulating its recommendations, however it may deviate from their view.

The total requested Community contribution to the eligible costs of a proposed Action is recommended to be at least €1 million.

4. **CO-FINANCING & ELIGIBLE COSTS**

4.1. **Co-financing:**

The maximum possible rates of Community co-funding are specified in Section 8 of the EERP work programme.

The Commission reserves the right to award a grant of less than the amount requested by the applicant. Grants will not be awarded for more than the amount requested.

4.2. **Eligible costs:**

Detailed information on eligible costs are described in Annex III, section III.3.7 "Eligibility of Costs", of the model individual Decision granting financial aid for an Action, which is available on the TEN-T EA⁷ website

⁵ For the purpose of the TEN-T Programme, a 'public sector body' means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law and associations formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law

⁶ For the purpose of the TEN-T Programme, a 'body governed by public law' means any body:

- (a) established for the specific purpose of meeting needs in the general interest, not having an industrial or commercial character; and
- (b) having legal personality; and
- (c) financed, for the most part by the State, or regional or local authorities or having an administrative, managerial or supervisory board, more than half of whose members are appointed by the State, regional or local authorities.

⁷ Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency

(http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/ten_t_ea/call_for_proposals_2009_en.htm), and in Commission Decision C(2007)2158⁸.

Costs incurred between the date on which an application is lodged (as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip / receipt) and 31 December 2013 may be considered as eligible.

Community financial aid for projects of common interest established under this call can take the form of grants for works – costs related to studies are not eligible under this call. EIB operations shall be compatible with the granting of financial aid under this call.

As defined in Article 2 of the TEN Regulation⁹, "works" means the purchase, supply and deployment of components, systems and services, the carrying out of construction and installation works relating to a project, the acceptance of installations and the launching of a project.

5. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

In general, all practical information on the call for proposals and the evaluation process is detailed in the Guide for Applicants, which is available on the TEN-T EA website. It is important to read this guide carefully as proposals which do not follow the instructions will not be evaluated.

5.1. Application forms:

Proposals must be submitted using the application forms provided on the TEN-T EA website.

Proposals in their paper version must be signed by the applicant or his duly authorized representative and be perfectly legible so that there can be no doubt as to words and figures.

The components constituting a complete proposal, the address for submission and other practical details are described in the Guide for Applicants.

As the working language of the external evaluators is English, it is recommended that proposals are prepared in English. If a proposal is not submitted in English, it is highly recommended that, for the sake of clarity and a quick and proper evaluation of proposals, applicants submit an electronic version of application form Parts B1 and B2 in English before 29 May 2009¹⁰. Upon request and on the basis of supporting documents, the corresponding costs will be reimbursed up to €2500 per proposal¹¹.

A proposal may not be submitted in response to more than one TEN-T call for proposals in 2009. If the same, or a very similar, proposal is submitted to more than one call, the proposals will both be considered ineligible.

⁸ Commission Decision C(2007)2158 of 23/05/2007 establishing the draft multi-annual work programme for grants in the field of trans-European Transport network (TEN-T) for the period 2007-2013

⁹ Regulation (EC) n° 680/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007, laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of the trans-European transport and energy networks, OJ L 162, 22.6.2007, p. 1

¹⁰ tenea-proposal-call-eerp2009@ec.europa.eu

¹¹ Instructions for requesting reimbursements are available in the Guide for Applicants

5.2. Indicative Schedule

Deadline for the submission of proposals	15 May 2009*
Submission of translations in English	29 May 2009
Evaluation of proposals	June 2009
Consultation of Financial Assistance Committee; execution of scrutiny right by European Parliament	July - September 2009
Indicative date for adoption of individual Decisions	from September 2009

*This is the deadline by which proposals must be:

- either sent by registered post or courier service (postmark, deposit slip or proof of receipt);
- or delivered by hand to the address mentioned in the Guide for Applicants. In this case, a receipt must be obtained as proof of submission, signed and dated by the official who took delivery.

If a proposal is submitted after the deadline indicated above, the proposal will not be evaluated.

5.3. Communication from TEN-T EA on the call for proposals

Further information or clarifications on this call for proposals may be published on the TEN-T EA website until at least one week before the call deadline. In particular, a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) will be regularly updated as questions arise.

Any additional specific question related to this call may be addressed to the TEN-T Helpdesk email:

tenea-helpdesk-call-eerp2009@ec.europa.eu

The answers to questions which could be of interest to other applicants will be published in the FAQ list on the TEN-T EA website, to ensure equal treatment between all potential applicants. Questions which are specific to a particular proposal and where the answer of the TEN-T EA would provide a comparative advantage to the applicant will not be answered.

Applications may not be delivered to this email address, which is reserved for information and assistance by the TEN-T EA helpdesk (as indicated in the Guide for Applicants, electronic submissions should be submitted to the following email address: tenea-proposal-call-eerp2009@ec.europa.eu).

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1. Processing of personal data:

The follow-up of responses to the call for proposals will require the recording and further processing of personal data (e.g. name, address). These data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (CE) 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless stated otherwise, replies to questions and personal data requested are necessary for the purpose of assessing your application (according to the specifications of the call for proposals) and will only be processed within TEN-T EA as data controller, for this purpose. For the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Communities, the personal data may also be

transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office ('OLAF').

You may, upon request, have your personal data sent to you and rectify any inaccurate or incomplete particulars. Should you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, please address them to the entity acting as data controller within TEN-T EA¹². As regards the processing of your personal data, you have the right to bring the matter before the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

6.2. General conditions for paying grants:

In order to limit the financial risks connected with the payment of pre-financing, the Commission or the TEN-T EA may, on the basis of a risk assessment, either require the beneficiary to lodge a guarantee in advance (for up to the same amount as the pre-financing) or split the payment into several instalments. Such a guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by the Member State concerned (i.e. approving the project) or, where there is more than one beneficiary, by the joint guarantee of the beneficiaries. The Commission may waive this obligation to lodge a guarantee in advance for public-sector bodies and international organisations¹³.

6.3. Important documents:

In preparing proposals, applicants should ensure that they consult all of the following documents, which are available on the TEN-T EA website:

- EERP work programme¹⁴
- Guide for Applicants
- Application form (parts A, B1 and B2)
- TENtec eSub guidance note
- TEN Regulation¹⁵
- TEN Guidelines¹⁶
- Model text for an individual decision granting financial aid
- (if applicable) the definition of cross-border sections of priority projects endorsed by the TEN-T Guidelines Committee for Monitoring Guidelines and the Exchange of Information.

¹² TENEA-DPO@ec.europa.eu

¹³ Art. 118 of Regulation 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJL 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.) and Art. 182 of Regulation 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation 1605/2002 (OJL 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1)

¹⁴ C(2009) 2183

¹⁵ Regulation (EC) n° 680/2007

¹⁶ Decision n° 1692/96/EC