



CALL FOR INNOVATION PROPOSALS 2015-1

KIC InnoEnergy Innovation Projects

Doc.: CIP15-1 GEN

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Rev.: 1

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1. INTRODUCTION

KIC InnoEnergy strategy in Innovation projects is very influenced by several factors:

- The current SET Plan, with a big focus in technologies, lays down binding targets to be achieved until 2020, including a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 20% and ensuring 20% of renewable energy sources in the EU energy mix.
- The new SET plan (now called the SET Plan integrated roadmap), valid for 2014-2020. It sets the directions that will allow Europe to reach the new very ambitious goals for 2050: reduction of 95% of emissions in the power sector, reduction of dependency from foreign energy suppliers by 55%, increase renewable share of production to 40% -all against 1990 baseline-, capture 2.4 trillion € of European investments in generating capacity from 2010 to 2050.
- The conviction that the European energy system needs to be approached as a whole in order to achieve a system change towards sustainability, and that it is the **continuous friction between market demand and technology push** that will make systemic innovation appear and be more efficient.

These factors lay down the framework for the KIC InnoEnergy call for innovation, which is based on two pillars:

1. The requirements, terms and conditions of the call for innovation
2. The thematic field roadmaps

The present document contains the basic information needed to understand the requirements, terms and conditions of the KIC InnoEnergy call for innovation proposals 2015-1.

More information about the call for innovation and the KIC InnoEnergy thematic field roadmaps can be found at <http://cip2015.kic-innoenergy.com/>.

2. WHAT IS A KIC INNOENERGY INNOVATION PROJECT?

KIC InnoEnergy understands innovation projects as the *transformation of available knowledge into new marketable products and services related to the field of sustainable energy that create positive impact on market and society*, by:

- 1- Decreasing energy cost,
- 2- Increasing security vis-à-vis resources holders,
- 3- Increasing intrinsic operational safety or reliability, and/or
- 4- Reducing Green House Gas emissions

Such projects should normally present:

- a time to market shorter than 5 years from the beginning of the project,
- a maximum project duration of 3 years
- a Technology Readiness Level (TRL)> 4, meaning that the majority of the functionality of the system and/or its components has already been proven at least at laboratory level (proof of concept).

3. FUNDING OF KIC INNOENERGY INNOVATION PROJECTS

3.1. General Conditions for KIC InnoEnergy Investment

The sources for investing in innovation projects come from the EIT and from KIC own resources. Therefore they are subject to particular conditions established at:

- Framework Partnership Agreement signed between EIT and KIC InnoEnergy.¹
- Grant Agreements to be signed on yearly basis between EIT and KIC InnoEnergy².

KIC InnoEnergy will only fund eligible costs related to KIC Added Value Activities according to the scheme depicted in Fig. 1. Non-EIT funding contributed by partners **exceeding** 75% of the overall project budget is required.

KIC InnoEnergy expects from the project partners to have a financial return conditioned to successful implementation of the product in the market. This will be executed in a Return on Investment contract with KIC.

KIC InnoEnergy Finance Working Group, with a representative at each Colocation Center will support the proposal partners in identifying and building the right sourcing to the project during the proposal phase.

Beneficiaries of the funding need to become eligible partners according to the EIT rules. In order to become EIT eligible, new partners need to sign the Internal Agreement and Declaration of Honour (see Annexes 8 and 9).

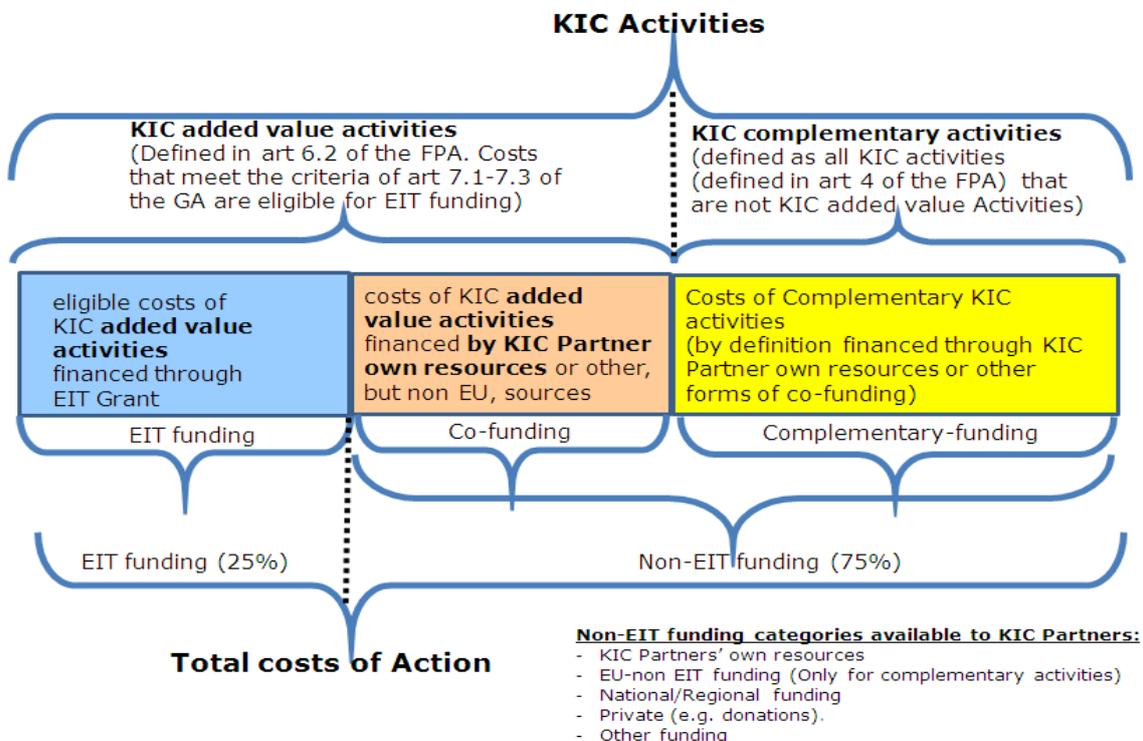


Fig. 1.- Nature of KIC activities and associated funding

¹ Available upon request

² For 2013, available upon request



3.2. Budget Allocation

Each Innovation project starts with a so called Work Package 0 (WP0). This is a feasibility study dedicated to the analysis and development of the business opportunity. Such analysis will have to be defended in front of a thematic field assessment committee which, at a formal gate review, will determine if the project can continue or not receiving KIC InnoEnergy funding. Those projects not succeeding at the gate review will be cancelled. The KIC InnoEnergy **funding allocation for the WP0 is limited to a maximum of 50 kEURO**. If there is a need for a higher funding this should be explained specifically.

Once successful at the gate review, the funding of KIC InnoEnergy projects will be decided on a half-yearly basis, subject to two conditions:

1. **Performance according to plan.** Project performance will be assessed by KIC InnoEnergy thematic field assessment committee at regular mid-year or year-end project reviews, or at gate reviews established upon attainment of milestones previously identified and agreed for each project. Favorable assessments can lead to budget increases, whereas non-favorable assessments can lead to budget decreases, including the total cancellation of the project.
2. **Availability of KIC InnoEnergy resources for year Y.** Every year in September Y-1, KIC InnoEnergy has to submit to the EIT the Business Plan proposal for year Y. After assessment of the overall KIC InnoEnergy Business Plan proposal and upon consideration of available financial resources, in December Y-1 the EIT will communicate to KIC InnoEnergy the amount granted for year Y. On the basis of such EIT resources and KIC InnoEnergy own resources, KIC InnoEnergy will allocate the available funds to the different activities.

4. SUBMISSION OF INNOVATION PROPOSALS

4.1. Thematics of the Call for Innovation Proposals

The proposal should be aligned with one of the topics described in the annexed thematic roadmaps (see website <http://cip2015.kic-innoenergy.com/>)

4.2. Who Can Apply?

The proposal can be submitted **by public and/or private consortia** which have a project for an innovative sustainable energy product or service.

If a partner wants to be awarded a grant of more than €100k or lead a project they should be or become at least associate partner. Project or new partners can lead a project if they join a letter of their intent to become associate partner upon successful qualification for KIC funding of their proposal. For more information about the rights and obligations of different types of KIC InnoEnergy partnership, please see Annex 2.

4.3. Required Criteria

4.3.1. Admissibility Criteria

Proposals **will not be examined** at Thematic Field level, if the following admissibility criteria are not fulfilled:



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- The proposal has been **submitted before the announced deadline**. No additional information will be taken into account after the deadline.
- **All the sections** in the project proposal (see Annex 3) have been **completed**: development plan, schedule, budget, etc.
- The proposal has been duly signed by a representative of each partner.

4.3.2. Eligibility Criteria

If one of the following criteria is not fulfilled, the proposal will be rejected at the Thematic Field level assessment phase.

Criterion	Title	Weight	Ref. in proposal
E1	The goal of the project is to develop products or services to be sold on the market.	N/A	Sect. 2
E2	At least one company commercializing the products or services developed in the project must be involved in the project from the beginning . Any type of company ranging from newly created start-ups to large companies is acceptable. In case the commercial vehicle is a newly created venture, this will have to apply for the KIC InnoEnergy Highway™ program ³ .	N/A	Sect. 3, 4
E3	At least partners from 2 different European countries must have a substantial role in the project.	N/A	Sect. 1
E4	The number of partners is minimum 3 and maximum 7	N/A	Sect. 1
E5	Topic falls within one of the KIC InnoEnergy thematic fields	N/A	Sect. 3
E6	Proposal has maximum 24 pages (fonts from template)	N/A	N/A

³ Written commitment from partners is required at proposal phase.

4.3.3. Assessment Criteria

Criterion	Title	Weight	Ref. in proposal
A1	BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	6	
A1.1	Preliminary product or service definition (problem statement, solution benchmark, ...)	1	Sect. 7.1.1, 7.4.1
A1.2	Feasibility of proposed technology solution for product or service:	1	Sect. 7.4.2
A1.3	Innovativeness of proposed solution	1	Sect. 7.2.4, 7.4.1, 7.4.2
A1.4	Business opportunity assessment (market analysis, competitive analysis, value proposition for commercialization party and customers, ...)	2	Sect. 7.1.2, 7.2.1, 7.2.2, 7.2.3, 7.3.1, 7.6.3
A1.5	Soundness of IP	1	Sect. 7.5.1, 7.5.2.
A2	RISK ANALYSIS	4	
A2.1	Availability of required knowledge in the consortium	2	Sect. 4.1, 4.2
A2.2	Technical barriers identified and mitigation plan	2	Sect. 9
A3	FINANCIAL VIABILITY	3	
A3.1	Project budget vs. market potential and scope of the project	1	Sect. 7.2.4, 7.6.1, 10
A3.2	Justification of requested KIC investment	1	Sect. 7.6.2
A3.3	Assessment of plan for KIC investment return	1	Sect. 7.6.3
A4	OPERATIONAL VIABILITY	4	
A4.1	Soundness of project plan (milestones, deliverables, availability of resources, etc.)	2	Sect. 5
A4.2	Soundness of consortium vs. value chain	1	Sect. 4
A4.3	Quality of project management	1	Sect. 11
A5	COMPLIANCE WITH KIC REQUIREMENTS	4	
A5.1	Integration of students, academics, education organisations ⁴	1	Sect. 8
A5.3	Compliance with KIC InnoEnergy roadmap ⁵	2	Sect. 3
A5.4	Participation of SMEs	1	Sect. 1, 4

⁴ As a reference:

- 5 points: If the proposal includes strong links to KIC InnoEnergy educational activities
- 3 points: If the proposal is linked only to other (non KIC) educational activities

⁵ As a reference:

- 5 points: If the topic falls within the retained topics in roadmap v1
- 2 points: if the topic falls within the list of rejected topics in roadmap v1
- 0 points: otherwise



Each assessment criterion will be ranked from 0 to 5:

- 0 Not filled or cannot be judged because out of range**
- 1 Very poor:** The criterion is addressed in a cursory and unsatisfactory manner
- 2 Poor:** There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
- 3 Fair:** While the proposal address the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need corrections
- 4 Good:** The proposal addresses the criterion well although some improvements are possible
- 5 Excellent:** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor

4.4. How to Submit a Proposal?

In order to submit a proposal the following steps should be taken:

1. Inform the local CC manager or the corresponding thematic leader about your intention to submit a proposal well in advance. They should help in the process providing feedback, assisting to find relevant partners, clarifying doubts or answering questions.
2. Contact relevant partners for your project, inform them about the project and get them involved.
3. In order to find the right partnership, please look for the animation sessions organized by the different thematic fields, announced on the KIC-InnoEnergy website.
4. For making the proposal, local guidance sessions will be announced on the KIC InnoEnergy call website. Upon request, the CC organizations can provide detailed information on how to prepare the proposal.
5. Complete project proposal description including budget and time plan as per Annex 3 & 5.
6. Distribute draft project proposal to other partners and agree upon the content of the proposal.
7. Submit your proposal **before 10th of April 2015⁶** at 23:59h, uploading the **signed proposal** with the required annexes at <http://cip2015.kic-innoenergy.com/>

⁶ This is a hard deadline. No new submissions or updates will be accepted after this date.

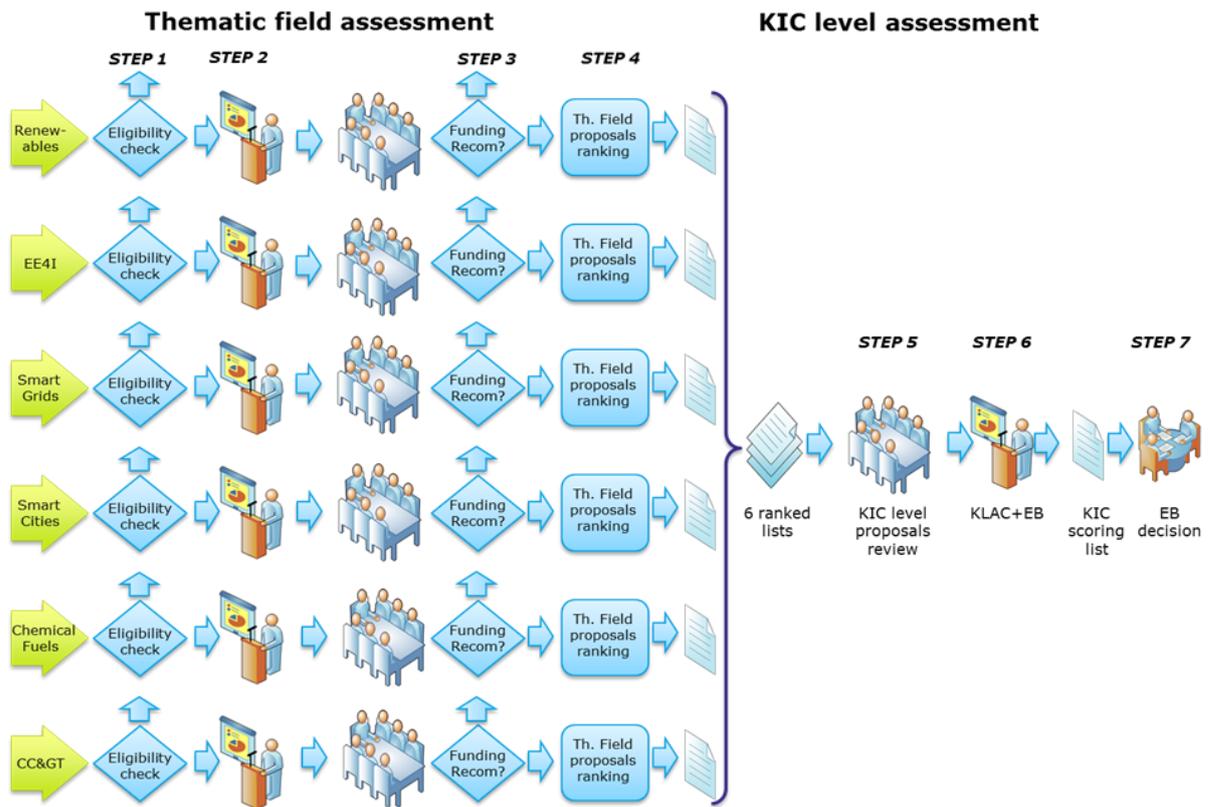


Figure 2. – Evaluation process

5. EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process will occur in two levels as per the process depicted in Figure 2.

1. **Thematic Field level assessment.** Each Thematic Field will appoint an assessment committee in charge of evaluating the proposals corresponding to its own theme (e.g., Thematic field Renewables committee will assess all proposals related to renewables, irrespective of the affiliation of the partners in the consortium). Thematic field assessment committee will check both admissibility and eligibility criteria and will rank the proposals according to the assessment criteria. Only those proposals selected by TLAC will be considered in the next assessment phase.
2. **KIC level assessment** will be performed by a committee composed by the thematic leaders as well as representatives from industry and academia. This group will review and rank all the eligible proposal evaluations performed at thematic level using the same assessment criteria. Upon presentation by the different consortia, the KIC level assessment committee will submit a ranked list to the KIC Executive Board for final decision.

The final resolution together with comments and recommendations will be communicated to each proposal manager.



6. PROJECT AGREEMENT

Upon favorable assessment of the project proposal, consortium partners and KIC InnoEnergy will sign a Project Agreement according to the template included in Annex 4.

Partners will constitute a Project Steering Board (PSB) who will appoint a project manager. The project manager will be the interface between KIC InnoEnergy and the project consortium. He/she will ensure that the project runs according to the plan and the requirements are duly fulfilled, in time, finance and quality. The project manager will be also responsible for the required reporting to the KIC. For more information about the role of the project manager in KIC InnoEnergy innovation projects, see Annex 5.

7. TIME SCHEDULE

- Call launching February 1st, 2015
- Call presentation events:
 - <http://cip.kic-innoenergy.com/events,6.html>
- Deadline for submission of proposals **April 10, 2015**

Evaluation of Proposals

- Project presentation* by consortium at Thematic level April 1st till May 1st, 2015
- Thematic Field assessment deadline May 1st 19, 2015
- KIC Level document review May 26, 2015
- Project presentation* by consortium to KIC committee June 2nd & 3rd, 2015
- KIC decision June 4th, 2015

* If a presentation training is necessary. Please take contact with the KIC-InnoEnergy office close to you

Running of Projects

- Project Agreement signature and kick-off latest October 2nd, 2015
- WPO - feasibility gate review (no later than) December 18, 2015
- Mid-year project reviews June/July, every year
- Year-end project reviews December/January, every year
- Other gate reviews to be decided by CC Manager



8. Related documents

- Annex 1.- Roadmap (see website <http://cip2015.kic-innoenergy.com/>)
- Annex 2.- Rights and obligations for different types of KIC InnoEnergy partners
- Annex 3.- Call for Innovation 2015 Project proposal template
- Annex 4.- Project budget template
- Annex 5.- Project planning template
- Annex 6.- Innovation Project Agreement vs 2015
- Annex 7.- Role of Innovation Project Manager
- Annex 8.- Internal Agreement
- Annex 9.- Declaration of Honor
- Annex 10.- Consortium Agreement
- Annex 11.- IP terms
- Annex 12.- Guidelines BG identification
- Annex 13.- List of PSB representatives
- Annex 14 Partner Master data