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FEDERAL SCIENCE POLICY

RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR EARTH OBSERVATION STEREO IV

(SUPPORT TO EXPLOITATION AND RESEARCH IN EARTH
OBSERVATION)

SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SHARED COST PROJECTS

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

21/5/2028

INTRODUCTION

- This document features the information for teams wishing to take part in the open call for shared cost proposals in the "STEREO IV programme".
- For general information about the STEREO calls (thematic priorities, programme structure and implementation, projects implementation and budget breakdown) please consult the general information package for open call proposals.
- Steps involved in submitting a proposal:
 1. Contact the programme manager to verify eligibility of proposal (recommended)
 2. Submit the actual project proposal
- Proposals can be submitted any time before the deadline set on the front page of this document and should be written in English.
- The proposals will be evaluated at least once a year.
- Applicants are required to observe the rules laid down in the information packages for this call, otherwise their proposals cannot be taken into account by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office.

For further details about the programme and this call for proposals, please get in touch with:

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1 OBJECT OF THIS CALL

Share cost projects offer co-financing for Belgian partners selected for an international (including ERA-Net projects), bilateral, regional or national project (the so-called mother project) but did not receive a 100 % financing.

CONDITIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SHARED-COST FUNDING

- Be a promotor from a Belgian university, a Belgian public research institution or a Belgian non-profit research institution;
- Be a partner in a mother project selected for funding after peer review evaluation;
- The mother project must be a scientific research project, a major part of it centering on earth observation;
- The STEREO funding will only cover earth observation components of the mother project;
- The mother project must still be in its first year at the time of requesting STEREO co-funding.

2 BUDGET

- There is no fixed budget earmarked for shared cost projects. Projects can be submitted at any time before the deadline set on the front page of this document.

3 SUBMISSION

Submission is a two-stage process: first discuss eligibility of proposal with STEREO programme managers (optional) and then submit the actual proposal.

- Proposals should be submitted solely via the form intended for this purpose, which can be accessed via the BELSPO and STEREO website.
- Applicants are required to meet the conditions set forth in the information documents.

- Should be attached to the submission file:
 - A copy of the results of the peer-reviewed evaluation of the mother project;
 - A copy of the contract of the mother project.
- Proposals should be submitted in English.
- Only a digital word version of the proposal should be submitted to the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office via schy@belspo.be and vdab@belspo.be.

4 SELECTION

The proposals are selected and recommended for funding by the STEREO Programme Board on the basis of the proposal submitted, the written evaluation of the mother project and the budget available. The Programme Board can request an oral defence.

The final decision is taken by the State Secretary in charge of Science Policy upon advise of the Inspector of Finances.

5 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS

- For the proposals approved for funding, even if the applicants are already under contract in the frame of the mother project, a STEREO contract between the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office and the scientific institutions concerned will be concluded to cover the financial contribution of BELSPO to the project.
- The practical requirements for the project implementation process are described in the **technical annex** of the contract. The contract describes in particular the part played by all the parties, the funding, the project follow-up procedures, the ownership rights concerning the project the data and project results, the input of all the parties and the legal provisions in the event of disputes.
- The results developed in the context of the project shall be the property of the partner responsible for these results. The State shall nonetheless reserve the right to use these results for its own needs without any charge and on a non-exclusive and irrevocable basis.

- Each project selected will also be supervised by a **Steering Committee**.

The Committee should include at least:

- 3 international scientific experts
- Representatives of the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office
- Potential users can be involved (mandatory for application-oriented projects) as well as representatives from other relevant STEREO projects.

The choice of the Steering Committee members must be approved by the Programme Management.

The Steering Committee is tasked with:

- Assessing the progress of the project
- Adjusting the objectives and activities of the project via a binding opinion in the light of the scientific, technical and methodological demands of the project and the intermediate achievements
- Assessing the impact of the partnership/project and the synergy between the various tasks and partners
- Assessing and guiding exploitation activities and help disseminating the results nationally and internationally
- Drawing attention to serious problems within the partnership/project which could result in the termination of the agreement
- For thematic network projects a mid-term extended Steering Committee meeting must be organized. During this half-time evaluation the Steering Committee must take a decision about the continuation of the PROJECT