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FEDERAL SCIENCE POLICY

RESEARCH PROGRAMME FOR EARTH OBSERVATION STEREO IV

(SUPPORT TO EXPLOITATION AND RESEARCH IN EARTH OBSERVATION)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

INFORMATION PACKAGE

JULY 2026

CLOSING DATES:

Expressions of interest (mandatory): 30 October 2026 before 4 p.m.

Research proposals: 10 February 2027 before 4 p.m.

1 CONTENT

FOREWORD

Important notice: *To implement this call for proposals with new contracts starting in 2027, it is crucial to publish it in 2026. At the time of the release of this information file, BELSPO's 2027 budget has not yet been approved by Parliament. Please note that this call for proposals may therefore be paused or scaled down following the expression of interest phase, depending on future decisions.*

- This document features the information required for teams wishing to take part in the 2026 call for research proposals in the context of the "STEREO IV programme". This call only concerns **exploration projects**.

- **Exploration projects**
  - Small-scale remote sensing projects that either:
    - explore innovative research avenues; or
    - address scientific questions that emerged from a previous BELSPO project.
  - The minimum project duration is 24 months with a maximum duration of 30 months.
  - Promotors from 1 to max. 3 research laboratories may submit a proposal.

- **Eligibility of applicants**
  - The call is open to
    - Applicants from Belgian universities, higher education institutions, public scientific institutions, and non-profit research institutions; or
    - Belgian Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who wish to start or strengthen their own research agenda.
  - Collaboration with a *foreign scientific partner* is optional but encouraged. Up to 20% of the STEREO project budget may be allocated to the foreign partner. The foreign partner must co-finance its contribution by securing parallel funding equivalent to the STEREO IV contribution. The partner is expected to complement the expertise of the Belgian teams and make a substantial scientific contribution to the project.

- The **budget** for this call is **tentatively** set at about **2,5 MEURO**.

- Applicants are required to observe the rules laid down in this information package, otherwise their proposals cannot be taken into account by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office.

- Applicants must make sure that there is no overlap with this grant from other regional/national/European programs.

- Expressions of interest and proposals should be presented in English.

- **Expressions of interest (mandatory) must reach the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office no later than 30 October 2026 at 4 PM.**
- **Proposals must reach the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office no later than 10 February 2027 at 4 PM.**

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

STEREO TEAM

SCIENTIFIC SUPPORT

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2 PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

2.1 INTRODUCTION

On 22 November 2019 the Council of Ministers approved the funding of the multi-annual research programme for earth observation, STEREO IV, as part of the Belgian space strategy.
This programme will cover the period of 2022-2030 and has been allocated a budget of 28,15 M€.

This document concerns the fifth call for proposals of the STEREO IV programme.

2.2 PROGRAMME GOAL

STEREO IV's **goal** is in line with the previous programme and aims at maintaining a topnotch, dynamic and visible remote sensing community in support of the Belgian space strategy.

This translates into following subobjectives:

- ***Facilitating quality research***
- ***Increase the visibility of Belgian RS research***
- ***Support building a dynamic RS community***

2.3 THEMATIC PRIORITIES

The thematic research priorities are as follows:

1. Impact of climate change on terrestrial and marine environments
2. Advanced Monitoring and Assessment of Hazards (including pandemics)
3. Monitoring environment for improved environmental health and biodiversity
4. Geo-information for Sustainable and Green Cities

Certain topics are covered by several programme themes, or even by all of these themes. A variety of disciplines sometimes has to be brought into play to study these issues from several thematic viewpoints. In this case, cooperation between one or more scientific teams with no remote sensing expertise is strongly recommended.

Projects can also focus on the development of new methodologies, but this should always be done with a future thematic application in mind.

2.3.1 IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENTS

Climate change is one of the most challenging problems facing society today. Intense weather events such as floods, droughts and heatwaves are becoming more frequent, widespread and catastrophic.

Remote sensing can play a role in understanding climate change by quantifying processes at various spatio-temporal scales, assess and predict its impact on the environment and humanity, establish long-term trends and predict and monitor and evaluate mitigation strategies.

This requires innovative and fast analysis of multiple data sources, both EO and other, to improve observational monitoring and gain new insights to upgrade models.

2.3.2 ADVANCED MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF HAZARDS (INCLUDING PANDEMICS)

The combination of climate change and increasing human encroachment into the natural environment results in increased hazards of all kinds. These are not limited to natural risks, such as flooding, wildfires and volcanic eruptions, but also include man-made risks and the emergence and spread of pathogens.

Remote sensing comes into play at different levels: understand the risks, identify vulnerable areas and produce accurate hazard maps, develop early warning and forecasting systems, assist with emergency responses, and inventory disaster impacts and post disaster damages.

2.3.3 MONITORING ENVIRONMENT FOR IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity is under serious threat. The global population of wild species has fallen by 60% over the last 40 years and one million species are at risk of extinction, largely because of unsustainable

human activities. Yet is essential for us. Nature provides us with food, health and medicines, materials, recreation and wellbeing. A healthy ecosystem filters our air and water, helps keep the climate in balance, converts waste back into resources, pollinates crops, keeps soil fertile and much more. It is becoming clear that the health of the planet and human health are closely linked.

The extensive use of Earth observation data is not yet fully realized in biodiversity assessment, monitoring and conservation and new techniques for quantifying biodiversity at the community to species level need to be developed. However, with the loss of plant and animal species accelerating, remote sensing should gain prominence to monitor biodiversity in and help policymakers prioritize the most critical areas and monitor restoration efforts.

The focus is placed on the following types of environment:

- Water (both sea and inland)
- Coastal zones
- Wetlands, heaths and peatlands
- Agriculture and soil
- Forest, savanna and grassland
- Snow and ice
- Deserts

2.3.4 GEO-INFORMATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AND GREEN CITIES

Over 50% of the world population lives in cities. Yet, cities consume over 65% of the world's energy and account for more than 70% of global CO_2 emissions. Cities are also the cause of locally amplified climate change. As cities grow, their temperatures become higher than the surrounding areas because of changes in land cover and so-called urban heat islands (UHI) come into being. The impacts of UHI's are increased energy consumption, increased air pollution and deterioration of human health.

Green and sustainable cities are designed to address climate change, being environmentally friendly and providing a healthy environment for their (human, animal and plant) populations. This requires (among other things) greening the infrastructure, planting (preferably) native, drought tolerant trees and other vegetation and greening rooftops.

High precision remote sensing can inventory the city vegetation up to species level, identify green corridors and biodiversity hubs, characterize man-made surfaces and determine where hot spots of land surface temperature are located in urban areas.

This information can explain areas are experiencing increased temperature, identify which populations are most vulnerable, and lead to ways to mitigate the effects through adaptive land use planning.

2.4 GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES

- Site sharing between STEREO projects is encouraged.
- It is advisable to upscale to a larger scale and/or to compare the results of the study area with other sites. Results must be replicable in other study areas and be part as much as possible of an unfolding process.

2.5 METHODOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Following methodological research merit particular attention. They either dovetail with Belgian expertise, respond to the recommendations of the STEREO III evaluation or are worldwide at the forefront of remote sensing research.

- Artificial intelligence and deep learning, including interpretable artificial intelligence
- Synergic use and fusion of machine learning and physics-based approaches
- Big data exploitation
- Use of multi-mission, multi-modal, multi-sensor and multi-scale data: from space over airborne to close sensing
- Novel frameworks to deal with the scarcity and/or the low quality of data
- Automation of data processing
- Standardisation
- Advanced physics-based inversion methods;
- Use of crowd sourcing

In addition, improved estimation of uncertainty of the results remains of utmost importance (certainly when using Machine Learning techniques). The results and products derived from the research will be backed up with comparative tests, quality and reliability tests. The methods, models and services developed will have been calibrated and validated with representative field data and subjected to sensitivity analyses and error propagation.

New methodologies should be replicable by other researchers, applicable in variety of settings rather than be specific to a particular location and address the question of *why* a given result is produced.

2.6 REMOTE SENSING DATA

The *image requirements* (including the need to organise airborne campaigns) have to be clearly determined and motivated.
The use of free and open Copernicus Sentinel data is strongly encouraged as well as the use of BELSPO's collaborative ground segment (TERRASCOPE) and its functionalities. However, the programme also supports the use of a wide additional range of remote sensing imagery, such as very high resolution optical, hyperspectral, radar and lidar, in combination with in-situ data.
The remote sensing data can be satellite or airborne and include UAV data.

Whenever possible data previously acquired by BELSPO should be used. Available datasets can be consulted in the STEREO data archive (https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-data-archive) and, for VHR Pléiades data, in the Pléiades4Belgium platform (https://pleiades4belgium.be).
Belgian researchers can also access to Pléiades images at cost via the French DINAMIS platform (please contact the programme managers for more information).
For acquisition of other commercial EO data, it is recommended to consult first the portfolio offered by ESA in the frame of the Third-party missions programme (https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/third-party-missions).
Finally, it should be noted that the Belgian regional administrations dispose of airborne data which may be available for scientific use.

2.7 CARBON FOOTPRINT

The applicants are strongly encouraged to minimize the carbon footprint of the project. This could be achieved through reduction of travelling or through compensation mechanisms and should be addressed in the project reports.

2.8 VALORISATION AND DISSEMINATION

Valorisation and dissemination are key to the durability of Belgian's remote sensing community.

Alongside traditional ways of dissemination via scientific papers and presentations at conferences, additional efforts should be focused on dissemination avenues such as social media, newsletters, webstories and the publication of data sets and algorithms.
The project teams are strongly encouraged to publish their papers in open access journals.
Not only the scientific community should be targeted but potential beneficiaries of the results as well as the public at large should be informed about the outcome of the research.

2.9 SOCIETAL IMPACT

Besides the direct scientific output of research projects, STEREO is also concerned about the longer term societal impacts: impacts on human capital, on wider public, as well as on economy and innovation.
Therefore, projects should be designed and managed in view of:

- Career development of involved researchers, and in particular PhD students and post-doc researchers, via training and maximal recognition in the scientific community;
- Involving stakeholders of the research in as much as possible;
- Transfer of knowledge to the wider scientific community and potential end-users.

2.10 PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The two-part programme comprises:

- Support to scientific research: various types of project are funded on the basis of calls for proposals.

- Valorisation and support to the remote sensing community using following tools: website (**eo.belspo.be**), newsletter, LinkedIn account (**Belgian Earth Observation**), and (co)-organisation of events, in addition to:
  - Call evaluation and project supervision
  - Programme evaluation
  - Communication support
  - Publication support
  - Image acquisition and distribution
  - Training for researchers
  - Cal/val activities
  - …

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The scientific research covers following types of projects:

- Thematic network projects
- Exploration projects
- Shared cost projects
- Dissemination and support projects
- Application projects

More information on the various project types can be found on the STEREO website (https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-calls-proposals).

Thematic network projects and Exploration projects are selected only as part of a fixed call for proposals and after evaluation by international peers.
Shared cost, Dissemination and support projects (DISSUP) and (Pre-study) Application projects can be submitted via an open call and are selected by the STEREO Programme Committee depending on the scientific quality and relevance (results of evaluation), the fit with the programme, the duration and the available budget.

This call only concerns exploration projects.
For information on open calls for Applications, Shared cost and DISSUP projects, please visit our website (https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-calls-proposals).

EXPLORATION PROJECTS

These are small-scale projects lasting max **2,5 *years*** for ***1 to 3 teams*** whether or not rounded out by an international team.
The projects are directed at:

- investigating new concepts, technologies, data from new sensors (INNOVATION PROJECT);
- exploring a new research track resulting from previous BELSPO remote sensing projects (SPIN-OFF PROJECT).

This call for proposals also places particular emphasis on applications from ***Early Career Researchers*** (ECRs) who aim to initiate or strengthen their independent research agenda (see 4.1.1).

2.11 PROGRAMME PLANNING

The **indicative calendar** of the calls planned for the remainder of the STEREO IV programme is as follows:

PROJECT TYPE:	2026	2027	2028	2029
PROJECT FUNDING VIA FIXED CALLS:				
Exploration projects				
PROJECT FUNDING VIA OPEN CALLS:				
Application projects				
Shared cost projects				
Dissemination and support projects				

2.12 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS

- The selected project proposals are covered by a **contract** between the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office, the relevant scientific institutions and, where appropriate, the private or public partner.

- The practical requirements for the project implementation process are described in the **technical annexes** 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.

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

  The Committee should include at least:
  - 2 or 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.

It 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 disseminating the results nationally and internationally
- Drawing attention to problems within the partnership/project resulting in the termination of the agreement

The Committee meets at least once a year and all partners must participate. The costs of organising the committees are borne by the programme and not by the projects. Detailed guidelines can be found at the Project Management section of the programme website (https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-project-management).

2.13 PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

A **cooperation agreement** has been concluded with the Regions and Communities about the implementation of the programme.

The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office is responsible for managing the programme.

The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office is assisted in this task by a **Programme Committee** comprising representatives of the relevant public administrations of the federal, regional and community authorities.

The Programme Committee is responsible for:

- proposing a selection of projects for funding based on the results of the evaluation and the budget available;

- overseeing the consistency of all the activities being carried out;
- delivering advisory opinions about the activities undertaken;
- overseeing the effective transfer of the research results.

3 CALL 2026

3.1 OBJECT AND BUDGET OF THIS CALL

This call applies to **exploration projects** only. These are small scale projects lasting min. 2 years and max. 2,5 years and carried out by 1 to 3 Belgian teams or by a Belgian Early Career Researcher. An international partner is recommended but not obligatory.

The **budget** for this call is **tentatively** set at about **2,5 MEURO** *but may be subject to adjustments!*

3.2 TIMETABLE CALL 2026

▪ Submission of expressions of interest	30 October 2026
▪ Feedback on expressions of interest	18 November 2026
▪ Submission of proposals	10 February 2027
▪ Oral defence of proposals	mid-May 2027
▪ Selection of proposals by Steering Committee of STEREO programme	mid-June 2027
▪ Start of contracts	October 2027

4 PROFILE OF THE PROPOSALS

4.1 TARGET GROUPS

- Applicants from following Belgian organisations may qualify for funding under the programme:
  - Universities
  - Higher education institutions
  - Public research institutions
  - Non-profit research institutions

- In addition, Belgian Early Career Scientists are eligible (see 4.1.1)

- International partners can participate according to the modalities explained in § 4.2.6. International partners must be an integral part of the partnership, provide real added value and preferably possess expertise not available in Belgian research organisations.

A partnership must be supported though sharing of staff, equipment and joint papers and joint PhD theses.
The promotor of a project must be involved in the running of the project on a regular basis.

Participation of research groups new to remote sensing and to the STEREO programme is encouraged. However, the majority of teams participating in a project and the coordinator must have EO expertise.

4.1.1 EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ECR) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

An **Early Career Researcher (ECR)** is defined as an academic or scientist who is in the early stages of their research career and meets the following criteria:

- **Career stage**: The applicant must be within **0–5 years of completing their PhD or highest academic degree** at the time of submission of the full proposal. The **PhD must already have been awarded** before the full proposal is submitted.

- **Research track record**: The applicant must demonstrate **strong early research productivity**, including:
  - **Peer-reviewed publication(s)**, typically with the applicant as **first author or lead author**.
  - **Evidence of scientific impact or productivity** appropriate to their career stage.
  - **Participation in international research collaborations or projects**.

- **Connection to Belgium**: The applicant must meet **at least one** of the following conditions:
  - Be **Belgian**, or
  - Have **obtained their PhD from a Belgian university**, or
  - Be **working in a Belgian research laboratory** at the time of submission of the full proposal.

- **Host institution requirement**:

If the applicant is **not affiliated with or formally hosted by an eligible Belgian university or research institute**, they must provide a **binding Host Institution Support Letter** confirming institutional support for the project.

- **Selection of the Host Institution and Research Laboratory:** The selection of the Host Institution (HI) and the Research Laboratory is a collaborative process in which the researcher identifies an appropriate research environment, and the relevant parties formally agree to host and support the proposed project.
  The Host Institution is a Belgian university or another eligible research institute that commits to employing the researcher and providing the institutional environment, infrastructure, and administrative support required for the successful implementation of the project. The Host Institution is responsible for administering the grant, ensuring compliance with funding requirements, and providing the institutional support necessary for the project's execution.
  In addition, the proposed research must be embedded within a suitable Research Laboratory at the Host Institution. The laboratory provides the scientific environment, facilities, equipment, and expertise required to conduct the proposed research. The Head of the Research Laboratory, or another senior staff member formally authorized by the laboratory or Host Institution, must endorse the proposal and will serve as Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) for the duration of the project. The Co-PI will act as the scientific mentor and institutional contact for the project, supporting the researcher in the implementation of the research programme and ensuring access to the laboratory's facilities, expertise, and scientific environment.

4.2 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

4.2.1 STAFF

- The staff costs cover: index-linked gross salaries, employer's social security contributions and statutory insurance charges, plus any other legally due compensation or payments as amounts added to the salary.

- Preferably, at least 60% of the total proposal's budget should be devoted to staff and the budgets of the different partners should be in balance.

- *Sharing of staff between project partners and joint PhD promotorships are encouraged.*

4.2.2 SPECIFIC OPERATIONS

- This includes all operations costs linked to the execution of the project like costs for analysis, organisation of workshops, maintenance and repair of equipment acquired by the project, surveys, acquisition and processing of UAV data, tools necessary for EO data processing; and the establishment and maintenance of access to cloud computing infrastructure… All expenses must be justified.

4.2.3 GENERAL EXPENSES (“OVERHEADS”)

- General expenses ("overheads") accounts for 15% of the total allowable Staff and Specific operation expenses.

4.2.4 EQUIPMENT

- It is recommended to buy equipment to be used jointly by network partners.
- Budget available for purchasing and installing scientific and technical appliances and instruments, including specific computer and office automation equipment.
- The equipment must be ideally bought during the first half of the project

4.2.5 SUBCONTRACTING

- Subcontracting operations for each partner may not exceed 25% of the partner’s STEREO budget.

4.2.6 INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

- The following is considered as international cooperation: cooperation between a Belgian scientific institution and a scientific institution from a foreign State, and this with a view to reinforce international scientific cooperation and Belgian expertise.

- A Belgian Institution is the financial intermediary between the international partner and BELSPO. Scientifically speaking the international partner is a partner of the project with some specific tasks defined in the technical annex of the contract. The international partner must contribute to the reports and his work is also evaluated during the steering committees.

- Collaboration with the international partner is realised on the basis of co-financing. A maximum of 50% of the budget envisaged for these tasks is borne by the programme and this total may not exceed 20% of the overall budget for the project. The remaining balance is borne by the international partner. The share borne by the programme covers exclusively the Staff and Operation costs of the international partner. Neither overheads, or equipment or subcontracting are considered as expenses.

- The international partner (promotor) shall sign the Technical Annex to the project.

4.2.7 RESEARCH SECURITY

Openness to international partners and practising academic freedom goes hand in hand with some 'responsibility' in terms of resilient international cooperation ;
it means a practice of (a minimum of) risk assessment when it comes to choosing your partners (see research security).
In the current geo-politicial tensioned period where knowledge becomes power, we strongly advise to minimize risks for foreign interference, unethical practices or IPR theft ...
We recommend you for being guided by BELSPO's special webpage dedicated to 'risk management in practice' (research security).
https://www.belspo.be/belspo/ResearchSecurity/context_en.stm
The specific **checklist of questions** (sheet 'risk') help you to do some risk analysis for your cooperation case.
The purpose is not at all to discourage you from international cooperation but to leverage your increased, safe international cooperation.

4.2.8 EARTH OBSERVATION DATA

Satellite earth observation data is not chargeable to the project but to the programme *after*

approval by the programme managers. *The data requested should be fully justified and indispensable to the project.* The budget requested should be proportionate to the project budget.

- The STEREO team can provide researchers with satellite images from its image archive, in accordance with the agreements with the data providers and distributors. New imagery may be bought if necessary for the implementation of the project and provided STEREO's planned image budget so permits.

- All data acquired can be used for a project but remain property of BELSPO.

- Airborne and UAV data and campaigns are not paid by the programme but must be part of the Specific Operation costs of the project. As regards airborne data, in as much as possible data acquired during previous campaigns or by the regional administrations should be re-used.

5 PROCEDURES

5.1 SUBMISSION

Submission is a two-stage process: first the submission of an expression of interest and then the submission of a research proposal.
Solely those who submit an expression of interest are entitled to submit a proposal later on.

5.1.1 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- Expressions of interest should be submitted solely via the online form intended for this purpose, which can be accessed via the BELSPO and STEREO websites:

  https://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/call/SRIV_2026_en.stm

  https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-calls-proposals

- The expression of interest has to reach the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office no later than:

  30 October 2026 at 4 PM

- The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office will disregard any expression of interest that is submitted after the closing date.

5.1.2 PROPOSALS

- Proposals should be submitted solely via the online form intended for this purpose, which can be accessed via the BELSPO and STEREO websites:

  https://www.belspo.be/belspo/organisation/call/SRIV_2026_en.stm

  https://eo.belspo.be/en/stereo-calls-proposals

- Applicants are required to meet the conditions set forth in this document.

- Proposals should be submitted in English.

- The proposal has to reach the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office no later than:

10 February 2027 at 4 PM

- The Belgian Federal Science Policy Office may disregard any proposals that are submitted after the deadline.

5.2 ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION

5.2.1 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

After reception of the expressions of interest, the programme managers will give a **non-binding feedback (recommendations and/or remarks)** about the compliance of the expression of interest with the guidelines of this call.

5.2.2 PROPOSAL

Note that proposals will not be considered for evaluation if they do not meet the requirements of the call.

The evaluation of the proposals is divided into two steps. The **first step** is a written evaluation by 4 international experts. The criteria used for this first part of the evaluation are:

- Compliance with the guidelines of this call and the programme aims
  - Eligibility of ECR applicant(if applicable)
- Scientific quality of the project proposal:
  - **scientific originality of the proposed research**
  - **definition of clear objectives and tasks**
  - clarity of the aims and the tasks
  - relevance of the methodological approach
  - validation of the results
- Calibre of the applicant(s)
  - relevant expertise and publications of the laboratory / ECR
- Quality of the proposed partnership (if applicable)
  - complementary relationship of the partners
  - distribution of tasks
  - balanced distribution of the resources among the partners
  - cooperation methods (joint activities, exchanges of researchers, joint publications, …)

- Feasibility of the proposal

  - realistic preparation of the work plan (including SWOT analysis)
  - realistic assessment of the resources required (duration, budget, staff)

- Exploitation

  - plan for disseminating project results, visibility given to the project

The **second step** of the evaluation consists in an oral defence in front of a panel of experts. This second step is only carried out for the proposals that successfully passed the first part of the evaluation.

The criteria used for this second part of the evaluation are:

- Presentation
- Knowledge of domain
- Innovative character of proposal
- Motivation
- Clarity and relevance of answers

5.2.3 SELECTION

At the end of the day the proposals are selected for funding by the STEREO programme committee on the basis of:

- the ranking of the proposals by the panel of experts (based on the written evaluation and on the oral defence);
- the budget available.

The final decision is taken by the Minister in charge of Science Policy.