

Invitation to a

## JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Topic:

Bioenergy demonstrations of the European Industrial  
Bioenergy Initiative:

Bioenergy Sustaining the Future 3

*Deadline for submission of outline proposals: 29.02.2016*

*Deadline for submission of full proposals: 12.05.2016*

This document is an invitation to take part in a joint call for innovative and collaborative bioenergy demonstrator projects.

BESTF3 is a network of national and regional ministries and funding organisations that wish to invest in industry-led bioenergy projects to meet their strategic aims as well those of the European Commission. The partners supporting this call are Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and UK.

The principal objective of this joint call is to fund public-private projects that de-risk bioenergy technologies at demonstration<sup>1</sup> scale and encourage further private exploitation.

### Key dates

Call opens	1 <sup>st</sup> December 2015
Deadline for submitting outline proposal	29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016
Mandatory consultation period	14 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 – 11 <sup>th</sup> May 2016]
Deadline for submitting <u>full proposals</u>	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2016
Expected project start	March 2017
This call is published on the BESTF web page and on the web pages of the participating national programmes. See: <a href="http://www.ernetbestf.net">www.ernetbestf.net</a>	

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<sup>1</sup> Definition of “demonstration” as decided in the EIBI Team on 5 Nov 2013: “Demonstration plants are considered the last non-economic step to demonstrate the overall performance and technical reliability of a complete conversion concept in a value chain so that the first-of-a-kind, commercial-scale industrial unit can be designed with sufficient confidence for the investment”.

## 1. Background

BESTF3 is an ERA-NET Cofund mechanism that accesses European Community support as a result of national research programmes pooling financial resources to address a topic of particular European value. BESTF3 addresses the shortfall of innovative bioenergy pilot and demonstration plants, resulting from a lack of finance as well as a number of technical hurdles.

The European Union (EU) is committed to combatting climate change and to increasing the security of its energy supply. Bioenergy has a key role to play in achieving both targets, and already accounts for more than two thirds of total renewable energy in the EU. Bioenergy is a form of renewable energy that, if produced sustainably, saves greenhouse gas emissions. As bioenergy feedstocks are storable, bioenergy can be produced constantly and is a reliable source of energy.

The European Council in 2007 adopted ambitious energy and climate change objectives for 2020 – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% (rising to 30% if the conditions are right), to increase the share of renewable energy to 20%, and to make a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. The European Parliament has continuously supported these goals.

The European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI) is one of the industrial initiatives launched under the SET Plan and foresees that; *“Bioenergy will play a key role in the EU long-term energy strategy for all applications and especially the transport sector, contributing up to 14% of the EU energy mix and up to 10% of energy demand in transport in 2020”*<sup>2</sup>.

The EIBI aims to contribute to the commercial availability of advanced bioenergy at large scale by 2020 and will thus support demonstration or flagship plants for innovative bioenergy value chains which are not yet commercially available (thus excluding existing biofuels and heat & power technologies). These plants should be deployable at large scale and demonstrate production costs that are competitive with fossil fuels at the prevailing economic and regulatory market conditions. EIBI further aims to contribute to advanced biofuels (i.e. sustainable biofuels with a broader material base and/or better end product properties than biofuels currently on the market) covering up to 4% of EU transportation energy needs by 2020.

So far, BESTF and BESTF2 have launched 2 calls and supported eight demonstration projects. BESTF3 aims to implement a joint programme for bioenergy projects that demonstrate enhanced bioenergy technologies. It will leverage public-private partnerships to manage the risks and share the financing of close-to-market bioenergy projects and will encourage collaboration across the EU, as well as internationally, by bringing partners together to deliver demonstration projects, and it will encourage commercialisation by ensuring strong industry leadership.

This BESTF3 call for proposals will support pre-commercial<sup>3</sup> bioenergy projects focused on the generation of bioenergy that demonstrate collaboration, innovation and industry focus. We invite proposals to be submitted

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<sup>2</sup> Boosting the contribution of bioenergy to the EU climate and energy ambitions. European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative Implementation Plan, 05.11.2010, <http://www.biofuelstp.eu/eibi.html> (accessed 15.08.2012).

<sup>3</sup> “Pre-commercial” meaning:

1. The third level of development, prior to a full scale commercial plant typically following laboratory and pilot scale.
2. A scaled down version of a full commercial plant, although the actual necessary scale cannot be generally defined as it will differ depending on the technology.
3. Batch approach is allowed, in particular if it leads to a new type of reactor or development of a crucial step in a continual process.
4. Proposals must have a clear vision of what is required at demonstration to enable scale-up to a full plant. They should only demonstrate those elements that are required to be proven at demonstration level.

to a joint evaluation process by BESTF3. The BESTF3 Call will launch on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 with the participation of seven Countries and Regions and a total funding budget of about €22 million.

## 2. Scope

1. Focus on innovation: projects must demonstrate an innovation that has not been demonstrated previously e.g. either an innovative technology or an innovative concept which brings together existing components/processes.
2. Major focus must be energy production: at least 70% of the bio-products produced by the plant shall be bioenergy (electricity, heat, or transport fuels) calculated on the basis of energy content of the products sold.
3. Focus on EIBI value chains: projects must address one or more of these seven value chains:
  1. Synthetic liquid fuels and/or hydrocarbons and blending components via gasification
  2. Bio-methane and other synthetic gaseous fuels from biomass via gasification
  3. High-efficiency heat and power generation via gasification of biomass
  4. Bioenergy carriers via other thermochemical processes (e.g. pyrolysis, torrefaction)
  5. Ethanol and higher alcohols from lignocellulosic feedstock via fermentation
  6. Renewable hydrocarbons through biological and/or chemical synthesis from biomass containing carbohydrates
  7. Bioenergy carriers from CO<sub>2</sub> and sunlight through microorganism-based production and upgrading into fuels and valuable bio-products

Proposals may include scientific, technological, commercial research and economic studies which contribute directly to the goals and objectives of BESTF3, and which are firmly integrated into the demonstration project. Such accompanying research must aim to determine the KPIs of the project and evaluate activities in the context of the SET-Plan<sup>4</sup>. This may include, for example, scientific or technological assessments of the novel technology or system, life cycle analysis, techno-economic modelling, and conceptual planning and design of a new industrial-scale plant.

4. Technology Readiness Level (TRL): Projects must primarily address the last steps prior to commercial operation, i.e.:
  - A full-scale, similar system demonstrated in a relevant environment or
  - An actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration activities<sup>5</sup>.

Projects can include new demonstrations of innovative bioenergy conversion technologies and innovative technological modifications of existing demonstration plants that subsequently enable

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5. The demonstration should be as small as possible to but enable the practical scale-up to commercial plant.
  6. This could be achieved by defining the first commercial plant and demonstrating the size and other aspects that require demonstration and scale up.
  7. Direct scale up from Lab scale or pilot plant to the commercial plant can be included depending on what needs to be demonstrated to provide commercial guaranties for a first commercial plant.

<sup>4</sup> See [http://setis.ec.europa.eu/implementation/eii/eii-key-performance-indicators/KPIs\\_EIBI/view](http://setis.ec.europa.eu/implementation/eii/eii-key-performance-indicators/KPIs_EIBI/view)

<sup>5</sup> i.e. Technology Readiness Levels 6 to 8, see definition under Annex C.

operations which differ significantly from past operations of that plant. This can include engineering tasks in planning and design as well as technical installations and their subsequent operation. All of the above are eligible for funding *insofar* as they are reasonable and caused by the project. Projects must demonstrate that applied research will be moved into demonstration within the timeframe of the project. Applicants preparing projects with lower TRL:s are advised to explore the possibilities of the 10<sup>th</sup> joint call of the Era-net Bioenergy. See <http://www.eranetbioenergy.net/>.

5. Highlight the added value derived from European cooperation in comparison to national projects.

BESTF3 will not support:

- Failed or ailing projects, i.e. projects that have already failed to meet existing objectives or that have proved unsatisfactory in operation;
- On-going work, or work that will be on-going before the call is fully implemented;
- Costs of official permissions/ or licenses for operation including the preparation for approval procedures.

### 3. BESTF3 Eligibility

National eligibility criteria are separate and distinct to the BESTF3 criteria given below. A summary of national eligibility requirements is provided under Annex A, but it is essential that applicants discuss national eligibility with the relevant funding agencies prior to submitting an application.

The BESTF3 joint call will support projects that:

1. Are within the scope of BESTF3 (see above) and the respective national / regional programme (please refer to national programme information for further details);
2. Have eligible consortium composition:
  - All projects must involve at least two separate partners from at least two of the BESTF3 consortium countries: Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Sweden and UK. Check with National Funding Bodies for rules about eligible organisation types e.g. large companies, SMEs and/or research organisations. Bidding consortia are encouraged to go beyond these minimum requirements and the degree of trans-national collaboration will be part of the assessment criteria for evaluating BESTF3 project proposals. There is no maximum number of partners: the consortium size for any BESTF3 project should be suitable for the level and complexity of the project. Consortia are invited to include organisations from countries which are not participating in BESTF3 but these organisations must provide their own funding as they will not be eligible to receive BESTF3 call funding. In addition intellectual property generation and any growth opportunities need to be focussed in one of the BESTF3 partner countries.
  - Each project partner should make a significant contribution to the project and contribute to the added value of establishing a trans-national collaboration.
  - The contribution of one country/region to the total eligible project costs must not exceed 70% in order to achieve balanced partnerships and ensure that responsibility and risks are shared;
3. Are industry-led with industry partners take the leading role in the consortium with at least 51% of person-months and costs incurred by the industrial partners, not taking into account non-technical sub-contracts;

4. Have appropriate sources of matched funding (internal or external). Allocation of funding from the National Funding Bodies will only be possible upon the verification of these third party funds.

It is expected that economic and technical parameters as well as project results will be published in accordance with national rules and regulations, which may vary from case to case (see Annex A).

Although the BESTF3 project duration is limited to 31.8.2020 continuation of operations is highly welcome in order to further prove the achieved results.

## 4. Application and Selection Process

The application process is in two stages: stage 1 (outline proposal) and stage 2 (full proposal). Full proposals must not exceed 60 pages. All proposals should be written in English and using the Times New Roman font with a minimum acceptable font size of 10.

### Stage 1: Outline Proposals

All consortia must submit a Stage 1 (outline) proposal using the electronic submission service and template available on <https://www.logmaster.fi/bestf>. An example form is also found in Annex D. The Stage 1 proposal should be completed by the project coordinator on behalf of all the partners and submitted by the deadline 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Submission of the outline proposal will trigger a consultation exercise with the relevant national funding bodies to check the likely eligibility of the concept and consortium. It is important to ensure the correct contact details are provided on the outline proposal.

Consultation with national funding organisations is a mandatory stage of the submission process.

### Stage 2: Full Proposals

Following the consultation period, projects that are assessed as likely to be eligible are invited to submit a full application and proceed to Stage 2. The project coordinator must submit the Stage 2 (full) proposal on behalf of the all consortium partners using the electronic submission service available on <https://www.logmaster.fi/bestf> by the deadline 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

In addition to the completed Stage 2 proposal, each project consortium will be required to submit (by the Stage 2 submission deadline):

- Any additional information required to meet national/regional requirements (see National Annexes) – these are to be submitted directly to the relevant Funding Organisation by the Stage 2 deadline. Please note that some national funding agencies may require a full application prior to this date. It is therefore essential that applicants confirm national requirements at an early stage.
- According to national/regional rules there might also be a requirement to send in the full Stage 2 proposal directly to the national/regional application system.
- Any consortium members from countries/regions not participating in the BESTF3 call must submit a signed 'Declaration of own funding' (which specifies the source of their funding) as an annex to the Stage 2 proposal.
- Draft Consortium Agreement – this does not have to be signed at this stage (copies of the final, signed version will need to be provided to relevant funding organisations before any projects can receive BESTF3 funding).

## Evaluation

Stage 1 (outline) proposals will be assessed for eligibility, timely submission and conformity to the format and length requirements by the national funding bodies. A prerequisite for eligibility is that all consortium members are familiar with the proposal and have approved it.

Full proposals will be assessed at a European transnational level by an independent panel of experts using the assessment criteria detailed under Annex B. The expert panel will rank the proposals and provide recommendations for funding based on a quality threshold. Final funding decisions will be taken by the BESTF3 funding agencies.

The final decision on successful projects is expected to be made by 15.09.2016 and will be communicated as soon as possible after that, with projects expected to begin from March 2017.

In order to ensure a broad coverage of value chains, we reserve the right to apply a 'portfolio' approach, subject to applications meeting the required quality threshold. This means that, if competition in a particular value chain (number of high-quality proposals submitted) is particularly high, a proposal judged to be of similar technical quality, but covering a different value chain may ultimately rank higher.

## 5. Funding Arrangements

The total funding available for BESTF3 projects is up to € 22.3 M, made up of national budgets and an EU contribution of €7m. National partners will receive funding from their respective national funding agencies that will incorporate the EC contribution. Projects are therefore subject to national/regional and EU funding rules.

Projects must demonstrate the source of co-funding within their proposals, with evidence of the commitment from the stakeholder.

Since demonstration units, by definition, aim to produce marketable products, any such products must be put on the market. Revenues generated during the project run-time will be deducted from the public funding initially granted (please refer to your national/regional agency for detailed procedures).

### Contracts

Funding contracts are dealt with directly between the project partners and their national/regional funding agencies. Each project partner will be responsible for the necessary reporting to their funding agency according to national/regional rules in order to obtain and maintain funding during the lifetime of their portion of the project.

### Start and Instalments

A pre-condition before transferring the first funding instalments is the existence of a Consortium Agreement (including IPR) between the project partners. As the funding contracts may, in principle, become effective at different dates, the individual contracts do not need to start, receive funding, or be reviewed at exactly the same time. However, it is recommended that all the partners start (and also finish) the project at the same time.

## 6. Dissemination

Project partners are required to refer to the ERA-NET in publications, exhibitions, lectures and press information concerning results of the ERA-NET projects. To demonstrate the added value of transnational cooperation projects results from the Call shall be disseminated. This process can be tackled via different channels, e.g. high level conferences with relevant stakeholders to inform widely about the project results; publication of a short outline of funded projects on ERA-NET and national/regional websites; press conferences and workshops. This information may also be used by the ERA-NET for further dissemination. However, further details of projects are strictly kept confidential. They should only be published with the prior agreement of the project partners.

## 7. Project Duration

Projects are expected to start by March 2017 and must be completed (including all reporting) by 31.8.2020.

## 8. Project Monitoring and Expected Deliverables

In addition to standard national requirements, BESTF3 projects are expected to deliver the following:

1. Participation in and presentation at two BESTF3 status seminars (mid-term and final seminar).
2. An annual, common interim report following the template which will be provided in due time. This interim report will be available to the funding organisations involved, but will not be made public.
3. A common publishable and public final report, describing the activities and outcomes of the work including an exploitation plan stating how the results of the project will be implemented. Confidential results will be presented in a separate confidential report. Detailed requirements for this report will be distributed to successful applicants once the projects have started.
4. An abstract of the main results of the project, to be published in a "joint call brochure" after the end of the projects.

A high degree of transparency is essential to the expected type of project. Consequently, experiences made during operation, as well as the operation process itself, must be meticulously documented, analysed and evaluated. Potential for optimisation must be identified and the appropriate strategies be formulated.

## 9. Support for Proposers

For further information, please see the BESTF website: [eranetbestf.net](http://eranetbestf.net) or contact either your national funding agency or the BESTF3 co-ordinator Dr Megan Cooper, [megan.cooper@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:megan.cooper@decc.gsi.gov.uk).

## Annex A National/regional requirements

### Denmark

The EUDP - Energy Development and Demonstration Programme - will be the Danish national funding body to fund BESTF projects. EUDP funding is awarded with an expectation that the projects funded will lead to market implementation of the new products and technologies developed by the project and an important objective is to ensure involvement of private investors in projects. It is important to concentrate on functionally delineated projects, with innovative and patentable technological content that is deemed technically practicable and which meets a market demand and has a well-defined customer target.

The total minimum budget for EUDP funding in a BESTF3 context will be 3 M € on the condition that projects are qualified to receive support. EUDP will fund projects according to the EU state aid rules which allows up to 25-40 % support to demonstration projects for large companies and up to 35-60 % for SME's. Universities and research organisations can apply for higher rates - the actual rate will be decided case by case. The received outline for BEST2 support has to be followed by a full application in the usual EUDP format to be evaluated (national evaluation) by the EUDP Board prior to the evaluation (transnational) by the BESTF3. Only projects that the EUDP Board finds to be qualified for support will proceed to the transnational evaluation stage.

The usual EUDP funding rules and conditions in general will apply also for funding in a BESTF3 context. Further information: <http://www.ens.dk/da-DK/NyTeknologi/om-eudp/Sider/Forside.aspx>.

### Finland

Funding for Finnish project partners is provided by Tekes according to Tekes' funding principles. Projects must have a positive impact on the Finnish society. Funding will be available only for companies operating in Finland. Tekes will not fund research institutions in this call.

Demonstrations are funded with Tekes risk loans where normal Tekes loan terms apply. For SME's the funding share is typically 50-70% of eligible project costs and for large companies typically 25-30% of eligible project costs. In case of failure to commercialize the results of the project, the loan can be partly or completely converted into a grant.

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Senior adviser, Tekes  
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sebastian.johansson@tekes.fi

### The Netherlands

The total budget for the Netherlands under this Programme amounts to about € 1.5 million. The Dutch funding bodies may choose not to allocate the full budget.

#### Requirements for Participants

Partners: The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) and the Ministry of Economic Affairs.

In the Netherlands companies/ research institutes may apply for funding of BESTF3 projects through the so-called "Demonstration Energy Innovation (DEI)" subsidy under the Top Sector Energy. The opening and closing dates of the Calls (2 are expected) in 2016 are not yet known. Below you will see the criteria for eligibility for this subsidy:

- Ranking criteria include:
  - Contribution to the use and production of sustainable energy in the Netherlands;
  - Contribution to economic growth in the Netherlands;
  - Level of innovation, compared to the international state of the art;
  - Quality of the project plan and the participating partners.
  
- At least one company must take part in the project;
- Companies must accept dissemination and exploitation of results;
- Grants will be provided as aid for industrial research or experimental development, or as environmental investment aid. The share of investment aid as part of the project costs is at least 70%;
- Funding for Dutch participants is limited to 50% of the eligible project costs in the case of industrial research, 25% in the case of experimental development and 30 - 45% in the case of environmental investment aid, depending on the type of project (energy saving or generation of sustainable energy);
- In the case of small and medium enterprises an additional 10% funding quota for medium enterprises and 20% for small enterprises may be awarded;
- For eligible project costs we also refer to the Framework decision on subsidies of the Ministry of Economic Affairs;
- In general, the subsidy amounts to a maximum of €6,000.000 per project;
- All projects must contribute to the goals of the Top Sector Energy (reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>, increase in sustainable energy production at the lowest possible cost). Those projects which contribute to solving societal challenges score a better chance of obtaining funding;
- Demonstration projects must include technologies which contribute to economic growth i.e. those technologies which potentially strengthen the Dutch economy in terms of turnover, work opportunities and export through Dutch manufacturers, technical service providers or suppliers;
- For Dutch participants the regulations in the Framework decision on subsidies of the Ministry of Economic Affairs will apply;
- Projects must start within 6 months after funding has been granted;
- The project participants must show they are able to finance their own contribution;
- Projects need to score at least 3 out of 5 points for each of the four criteria, as a minimum quality threshold;
- Maximum project duration is four years.

Those projects which do not qualify for funding include:

- projects covering biofuels which are already covered under the compulsory share in transport fuels mix;
- projects which involve production machines for energy efficiency or sustainable energy products;
- Applications arriving after 17.00 hours on the closing deadline date.

National Call Coordinator:  
Freek Smedema  
The Netherlands Enterprise Agency/ RVO  
E-mail: [Freek.Smedema@rvo.nl](mailto:Freek.Smedema@rvo.nl)

Poland

Total funding 1 500 000 €

a) National eligibility criteria

Funding Organisation	National Centre for Research and Development (Narodowe Centrum Badań i Rozwoju) <a href="http://www.ncbr.gov.pl">www.ncbr.gov.pl</a>
National Contact Point	Karolina Janczykowska Section of Management of Applied Research Programmes INFOTECH e-mail: <a href="mailto:karolina.janczykowska@ncbr.gov.pl">karolina.janczykowska@ncbr.gov.pl</a> phone: +48 22 39 07 293 mobile: +48 515 061 554
Eligible institutions	Following entities are eligible to apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Organisations;</li> <li>• Micro, Small, Medium and Large Enterprises</li> </ul> <p>Organization must be registered in Poland.</p>
Additional eligibility criteria	All proposals must be aligned with National regulations, inter alia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Act of 30 April 2010 on the Principles of Financing Science, published in Journal of Laws No. 96 item 615, 2010;</li> <li>• The Act of 30 April 2010 on the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws No. 96 item 616, 2010;</li> <li>• The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 28 October 2010 on criteria and rules on granting state aid and “de minimis” aid by the National Centre for Research and Development, published in Journal of Laws No. 215 item 1411, 2010.</li> </ul> <p style="color: red;">The project consortium with Polish participation must contain at least one Polish enterprise to be eligible for funding.</p>
Eligible costs	The eligible costs shall be the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. personnel costs (researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the research project);</li> <li>2. costs of instruments and equipment, technical knowledge and patents to the extent and for the period used for the research project; if such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the research project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice, shall be considered eligible;</li> <li>3. costs for buildings and land, to the extent and for the duration used for the research project; with regard to buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the research project, as calculated on the basis of good accounting practice shall be considered eligible; for land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs shall be eligible;</li> <li>4. cost of contractual research, costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the research activity; the subcontracting can be obtained from consortium partner only in justified case, this need will be verified by a national experts panel;</li> <li>5. other operating costs including costs of materials, supplies and similar products incurred directly as a result of the research activity;</li> <li>6. additional overheads incurred indirectly as a result of the research project; that</li> </ol>

costs cannot account for more than 25% of eligible project costs; That costs (6) are counted as a multiplication by percentage given above (called x%) and the rest of direct costs, excluding subcontracting (4); It means  $6=(1+2+3+5)*x\%$ .

b) National funding rates

Funding quota of Polish participants can be up to 100% for universities or research organisations. In the case of enterprises, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities and commercial perspective of exploitation. Organization must be registered in Poland.

	Large Enterprises	Medium Enterprises	Micro/Small Enterprises	Research organizations
Industrial/Applied Research	Up to 50+15 (max 65 %)	Up to 50+10+15 (max 75 %)	Up to 50+20+15 (max 80 %)	Up to 100 %
Experimental development	Up to 25+15 (max 40 %)	Up to 25+10+15 (max 50 %)	Up to 25+20+15 (max 60 %)	Up to 100 %

Other types of activities (e.g. coordination, dissemination, management) are not eligible for fundind as separate tasks. They can be included in a appropriate cost category within research tasks.

Spain

*CDTI*

The total budget for CDTI Spain under this programme amounts to about € 1 million, on the condition that projects are qualified to receive support.

The entities eligible for CDTI's funding are companies established and carrying out R&D activities in Spain. Universities and Research Institutions can participate as subcontractors of Spanish companies.

- Eligible expenditure in R&D projects: Personnel, Instrument and Material, Contractual research, Technical knowledge and Patents consulting and equivalent services intended exclusively for the research activity. Other operating expenses derived from the research project.
- Length of the project: The length of these projects may be from 12 to 36 months.
- Project budget: The minimum fundable budget is around €175,000
- Specific financial conditions could be required according to CDTI funding rules. For more information on the applicable funding rules please see: [www.cdti.es](http://www.cdti.es)

For applications with Spanish partners, the Spanish applicants have to submit a formal application through CDTI proposals submission system (<http://www.cdti.es/>) with the information related with the Spanish participation for the National Eligibility check.

Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO)

Funding programme

*Programa Estatal de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación Orientada a los Retos de la Sociedad, [Plan Estatal de Investigación Científica Técnica y de Innovación 2013-2016](#).*

The instrument for funding the Spanish groups will be the Spanish Call on International Joint Programming Actions (*Acciones de Programación Conjunta Internacional*), which will be launched in 2016 (APCIN 2016). Only as a reference, the beneficiaries are advised to read the call [APCIN 2015](#).

The Spanish legal entities granted are obliged by the regulations established in this APCIN call and by the funding limits specified below.

Call will be managed by the [Deputy Directorate General for International Projects \(SGPINT\)](#).

Purpose of funding

The projects granted by the MINECO must be aligned with the main objectives described in the [Programa Estatal](#).

Funding commitment

Maximum funding for the BESTF3 call: 800.000 €

National Contact Point

Alberto Abanades (Scientific issues)  
Watsé Castelein (Administrative and technical issues)  
Contact email : [era-energia@mineco.es](mailto:era-energia@mineco.es)  
Representative: Severino Falcon

Eligible criteria

Eligible legal entities for MINECO funding:  
Non-profit research organizations according to the APCIN call

Final rules on eligibility will be described at the APCIN2016 call, to be published [here](#).

Additional eligibility criteria

Mandatory:  
Spanish Principal investigators must be eligible according to the APCIN 2016 call and must have experience as investigators in projects funded by the *Plan Nacional I+D+I 2008-2011*, the *Plan Estatal I+D+I 2013-2016*, ERC Grants, or European Framework Programmes.  
Spanish non-profit research organizations must participate in cooperation with at least one profit organization funded by the CDTI in this call.

Not allowed:

- Principal Investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal of the BESTF3 call.
- Principal investigators are not allowed to apply for funding in more than one proposal in APCIN 2016 call. This must be taken into account when participating in different ERA-Nets or other international initiatives.
- Important note: Principal investigators granted in the APCIN 2015 call are not allowed to apply neither in APCIN 2016 nor in the transnational BESTF3 call.

MINECO will avoid double funding (overlapping with other EU or National funding), and will not grant projects or parts of projects already funded.

#### Eligible cost

- Personnel costs for temporary contracts (fellowships are not eligible).
- Current costs, small scientific equipment, disposable materials, travelling expenses and other costs that can be justified as necessary to carry out the proposed activities.
- Indirect costs (overheads) or clinical assays (proofs of concept, proofs of principle) are not eligible for funding in the APCIN call.

#### Funding rates

The following funding limits are considered eligibility criteria. Proposals not respecting these limits could be declared non eligible.

- Maximum per legal entity and proposal eligible for MINECO should not exceed 35.000 € per year. If two or more legal entities participate in the same proposal the MINECO part should not exceed 45.000 € per year.
- For entities carrying out experimental work, maximum per legal entity and per proposal eligible for MINECO should not exceed 48.000 € per year. If two or more legal entities participate in the same proposal the MINECO part should not exceed 65.000 € per year.
- If the transnational proposal is led by a PI eligible for MINECO a maximum of 8.000 € per year in addition.

Centres formed by different Spanish legal entities will be considered as a unique entity, and thus the maximum funding should not exceed the limits per proposal established above (for example mixed centres).

The final funding will take into account the transnational evaluation of the collaborative proposal, the scientific quality of the Spanish group, the added value of the international collaboration, the participation of the industrial sector, and the financial resources available.

#### Mandatory acknowledgement

Any publication or dissemination activity resulting from the granted projects must acknowledge MINECO funding even after the end of the project: "Project (reference n° XX) funded by MINECO through APCIN 2016".

#### Sweden

Funding body: Swedish Energy Agency

#### Submission of proposals

Swedish partners participating in a project recommended for funding by ERA-NET Cofund BESTF3 at the second submission stage will be invited by the Swedish Energy Agency to send the application via the online

application form E-kanalen<sup>6</sup>. A Swedish project leader should be appointed of the Swedish part of the project. The Swedish application must describe the project as a whole in brief and clarify the Swedish participation regarding the objectives and implementation (clarify who does what). The description should be kept short and not exceed the specified number of pages in E-kanalen. Only the costs of the Swedish participants should be included. The full proposal of the consortium should be appended.

It is solely the responsibility of the applicant to develop the project idea in the short outline to a full proposal.

Swedish Energy Agency will evaluate the short outline and contribute to the recommendation that will be given from the Secretariat. The recommendation may include modifications of the project idea.

#### Funding rules

Decisions on funding research, development and innovation in the energy area are taken according to the ordinance SFS 2008:761 in the Swedish Code of Statutes. Funding quota of Swedish participants can be up to 100%, 50% and 25% of eligible costs for each participant in a project defined as basic research, applied research and development, respectively. The quota can be increased in case of e.g. small and medium enterprises see the ordinance for details. The decision cannot be appealed.

Granted projects have to meet conditions such as submitting interim and end reports as well as accounts. In addition, the projects should contribute to evaluations, conferences and other common programme activities.

#### Confidentiality

Sweden has a constitutionally founded right of public access to official records. All documents sent to, sent from or drawn up at Swedish Energy Agency are therefore official. In this call, the documents concerned are e.g. applications, minutes from expert evaluation meeting, project contracts. Secrecy can only be claimed when legally supported. If a project leader wishes to keep an application confidential due to for example IPR reasons, Swedish Energy Agency should be informed. In case e.g. the application is asked for, Swedish Energy Agency decides whether (parts of) the document can be marked as confidential. The decision can be appealed to the Administrative Court of Appeal and subsequently to the Supreme Administrative Court.

Funding commitment: 20.000.000 kronor (SEK) (ca. 2.000.000 EUR)

Contact person: Alice Kempe

Swedish Energy Agency, Research and Innovation Department

Tel. +46 (0)16 544 20 92

Alice.kempe@energimyndigheten.se

#### United Kingdom

UK parties will be funded by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC). The total UK budget for eligible projects under this programme is up to €4M. DECC may choose not to allocate the full budget.

Eligible organisations:

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<sup>6</sup> <http://energimyndigheten.se/E-Tjanster/E-kanalen/>

- All UK participants must be separate legal entities;
- Companies must have been trading for at least 12 months before the closing date for applications. UK companies must be VAT registered and registered at Companies House;
- Companies with fewer than 5 Full Time staff cannot lead a project, unless agreed prior to application;
- UK companies will be asked to provide the following by the Stage 1 proposal deadline:
  - evidence they have the resources and finances to undertake the project at proposal stage;
  - a copy of annual accounts for the last two years– accounts are required for each UK partner in the consortium. If the latest accounts are more than 12 months old, applicants must provide management accounts. If any UK applicant has been trading for less than two years, they must submit cash flow forecasts and trading forecasts for the next two years.

Eligible costs:

- Grants will be provided under Article 25 of the EU State Aid General Block Exemption Regulation<sup>[1]</sup> under the definition of 'experimental development'.
- Costs must fit within the definition of 'eligible costs' set out in Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation.
- The maximum allowable intervention rate depends on company size and the extent of collaboration. Maximum interventions for collaborative projects are up to 60% for Small Enterprises, up to 50% for Medium Enterprises and up to 40% for large companies.
- It is necessary that applicants demonstrate evidence of private funding to cover the balance of the eligible project costs. Such funding may come from a company's own resources or external private sector investors, but may not include funding attributable to any public authority or EU institution.
- The definitions of small and medium size companies are given by the European Commission and are defined at [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/facts-figures-analysis/sme-definition/index_en.htm).
- Claims under the UK grant must be for project costs incurred in the UK.
- Unless justified and agreed before the proposal, subcontracting is capped at a maximum of 20% of the UK budget. Any sub-contract placed outside of the UK must be accompanied by evidence that the skills required are not available within the UK;
- The management of the project must be undertaken by a project participant and cannot be subcontracted;
- The terms of the Grant Offer Letter will be designed to reflect the requirements of the Block Exemption, and companies will need to be aware that a failure to comply with those terms may result in DECC, the European Commission or a court requiring the grant to be repaid together with interest.

National Call Coordinator:  
[Megan.cooper@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Megan.cooper@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

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<sup>[1]</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state\\_aid/legislation/block.html](http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/block.html)

## Annex B Evaluation criteria

### Scoring

Scores must be in the range 0-5. Half marks may be given. Evaluators will be asked to score proposals as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. When an evaluator identifies significant shortcomings, he or she must reflect this by awarding a lower score for the criterion concerned.

### Interpretation of the scores

0 — The proposal is outside the scope of the call, fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

1 — Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

2 — Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

3 — Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but with at least one moderate weakness.

4 — Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

5 — Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

### Thresholds

The threshold for individual criteria is 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, is 10.

## Evaluation criteria

### 1. Excellence

*Note: The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the topic description:*

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives: demonstrates understanding of competition objectives and how the project will contribute to these.
- Credibility of the proposed approach: outlines an approach which is effectively designed to meet the stated objectives.
- Soundness of the concept: outlines a technically valid proposal, identifies and describes key technical challenges, provides a set of key technology performance indicators and how they will improve as a result of the project, addresses sustainability (feedstock availability and logistics; energy efficiency to primary end product; Renewable Energy Directive and Greenhouse Gas Emission targets/regulations will be met, based on LCA and RED calculation)
- Extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches): provides a clear description of the current state of the art and how this project will progress this, demonstrates an innovative approach (innovation may refer to feedstock use or conversion) which has not been demonstrated elsewhere and is clearly described in the process; describes the status of development of the technology currently and what it will be on completion of the project (including appropriate TRL) with specific details to support this claim.

### 2. Impact

*Note: The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent to which the outputs of the project should contribute at the National, European and/or International level:*

- Enhancing innovation capacity and integration of new knowledge: demonstrates significant progress in relation to the commercial exploitation of the technology. For example, evolution of plant designs, scale of production, reliability and performance levels, production costs, improved feedstock availability and technology competitiveness.
- Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets, and where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the markets: a strong business case with identifies target groups and added value for consumers, and includes analysis of competition, analysis of market potential, a marketing plan and cost-benefit ratio of the concept.
- Any other environmental and socially important impacts: including involvement of SMEs, development of IP, jobs generated (and skills development), future production and revenues, rural development, public acceptance, health and safety, including any potential negative impacts.
- Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant: provides a clear dissemination plan.

### 3. Quality and efficiency of the implementation

*Note: The following aspects will be taken into account:*

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources: provides a credible work plan and suggests project milestones, that are feasible, evidenced, and linked to grant payments; provides a credible outline of anticipated further projects / commercialisation steps once the project has been delivered; costings and assumptions entirely realistic.
- Complementarity of the participants within the consortium: demonstrates, with evidence, the necessary technical, industrial and scientific expertise and know-how, the operational capacity to carry out the project and a proven track record of project delivery (at comparable levels of complexity and scale), and commercialisation of innovative technologies or products.
- Appropriateness of the management structures and procedures, including risk and innovation management: provides a credible information regarding management structures and procedures; main risks are clearly identified and evidence provided as to how these risks will be managed including a Quality Assurance Plan.

### Annex C – Technology Readiness Levels

Where a topic description refers to a TRL, the following definitions apply:

TRL 1 – basic principles observed

TRL 2 – technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – system complete and qualified

TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment

Annex D – Stage 1 Outline Proposal Form

PROJECT TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

PROJECT ACRONYM: \_\_\_\_\_

## **JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

### **Topic:**

Bioenergy demonstrations of the European Industrial  
Bioenergy Initiative:

Bioenergy Sustaining the Future 3

**Deadline for submission of pre-proposals:**

**29<sup>th</sup> February 2016, 13:00CET**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- 1) **The selection process is a two-stage process.** Invitation to the full proposal phase (step 2) is subject to a positive evaluation of the pre-proposal.
- 2) Pre-proposals must be submitted using the following template, **in English** and centrally, via submission <https://www.logmaster.fi/bestf>.
- 3) There is a **limit of 5 pages** (font type: Arial; font size: 10) for the **project description**.
- 4) **National funding regulations will apply to this joint call. It is strongly recommended that these are checked with the contact person at the respective funding agencies** (see *National contact points* in the Call Text) **before submitting a pre-proposal**. *Annex I* to the Call Text lists any specific national rules to be adhered to.
- 5) **For detailed information on call topics, rules for participation etc., please see the Call Text at [www.eranetbestf.net](http://www.eranetbestf.net).**

<b>1. OVERVIEW</b>
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<b>Project title</b>		
<b>Acronym</b>		
<b>Number of partners in the consortium</b>	Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) <sup>7</sup> :	
	Large companies:	
	Research organisations:	
	Universities:	
	Others, please specify:	
<b>Value chain</b>	Refer to call text and list relevant value chain number(s)	
<b>Expected budget</b>	Project cost (1000€)	
	Grant request (1000€)	

**Countries represented in the consortium**

- |                                  |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Denmark | <input type="checkbox"/> Finland | <input type="checkbox"/> The Netherlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Poland  | <input type="checkbox"/> Spain   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweden          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> UK      |                                  |  |

\* Participants from countries other than those listed in the Call Text are required to check the possibility and availability of national funding.

**Duration of the project**  
(max 36 months)

Months in total:

**Expected start** (between  
01.12.2016 and 31/03/2017)

<sup>7</sup> EU definition of an SME: headcount < 250, turnover ≤ €50 million or balance sheet total ≤ €43 million; Recommendation 2003/361/EC regarding the SME definition, see [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise\\_policy/sme\\_definition/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/enterprise_policy/sme_definition/index_en.htm)

<b>1.1 CONSORTIUM</b>
-----------------------

<b>PARTNER 1 = COORDINATOR OF THE CONSORTIUM</b>					
Name of organisation					
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Large company <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:				
Country		Postal code		City	
Street address		VAT Number		Website	
Project Coordinator	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	First name		Family name	
Email:				Phone:	
Position:					
Partner confirms commitment to project and that respective funding agency has been contacted: <input type="checkbox"/>					

<b>PARTNER 2</b>					
Name of organisation					
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Large company <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:				
Country		Postal code		City	
Street address		VAT Number		Website	
Project Leader	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	First name		Family name	
Email:				Phone:	
Position:					
Partner confirms commitment to project and that respective funding agency has been contacted: <input type="checkbox"/>					

<b>PARTNER 3</b>					
Name of organisation					
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Large company <input type="checkbox"/> University <input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:				
Country		Postal code		City	
Street address		VAT Number		Website	
Project Leader	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	First name		Family name	
Email:				Phone:	
Position:					
Partner confirms commitment to project and that respective funding agency has been contacted: <input type="checkbox"/>					

<b>PARTNER 4</b>							
Name of organisation							
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> SME		<input type="checkbox"/> Large company		<input type="checkbox"/> University		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation		<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:				
Country		Postal code		City			
Street address			VAT Number			Website	
Project Leader	Mr <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	First name			Family name	
Email:					Phone:		
Position:							
Partner confirms commitment to project and that respective funding agency has been contacted:							<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>PARTNER 5</b>							
Name of organisation							
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> SME		<input type="checkbox"/> Large company		<input type="checkbox"/> University		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation		<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:				
Country		Postal code		City			
Street address			VAT Number			Website	
Project Leader	Mr <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	First name			Family name	
Email:					Phone:		
Position:							
Partner confirms commitment to project and that respective funding agency has been contacted:							<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>PARTNER 6</b>							
Name of organisation							
Type	<input type="checkbox"/> SME		<input type="checkbox"/> Large company		<input type="checkbox"/> University		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation		<input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:				
Country		Postal code		City			
Street address			VAT Number			Website	
Project Leader	Mr <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms <input type="checkbox"/>	First name			Family name	
Email:					Phone:		
Position:							
Partner confirms commitment to project and that respective funding agency has been contacted:							<input type="checkbox"/>

Please add boxes if needed

**2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION****(max. 5 pages total)****2.1 OBJECTIVES (recommended length 2 pages)**

- Project objectives;
- Current and expected TRL at end of project;
- Description of the activities to achieve the objectives;
- Include the key innovation to be demonstrated and how this differs from current state of the art;
- Predicted proportion of bioenergy in the final outputs of the plant;
- Predicted economic performance of the commercial concept;

**2.2 CONSORTIUM AND BUDGET (recommended length 1 page)**

- Description of each partner's role in the project indicating which partner is responsible for each activity described in section 2.1.
- Estimated budget per partner.

**2.3 RESULTS AND IMPACT (recommended length 1 page)**

- Description of each partner's plans for utilisation of the results including a brief description of business case.
- Impact of the project on the use of bioenergy. Include the added value derived from European collaboration.

**2.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTNER'S EXPERTISE IN THE FIELD (recommended length 1 page)**

Description of each partner's experience and know-how in the field and its capacity to contribute successfully to the project. Relationship with previous projects in the field.