

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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Subject:

This call for proposals is established under the annual work programme 2009¹ (Commission Decision C(2009) 2179). The annual work programme defines the general and specific objectives, the results expected in relation to this call as well as the eligibility and general award criteria.

1.2. Date of publication:

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

1.3. Indicative budget:

The indicative budget available to support Actions selected under the current 2009 annual call is €80 million.

In parallel to this call, calls are also being launched under the multi-annual programme in the fields of Motorways of the Sea (MoS, indicative budget: €30 million), European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS, indicative budget: €240 million) and Intelligent Transport Systems for Road (ITS Road, indicative budget: €100 million). In addition, a European Economic Recovery Plan call for proposals with an indicative budget of €500 million is being launched.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1. General objectives:

The general objectives of the annual call 2009 are defined in Section 2 of the annual work programme 2009.

In particular, this call for proposals aims to complement the efforts developed in the multi-annual work programme in supporting modern transport infrastructures which enable people and goods to move between Member States faster and more easily, as well as add to the overall competitiveness of the EU. It does not support Actions already supported thereunder, but intends to meet new demands of projects of common interest. Applicants should also note that this call is not intended to cover large projects over a long period of time.

¹ available on the TEN-T EA website:

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

2.2. Specific objectives:

The general objectives of the annual call are defined in Sections 2.1 to 2.6 of the annual work programme 2009.

2.3. Results expected:

The expected results of the annual call for proposals are defined in Section 3 of the annual work programme 2009.

3. ELIGIBILITY, SELECTION AND AWARD CRITERIA

3.1. Eligibility criteria:

The eligibility criteria for applicants and for projects, as well as the grounds for exclusion, are defined in Section 5 of the annual work programme 2009.

3.2. Selection criteria:

The selection criteria (i.e. technical and financial capacity) applicable to applicants which are not public sector bodies² or bodies governed by public law³ are defined in Section 6 of the annual work programme 2009.

3.3. Award criteria:

The general award criteria against which each proposal will be evaluated are specified in Section 7 of the annual work programme 2009.

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

- relevance
- maturity
- impact
- quality

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

² For the purpose of the TEN-T Programme, a 'public sector body' means the State, regional or local authorities, bodies governed by public law and associations formed by one or several such authorities or one or several such bodies governed by public law

³ For the purpose of the TEN-T Programme, a 'body governed by public law' means any body:

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

For works, the total requested Community contribution to the eligible cost of a proposed Action is recommended to be between €1 million and €10 million. For studies, the total requested Community contribution to the eligible cost of a proposed Action is recommended to be at least €500,000.

4. CO-FINANCING & ELIGIBLE COSTS

4.1. Co-financing:

The maximum possible rates of Community co-funding are specified in Section 8 of the annual work programme 2009.

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

4.2. Eligible costs:

Detailed information on eligible costs are described in Annex III, section III.3.7 "Eligibility of Costs", of the model individual Decision granting financial aid for an Action, which is available on the TEN-T EA⁴ website (http://ec.europa.eu/transport/infrastructure/ten_t_ea/call_for_proposals_2009_en.htm), and in Commission Decision C(2007)2158⁵.

Costs incurred between the date on which an application is lodged (as evidenced by the date of dispatch, the postmark or the date of the deposit slip / receipt) and the completion date, which must be 31 December 2011 at the latest, may be considered as eligible.

Community financial aid for projects of common interest established under this call can take the form of grants for studies and works, or for works in the form of availability payment schemes. EIB operations shall be compatible with the granting of financial aid under this call.

As defined in Article 2(8) of the TEN Regulation⁶, 'studies' means activities needed to prepare project implementation, including preparatory, feasibility, evaluation and validation studies, and any other technical support measure, including prior action to define and develop a project fully and decide on its financing, such as reconnaissance of the sites concerned and preparation of the financial package. 'Works' (Article 2(9) of the TEN Regulation) means the purchase, supply and deployment of components, systems and services, the carrying out of construction and installation works relating to a project, the acceptance of installations and the launching of a project.

⁴ Trans-European Transport Network Executive Agency

⁵ Commission Decision C(2007)2158 of 23/05/2007 establishing the draft multi-annual work programme for grants in the field of trans-European Transport network (TEN-T) for the period 2007-2013

⁶ Regulation (EC) n° 680/2007 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2007, laying down general rules for the granting of Community financial aid in the field of the Trans-European Transport and Energy Networks (OJ L 162, 22.6.2007, p. 1)

5. **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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

5.1. **Application form:**

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

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

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

As the working language of the external evaluators is English, it is recommended that proposals are prepared in English. If a proposal is not submitted in English, it is highly recommended that, for the sake of clarity and a quick and proper evaluation of proposals, applicants submit an electronic version of application form Parts B1 and B2 in English before 29 May 2009⁷. Upon request and on the basis of supporting documents, the corresponding costs will be reimbursed up to €2500 per proposal⁸.

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

5.2. **Indicative Schedule:**

Deadline for the submission of proposals	15 May 2009*
Submission of translations in English	29 May 2009
Evaluation of proposals	June -August 2009
Consultation of Financial Assistance Committee; execution of scrutiny right by European Parliament	September - December 2009
Indicative date for adoption of individual Decisions	before 31 May 2010

* This is the deadline by which proposals must be:

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

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

⁷ tenea-proposal-call-annual2009@ec.europa.eu

⁸ Instructions for requesting reimbursements are available in the Guide for Applicants

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

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

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

tenea-helpdesk-call-annual2009@ec.europa.eu

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

Applications may not be delivered to this email address, which is reserved for information and assistance by the TEN-T EA helpdesk (as indicated in the Guide for Applicants, electronic submissions should be submitted to the following email address: tenea-proposal-call-annual2009@ec.europa.eu).

6. **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

6.1. **Processing of personal data:**

The follow-up of responses to the call for proposals will require the recording and further processing of personal data (e.g. name, address). These data will be processed in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (CE) 45/2001 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. Unless stated otherwise, replies to questions and personal data requested are necessary for the purpose of assessing your application (according to the specifications of the call for proposals) and will only be processed within TEN-T EA as data controller, for this purpose. For the purposes of safeguarding the financial interests of the Communities, the personal data may also be transferred to internal audit services, to the European Court of Auditors, to the Financial Irregularities Panel or to the European Anti-Fraud Office ('OLAF').

You may, upon request, have your personal data sent to you and rectify any inaccurate or incomplete particulars. Should you have any queries concerning the processing of your personal data, please address them to the entity acting as data controller within TEN-T EA⁹. As regards the processing of your personal data, you have the right to bring the matter before the European Data Protection Supervisor at any time.

6.2. **General conditions for paying grants:**

In order to limit the financial risks connected with the payment of pre-financing, the Commission or the TEN-T EA may, on the basis of a risk assessment, either require the beneficiary to lodge a guarantee in advance (for up to the same amount as the pre-financing) or split the payment into several instalments. Such a guarantee may be replaced by a joint and several guarantee by the Member State

⁹ TENEA-DPO@ec.europa.eu

concerned (i.e. approving the project) or, where there is more than one beneficiary, by the joint guarantee of the beneficiaries. The Commission may waive this obligation to lodge a guarantee in advance for public-sector bodies and international organisations¹⁰.

6.3. **Important documents:**

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

- Annual work programme 2009¹¹
- Guide for Applicants
- Application form (parts A, B1 and B2)
- TENtec eSub guidance note
- TEN Regulation¹²
- TEN Guidelines¹³
- Model text for an individual Decision granting financial aid
- (if applicable) the definition of cross-border sections of priority projects endorsed by the TEN-T Guidelines Committee for Monitoring Guidelines and the Exchange of Information.

¹⁰ Art. 118 of Council Regulation N° 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities (OJL 248, 16.9.2002, p. 1.) and Art. 182 of Council Regulation N° 2342/2002 of 23 December 2002 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Regulation 1605/2002 (OJL 357, 31.12.2002, p. 1)

¹¹ C(2009)2179

¹² Regulation (EC) n° 680/2007

¹³ Decision n° 1692/96/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 July 1996 on Community guidelines for the development of Trans-European Transport Network (OJ L 228, 09.09.1996, p. 1), as last amended by Council Regulation N° 1791/2006/EC (OJ L 363, 20.12.2006, p1)