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HORIZON 2020

WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2015

18. Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

This part is new to the Work Programme 2014-2015 and relates to the Fast Track to Innovation action which is introduced into this work programme for the first time.

(European Commission Decision C(2014)4995 of 22 July 2014)

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Introduction

The main source of growth in Europe is the capacity to create new knowledge and to transform new ideas into commercially attractive products, processes and services. The European Union is determined to revitalise its economy, and this means finding better ways to bring technological breakthroughs and service innovations quickly to the market. Scientific and technological advances must be turned into marketable products, services and processes faster and more fully so that Europe can face and profit from global competition.

Against this background, the Fast Track to Innovation (FTI) pilot is testing a new approach to give the development of innovations the last push needed before their introduction to the market. It is the only fully bottom-up measure in Horizon 2020 promoting close-to-market innovation activities and open to all types of participants.

The FTI pilot aims to reduce the time from idea to market and to increase the participation in Horizon 2020 of industry, SMEs and first-time industry applicants. It should stimulate private sector investment, promote research and innovation with a focus on value creation, and accelerate the development of innovative products, processes and services.

A particular aim of the FTI pilot is to nurture trans-disciplinary and cross-sector approaches. All kinds of innovation actors can work together to develop sustainable innovations addressing societal needs or areas under 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies' and, at the same time, create viable business opportunities. That is why FTI projects must be business-driven and clearly demonstrate a realistic potential for quick deployment and market take-up of innovations.

Call — Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

H2020-FTIPilot-2015

Proposals are invited against the following topic:

FTIPilot-1-2015: Fast Track to Innovation Pilot

Specific challenge: Innovation is fostered when new ideas can emerge and easily translate into socio-economic value. Working together, partners with complementary backgrounds, knowledge and skills, and in new and established value-chains, can turn these ideas into sustainable innovative products, processes and services that both address societal challenges and/or are highly competitive in global markets. FTI aims to accelerate this commercialisation process by providing extended funding opportunities through an open and agile scheme nurturing bottom-up ideas from innovative constituencies across Europe.

Scope: The FTI pilot supports projects undertaking innovation from the demonstration stage through to market uptake, including stages such as piloting, test-beds, systems validation in real world/working conditions, validation of business models, pre-normative research, and standard-setting. It targets relatively mature new technologies, concepts, processes and business models that need a last development step to reach the market and achieve wider deployment. To this end, if a proposal involves technological innovation, the consortium must declare that the technology or the technologies concerned are at least at Technology Readiness Level (TRL)¹ 6. Projects can be interdisciplinary.

Proposals must relate to any field under the specific objective "Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies" and/or to any of the specific objectives under the priority "Societal challenges"².

Proposals should specify the intended outcome of the project and describe its key performance indicators/success criteria.

Proposals must also include a business plan clearly describing the market potential (potential users/customers and benefits for them; targeted European/global markets, etc.), the business opportunities for participants, measures to enhance the probability of eventual commercial take-up. and a credible commercialisation strategy that identifies next steps and specifies other actors to be involved. Particular attention should be paid to IP protection and ownership and to the possibility of commercial exploitation ('freedom to operate').

The expected impact should be clearly described in both qualitative and quantitative terms. Factors such as time sensitivity and the international competitive situation should be considered in the light of the technology/innovation fields and industry sectors concerned.

¹ For a definition of TRL, see Part G of the General Annexes.

² For proposals which fall under the "Secure Societies" societal challenge, an additional specific procedure may apply (see Participant Portal – H2020 Grant Manuals – Horizontal issues – Security Issues).

Possible impacts on sustainability or climate change, in particular, or on other cross-cutting objectives of Horizon 2020³, should also be highlighted.

Consortia must involve participants from industry. Universities, research and technology organisations and further innovation actors may also participate. Actors that can play a key role in the commercialisation process are encouraged to take part, such as cluster organisations, end-users, industrial associations, incubators, investors, or the public sector. First-time industry applicants⁴ and SMEs are particularly welcome.

Expected impact:

- Fast development, commercial take-up and/or wide deployment of sustainable innovative solutions (products, processes, services, business models etc.) in enabling and industrial technologies and/or for tackling societal challenges.
- Time to initial market take-up no later than 3 years after the beginning of the FTI project. In very well-justified cases linked to the specific characteristics of a particular innovation field or industry sector, the time to initial market take-up could be longer.
- Enhanced competitiveness and growth of business partners in the consortium, measured in terms of turnover and job creation.
- Increased industry participation, including SMEs, and more industry first-time applicants to Horizon 2020.
- Leveraging more private investment into research and/or innovation.
- Where appropriate, addressing transnational value-chains and/or EU-wide or global markets.

Type of action: Innovation actions

The conditions related to this topic are provided at the end of this call and in the General Annexes.

³ Please see Article 14 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation:
http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/fp/h2020-eu-establact_en.pdf

⁴ In the context of the FTI pilot, a "first-time industry applicant" means a legal entity that is a private, for-profit organisation that has obtained a PIC (Participant Identification Code) for the first time, meaning that such legal entity is for the first time registered in the Beneficiary Register during the preparation of the proposal. See step 4 of <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/funding/>

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CONDITIONS FOR THIS CALL

Opening date⁵: 6 January 2015

Deadline(s)⁶:

FTIPilot-1-2015	29/04/2015	01/09/2015	01/12/2015
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Indicative budget⁷:

	2014 EUR million	2015 EUR million	
FTIPilot-1-2015	-	100.00	Single Stage The budget available will be divided equally between each cut-off date.

Eligibility and admissibility conditions: The conditions are described in parts B and C of the General Annexes to the work programme, with the following exceptions:

FTIPilot-1-2015	<p>A maximum of 5 legal entities can participate in a project. At least <i>one</i> of the following minimum conditions shall be met:</p> <p><i>either</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ at least 60% of the overall budget of the proposal must be allocated to consortium partner(s) from industry⁸ <p><i>or</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ the minimum number of industry participants must be 2 in a consortium of 3 or 4 partners, and 3 in a consortium of 5 partners. <p>The <i>maximum</i> EU contribution per project is EUR 3 million⁹.</p> <p>Proposals shall relate to any field under the specific objective 'Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies' and/or to any of the specific objectives under the priority 'Societal challenges'.</p> <p>A proposal shall include a business plan.</p>
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⁵ The Director-General responsible for the call may publish it up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date of opening.

⁶ The Director-General responsible may delay this deadline by up to two months.

⁷ The budget amounts for 2015 are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2015 after the adoption of the budget for 2015 by the budgetary authority or if the budget is not adopted as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.

⁸ Private for-profit organisation.

⁹ The indicative EU contribution per project is expected to be between EUR 1 million and EUR 2 million.

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	Only applications involving entities all of whom are established in the EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon 2020 are eligible.
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Evaluation criteria, scoring and threshold: The criteria, scoring and threshold are described in part H of the General Annexes to the work programme, with the following exceptions:

FTIPilot-1-2015	<p>Proposals will be evaluated individually when they arrive. They will be ranked after the respective cut-off dates.</p> <p>The criterion 'Impact' will be evaluated first, followed by 'Excellence' and 'Implementation'. If the proposal fails to achieve the threshold for a criterion, the evaluation of the proposal will stop.</p> <p>The threshold for the criterion 'Impact' will be 4. The overall threshold, meaning the sum of the three individual scores, will be 12.</p> <p>The final consensus score of a proposal will be the average of the individual scores of the individual evaluators. The consensus report will comprise the individual reports or key extracts from them. Where appropriate¹⁰, a panel review will be organised remotely.</p>
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Evaluation procedure: The procedure for setting a priority order for proposals with the same score is given in part H of the General Annexes, with the following exception:

FTIPilot-1-2015	For proposals with the same score, any further prioritisation will be based on the following factors applied in the following order: value of 'Impact' criterion; size of budget allocated to SMEs; number of first-time industry applicants; number of industry participants; gender balance among the personnel named in the proposal as primarily responsible for carrying out the research and/or innovation activities.
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The full evaluation procedure is described in the relevant guide¹¹ published on the Participant Portal.

- Indicative timetable for evaluation and grant agreement:

	Information on the outcome of the evaluation	Indicative date for the signing of grant agreements
FTIPilot-1-2015	Three months after the corresponding cut-off date set out	Three months from the date of informing applicants.

¹⁰ For example, when the individual views of the evaluators are highly divergent.

¹¹ See: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/pse/h2020-guide-pse_en.pdf

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Consortium agreements: In line with the Rules for Participation, participants in Innovation Actions are required to conclude a consortium agreement prior to grant agreement.

Budget

Calls	2014 Budget EUR million¹²	2015 Budget¹³ EUR million
Call H2020-FTIPilot-2015	–	100.00 <i>Of which</i> 17.85 from 09.040201, 10.10 from 08.020201, 3.40 from 02.040201, 14.70 from 08.020301, 2.60 from 09.040301, 5.04 from 08.020302, 3.86 from 05.090301, 6.85 from 08.020303, 6.85 from 32.040301, 10.26 from 08.020304, 4.39 from 06.030301, 5.66 from 08.020305, 1.49 from 02.040301, 2.25 from 08.020306, 0.80 from 09.040302, 2.92 from 02.040302 and 0.98 from 09.040303.
Estimated total budget	–	100.00

¹² The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.

¹³ The budget amounts for 2015 are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the draft budget for 2015 after the adoption of the budget for 2015 by the budgetary authority or if the budget is not adopted as provided for in the system of provisional twelfths.