

D8.1. Call preparation documents: Guide for Applicants, Model Contract, Proposal Template, Call Text and publication plan

CINTECH

Reviewed by:
ED, UPRC

Abstract

Within the Deliverable 8.1, the preparatory activities for the open call documents are described in detail. The Deliverable includes the Guide for Applicants, the Proposal Template, the Model Contract, the Evaluation Guidelines and the Evaluation Material.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EB: Executive Board

PB: Plenary Board

1 Executive summary

In the H2020 Framework programme, INTERRFACE project incorporates the cascade funding mechanism, according which INTRRAFACE makes use of the EU financial funding with the initiative to incorporate developers of innovative energy services.

The cascade funding mechanism will be used to create new business opportunities and deliver added value to the project. INTERRFACE launches an Open Call and provides financial support to up to 7 Third Parties with the aim to develop and/or extend different infrastructures and state-of-the-art technologies of INTERRFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by INTERRFACE's pilots.

The Open Call will stimulate further interest and spread the accomplishments of INTERRFACE and its technological framework. These new applications will capitalise, reuse and refine the IEGSA platform and will aim to cover further needs of operators, contribute to the generalisation and validation of INTERRFACE framework, whereas introducing new concepts and technologies.

This deliverable describes the preparatory and dissemination activities that have been implemented on from M18-M26 of the project. It includes as Annexes all the documentation needed for the implementation of the Open Call, which are: Call Announcement, Guide for applicants, Guide for evaluators, Proposal Template, Model Contract Funding Agreement Declaration of Honor, Confidentiality and conflict of interest declaration for evaluators, Open Call Portal Privacy Policy, FAQs working document and communication templates and PR material conducted for the purpose of the Call.

WP8 (Business Opportunities – cascade funding) is in close collaboration with WP9 (Exploitation, Dissemination & Communication) for the dissemination of the Call. WP8 use the big number of INTERRFACE Consortium Partners and its contacts for the dissemination of the Open Call. WP8 is in cooperation with INTERRFACE linked projects to share dissemination practices.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 OVERVIEW

This deliverable describes the dissemination strategy and the preparatory activities for the implementation of INTERFACE Open Call under the cascade funding mechanism. It also includes as Annexes all the necessary documentation that is conducted for the launch of the Open Call. This documentation includes a) the **Guide for Applicants**, describing the call rationale, the eligibility criteria of the for participation of applicants that are line with EU rules and criteria, the technical description of the envisaged work, the expected impact to INTERFACE project and the overall value from the work developed via the selected proposals of the Call, the available budget and amounts related to different cost categories (e.g. personnel, equipment), the evaluation and selection criteria and procedure, the timeline, and all details related to the Open Call procedures, (b) the **Proposal Template**, tailored to the target group, (c) the **Model Contract**, which includes payment modalities, financing payments, IPR handling, conflict resolution rules, the rights by the EC and other European bodies to carry out checks and audits, etc., (d) the **Guide for Evaluators** that describes the evaluation process, the evaluators' code of conduct and their role, the evaluation criteria according to the EU rules and conditions, the evaluation reports that experts have to conduct during the evaluation procedure and access guidelines to the reviewers' area on the Open Call portal, e) the **Declaration of Honor**, that potential applicants have to sign while submitting their proposals and f) the **Confidentiality and conflict of interest declaration** for evaluators, and every template and communication form that is conducted for the implementation/dissemination of the Open Call procedures.

This deliverable elaborates the communication and cooperation processes between WP8 and WP leaders for the specification of the technical requirements of the Business Use Cases under which applicants will submit their proposal and the development of a figurative portal the serves as a platform, where proposals will be electronically submitted, reviewed, monitored and processed during the various stages of evaluation.

2.1.2 STRUCTURE OF THE DOCUMENT

This document is divided in two parts. In the first part (main body) key issues during the preparation of the Open Call are elaborated in detail and the second part (annexes) includes all the documentation related to the cascade funding process and the launch of the Open Call.

3 CASCADE FUNDING MECHANISM

In the H2020 Framework programme and according to the H2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013 (Article 23.7) “an action may involve financial support to third parties under the conditions defined in the Financial Regulation and the Rules for Application. The maximum amount of financial support is 60 000 EUR per third party. ... Financial support to third parties is only possible when foreseen for a specific topic in the work programme. Proposals involving financial support to third parties must clearly detail the objectives and the results to be obtained”

(complete document available:

https://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/h2020guidancenote_financialsupport2thirdparties.pdf)

In this framework, INTERFACE makes use of financial support to third parties for at least 2.5% of the EU contribution to the project for the incorporation of developers of innovative energy services. The cascade funding mechanism will be used to spread the technology and the methods developed during the 24 first months of the project. Up to 7 participating organisations for a total budget of 400 K euros are expected to participate in the project as third parties and use the INTERFACE infrastructure and developments in order to bring new services; the budget will be assigned using a transparent and fair process.

The workflow describing the procedure of the cascade funding is depicted below:

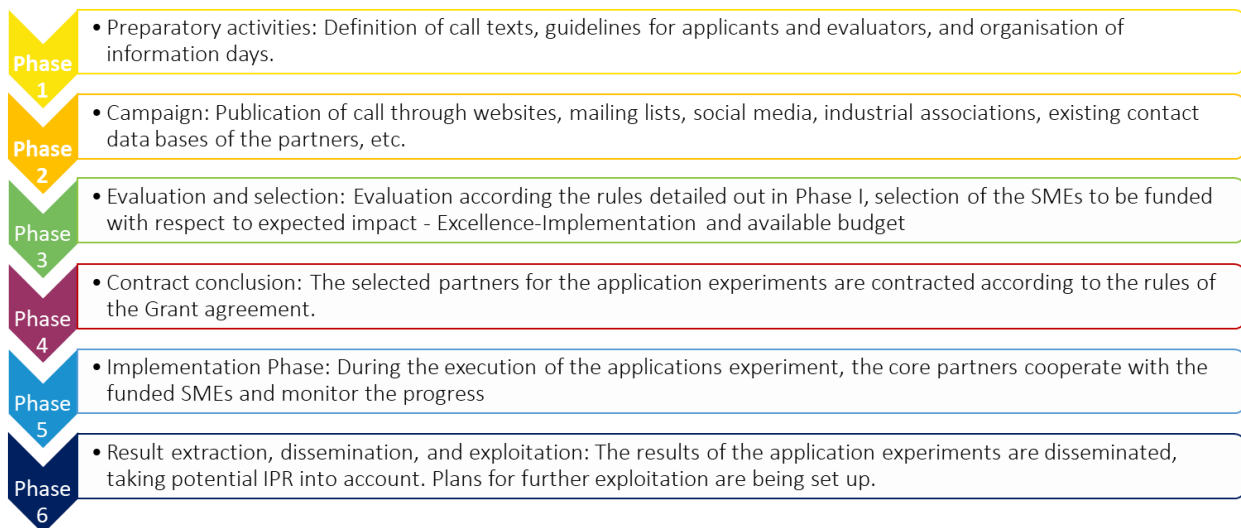


Figure 1: Cascade funding workflow

Therefore, INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties under the INTERFACE project will be launched on March 30, 2021 with a deadline of June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET (Brussels time).

Eligible for financial support are any legal entity possessing a validated Participant Identification Code (PIC). Financial support can be offered to public or private bodies, research organisations, non-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises, international organisations, international organisations of EU interest, established in an EU Member State or in an Associated Country (as stated in Article 7 of the Horizon2020 Regulation.) Associated to H2020 countries are enlisted in: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cpart/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf).

Participants are asked to address solutions that promote and enable flexibility of end-users either participating in local energy communities or via contracts with aggregators. The proposed functionalities aim to increase flexibility awareness and flexibility needs along the grids, attracting more flexibility players into the marketplaces. Among the solutions are requested:

- Utilization of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data
- Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA
- Aggregators and Local Energy Communities Intelligence services for congestion management
- An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community
- Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers
- Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

INTERFACE project makes use of the cascade funding mechanism that offers financial support to developers of innovative services to propose functionalities towards flexibility. To achieve this goal, applicants are asked to address one of the six business use cases described below. The detailed description of each BUC is included in Annexes 2-7 of the Guide for Applicants (Annex 3 of this documentation) and on the INTERFACE Open Call portal BUCs subpage.

The applicants are recommended to follow the next **applications steps** in order to submit their proposal.



Figure 2: Application Steps

The official language for INTERFACE Open Call shall be in English.

Only one proposal per applicant can be submitted to the INTERFACE Open Call. Proposals can only be submitted through the INTERFACE Open Call portal (<https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>) within the given deadline.

Selected proposals for funding will sign a Model Contract Funding Agreement with INTERFACE Consortium. The funds provided in the framework of INTERFACE project are funds owned by the European Union, whose management has been led to INTERFACE partners via the Grant Agreement Number 824330. INTERFACE is a mere holder and manager of the funds.

The relationship between selected applicants (legal entities with projects selected for funding by INTERFACE Open Call) and the INTERFACE Consortium, as well as obligations by the selected applicants to both the INTERFACE Consortium and to the European Commission, is detailed in the indicative Model Contract Funding Agreement that is included in this deliverable as Annex 6. It is the responsibility of the selected applicants to fulfil these obligations, and for the INTERFACE Consortium to inform selected applicants about them.

4 SHAPING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPEN CALL APPLICANTS

For the implementation of the Open Call a thorough research on the rules and regulations of the European Commission, in particular H2020 Framework Programme Regulation No 1291/2013 and has been searched out. Cascade funding rules and regulations has been identified. Other Open Calls of H2020 and PCI projects are reviewed.

Based on the above, the Open Call documentation was conducted and the dissemination strategy of the Open Call was designed.

4.1. OPEN CALL DOCUMENTS

The main documents that are created for INTERFACE Open Call are the displayed in the table below:

Table 1: Open Call Documents' list		
1. Call Announcement	2. Guide for Applicants	3. Proposal Template
4. Guide for Evaluators	5. Declaration of Honor	6. Model Contract Funding Agreement

The **Guide for Applicants**, included in this deliverable as Annex 3, summarizes the main features of the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties. It serves as a complement to the following documents (and their annexes): (a) the **Open Call Announcement**, (b) the **Proposal Template** and (c) the **Model Contract Funding Agreement**. The Guide of Applicants provides additional information for the submission of proposals and the evaluation process in the framework of the INTERFACE project. It serves as a helpful guide and does not supersede the Open Call Announcement and Model Contract Funding Agreement documents which take precedence over the Guide for applicants and must be taken into consideration when submitting proposals.



Figure 3: Documents preparation preview

Applicants shall use the **Proposal Template** that was conducted for the current Open Call. Only the documentation included in the Proposal Template and in the attachments to the above Template will be reviewed by Evaluators. The proposal and attachments can be only in PDF format. The maximum length of the main proposal is 10 pages. Please read carefully the instructions in the Proposal Template document has detailed instructions on the structure of the proposal to be submitted. All documents including the Proposal Template are available on the Open Call portal on the following link: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>.

Each applicant when submitting the proposal via the portal agrees that:

- the proposal submitted is based on original work and in advance any expected developments are free from Third Party rights, otherwise they are clearly stated.
- the proposal is not excluded under the provisions of article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 (ethical principles).

- He/she understands and will sign all statements embodied in the Declaration of Honor document in case the proposal is selected. The Declaration of Honor document available here: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>
- he/she is not “undertaking in difficulty” according to the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 (Article 2.18)
- he/she is not excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of EU rules and regulations and/or national law.
- he/she has received knowledge of the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy of the Open Call portal (<https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/terms-of-service-and-privacy-policy/>) and of the Processing of Personal Data included in Annex 1 of the Guide for Applicants.

Evaluation processes follows the rules and conditions of European Commission for Research practices in the framework of Horizon 2020 programme. The evaluation workflow is described on the Guide for Evaluators and a short overview is included in the Guide for Applicants for the notice of potential applicants. The evaluation steps are displayed on the following chart.

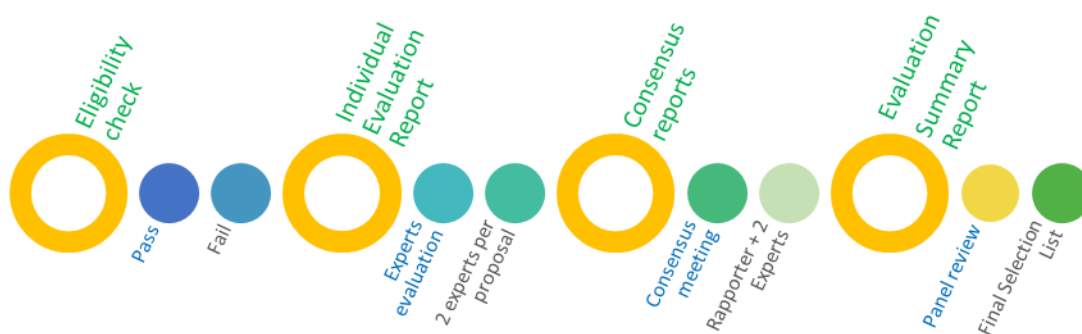


Figure 4: Evaluation process

The **Guide for Evaluators** was conducted to support the Evaluators during the evaluation process. Evaluators need to evaluate submitted proposals against predefined evaluation criteria (in line with the European Commission’s evaluation criteria) and verify that the proposals comply with the specific requirements of the business use case under which it is submitted.

Guide for Evaluators provides information on the awarded criteria and the evaluation process. Guidelines on how evaluators to assess the submitted proposals via the “Reviewers Area” (<https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/reviewers-private-area/>), on evaluation meetings and on the drafting and quality of the reports (Individual Evaluation Report and Consensus Report) are described in detail.

Evaluators should comply with the fundamental principles of research integrity, as outlined in the “The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”, that is available on the following link: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf. Evaluators will have to sign Confidentiality and conflict of interest declaration document, included in this deliverable as Annex 8.

The Evaluation Results will be published on the INTERRFACE Open Call portal within 70 days from the end of the proposals’ submission. All participants will be communicated the results of evaluation by email.

4.2. TECHNICAL DEFINITION OF THE CALL

A demanding task of the whole procedure was the cooperation with demo leaders and partners with the aim to define the exact message of the Open Call and reach its final technical requirements. A series of workshops and teleconferences has been realized to assure that the project activities are further enhanced with innovative services and novel concepts, as explicitly requested in the description of the call that the INTERFACE project answered (LCE-ES-5-2018 call of H2020).

INTERFACE is a complex and multi-dimensional project. 7 pilots are being developed in the frame of the project. A questionnaire was conducted and circulated among the consortium partners investigate the needs of the IEGSA platform and its SOTA infrastructures but also the needs of the INTERFACE demos and its subtasks. The questionnaire (available on Annex 1) attempted to identify the needs of the INTERFACE project and decide if the Open Call will address a horizontal need or vertically demo-specific needs.

The outcome of the first questionnaire oriented to vertically pilot-specific needs. Moreover, the need for further information to become available from the market transparency point of view was expressed. Market transparency enables the provision of the required electricity market information for the future and further facilitates the development of efficient and competitive energy markets across Europe. For this reason, we decided to go forward both with pilot-specific case and TP-specific.

Following this, separate teleconferences with each partner interested to be involved in the Open Call process was realized in order to identify the detailed description, targeted audience and expected outcome of its Business Use Case that pilots partners suggested.

Two alike BUC templates (both available on Annex 2) were circulated with the aim to give accurate and in detail guidelines to applicants in order to certify the success of the Open Call outcome, which is to reach technically excellent proposals from applicants with the expected impact on INTERFACE project and demos. The aim of the call is INTERFACE project to implement its goals with the support of Third Parties innovations and in advance to deliver added valued to the energy market and ecosystem while at the same time address the overall EU initiative of cascade funding mechanism.

This process was an important milestone that has been reached out and the Open Call will publish 6 (six) Business Uses Cases under which applicants will submit their proposal. The thematic of each Business Use Case is displayed on the following visual. The detailed description of the BUCs will be available on the Guide of Applicants (Annexes 2-7) and will also be uploaded on the Open Call Portal on the following link: https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/category/business_cases/.

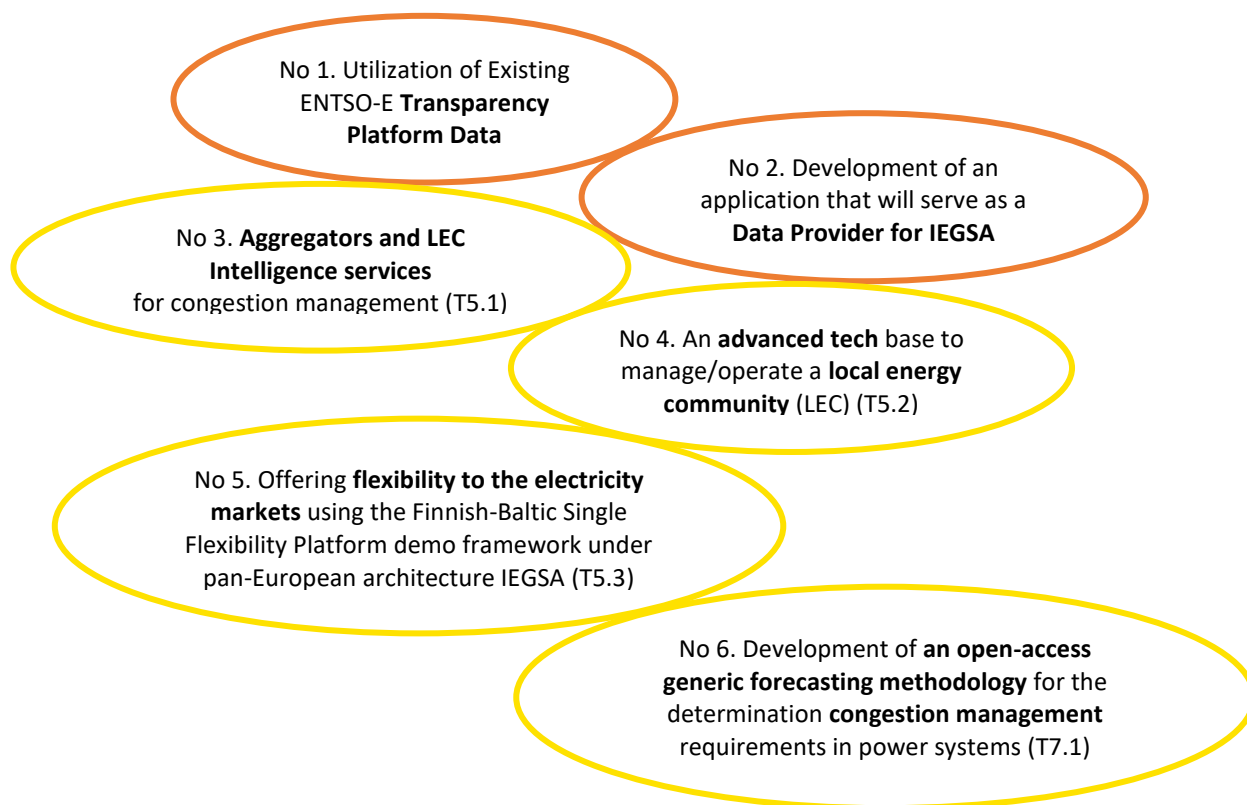


Figure 5: Business Use Cases

(In red circles address horizontal INTERFACE needs and in yellow vertical demo-specific needs)

4.3. BUSINESS USE CASES OVERVIEW

No 1. : Utilization of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data

As flexibility markets improve and become an important part of the energy markets, more information is expected to become available and its accessibility should be ensured to all market players in a transparent manner. In order to achieve that, there is a need to specify these requirements from the perspective of all market players in addition to national regulatory aspects. Therefore, the enhancement of market transparency will help other external market players to better position themselves in the market. The focus of this Business Use Case is to provide a comprehensive frame for available dataset, indicating the regions that are in need of flexibility products and hence, this will create new business opportunities for flexibility system providers.

The main purpose is to develop solutions that utilize the existing data on the platform in a way which results in usable, well visualized information for flexibility service providers. In particular, the applicant should address one or more of the following challenges:

- Creating a common ground for all participants and benefit from utilizing revealed information from the perspective of flexibility markets and congestion management;
- Providing useful information on grid level, without compromising sensitive data from the perspective of system operators;
- Defining a common dataset that will serve to improve transparency in an environment with diversified flexibility products;
- Encouraging prototypes/pilots that gather and publish transparency data for flexibility markets or flexibility for congestion management;
- Provide recommendations for changes from regulatory point of view.

The complete description of BUC No 1 is elaborated on Annex 2 of the Guide for Applicants.

No 2. : Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA

Lately, the ambitions of European Commission to enable consumers and prosumers to take part in the energy transition, have been highlighted in several initiatives such as the Clean Energy Package [Directive (EU) 2019/944]. Free flow of data and access to market information is of essential importance to ensure transparent and nondiscriminatory participation to flexibility marketplaces.

Transparency Platform is a regulated platform and data is published according to legal obligations. Therefore, data for flexibility markets will be published on Transparency Platform after a regulatory framework is constituted. However, in order to improve IEGSA's capabilities a new application/tool/service can be developed to serve as a data provider for IEGSA. This Business Use Case asks applicants to investigate business case for developing new solutions which may include the following:

- Analyze current developments and transparency needs of already operating flexibility platforms in order to define common datasets that will serve to improve transparency for flexibility market participants;
- Develop and build prototypes (platforms/systems/modules/applications/extensions) that serve as pilots for providing transparency data for flexibility markets;
- Design and develop a platform that can serve as a Data Provider of the IEGSA – The proposed solution should accept raw data that is extracted and provided by IEGSA (such as available capacities of the flexibility resources; price, offered & activated volumes of proposed bids for reserve market), transform and aggregate it based on specific criteria and be flexible enough in order to submit data in a structure that will be defined at a later stage when the Transparency Platform becomes ready to accommodate the flexibility datasets both from regulatory and IT perspectives. Moreover, the proposed solutions should be able to work with CIM compliant profiles (such as Reserve Bid Market Document, Balancing Market Document, Activation Market Document, Acknowledgement Market Document) or custom profiles that are CIM based and should be able to report to the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform using one or more of the standard communication channels acceptable.

Open Call participants are encouraged to propose solutions that address as many datasets with added value for the flexibility markets as possible.

The complete description of BUC No 2 is elaborated on Annex 3 of the Guide for applicants.

No 3. : Aggregators and Local Energy Communities (LEC) Intelligence services for congestion management

In the future energy market, Aggregators, Large users and Local Energy Communities (LEC) will be able to provide Flexibility to the System Operators (TSO and DSO) by managing Flexibility Resources (FRs) grouped to compose Flexibility Products (amount of flexibility of power in a certain period). In this context, it is very important for Aggregators, Large Users and LEC to be able to define in advance (day-ahead) the most profitable time of the day at which provide flexibility and to quantify it, accordingly, in an optimal way.

This Business Use Case is looking for tools/software and algorithms that will be able interact or will be implemented and integrated in the existing Aggregator platform (developed by INTERRFACE partners in the Demo). The expected outputs of this toolbox is to derive: i) the optimal planning of FP to be offered the day-ahead to the market; ii) the optimal strategy to activate the FR according to the Flexible Products qualified.

The complete description of BUC No 3 is elaborated on Annex 4 of the Guide for applicants.

No 4. : An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community (LEC)

This call is open to third parties interested in optimally operating a LEC equipped with a significant amount of battery-based energy storage system (BESS), a photovoltaic (PV) power generating unit, and an automatic control system (interoperated via IEGSA platform), with the main objective of participating in both energy and ancillary service markets.

Third parties participating in this call should have broad knowledge of electricity markets and energy systems, while being highly specialized on IT-technology, in order to materialize and demonstrate the effectiveness of the system at the end-user/community level and how it can be integrated at the market-level (through IEGSA). The purpose of this business use case is to optimally operate demand from a LEC (assisted by a significant amount of energy storage) as a flexible energy resource connected to the distribution grid with the aim of: i) reducing energy cost for the end-users, and ii) providing flexibility and ancillary services to the grid operators (regulation, congestion, and ancillary services) by controlling the collective net demand.

The complete description of BUC No 4 is elaborated on Annex 5 of the Guide for applicants.

No 5. : Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers

This business use case is looking for potential applicant in the role of a Flexibility Service Provider (FSP) including aggregator with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service provider is expected to connect to the API of the developed IT systems and offer their flexible resources to the piloted market. This means that the FSP would be required to be able to carry out an activation with a specified flexible resource.

A FSP has to submit their resources for resource qualification before it can be forwarded to one or more markets where it can be traded and bidded on. The registration is handled by the Flexibility Register which also stores the trading results and receives metering data. May need parallel registration and agreement signing with local TSO / DSO.

The DSO-TSO Coordination Platform determines which System Operator is responsible for the qualification of which particular resource or a set of resources and uses preconfigured procedures to perform the resource qualification. The qualification result is returned and stored into the local Flexibility Register.

The complete description of BUC No 5 is elaborated on Annex 6 of the Guide for applicants.

No 6. : Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

In transmission and distribution networks, congestion occurs in cases where the networks cannot process all the transactions due to violations of operating limits. Congestion management is a mechanism to prioritize the transactions to keep the network operations within their nominal limits. The case story refers to the scheme where an aggregator is an intermediate agent between the distribution system operator and a number of distributed energy resources. The interaction between the aggregator and operator includes flexibility offers and requests. The flexibility of the generation units will contribute to congestion management.

The workflow will include different scenarios of installed capacities of generation units and renewable penetration shares in order to solve an extended power flow analysis. The outputs will refer to the determination of identification indexes of congestion management resources.

The complete description of BUC No 6 is elaborated on Annex 7 of the Guide for applicants.

5 TIMELINE

This chapter includes the timeline of the work progress of WP8 as well as key dates of the INTERFACE Open Call Submission and Evaluation process

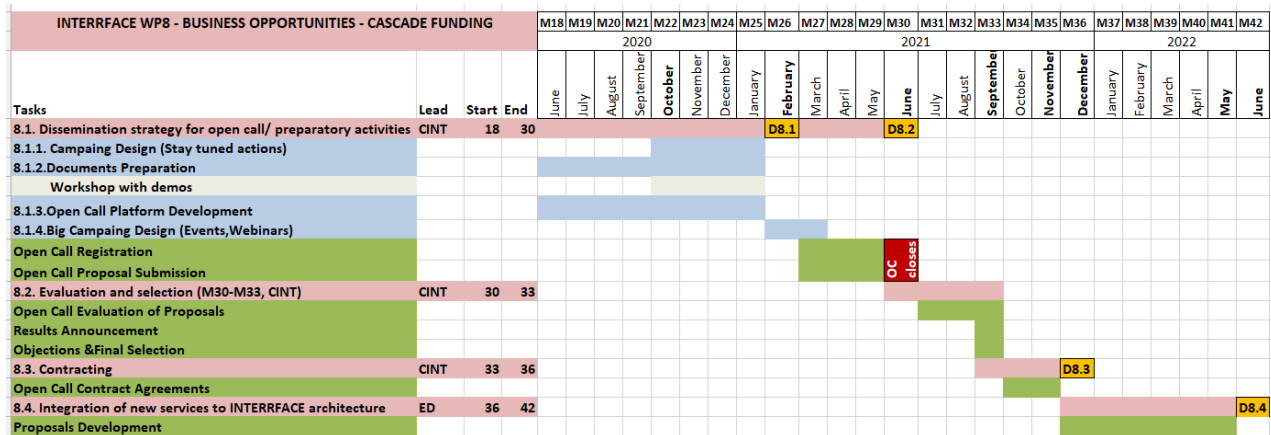


Figure 6: WP8 timeline

INTERFACE Open Call key dates:

- March 30 2021 – Submission opening
- June 30, 2021 at 17:00 CET – Submission deadline
- September 10, 2021 – Results Announcement
- 10 business days after results publication – Objections
- Late October– Ends Contracting Period
- December 2021 to May 2022 – Implementation period

Table 2: Open Call & Evaluation Key Dates

Call			
Submission Opening			Monday, March 30, 2021
Submission closure			Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)
Eligibility check			By 12/07/2021
Allocation of proposals to experts			13- 15/07/2021
Briefing			22/07/2021
Evaluation			
Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)			By 13/08/2021
Consensus Reports (CR)			By 30/08/2021
Evaluation (draft ESR)	Summary	Report	By 03/09/2021

6. ELECTRONIC TOOLS

A configurative portal was especially developed for the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties. Its official link is the following: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>. This portal is especially created for the INTERFACE OPEN CALL and serves as a platform, where proposals of the call will be electronically submitted, reviewed, monitored and processed during the various stages of evaluation.

All material relative to the Open Call are uploaded on the portal. All necessary documentation is uploaded on the following link: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>

Applicants can communicate with Open Call helpdesk email for any questions or queries regarding the Call and the Portal, as well. The Open Call Helpdesk email is: interrface_opencall@interrface.eu

Via this portal announcements, webinars and further action regarding the Call will be published on the news/events subpage.

In short, the supporting material of the Open Call are:

1. The Guide for Applicants
2. INTERFACE Open Call Portal with all available material
3. The Helpdesk email
4. A subpage with Frequently Asked Questions

FAQs page will be updated on a current basis. When receiving questions from applicants via the email helpdesk, the answers will be communicated by email to the potential applicant but they will also be uploaded to the portal.

The Terms and Policy legal notice of the portal is published on the INTERFACE Open Call portal and applicants shall confirm that they have received knowledge of the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy of the Open Call portal when registering and submitting their proposal. This legal document is included in this deliverable as Annex 13.

Screenshots from the Open Call Portal follows:

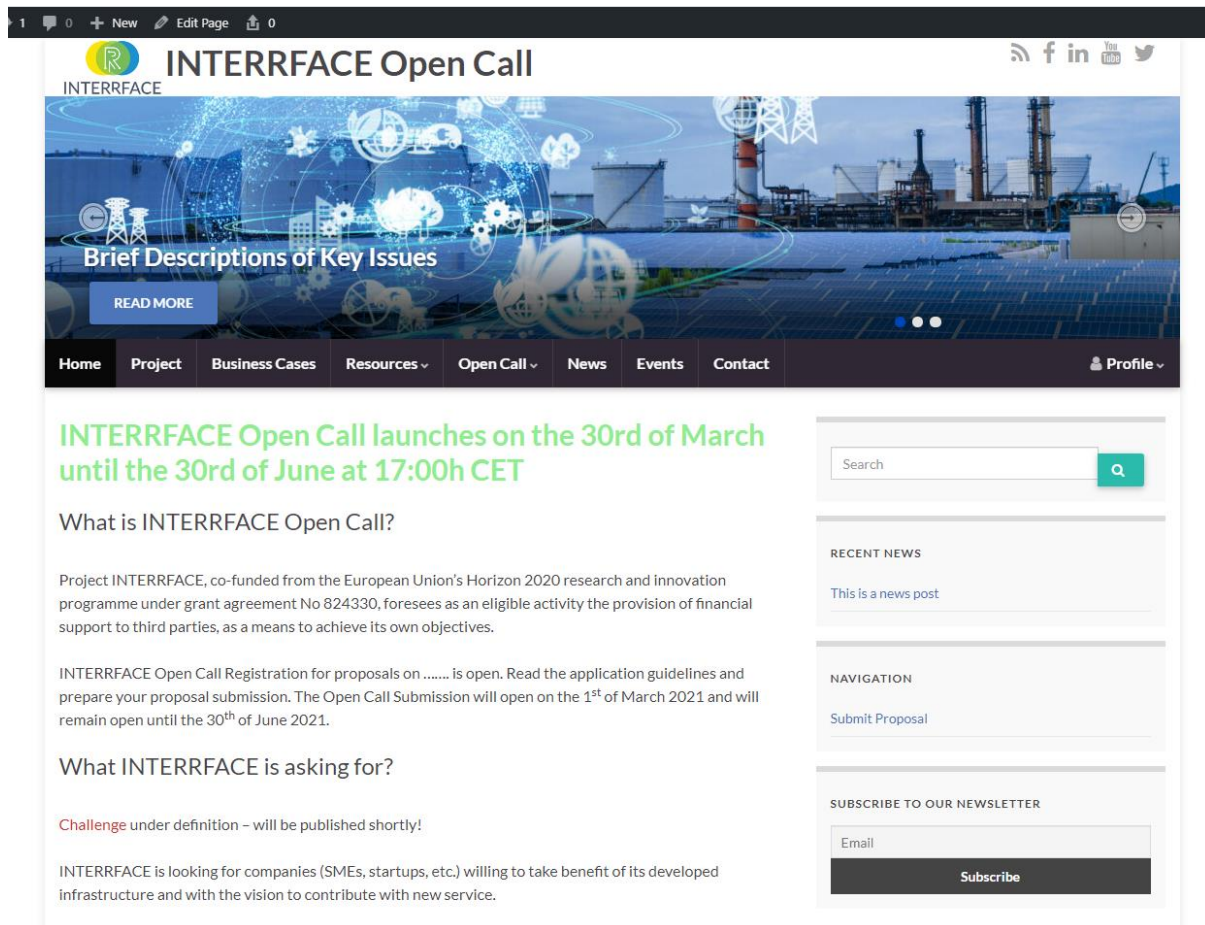


Figure 7: Home page preview

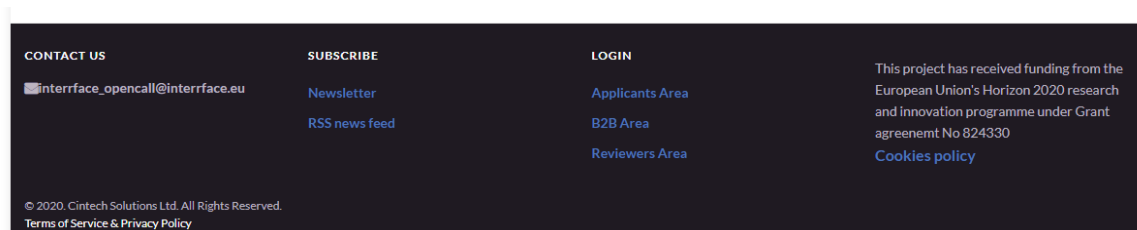


Figure 8: Bottom bar preview.

It appears in all pages. Easy access to contact email, subscribe button linked to INTERFACE Newsletter, Applicants Area, Reviewers Area and to Terms and Policy notice

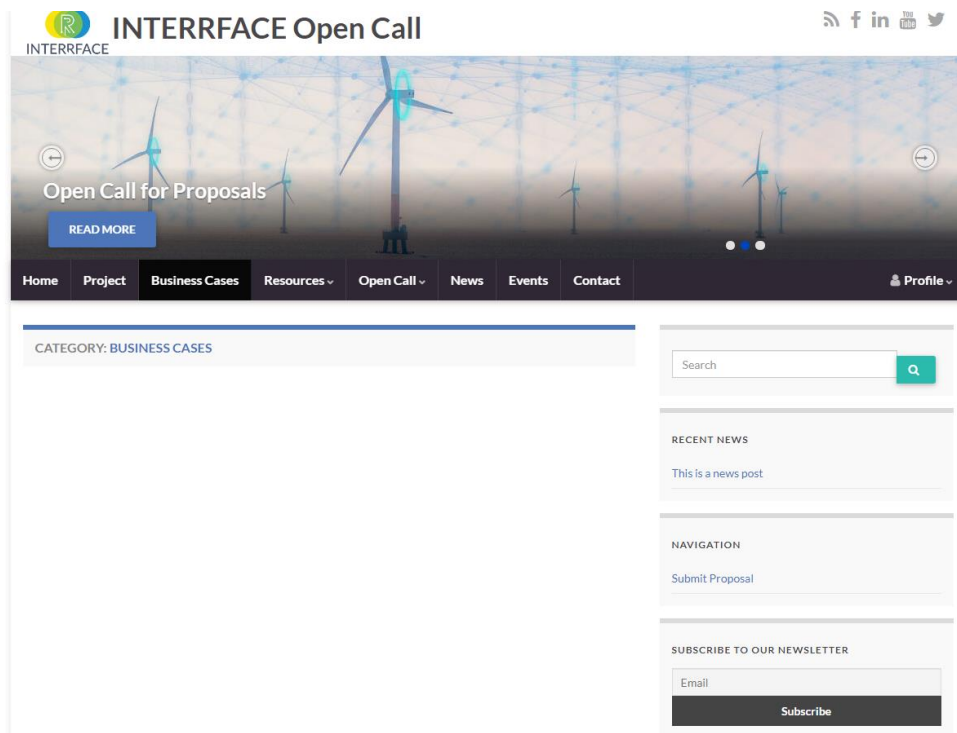


Figure 9: Business Use Cases Subpage

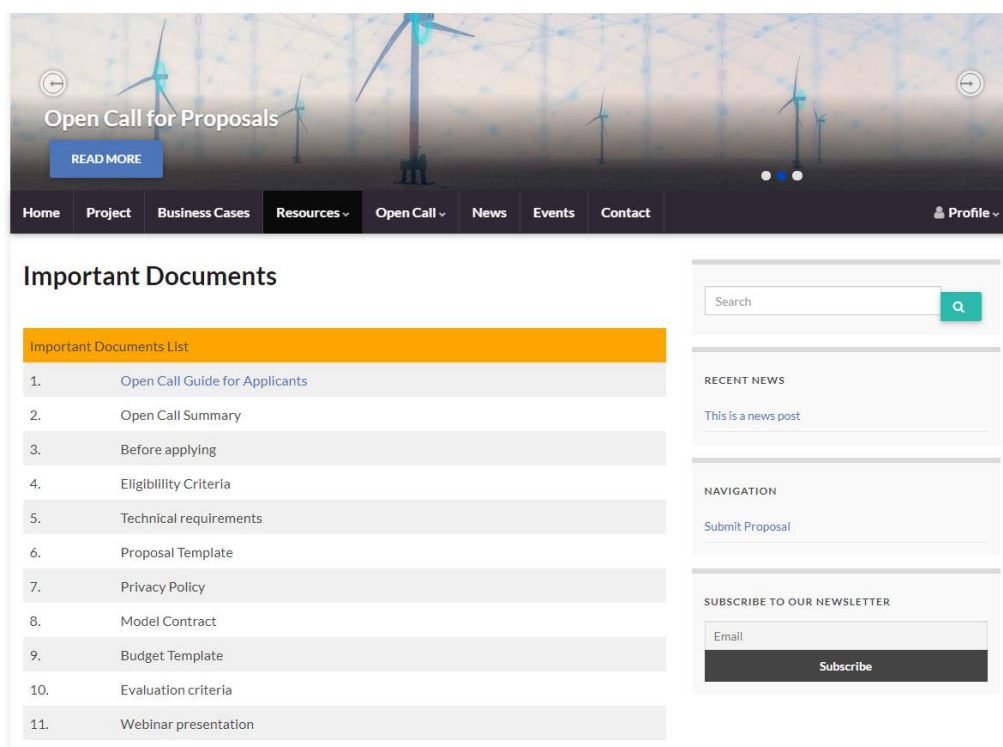


Figure 10: Important documents Subpage

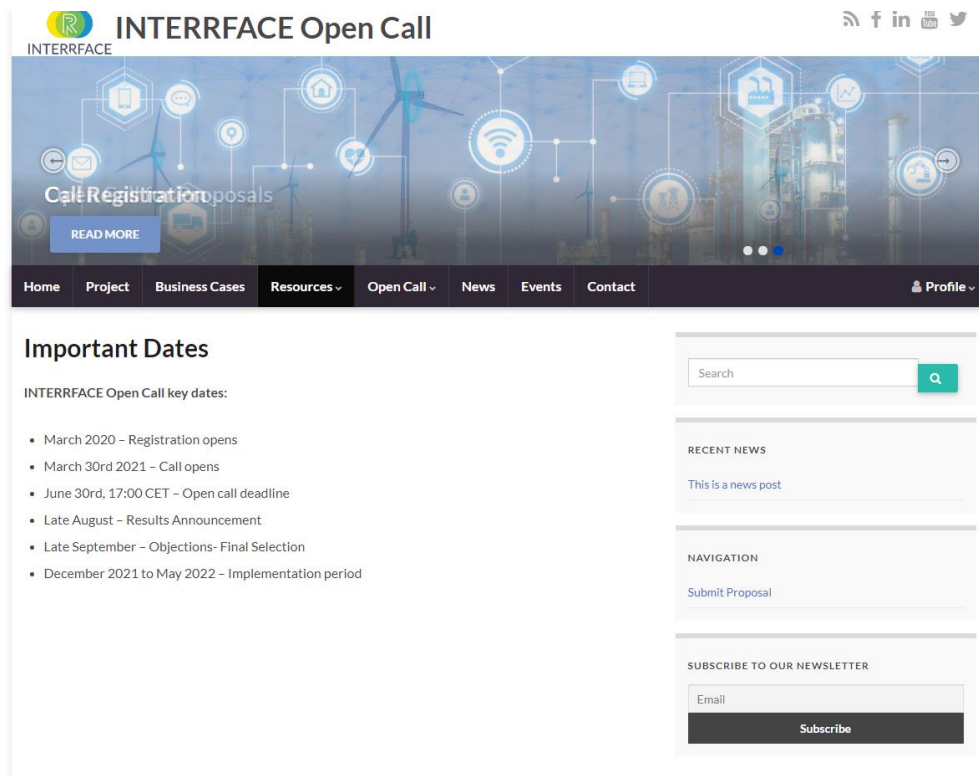


Figure 11: Important Dates Subpage

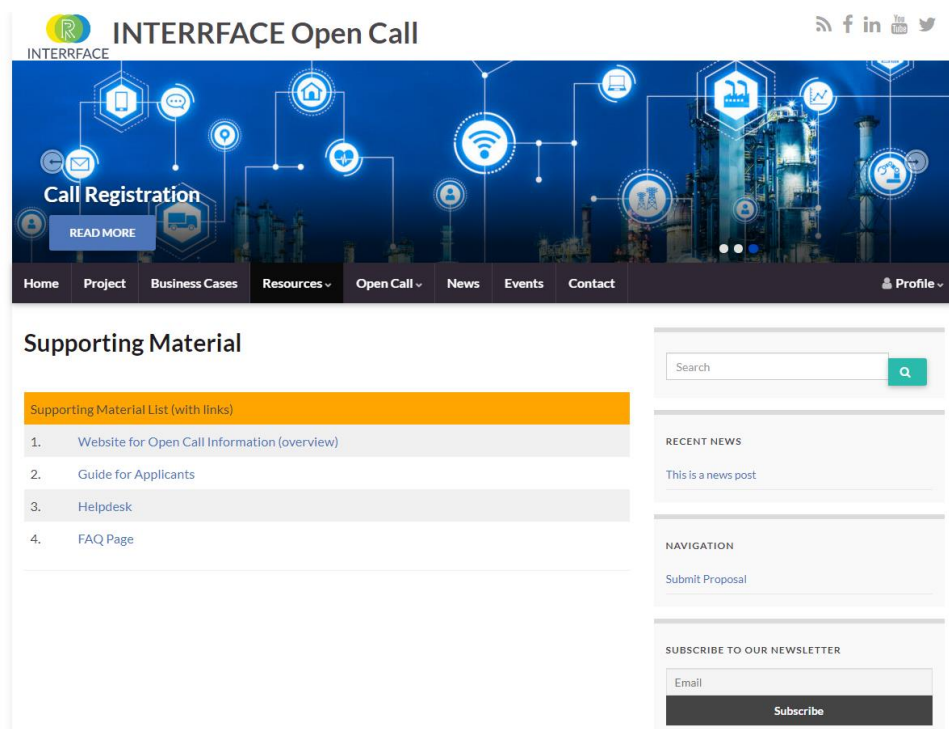


Figure 12: Supporting Materials Subpage

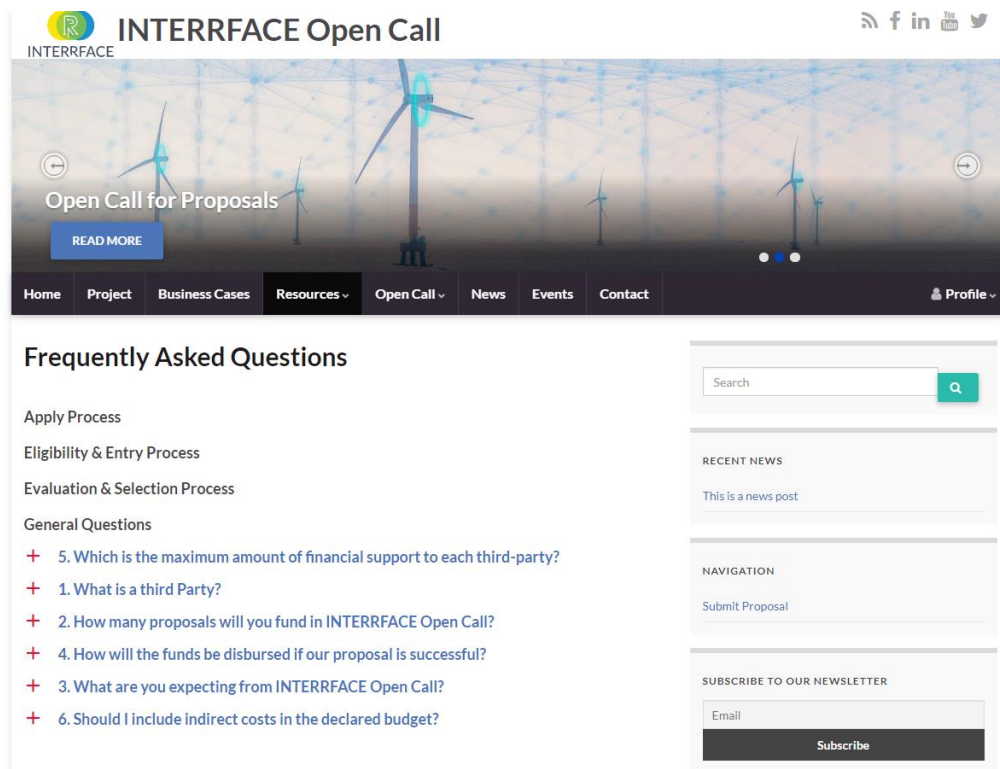


Figure 13: FAQs Subpage

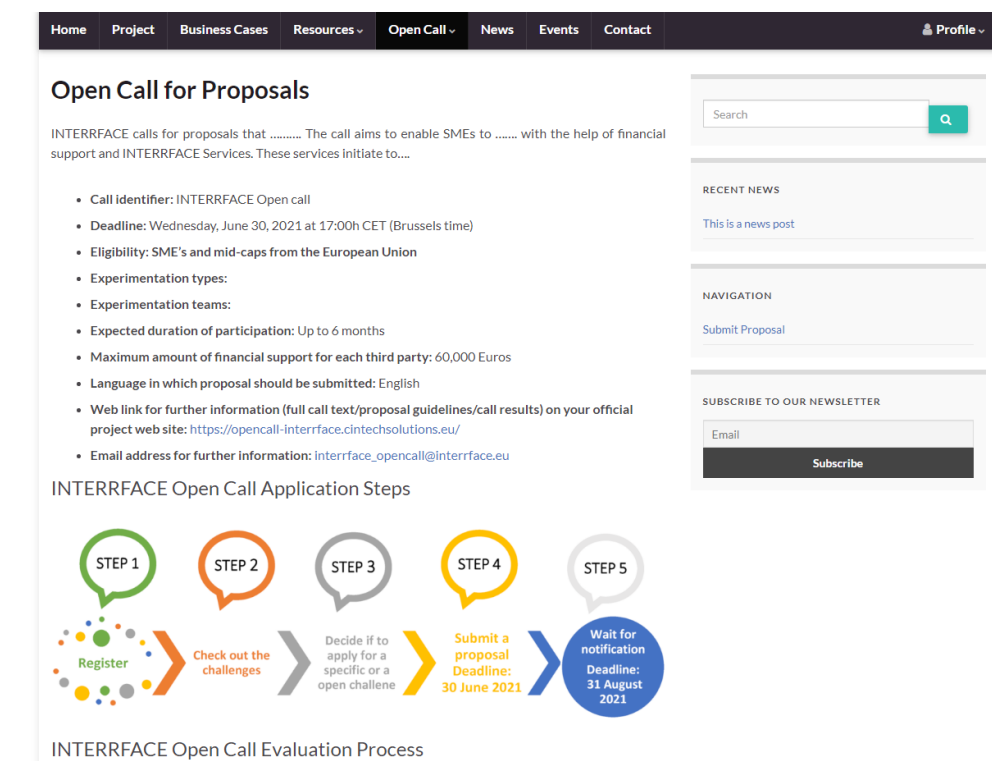


Figure 14: Open Call for Proposals Subpage. Describes in charts the Open Call processes.

7. DISSEMINATION STRATEGY

For the dissemination of the Call, WP8 is in close collaboration with WP9. The open call will be announced in relevant media, including websites, technical press (relevant online channels in different countries/ language areas), through mailing lists and through well-known local or European networks.

At least 2 information webinars will be organized on M27 of the project. The initiative of these webinars is to make the Open Call public to a broad audience and give the opportunity to potential applicants to directly question the Organization team of the Call for the processes and equally important to address any queries that might arise directly to the experts related to the BUCs that will be published and under which the applicants should submit their proposal.

The call will be proactively promoted through all available networks of all partners, including the links through BRIDGE initiative and other CSAs (Supporting Actions). WP8 participates with WP8 on Open Dei WG3, a network of linked H2020 projects that share knowledge for the dissemination of the Projects and for the Open Calls that are incorporated in the H2020 framework programme.

WP8 depends on the big number of the consortium and their connections for the dissemination of the Call and estimates that interest on the Call will be secured. Communications email templates have been conducted and will circulate among partners. These templates together with an illustration and the draft of the press release are available on Annex 14-16.

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ANNEX 1: Questionnaire for partners

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1. OVERVIEW

The aim of WP8 is to develop a business case, promote startups and involve external stakeholders within the project to accommodate innovative energy services (in particular for household consumers).

The Open Call will stimulate further interest and spread the accomplishments of INTERFACE and its technological framework. These new services will capitalise, reuse and refine the IEGSA platform and will aim to cover further needs of operators, contribute to the generalisation and validation of INTERFACE framework, whereas introducing new concepts and technologies. The SMEs/ startups will be reached through the project dissemination activities with the support of all consortium partners covering the energy value chain.

WP8 objectives is to manage the full process of open calls according to the cascading funding mechanisms foreseen in the call, to ensure the selection and contracting of the most suitable application experiment proposals with respect to the expected impact , to implement new services, with the involvement of partners of the consortium and cooperation, with the funded SMEs to monitor the progress on the execution of the experiment, to extract lessons learnt, disseminate and exploit, after the completion of the application experiments, through available channels of communication and handle IPR issues.

This template will gather useful data that will be used for the work being done in WP8 of INTERFACE, mainly for Task 8.1 in order to identify the technical specifications-requirements of the cascade funding mechanism.

Please answer all the below questions by providing as much information as possible and send any questions to Maria Papadimitriou – CINTECH
(Email address: m.papadimitriou@cintechsolutions.eu).

Please send us your answers by October 5th 2020. If you want to get informed about the results of the template, please provide your email address and/or contact details.

Contact details:



2. TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Services to be provided
<p>1. Does the demo you are involved foresee the engagement of residential (e.g. either derived from consumer via the participation in demand response schemes or via assigned contracts with aggregators or) flexibility in the energy market services? YES/NO, elaborate briefly your response</p>
<p>2. Do you believe that there is enough capacity installed of engaged residential consumer to assess the impact of your demo? Please provide an explanatory response for your demo.</p>
<p>3. Do you believe that there is need for an additional service or hardware component that would steer or further promote prosumers'/consumers' flexibility? If yes could you please elaborate your response?</p>
<p>4. Do you think that the new applications - that the external parties will develop - should aim to the user engagement flexibility focusing on (a) a service/solution that will run behind-the-meter, or (b)</p>

the creation of local energy communities (or small condominiums) (c) an IEGSA additional component that will allow consumers/prosumers to offer directly services to DSOs? Please elaborate on your selection/ answer and provide insights for this development.

5. If not included above, please elaborate what demos' further needs applicants could cover?

3. POTENTIAL APPLICANTS

Beneficiaries characteristics

1. Given your answers above, please propose targeted audience for the cascade funding task considering the pre-requisite of being SMEs and start-ups

Please comment on your answers if necessary



Thank you very much for your answers!

ANNEX 2: Business Use Case Definition Templates

For the definition of the BUCs that are selected to be published to templates were conducted. The reason for this, was to secure that potential applicants will be able to understand the initiative of each business case and its demands, as well as for applicants to know the exact workflow that they should follow to implement their case.

TEMPLATE 1

1. Business case title

Please try to give a title.

Ex. Call for (who?) to develop (what?)

2. Who?

Please describe the above *who* shortly.

3. What?

Please describe the above *what* shortly. Define the services that applicants are asked to develop.

What is the novelty and the scope focusing on the added value.

4. Pre-defined sectors

SMEs from the fields of energy service provision, network operation, aiming to extend INTERFACE state-of-the-art technologies and provide new energy services that will be adopted by operators and consumers are welcomed to apply.

Please add the sectors that are more relevant to your business case (challenge). If the above general description is irrelevant please delete.

5. Activities fields to be prioritized

The Call is open to:

SMEs, mid-caps and start-ups,

Tech (innovative companies) **or non-tech** (traditional industries)



Please complete the activities fields. Please delete whatever is not relevant

Energy storage



Aggregator



RES		Heat producer	
Building		Industry	
Software enterprise		XXXX	



6. Challenges to be addressed by the proposals

Please elaborate

7. SMEs Benefit from the INTERFACE Open Call

Please elaborate

8. Business Cases

Please describe your business case

The proposal needs to describe the business case that drives the project.

TEMPLATE 2

1. Business case title

Please give a title.

Ex. Call for (who?) to develop (what?)

2. Addressed to:

Please describe the expertise fields of Third Parties you are addressing. What kind of entity could be a potential applicant?

3. Specific service/tool/API or else

Please describe the “service” applicants have to develop.

Type of service:

Technical details: (input-output data, time frame application, clustering types etc)

4. Demo area

Please name the demo area that the service will apply to, if so.

5. Description of the business case

Please describe your business case

Initiative:

Exact Workflow (including the party that this toolbox will be accommodated in and/or where assessment/validation will take place within a realistic setup?)

Expected outcome:

6. Important information for applicants

Please provide links with technical details that applicants can be aware of.

7. Added value on INTERFACE project

Please describe the added value and overall impact.

i.e. How this service/tool will interact with the INTERFACE system (the IEGSA or the local tools and applications that are being developed by the demos)

8. Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for household consumers

Describe if somehow the service will address one of the targets of EU for cascade funding



9. Third Parties benefit from getting involved in the business case

If the same with your answer to question 7 of previous template, no need to fill in

10. Duration of development

max. 6 months (starting M36)

11 Total budget per Third Party

Max. 60.000 euros (also including market design, access, product definitions, etc. , < 20% for consumables and equipment)

12. Contact person for the mentoring/ development process

Selected applicants will be mentored via the service development.

13. Selected proposal per business case

Not yet defined. It depends on the final number of the business cases announced. We intend to have at least one selection per business case.

ANNEX 3: Guide for Applicants

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Definitions

INTERFACE
TSO-DSO-Consumer INTERFACE architecture to provide innovative grid services for an efficient power system. INTERFACE is a H2020 48-month Research and Innovation action. INTERFACE project is funded by the European Union and the Horizon 2020 programme, under Grant Agreement no 824330.
IEGSA
INTERFACE project designs, develops and exploits an Interoperable pan-European Grid Services Architecture (IEGSA) to act as the interface between the power system (TSO and DSO) and the customers and allow the seamless and coordinated operation of all stakeholders to use and procure common services. State-of-the-art digital tools based on blockchain and big data management provide new opportunities for electricity market participation and thus engage consumers into the INTERFACE proposed market structures that will be designed to exploit 'every little piece' of Distributed Energy Resources.
SOTA
State-Of-The-Art digital technologies
NRA
National Regulatory Authority
Prosumer
An individual who produces energy besides consuming.
Transparency Platform
One of the most crucial part of the market transparency requirement is the data publication. This requirement is addressed by the EU regulation, (EU) No 543/2013 of 14 June 2013 on submission and publication of data in electricity markets. Through this regulation, it has become mandatory for European Member State data providers and owners to submit fundamental information through the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform (TP).
Aggregator
An aggregator is an agent who takes responsibility for integrating the different energy resources it is willing to manage, participating actively in the electricity market and managing the risks of the energy consumers at the same time. Aggregators operate influenced because of the price signals in the electricity market and the consumption to which they must respond.
Demand Response (DR)
DR refers to utility, transmission system or market operators where energy customers (consumers and prosumers) can voluntarily participate and make profits by reducing consumption during peak and/or contingency periods.
Flexible Demand
A flexible demand is one that is sensitive to a change in price, modifying its consumption to adapt to the power demand required.
Cascade funding
Cascade funding or also known as Financial Support for Third Parties is a European Commission mechanism to distribute public funding in order to assist beneficiaries. This funding method aims at simplifying the administrative procedures, creating a light application scheme, by allowing that some EU-funded projects may issue, in turn, open calls for further funding. This scheme was first introduced by the European Commission in Horizon 2020, the Framework Program for Research and Innovation (2014-2020).
Third Parties
Other legal entities which participate in Horizon 2020 by carrying out some tasks in an action, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement (including entities linked to the beneficiaries) are considered as "third parties involved in an action" (Article 8 of the General Model GA - multi-beneficiary). They



are not bound by the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and consequently, the European Union (represented by the Commission or another funding body) has no obligation vis-à-vis third parties. If necessary to implement the action, beneficiaries may use contracts and sub-contracting for the purchase of goods, works or services, in-kind contributions provided by third parties and also linked third parties carrying out tasks under an action.

SMEs

Entities having up less than 250 employees and up to an annual turnover of 50 million € or up to a balance sheet total of 43 million €. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361. (https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en)

Start-up

A startup is an independent, organisation, which is younger than five years and is aimed at creating, improving and expanding a scalable, innovative, technology-enabled product with high and rapid growth. Detailed definition of a start-up is sited on the following link:
<https://europeanstartupnetwork.eu/vision/>

Model Contract

A legal contract signed between the project representative organisation and the Third Parties selected to be funded. The Model Contract regulate (i) the conditions of transfer and usage of the cascade funding, (ii) the IPR rules, and (iii) the other collaboration mechanisms. More information can be found in Section 6.5 of this Guide (Contract Setup Process).

Cascade funding partner

The INTERRAFACE partner responsible for the cascade funding grant.

Support team

A project body, composed of certain partners that are connected to the open call.

1. Overview of the INTERFACE Open Call

This document summarizes the main features of the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties under the INTERFACE project that will be launched on [March 30, 2021](#) with a [deadline of June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET \(Brussels time\)](#).

It serves as a complement to the following documents (and their annexes):

- the “Open Call Announcement”
- the “Proposal Template”

This document provides additional information for the submission of proposals and the evaluation process in the framework of the INTERFACE project. It serves as a helpful guide and does not supersede the Open Call Announcement and Model Contract Funding Agreement documents.

INTERFACE is a project funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme LC-SC3-ES-5-2018-2020: TSO-DSO-Consumer: Large-scale demonstrations of innovative grid services through demand response, storage and small-scale (RES) generation under Grant Agreement N° 824330.

INTERFACE project aims to better facilitate and contribute to the evolution of a well-functioning, smart pan-European power network with high flexibility that will host an increasing share of renewable energy sources, through the collection and exchange of trading and fundamental data at market participant level.

The objectives of the INTERFACE project and specifically (a) the close collaboration of all market players it envisions, (b) the emphasis given on data management, quality and transparency as well as (c) the incorporation of novel technologies and the incentivization of consumers to actively participate in the market, assure the full harmonization of the project with European policy and current practices, and the fulfilment of significant and trending issues.

It identifies the need for common (i.e. European) new Network Codes or for the amendment of the existing ones due to the evolution of the European electricity system towards a market design and aims to improve the coordination between the DSOs and the TSOs, and use in the most efficient way the resources connected to the distribution grids, while at the same time empowering the smallest network users (SMEs, small generators, households, local energy communities and prosumers in general).

The INTERFACE project started on 1st of January 2019 and has a duration of 48 months.

The INTERFACE Consortium is coordinated by European Dynamics Luxembourg SA (ED) and composed of 42 partners from 16 European countries (Luxembourg, Greece, Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Slovenia, Cyprus, Serbia, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Spain, Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Portugal).



With this Open Call, INTERFACE is looking for developers of innovative energy services that will use and extend the INTERFACE developments in order to enable the utilization of flexibility services into the energy marketplaces.

INTERFACE Open Call is looking for up to 7 Third Parties to develop and/or extend different infrastructures and state-of-the-art technologies of INTERFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by INTERFACE's pilots.

Participants are asked to address solutions that promote and enable flexibility of end-users. More specifically, the proposed functionalities aim to increase flexibility awareness and flexibility needs along the grids, attracting more flexibility players into the marketplaces. Among the solutions are requested:

- Utilization of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data
- Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA
- Aggregators and Local Energy Communities Intelligence services for congestion management
- An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community
- Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers
- Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

Beneficiaries will be given a 6 month period (maximum) to implement their proposal with the mentoring of INTERFACE Support Team.

More information available: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

Subscription for free (to get updated on INTERFACE Project & INTERFACE Open Call): <https://interface.us14.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=306107849ae3e8737e959c561&id=c9e69a03ac>

Open Call Helpdesk: interface_opencall@interface.eu

2. Technical Description

INTERFACE project aim at the development of Integrated panEuropean Grid Services Architecture (IEGSA). The IEGSA concept aims to fulfil the vision of the EU to “promote the network operators procure services (such as balancing, congestion management and ancillary services) from assets connected to the network both at transmission and at distribution level, in a coordinated way. This will enable more efficient and effective network management and optimisation, for the benefit of increased demand response and the ability to integrate increasing shares of renewables. The same pool of resources will be used by Transmission System Operators (TSOs) and Distribution System Operators (DSOs): actions by both can mutually affect each other. In cooperation with market participants and national.

IEGSA includes the design of an open architecture and its IT implementation, to provide a platform with the following characteristics:

- Provides the working space with the necessary modules, within this interdisciplinary and multi-national trading environment, to promote a systematic way of operation and coordination between actors, which adopts international standards;
- Addresses data interoperability and adjusts data granularity by designing and developing an integrative and modular interoperable data governance middleware;
- Incorporates existing tools and IT platforms being used from energy actors to accomplish their services, as well as different models that prescribe TSO/DSO/market participants’ connections;
- Adopts advanced tools and technologies, as integral part of the system, to serve the purpose of each demonstrator vision and their defined business requirements, to revolutionize power system operation, enable the TSOs and DSOs to procure feasible grid services and give incentives to all customers to participate into the market.

2.1. Business Use Cases (BUC)

INTERFACE project makes use of the cascade funding mechanism that offers financial support to developers of innovative services to propose functionalities towards flexibility. To achieve this goal, applicants are asked to address one of the six business use cases described below.

2.1.1. No 1. : Utilization of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data

As flexibility markets improve and become an important part of the energy markets, more information is expected to become available and its accessibility should be ensured to all market players in a transparent manner. In order to achieve that, there is a need to specify these requirements from the perspective of all market players in addition to national regulatory aspects. Therefore, the enhancement of market transparency will help other external market players to better position themselves in the market. The



focus of this Business Use Case is to provide a comprehensive frame for available dataset, indicating the regions that are in need of flexibility products and hence, this will create new business opportunities for flexibility system providers.

The main purpose is to develop solutions that utilize the existing data on the platform in a way which results in usable, well visualized information for flexibility service providers. In particular, the applicant should address one or more of the following challenges:

- Creating a common ground for all participants and benefit from utilizing revealed information from the perspective of flexibility markets and congestion management;
- Providing useful information on grid level, without compromising sensitive data from the perspective of system operators;
- Defining a common dataset that will serve to improve transparency in an environment with diversified flexibility products;
- Encouraging prototypes/pilots that gather and publish transparency data for flexibility markets or flexibility for congestion management;
- Provide recommendations for changes from regulatory point of view.

Please advise Annex 2 for the complete description of BUC No 1.

2.1.2. No 2. : Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA

Lately, the ambitions of European Commission to enable consumers and prosumers to take part in the energy transition, have been highlighted in several initiatives such as the Clean Energy Package [Directive (EU) 2019/944]. Free flow of data and access to market information is of essential importance to ensure transparent and nondiscriminatory participation to flexibility marketplaces.

Transparency Platform is a regulated platform and data is published according to legal obligations. Therefore, data for flexibility markets will be published on Transparency Platform after a regulatory framework is constituted. However, in order to improve IEGSA's capabilities a new application/tool/service can be developed to serve as a data provider for IEGSA. This Business Use Case asks applicants to investigate business case for developing new solutions which may include the following:

- Analyze current developments and transparency needs of already operating flexibility platforms in order to define common datasets that will serve to improve transparency for flexibility market participants;
- Develop and build prototypes (platforms/systems/modules/applications/extensions) that serve as pilots for providing transparency data for flexibility markets;
- Design and develop a platform that can serve as a Data Provider of the IEGSA – The proposed solution should accept raw data that is extracted and provided by IEGSA (such as available capacities of the flexibility resources; price, offered & activated volumes of proposed bids for reserve market), transform and aggregate it based on specific criteria and be flexible enough in order to submit data in a structure that will be defined at a later stage when the Transparency Platform becomes ready to accommodate the flexibility datasets both from regulatory and IT perspectives. Moreover, the proposed solutions should be able to work with CIM compliant profiles (such as Reserve Bid Market Document, Balancing Market Document, Activation Market Document, Acknowledgement Market Document) or custom profiles that are CIM based and should be able to report to the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform using one or more of the standard communication channels acceptable.

- Open Call participants are encouraged to propose solutions that address as many datasets with added value for the flexibility markets as possible.

Please advise Annex 3 for the complete description of BUC No 2.

2.1.3. No 3. : Aggregators and Local Energy Communities (LEC) Intelligence services for congestion management

In the future energy market, Aggregators, Large users and Local Energy Communities (LEC) will be able to provide Flexibility to the System Operators (TSO and DSO) by managing Flexibility Resources (FRs) grouped to compose Flexibility Products (amount of flexibility of power in a certain period). In this context, it is very important for Aggregators, Large Users and LEC to be able to define in advance (day-ahead) the most profitable time of the day at which provide flexibility and to quantify it, accordingly, in an optimal way.

This Business Use Case is looking for tools/software and algorithms that will be able interact or will be implemented and integrated in the existing Aggregator platform (developed by INTERRFACE partners in the Demo). The expected outputs of this toolbox is to derive: i) the optimal planning of FP to be offered the day-ahead to the market; ii) the optimal strategy to activate the FR according to the Flexible Products qualified.

Please advise Annex 4 for the complete description of BUC No 3.

2.1.4. No 4. : An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community (LEC)

This call is open to third parties interested in optimally operating a LEC equipped with a significant amount of battery-based energy storage system (BESS), a photovoltaic (PV) power generating unit, and an automatic control system (interoperated via IEGSA platform), with the main objective of participating in both energy and ancillary service markets.

Third parties participating in this call should have broad knowledge of electricity markets and energy systems, while being highly specialized on IT-technology, in order to materialize and demonstrate the effectiveness of the system at the end-user/community level and how to it can be integrated at the market-level (through IEGSA). The purpose of this business use case is to optimally operate demand from a LEC (assisted by a significant amount of energy storage) as a flexible energy resource connected to the distribution grid with the aim of: i) reducing energy cost for the end-users, and ii) providing flexibility and ancillary services to the grid operators (regulation, congestion, and ancillary services) by controlling the collective net demand.

Please advise Annex 5 for the complete description of BUC No 4.

2.1.5. No 5. : Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers

This business use case is looking for potential applicant in the role of a Flexibility Service Provider (FSP) including aggregator with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service provider is expected to connect to the API of the developed IT systems and offer their flexible resources to the piloted market. This means that the FSP would be required to be able to carry out an activation with a specified flexible resource.

A FSP has to submit their resources for resource qualification before it can be forwarded to one or more markets where it can be traded and bidded on. The registration is handled by the Flexibility Register which also stores the trading results and receives metering data. May need parallel registration and agreement signing with local TSO / DSO.

The DSO-TSO Coordination Platform determines which System Operator is responsible for the qualification of which particular resource or a set of resources and uses preconfigured procedures to perform the resource qualification. The qualification result is returned and stored into the local Flexibility Register.

Please advise Annex 6 for the complete description of BUC No 5.

2.1.6. No 6. : Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

In transmission and distribution networks, congestion occurs in cases where the networks cannot process all the transactions due to violations of operating limits. Congestion management is a mechanism to prioritize the transactions to keep the network operations within their nominal limits. The case story refers to the scheme where an aggregator is an intermediate agent between the distribution system operator and a number of distributed energy resources. The interaction between the aggregator and operator includes flexibility offers and requests. The flexibility of the generation units will contribute to congestion management.

The workflow will include different scenarios of installed capacities of generation units and renewable penetration shares in order to solve an extended power flow analysis. The outputs will refer to the determination of identification indexes of congestion management resources.

Please advise Annex 7 for the complete description of BUC No 6.

2.2. Challenges to be addressed by the proposals

The Business Use Cases within this Open Call enlisted above aim to promote flexibility that stems from various levels. More particularly, the objectives of the BUCs attract flexibility service through increased awareness of flexibility needs. End-users' participation is deemed to take place via demand response schemes either signed with aggregators or balance service providers or via the participation in Local Energy Communities.

2.3. Third Parties' Benefit from the INTERFACE Open Call

Third Parties via this Open Call will have the opportunity to "play" in the electricity market field, and more specifically to access ready concepts and infrastructures (as they have been developed within the activities of the INTERFACE project), be supported by mentors and exploit their use cases to successfully reach the market.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants will have to abide to the requirements described in this Chapter of this Guide for Applicants in order to be considered eligible.

3.1. Eligible for Financial Support

Financial support will be provided to any legal entity possessing a validated Participant Identification Code (PIC). Financial support can be offered to public or private bodies, research organisations, non-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises, international organisations, international organisations of EU interest, established in an EU Member State or in an Associated Country (as stated in Article 7 of the Horizon2020 Regulation.) Associated to H2020 countries are enlisted on following link: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/3cp/h2020-hi-list-ac_en.pdf

3. 2. English Language

The official language for INTERRFACE Open Call shall be in English. Proposals must be written in English to a full extent.

If any part of the proposal is written in any language other than English, the entire proposal will be rejected. English is the only official language during the whole procedure of the INTERRFACE Open Call for Third Parties. Any requested deliverables and/or reports shall be submitted only in English, otherwise not accepted.

3. 3. Multiple Submissions

Only one proposal per applicant can be submitted to the INTERRFACE Open Call. If more than one proposal per applicant is identified by the INTERRFACE Team, only the first one submitted in order of time, will be evaluated.

3. 4. Submission System

Only proposals submitted through the INTERRFACE Open Call portal (<https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/>) within the given deadline will be accepted. Proposals submitted by any other means, will not be evaluated. All potential applicants should register beforehand to the portal to receive additional material, such as proposal template, declaration of honor, etc. and updates (if any) regarding the process.

Only the documentation included in the Proposal Template and in the attachments to the above Template will be reviewed by Evaluators. The proposal and attachments can be only in PDF format. Please note that the information included in the attachments will not be scored by Evaluators (as it is only considered as additional information supporting the proposal).

It is the Applicant's responsibility to have all necessary information included in the Proposal Template. All data provided should be actual, true and complete and therefore allow the assessment of the proposal.

3. 5. Deadline

Only proposals submitted before the deadline will be accepted. Online submission system will automatically block after the deadline.

The deadline for INTERRFACE Open Call is [Wednesday, the 30th of June, 2021 \(17:00h CET Brussels time\)](#).

3. 6. Absence of Conflict of Interest

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with the INTERRFACE Open Call process, from application phase to selected proposal's implementation phase.

All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. Conflict of interest may occur when there are conditions, involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest, that might affect the objective evaluation of the proposal, as defined in the H2020 and EC regulations.

Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators have not the right to participate.

3. 7. Other

Each applicant when submitting the proposal agrees that:

- the proposal submitted is based on original work and in advance any expected developments are free from Third Party rights, otherwise they are clearly stated.
- the proposal is not excluded under the provisions of article 19 of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 (ethical principles).
- He/she understands and will sign all statements embodied in the Declaration of Honor document in case the proposal is selected. The Declaration of Honor document available here: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>
- he/she is not “undertaking in difficulty” according to the COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) No 651/2014 (Article 2.18)
- he/she is not excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of EU rules and regulations and/or national law.
- he/she has received knowledge of the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy of the Open Call portal (<https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/terms-of-service-and-privacy-policy/>) and of the Processing of Personal Data included in Annex 1 of this Guide of Applicants.

4. Financial Support and Payment Conditions

4.1. Origin of Funds

In the H2020 Framework programme and according to the H2020 Rules for Participation Regulation No 1290/2013 (Article 23.7) “an action may involve financial support to third parties under the conditions defined in the Financial Regulation and the Rules for Application. The maximum amount of financial support is 60 000 EUR per third party.”

(complete document available:

https://www.ffg.at/sites/default/files/downloads/page/h2020guidancenote_financialsupport2thirdparties.pdf)

Therefore, INTERRFACE launches this Open Call to attract, select and provide financial support to third parties in order take up the infrastructure developed and deployed in the INTERRFACE project and demonstration areas, and create new services. Open Call Services will be published on INTERRFACE Open Call portal and on a Special Edition INTERRFACE Newsletter.

Selected third parties for funding will sign a Model Contract Funding Agreement with INTERFACE Consortium. The funds provided in the framework of INTERFACE project are funds owned by the European Union, whose management has been led to INTERFACE partners via the Grant Agreement Number 824330. INTERFACE is a mere holder and manager of the funds.

The relationship between selected applicants (legal entities with projects selected for funding by INTERFACE Open Call) and the INTERFACE Consortium, as well as obligations by the selected applicants to both the INTERFACE Consortium and to the European Commission, will be detailed in the Model Contract Funding Agreement. It is the responsibility of the selected applicants to fulfil these obligations, and for the INTERFACE Consortium to inform selected applicants about them.

4.2. Costs covered by Cascade Funding

The total funding provided by INTERFACE Open Call to each Third Party cannot exceed 60,000 €. According to European Commission rules, up to 20% of the budget can be reserved for equipment and consumables needed to implement the business use case.

Only costs generated during the lifetime of the service implementation can be eligible. Please note that costs must be actually incurred (actual costs) and must be used for the lone purpose of achieving the objectives of the business use case and its expected results, in accordance with the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

4.3. Financial Support Criteria and Rules

The financial support follows the EU funding scheme (70% funding for for-profit organizations, 100% for non-profit organizations). They will receive a pre-financing of up to 25% of their respective total cascade fund. Further payments will be delivered after successful completion of milestones and/or deliverables.

The Cascade Funding Partner (responsible for the funding payments) will be authorized by the Project Coordinator to proceed with the payments when all necessary justifications (deliverables, reports and financial documents) - in fulfillment of the Model Contract Funding Agreement- are submitted by the Third Parties and accepted.

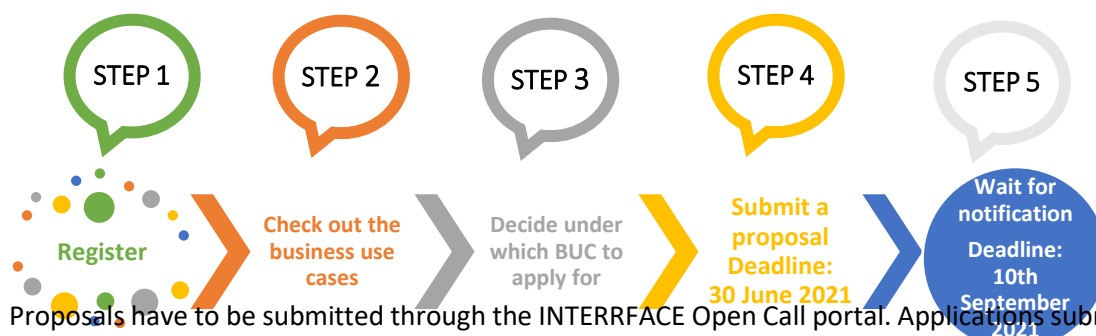
The Cascade Funding Partner can proceed with a payment only if all the conditions described in the Model Contract Funding Agreement are satisfied or if a sufficient evidence document is provided by the Selected Third Parties and accepted by the Project Coordinator and the Support team that is monitoring the action.

5. Proposal Submission

INTERFACE Open Call key dates:

- March 30 2021 – Submission opening
- June 30, 17:00 CET – Submission deadline
- By September 10, 2021 – Results Announcement
- 10 business days after results publication – Objections
- Late October– Ends Contracting Period
- December 2021 to May 2022 – Implementation period

APPLICATION STEP



Proposals have to be submitted through the INTERFACE Open Call portal. Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered for funding. All potential applicants should register beforehand to the portal to receive additional material, such as proposal template, declaration of honor, etc. and updates (if any) regarding the process.

The proposals – submitted only through the online tool – will include the following sections:

- Legal and Contact Information
- Proposal Description
- (Scored) IMPACT
- (Scored) TECHNICAL QUALITY
- (Scored) QUALITY OF THE WORK PLAN

As noted above (Section 3.5), additional material/data, not specifically required in the Proposal Template, will not be assessed. The INTERFACE Consortium makes its best effort to keep all provided data confidential. However, for the avoidance of doubt, the Applicant is the lone responsible to indicate its confidential information as such.

Applicants are strongly recommended not to wait for a last minute proposal submission. Failure for the proposal to arrive in time whatever reason, including extenuating conditions, will result in the proposal's rejection.

Applicants are the sole responsible for the verification of the Proposal Template completeness. Data not included in the Proposal Template will not be taken into account for assessment disregarding the reason for not being included.

PROPOSAL CONTENT

Only one proposal with a clearly identified partner can be submitted. Content and structure should be based on the Proposal Template and address the issues detailed in this Guide for Applicants.

PROPOSAL LENGTH

The cover page and administrative data like partner details and proposal name shall not exceed two pages. The maximum length of the main proposal is 10 pages. Please read carefully the instructions in the Proposal Template document available on the following link: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

PDF file with less than 10MB in size

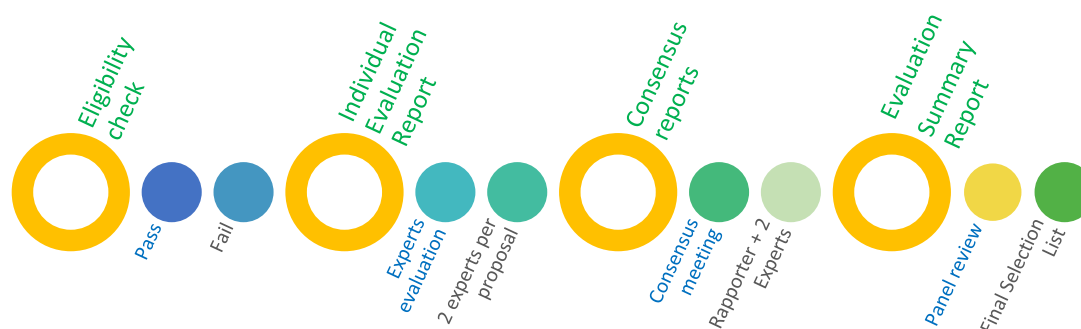
6. Summary of evaluation process

The call and the selection of the third parties to be funded shall follow the same principles which govern European Commission calls as described in the Guide for applicants:

- **Excellence.** The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call;
- **Transparency.** Funding decisions must be based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants should receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals;
- **Fairness and impartiality.** All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants;
- **Confidentiality.** All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence;
- **Efficiency and speed.** Evaluation, award and grant preparation should be as rapid as possible, commensurate with maintaining the quality of the evaluation, and respecting the legal framework.

The guiding principles for evaluators are also outlined on the following video: https://ec.europa.eu/info/animated-briefing-independent-experts_en

The evaluation workflow is described on the following chart:



6.1. Eligibility check

INTERFACE Open Call Team performs a first check of admissibility and eligibility of submitted proposals. However, a proposal can be declared ineligible at any phase of the evaluation procedure. As a result, the 'Eligible Proposals List' will be set out.

Proposals are allocated to two Experts Evaluators according to their field of expertise by the Panel Coordinators.

6.2. Expert evaluation

Each eligible proposal is allocated to two Experts Evaluators according to their field of expertise. The two Experts Evaluators assess independently the eligible proposal and prepare an Individual Evaluation Report (IER).



Each evaluator will rank the proposal assigning a score¹ from 0 to 5 for each awarded criterion IMPACT, TECHNICAL QUALITY, QUALITY OF WORK PLAN and conduct an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). The default threshold for each criterion is 3 out of 5. The default overall threshold is 10 out of 15.

The proposals shall address the following awarded criteria:

1. Expected IMPACT aiming at strengthening the collaboration between network operators:

- What is the impact of the innovation on the needs of European and global markets?
- Is there a measurable enhancement in the grid when adapting the INTERFACE framework?
- To what extent has the proposal the potential to address future/ wider applications in the field?
- To what extent the proposal addresses the BUC's initiative/ requirements under which it is submitted?
- What is the quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR) and to manage research data where relevant?

2. TECHNICAL QUALITY:

- Is there clarity, pertinence, soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology?
- Are the use case and the technical approach for the adaptation/integration of requirements described in the BUCs clearly described?
- Are the use case and the technical approach in compliance with the INTERFACE architecture, INTERFACE tools and methodology?
- Does the proposed work goes beyond the state of the art, demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products/ services, new business models, etc.)?
- Excellence/ capacity of the applicant.

3. QUALITY OF WORK PLAN:

- Is the work plan coherent and effective and appropriate regarding the allocation of tasks and resources, and the justification of resources?
- To what extent the crucial risks (technical, commercial and other) to project success appear to have been identified and how effectively will these be managed?

6.3. Consensus meeting

Following the individual evaluations, a Consensus meeting will be realized for the exchange of views on the basis of the individual evaluations. The initiative is for the 2 Evaluators to come to an agreement on the comments provided for each criterion and decide the score that best matches the comments.

¹ The scores range from 0 to 5.

0 – Fails The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information;

1 – Poor The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;

2 – Fair While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;

3 – Good The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;

4 – Very good The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;

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

The outcome of all CRs will be an initial ranking list of the eligible proposals based on the individual scores assigned to each proposal.

6.4. Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)

The Evaluation Panel (Support Team and two experts) will identify the most promising candidates through a Panel Review Meeting. The scope of the Panel Review is to perform an additional quality check to the reports, to prioritise ex-aequo cases and to approve the final ranked list of proposals. The outcome will be strongly based on the ranking produced by the Experts Evaluators.

Proposals awarded the same score within the ranked list will be prioritized as described below:

- Proposals of SMEs and Start-ups will be given priority.
- Following this, proposals will be prioritised according to the scores for the criterion Impact.
- When these scores are equal, priority will be based on the scores for the criterion Technical Quality.
- When these scores are equal, any further prioritisation will be based on the criterion of the Gender Equality.

As an outcome of the Panel Review, one ranked list for the selected proposals (up to a maximum of 7 Third Parties) will be produced. A reserve list will also be produced with the next ranked proposals in case a selected Third Party fails to sign the Contract for any reason.

An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) with the results of the evaluation and the selection process will be communicated to the applicants by email and will be published on the INTERFACE Open Call website within 70 days from the submission closure.

7. Contract Funding Agreements process

Selected Applicants will be checked against the fulfilment of the legal requirements in order to proceed with the signature of the Model Contract Funding Agreement with the INTERFACE Consortium. Applicants included in the final ranking list will have to provide all necessary documentation required to prove their compliance with the Eligibility Criteria described in Section 3.

Specifically, selected applicants will have to provide the following documentation:

- **Legal existence.** An original of the Legal Entity Form together with copies of supporting documents such as Company Register, Official Gazette or other official document per country are required. These documents shall show the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and, if applicable, a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent) needs to be provided.
- Recent certificates issued by the appropriate national competent authorities that provides **evidence covering all taxes and social security contributions** for which the beneficiary is liable, including for example, VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions are required.
- A recent **extract from the judicial record** is required or, failing that, an equivalent certificate recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of establishment of the person proving that the above requirements are satisfied.
- An **original of declaration of honor** signed by the (legal) representative.

- **Bank account details:** The account where the funds will be transferred will be indicated through a bank identification form signed by the Third Party. The form has to be signed by the bank, otherwise a recent bank statement clearly showing the account holder, the bank name and the bank account (IBAN and BIC) is needed.
- **Signature of the Model Contract Funding Agreement.**

The above documentation will have to be provided within deadline communicated with the publication of the final ranking list (immediately or after the reserve list). If the requested documentation is not provided in time, this will directly end the Model Contract Funding Agreement process and applicants enlisted in the reserve list will substitute the above ones in order of ranking.

8. Applicants communication

8.1. General communication procedure

Applicants will receive communications after the eligibility check evaluation phase indicating if they passed or failed the eligible criteria. Following the evaluation summary report, communication will be sent to applicants eliminated, justifying the reasons for their proposal's exclusion. The Results Announcement is expected to be communicated within 70 days from the submission closure.

8.2. Objections

If an applicant considers that a mistake has been made or that the Evaluators have failed to comply with the rules of INTERRFACE Open Call for Third Parties or acted unfairly and that her/his interests have been prejudiced as a result, can send his/her objections for review 10 business days after the publication of the evaluation results to the following email address: interrface_opencall@interrface.eu

The objection shall be written in English and include the following information:

- Contact details (including postal and e-mail address).
- The subject of the objection.
- Information and evidence of the stated objections.

Anonymous emails will not be considered.

9. Obligations of the selected beneficiaries

Third Parties selected for funding must ensure that they comply with certain obligations originally detailed under the Grant Agreement between the INTERRFACE Project and the European Commission. These obligations are stated in the Contract Agreements signed between INTERRFACE representatives and the selected Third Parties.

When signing the Model Contract with INTERRFACE and therefore accepting to receive funding grants owned by the European Commission, Third Parties apply a relation between themselves and the European Commission through the INTERRFACE Project that carries a set of obligations to the Third Parties with the European Commission.

All selected third parties shall comply with the following obligations:

- Avoidance of conflicts of interest
- Confidentiality
- Dissemination of the action and visibility to the EU funding
- Liability for damages

Selected beneficiaries must accept the right of control of the European Commission, OLAF and the Court of Auditors and the right for the European Commission to make an evaluation of the impact of the action. In order to be able to fulfil these obligations, the contractual arrangements on the Third Parties will be included in the Contract Agreements (including control measures and/or reducing the financial support).

10. Project Implementation

Following the signing process of the Contract Funding Agreements, the selected Third Parties must implement the proposed services as described in their submitted proposals and in respect to the conditions detailed in their Contract Funding Agreement.

The Contract Funding Agreements enter into force on the date of the signature of the last signatory. However, the expected start date of the service's implementation phase is the date stated and agreed.

The implementation phase will be a single-phase process, with pre-defined deliverables and milestones to be achieved.

10.1 Project Execution

Projects need to expand upon and validate their service from a business and a technical perspective. All funding proposals will receive support from the INTERFACE Open Call Support Team to help them understand the technical requirements of the business use case they are addressing, including: online resources and documentation, webinars to provide information on IEGSA Platform and business use cases scope and demands. Expectations from the tasks, deliverables and/or reports of its proposal will be discussed via individual meetings between Third Party and its Support Team.

A number of deliverables are required minimum:

1. **Mid-term report:** Provide a description of the methodology (solution design, methodological approach, technical / business design, expected results, etc.)
2. **Final report:** Final solution technical / business design, results, tests, assessment, conclusions)

All required documentation and services are required to be submitted before the defined deadline. If a Third Party fails to have its service ready or to submit its documentation on schedule, they will not receive the cascade fund.

The overall duration of the implementation phase is up to 6 months with the possibility to extend two weeks for the quality improvement of the deliverables.

10.2 Payment breakdown

The amount of the cascade fund cannot exceed 60,000 euros per Third Party. The breakdown and the different percentages are explained in the table below.

TABLE. BREAKDOWN OF THE PAYMENT STAGE

Payment Portion	Stage
25%	Pre-financing for project work commencing
45%	Following the successful submission of the mid-term report
30%	Following the successful submission of the final report

11. Other considerations

11.1. Legal framework

Applicants must acknowledge that all data and documents provided through the INTERRFACE Open Call process will be used by the INTERRFACE Consortium, European Commission and other entities involved in this call from submission to selection and to support and funding procedures. Following the H2020 rules and guidelines, INTERRFACE partners have the right and will keep internal records including:

- A list of submitted proposals, identifying the name and address of applicants.
- Communications with applicants before proposals' submission deadline and during the evaluation process.
- Names and affiliations of the members of the Steering Committee.
- A copy of the submitted Proposal Templates assessed during the evaluation process.
- A record of all incidents occurred during the evaluation process and any deviation from the standard procedure.
- Copy of requests for payment and attached documentation.

Any data, knowledge and information communicated as confidential in the framework of an action shall be kept confidential, taking due account of European Union law regarding the protection of and access to classified information.

The selected Third Parties shall comply with national legislation, regulations and ethical rules in the countries where the service will be carried out.

11.2. Privacy

Personal data shall be collected, processed and published in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, also known as GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation). Please refer to Annex 1 of this Guide for regulations regarding the processing of personal data.

11.3. Ethical Issues

Research activities in Horizon 2020, and particularly INTERRFACE, should respect fundamental ethical principles, particularly those outlined in "The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity" that is available on the following link:
https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf

12. Available documents

All the INTERFACE Open Call documents and templates can be downloaded from the Open Call portal on the following link: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

This Open Call supporting documentation includes:

- Open call announcement
- Open call Guide of Applicants
- Open call Proposal Template
- Open call Declaration of Honor
- Open call Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

13. Applicants' Support

For more information and/or details about the INTERFACE Open Call, please advise the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document available here: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/frequently-asked-questions/>.

For additional information on the Open Call, any queries concerning eligibility criteria, data to be provided in the Proposal Template, or for questions with the submission process or any portal issues, please contact the INTERFACE Open Call Helpdesk by email: interrface_opencall@interrface.eu.

Please include the following data in your email message:

- username, telephone number and email address
- details of the specific problem (error messages, bugs descriptions, etc.)
- screenshots of the problem you encounter

ANNEX 1: Processing of personal data

Controller`s identity and contact details

The data controller is CINTECH SOLUTIONS LTD (Kipranoros 13,Evi Building, 2nd floor, Office: 201,1061 Nicosia,Cyprus)

In all matters regarding personal data, you can send email to: privacy@cintechsolutions.eu

Purposes, legal basis and processing period

The purpose of processing	Legal basis for processing	Period
To run an Open Call and collect data necessary to evaluate applications submitted in the Open Call	The legal basis for processing is the indispensability to implement the legitimate interest of the data controller, consisting in fulfilling the obligations laid down in the Grant Agreement (Article 5 Data Handling)	1 year from the end of the year in which the Project ended.
To realize the Project goals described in the Grant Agreement (communication, reporting, collaborating with other project partners)	The legal basis for processing is necessity to implement the legitimate interest of the data controller, consisting in effectively participating in the project and fulfilling the obligations laid down in the Grant Agreement (Article 5 Data Handling)	1 year from the end of the year in which the Project ended.
In order to consider potential complaints	The legal basis for processing is necessity to implement the legitimate interest of the data controller fulfilling the obligations laid down in the Grant Agreement (Article 5 Data Handling)	1 year from the end of the year in which the Project ended.

Processing of personal data by the selected Third Parties

The selected Third Parties must process personal data under the Contract Funding Agreement in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection. The selected Third Parties may grant their personnel access only to data that is strictly necessary for implementing, managing and monitoring the Agreement. The selected Third Parties must inform the personnel whose personal data are collected and processed by the Agency or the Commission.

Data receivers

Data controller will transfer personal data only to trusted recipients such as entities belonging to the INTERFACE Consortium, accountants, law firms, postal and courier companies (who process personal data on the controller's behalf).

In the framework of INTERFACE Project, data can also be transferred to other Consortium Partners (complete list of the Consortium partners is available at the email address: privacy@.....), European Commission and other affiliated entities.

Rights of data subject

For the reason that we process your personal data, you have the right to:

- a) request access to your personal data,
- b) demand the rectification of your personal data,
- c) request to remove or limit the processing of your personal data,
- d) data portability with respect to the personal data that you have provided to the controller
- e) complain with the supervisory authority (.....).

You also have the right to object to processing of your personal data (according to the Article 8.2 GDPR).

Information about voluntary or obligatory data provision

Providing data is voluntary, although it is necessary to participate in the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties. Without providing your data, it is not possible to contact you and evaluate the submission.

ANNEX 2_BUC No1: Utilization of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data

This action can be carried out by third parties who are actively playing a role in the development of flexibility markets or start-ups that are aiming to become a market player. Third parties from the fields of energy service provision and other platforms aiming to be part of TSO-DSO-Consumer value chain are welcome to apply.

Requested input

The participants in the Open Call will have the opportunity to get in-depth knowledge of the mechanisms used in the IEGSA platform. That will provide an excellent base to evaluate valuable market information that could be made transparent at the moment or potentially other information that could go into proposals for regulatory amendments in order to extend the mandatory reported information in the future. The participants can benefit from the opportunity to develop business models and pilot platforms that can exploit the transparency information for flexibility markets.

As flexibility markets improve and become an important part of the energy markets, more information is expected to become available and its accessibility should be ensured to all market players in a transparent manner. In order to achieve that, there is a need to specify these requirements from the perspective of all market players in addition to NRAs.

As an added benefit, the enhancement of market transparency will help other external market players to better position themselves in the market. Therefore, the focus of this Business Use Case is to provide a comprehensive frame for available dataset, indicating the regions that are in need of flexibility products and hence, this will create new business opportunities for flexibility system providers.

Specification of the requirements for transparency of flexibility markets shall take into account all the participants within the market. This should include system operators, flexibility service providers, consumer/prosumer groups, market operators, energy platforms and etc. Workshops and surveys may be facilitated among such players, if needed. By having a more transparent flexibility market, the following benefits can be achieved:

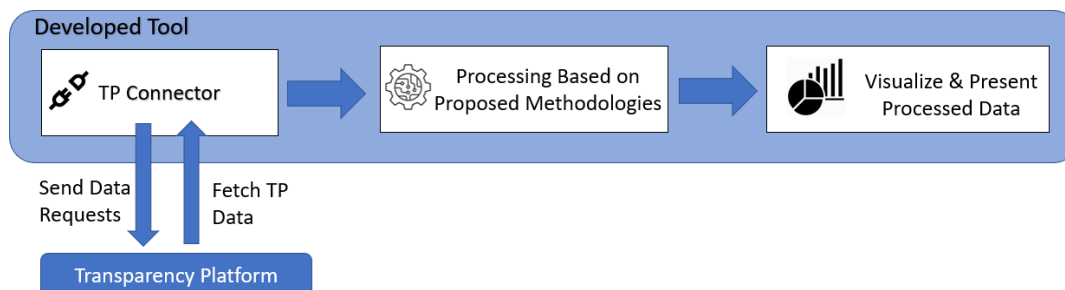
- More flexibility service providers may be attracted and trigger more investments. This will result in a more efficient and well-functioning market;
- Market players will better value their services;
- Attracting more players will increase reliability and security of supply;
- Providing investment signals where there is a need for increased flexibility capacity;
- Efficient congestion management can defer the need for grid enhancements;
- Having more efficient, liquid and competitive flexibility markets.

In order to achieve the benefits listed above the participants in the Open Call are requested to investigate business case for Utilization of existing data on the Transparency Platform. The main purpose is to develop solutions that utilize the existing data on the platform in a way which results in usable, well visualized information for flexibility service providers. In particular, the project should address one or more of the following challenges:

- Creating a common ground for all participants and benefit from utilizing revealed information from the perspective of flexibility markets and congestion management;
- Providing useful information on grid level, without compromising sensitive data from the perspective of system operators;



- Defining a common dataset that will serve to improve transparency in an environment with diversified flexibility products;
- Encouraging prototypes/pilots that gather and publish transparency data for flexibility markets or flexibility for congestion management;
- Provide recommendations for changes from regulatory point of view.



Available Data on Transparency Platform

In accordance with Regulation 543/2013, the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform was launched on 5 January 2015. Following the launch of the new platform, the www.entsoe.net website, on which TSOs had voluntarily published some market data since 2011, was de-commissioned in March 2015. The historical data from 2011-2014, which was previously published on entsoe.net, is available to download from the Transparency Platform > Data Pre-5.1.15 section at the following link:

https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/Static_content/legacy_data/year_selection.html

Currently, data on Transparency Platform is published under 7 different domains.

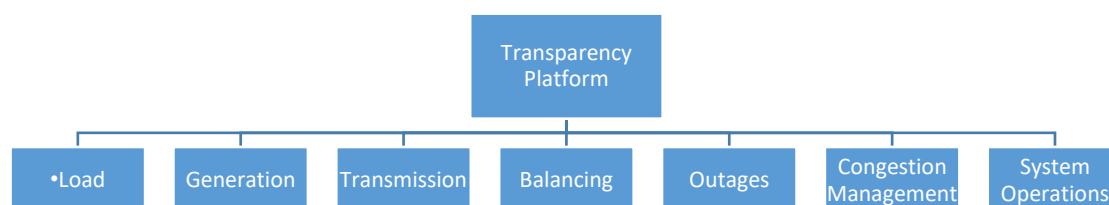


Figure 15. Data Domains on Transparency Platform

Load: Within this domain, actual total load for and load forecast data with various horizon (day, week, month, year) is presented.

Generation: Data regarding installed capacities, generation and generation forecast is presented.

Transmission: Data about cross border power transfers and forecasted capacities is revealed.

Balancing: Under this domain, data regarding to keep the electricity grid balanced is published. This includes bids data, accepted offers and activated reserve information including prices besides balancing state of the areas.

Outages: Within this domain, data regarding planned maintenances and forced outages in the grid is published.

Congestion Management: Data about actions taken to relieve overloaded parts of the transmission grid is published.

System Operations: Data about operational agreements and frequency quality is published.

Data Download Options from Transparency Platform

TP offers various ways of data export alternatives. In order to meet the different user needs, followings options are available:

- Web GUI – Transparency Platform (<https://transparency.entsoe.eu/>)
- SFTP – User Guide
(https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/Static_content/knowledge_base/SFTP-Transparency_Docs.html)
- Restful API – User Guide
(https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/Static_content/web_api/Guide.html)
- Data Repository Solution – User Guide
(https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/Static_content/data_repository/DataRepositoryGuide.html)
- Subscription Service – User Guide
(https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/download?path=/Static%20content/knowledge%20base/Subscription%20Configuration%20User%20Guide%20v0.1.pdf)

Users who are interested in limited amount of data can directly use GUI export option. On the other hand, SFTP is suitable for bulk data downloads but data available on SFTP refresh once every hour. On the contrary, Restful API can serve for the ones who are interested in the most recent updates on data. But there are also some limitations apply to API requests in terms of the number of requests per minute, the number of files to be downloaded per request and the time window allowed for queries depending on the data item of interest. The last option, Data Repository Solution allows download up to 50 MB. Requests are processed in the background, asynchronously, without imposing a load on the platform through a preferred channel for communication (Web service or ECP). Finally, the platform allows users to subscribe for a data feed in which the platform pushes updates to the user's endpoint through a web service or ECP channel.

Table 3. Overview of Download Options

Download Option	File Type	Data Updates
Web GUI	xml, csv, xlsx	Almost real time
SFTP	csv	Every hour
Restful API	xml	Almost real time
Data Repository	xml (zipped)	Almost real time
Subscriptions	xml	Almost real time

Conditions for Use of Transparency Platform Data

Conditions for use of TP data is defined by the Terms and Conditions within a dedicated section as follows:

“In accordance with the applicable legislation, the Data User shall, when using of the Transparency Platform Data for any purpose whatsoever:

- Use the Transparency Platform Data in good faith and always comply with good business practices regarding the re-use of publicly available data;
- Mention the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform as the source of publication of the data, in accordance with good industry practices and comply with all reasonable requests from ENTSO-E regarding the visibility of the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform origin of the re-used Transparency Platform Data;
- Be only allowed to make reference to the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform as the source of publication of the re-used data. It is therefore expressly prohibited to use the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform name or the ENTSO-E name in any manner that is likely to cause confusion regarding the possible existence of any kind of sponsorship or of endorsement of any use of the Transparency Platform Data by the Data User;
- Not cause prejudice to the copyright or related right on a Transparency Platform Data, which may be owned by the concerned Primary Owner of Data. In case of a risk to cause prejudice to said right, the Data User shall seek the prior agreement of the holder of the copyright or related right. Notwithstanding this requirement, as a facilitation for the Data User, ENTSO-E publishes on the Transparency Platform and regularly updates the list of the Transparency Platform Data which can be freely re-used with no need to seek for the prior agreement of the respective Primary Owner of Data. The Data User has responsibility to check this list before each re-use of the Transparency Platform Data.”
- The complete TP Terms and Policy documentation is available on the following link: https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/download?path=/Static%20content/terms%20and%20conditions/181108_ENTSOE_Transparency_Terms_Conditions_MC_APPROVED.pdf

The participants in the Open Call are requested to investigate business case for Utilization of existing data on the Transparency Platform and propose to develop solutions that utilize the existing data on the platform in a way which results in usable, well visualized information for flexibility service providers. Revealed data should include at least the below information:

- Flexibility needs of areas for balancing services
- Identification of possible congestion in transmission lines
- Identification of areas that may require demand response services
- Price distribution of the procured balancing reserves

Demo area

The proposed business use case address transparency of flexibility markets for the INTERFACE on general level.

Important information for applicants

Conditions for Use of Transparency Platform Data

The information published by ENTSO-E is submitted by data providers such as TSOs, power exchanges, allocation offices or other qualified third parties. Detailed information regarding the data published under above mentioned domains is available in the “Detailed Data Descriptions” document as referenced in the Manual of Procedures that can be found here: <https://www.entsoe.eu/data/transparency-platform/mop/>

Manual of Procedures (MoP), as required in Article 5 of Regulation 543/2013 is a technical guide, developed by ENTSO-E following the discussions with Stakeholders, a Public Consultation and review by ACER. The high-level description of MoP is given as follows:

- Details and format of the submission of data by primary owners to TSOs;
- Standardized ways and formats of data communication and exchange between primary owners of data, TSOs, data providers and ENTSO-E;
- Technical and operational criteria which data providers would need to fulfil when providing data to the central information transparency platform;
- Appropriate classification of production types referred to Articles 14(1), 15(1) and 16(1) of the Regulation.

MoP particularly addresses primary owners of data, data providers and data consumers.

Pursuant to Article 5 of the General Terms and Conditions of Use of ENTSO-E Transparency Platform, ENTSO-E the list of data which can be freely re-used by the Data Users with no need to seek for the prior agreement of the respective Primary Owner of Data (Transmission System Operators and Transmission Capacity Allocators) can be accessed via this link: https://transparency.entsoe.eu/content/static_content/download?path=/Static%20content/terms%20and%20conditions/191025_List_of_Data_available_for_reuse_v2_cln.pdf

Added value on INTERFACE project

The liberalization process of the electricity market in European Union brought up, among other things, new requirements related to the market transparency as the competitive pan-European electricity market cannot work efficiently without its participants having access to all information relevant for their decision-making.

Transparency is essential for the creation of efficient, liquid and competitive energy markets. It is also critical for creating a level playing field between market participants and avoiding the scope for market power (if it exists) to be abused. Market transparency enables the provision of the required electricity market information for the future and further facilitates the development of efficient and competitive energy markets across Europe.

One of the most crucial part of the market transparency requirement is the data publication. This requirement is addressed by the EU regulation, (EU) No 543/2013 of 14 June 2013 on submission and publication of data in electricity markets. Through this regulation, it has become mandatory for European Member State data providers and owners to submit fundamental information through the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform (TP).

Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for end-users flexibility

This Business Use Case is foreseen to take advantage of existing data sets in TP by several parties such as system operators, flexibility service providers, consumer/prosumer groups, market operators, energy platforms. This will enhance transparency for flexibility markets and more service providers may be attracted and trigger more investments, enabling also the way (e.g. more aggregators more end-users participation) for more efficient and well-functioning market.

ANNEX 3_BUC No 2. : Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA

This action can be carried out by third parties who are actively playing a role in the development of flexibility markets or start-ups that are aiming to become a market player. Third parties from the fields of energy service provision and other platforms aiming to be part of TSO-DSO-Consumer value chain are welcome to apply.

Requested input

The participants in the Open Call will have the opportunity to get in-depth knowledge of the mechanisms used in the IEGSA platform. That will provide an excellent base to evaluate valuable market information that could be made transparent at the moment or potentially other information that could go into proposals for regulatory amendments in order to extend the mandatory reported information in the future. The participants can benefit from the opportunity to develop business models and pilot platforms that can exploit the transparency information for flexibility markets.

As flexibility markets improve and become an important part of the energy markets, more information is expected to become available and its accessibility should be ensured to all market players in a transparent manner. In order to achieve that, there is a need to specify these requirements from the perspective of all market players in addition to NRAs.

As an added benefit, the enhancement of market transparency will help other external market players to better position themselves in the market. Therefore, the focus of this Business Use Case is to provide a comprehensive frame for available dataset, indicating the regions that are in need of flexibility products and hence, this will create new business opportunities for flexibility system providers.

Specification of the requirements for transparency of flexibility markets shall take into account all the participants within the market. This should include system operators, flexibility service providers, consumer/prosumer groups, market operators, energy platforms and etc. Workshops and surveys may be facilitated among such players, if needed. By having a more transparent flexibility market, the following benefits can be achieved:

- More flexibility service providers may be attracted and trigger more investments. This will result in a more efficient and well-functioning market;
- Market players will better value their services;
- Attracting more players will increase reliability and security of supply;
- Providing investment signals where there is a need for increased flexibility capacity;
- Efficient congestion management can defer the need for grid enhancements;
- Having more efficient, liquid and competitive flexibility markets.

In order to achieve the benefits listed above the participants in the Open Call are requested to investigate business case for developing new solutions which may include the following:

- Analyze current developments and transparency needs of already operating flexibility platforms in order to define common datasets that will serve to improve transparency for flexibility market participants;
- Develop and build prototypes (platforms/systems/modules/applications/extensions) that serve as pilots for providing transparency data for flexibility markets;
- Design and develop a platform that can serve as a Data Provider of the IEGSA – The proposed solution should accept raw data that is extracted and provided by IEGSA (such as available capacities of the flexibility resources; price, offered & activated volumes of proposed bids for reserve market),



transform and aggregate it based on specific criteria and be flexible enough in order to submit data in a structure that will be defined at a later stage when the Transparency Platform becomes ready to accommodate the flexibility datasets both from regulatory and IT perspectives. Moreover, the proposed solutions should be able to work with CIM compliant profiles (such as Reserve Bid Market Document, Balancing Market Document, Activation Market Document, Acknowledgement Market Document) or custom profiles that are CIM based and should be able to report to the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform using one or more of the standard communication channels acceptable.

Open Call participants are encouraged to propose solutions that address as many datasets with added value for the flexibility markets as possible.

Transparency Platform is a regulated platform and data is published according to legal obligations. Therefore, data for flexibility markets will be published on Transparency Platform after a regulatory framework is constituted. However, in order to improve IEGSA's capabilities a new application/tool/service can be developed to serve as a data provider for IEGSA.

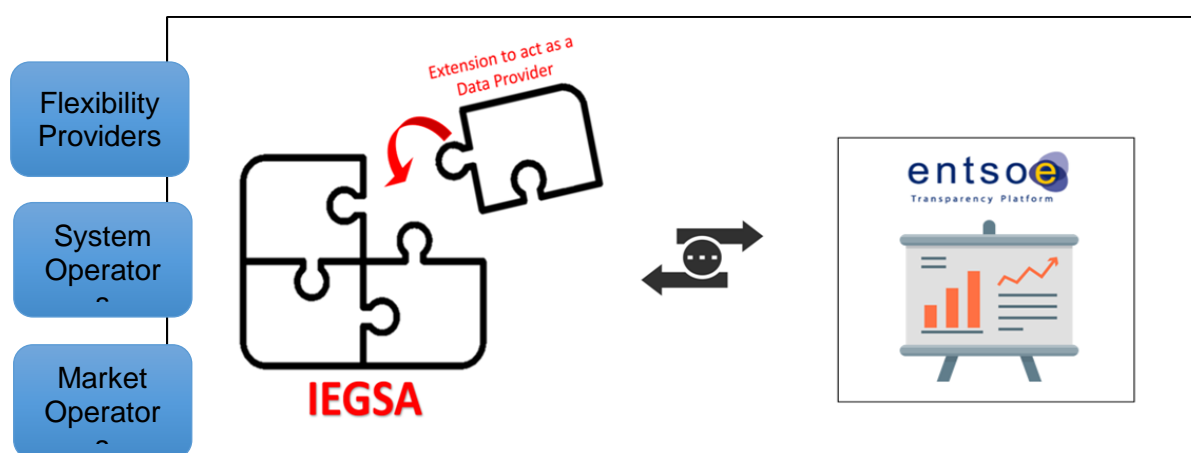


Figure 16. IEGSA as a Data Provider

IEGSA proposed architecture bundles for the operation of multiple actors such as System Operators, Balance Service Providers, Market Operators enabling the coordination among them. Several data exchange activities are performed within IEGSA utilizing CIM compliant formats. Consequently, the proposed toolbox shall be responsible to collect, process, extract and publish in the necessary data formats -following all the necessary procedures defined by the Manual of Procedures- at TP. Uploading such new information on the TP, as prospective legislation will address, can be of significant importance attracting more Flexibility Service Providers.

Meeting the Data Providers

In accordance with Article 4(1) of the Transparency Regulation, primary owners of data should normally submit their data to their TSOs in a manner that allows TSOs to process and deliver the data to the ENTSO-E TP. However, TSO's may delegate this activity to third parties which requires prior agreement and assessment of the third party from technical and operational point of view. Therefore, data providers can be grouped under the following categories:

- TSOs
- Exchange Offices
- Auction Offices
- Other (Platforms dedicated for reserve exchanges, etc.)

(In the case with INTERFACE, Flexibility Register Module can be a candidate for data provision.)

Data Submission Channels

Data providers should be compatible with the standardized way and format of data communication defined by Manual of Procedures (MoP) that can be found here: <https://www.entsoe.eu/data/transparency-platform/mop/>

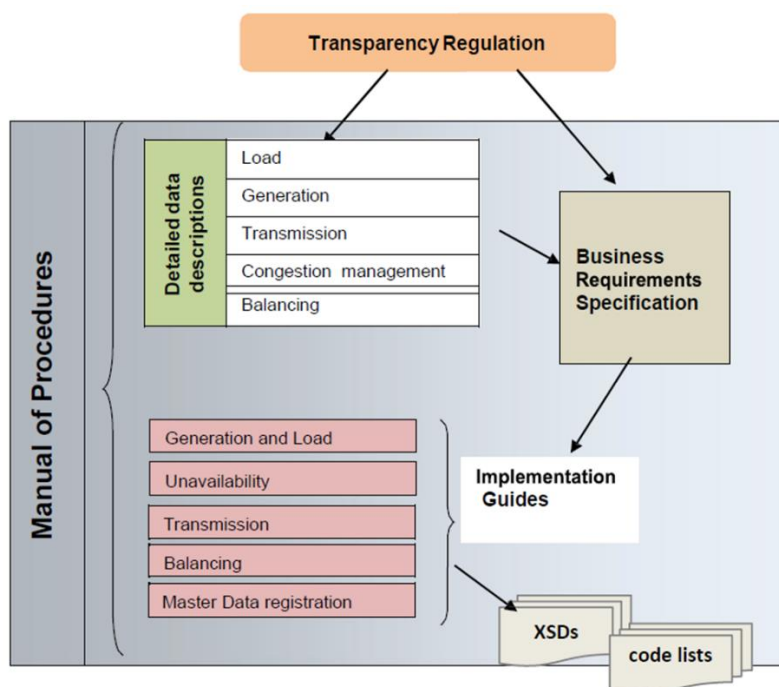


Figure 17. Manual of Procedures

Data providers can use the following channels for data upload to platform:

- Manual uploads
- ECP
- Web Service
- FTPS

In order to be able to submit data to platform, necessary settings and rights are provided to data providers by the administrator of Transparency Platform.

The participants in the Open Call are requested to investigate this business case for developing new solutions which may include the following:

- Analyze current developments and transparency needs of already operating flexibility platforms in order to define common datasets that will serve to improve transparency for flexibility market participants;
- Develop and build prototypes (platforms/systems/modules/applications/extensions) that serve as pilots for providing transparency data for flexibility markets;
- Design and develop a platform that can serve as a Data Provider of the IEGSA – The proposed solution should accept raw data that is extracted and provided by IEGSA, transform and aggregate it based on specific criteria and be flexible enough in order to submit data in a structure that will be defined at a later stage when the Transparency Platform becomes ready to accommodate the flexibility datasets both from regulatory and IT perspectives. Moreover, the proposed solutions should be able to work with CIM

compliant profiles or custom profiles that are CIM based and should be able to report to the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform using one or more of the standard communication channels acceptable.

▪ Open Call participants are encouraged to propose solutions that address as many datasets with added value for the flexibility markets as possible. Some examples of possible datasets are given below:

Data item	Description
1. Distributed energy resources	Information on installed generating capacity of assets connected at distribution level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nominal capacity Type of generation technology Voltage level
2. Demand-responsive assets	Total capacity of prequalified demand-responsive units per voltage level for each reserve market (FCR, aFRR, mFRR, RR)
3. Distributed flexibilities	Total capacity of prequalified generation units connected at distribution level for each reserve market (FCR, aFRR, mFRR, RR)
4. Residential photovoltaic production	Information on small-scale PV systems (< 1MW) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aggregated actual generation in bidding zone Day-ahead forecasts
5. Demand bids in balancing	Aggregated volumes and average prices of activated demand bids in FCR, aFRR, mFRR and RR
6. Curtailment of renewable production	Aggregated volumes of requested dispatch down of renewable energy production per type of generation (PV, wind) and per voltage level

Demo area

The proposed business use case address transparency of flexibility markets for the INTERRFACE on general level and improve IEGSA's capabilities to serve as a data provider for TP when a regulatory framework is constituted.

Important information for applicants

Data providers should be compatible with the standardized way and format of data communication defined by Manuel of Procedures (MoP) which can be found here: <https://www.entsoe.eu/data/transparency-platform/mop/>

Added value on INTERRFACE project

The liberalization process of the electricity market in European Union brought up, among other things, new requirements related to the market transparency as the competitive pan-European electricity market cannot work efficiently without its participants having access to all information relevant for their decision-making.

Transparency is essential for the creation of efficient, liquid and competitive energy markets. It is also critical for creating a level playing field between market participants and avoiding the scope for market power (if it exists) to be abused. Market transparency enables the provision of the required electricity market information for the future and further facilitates the development of efficient and competitive energy markets across Europe.

One of the most crucial part of the market transparency requirement is the data publication. This requirement is addressed by the EU regulation, (EU) No 543/2013 of 14 June 2013 on submission and publication of data in electricity markets. Through this regulation, it has become mandatory for European Member State data providers and owners to submit fundamental information through the ENTSO-E Transparency Platform (TP).

Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for end-users flexibility

The proposed functionality aims to bring the capability to IEGSA to feed the TP with new data related to the grid flexibility needs. This consequently may attract more aggregators and generally Balance Service Providers due to the comprehensive provided data that can be available via TP. End-users' (of all levels) participation is meant to be promoted due to the increasing interest of aggregators for the provision of ancillary services.

ANNEX 4_BUC No 3. : Aggregators and Local Energy Communities (LEC) Intelligence services for congestion management

This action can be carried out by companies specialized in artificial Intelligence, data science, software development, GUI's development. From the server's point of view, the technologies should be:

- ASP.Net Core 3.1
- Entity Framework Core 3.1.7
- MS SQL Server 2019 Express
- Python for AI algorithms

On the client side, the Angular framework is preferred to design the user interface and to allow interaction between stakeholders.

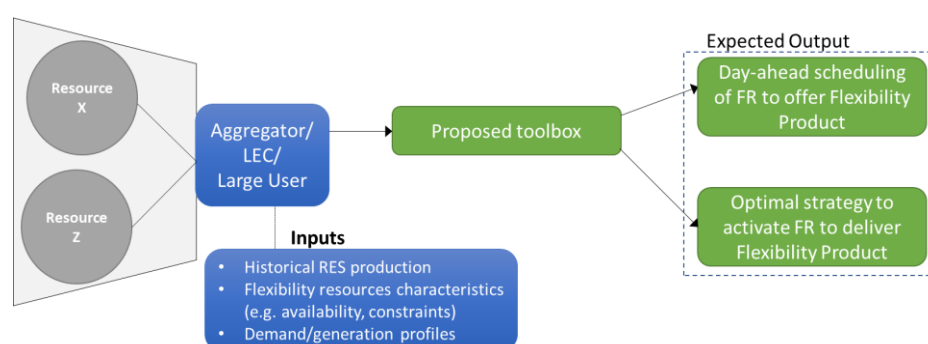
Requested input

Congestion management, aggregator and LEC platform available to register FR and flexibility products

In the future energy market, Aggregators, Large users and LEC will be able to provide Flexibility to the SOs (TSO and DSO) by managing Flexibility Resources (FRs) grouped to compose Flexibility Products (amount of flexibility of power in a certain period). In this context, it is very important for Aggregators, Large Users and LEC to be able to define in advance (day-ahead) the most profitable time of the day at which provide flexibility and to quantify it, accordingly, in an optimal way. At the same time, once the Flexibility Products have been qualified Aggregators, Large Users and LEC should optimize the management of FR by properly prioritizing their activation.

Services and tools to be implemented in the Aggregators/Large Users/LEC platform should assist the Aggregators both in defining, the day-ahead, the optimal flexibility to be offered to the market and in optimizing the management/activation of flexibility resources once the Flexibility Product (FP) is activated.

The tool will be necessary to optimize the FP the day-ahead and to optimally manage the flexibility resources once the FP will be activated.



Historical or simulated dataset of RES production of some consumer profile and of some profiles of flexibility resources; technical specifications of flexibility resources; API to be connected to existing platform. FR could be: EV charging stations, batteries, programmable loads at large or residential users.

Tools/software and algorithms will interact or will to be implemented and integrated in the existing Aggregator platform (developed by INTERFACE partners in the Demo). The output expected are: i) the

optimal planning of FP to be offered the day-ahead to the market; ii) the optimal strategy to activate the FR according to the FPs qualified. Indeed, not all the FPs could be qualified and FR could have a different profile/availability with respect to the foreseen day-ahead optimization profile.

The tool/service will receive FR data from the “Aggregator platform” (developed by INTERFACE partners in the Demo) and will elaborate optimal profile for FSP to be offered to the market via the IEGSA Flexibility Platform. After market sessions, SOs qualifies the FP in the IEGSA platform which sends results of activation to the Aggregator. The tools/services will receive from the “Aggregator platform” results of qualification and will develop an optimal management of FRs accordingly, by prioritizing their activation.

Demo area

Demo Area 1 (congestion management and balancing)

Workflow

The initial period of the cascade funding project, before the implementation phase, will be used to define both tools/services and KPI for their assessment.

In the implementation phase, the identified tools/services will be tested in two phases: during the first phase, they will be tested/simulated on historical data; in the second one, they will be tested in the real demo.

Important information for applicants

The Demo deals with:

- Aggregators of batteries
- Aggregators of EV charging stations
- Large User (CHP, smart building, water network, pumping station.)
- Local Energy Communities of 5-10 residential users/prosumers
-

Added value on INTERFACE project

The added value on INTERFACE project is the development of tools/services for final consumers and local energy communities

Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for end-users flexibility

The proposed tool will deal with optimizing the flexibility resources as matter of proposing the optimal scheduling for the provision of ancillary services in day-ahead stage. This enables the end-users (of any type) to assign contractual relationships with Aggregators for the provision of grid services, in order to receive proportional reimbursement. The day-ahead scheduling may promote the end-users to provide the temporal flexibility of their resources for grid services.

Third Parties benefit from getting involved in the business case

The innovative tools and business models can be tested in a real environment. The innovative tools and business models can be representative of future EU market developments.

ANNEX 5_BUC No 4. : An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community (LEC)

This call is open to third parties interested in optimally operating a LEC equipped with a significant amount of battery-based energy storage system (BESS), a photovoltaic (PV) power generating unit, and an automatic control system (interoperated via IEGSA platform), with the main objective of participating in both energy and ancillary service markets.

Third parties participating of this call should have broad knowledge of electricity markets and energy systems, while being highly specialized on IT-technology, in order to materialize and demonstrate the effectiveness of the system at the end-user/community level and how to it can be integrated at the market-level (through IEGSA).

Type of service:

The selected third party will optimally operate demand from a LEC (assisted by a significant amount of energy storage) as a flexible energy resource connected to the distribution grid with the aim of: i) reducing energy cost for the end-users, and ii) providing flexibility and ancillary services to the grid operators (regulation, congestion, and ancillary services) by controlling the collective net demand.

The third party will make use of the resources and automatic operational tools developed in INTERFACE demonstrator (T5.2) to manage the LEC. Some of the existing methods and operational tools of the demonstrator must be adapted and extended to meet the needs of the LEC manager to provide cheaper energy to end-users and flexibility services to grid operators. In this context, the third party will define innovative relationships and contracts among the LEC members. Moreover, it will manage the unified participation of the LEC in the energy market (directly or through a trader) and will also manage the interaction with systems operators for providing grid support services.

Technical details:

Optimal management of LEC allows organizing collective energy actions around open participation of the community members with a consensual governance, which provides financial benefits to such members and flexibility services to the grid operators. Hence, the optimal operation must be continuously defined in day-ahead and real-time fashion, based on forecasted values for generation and consumption of aggregated assets. It is important to highlight that the third party will hinge upon artificial intelligence algorithms and mathematical optimization to manage LEC assets.

The commercial building used as a demonstrator in T5.2 can be a good candidate to develop an innovative energy community. Such a building, divided in different departments that might be considered as individual users, presents a peak demand lower than 100 kW most of the time, and has installed 40 kWp PV on the roof (which is planned to be increased). Moreover, the building is fully observable through an energy monitoring system. Thanks to INTERFACE, this building will be equipped with a 200 kW/400 KWh BESS, which will enable it to extend its operational limits and to provide services to other household and buildings in its neighborhood. These energy assets will not only allow to reduce the electricity bill for the building users, but it will allow using the combined capacities of the PV roof and the BESS to serve energy to other end-users around when the building demand decreases –provided such neighbor users are closely connected at the same MV line (around 500m distance).

Demo area

The LEC to be operated by the selected third party, which was developed within the INTERRFACE project (T5.2), is located in Sofia, Bulgaria. This LEC was conceived as an Intelligent Distribution Node (IDN) in a multi-user building connected to Sofia's distribution power system.

In Bulgaria, the engagement of energy communities is a matter of raising interest, as exposed in the session organized by Greenpeace Bulgaria, the Faculty of Economics of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and the Association of Environmentalists from Municipalities in Bulgaria on November 27th, 2020; showing the possible benefits from establishing independent energy communities.

Although to this date no projects dealing with LEC have been implemented in Bulgaria, it is important to highlight that the European Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001 (which defines the rights of citizens in the field of energy) must be transposed to Bulgaria by the end of June 2021. In this regard, the "Integrated Energy and Climate Plan (IECP) of the Republic of Bulgaria 2021–2030"² explicitly states the intention of encouraging a more active and effective participation of energy consumers in the market, by taking additional measures, which include *"Promotion of local energy communities within the meaning of Directive (EU) 2019/944 and adopting rules on their establishment and functioning"*. More specifically, when dealing with local policies for market integration, the IECP literally states: *"Promote local energy communities by creating incentives for more active and efficient participation of energy consumers in the market and enabling the smooth transition of active customers to an open and fully liberalized market for electricity."*

Description of the business case

Initiative

The energy portfolio at the INTERRFACE IDN consists of storing, generation, and consumption capabilities, resulting in a highly flexible aggregated energy asset (namely an LEC) connected to the distribution system. This LEC flexibility provides a unique opportunity for economic exploitation of such assets through optimization of their operation, not only participating in available energy and ancillary service markets, but also by direct transaction with neighbouring distribution system customers.

According to the characteristics of the IDN, the third party must constitute a Distributed Energy Community. As shown in Fig 1, the multi-user building might be interested in buying/selling the renewable/stored energy from/to neighboring peers located within the immediate vicinity, using the existing distribution network. Normally, as the energy is produced and consumed along the same feeder, no tolls are charged for access to the distribution network among the users who have formed the energy community. However, if any energy surplus is sold to a trading company or market, such energy is taxed and tolls are applied.

² Integrated Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria 2021–2030. Dec. 2019.
https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/ener/files/documents/bg_final_necp_main_en.pdf

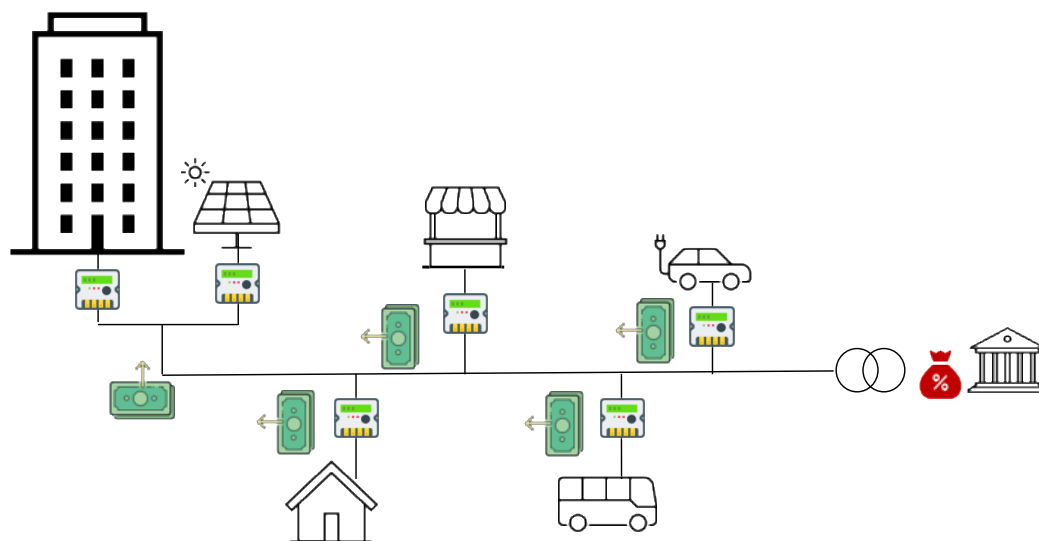


Figure 18 - Energy community crossing property boundaries.

Hence, relying upon the maximization of the economic benefits obtained from energy and service markets and from local transactions with neighbouring peers, the third party must generate profit by optimally operating the LEC assets.

Expected Workflow

To successfully carry out this business case, the expected workflow can be divided into three main stages as follows.

Stage 1 – Technology endowment: The third party will inherit control over the energy portfolio implemented in the IDN developed within INTERRFACE. At this stage, the following challenges must be addressed by adapting and extending existing operational tools provided by the IDN:

- i) Communication protocols, metering and procedures enabling a successful participation of the LEC aggregated assets in energy and ancillary services markets should be ensured.
- ii) Development of multi-objective optimization algorithms to minimize cost of energy in a LEC with shared resources and to provide grid services to the DSO/TSO.
- iii) Development of attractive remuneration programmes for promoting LEC members to participate in energy and service markets.

Stage 2 – Contractual relationship establishment: The third party at this stage is expected to:

- iv) Involve end-users in the LEC by conducting an advertising campaign and personal contacts.
- v) Set agreements and procedures with market operators and retail traders to integrate the LEC in the electricity market.
- vi) Define tariffs, contracts, and settlement mechanisms for the LEC members to participate in energy and services trading.

Stage 3 – LEC interoperability: Once contractual relationships have been established, the third party will generate and optimal bid for LEC participation in energy and service markets through the IEGSA by taking into account the following.

- i) predictions of consumption and generation at the LEC,
- ii) calculating optimal schedules for flexible assets via optimization algorithms, and
- iii) fulfilling demand requirements of multiple users connected at the LEC.

At this stage, the LEC interoperability between the LEC and the IEGSA platform should be ensured, enabling IT-based mechanisms to access to data from the LEC smart meters.

Expected outcome

The successful implementation of the business case should lead to the following outcomes:

- i) Surplus energy will be stored for consumption at times of high market prices or will be sold directly to the electricity market if the energy is not going to be used. This will generate energy arbitrage economic rewards via participation in energy markets, taking advantage from operating the LEC energy assets.
- ii) Knowing the predictions of flexible consumption and being calculated the optimal bids for the energy community, the offers for balancing, congestion or non-frequency ancillary services, can be presented. Consumers would receive a share of these profits as the LEC manager will modulate their consumption to provide such service.
- iii) The third party, which participates in the electricity market by offering and managing the renewable energy, must handle drawbacks associated to generation uncertainty, by responding to the demand of its users (who may agree to reduce their consumption) in order to comply with the contract, receiving compensation.

Important information for applicants

An LEC enables democratization of renewable energies in urban environments, reduces costs associated with distributed generation resources by grouping different users under a single entity, allows contributing to an efficient and fully usable grid by providing flexibility services, and decreases the economic impact for the end-user electricity bill, which additionally allows reducing energy poverty in EU member states. Since cooperative-owned projects are often cause-oriented rather than profit-oriented, they regularly offer more favorable tariffs for vulnerable households, while reinvesting in energy efficiency. It is estimated³ that an energy community can reduce the total annual levelized costs of energy by 40%, including investment for PV and BESS, operation and maintenance costs, and cost for imported energy. In addition, their long-term sustainability will be contingent on the development of viable business models moving towards innovative financing and remuneration schemes⁴.

This modality is very relevant in Europe, where 46% of the population lives in flats⁵. This presents the problem of energy democratization, as not all flats have suitable spaces for installing PV panels and batteries. However, they can be installed in nearby locations or buildings with which energy resources are shared. Without this possibility not all consumers could have access to self-consumption models. In addition, due to scale factors affecting to both capitalization and O&M, it is more interesting and profitable to install all the PV panels and batteries in the same installation and share them as a cooperative resource among the members forming a LEC.

It is expected that LEC will play a key role in the decentralization of the energy systems and the local operation of renewable energy, facilitating the local optimization of power flows and reducing the energy

³ PV-Prosumers4Grid. (2020). Enabling Consumers to become PV prosumers in a system friendly manner. <https://www.pvp4grid.eu>. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 764786.

⁴ Caramizaru, A. and Uihlein, A., Energy communities: an overview of energy and social innovation, EUR 30083 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-10713-2, doi:10.2760/180576, JRC119433.

⁵ Teodóra Brandmüller, Iuliana Lupu and Åsa Önnersfors (Eurostat, Unit E.4., Regional statistics and geographical information) Louise Corselli-Nordblad, Catherine Coyette, Annika Johansson, Helene Strandell and Pascal Wolff (Eurostat, Unit B.4., Digital dissemination). (2016). Urban Europe. StatiSticS on citieS, townS and SuburbS, 2016 Edition, 282. 2020, De <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/3217494/7596823/KS-01-16-691-EN-N.pdf/0abf140c-ccc7-4a7f-b236-682effcde10f> Base de datos.

losses⁶. According to the recast Electricity Market Directive, Member States will give the option to grant energy communities the right to own, establish, purchase or lease grid infrastructure. In addition, energy communities will bring different benefits to the system operators, both DSO and TSO. The CEER⁷ has identified as main enhancements the improvement of quality service and reduce or postpone network investment by increasing hosting capacity and improving flexibility.

This call however goes beyond existing interactions between the LEC and the grid operators by precisely modulating the demand response (DR) thanks to the use of the IDN developed in T5.2. In this call the LEC will be a fully active resource, not only able to accommodate demand schedules according the operator requirements, but also to provide flexibility services, such as short-term and operational congestion management, mFRR, aFRR and FFR, together other advanced ancillary services not provide yet by LEC, such as inertia emulation, power oscillation damping, islanded operation and black start, to mention a few.

Currently, DR is becoming an increasing valuable resource in terms of grid reliability⁸. However, to accumulate a significant amount of properly managed DR, collaboration among end-users is essential. In this regard, LECs open the doors to integrate end-users as active players in providing grid services, and to define formal agreements and operational procedures with system operators. However, electricity power demand is still considered to be highly inelastic, which will require enabling new incentives and mechanisms to increase demand response controllability and dynamics. As an example, different tariffs, contracts or financial incentives on elastic systems (such as energy storage, responsive appliances and aggregated EMS) can be promoted to induce end-users to modify their consumption according to grid requirements.

In Europe, there are about 3 500 so-called renewable energy cooperatives⁹ - a type of energy communities, which are found mostly in North-Western Europe. The most widespread involve energy generation. Examples include school buildings or farm roofs equipped with solar panels, or windmills installed by residents in a village.

Added value on INTERRFACE project

This call spins around the multi-user building equipped with PV and a large-scale BESS; i.e., the IDN developed in T5.2. Therefore, the selected third party prove profitability of the IDN when operated as an LEC. It is important to highlight, that this will be the first LEC implemented in Bulgaria.

The third party will use the cloud-based applications for energy management, service management, and local data management developed within INTERRFACE T5.2 as a starting point for the development of a fully functional LEC. In addition, the third party will participate in energy and service markets available at the demo are via IEGSA.

As third party specialized energy trading are clear candidates to participate in this call, they would not act as services providers, but as energy management services (EMS) providers for the LEC. The grid services designed and provided by these companies would extend the INTERRFACE scope and the business cases born around IEGSA. Therefore, the innovation brought about by IEGSA will promote potential business

⁶ Caramizaru, A. and Uihlein, A., Energy communities: an overview of energy and social innovation, EUR 30083 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2020, ISBN 978-92-76-10713-2, doi:10.2760/180576, JRC119433.

⁷ CEER, 'Regulatory Aspects of Self- Consumption and Energy Communities CEER Report', No. June, 2019.

⁸ Demand response failed California 20 years ago; the state's recent outages may have redeemed it. On-line available at <https://www.utilitydive.com/news/demand-response-failed-california-20-years-ago-the-states-recent-outages/584878/>

⁹ REScoop MECISE, Mobilising European Citizens to Invest in Sustainable Energy, Clean Energy for All Europeans, Final Results Oriented Report of the RESCOOP MECISE Horizon 2020 Project, 2019.

opportunities associated to extend energy communities over Europe. At the same time, this call will enable designing and implementation of new business cases and regulations that respond to the specific conditions existing in the demo area.

Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for household consumers

A third party will act as a manager/aggregator for the LEC, combining RES, energy storage, flexible and inflexible demand, to make an optimal mix of energy products to serve the energy requirements of the household consumers. Such a mix will consist of an optimal combination of energy demands for energy markets and traders, energy surpluses to be traded within the LEC, and flexibility service bids offered the system operators. Such LEC manager/aggregator can make profits by exploiting different income streams depending on the LEC assets composition and controllability, although all the exploitation strategies start from the same premise: the main goal is minimizing the cost of energy for the LEC by taking advantage from all the resources provided by the household consumers and prosumers (local generation, energy storage, responsive demand, controllable appliances, smart contracts, ...).

Although the third party is the natural actor to manage the LEC, it could incorporate other third parties when planning the business case, such as a financial investor, investment bank, or any actor interested in practically evaluating the benefits of sponsoring this innovative business case, as well as any company specialized on IT/software, technology development (smart meters, PV panels, batteries, ...), or renewable integration, all them interested in gaining technical knowledge about developing and operating LEC in energy markets. The integration of such third-parties is well aligned with the European policy for collective citizen participation in the energy system.

Third Parties benefit from getting involved in the business case

One of the main benefits provided by the INTERRFACE project to a potential applicant interested in this call is the possibility of using the hardware and software systems developed in T5.2 as a realistic sandbox to develop innovative business models to manage a LEC, which, in addition, can become profitable in the short term.

The demonstration of a realistic exploitation of a LEC at Sofia, Bulgaria can be an excellent window-display for the third party applying to this call, which can open further opportunities for expanding such business model and technology over the country, and even export it to other countries with similar conditions and interests.

Thank to this call, the third parties will become more competitive and innovative, and will develop valuable technical knowledge about management of LEC in recent energy markets, and even in unprecedented flexibility service markets.

ANNEX 6_BUC No 5. : Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers

An increasing amount of distributed energy resources (DER) will become available with the ongoing transformation of the European Power System, driven by the shift towards clean energy resources and the empowerment of consumers. System operators, especially at the distribution level, need to actively develop the grid and operation to remain fit-for-purpose and to enable the transition towards more distributed and small-scale generation. To allow the active participation of DER, all markets and processes need to commit to unlocking their potential. Flexibility services have great potential in contributing to congestion management, balancing and fault management. Unlocking the flexibility potential requires also respecting the roles and responsibilities of each party, taking into due consideration the different system approaches across Europe, and aiming for an efficient allocation between the different uses of flexibility. A wide range of assets, from current conventional generation plants, to industrial or small consumers dispersed in the system with demand management capability, including storage facilities, manageable RES, etc. can provide such flexibility and already participate today in electricity markets. Such flexibilities connected to the distribution network are understood and defined as distributed energy resources (DER) and mostly defined as demand side flexibility (DFR).

With the growth of renewables, the increased interconnection of European grids, the development of local energy initiatives, and the specific, increasing requirements for further TSO-DSO cooperation as set forth in European legislation, TSOs and DSOs face new challenges. Effective coordination between electricity TSOs and DSOs becomes increasingly important to ensure cost-efficient, sustainable and reliable system operation and to facilitate market integration throughout Europe. Such coordination and exchange of information is required especially for services, data management, data exchange and system development.

In the Finnish-Baltic region there is a growing need to include distributed flexibility in system management as well as to enable consumers to actively respond to the changes in the system in a market-based manner. This has driven the regional stakeholders to actively seek solutions to facilitate an effective transition. In Finland the flexibility markets, including demand response, is fairly developed, with distributed flexibility participating increasingly in wholesale and reserves market (FCR-N, FCR-D, mFRR). At DSO level, the energy transition impacts more and more especially as fluctuating power flows and voltage instability and therefore grows the need to perform active power and reactive power management, potentially through DFR. Flexibility could also be an important tool for local congestion management and distribution level fault management, but currently there is no sufficient framework for procuring such DFR services in a market-based manner. It is considered important to develop data exchange and smart meter capabilities to facilitate the entering of DFR to electricity market.

Both in Estonia and Latvia the Flexibility Service Providers (FSPs) are enabled to participate in the mFRR market on the equal footing with other service providers. The activity has been fairly low due to the fact that mFRR as energy intensive product has quite low attractiveness for the flexibility providers. The automatic reserve products are not yet available in the Baltic markets since Baltic countries are currently operating in the Unified Power System (IPS/UPS). The desynchronization from the IPS/UPS is foreseen in 2025, which means an increasing importance of the flexibility to provide additional reserves needed for the system. From 01.01.2018 Baltic Common Balancing market started operating and the need for higher

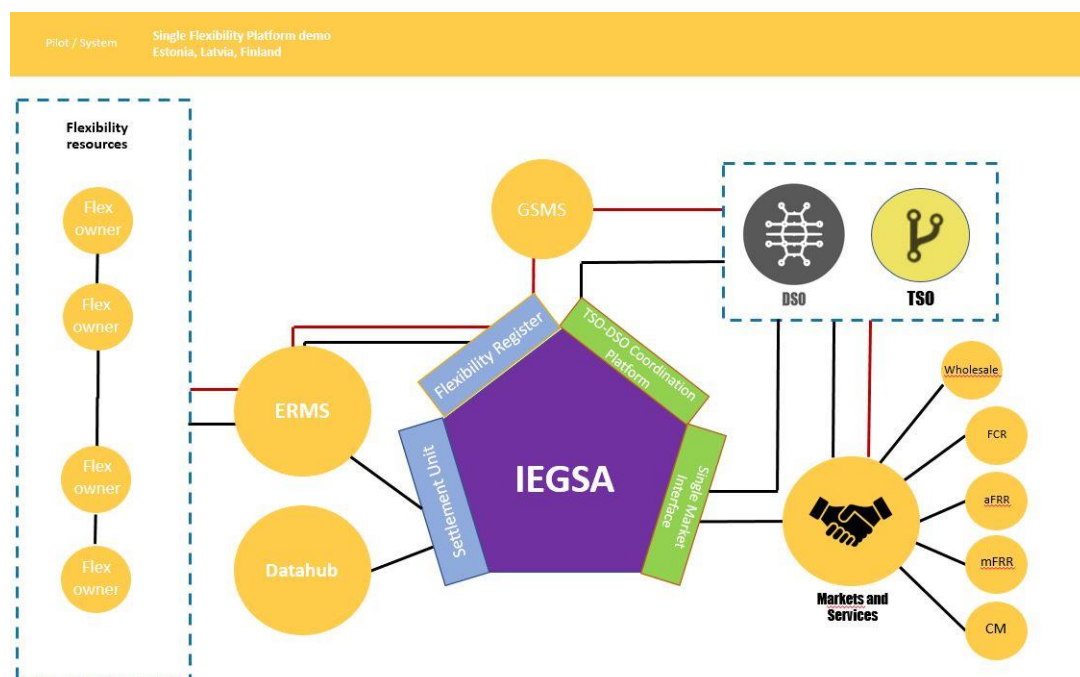
liquidity in the balancing market is yet another driving factor to develop an effective flexibility market in the region. DFR could also be an important tool for local congestion management, but currently this market is not developed.

With these conditions, parties from Estonia, Latvia and Finland (including TSOs and DSOs) aim to develop a regional Single Flexibility Platform under a Horizon 2020 project INTERRFACE, with an aim to speed up the realization of a flexibility market in an open development environment with different stakeholders.

The purpose of the development of Single Flexibility Platform demo in the region is twofold – to realize novel technical solutions to manage grid and system limitations via coordinated control of distributed flexibilities (consisting of consumption, generation and storage units) and to operate enabling, efficient and interoperable market and data exchange platforms for distributed flexibility exchange between market parties. Promoting and lowering entry barriers for active participation from DER increase liquidity in electricity balancing and congestion management markets thus driving down system costs, from which the final customers will benefit.

Single Flexibility Platform demo aims at providing opportunities to use network flexibility resources in the most optimal way by making them visible and available for all network operators (both DSOs and TSOs) and other market participants in the demo region who can make use of them in coordinated manner.

The platform and the developed functionalities will be connected to the IEGSA (Interoperable pan-European Grid Service) architecture to allow for enhanced interoperability across actors, networks, and timeframes.



Addressed to:

Two possible options in this regard:

1. It can be carried out by a company that has consumers or prosumers with whom they can design this type of test under a pre-agreement to apply and design demand response programs – focus on independent aggregators and DFR.

2. It can be carried out by a company that wants to develop the software that will allow to a trading company of electrical energy or aggregation company to implement demand response programs and grid services.

Type of service: mFRR for TSO

Manual Frequency Restoration is a manual change in the operation set-points of the reserve (mainly by re-scheduling), in order to restore system frequency to the set point value frequency and, for a synchronous area consisting of more than one load-frequency control area, to restore power balance to the scheduled value.

Technical details

The company acting in the role of a Flexibility Service Provider (FSP) including aggregator with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service provider is expected to connect to the API of the developed IT systems and offer their flexible resources to the piloted market. This means that the FSP would be required to be able to carry out an activation with a specified flexible resource.

APIs to be published within February 2021 – more information from regional contact persons (p12).

Countries: Estonia, Latvia, Finland

More specific requirements may differ between and in INTERFACE service design deliverable on page 24 or from regional contact persons (p12). Available at: http://www.interrface.eu/sites/default/files/publications/INTERFACE_D3.1_V1.0.pdf

Type of service: congestion management short-term and operational for DSO and TSO

Within the framework of the H2020 INTERFACE project, the aim is to pilot additionally to mFRR, new congestion management products:

- 1) congestion-management short-term product will be carried out on the day ahead (D-1) time horizon
- 2) congestion management operational product will be carried out on the operational hour (H-1) time horizon.

These are new local products in the Finnish-Baltic electricity system that almost meet the standard conditions of the manually activated frequency reserve mFRR product, but additionally the identification code of the metering point has been added along with some additional parameters.

Congestion management products will be used internally by TSOs / DSOs for congestion management in short-term planning and operational planning timeframe (not for balancing markets).

Default mFRR product description is proposed to boost liquidity (flexibility products of congestion management operational and short-term should be sufficiently aligned to permit the market-based allocation of flexibility between these different purposes (balancing and congestion management) with the objective of an efficient allocation that maximises the value of flexibility services for FSPs.

Technical details

The company acting in the role of a Flexibility Service Provider (FSP) including aggregator with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service provider is expected to connect to the API of

the developed IT systems and offer their flexible resources to the piloted market. This means that the FSP would be required to be able to carry out an activation with a specified flexible resource.

APIs to be published within February 2021 – more information from regional contact persons (p12).

Countries: Estonia, Finland

More specific requirements may differ between countries - more information from contact persons (p12) and in INTERFACE service design deliverable on page 36-38 or from regional contact persons (p12). Available at: http://www.interrface.eu/sites/default/files/publications/INTERFACE_D3.1_V1.0.pdf.

Demo area

Demo Area 1 (congestion management and balancing), in Finnish-Baltic region (Finland, Estonia and Latvia).

Description of the business case

Initiative

Offering flexibility to the electricity markets using the Finnish-Baltic Single Flexibility Platform demo framework under pan-European architecture IEGSA

Exact Workflow

A FSP has to submit their resources for resource qualification before it can be forwarded to one or more markets where it can be traded and bidden on. The registration is handled by the Flexibility Register which also stores the trading results and receives metering data. May need parallel registration and agreement signing with local TSO / DSO.

The DSO-TSO Coordination Platform determines which System Operator is responsible for the qualification of which particular resource or a set of resources and uses preconfigured procedures to perform the resource qualification. The qualification result is returned and stored into the local Flexibility Register.

Resource data that should be submitted by FSPs to be able to proceed with product and bid qualification processes.

The requirement is that the identification code of the metering point should be connected to DSO network.

Expected outcome

- Flexibility resources (demand side response, generation or storage) under the control of FSP shall be registered and qualified for providing mFRR and/or CM service.
- FSP makes mFRR and/or CM bids based on qualified resources. At least 5 bids per week should be submitted during the period of active demonstration.
- mFRR and/or CM bids can be activated by System Operators subject to system needs.
- Activated bids are financially and balance settled by relevant System Operators. FSP needs to follow relevant national electricity market rules (e.g. Balance responsibility, Balance Service Provider rules and System Use rules).

Important information for applicants

Information from INTERRFACE public deliverables: http://www.interrface.eu/public-deliverables_

Third Parties from the fields of energy service provision, network operation and start-ups focused on providing grid services aimed to extend INTERRFACE state-of-the-art technologies and provide new energy services that will be adopted by operators and consumers are welcomed to apply.

Added value on INTERRFACE project

How this service/tool will interact with the INTERRFACE system (the IEGSA or the local tools and applications that are being developed by the demos)

The development of business models that are innovative and can be profitable in the short-term future. Through this innovative model the Third Parties will be more competitive, more innovative and will develop a know-how respect to electricity user consumers behaviour and energy markets.

- Lowering of barriers for participation of demand-side and small-scale DER flexibility - Flexibility Register will enable flexibility resource and product qualification for all FSPs
- To solve internal congestions for different timeframes, TSO/DSO could use flexibility with locational information for congestion management
- By creating a Single Market Interface, flexibility can be offered simultaneously to more than one System Operator and across markets
- Digitalization of settlement processes of flexibility activation will take place in Settlement Unit

Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for household consumers

The flexible resources can be owned by households (as well as other actors) which can participate through aggregation. This way households can financially benefit from participating in the flexibility markets:

- To secure competition and the supply of flexibility at the most competitive price
- Enabling more integrated RES by increased flexibility usage by TSOs and DSOs

Third Parties benefit from getting involved in the business case

The development of business models that are innovative and can be profitable in the future. The need for the services offered by Third Parties is a fast growing trend.

Through this innovative model the Third Parties will be more competitive, more innovative and will develop a know-how respect to electricity user consumers behaviour and energy markets. In addition, users of the IEGSA / Finnish-Baltic demo will be rewarded for participation in the electricity markets, making the integration of users into the electricity market possible and opening new business models by the integration of these users.

ANNEX 7_BUC No 6. : Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

Potential applicants would refer to academic institutions, research institutes, or private companies with a deep understanding and proven expertise on the following fields.

Expertise can be proven by peer-reviewed research papers in scientific journals and international conferences, book chapters, books, technical reports, or portfolios.

In particular, the prospective Third Party should be able to prove its expertise on the following fields:

- Power systems analysis and modeling
- Load flow studies
- Congestion management
- Active management of Distribution Grids towards congestion mitigation
- Optimization studies in power systems
- Demand response
- Integration of volatile renewable energy sources into the grid
- Extensive knowledge in South-East Europe's power systems

Furthermore, the prospective Third Party should be able to provide proof of its participation in at least 3 organized international projects related to electrical power systems.

Requested input

In transmission and distribution networks, congestion occurs in cases where the networks cannot process all the transactions due to violations of operating limits. Congestion management is a mechanism to prioritize the transactions to keep the network operations within their nominal limits. The concept refers to the scheme where an aggregator is an intermediate agent between the distribution system operator and a number of distributed energy resources. The interaction between the aggregator and operator includes flexibility offers and requests. The flexibility of the generation units will contribute to congestion management.

For congestion management analysis, potential applicants will be required to work with MATPOWER™ (<https://matpower.org/>), PowerFactory-Digsilent™ (<https://www.digsilent.de/en/powerfactory.html>) or/and Power System Analysis Toolbox™ (<http://faraday1.ucd.ie/psat.html>).

Potential applicants are expected to expand the above software packages in order to develop new packages for congestion management modeling in various types of test systems. Potential applicants are also expected to examine scenarios-based analysis for different cases of congestion instances and, finally, provide insights and recommendations regarding the connection and synergy of transmission and distribution networks in congestion management.

The workflow will include different scenarios of installed capacities of generation units and renewable penetration shares in order to solve an extended power flow analysis problem. The outputs will refer to the determination of indices for congestion management resources.

For the congestion management analysis, the following data will be required:

- a) Transmission and distribution systems benchmark topologies. For instance, the characteristics of IEEE 24-bus, IEEE 39-bus, IEEE 118-bus, etc., test systems.



- b) Technical, economic, and operational data of distributed energy resources such as fossil-fired generators, photovoltaics units, and wind generators.
- c) Hourly active and reactive demand over a 24-hour period in the various buses of the transmission and distribution buses.
- d) Technical and operational data of transmission lines and buses such as thermal, voltage and stability limits and others.
- e) Meteorological data for the assessment of renewable energy sources capacity.

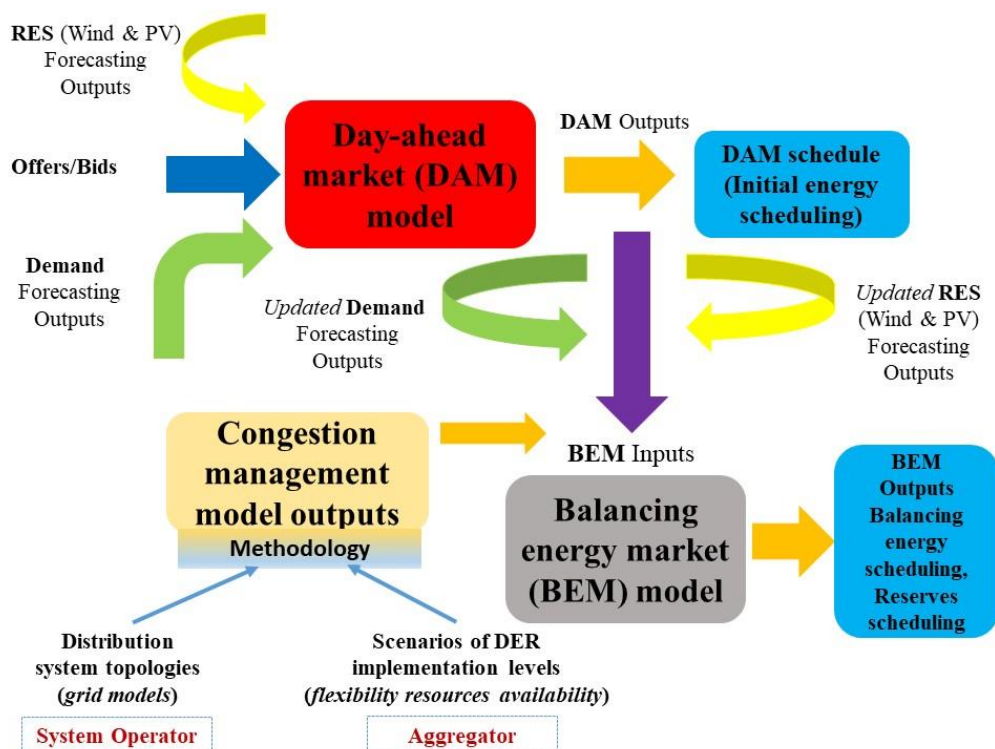
The experiment refers to the formulation and solution of a non-cost free congestion management problem. Generally, the outputs refer to the generation units rescheduling and curtailment of load transactions. Next, these outputs will be employed in various models of Task 7.1.

At the DSO level, an approximation and generalization of the findings at several DSO topologies will be conducted so as to determine the overall congestion management requirements at a DSO level.

The objective refers to the determination of the requirements for congestion management resources. The outputs of the workflow will include:

- methodology development for the implementation of a power flow analysis based on the initial DAM energy schedule,
- extensive scenario and test cases assessment for the identification of congestion management requirements, and
- provision of final report including the methodology part, representative results, and concluding remarks.

The methodology's objective is to quantify the operational congestion management requirements at both TSO and DSO levels. The output of that methodology will be integrated and utilized as input data in the models under development for the day-ahead and balancing markets (INTERFACE Demo 7.1).



Demo area

The applicability of the developed framework will be tested in the examined South-Eastern European region, including the power systems of Romania, Bulgaria, and Greece. The business case aims to thoroughly investigate various transmission and distribution systems benchmark topologies to identify generic indicators that can be utilized for the quantification of sub-hourly operational congestion management requirements at both TSO and DSO levels.

Important information for applicants

Recommended software packages:

PowerFactory-Digsilent™ (<https://www.digsilent.de/en/powerfactory.html>)

MATPOWER™ (<https://matpower.org/>)

Power System Analysis Toolbox™ (<http://faraday1.ucd.ie/psat.html>)

Technical data:

Electric Grid Test Case Repository (<https://electricgrids.engr.tamu.edu/>)

Meteorological data:

NASA's Open Data Portal (<https://power.larc.nasa.gov/data-access-viewer/>)

Meteoblue database (<https://www.meteoblue.com/>)

Added value on INTERFACE project

The experiment will allow the interested parties to examine the flexibility concept in both the transmission and distribution levels. The aggregator's role in contemporary electricity markets will be highlighted and assessed.

Incorporation of Third Parties in particular for end-users flexibility

Assessment of the distributed energy resources' impacts on the operation of day-ahead and balancing markets, enabling the provision of clear price signals and the design of appropriate incentives.

Third Parties benefit from getting involved in the business case

Integration with an advanced optimization model for the operation of day-ahead and balancing markets.

ANNEX 4: Guide for Evaluators

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Definitions

INTERFACE

TSO-DSO-Consumer INTERFACE aRchitecture to provide innovative grid services for an efficient power system.

INTERFACE is a H2020 48-month Research and Innovation action. INTERFACE project is funded by the European Union and the Horizon 2020 programme, under Grant Agreement no 824330.

INTERFACE Consortium

The INTERFACE Consortium is coordinated by European Dynamics Luxembourg SA (ED) and composed of 42 partners from 16 European countries (Luxembourg, Greece Belgium, Bulgaria, Finland, Slovenia, Cyprus, Serbia, Italy, Romania, Hungary, Spain, Germany, Latvia, Estonia, Portugal). <http://www.interrface.eu/consortium>

Evaluation Panel

The Evaluation Panel comprises from the Support team and the two experts.

The Evaluation Panel is involved in evaluation and selection process to ensure coherence between the selected projects and overall initiatives of INTERFACE.

External Evaluators

Experts that are independent of INTERFACE consortium partners and of any applicant. His/her role is to assess the proposals submitted to the INTERFACE Open Call.

Expert Rapporteurs

The person/s responsible for drafting and finalizing the Consensus Report (CR). It can be either one of the evaluators involved in the evaluation of the proposal or an additional expert.

Panel Moderator

The person that assists the experts of the evaluation panels to adjudicate the meetings.

Support team

A project body, composed of certain partners that are connected to the open call.

1. General Overview

This document is written to support Evaluators for the evaluation process of the proposals submitted to the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties under the INTERFACE project that will be launched on March 30, 2021 with a deadline of June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET (Brussels time).

Proposals are allocated to Evaluators who need to evaluate them against predefined evaluation criteria (in line with the European Commission's evaluation criteria) and verify that the proposals comply with the specific requirements of the business case under which it is submitted. Both External Evaluators and Internal Evaluators (members of INTERFACE Steering Committee (SC)) will be involved in the proposals' evaluation process.

This Guide provides information on the awarded criteria and the evaluation process. Guidelines on how evaluators to assess the submitted proposals via the "Reviewers Area" (<https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/reviewers-private-area/>), on evaluation meetings and on the drafting and quality of the reports (Individual Evaluation Report and Consensus Report) are described in detail. The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) is the official document that will be communicated to the applicants of each proposal.

The Guide for Applicants, especially Section 1 and 2, includes all detailed information needed on the INTERFACE Open Call, i.e. the call's initiative, INTERFACE project's scope, SOTA and/or infrastructures.

1.1. Evaluators' Code of Conduct

The call and the selection of the third parties to be funded shall follow the same principles which govern European Commission calls as described in the Guide for applicants:

- **Excellence.** The proposal(s) selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call;
- **Transparency.** Funding decisions must be based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants should receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals;
- **Fairness and impartiality.** All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants;
- **Confidentiality.** All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence;
- **Efficiency and speed.** Evaluation, award and grant preparation should be as rapid as possible, commensurate with maintaining the quality of the evaluation, and respecting the legal framework.

The guiding principles for evaluators are also outlined on the following video

https://ec.europa.eu/info/animated-briefing-independent-experts_en

Specifically, the evaluator must perform his/her work with:

Independence: Evaluators shall assess proposals on a personal capacity and not on behalf of any organization. The evaluator must perform his/her work to the best of his/her abilities, professional skills, knowledge and applying the highest ethical and moral standards. He/She cannot delegate the work to another person or be replaced by another person.

Both External and Internal experts involved in the evaluation process, will have to confirm their independence and neutrality in written before the beginning of the evaluation process.

Impartiality: Evaluators shall treat all proposals equally and evaluate them impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of its applicants.

This impartiality will have to be demonstrated in the reports of the INTERFACE Consortium to the European Commission and the Project Officer (EC/PO) describing the evaluation procedure and outcome of the Open Call. The EC/PO should not be otherwise involved in the open call process.



Objectivity: Evaluators shall assess each proposal as submitted and not on its potential if certain alterations changes were to be occurred.

Accuracy: Evaluators shall make their judgment against the official evaluation criteria of the open call, and nothing else.

Consistency: Evaluators shall apply the same standard of judgment to each and every proposal taking into consideration the specific service development impartially.

Avoidance of Conflict of interest: Evaluators should take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the work is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests').

Evaluators have to declare in advance any known conflicts of interest, and have to inform the INTERFACE Team by the time one become apparent during the evaluation procedure.

Confidentiality: Evaluators shall maintain strict confidentiality with respect to the evaluation procedure. They have to comply with the instructions provided by the INTERFACE Team to guarantee this. Evaluators have to abide by confidentiality rules before, during and after the evaluation procedure.

Evaluators have to sign a declaration of confidentiality - absence of conflict of interest beforehand. Please advise the H2020 Model Contract for Experts on the Code of Conduct (Annex 1)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/experts_manual/h2020-experts-mono-contract_en.pdf .

1.2. Evaluation Deadlines

Call	
Submission Opening	Monday, March 30, 2021
Submission closure	Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)
Eligibility check	By 12/07/2021
Allocation of proposals to experts	13- 15/07/2021
Briefing	22/07/2021
Evaluation	
Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)	By 13/08/2021
Consensus Reports (CR)	By 30/08/2021
Evaluation Summary Report (draft ESR)	By 03/09/2021

Evaluators have to be available from briefing date until the ESR implementation date. Only Experts appointed as Call Coordinators will participate to the allocation of proposals to Experts, which will take place from 13/07/2021 until 15/07/2021 and to the Panel Meeting, which will take place from 04/09/2021 until 06/09/2021.

1.3. Contact persons for INTERFACE Open Call

The people involved in the evaluation procedure and are your contact persons for the INTERFACE Open Call are:

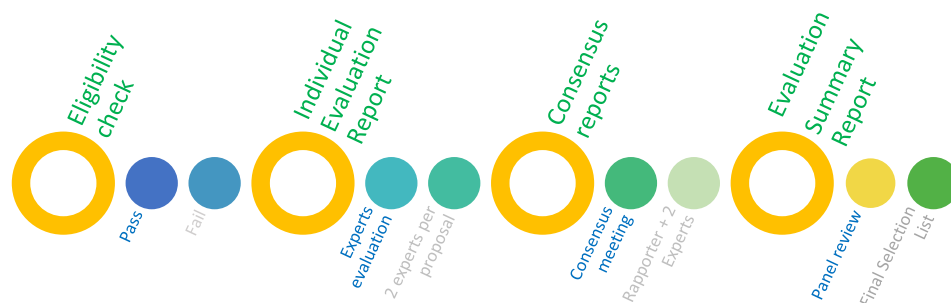
George Boultsadakis, INTERFACE Project Coordinator

Konstantinos Kotsalos (ED)

Maria Papadimitriou (CINTECH)

2. Evaluation Process

The evaluation workflow of the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties, in line with European Commission's evaluation process, is displayed on the graphic below.



2.1. Evaluation stages

Eligibility check

INTERFACE Open Call Support Team performs a first check of admissibility and eligibility of submitted proposals. However, a proposal can be declared ineligible at any phase of the evaluation procedure: during the evaluation and if any doubt arises, you have to report the case to the Call Coordinator.

Proposals are allocated to two Experts Evaluators according to their field of expertise by the Call Coordinators.

Individual Evaluation Reports (IER)

Two Experts Evaluators assess independently the eligible proposal and prepares an Individual Evaluation Report (IER).

Each evaluator will rank the proposal assigning a score from 0 to 5 for each awarded criterion IMPACT, TECHNICAL QUALITY, QUALITY OF WORK PLAN in Section 3 and conduct an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). The default threshold for each criterion is 3 out of 5. The default overall threshold is 10 out of 15.

Consensus Report (CR)

Following this, as soon as the IERs for each proposal are submitted, the Call Coordinator assigned to the specific proposal (who acts as “Rapporteur”) drafts a first Consensus Report based on the 2 IERs.

A Consensus meeting will be realized for the exchange of views on the basis of the individual evaluations. Points of disagreement are discussed. The initiative is for the 2 Evaluators to come to an agreement on the comments provided for each criterion. The Evaluators will decide the score that best matches the comments.

Once the Consensus Report is conducted, each Evaluator will provide her/his comments and final approval. The outcome of all CRs will be an initial ranking list of the eligible proposals based on the individual scores assigned to each proposal.

Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)

The Evaluation Panel (Support Team and two experts) will identify the most promising candidates through a Panel Review Meeting. The scope of the Panel Review is to perform an additional quality check to the reports, to prioritise ex-aequo cases and to approve the final ranked list of proposals. The outcome will be strongly based on the ranking produced by the Experts Evaluators. However, the Evaluation Panel will ensure that the proposals are realistic in terms of time and effort, are in line with the INTERFACE scope, will have significant impact as described in the announced Business Use Cases (BUCs), and meet the criteria of section 3 of the current document. A justification for each alteration on the ranking list will be provided by the Evaluation Panel.

Proposals awarded the same score within the ranked list will be prioritized as described below:

- Proposals of SMEs and Start-ups will be given priority.



- Following this, proposals will be prioritised according to the scores for the criterion Impact.
- When these scores are equal, priority will be based on the scores for the criterion Technical Quality.
- When these scores are equal, any further prioritisation will be based on the criterion of the Gender Equality

As an outcome of the Panel Review, one ranked list for the selected proposals (up to 7 Third Parties) will be produced. A reserve list will also be produced with the next ranked proposals in case a selected Third Party fails to sign the Contract for any reason.

An Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) with the results of the evaluation and the selection process signed by the Project Coordinator will be conducted. The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be communicated to the applicants by email and will be published on the INTERFACE Open Call portal within 70 days from the submission closure.

Please note that the Commission may require from the INTERFACE Coordinator to collect any document related to the Cascading Funds mechanism, including submitted proposals and evidence of the evaluation procedure.

2.2. Experts role

During the evaluation procedure, Experts are appointed to different roles:

(Expert) Evaluators: Each Evaluator independently assesses the proposal and prepares an Individual Evaluation Report (IER). There are 2 Evaluators per each proposal. Evaluators also participate to the remote Consensus Meeting.

Call Coordinator: Expert responsible for the management of the evaluation procedure. Call Coordinator do not assess the proposals but:

- Acts as an impartial moderator to the Consensus Meeting procedure and ensures the quality of the evaluation process.
- Acts as Rapporteur, namely he/she conducts a draft Consensus Report based on the IERs submitted by the two Experts and when approved by Experts Evaluators submit the Consensus Reports.
- Check the quality of each individual evaluation, but not the quality of their CR's that will be checked by another Call Coordinator acting as cross-reader.
- Cross-read the CRs of other proposals in order to check the quality and consistency of comments and scores.
- Contact the Evaluators to provide feedback or ask for clarifications, if needed.
- Participate in the Panel Review Meeting where the ranking lists will be approved.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria for each of the individual proposals of the INTERFACE Open Call are described below. The criteria reflect European Commission's criteria, in particular the expected impact of the proposal funded under those services.

1. EXPECTED IMPACT	
<p>Aiming at strengthening the collaboration between network operators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is the impact of the innovation on the needs of European and global markets? ▪ Is there a measurable enhancement in the grid when adapting the INTERFACE framework? ▪ To what extent has the proposal the potential to address 	<p>Score: /5 (Threshold 3/5)</p>



future/ wider applications in the field? ■ To what extent the proposal addresses the BUC's initiative/ requirements under which it is submitted? ■ What is the quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR) and to manage research data where relevant? ■	
2. TECHNICAL QUALITY	
■ Is there clarity, pertinence, soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology? ■ Are the use case and the technical approach for the adaptation/integration of requirements described in the BUCs clearly described? ■ Are the use case and the technical approach in compliance with the INTERFACE architecture, INTERFACE tools and methodology? ■ Does the proposed work goes beyond the state of the art, demonstrates innovation potential (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products/ services, new business models, etc.)? ■ Excellence/ capacity of the applicant. ■	Score: /5 (Threshold 3/5)
3. QUALITY OF THE WORK PLAN	
■ Is the work plan coherent and effective and appropriate regarding the allocation of tasks and resources, and the justification of resources? ■ To what extent the crucial risks (technical, commercial and other) to project success appear to have been identified and how effectively will these be managed?	Score: /5 (Threshold 3/5)
Remarks	
■ Ethical implications and compliance with applicable international, EU and national law	Essential
Overall score:	Score: /15 (Threshold 10/15)

4. Evaluation Reports

4.1. Individual Evaluation Report (IER)

The Evaluators identify whether the proposal fails entirely to address the scope of the specific business case of the INTERFACE Open Call that they are evaluating and/or involves ethical issues that need further analysis. Following this, they evaluate each proposal according to the evaluation criteria required by the Commission, which are Expected Impact, Technical Quality, and Quality of Work Plan (Section 3 above). For each criterion, the Expert Evaluator mark a provisional score between 0 and 5 points, which are described in Section 5.3 below.

The awarded criteria are listed in Section 3 (see table of section 3).

Evaluators draft a report with positive and/or negative arguments. Each argument should be described shortly (three or four lines of text). In order to produce the IER the Evaluators shall:

- Read the whole proposal



- Check that the proposal complies with the specific requirements of the Open Call
- Check that the proposal complies with the specific requirements of the business case that the proposal addresses
- Evaluate and independently assess the proposal according to the awarded criteria
- Evaluate whether the applicants possess the operational capacity to implement the services proposed
- Score the proposal corresponding the description of each score
- Score the proposal corresponding the report's comments and
- Submit the IER

The quality of the IER is important for the drafting of a qualitative Consensus Report. Call Coordinators will check quality and completeness of the submitted proposals and will interact with the Evaluators for clarifications, if needed. The proposals shall be assessed on their current status and not on their potential if modified. No recommendations should be added to the reports.

4.2 Consensus Report (CR)

Following the above, a remote Consensus Meeting will be organized. The two Evaluators that assessed a proposal discuss on their individual evaluation reports and agree on comments and final scores. The Evaluators have to agree on both evaluation description and final scores for each criterion.

The Consensus Meeting is moderated by the Rapporteur.

The Rapporteur shall:

- Identify agreements of assessment and suggest a consensus description
- Identify divergences of assessment and encourage Evaluators to exchange opinions
- Moderate the discussion and support Evaluators to reach an agreement on the comments/scores
- Ensure that scores agreed are consistent with the description of the scores and Evaluators' comments. If not, give guidelines to achieve this objective.

The Consensus Meeting results in a Consensus Report (CR) written by the Rapporteur. This report includes justification of scores and contradictory reviews, if any. Each and every Evaluator must approve the report and the scores. At the end of this process, the Rapporteur submits the final version of the CR, which is then approved by the 2 Evaluators.

4.3 Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)

The Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) will be published on the INTERFACE Open Call portal within 70 days from the end of the proposals' submission. All participants will be communicated the results of evaluation by email.

5. Specific issues

5.1. Objections

Applicants can send objections for review 10 business days after the publication of the evaluation results by sending e-mail to: interrface_opencall@interrface.eu

5.2. Ethical issues

Research practices in the framework of Horizon 2020 programme should comply with the fundamental principles of research integrity, as outlined in the "The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity", that is available on the following link:



https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/h2020-ethics_code-of-conduct_en.pdf

5.3. Scores

Evaluators should score each criterion in the IER. The scores range from 0 to 5. The meaning of the scores are indicated below: the score should reflect comments and be based on the meanings as indicated below.

0 – Fails: The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information;

1 – Poor: The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses;

2 – Fair: While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;

3 – Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;

4 – Very good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;

5 – Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

6. Report quality

A qualitative Evaluation Summary Report presupposes IERs and CRs of high quality. ESR will be communicated to applicants, therefore it has to provide a clear assessment of the proposal providing weaknesses and strengths with comments consistent to the given scores. High quality reports are crucial to the success of the evaluation.

The comments should refer only to each criterion and sub-criterion. Strengths and weaknesses shall be listed in bullet points (with hyphens "-"). Some indicative guidelines on how to write comments on the reports are outlined below.

Comments shall be:

- Specific to the relevant criterion
- Addressing each sub-criterion
- Clear and descriptive
- Definitive and final
- Properly verified
- Consistent with the awarded score
- Each strength and/or weakness shall be reflected only once in the scores
- Of adequate length
- Relative to the proposal in its current status, not to its potential

The comments shall **not**:

- Be Categorical
- Be assumptions, i.e. if important points of the proposal are unclear, it has to be reflected in comments and scores.
- Provide recommendations or advice on how to improve the proposal.
- Refer to the same weakness under different criteria
- Include contradicting statements related to strengths and weaknesses
- Be discriminating and/or politically incorrect
- Be too short, too long or otherwise inappropriate

Evaluators when scoring, shall consider that:

- Scores must reflect the strengths and weaknesses of the submitted proposals and be in line with the comments addressed
- Each strength and weakness must be reflected only once in the report and the scores
- Scoring should be consistent all through the evaluation.



7. Online reviewers' area

7.1. How to access?

Evaluators shall register on the INTERRFACE Open Call portal. When logging in (by using their username-password), they will automatically have access to the “reviewers area”.

In this area evaluators can:

- Have access to the proposals allocated to them
- Download the evaluation template .doc
- Submit their evaluation report electronically
- After submitting IER, a Call Coordinator might give some feedback/comments via the comment box (on the left side of your screen) and may ask the evaluator to improve his/her report if needed. Minor changes/comments will be discussed during the Consensus Meeting.
- Exchange views with the other Evaluators and the Rapporteur during the CR phase by using the comments box.
- Review the CR and approve/disapprove the CR
- Get notified about any news or updates regarding the open call and the evaluation process.

7.2. Contact and support

For any queries on the evaluation process, please do not hesitate to email us to: interrface_opencall@interrface.eu

ANNEX 5: Proposal Template

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General Instructions on the Template



This template is to be used for the INTERFACE call submission procedure.

The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. It has been designed to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are presented in a way that will enable the experts to make an effective assessment against the evaluation criteria.

Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. This means that only proposals that successfully address all the required aspects will have a chance of being funded. There will be no possibility for significant changes to content, budget and team composition during grant preparation.

Total page limit: Sections 1, 2 and 3, together, should not be longer than 10 pages.

All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit.

The total page limit will be applied automatically; therefore you must **remove this instruction page** before submitting.

After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will not be taken into consideration by the experts.

The proposal is a self-contained document. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit. Please, do not consider the page limit as a target! It is in your interest to keep your text as concise as possible, since experts rarely view unnecessarily long proposals in a positive light.

The following formatting conditions apply: The reference font for the body text is Times New Roman. The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypass the page limit). The minimum font size allowed is 11 points.

Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible.

The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm.

Delete the guidance text in green in each section.

Cover Page

Please include here information regarding proposing consortium:

- The name of your proposal
- Acronym
- Name, email address and organization (contact person)

PROPOSAL ACRONYM

Proposal Name

This proposal addresses the following business use case: (please select the business use case number. The business use cases' definitions can be found in following link: https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/category/business_cases/)

Demonstration Area	Demo	Business Use Case

Participant

Organization name			
Key person			
Address		City	
ZIP Code		Country	
Phone Number			
E-Mail			
Website			
PIC (1)		Role	

(1) Participant Identification Code (PIC) is a 9 digit code you need for participating in European projects. If you already have one please insert the code. If you have not yet please insert your provisional PIC code.



Abstract (limit: 1 page)

Please write a short summary of your proposal here. This summary should include a statement on the developed technology indicating how you address the selected business use case, the proactive planning of the state of the art, the starting point and the impact.

Free Keywords: (separated by commas)

1. Impact

1.1. Expected impact and results

Please describe the impact generated by your results (e.g. long-term effects on the energy community, the market structure, and economic prospects). The impact should be realistic, transparent and measurable. Please individually explain the scientific impact, technological impact and the economic impact that you expect. Please state the indicators (such as the creation of new products, revenue, competitive edge, the creation of new jobs) by which you would like the impact to be measured.

1.2. Exploitation plan of project results

Describe all possible exploitations of the outcome, highlighting any know-how and technology transfer between academia and industry e.g. new product generation, founding new companies, patent application etc. Describe in detail what is the target market and the needs that this innovation is covered, as well as the potential for replication of the solution/service/tools, beyond the selected project.

2. Technical Quality

Your proposal should address one of the 6 business use cases defined by the INTERRFACE Open Call portal (https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/category/business_cases/) and it should propose innovative services-technologies to solve it. Your service must have the potential to produce/deliver tangible results. You should describe the technical approaches in detail and justify the technical feasibility of your services/applications.

2.1. Alignment

Describe the general vision highlighting the concepts underpinning the alignment with one or more of the supported activity categories.

2.2. Objectives

Describe the specific objectives for the proposal. They should be clear, measurable, realistic and achievable within the duration of the project. Objectives should be aligned and consistent with the general objectives the open call

2.3. Concept and approach / Project Description

Elaborate the overall concept underpinning the proposal.

Describe the main ideas, models or assumptions involved.



2.4. Ambition

Describe what advance your proposal would provide beyond the state-of-the-art, the current and envisioned status of INTERFACE project and services/applications and to what extent the proposed work is ambitious.

Describe the innovation potential, which the proposal foresees.

3. Quality of Work plan

Applicants need to provide credible evidence that the project team has the necessary skills and management experience to deliver the project in the timelines and budget specified.

Please define the deliverables aligned with the objectives of the open call and the specific business use case to which the proposal relates.

Please include a clear budget, detailing the overall project cost and costs categories, the amount of funding requested and how it will be spent. This budget need to represent good value for money in the opinion of the evaluation panel selected to evaluate the open call services/applications. Due to the scope and scale of proposals, management structure and cost should be kept at minimum.

3.1. Work plan

Please provide a description of the scientific and technological approach and/or methodology to follow your objectives. Describe the milestones for your technology development and explain processes you will follow to address them. Please make sure that you have concrete results at the end of each phase. Elaborate the outcome of each phase clearly and measurably and explain them. Please describe how you address the required KPIs.

1. Describe the overall work plan as follows in the following subsections:
2. Task list (use the table in Section 3.3.1);
3. Description of individual tasks (use the table in Section 3.3.2);
4. List of deliverables (use the Table in Section 3.3.3);
5. List of milestones (use the Table in Section 3.3.4)
6. Show the duration of the different tasks and their components
7. Describe any significant risks and associated contingency plans.

3.1.1. Task list

Please provide a list of tasks with the requested details (title, lead participant, start month and end month)
Table 3.1.1: Task List

Task No	Task Title	Lead Participant	Start month	End month
T1				
T2				

(Please add another row if you have more tasks. Please be careful that the task number will start after the last task from the previous phase)

3.1.2. Description of individual tasks

Please provide the details of each task which explain the complexity of the work and the overall value of the proposed service. The plan should be detailed and the role of each partner (in case there is more than



one partner) should be clearly stated. Milestones should be sufficiently precise to allow monitoring of the project's process.

Task 1: [name and duration, from month to month]		
Participant	Role:	Person-month
Objectives:		
Description of work and contribution of individual participants:		

Task 2: [name and duration, from month to month]		
Participant	Role:	Person-month
Objectives:		
Description of work and contribution of individual participants:		

(Please add tables for each task that you want to include)

3.1.3. List of deliverables

Please explain the deliverables that you will submit during the implementation period. This allows your scientific advisor to concur together with you whether your project is on track and take corrective actions if necessary.

A number of deliverables are required minimum:

1. Mid-term report: Provide a description of the methodology (solution design, methodological approach, technical / business design, expected results, etc.)
2. Final report: Final solution technical / business design, results, tests, assessment, conclusions)

Please provide the list of deliverables that you will submit during the implementation phase.

Deliverable No	Deliverable Name	Task No	Nature ¹⁰	Dissemination level ¹¹	Delivery date ¹²
Dx.y					
Dx.y					
Dx.y					

3.1.4. List of milestones

Milestones are control points where the decisions are needed with regard to the next phase of the project development. A milestone should be defined when a major result has been achieved if its successful attainment is required for the next phase of work or it might be a point when the consortium must decide which of several services to adapt for further development.

Milestone No	Milestone Name	Tasks involved	Expected date	Means of verification
M1				
M2				
M3				

3.1.5. Technological Risks

Please explain the risks of the technology development and your plan to address these risks. Please make sure that you have identified all crucial risks (technical, commercial and others) and indicate how these will be addressed and overcome effectively.

3.2. Service resources – costs

Please detail the budget that you need, describe the travel expenses and other major cost items. Include costs for travel, including to joint events such as workshops, and for dissemination and exploitation events during the runtime of the service implementation.

Example

The service partners are committed to mobilise the resources needed to guarantee the achievement of the results. The total budget is of xxx €. The total requested funding is of xxx €.

- *Breakdown of costs (please, provide the costs for the implementation phase):*
- *Personnel: The involvement of the x participants in the xx months will amount to xxx €*
- *Travel expenses: Attendance to periodical technical meetings and the presence at the challenge host will amount to xxx €*
- *Other direct costs: they will amount to xxx € (provide a brief description)*

Participant Number	Participant short name	ESTIMATED ELIGIBLE COSTS*							
		Effort (PM)	Personnel Costs (€)	Travel(€)	Other direct	Indirect costs (€)	Total subcontract	Total costs (€)	Requested

¹⁰ Please indicate the nature of the deliverable using one of the following codes: R=Report, P=Prototype, D=Demonstrator, O=other.

¹¹ Please indicate the dissemination level using the following codes: PU: Public, PP=Restricted to other program participants (including Commission Services), RE=Restricted to a specified group by the consortium (including the Commission Services), CO: Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

¹² Measured in months from the Project start date (M1)



					costs (€)		acting costs (€)		funding (€)

In column 'Effort (PM)', insert the required person months for the work involved.

In column 'Personnel Costs (€)', insert your personnel costs for the work involved.

In column 'Other direct costs (€)', insert any other direct costs, for example material costs. Only the eligible part of the equipment full cost (with taxes) for the project's duration can be considered; this may depend on local or national rules on depreciation.

In column 'Indirect costs (€)', insert your indirect (overhead) costs; 25 % of all your direct costs.

In column "Total subcontracting costs", insert any costs related to a subcontract you would enter into. Subcontracting costs should be exceptional, well justified and will require the prior written consent of the Cascade funding partner. Please note that you will have to ensure that the subcontractor will comply with all obligations, especially coming from the contract that you will sign with the Cascade funding partner, if successful. Please provide here sufficient justification on what and why you need to subcontract some of your tasks.

In column 'Total costs (€)', calculate the sum of all your indicated costs.

In column 'Requested funding (€)', insert your requested EC contribution. You may request up to the total amount allowed by the related open call.

4. Intellectual Property and Ethical Issues (limit: 1 page)

Please explain your plans addressing IP (e.g. patent) issues to protect the technology rights. Please explain your plan to address Ethical Issues (if it is the case for your service) and the certification process. Finally, please state that there is no active engagement with the INTERFACE Consortium Partners nor the business use case provider of the specific business use case you are addressing.

5. Company description (Third party) (limit: 1 Pages)

Write a brief description of the legal entity, the main tasks they have been attributed, and the previous experience relevant to those tasks. Provide also a short profile of the individuals who will be undertaking the work.

ANNEX 6: Model Contract Funding Agreement

This Annex includes a draft of the Model Contract Funding Agreement between the Cascade Funding Partner and the beneficiaries of the Open Call and its Annexes. Its final format will be conducted by the Cascade Funding Partner.

This Model Contract Funding Agreement includes the rights and obligations originated in the INTERFACE Grant Agreement and Consortium Agreement.

This INTERFACE Model Contract Funding Agreement for providing financial support to the Selected Third Party via the cascade funding mechanism, hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”, is entered into by and between:

The established in, represented by or his authorized representative

Hereinafter referred to as the “**Cascade Funding Partner**”

And

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	



Legal office address:	
-----------------------	--

(Add as many as the SELECTED Third Parties)

referred to as “**Selected Third Parties**”,

Hereinafter referred to as “Selected Third Parties”;

Hereinafter individually or collectively referred to as “Party” or “Parties”.

Whereas (add acronyms of INTERFACE beneficiaries) (hereinafter sometimes collectively referred to as the “INTERFACE Beneficiaries” and individually and alternatively referred to as the “INTERFACE Beneficiary”) participate to the H2020 project entitled “TSO-DSO-Consumer INTERFACE architecture to provide innovative grid services for an efficient power system” (hereinafter the “INTERFACE Project”);

Whereas the INTERFACE Beneficiaries entered into the Grant Agreement N° 824330 with the European Commission (the “Grant Agreement” or “GA”) and signed together in 2019 a Consortium Agreement with respect to the INTERFACE Project (the “Consortium Agreement” or “CA”).

Whereas the INTERFACE Project involves financial support to selected third parties via a cascade funding mechanism (hereinafter “Cascade Funding”).

Whereas the Selected Third Parties have been selected to implement the Service as described in Annex I “Specific Contract”.

Whereas the Selected Third Parties will be in charge of the implementation of the Service with the participation of the INTERFACE Beneficiaries identified in Annex I “Specific Contract”.

Whereas the Funding Partner is willing to provide financial support to the Selected Third Parties for the implementation of such Service and the Selected Third Parties are willing to receive such funding under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Whereas in accordance to the Grant Agreement and the Consortium Agreement, the Funding Partner shall sign an agreement with the Selected Third Parties compliant with the GA and CA, after validation by the other Participating Partners.

Whereas the Funding Partner is responsible for the enforcement of this Agreement with the Selected Third Parties and for the monitoring of the Service implementation phase.

Therefore it has been agreed as follows:

1) DEFINITIONS

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the definition outlined in this Section of the Agreement:

a. **Agreement** is this Model Contract Funding Agreement, together with its Annexes.



- b. An **Affiliated Entity** of an INTERFACE Beneficiary is any legal entity described in Article 14 of H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement, directly or indirectly Controlling, Controlled by, or under common Control with that Party, for as long as such Control lasts.
- c. **Background** is, any and all, data, information and know-how (whatever form or nature, tangible or intangible, including any rights such as intellectual property rights, enlisted in Annex I) that is required to implement the Project or exploit the Results and that is:
 - owned or controlled by the Parties or an INTERFACE Beneficiary prior to the date of signature of the Contract (Annex I); or
 - developed or procured by the Parties or an INTERFACE Beneficiary independently during the work done in the Services even if in parallel with the production
 - of the Services, but solely to the extent that such data, information, know-how and/or intellectual property rights are introduced into the Services by the owning Parties
- d. **Access Rights** are the rights to use Results or Background in accordance with the provisions of the H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement and under the terms and conditions laid down in this Agreement.
- e. **Controlled Licence Terms** are terms in any licence that involve the use, copying, modification and/or distribution of the Work and/or of any work that is a modified version or a derivative work of such Work (in each case, defined as Derivative Work).
- f. **Exploitation** or **Exploit** is the use of results for further research activities other than those covered by the Open Call action, or for developing, creating and marketing a product or process, or creating and providing a service, or any standardisation activities.
- g. **Fair and Reasonable conditions** are appropriate conditions, including financial terms or royalty- free conditions, considering the specific circumstances of the demand for access, for example the actual or potential value of the background or results to which access is requested and/or the initiative, duration or other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged.
- h. **Financial Support** is the grant amount of the financial support to be given to the Selected Third Parties for the implementation of the Service by the Funding Partner as detailed in Annex I “Contract”.
- i. **Services** is the service to be carried out by INTERFACE Beneficiaries and the Selected Third Parties as detailed in Annex I “Service Contract”.
- j. **Intellectual Property Rights Policy** are the Policy outlined at Section 5 of this Agreement.
- k. **Results** are any tangible or intangible output of the action, any and all data, knowledge or information, that is generated during the action, whatever form or nature, whether it can be protected or not, plus any rights inclined to it, including intellectual property rights.
- l. **Participating Partners** are the entities and organisations participating in the Service, as listed in Annex I.
- m. **Technical Expert** is either an external expert to the INTERFACE Consortium or an INTERFACE Beneficiary except the Funding Partner, that is responsible for the evaluation of the deliverables submitted by the Selected Third Parties and for authorizing the Funding Partner to proceed with the payment of the Financial Support when the deliverables have been accepted.



2) OBLIGATIONS FROM MODEL GA AND CA REFLECTED IN THIS AGREEMENT

The Funding Partner receives funding from the European Commission to organise the Services implementation. Selected Third Parties have to comply with the obligations described in this Agreement and some of the obligations outlined in H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement. The specific obligations that the Selected Third Parties must ensure are described in articles 6, 22, 23, 35, 36, 38 and 46 of H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement. These articles are part of the Agreement only by reference.

The H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement is available on the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

The Selected Third Parties understand and agree to comply with the obligations comprised in this Agreement and with the specific ones in H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement. The Selected Third Parties are only bound by this Agreement and not by Grant Agreement or the Consortium Agreement.

3) FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES

- a. The Selected Third Parties shall participate in the INTERFACE Open Call and Service implementation in accordance with the state of the art. The Selected Third Parties shall implement the tasks according to the timeline described in Annex I “Specific Contract” and shall report to the Funding Partner on the activities’ progress in regular intervals as indicated in Annex I “Specific Model Contract”. The technical reports shall contain detailed information on the results generated by the Selected Third Party, as displayed on the template in Annex II.
- b. The Funding Partner shall provide Financial Support for the Service developed by the Selected Third Parties, in accordance to the payments’ schedule specified in Annex I “Specific Contract”.
- c. The pre-financing payment shall be paid to the Selected Third Parties by the Funding Partner pursuant to the schedule and in conditions defined in Annex I “Specific Contract”.
- d. The Selected Third Parties shall provide the Funding Partner with interim costs reports and a final costs report according to the timeline described in Annex I “Specific Contract”, each of these costs reports has to be accompanied by a written statement by the Technical Expert in charge of reviewing the deliverables identified in Annex I “Specific Contract” that such deliverables have been received.
- e. The Selected Third Parties shall use the template of costs reporting in Annex IV “Costs Report Template”. The following elements shall be included in the Selected Third Parties costs reports:
 - Identification of the Service
 - Identification of milestones.
 - Detailed information on the deliverable produced for the implementation of the Service
 - A financial statement of costs actually incurred validated by the legal representative of the company
- f. No payment will be made by the Funding Partner if all the conditions outlined in this article are not fulfilled.
- g. Payments shall be made as indicated in Annex I “Specific Contract” provided that all conditions enlisted in Section 3 of this Agreement are fulfilled by the Selected Third Parties. For any avoidance of doubt, the payment is determined as specified in Annex I “Specific Contract”.
- h. The documentation mentioned above must be sent to the following email/or physical address:

.....



.....

- i. The Selected Third Parties shall complete Annex V of this Agreement and shall inform the Funding Partner for any Alteration as soon as it has occurred. The Funding Partner shall not in any case be liable for any late payment incurred by an alteration in the financial identification of the Selected Third Parties.

4) LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

- a. Each Third Party shall comply with all laws, rules and regulations, if any, applicable to it in connection with the performance of its obligations under the Agreement and any Statement of Work.
- b. The contractual liability of the Funding Partner under this Agreement shall in any case be limited to the amount of the Financial Support provided to the Selected Third Parties hereunder and the Funding Partner. The Funding Partner shall not in any way be liable for any indirect or consequential damages such as:
 - loss of profits, interest, savings, production and business opportunities
 - lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings
 - loss or damage to reputation or data
 - costs of recall of products or
 - any other type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special or consequential loss or damage.
- c. The Funding Partner shall not in any case be liable for any damage caused in the involved action in cases of gross negligence.
- d. Selected Third Parties shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Funding Partner or any other INTERFACE Beneficiary.
- e. In respect of any data or materials (including Results and Background) provided either by one Party to another Party or to an INTERFACE Beneficiary, or by an INTERFACE Beneficiary involved in the Service to a Party, no warranty or representation of any kind whatsoever, expressed or implied as to the sufficiency, accuracy or fitness for purpose and non- infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties.

5) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS POLICY

Each Selected Third Party understands the terms of the “Intellectual Property Rights Policy” defined hereafter. Each Selected Third Party agrees to comply with the Intellectual Property Rights Policy to ensure that the Funding Partner will always be able to comply with such terms towards the INTERFACE Consortium Partners.

- a. **Ownership:** Results are owned by the Parties or by the INTERFACE Beneficiary that generates them.
- b. **Joint Results:** Due to provisions of the Consortium Agreement signed between the INTERFACE Beneficiaries, if, in the course of developing the Service, a Result is generated by the Selected Third Parties together with one or several INTERFACE Beneficiaries, they shall own the Results jointly.



Where such joint Result is covered by intellectual property rights, the joint owners shall execute a joint ownership agreement regarding the allocation and the terms and conditions of Exploitation of the joint Results before any industrial or commercial Exploitation. The joint owners shall agree on each and every protection measure and the division of related cost in advance.

c. Access Rights Needed

- i. During the Service, the Intellectual Property (including, but not limited to Software) under Controlled Licence Terms in the Service shall be stated in detail and requires the prior approval of the Funding Partner and of the Participating Parties to implement it.
- ii. Due to provisions of the Consortium Agreement signed between the INTERFACE Beneficiaries, Access Rights to Background and Results may be requested by the Selected Third Parties from a Participating Partner only in the following case and if the following conditions are fulfilled:

- Selected Third Parties have Access Rights to Background and Results if and when such Access Rights have been agreed on a case-by-case basis via a respective agreement between the Selected Third Party/ies and the INTERFACE Beneficiary/ies concerned. Such respective agreement shall not affect any legitimate right of other INTERFACE Beneficiaries nor violate any of the provisions outlined in the GA and/or CA. The separate agreement shall ensure that the other INTERFACE Beneficiaries have access to the Background and Results of the Selected Third Parties if Needed for the Implementation of the Project or Exploitation of its own Results.
- Selected Third Parties which obtain Access Rights shall fulfil confidentiality obligations alike to the obligations stated in the Consortium Agreement that shall be agreed with a respective confidentiality agreement between the Selected Third Parties and the INTERFACE Beneficiaries concerned.

Access Rights may be requested by the Selected Third Parties up to eighteen (18) months after the completion of the Service.

- iii. Each Selected Third Party shall grant Access Rights on its Background and/or Results to the INTERFACE Beneficiaries to the extent that such Background and/or Results are Needed for the implementation of the Service and/or implementation of the INTERFACE Project, and/or exploitation of the INTERFACE Results.
 - In the condition that an INTERFACE Beneficiary has Access Rights on the Selected Third Parties' Results and/or Background for implementation of the Service, such Access Rights shall be granted on a royalty-free basis, unless otherwise agreed.
 - In the condition that Access Rights on Results and/or Background of the Selected Third Parties are Needed by INTERFACE Beneficiaries in order to implement the INTERFACE Project, such Access Rights to the Selected Third Parties' Results shall be granted on a royalty-free basis and shall comprise the right to sublicense such Results and/or Background to the other selected third parties participating in the INTERFACE Project.
- iv. Where Access Rights on the Selected Third Parties' Results and/or Background are Needed by INTERFACE Beneficiaries in order to exploit their Results, the conditions on which Access Rights will be granted shall be negotiated between the Selected Third Parties and the INTERFACE Beneficiary concerned and agreed in a respective agreement.

- v. Access Rights may be requested by the INTERFACE Beneficiaries up to twelve (12) months after the end of the Service.

6) CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

a. **Obligation to avoid a conflict of interests**

The Selected Third Parties must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the action is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('Conflict of interests').

They must formally notify to the Funding Partner without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The Funding Partner may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

b. **Consequences of non-compliance**

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this document, the financial support may be reduced (see Article 43 of H2020 Annotated Model Grant Agreement) and the Agreement or participation of the beneficiary may be terminated. Such breaches may also lead to any of the other measures described in this Agreement.

7) CONFIDENTIALITY

- a. All information of whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by the Parties or an INTERFACE Beneficiary (the "Disclosing Partner") to the other Parties or to any INTERFACE Beneficiary (the "Recipient") in connection with the Project during its implementation that is identified as confidential at the time of disclosure is "Confidential Information". If information has been identified as confidential orally, it will be considered to be "confidential" only if it has confirmed in writing within 15 business days of the oral disclosure.
- b. Neither party may assign or otherwise transfer its rights and obligations out of this agreement, neither in whole nor in part, without the other party's prior written consent.
- c. The Recipient shall use the same degree of care regarding the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the Project that it uses for its own confidential and proprietary information.
- d. Each Party shall promptly advise the other Parties or the concerned INTERFACE Beneficiary in writing of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.
- e. Recipient (a) shall not disclose Confidential Information, neither in whole nor in part, to any third party; (b) shall only use the Confidential Information for the purpose of the Project; and (c) shall not, without the Discloser's written consent, neither in whole nor in part, commercially exploit or use the Confidential Information. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Recipient may make such disclosure if it is required to do so by law, provided always that Recipient has informed Discloser about such disclosure at least two business days prior to the disclosure.

8) DISSEMINATION

- a. The Funding Partner and the other Participating Partners are entitled to include the main issues and information regarding the Service in their reporting towards the European Commission, subject to prior written notification to the Selected Third Parties.
- b. The Selected Third parties must inform of any intentional dissemination activity with at least 5 business days' notice but may proceed if no objection is received from the Participating Partners prior to the event.
- c. Any communication activity related to the Service (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) and any infrastructure, equipment and major results funded by the grant must:
 - (a) display the EU emblem
 - (b) display the INTERRFACE Project logo
 - (c) include the following text:

For communication activities: "This Service has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330 via the cascade funding mechanism".

For infrastructure, equipment and major results: "This [infrastructure][equipment][insert type of result] is a part of the INTERRFACE Open Call for Third Parties mechanism, that has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330".

9) CHECKS AND AUDITS

- a. The Selected Third Parties agree to provide any data and/or information, including information in electronic form, requested by the European Commission or by any other external body authorised by the European Commission to check that the Service and the provisions of this Agreement are being properly implemented.
 - b. The Selected Third Parties shall keep all original documentation at the European Commission's disposal, especially accounting and tax records, or, in exceptional justified cases, certified copies of original documents relating to the Agreement, archived on any appropriate medium that ensures their integrity in accordance with the applicable laws, for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance specified in this agreement.
 - c. The Selected Third Parties agree to allow European Commission staff and external personnel authorised by the European Commission the appropriate right of access to the sites and premises of the Selected Third Parties and to all information, including information in electronic form, needed in order to conduct audits.
- Such audits shall be carried out throughout the period of implementation of the Agreement until the balance is paid and for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance. If appropriate, the audit findings may lead to recovery decisions by the European Commission.
- d. In accordance with Union legislation, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out spot checks and inspections of the

documents of the Selected Third Parties, and of any recipient of Cascade Funding, including at the premises of the Selected Third Parties, in accordance with the procedures laid down by Union law for the protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud and other irregularities. Where appropriate, the inspection findings may lead to recovery decisions by the European Commission. The Articles 22 and 23 of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement, also apply to the Selected Third Parties.

10) TERMINATION

- a. The Funding Partner can terminate this Agreement with immediate effect in written notice to the Selected Third Parties and to the other Participating Partners:
 - if a Selected Third Party is in breach of any of its obligations under this Agreement, which breach is not remediable, or, if remediable, has not been remedied within thirty (30) business days after written notice;
 - if, to the extent permitted by law, a Selected Third Party is declared bankrupt, is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with its creditors, has suspended business activities, or is the subject of any other similar condition;
 - If a Selected Third Party is subject to an Event of Force Majeure, that prevents the Selected Third Party from fair performance of its obligations hereunder and such conditions have lasted or can be reasonably expected to last more than 3 months.
- b. Access Rights granted to the Selected Third Parties shall refrain immediately upon the effective date of termination.

11) CONCLUDING CONDITIONS

- a. The Parties that will not sign the terms of this Agreement (including Annex I) will not be effective, until the Funding Partner has received written confirmation from each Participating Partner that it agrees to their content. This written confirmation can be addressed by each Participating Partner by email to the Funding Partner.

Once each written confirmation is addressed by each Participating Partner, any ancillary agreements, amendments, additions or modifications to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the Parties, and will only be effective by the time the Funding Partner has received written confirmation from each Participating Partner that it agrees to their content.

- b. Any subcontract by the Selected Third Parties concerning some of its tasks under this Agreement requires the prior written consent of the Funding Partner and does not affect its own obligations resulting from this Agreement. The Selected Third Parties shall secure that the subcontractor will comply with all obligations – especially coming from the Annotated Model Grant Agreement, and with regard to confidentiality – resulting from this Agreement and that the results attained by the subcontractor will be available in accordance with Section 5 of this Agreement.
- c. This Agreement will enter into force on the date of the last signature by the Parties.
- d. This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect until complete fulfilment of all obligations undertaken by the Parties.

- e. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be illegal or in conflict with applicable laws, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected. The ineffective provision shall be replaced by an effective one which is economically equivalent. The same condition shall apply in case of a gap.
- f. This Agreement shall be governed by and defined in accordance with the laws of Belgium.
- g. Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with this Agreement and which the Parties are unable to settle by mutual agreement will be brought before the courts of Brussel, Belgium.

Done in two originals, one for each Party.

On behalf of the Funding Partner:

Signature of the authorized representative:

On behalf of the Selected Third Party:

Signature of the authorized representative:

Name:

Title:

Date:

Name:

Title:

Date:

ANNEX I - SPECIFIC CONTRACT

INTERFACE Specific Contract

This INTERFACE Specific Contract for implementation of the Service by the Selected Third Parties, hereinafter referred to as the “Specific Contract”, is entered into by and between:

The, established in, represented by, SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBLE or his authorized representative

And

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

Official Name of the Selected Third Party (Acronym):	
VAT Number:	
PIC Number:	
Legal Status:	
Name of the legal signatory:	
Legal office address:	

(Add as many as the SELECTED Third Parties)

referred to as “**Selected Third Parties**”,



Hereinafter referred to as “Selected Third Parties”;

Hereinafter individually or collectively referred to as “Party” or “Parties”.

Whereas the Funding Partner and the Selected Third Parties have agreed the main terms and conditions to implement the Service in the course of the INTERFACE Project by signing the Specific Contract which form part of this Model Contract Funding Agreement.

Now therefore it has been agreed as follows:

A. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE SERVICE

The Selected Third Parties shall implement the Service in accordance with the following:

- Start from section 1 of the proposal. Utilise the version that was submitted for evaluation to fill in Part B and the content.
- Complete the content of the following section
- Remove the cover page(s) of your proposal.
- Remove the list of participants. This is included in Part A.
- Include a table of contents with page numbers (or else update the existing table of contents).
- Remove table of task lists, table of deliverables, table of milestones, table of individual tasks they are included in Part A.

History of changes

(Include a list of changes from the submitted proposal against the modifications after the plenary meeting)

Table of contents

Please include a table of contents following the structure below

1. Impact

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

1.1 Expected impact and results

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

1.2 Exploitation plan of project results

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

2. Technical Quality

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

2.1 Alignment

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

2.2 Objectives

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

2.3 Concept and approach / Project Description



(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

2.4 Ambition

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

3. Implementation

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

3.1 Work plan

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

3.2 Service resources & costs

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

3.3 Financial Support & Payment Conditions

Payment scheme	After signature of the Model Contract Funding Agreement by both parties, i.e. Selected Third parties can receive pre-financing of up to 25% of their respective total funding amount. Further payments will be made upon successful submission of deliverables, completion of milestones, and achievement of KPIs as specified in
Payment conditions	For the pre-financing: Upon signature of the Contract Funding Agreement by both parties For the interim and the final payments: After delivering the written statement by the Technical Expert in charge of reviewing the deliverables, together with the completed costs report.
Penalties	If payment is not made on its due date, (i) a lump sum of Euros will be charged, and (ii) interest on the unpaid amount, calculated on a daily basis at a rate equivalent to four (4) percentage points over the European Central Bank prime rate prevailing on the due date.

The Selected Third Parties shall comply with laws, rules and regulations applying in its country, including, but not limited to safety, security, welfare, social security and fiscal laws, rules and regulations.

4. Intellectual Property and Ethical Issues.

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

5. Company description

(Based on the proposal that was submitted)

B. MISCELLANEOUS

1. This Model Contract Funding Agreement, composed by Standard Service Contract and its Annexes 1 to 4, sets forth the entire agreement and understanding between the and the Parties relating to the subject matter herein and shall supersede all prior correspondence, agreements and understandings, both verbal and written.

2. All capitalized terms used in this Model Contract Funding Agreement (that are all of the terms of the Standard Service Contract and Annexes I-IV), which are defined in the Standard Service Contract shall have the definitions outlined in the Standard Service Contract. In condition of contradiction between this



Specific Contract and the Standard Service Contract, the terms of the Standard Service Contract shall apply.

Done in two originals, one for each Party.

On behalf of the Funding Partner:

Signature of the authorized representative:

On behalf of the Selected Third Party:

Signature of the authorized representative:

Name:

Title:

Date:

Name:

Title:

Date:

ANNEX II - TECHNICAL REPORT TEMPLATE

1. Reporting period

DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY

2. Objectives of the period

Description of the objectives of the Service Implementation period (concept and objectives), achieved progress and potential innovation, targeted Results description and used Background.

3. Summary of achievements

Summarize major results and achievements and evaluate them compared with the objectives.

4. Results achieved

Description of the KPIs of the services that they have been achieved.

5. Deliverables and milestones

Name and description of the deliverables delivered and milestones achieved in the period (if any)

6. Relevant facts during the period

Any relevant fact during the implementation period

7. Risks management

The way risks (if any) have been/will be managed

8. Planed activities

Main activities planned for the next reporting period

ANNEX III ESTIMATED BUDGET FOR THE ACTION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [BENEFICIARY [name]] / LINKED THIRF PARTIES [name]]

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR [BENEFICIARY [name] / LINKED THIRF PARTIES [name]]															
	Eligible* costs (per budget category)											Additional information			
	A. Direct personnel costs		B. Direct costs of subcontracting	[C. Direct costs of fin. support]	D. Other direct costs		E. Indirect costs	[F. Costs of ...]		Total costs	Information for indirect costs:				
	A.1 Personnel	A.4 SME owners without salary			D.1 Travel	D.4 Costs of large research infrastructure		[F.1 Costs of ...]**	[F.2 Costs of...]**		Costs of in-kind contributions not used on premises				
	A.2 Natural persons under direct contract	A.5 Beneficiaries that are natural persons without salary			D.2 Equipment										
	A.3 Secoded persons				D.3 Other goods and services										
	[A.6 Personnel or providing access to research infrastructure]														
Forms of costs ****	Actual	Unit ①	Unit ②		Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Flat-rate ③		Unit ④	Unit ⑤			
			XX EUR/hour						25%						XX EUR/unit
	(a)	Total (b)	N o h o u r s	T o t a l (c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h) = 0.25((a)+(b)+(c)+(f)+(g)+[(i1)]Ⓢ+[(i2)]Ⓢ-(o))		No units	Total (i1)	Total (i2)	(j) = (a)+(b)+(c)+(d)+€+(f)+(g)+(h)+(i1)+(i2)	(o)

The beneficiary/linked third party hereby confirms that:
 The information provided is complete, reliable and true.
 The costs declared are eligible (see Article 6 of AGA).
 The costs can be substantiated by adequate records and supporting documentation that will be produced upon request or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations (see Articles 17, 18 and 22 of AGA).
 For the last reporting period: that all the receipts have been declared (see Article 5.3.3 of AGA).

The beneficiary/linked parties must declare all eligible costs, even if – for actual costs, unit costs and flat-rate costs = they exceed the amounts indicate in the estimated budget (see Annex II of this Agreement). Amount not declared in the individual financial statement will not be taken into account by the *[Commission]**[Agency]*.

* See Article 6 of AGA for conditions for costs to be eligible.

** Depending on its type, this cost will or will not include indirect costs.

Costs that include indirect costs are: costs of energy efficiency measures in buildings, costs of providing trans-national access to research infrastructure and costs of clinical studies.

*** This is the theoretical amount o EU contribution if the reimbursement rate is applied to *all* the reported costs. At the payment of the balance, the theoretical amount o EU contribution for the action is capped by the maximum grant amount.

**** See Article 5 of AGA for forms of costs.

① unit: hours worked on the action; costs per unit(hourly rate): calculated according to beneficiary's usual accounting practice.

② unit: hours worked on the action; cost per unit: XX EUR.

③ flat rate: 25% of eligible direct costs, from which are excluded: direct costs of subcontracting, costs of in-kind contributions not used on premises, direct costs of inancial support, and unit costs declared under Point F if they include indirect costs.

④ unit:; costs per unit: XX EUR

⑤ unit:; costs per unit (the units and the costs per unit are set out in Annex II of Grand Agreement).

⑥ only unit costs not including costs to be added.

AGA – Annotated Model Grant Agreement is available on the following link:

https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

Name of the legal representative of the Selected Third Party

Function of the legal representative of the Selected Third Party

Stamp of the Selected Third Party

ANNEX IV - COSTS REPORT TEMPLATE

Cost reporting will utilize the following categories/ cells and will be collected using an Excel file or other similar means to simplify the reporting process.

Participant Number	Participant short name	Estimated eligible costs*							
		Effort (PM)	Personnel Costs (€)	Travel(€)	Other direct costs (€)	Indirect costs (€)	Total subcontracting costs (€)	Total costs (€)	Requested funding (€)
TOTAL									

In column 'Effort (PM)', insert the required person months for the work involved.

In column 'Personnel Costs (€)', insert your personnel costs for the work involved.

In column 'Other direct costs (€)', insert any other direct costs, for example material costs. Only the eligible part of the equipment full cost (with taxes) for the project's duration can be considered; this may depend on local or national rules on depreciation.

In column 'Indirect costs (€)', insert your indirect (overhead) costs; 25 % of all your direct costs.

In column "Total subcontracting costs", insert any costs related to a subcontract you would enter into. Subcontracting costs should be exceptional, well justified and will require the prior written consent of the Funding Partner. Please note that you will have to ensure that the subcontractor will comply with all obligations, especially coming from the contract that you will sign with the Funding Partner, if successful. Please provide here sufficient justification on what and why you need to subcontract some of your tasks.

In column 'Total costs (€)', calculate the sum of all your indicated costs.

In column 'Requested funding (€)', insert your requested EC contribution. You may request up to the total amount allowed by the related open call.

Signature of authorised representative)

Name

Position

Date

ANNEX V - SELECTED THIRD PARTY FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION



FINANCIAL IDENTIFICATION

PRIVACY STATEMENT

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/privacy_statement_en.pdf

By submitting this form, you acknowledge that you have been informed about the processing of your personal data by the European Commission for accounting and contractual purposes.

Please use CAPITAL LETTERS and LATIN CHARACTERS when filling in the form.

BANKING DETAILS ①	
ACCOUNT NAME ②	<input type="text"/>
IBAN/ACCOUNT NUMBER ③	<input type="text"/>
CURRENCY	<input type="text"/>
BIC/SWIFT CODE	<input type="text"/> BRANCH CODE ④ <input type="text"/>
BANK NAME	<input type="text"/>
ADDRESS OF BANK BRANCH	
STREET & NUMBER	<input type="text"/>
TOWN/CITY	<input type="text"/> POSTCODE <input type="text"/>
COUNTRY	<input type="text"/>
ACCOUNT HOLDER'S DATA	
AS DECLARED TO THE BANK	
ACCOUNT HOLDER	<input type="text"/>
STREET & NUMBER	<input type="text"/>
TOWN/CITY	<input type="text"/> POSTCODE <input type="text"/>
COUNTRY	<input type="text"/>
REMARK	<input type="text"/>
BANK STAMP + SIGNATURE OF BANK REPRESENTATIVE ⑤	DATE (Obligatory)
	SIGNATURE OF ACCOUNT HOLDER (Obligatory)

① Enter the final bank data and not the data of the intermediary bank.

② This does not refer to the type of account. The account name is usually the one of the account holder. However, the account holder may have chosen to give a different name to its bank account.

③ Fill in the IBAN Code (International Bank Account Number) if it exists in the country where your bank is established

④ Only applicable for US (ABA code), for AU/NZ (BSB code) and for CA (Transit code). Does not apply for other countries.

⑤ It is preferable to attach a copy of RECENT bank statement. Please note that the bank statement has to confirm all the information listed above under 'ACCOUNT NAME', 'ACCOUNT NUMBER/IBAN' and 'BANK NAME'. With an attached statement, the stamp of the bank and the signature of the bank's representative are not required. The signature of the account-holder and the date are ALWAYS mandatory.

Financial identification template is also available here:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/fich_sign_ba_gb_en_0.pdf



ANNEX 7: Declaration of Honor

Please complete the “Declaration of Honor”. In case your proposal is selected, a signed version will be required and will be verified to the information provided during the Model Contract Funding Agreement preparation phase.

Comments [highlighted in square brackets] to be deleted and/or replaced as appropriate by the entity signing the declaration.

Declaration of Honor

(To be filled out by the applicant and signed by its legal representative)

I, the undersigned,

[enter name of legal representative],

authorised to represent

[enter legal name of your organisation],

leader of the

[enter name of project: Proposal Acronym-Proposal title]

hereby certifies that:

a) the Legal person, that I represent is not one of the following conditions:

1. —Is not bankrupt or being wound up, nor having its affairs administered by the courts or has entered into an arrangement with creditors or has suspended business activities or is the subject of affairs concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
2. —has not been guilty of a grave professional misconduct proved in any way which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations;
3. —complies with its obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established or those of the country where the contract is to be performed or those of the country of the contracting authority;
4. —is not subject to any administrative penalty for being guilty of the misrepresentation of any information required by the contracting authority, as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement proceeding or failing to deliver this information, or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget;



5. —or persons having power of representation, authority and/or control over it, have not been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata;
6. —no persons having power of representation, authority and/or control over it, have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in criminal organisations or any other illegal activity that is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
7. —is not affiliated to any of the INTERRFACE Consortium Partners;
8. —is not subject to a conflict of interest defined in Section 3.7 of the Guide of Applicants;
9. —is not submitting any other proposal to INTERRFACE Open Call;
10. —has not made false declarations in supplying the information required, as a condition of participation in the Open Call or does not fail to supply this information.

b) that the natural persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the above-mentioned legal entity are not in the conditions referred to in 5 and 6 above;

c) that the Legal person, that I represent:

- is committed to participate in the mentioned project above;
- has or will have the necessary resources if and when needed to fulfil its involvement in the above-mentioned project.
- has sufficient and stable sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the above-mentioned project and to provide any necessary counterpart funding;

d) I also declare that:

- I voluntarily agree to participate in the INTERRFACE Open Call.
- I understand and fully accept all INTERRFACE Open Call conditions and rules as described in the Guide for Applicants of the INTERRFACE Open Call.
- I have been given the opportunity to ask questions about the call and its procedures via the INTERRFACE Open Call Helpdesk
- I am aware that I can withdraw my application at any time without giving reasons and that I will not be penalized for withdrawing nor will I be questioned on the reasons I have withdrawn.
- I confirm to inform the INTERRFACE Team, immediately, for any conflict of interest will arise, after the submission deadline and until the fulfillment of the evaluation process.

e) Supporting documents

For conditions a.1, a.3 or a.4, recent certificates issued by the competent authorities of the country concerned are required. These certificates must certify the covering of all taxes and social security contributions for which the person is liable, including VAT, income tax (natural persons only), company tax (legal persons only) and social security contributions. Failing that, a sworn statement made before a judicial authority or notary, is required or, failing that, a solemn statement made before an administrative authority or a qualified professional body in its country of establishment.

For conditions a.2, a.5 or a.6, a recent extract from the judicial record is required or, failing that, an equivalent certificate recently issued by a judicial or administrative authority in the country of establishment of the person proving that the above requirements are satisfied.

The above documentation will have to be provided within deadline communicated with the publication of the “Final Selection List” (immediately or after the reserve list). If the requested documentation is not provided in time, this will directly end the Model Contract Funding Agreement Process and applicants enlisted in the ‘Reserve List’ will substitute the above ones in order of ranking.

Following this, the INTERFACE Consortium (represented by its coordinator ED) will sign the Model Contract Funding Agreement with the final list of beneficiaries. The applicants who undersign the above Contract will be confirmed as beneficiaries of the INTERFACE Open Call for Third Parties.

f) I voluntarily agree to be registered at INTERFACE Open Call portal at <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/> and I understand that I can delete my profile from the above-mentioned portal by informing INTERFACE Team via interrface_opencall@interrface.eu

<p>For the legal entity¹³:</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Name/Surname:.....</p> <p>Job title:.....</p>	<p>Signature and stamp (if applicable)</p>
<p>Done at (place)..... the (day).....(month).....(year).....</p>	

¹³ This document needs to be signed by the legal representative of your organisation

ANNEX 8: Confidentiality Declaration for Evaluators

I the undersigned declare that, in participating as an independent expert in the evaluation of proposals received in the Open Call of project INTERFACE, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330.

I undertake to treat as confidential all information contained in the proposals which I am asked to evaluate, both during the evaluation and afterwards.

I will not reveal to any third party the identity or any details of the views of my fellow evaluator(s), neither during the evaluation nor afterwards

I do not, to the best of my knowledge, have any interest in any of the proposals submitted in this call, I have not been involved in their preparation and I do not benefit either directly or indirectly from the eventual selection. Should I discover a conflict of interest during the evaluation, I undertake to declare this and to withdraw from the evaluation.

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	

ANNEX 9: Evaluation Form

Individual evaluation/Consensus (delete as appropriate)

Proposal No.:	Acronym:
1. Award criterion 1: IMPACT	Score¹⁴: (Threshold 3/5)
2. Award criterion 2: TECHNICAL QUALITY	Score: (Threshold 3/5)

¹⁴ 0 The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information; 1 Poor The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses; 2 Fair While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses; 3 Good The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary; 4 Very good The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible; 5 Excellent The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.



3. Award criterion 3: QUALITY OF THE WORK PLAN	Score: (Threshold 3/5)
Remarks	Overall score: (Threshold 10/15)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, I have no direct or indirect conflict of interest in the evaluation of this proposal

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	

Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	

ANNEX 10: Public Evaluation Report

Results of open call (call ID ref XXX) for recipients of financial support

Project **acronym**: INTERFACE

Project **grant agreement number**: 824330

Project **full name**: TSO-DSO-Consumer INTERFACE architecture to provide innovative grid services for an efficient power system

Project INTERFACE, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330 launches an open call (call ID ref XXX) for recipients of financial support.

The call closed on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET (Brussels time).

A total of XXX proposals were received for this call. XXX proposals will receive funding for a total amount of XXX EUR.

The evaluation and selection has been completed. All proposers have been informed about the evaluation results for their proposal for financial support.

Call information

The call was published on project INTERFACE's website (URL <http://www.interrface.eu/>) and on the Horizon 2020 Participants Portal (URL <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>) on XXX. Full call details were published at INTERFACE Open Call portal: (URL: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>)

Please add any other location where the call was published (if any) or any other relevant information.

Response to the call in detail¹⁵

	Number of proposals	Funding requested
Proposals received		
Eligible proposals		
Proposals above threshold		
Selected proposals		

List of selected proposals

Organisation	Country	Funding awarded

¹⁵ If different activities were called for, repeat this table for each activity.

ANNEX 11: Frequently Asked Questions

This Annex includes potential questions that might arise when opening the Open Call. It is a working document and it will be updated at a regular basis for the convenience of potential applicants. FAQs have no legal value. Potential applicants should advise the terms and conditions described in the Guide of Applicants of INTERFACE Open Call.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What is a third Party?

Other legal entities that participate in Horizon 2020 by carrying out some tasks in an action, but which do not sign the Grant Agreement (including entities linked to the beneficiaries) are considered as "third parties involved in an action" (Article 8 of the Annotated Model GA). They are not bound by the terms and conditions of the Grant Agreement and consequently, the European Union (represented by the Commission or another funding body) has no obligation vis-à-vis third parties. If necessary to implement the action, beneficiaries may use contracts and sub-contracting for the purchase of goods, works or services, in-kind contributions provided by third parties and also linked third parties carrying out tasks under an action.

2. How many proposals will you fund in INTERFACE Open Call?

INTERFACE Open Call will fund up to 7 third parties.

3. What are you expecting from INTERFACE Open Call?

INTERFACE Open Call is looking for up to 7 third parties to develop and/or extend different infrastructures and state-of-the-art technologies of INTERFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by INTERFACE's pilots.

Participants are asked to address solutions that promote and enable flexibility of end-users. Please advise Annexes 2-7 of the Guide for Applicants for technical details.

4. How will the funds be disbursed if our proposal is successful?

The third parties will receive their grant on a rolling basis throughout the project. Third parties can receive pre-financing of up to 25% of their respective total funding amount. Further payments will be made upon successful completion of milestones and deliverables.

5. Which is the maximum amount of financial support to each third-party?

The financial support to each third-party will not exceed 60.000€.

6. Should I include indirect costs in the declared budget?

Yes, this Open Call is part of EU-funding project, so there should be a clear distinction between direct and indirect costs. Each proposal should include justifications of costs and resources. Checking the consistency between these costs and the expected work of the experiment will be part of the evaluation of application services.



ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY PROCESS

1. Is my company/organization eligible for funding?

INTERFACE Open Call is open to any organization eligible under Article 10 of the H2020 rules of participation, i.e. any start-ups, SMEs, companies or research institutes/organizations, with legal entity in a member state of the European Union, a H2020 associated country or in a H2020 International Cooperation Partner Country (ICPC). Entities have to possess a validated Participant Identification Code.

Please check the list of eligible countries in the following link: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>

2. Are Universities eligible to funding?

Yes, Research and Technology Organisations including universities are eligible to receive funding.

3. Can consortia participate?

No, consortia cannot participate. Only single legal entities can apply for funding.

4. Can we submit two or more proposals?

Only one proposal per applicant can be submitted. If more than one proposal per applicant is identified, only the first one which has been submitted in order of time will be evaluated.

APPLY PROCESS

1. Will you give any feedback to early submissions to help improve their proposal before the deadline?

No, the proposals will only be evaluated after the end of the Open Call that is the 30th of June 2021. Until then, even if you have already submitted your proposal, you will be able to resubmit your proposal.

12. Which type of support is available for preparing the proposal?

The 'Guide for Applicants' is the main reference document for the INTERFACE Open Call. It provides detailed information about the application process, the requirements of the evaluation and the selection process. All necessary materials that accompany the Guide for Applicants document are uploaded on the INTERFACE Open Call portal: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

Additionally, an Open Call Helpdesk service is available for any queries you may have related to the application process (eligibility rules, application form information requests, etc). You can access the Open Call Helpdesk here: interrface_opencall@interrface.eu

EVALUATION & SELECTION PROCESS

1. Who will evaluate my submission?

The submissions will be evaluated by Experts Evaluators according to expertise and competences concerned.

2. What are the criteria for the selection of the proposals to be funded?



Evaluation criteria are in line with the EC's evaluation criteria and are described in section 6.2 of Guide for Applicants which is available for download here: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>

3. When I get the notification of results?

The evaluation procedure will last 70 days after the closure of the deadline (30th June 2021). All applicants will be notified by no later than Friday the 10th of September, 2021.

4. My proposal has been selected for funding, now what?

The selected Third Parties will sign the Model Contract Funding Agreement with the Cascade Funding Partner on behalf of the INTERRFACE Consortium. The Standard Model Contract Funding Agreement includes clauses on (i) the conditions of transfer and usage of the cascade funding, (ii) the IPR rules, and (iii) other collaboration mechanisms.

PARTICIPATION IN THE PROGRAM

1. When will selected proposals start?

Funded proposals will start at the earliest on the 1st of December 2021, but no later than the 31st of December 2021. The deadline for the final report and documentation is expected no later than six (6) months after the beginning of the funded proposals' implementation that is by the 31st of May 2022.

2. Are there any specifications for the size of the proposal?

The maximum length of the proposal is 10 pages. Please read carefully the instructions in the Proposal Template document available here: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/important-documents/>

3. What support will be given to the selected Third Parties during the proposals' implementation?

Selected Third Parties will be supported during the implementation of the proposals by INTERRFACE Consortium. A Support Team (consisted by Consortium Partners) will assist the whole period of the implementation phase the funding proposals, providing support for technical/business issues. Selected Third Parties will receive from the demo partners an initial briefing to discuss and focus the services to be developed during the implementation period. Selected Third Parties are able to contact the Support Team on per-need basis on technical and business matters. The Support Team will monitor on timely basis the progresses of the proposals in order to ensure the proper execution of the planned work.

4. Who owns the intellectual property (IP) of my proposal?

The IP to the results are owed by either the INTERRFACE beneficiaries or Third Parties that generate them. The IP to the INTERRFACE infrastructures and IEGSA platform and services made available for your proposal will be exclusively owned by the respective INTERRFACE Consortium Partners. Detailed IPR terms and conditions are stated in the Model Contract Agreement.

5. What are the legal implications of collecting and processing personal data via my proposal?



Unless otherwise required by law, as an innovator, the funded Third Party will be acting as (joint) data controller in respect to the personal data collected and processed for your service. This means that it will be liable for compliance with the applicable data protection laws.

6. Will others (including the INTERFACE Partners) have access to the feedback I provide on the proposed services?

Access Rights to Background and Results may be requested by the Selected Third Parties from an INTERFACE Partner only in certain cases and under certain conditions. Please advise the Model Contract Agreement.

7. Will I own the material that I provide on INTERFACE?

Yes, the ownership of all material, documents or information created by the Selected Third Parties, via the INTERFACE cascade funding, will remain with the Selected Third Parties. Results are owned by the party that generates them. Intellectual Property Rights Policy is stated in detail in the Model Contract Funding Agreement. Provisions concerning joint ownership of the results of the funding projects are also outlined on the above document.

Legal notice

The answers provided in the FAQs are neither an agreement, nor a promise of any kind, and have no legal value. You should carefully review all terms and conditions of the Guide of Applicants and the Model Contract Funding Agreement before submitting your proposal.

Our initiative is to keep this information timely and accurate. If errors are identified, we will try to correct them. However, the INTERFACE Consortium disclaim any and all liability that may result from relying on the FAQs. The FAQs are:

- *of general nature and is not intended to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual or entity;*
- *not necessarily comprehensive, complete, accurate or updated;*
- *not substitute for professional or actual legal advice.*

ANNEX 12: Acknowledgement of receipt

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for submitting your proposal for consideration as recipient of financial support in the frame of project INTERFACE, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330.

The evaluation of all proposals received will take place in the next few weeks. You will be notified as soon as possible after this of whether your proposal has been successful or not.

On behalf of my colleagues in the project I would like to thank you for your interest in our activities.

Yours sincerely,

INTERFACE Team



ANNEX 13: INTERRFACE Open Call Portal's Privacy Policy

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Legal notice

1. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF USE

The user of the present portal of INTERFACE OPEN CALL, hereafter referred to as « user », acknowledges that the user has verified that the computer configuration used does not contain viruses or any other malicious software and operates perfectly.

The user is the only responsible for the selection, use and interpretation of the data which the user consults, searches and transmits on the Internet.

Cintech Solutions LTD, the INTERFACE partner is responsible for this portal and reserves the right to modify the present legal notice at any time. The user shall comply with the conditions of use of the portal contained in the most recent version of the legal notice available on the portal at the time of such use.

2. CONTENTS OF THE PORTAL

This portal is especially created for the INTERFACE OPEN CALL and serves as a platform, where proposals for the aforementioned call can be electronically submitted, reviewed, monitored and processed during the various stages of evaluation.

The following contents are kept on the portal:

2.1. PUBLIC INFORMATION:

Informative material regarding the INTERFACE research program.

Informative material and guides regarding the INTERFACE OPEN CALL.

Registration forms.

Contact information.

2.2. PRIVATE INFORMATION (ONLY AVAILABLE TO SPECIFIC TYPES OF USERS OF THE PORTAL):

Private area for applicants where they can perform actions specific to their role: download the proposal template, submit their proposal and review the progress of the evaluation

Private area for evaluators where they can perform actions specific to their role: download the evaluation template, submit their individual evaluation reports (IERs), and collaborate with other evaluators, the Panel Coordinator and the Rapporteur during drafting of the consensus reports (CRs) of the evaluation.

Private area for Call Coordinator and Rapporteur where they can perform actions specific to their role: collaborate with evaluators and carry out the evaluation process of the INTERFACE OPEN CALL.

2.3. INTERNAL INFORMATION (KEPT IN THE SECURE SERVERS OF THE PORTAL):

Contact information about the applicant companies.

Profile information (usernames, emails, contact information) of the users that will get an account on the portal as applicants, evaluators, or any other roles.

Proposals submitted by applicants.

Evaluation reports, consensus reports and related information.

Metrics and statistics of the usage of the website.

3. USE OF HYPERLINKS

This site includes information made available by hyperlinks to other sites which have not been developed by Cintech Solutions LTD.

Cintech Solutions LTD shall under no circumstances be liable for hyperlinks to other sites from this site.

The existence of a link from this site to another site shall not constitute any acquiescence or warranty on the part of Cintech Solutions LTD with respect to content or any person who runs such other site.

The creation of hyperlinks to this site shall be subject to the explicit prior approval of the Cintech Solutions LTD.

4. DATA PRIVACY

Here is a general overview of some of the ways this portal processes your personal data including the use of cookies.

4.1. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

4.1.1. In the following we inform about the collection of personal data when using our portal. Personal data are all data by which a person is identified or is identifiable. This data includes, for example, the name of a person but also data from which a person can be determined (e.g. e-mail address, account connection data, etc.).

4.1.2. According to the GDPR you have the following rights towards Cintech Solutions LTD with regard to personal data

(1)

- Right of access (Art. 15 GDPR)
- Right of correction or deletion (Art. 16 GDPR Art. 17 GDPR)
- Right of limitation of processing (Art. 18 GDPR)
- Right of opposition to processing (Art. 21 GDPR)
- Right of data transferability (Art. 20 GDPR)

(2) You also have the right to object to the processing of Personal Data relating to you that is carried out in the pursuit of INTERRFACE Consortium legitimate interests.

(3) When you object to the processing of your Personal Data as per article 8.2, the INTERRFACE Consortium will refrain from further processing your Personal Data, except where convincing legitimate reasons for proceeding with the processing have been established or for the verification, exercising or defense of a right in a court of law.

(4) You can exercise your rights and withdraw your consent by sending us an email here: privacy@cintechsolutions.eu

(5) Please note that you have the right to make a complaint to the relevant Personal Data protection authority.



(6) We do not keep your personal information longer than necessary for the purposes for which we collected it. However, we may keep your information for extended period for historical, statistical or scientific purposes with the appropriate protection in place.

4.2. COOKIES

Cookies are used on the INTERFACE OPEN CALL portal for its technical functioning and for gathering statistics.

The legal basis for personal data processing by using session cookies is Art. 6 para. 1 point (f) GDPR (legitimate interest). Without the use of the session cookies especially, several functions could not be offered on our portal.

4.3. CONTACT

Specific questions about the storage and use of personal data by INTERFACE Consortium can be sent to us at privacy@cintechsolutions.eu

5. PERSONAL DATA RECIPIENTS

5.1. Your Personal Data may be accessible for the purposes mentioned above, to:

Employees and staff of the INTERFACE Consortium who, for that purpose, have been tasked with data processing, or to the companies of the INTERFACE consortium in the European Union for the implementation of organisational, administrative, financial and accounting activities.

To third party companies or other subjects to which the INTERFACE Consortium outsources work required to allow the portal to function, in their role as external data processors.

6. PERIOD FOR WHICH YOUR DATA WILL BE HELD

6.1. Data processed for the abovementioned purposes will be held in compliance with the principles of proportionality and necessity, and, in all cases, until the purposes of the processing have been completed.

6.2. Your Personal Data is legally required to be kept until you withdraw your consent but, in all instances, will be automatically erased after 12 months.

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All the information available on the portal <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/> is protected by copyright. We use creative content from websites that provide free of charge and royalty free content, fully respecting and taking under consideration any specific licensing terms of copyright exploitation. Unless otherwise specified, reproduction of texts from these sites for non-commercial purposes and especially in educational situations is permitted, subject to the following three conditions being met:

- Free dissemination;
- Respect to the integrity of any reproduced document: no modification or alteration of any kind;
- Explicit mention of websites used as a source and statement that the rights of reproduction are reserved and limited.
- Any exception to these rules shall be subject to the prior written approval of Cintech Solutions LTD and the author of the creative content.



8. CHANGES

We reserve the right to modify or replace these Terms anytime. If a revision is material we will effort to provide at least 30 days' notice prior to any new terms taking effect. What constitutes a material revision will be defined at our own discretion.

By accessing or using our portal after those revisions become effective, you agree to compel to the revised terms. If you do not agree to the revised terms, please stop using the portal.



ANNEX 14: Announcement of the upcoming event on INTERFACE

Press Release

In the framework of the “stay tuned” dissemination campaign of the Call, a QR code with the public url of the INTERRACE Open Call was added on INTERRACE Flyer which was created on M21 of the project for dissemination purposes of the Project.



Figure 19: INTERRFACE September Flyer (both sides preview)

ANNEX 15: Announcement of an open call for recipients of financial support

Project **acronym**: INTERFACE

Project **grant agreement number**: 824330

Project **full name**: TSO-DSO-Consumer INTERFACE aRchitecture to provide innovative grid services for an efficient power system

Project INTERFACE, co-funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 824330, foresees as an eligible activity the provision of financial support to third parties, as a means to incorporate developers of innovative services in order to achieve its own objectives.

Financial support will be provided to public or private bodies, research organisations, non-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises, international organisations of EU interest, established in an EU Member State or in an Associated Country (as stated in Article 7 of the Horizon 2020 Regulation) , to any legal entity possessing a validated Participant Identification Code (PIC).

INTERFACE Open Call is looking for up to 7 Third Parties to develop and/or extend different infrastructures and state-of-the-art technologies of INTERFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by INTERFACE's pilots.

Participants are asked to address solutions that promote and enable flexibility of end-users. More specifically, the proposed functionalities aim to increase flexibility awareness and flexibility needs along the grids, attracting more flexibility players into the marketplaces. Among the solutions are requested:

- Utilization of Existing ENTSO-E Transparency Platform Data
- Development of an application that will serve as a Data Provider for IEGSA
- Aggregators and Local Energy Communities Intelligence services for congestion management
- An advanced tech base to manage/operate a local energy community
- Flexibility Service Providers, including aggregators with demand response and distributed energy resources as a grid service providers
- Development of an open-access generic forecasting methodology for the determination congestion management requirements in power systems

The INTERFACE Open Call will open on the 30 March 2021 and close on the 30 June at 17:00h CET (Brussels time).

Deadline: Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 17:00h CET (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: Up to 6 months

Maximum amount of financial support for each third party: 60,000 Euros

Call identifier: INTERFACE Open Call

Language in which proposal should be submitted: English

Web link for further information (full call text/proposal guidelines/call results) on your official project web site: <https://opencall-interface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

Email address for further information: interface_opencall@interface.eu



ANNEX 16: Communication Email For The Dissemination Of The Call

Dear partners,

We have prepared a set of dissemination actions and need your support with the following ones:

Social Media

Please share/retweet the post that we published on INTERRFACE's accounts (Twitter, LinkedIn, Facebook), or directly insert a post in your social media accounts based on the post's text that you can find in the attached file.

Press Release

In order to get media coverage, we ask each partner to send the attached press release to their regular media partners. We are sending an editable version of the press release in case you would like to adapt or/and translate it, and an e-mail template to support the sending of the press release as well.

Website

Besides sharing the press release, you may also upload a post on your company's website as a piece of news.

Visuals

And to support our message we are also attaching an illustration for social media posts.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information or if I can support you to reach our dissemination goals.

Signature

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Dear partner/s,

INTERRFACE Project in order to spread the world its architecture and state-of-the-art digital technologies and at the same time engage innovative solutions and novel technologies by external stakeholders, is launching the INTERRFACE Open Call for Third Parties on the 30rd of March 2021.

INTERRFACE Open Call is looking for up to 7 Third Parties to develop and/or extend different infrastructures of INTERRFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by INTERRFACE's pilots.

Participants are asked to propose functionalities with the aim to increase flexibility awareness and flexibility needs along the grids, attracting more flexibility players into the marketplaces.

Detailed information and full documentation of the Call is available on the following link of the official INTERRFACE Open Call portal: <https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

We kindly ask you to share the INTERRFACE Open Call Opening with your contacts. Please find attached the press release of the Call, as well as the Call's illustration for media coverage on socials.

Thank you in advance.

Signature



ANNEX 17: Press Release for the Opening of INTERFACE Open Call

*Press release
30 March 2021*

Horizon 2020 project INTERFACE calls out for innovators

The consortium is looking for new services for its power system flexibility platform

- Successful applications can receive max. 60 000 euros funding
- Innovative ideas are searched across 6 topics, including data provision, congestion management in power systems and flexibility services
- The call is open until 30 June 2021

INTERFACE project launches its Open Call for interested third parties. The aim of the call is to develop and extend different infrastructures and state-of-the-art technologies of the INTERFACE architecture and data management services to be implemented and validated by the pilots of the project.

To support the European energy transformation, the INTERFACE project will design, develop and exploit an Interoperable pan-European Grid Services Architecture (IEGSA) to act as the interface between the power system (Transmission and Distribution System Operators) and the customers. Through this new solution, the project aims at allowing a seamless and coordinated operation of all stakeholders to use and procure common services.

The project consortium is looking for successful applications across six different use cases, which are covering the major domains in which the project members operate. Among others, the proposed new services can utilize the existing power system data of the Transparency Platform, develop services and tools to support system operators' congestion management either by forecasting, or involving local energy communities or to provide flexibility services to the electricity markets.

The call is open for public or private bodies, research organisations, non-profit organisations, small and medium enterprises, international organisations of EU interest, established in an EU member state or in an associated country to any legal entity possessing a validated Participant Identification Code (this code is provided for interested parties to participate in EU funding programmes and procurements). Each successful applicant will receive a maximum of 60 000 euros funding.

The call is open from 30 March until 30 June 2021.

For further information, please consult our websites:

<https://opencall-interrface.cintechsolutions.eu/>

<http://interrface.eu/>

Background:

INTERFACE is project funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Commission. The consortium consists of 42 members from 16 European countries, including transmission and distribution



INTERFACE

system operators, research institutes and universities, service providers, a market operator and an industry association. Components of the project are demonstrated in 7 different sites regarding congestion management and balancing of the power system, the use of peer-to-peer transaction of flexibility services and the necessity of an integrated retail and wholesale electricity market. INTERFACE is a 48-month long project started in January 2019.