



Call documentation

8th Call for Proposals
Programme SIGMA
Sub-Objective 4: Bilateral cooperation

Funding Programme for Applied Research and Innovation

Ref. No.: TACR/9-26/2024



Focus and Conditions of the 8th Call for Proposals Under the SIGMA Programme

Sub-Objective 4 - Bilateral cooperation

What is the focus of the call for proposals?

- The SIGMA programme - Sub-objective 4: Bilateral cooperation follows on from the activities of the DELTA 2 programme. This call is aimed at supporting international cooperation in the field of applied research through joint projects of Czech entities supported by TA CR and foreign partners with the expected support of foreign institutions (hereinafter referred to as „foreign organisations“). Its main objective is to increase the quantity of outputs and results in areas that are promising for the future of the participating countries.
- The objective of the call is to promote the transfer of international knowledge, share good practice, and facilitate the penetration of foreign markets. The programme does not have a thematic focus, the selection of topics is determined with each foreign organisation separately and reflects the priority areas of applied research of the participating organisations.
- At least one foreign applicant from the location where the partner foreign organisation is based must participate in the project together with a Czech applicant. The foreign partner must submit a complementary project proposal to one of the listed foreign organisations. The project proposal of the applicants on the Czech side will be funded by TA CR only if the complementary project proposal of the foreign partners is at the same time approved by the foreign organisation.
- The full list of foreign organisations, the conditions of their call, and contact details are given in [Annex No. 1](#) to the Call Documentation further in Chapter 3.2 International Cooperation.
- TA CR provides funding only to the Czech part of the consortium. Foreign participants are financed from foreign sources.
- The project proposal and its annexes shall be submitted **in English**.

Who can apply for funding?

To determine the maximum funding rate, **each applicant** (main applicant, other project partners) must classify itself as one of the following types of applicants:

- Research organisation;
- Enterprise (small, medium-sized, large).

The main applicant may only be **an enterprise** that solves the project independently and/or solves the project in collaboration with other enterprises and/or in collaboration with research organisations (in the form of collaborative research in accordance with the Framework).

→ Applicants (regardless of their legal form) may choose the **„enterprise” type of applicant** (e.g., non-profit organisations, associations, contributory organisations, organisational units of the state, territorial self-governing units) in ISTA.

Important dates

Call is open for submissions: from 16. 5. 2024 until 17. 7. 2024

Announcement of results: 30. 11. 2024

Start of project implementation: at the earliest January 2025 and at the latest February 2025

Project duration: 12–36 months

Deadline for completion of the project: January 2028

Maximum amount and rate of funding

Maximum amount of funding per project: 20 mil. CZK

Maximum rate of funding per project: 75 %

What documents are provided by the applicant? (TA CR will not ask for them)

1. Through the data box:

- Confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal to ISTA.

2. Through the project proposal in ISTA:

- mandatory annex for the types of results NmetS, NmetA, NmetC (form for the type of result Nmet) in the English language (the annex may also be confirmed in the Czech language, but it must always be translated into English);
- mandatory annex for the type of result P (patent search) in the English language;
- mandatory annex **Market research** in the English language;
- the ownership structure for each applicant in Chapter 2 APPLICANTS / Ownership Structure.
- **In the event of the participation of another participant from abroad (doesn't apply to foreign partners):**
 - Information on the beneficial owner of the foreign applicant.

3. Other ways:

- applicants to whom the Act imposes this obligation must be registered in the register of beneficial owners.

In the event that you do not submit the above-mentioned documents and information, TA CR will not accept the project proposal for the call for proposals. You cannot provide additional documents and information based on a request pursuant to Article 21(9) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development, as this is an obligation established pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development.

What documents are provided by the applicant? (TA CR will ask for them)

1. Through the data box:

- sworn statement of the applicant - is submitted by each main applicant and other participants (a foreign partner shall submit it in paper form).

2. Through the project proposal in ISTA:

- mandatory annex Common Proposal in the English language;
- in the case of a foreign partner, financial statements for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. If it does not have them, it shall submit a document in the form of a sworn statement, which will contain the financial items needed to calculate an undertaking in difficulty for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. It shall be attached to the annexes of the project proposal in ISTA.

3. Other ways:

- applicants must publish their financial statements in the public register in the event that the Act imposes this obligation on them. TA CR shall check the

publication of financial statements for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022. In the event that the applicant has not published the required financial statements at the time of submitting the project proposal, they may be documented through the annexes of the project proposal in ISTA:

- for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022 including confirmation of sending to the registry court;
- for the year 2023, including confirmation of sending to the registry court, if it has not yet been published and if this financial statement is available for the purpose of assessing whether the applicant is not an undertaking in difficulty;
- consolidated financial statements for an economically related group (ESSO in Czech, ERG in English) for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022, if the applicant is part of it, for the purpose of assessing whether it is not an undertaking in difficulty.

In the event that you do not provide the above-mentioned documents and information, TA CR will invite you to provide them pursuant to Article 21(9) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development.

Questions about the call for proposals may be submitted via the [Helpdesk](#). You can contact our regional staff at the [contact points](#) for personal or telephone consultations.

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Introductory Information

For this call, the call documentation is published in Czech and English. **In case of divergence between the language versions, the Czech version shall prevail.**

Before submitting a project proposal, the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (hereinafter TA CR) recommends that applicants become familiar with the following important references and terms that are directly related to the call:

- [General Terms and Conditions of TA CR](#) (version 8), which lay down all the rights and obligations of beneficiaries, including the definition of important terms. Furthermore, individual cost categories are described in more detail here;
- [Frascati Manual](#), which describes the specifics of research and development projects, defines important terms, and should also serve as a guide for classifying research activities into the right categories (industrial research and experimental development); and
- Information system of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (hereinafter „[ISTA](#)“), which is used to submit project proposals.



The „§“ icon in front of the text serves as a hyperlink to the legal framework (Chapter 8). Clicking on this icon will take you to the relevant part of the legal framework.

1 Applicants in the Call for Proposals

§ To determine the maximum funding rate, **each applicant** (main applicant, other project partners) must classify itself as one of the following **types of applicants**:

- **Research organisation;**
- **Enterprise** – small, medium-sized, large.

The main applicant:

- must be an **enterprise** that has its registered office, establishment, or branch in the Czech Republic;
- the project must be implemented in cooperation with **at least one foreign partner**;
- on the Czech side must implement the project independently or in cooperation with other partners; and
- may submit an unlimited number of project proposals (in order for a project proposal to be funded, it must meet the conditions set out in Chapter 3.5 Differentiation from similar projects).

Other project partner may be an entity domiciled in a Member State of the European Union (including the Czech Republic), in another state constituting the European Economic Area, or in the Swiss Confederation.

Foreign partner:

- there must be **at least one** in the project proposal;
- each must also be funded by a relevant foreign organisation (within the project consortium of all the same foreign organisation) from the locations listed in [Annex 1](#) of the call documentation and in the table below;
- cannot be in the relationship of a partner or connected enterprise with the Czech applicant in the sense of Annex I of the Regulation.

In accordance with the definitions, foreign partners do not constitute other participants in the call.

Locality	Foreign partner agency	Abbreviation
French Republic	French National Research Agency	ANR
Republic of Korea	Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning	KETEP
Republic of Korea	Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology	KIAT
Saxony, Federal Republic of Germany	Saxon State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport	SMWA

United States of America	Department of Energy of the United States of America	DOE
Taiwan	Ministry of Economic Affairs	MoEA
Taiwan	National Science and Technology Council	NSTC

Applicants that are not a research organisation choose the **enterprise applicant type** (e.g., associations, registered institutes, and other non-profit organisations, self-employed persons, municipalities, or contributory organisations).

Branches registered as such in the commercial register may also apply as **other participants**, as defined in Article 503(2) of Act No. 89/2012 Coll., the Civil Code. The founder of the branch must be based in a Member State of the European Union (including the Czech Republic), in another state forming the European Economic Area, or in the Swiss Confederation.

2 Dates and Deadlines

Dates and deadlines related to **the submission of project proposals and to the proof of the applicant's eligibility**

Call opening time (from this time onwards, project proposals may be filled in and submitted in ISTA)	16. 5. 2024 at 9:00
Call closing time (deadline for the submission of project proposals through ISTA)	17. 7. 2024 at 16:29:59
Deadline for sending a confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal from the data box of the main applicant to the TA CR data box	17. 7. 2024 at 23:59:59
Deadline for the receipt of proof of eligibility documents (except for documents that constitute a part of the project proposal) in the TA CR data box	

TA CR shall **publish the results of the call at the latest on 30. 11. 2024** on the website www.tacr.cz. Subsequently, TA CR shall send the **decision on the result of the call** to the main applicant through their data box.

Dates and deadlines related to the **project implementation**

Start of the project	January 2025 – February 2025
Project duration	12 – 36 months
Deadline for completion of the project	January 2028

3 Project Proposal

The project proposal is an application for funding, which applicants submit through ISTA. Applicants must include in the project proposal all the information that is necessary for its evaluation (directly in the fields provided in ISTA or in the annexes to the project proposal). If TA CR decides to support the project proposal and a project contract¹ is signed, then the project proposal becomes a **project**.

The project proposal shall be submitted **in English**. All information provided in the project proposal must correspond to the facts as of the date of the proposal submission.

3.1 Focus of the Call for Proposals

The call of the SIGMA programme, sub-objective 4: Bilateral cooperation is aimed at supporting international cooperation in the field of applied research through joint projects of Czech entities supported by TA CR and foreign partners with the support of foreign organisations.

The objective of the call is to increase the number of specific outputs/results of applied research, which will be successfully introduced into practice, thus strengthening the competitiveness of the participating enterprises and research organisations. Bilateral cooperation will improve the access of teams from the Czech Republic to international knowledge, know-how, and foreign research capacities and facilitate entry to foreign markets. The synergistic effect is also the transfer of „best practice“ from abroad to the Czech Republic.

Project proposals must focus on acquiring new knowledge and skills for the development of new or substantially improved products, procedures, or services. The project proposal must respond to the current or future needs of the given countries.

Therefore, the call is not specifically thematically focused by the TA CR, the selection of topics is determined with each foreign organisation separately and reflects the priority areas of applied research of the participating countries and regions.

3.2 International cooperation

The following points provide key information and conditions for participation in the 8th call of the SIGMA programme - Sub-objective 4: Bilateral cooperation:

- A prerequisite is the participation of at least one foreign partner in the project. The full list of localities and foreign organisations, their conditions for project proposals of foreign partners, and contact details are given in [Annex No. 1](#) of the Call Documentation.

¹ Where the call documentation refers to a **project contract**, this also includes a **decision on the provision of funding**, which the TA CR issues only if the applicant is an organisational unit of the state, or an organisational unit of a Ministry engaged in research and development.

- Under the call, only bilateral cooperation is allowed, where the project is supported simultaneously by TA CR and by one of the foreign organisations from the list in [Annex No. 1](#) of the Call Documentation. The foreign partner(s) participate(s) in the project without being eligible for funding from the SIGMA programme.
- The foreign partner must submit a complementary project proposal to one of the listed foreign organisations. Within the call, their participation in the project is specified in the project proposal and confirmed in the annex [Common Proposal](#).
- A project proposal may be accepted into the 8th call for proposals under the SIGMA programme only if it is accepted into a call for proposals launched by a foreign organisation or a similar project selection mechanism.
- The main applicant and other project partners whose project proposal will be proposed for funding (hereinafter referred to as beneficiaries) on the Czech side will be funded by TA CR provided that the project proposals of foreign partners are approved by the foreign organisations listed in [Annex No. 1](#) of the Call Documentation.
- The cooperation of TA CR with foreign organisations listed in [Annex No. 1](#) to the Call Documentation does not in itself oblige the foreign organisation to provide support to the foreign partner.
- Unless otherwise specified in the terms and conditions of foreign organisations (e.g. due to different mandatory duration of the project for the foreign partner), there is an obligation to cooperate with the foreign partner on the project for the entire duration of the project.

3.3 Mandatory Annexes to Project Proposal

Applicants must attach a **Common Proposal** (call documentation form) and a **market research** to the project proposal, both the form and the market survey must be completed **in English**.

Common Proposal

It is a confirmation of the commitment of the foreign partner(s) to participate in the project and a summary of basic information about the part of the project proposal to be addressed by the foreign partner(s), including the expected financing of the foreign part of the project (whether in the form of funding from a foreign organisation or otherwise). The completed Common Proposal annex, which applicants on the Czech side submit to the TA CR, is also submitted by the foreign partner to the relevant foreign organisation in the event that the foreign organisation requires the form.

Applicants shall complete the [Common Proposal](#) in accordance with the conditions of the relevant foreign organisation (as per [Annex No. 1](#) to the Call Documentation).

The Common Proposal must be completed **in English** and **signed by all statutory representatives** on both the Czech and foreign sides.

The Common Proposal form is included among the documents associated with the launch of the 8th call for proposals under the SIGMA programme.

This mandatory annex may be provided additionally based on request pursuant to Article 21(9) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development.

In the event that the Common Proposal is signed by a person other than the statutory representative, the signer shall provide an annex with an official statement proving they have been given the right to sign documents on behalf of the statutory representative.

It is possible to download a sample annex in an editable format from ISTA. Applicants shall complete the mandatory annex according to the prescribed outline at least and then add it to Section 8. ANNEXES.

Market research, the aim of which is to describe the commercial potential, the expected economic benefits, and the marketability of the research outputs/results, has the following elements:

- the life cycle in the given sector, the size of the market share, a brief description of the competition (competing solutions) or the identification of the segment and an estimate of the number of potential customers.
- If demand is established by means of a survey, the sample on which the survey was carried out must be clearly described. If the market research is based on publicly available information, the sources must be indicated.
- **Market research** must be prepared in the **English language**.
- Without the submission of the Market research, TA CR will not accept the project proposal for the call for proposals. This mandatory annex cannot be provided additionally based on request pursuant to Article 21(9) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development.

Applicants shall add the market research to Section 8. ANNEXES.

3.4 Optional annexes to Project Proposal

Applicants may enclose to their project proposal an optional annex in the **English language** [Pre-existent knowledge form](#) (knowledge before the start of the project) which has the following elements:

- it defines the inputs contributed to the project by the applicants, e.g. assets, knowledge, know-how, which will help prevent possible future disputes;
- its aim is to ensure the protection of the intellectual property brought into the project.

3.5 Differentiation from Similar Projects



The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic only supports project proposals, whose contents or part(s) thereof have not been or are not currently being addressed in another of their own projects². Dual funding is not permitted.

In the event of a similar focus of the project proposal (in particular in the case of the agreement of a key person in the project team), applicants are obliged to state their own:

- **completed projects**, if the planned outputs/results of the project proposal are connected to them, and to describe this connection;
- **related ongoing projects** and describe the differences between these projects with the project proposal submitted to this call for proposals;
- **project proposals submitted both to this and another call for proposals**, where simultaneous funding would not result in dual funding. In this case, it is necessary to describe the differences between these projects;
- **project proposals submitted both to this and another call for proposals**, where simultaneous funding **would** result in dual funding. In this case, it is necessary to state that only one project contract will be concluded and that this commitment must be respected.

In case of non-compliance with the conditions described above, the project proposal **will not be funded** due to non-compliance with the conditions of the tender documentation.

If there are no such projects to which the obligation of delimitation applies, then please **explicitly state this fact**.

Enter **the definition** for your own projects in CHAPTER 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION / Factual focus in the Delimitation with respect to similar project and solutions field. Describe **the novelty** compared to other known solutions in the Project Presentation tab in the Novelty, research uncertainty, creativity, systematicity, reproducibility .

In order to verify the completeness of the list of related projects and demonstrate the novelty of the proposed solution, TA CR recommends using the [STARFOS](#) tool for searching for funded projects, or the Research, Experimental Development and Innovation Information System ([R&D IS](#)).

3.6 Thematic Classification of Project Proposals

Inclusion of the project proposal in the correct category of the given classification is used for statistical and analytical purposes and for the evaluation of the expenditure of public funds in the field of research, development, and innovation. Classification is a mandatory step in the proposal submission process and evaluation of project proposals. The correct classification of the project proposal also has an impact on the correctness of the evaluation process and evaluation of the

² **Own projects** are any projects of any provider of state aid, in which an entity with the same ID number participates, regardless of whether it is the main applicant or other participant.

project proposal. The objectives and fields that may be selected for the classification (defined based on the focus of the programme) are listed in the references provided below or in the help system of ISTA.

Objectives of the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation (RDI priorities)

Applicants must select one main and between zero and two secondary objectives from the National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation (RDI priorities):

- Competitive knowledge-based economy;
- Sustainability of energetics and material resources;
- Environment for quality life.

Fields of CRP, FORD, and TA CR

Applicants must select one main, one secondary, and one other secondary field in the project proposal according to the Central Register of Projects (**CRP**), Fields of Research and Development (**FORD**), and according to the code list of **TA CR**. The selected fields of CRP, FORD, and TA CR should be aligned with each other.

CRP, FORD, and TA CR secondary and other secondary fields may be selected from all the major fields without restriction.

National RIS3 strategy

Applicants must choose a domain of research and innovation specialisation (domain of specialisation) in the project proposal according to the National **RIS3** strategy. A description of the domains is given in the [Cards of Thematic Areas](#) document.

All the above-mentioned details shall be completed in ISTA in Chapter 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION / Project definition.

3.7 Outputs and Results

In this call for proposals, TA CR is only able to support project proposals where it is assumed that the **outputs/results will be put into practice**. At least one **main output/result** must be selected in each project proposal. The main outputs/results are generated into binding parameters and are thereby part of the project contract. According to the General Terms and Conditions, all the main outputs/results must be achieved by the end date of the project solution.

Definitions and descriptions of the individual types of results may be found in Annex Methodology 2017+ for Evaluating Research Organisations and Research, Development and Innovation (hereinafter referred to as „[Methodology 17+](#)“). TA CR has specified its requirements for individual outputs/results of Methodology 17+ in the methodological document MET-12 Specification of the Requirements of the Provider for R&D results (hereafter referred to as

„[MET-12](#)“), which applicants are required to comply with. All the achieved outputs/results must meet the conditions and parameters set by both Methodology 17+ specified by MET-12.

SUPPORTED TYPES OF RESULTS and their mandatory annexes:

Fprum – industrial design (Find);

Fuzit – utility model (Futil);

Gfunk – function sample (Gfunc);

Gprot – prototype;

Nmap – specialised map with expert content;

Nmeta – methodology and procedures accredited by the authorised body - [Form for the Nmet type of result](#) is a **mandatory annex** in the English language (the annex may also be confirmed in the Czech language, but it must always be **translated** into English);

NmetC – methodology certified by the authorised body - [Form for the Nmet type of result](#) is a **mandatory annex** in the English language (the annex may also be confirmed in the Czech language, but it must always be **translated** into English);

NmetS – methodology approved by the competent state administration body for the matter in question – [Form for the Nmet type of result](#) is a **mandatory annex** in the English language (the annex may also be confirmed in the Czech language, but it must always be **translated** into English);

Npam – preservation procedure;

P – patent search – is a **mandatory annex**³ in the English language;

R – software;

S – specialised public database;

Zpolop – pilot plant (Zpilot);

Ztech – validated technology.

Main type of output/result only in combination with any of the above:

O – other results.

Results of type O must not be a separate type of result in the project proposal, but only in combination with another main result in addition to an O-type result.

If the planned output/result **does not correspond** to any description in [Methodology 17+](#), then select **result type O**. If the result **corresponds** to several types of results according to Methodology 17+ and is not permitted to be the main type of result in the Tender Documentation, it is possible to list it in the project proposal in the **Other Outputs/Results**

³ **Patent search** (state-of-the-art search, novelty search) – knowledge of the state-of-the-art and partly of the need for an innovative solution should be, among other things, documented by a state-of-the-art search, or product search and patent search (hereinafter referred to as a „search“). The search may be performed either by a patent office (in the Czech Republic, the [Industrial Property Office](#)), a patent attorney, or it is possible to use public databases (e.g., [EspaceNet](#)) and others.

section. These results may not be listed as the Main Outputs/Results (e.g., as results of type O - other results).

An exception is the output/result of the type **Vsouhrn - Summary Research Report** and **V - Research Report with Classified Content**, which cannot be listed as Other Outputs/Results.

For all Nmet-type results, it is necessary to attach a confirmation of the state administration body to the project proposal, or of an independent certification or accreditation body, that it is ready to approve, accredit or certify the given result, and that it is authorised to do so. In the event that there is a materially competent state administration body, the applicant will choose a result of the type **NmetS**. It is only possible to choose NmetC or NmetA if there is no materially competent state administration body for the given theme (provided that the required annexes are submitted).

Mandatory annexes to the outputs/results must be **part of the project proposal** and cannot be submitted separately.

Applicants must provide in ISTA the mandatory annex for the relevant result as part of the project proposal in Chapter 5. OUTPUTS/RESULTS.

4 Financial Rules

Expected amount allocated to the call for proposals*	235 million CZK
Maximum amount of funding per project	20 million CZK
Maximum funding rate per project	75 %
USD exchange rate according to the CNB as of May 15, 2024	22,861 CZK

*The estimated budget allocation for this call for proposals may change depending on the possibilities of the state budget.

Beneficiaries shall cover the mandatory co-funding at a minimum rate of 25 % from other sources.

There is no legal entitlement to the funding.

For this call for proposals, the allocation is divided into two separate parts:

- The first part of the allocation is set to the amount of 160 million CZK and is granted according to the budgetary possibilities of the TA CR for project proposals in which applicants will engage in cooperation with a foreign partner supported by one of the following foreign organisations:
 - Republic of Korea - Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (**KIAT**);
 - Saxony, Federal Republic of Germany - Saxon State Ministry for Economic Affairs, Labour and Transport (**SMWA**);
 - Taiwan - Ministry of Economic Affairs (**MoEA**);
 - Taiwan - National Science and Technology Council (**NSTC**).
- The second part of the allocation is set to the amount of 75 million CZK and is a specific allocation that is granted according to the current budgetary possibilities of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic. This part of the allocation shall be used for applied research projects in the field of nuclear energy and shall apply to project proposals in which applicants will engage in cooperation with a foreign partner supported by one of the following foreign organisations:
 - Republic of France - French National Research Agency (**ANR**);
 - Republic of Korea - Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning (**KETEP**);
 - United States of America - Department of Energy of the United States of America (**DOE**).

In the event that the first part of the allocation is not fully utilised due to a lack of project proposals recommended for funding on the Czech and foreign sides, the remaining allocation may be used for recommended project proposals from the second part of the allocation

according to a decision of the TA CR Board, taking into account the possibilities of the state budget.

The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic provides funding to the Czech side. The foreign organisation provides funding to the foreign partner(s) (according to the conditions set out in [Annex 1](#) of the call documentation).

The project proposal must include the financial plan of the main applicant, other participant(s), and foreign partner(s), with financial amounts being stated in Czech Crowns.

The expected financing of the foreign part of the project (whether in the form of funding from a foreign organisation or in another way) must be documented in writing on the Common Proposal form at the time of submitting the project proposal to the call for proposals. In the Common Proposal, the financial amounts are stated in USD on the Czech side and on the foreign side, at the exchange rate according to the Czech National Bank on the date of the announcement of this call for proposals.

4.1 Funding Rate



Two types of funding rate must be observed in the project proposal:

- **Maximum funding rate per project** (the rate must always be observed for the entire project proposal and in the sum of all applicants listed in the project proposal);
- **Funding rate per applicant** (for individual applicants in the project proposal).

Maximum funding rate per project

Applicants must comply with the **maximum funding rate for the project**. This funding rate is calculated as a share of the required funding and all costs of the project proposal for all applicants in the project proposal. The maximum funding rate for the project needs to be observed for the entire duration of the project as a whole (it is not mandatory to observe it every single year of the project implementation).

Due to compliance with the funding rate for the entire project proposal, it may not be possible for all applicants to reach the maximum funding rate according to the type of applicant. This depends on the distribution of costs between individual applicants and the representation of the type of applicants in the project proposal.

Funding Rate Per Applicant

The funding rate for individual applicants is determined according to the type of applicant, the fulfilment of the conditions of effective collaboration, and with regard to the nature of the activities planned in a given year (ratio of industrial research and experimental development - IR/ED). The funding rate for individual applicants must be observed in each year of the project implementation, according to the amount of actually planned costs in a given year.

The amount of permitted funding per individual applicant is calculated in ISTA in Chapter 6. FINANCIAL PLAN in the Resources table in the Maximum Amount of Funding based on the

Completed IR/ED ratio and the Amount of Costs.

If an **applicant, which is an enterprise**, meets one of the conditions of effective cooperation, its maximum funding rate may be increased according to the table below. Applicants must be independent parties pursuant to Article 2(90) of the Regulation. **Effective cooperation** is:

- **between an enterprise and one or more research organisations**, if that organisation covers at least 10% of the eligible costs and has the right to publish the outputs/results of its own research, or
- **between enterprises**, of which at least one is a small or medium-sized enterprise, and with no enterprise covering more than 70% of the eligible costs, or
- **between enterprises**, where the cooperation takes place in at least two EU Member States or in an EU Member State and a state that is a party to the EEA Agreement, and with no enterprise covering more than 70% of the eligible costs.

Applicants do not demonstrate effective cooperation in any document. An applicant, which is an enterprise only demonstrates this in its financial plan in Chapter 6. FINANCIAL PLAN in ISTA states by ticking that it requests an increase in the funding rate and ISTA will recalculate the funding rate itself. Fulfilment of the conditions for effective collaboration shall be assessed as part of the evaluation process.

The maximum permitted funding rate for individual types of applicants **must be observed in each year of the project implementation**, according to the amount of costs actually incurred in the given year. The maximum funding rate is shown in the following table:

Types of applicant/ Categories of activities	Industrial research (IR)		Experimental development (ED)	
	Maximum funding rate	With effective cooperation	Maximum funding rate	With effective cooperation
Small enterprise	70%	80%	45%	60%
Medium-sized enterprise	60%	75%	35%	50%
Large enterprise	50%	65%	25%	40%
Research organisation	100%			

4.2 Eligible Cost Categories



All cost categories are listed and detailed in Article 18 of the [General Terms and Conditions](#).

In this call, eligible cost categories include:

- **personnel costs** – including scholarships⁴;
- **costs of subcontracting**;
- **other direct costs**; and
- **indirect costs** – may be reported using the following methods:
 - **„full cost”** – the organisation must have an existing system for allocating indirect costs in the form of an internal regulation, or
 - **„flat rate” of up to 25%** of the sum of the personnel costs and other direct costs actually reported by the applicant in the given year.

Applicants must duly justify in detail all planned costs in the project proposal in Section 6. FINANCIAL PLAN / Justification of cost items.

⁴ TA CR wishes to draw the applicants' attention to the fact that in the case of reporting of personnel costs in the form of **scholarships**, the **license conditions between the student and the university** need to be arranged. The opinion of TA CR on this type of cost may be found [here](#).

5 Proof of Eligibility and Project Proposal Submission

5.1 Proof of Eligibility and Other Requirements Stipulated by TA CR



Each applicant (main applicant as well as other partners in the project proposal) shall **demonstrate its eligibility** to implement the project separately in the following way:

The Sworn Statement of the Applicant:

- must be sent by each applicant from its data box (each applicant for itself) to the TA CR data box (data box ID: afth9xp) on the prescribed form „[Sworn statement of the applicant](#)”
- does not need to be physically signed (the signature is replaced by it being sent from the appropriate data box);
- in the details of the message, state the „8th of the Call for Proposals the SIGMA - Sub-Objective 4: Bilateral cooperation – Proof of Eligibility”.

If the other participant does not have a data box, then it may send the sworn statement in writing the same as a foreign other participant.

Financial statements:

- Applicants must comply with the obligation established by the Accounting Act to **publish financial statements for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022**, from which TA CR will check whether the applicant is not an undertaking in difficulty or the correct applicant type.

In the event that the applicant does not have the required financial statements for the above-mentioned years, as the entity was not established at that time, it shall document its fulfilment of the obligation with the financial statements that it is obliged to publish from the date of establishment.

In the event that the applicant has submitted its financial statements to the registry court, and they have not yet been published before the submission of the project proposal, the applicant shall attach the financial statements as an annex to the project proposal, including a confirmation of submission to the relevant registry court.

In the event that the relevant income tax administrator (e.g., tax office) has submitted the financial statements to the registry court on behalf of the applicant, and they have not yet been published before the submission of the project proposal, the applicant shall attach the financial statements as an annex to the project proposal, including a confirmation of submission to the income tax administrator.

Undertaking in difficulty:

- Funding will not be provided to an applicant (main applicant, other participant) **who meets the definition of an undertaking in difficulty**. The Office for the Protection of Competition (ÚOHS) has defined individual criteria according to Article 2(18) of the Regulation, which are available [here](#).
- The evaluation of undertakings in difficulty applies in particular to limited liability companies, joint stock companies, cooperatives, European companies, European cooperative companies, public companies, limited partnerships, and others.
- The evaluation of undertakings in difficulty is performed according to the assessment criteria both for individual entities and at the level of the entire group of interconnected entities between which control relationships exist. For this reason, for subjects that belong to a group of companies, the criteria of an undertaking in difficulty must be monitored not only at the level of an individual subject but also at the level of the entire group. Therefore, data for parent, subsidiary, and sister companies, including foreign entities, are included in the assessment.
- TA CR shall check this condition during a formal inspection. If the applicant is identified as an undertaking in difficulty, the TA CR will not accept the project proposal with the given applicant for public competition.

In the event that ISTA identifies the applicant as an undertaking in difficulty, but there is an objective and publicly demonstrable explanation why you are not actually an undertaking in difficulty (e.g., a company being divided), then state the relevant arguments in the ISTA comment in Chapter 2. APPLICANTS / Financial Indicators below the table. You can also attach the financial statements for the year 2023 together with the confirmation of delivery to the registry court.

Also, **if you are part of a group of companies that function as an economic unit**, and within the assessment of the whole group you are not an undertaking in difficulty, please **state this fact in a comment. Provide consolidated financial statements for the entire group** as annexes to the project proposal.

Records of beneficial owners:

- Applicants that legally fall under this obligation must **be registered in the register of beneficial owners**. If the applicant is not registered in the register of beneficial owners by the end of the period for the submission of proposals, i.e., by 17. 7. 2024,, **then TA CR will not accept the project proposal for the call for proposals**.

In the event that the applicant's organisation is not in this register, it shall submit a proposal for entry of data into the register of beneficial owners to the relevant registry court or a request for registration with a notary (including a certificate of registration). Please note that the applicant must be registered in the register of beneficial owners by the end of the period

for the submission of proposals. More information may be found [here](#).

Requirements for which compliance is documented through ISTA:

- **Professional qualifications to implement the project** – to be filled in for key persons in the research team in the „Professional CV” section. Each main applicant must have at least one person in the role of a researcher in the project proposal and each potential other partner must have at least one person in the role of other researcher.
- **Authorisations to perform the activities planned in the project proposal** – a copy is submitted with the project proposal (e.g., authorisation to perform biological testing, authorisation to perform research on human embryonic stem cells);
- **Ownership structure of each applicant** – each applicant must indicate all ultimate owners - natural persons with a share of at least 10% (if it follows from the legal form of an applicant that it does not have an ownership structure, this obligation shall not apply to it).

5.2 Method for Documenting the Eligibility of the Foreign Other Participant

Each other foreign participant⁵ demonstrates its eligibility to solve the project separately in the following way:

Sworn statement of the applicant:

- It sends the prescribed [Sworn statement of the applicant](#) form in paper form to the address of TA CR;
- The form must be physically signed by the statutory representative of the other foreign participant and must be an original.

Financial statements:

- **It shall provide financial statements for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022** in the annexes of the project proposal, from which the TA CR shall check whether the applicant is not an undertaking in difficulty or whether the type of applicant is correctly selected;
- In the event that the foreign partner, which is an enterprise **does not have** the required financial statements for the above-mentioned years, it must attach a **document in the form of a sworn statement** to the annexes of the project proposal, which will contain the **financial items needed to calculate an undertaking in difficulty for the years 2020, 2021, and 2022;**
 - Specifically, the document must contain the following information: share capital, share premium, other capital funds, funds created from net profit, the economic result of previous years, the economic result, and the amount of the advance

⁵ **Other foreign participant** may be an entity based in a Member State of the European Union, in another state forming the European Economic Area, or in the Swiss Confederation.

payment of the profit share. The document must be signed by a person authorised to act on behalf of the foreign partner.

- The applicant shall provide a translation of this information into the Czech language.

Information on a beneficial owner:

- **It shall provide information about its beneficial owner in the annexes of the project proposal:**
 - either by an extract from a foreign register similar to the register of beneficial owners;
 - or, if such a foreign register does not exist, it shall provide the identification of all persons who are the beneficial owners of the foreign legal entity in the annex to the project proposal, and submit documents showing the relationship of all persons to the foreign legal entity, in particular an extract from a foreign register similar to the commercial register, list of shareholders, the decision of the statutory body on the payment of a share of the profit, partnership agreement, articles of association, or statute.
 - The applicant shall provide a translation of this information into the Czech language.
- **Without the submission of this information, TA CR will not accept the project proposal for the call for proposals.** Information about the beneficial owner cannot be additionally provided on the basis of a request pursuant to Article 21(9) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development.

In the event that the foreign other participant does not have a beneficial owner, then it shall state this fact in the ISTA in Chapter 2. APPLICANTS / Ownership Structure.

5.3 Project Proposal Submission

A project proposal must be submitted to the call in **an electronic form through ISTA**. No other form of project proposal submission shall be permitted.

After submitting the project proposal through ISTA, the owner⁶ of the project proposal shall generate a document entitled „**Confirmation of Submission of an Electronic Project Proposal in ISTA**”. This document contains clear identifiers, which must be identical to the electronically submitted project proposal.

Confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal in ISTA:

⁶ **Owner** is a role in ISTA. It is the person who initiated the project proposal and is the only one with the right to submit the project proposal to a call in ISTA and to subsequently generate the „Confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal in ISTA”. The owner of the project proposal may assign and modify authorisations to revise the project proposal to all persons.

- must be sent from the data box of the main applicant to the TA CR data box (data box ID: afth9xp);
- in the details of the message, state the „8th of the Call for Proposals the SIGMA - Sub-Objective 4: Bilateral cooperation – Confirmation of Submission“.

The **project proposal may be withdrawn** (e.g., in the case of a need to modify or supplement an already submitted project proposal) by the owner of the project proposal in ISTA. After submitting the project proposal, the owner of the project proposal will see the „Withdraw the Project Proposal“ button in the PROJECT DRAFT SUMMARY tab. This step cancels the submission of the project proposal. For proper submission, it is necessary to send the project proposal again in ISTA, then generate a confirmation of the submission of the project proposal and send it to the TA CR data box.

Once the call for proposals is closed, it will no longer be possible to modify the proposal.

5.4 Notification of Changes After the Submission of Project Proposals

As applicants, you are obliged to inform TA CR in writing about any and all **changes** that may take place **in the period from the submission of the project proposal until the possible conclusion of the project contract** and which concern your legal status or the details required to demonstrate eligibility (e.g., change in size, registered office, statutory representative, merger, or division of the enterprise), or which may affect the decision making of TA CR.

You must do so within **seven calendar days** of becoming aware of such a change. If you do not do so within the set deadline, the project proposal will be excluded from the call.

6 Evaluation

The evaluation will take place between 18. 7. 2024 and 30. 11. 2024. Immediately after the closing of the call for proposals, a formal check will begin to verify the basic requirements. Afterwards, TA CR will publish on its website the project proposals that will be further evaluated and those that will not be admitted to the call.

General evaluation information, guidelines (primarily for experts), and concepts are provided in the [General Guidelines for Evaluators](#). Details concerning individual evaluation steps, and a list of the evaluation criteria together with the aspects that will be evaluated under individual criteria are provided in the following Annex to the Call Documentation: [Annex No. 2 - Evaluation Process](#).

6.1 Evaluation Process



Each project proposal admitted to the call, i.e., that successfully passed the formal check, will be gradually evaluated by:

- experts;
- the rapporteur;
- expert advisory body.

The TA CR Board will subsequently issue a final decision on the support or non-support of project proposals.

6.2 Binary Criteria

If a binary criterion is not met, the project proposal cannot be recommended for funding regardless of the number of points it receives in the evaluation.

List of binary criteria
1. R&D&I project (novelty, creativity, research uncertainty, systematicity, transferability and/or reproducibility)

6.3 Scored Criteria

If 0 points are awarded for a scored criterion, then the project proposal will not be recommended for funding.

Scored criterion	Point scale
1. Fulfillment of call objectives and the objectives of the project proposal and national priorities	(0; 6; 12; 18 points)
2. Time efficiency of the project proposal, timetable and suitability of the methods used	(0; 4; 8; 12 points)

3. Knowledge of state-of-the-art, project's benefits and uniqueness	(0; 4; 8; 12 points)
4. Relevance and applicability of project outputs/results	(0; 6; 12; 18 points)
5. Project organisation and technical facilities, identification of risks	(0; 3; 6; 9 points)
6. Project team (composition and expertise)	(0; 4; 8; 12 points)
7. Financial plan, justification of project proposal costs and incentive effect of funding	(0; 3; 6; 9 points)

6.4 Independence of the Evaluation Process

Independence and equal treatment are the basic principles applied by TA CR in the evaluation process. Therefore, none of the applicants or their authorised persons may contact the persons evaluating the project proposals with the intention of influencing them. Complaints concerning suspicions of corrupt practices or other unfair activities may be using the form available [here](#). Further information may be found on the [TA CR website](#).

7 Signature of the Project Contract and Project Implementation

A **project contract** will be concluded with the main applicants of successful project proposals. The project proposal may be changed before signing the project contract only if it is a change of an administrative nature or a change not caused by the applicant, which is worthy of special consideration (in more detail [Stanovisko ke změnám před uzavřením Smlouvy o poskytnutí podpory](#)).

A project contract will not be concluded with the main applicant if the applicants (main applicant, other participants) include:

- an enterprise in which the beneficial owner is a public official pursuant to Article 2(1)(c) of Act 159/2006 Coll., on Conflicts of Interest; or
- a public official or a person controlled by it owning a share representing at least 25% of the partner's participation (Article 4c of Act 159/2006 Coll., on Conflicts of Interest); or
- the beneficial owner of the applicant will be listed among the persons on whom a sanction is imposed pursuant to Act 69/2006 Coll., on the Implementation of International Sanctions.



Before signing the project contract, you shall be obliged to document all the facts set out in the decision on the result of the call for proposals. In this decision, TA CR will state everything it requires of the applicants and within what timeframe.

Documents to be provided before signing the project contract:

- **Agreement on participation in the project**, which has the following elements:
 - regulates the cooperation between the beneficiaries in accordance with the project proposal and Article 6 of the General Terms and Conditions;
 - the main applicant must conclude this agreement with all other project partners, if any other project partners take part in the project, with all the mandatory elements as set out in Article 6 of the General Terms and Conditions;
 - it must be in Czech or English (if the agreement on participation in the project is in another language, it must be accompanied by an officially certified translation into Czech or English).
- **Agreement with foreign partners** which has the following elements:
 - it should define the cooperation on the project and address the protection of intellectual property rights;
 - the main applicant must conclude this agreement with all foreign partners;
 - it must be signed by statutory representatives of the main applicant on the Czech side and by statutory representatives of all foreign partners;

- it must be in English.

After concluding the project contract, the main applicant shall become the main beneficiary.

The project contract is generated in ISTA by **the owner** of the project proposal. The **project contract** can be generated before the documents specified in the decision on the result of the call are provided. An **Agreement on the Participation in a Project** must first be concluded between the main applicant and other participants, as well as an **Agreement with Foreign Partners** between the main applicant and all foreign partners. Only then can a **Project Contract** be concluded between the main applicant and TA CR.

7.1 Provision of Funding

TA CR will provide the **funding** as a **one-off payment for the given year** of the project to the account of the main beneficiary in the amount specified in the binding parameters for the project implementation. TA CR will pay the funding:

- within 60 calendar days from the date of entry into force of the project contract and for multi-annual projects for the second and each subsequent year of the project within 60 calendar days from the beginning of the given calendar year;
- to a bank account established with the Czech National Bank, in the case of public universities, public research institutions, or other entities defined by the Act on Budgetary Rules.

7.2 Implementation

When planning **the start of project implementation**, applicants do not have to take into account when the project contract will be signed. The project implementation may start before the signing of **the project contract**, but not before the date chosen by the applicants for the start of the project implementation.

In accordance with the above, approved costs incurred before the signature of the project contract will be eligible, provided the agreement is subsequently signed.

Most of the project implementation processes shall take place in English. An overview of the processes that will be in English can be found in a separate document entitled [Use of English and Czech During Project Implementation](#).

During the project implementation, TA CR shall monitor the project in several ways⁷. **Interim reports** shall be submitted once per year. Other options:

- administrative and financial inspection,
- monitoring visit or
- interim project evaluation.

⁷ More information can be found in the guidelines SME-03 Monitoring controls and in SME-22 Public control.

After completion of the project implementation, you will submit the **Final Report** and the **final project evaluation** will take place.

If the original project proposal changes during the project implementation, you must always inform us about such a change. The types of changes requiring supporting documents and the method of their notification may be found in guideline SME-07 Procedures for Changes in Projects. Furthermore, throughout the project implementation, all beneficiaries must comply with the obligation to publish their annual financial statements throughout the entire project implementation period.

The type of organisation is assessed only on the day of the provision of funding, i.e., on the date of the decision on the results of the call for proposals. Changes made after this date will no longer be reflected in the project and the applicant shall not provide notice of them (i.e., you do not proceed according to SME-07 Project Change Management). It is therefore sufficient to meet the conditions for the given type of organisation on the date of the provision of funding. If the applicant selects the wrong type of organisation in the project proposal, it shall be obliged to notify the provider of this fact even after the date of the decision on the provision of funding (according to the procedure in SME-07 Project Change Management).

The main beneficiary will submit the „**Data Management Plan**” to TA CR together with the first interim report, regularly update it, and submit the updated version of the „Data Management Plan” to TA CR as part of the interim and final report, including information on the availability and method of dissemination of the results of the research and the research data.

The Data Management Plan must include the following information:

- What research data will the beneficiaries create, process, or collect during the project;
- What methods and principles of their management will be used with regard to the FAIR principles (findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability);
- Whether and how the data will be shared and published; and
- How the data will be stored during the project solution and kept after the end of the project.

More information can be found in the document [Research Data and Open Access to Outputs/Results](#) and in the specific conditions of the Project Contract.

Each beneficiary and other participant participating in the implementation of a project funded by TA CR are obliged, in accordance with the General Terms and Conditions, to disclose that the project was implemented with the financial participation of TA CR. The rules for mandatory publicity can be found on the [TA CR website](#).

8 Legal Framework of the Call for Proposals

The programme SIGMA was approved by Government Resolution No. 414 of 18th May 2022. TA CR is the programme provider. The programme text, call documentation, and other documents related to the call for proposals are published on the website www.tacr.cz. It is a one-stage call for proposals announced pursuant to the [Act on the Support of Research and Development](#) and in accordance with the [Framework](#), [Regulation](#), and [Budgetary rules](#).

The call for proposals is implemented in accordance with the updated National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic for 2021+ as approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic of 20 July 2020 No. 759, i.e., the National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic 2021+, [National Priorities of Oriented Research, Experimental Development and Innovation](#) as adopted by Government Resolution No. 552 of 19 July 2012, and national and ministerial strategies.

Relevant provisions in the following internal regulations valid and effective on the day of announcement of the call for proposals and published on the website www.tacr.cz are binding for TA CR and the applicants.

Guidelines and statutes provide the binding procedures of TA CR resulting from legislation and other regulations. The versions applicable to this call for proposals are given in the third column of the table below. The complete list of internal regulations can be found on the [TA CR website](#).

Code	Name of the directives or statutes	Version
SME - 06	Admission of project proposals to a call for proposals	v9
SME - 08	Complaints within calls for proposals	v5
SME - 10	Cancellation of a call for proposals	v4
SME - 11	Call preparation and announcement	v11
SME - 13	Conclusion of a Project Contract/issuance of a decision on the provision of funding	v4
SME - 17	Helpdesk for applicants and beneficiaries	v4
SME - 23	Preparation of evaluation reports, opinions and expert assessments	v8
SME - 34	Evaluation of project proposals submitted to a call for proposals	v6

RAD - 01	Statutes and rules of procedure of the Committee for the admission of project proposals	v3
RAD - 02	Statutes and rules of procedure of an expert advisory body	v9
MET-12	Specification of the requirements of the provider for R&D results	v2

8.1 Legal Definition of Applicants

Research organisations – entities meeting the definition pursuant to Article 2 (83) of the Regulation.

Enterprises⁸ – legal persons or natural persons engaged in business activities pursuant to Act 455/1991 Coll., on Small Business Activities or performing economic activities within the meaning of Article 1 of Annex I to the Regulation.

8.2 Insufficient Differentiation and Duplication

If TA CR finds that a project proposal or part(s) thereof duplicates another project proposal and the applicants have not explained how their project proposal differs from that other project proposal, then the project proposal will not be funded on the grounds of a failure to meet the conditions of the call documentation or the project contract will not be concluded with the applicants. This shall also apply to similar project proposals submitted to this or another ongoing call for proposals, which have not been disclosed in the relevant part of the ISTA system.

An applicant must immediately withdraw from the call for proposals if it concludes a project contract for an identical project (in terms of the whole content or part(s) thereof) under another call for proposals/public tender in the Czech Republic or abroad.

8.3 Funding

The highest funding rate provided to an enterprise-type applicant may not exceed the highest funding rate permitted for individual types of enterprises as laid down in the Regulation.

The conditions for effective cooperation are determined by Article 2(90) and Article 25(6), while the types of enterprises are defined in Article 3 of Annex 1 of the Regulation.

For a research organisation, the provided funding is not state aid if the activities in the project proposal are not related to its economic activity. In this case, they may receive a funding rate of 100%. If the project proposal is related to activities of an economic nature, these entities shall apply to the call for proposals as enterprises.

The applicant must ensure that:

⁸ The [User Guide](#) to the SME definition from the European Commission can serve as a **guide for determining the size of the enterprise**. In light of the current jurisprudence of the Court of Justice of the European Union, we point out that the recommendations given in this manual are not legally binding, and the provisions of the Regulation, which are legally binding, must always be followed as a priority.

- unauthorised indirect state aid is avoided (in accordance with provisions 2.1 and 2.2 of the Framework);
- the distribution of rights and access to outputs/results in the project proposal are in accordance with point 29 under provision 2.2.2. of the Framework;
- overlap with other state aid for the same eligible expenditure (double funding) is avoided.

Applicants are not entitled to reimbursement of the costs associated with their participation in the call for proposals.

Eligible costs are listed and broken down into individual categories in Article 18 of the General Terms and Conditions. The project contract stipulates the method by which the TA CR funding is provided. The specific terms of the project contract (Article 4) stipulate the particulars set out in the General Terms and Conditions.

8.4 Proof of the Applicant's Eligibility

Only applicants meeting the eligibility conditions laid down in Article 18 (2) (b) to (i) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development and given by the Regulation may receive funding. Each applicant shall demonstrate their eligibility separately pursuant to Article 18 of the Act on the Support of Research and Development.

Failure to meet the eligibility requirements or the obligation to demonstrate eligibility shall be grounds for not admitting a project proposal to the call for proposals.

Furthermore, applicants (main applicant, other participants) must fulfil the obligations set forth in Article 21a et seq. of Act 563/1991 Coll., on Accounting, i.e., in particular, to publish financial statements, if required by law. In the event of non-compliance, the applicant for support will not be admitted to the call for proposals, as the legal obligation of the applicant would not be fulfilled.

The applicant (main applicant, other participants) must not be an undertaking in difficulty as defined in Article 2(18) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty.

The definition and calculation established for the identification of an undertaking in difficulty is not based on a subjective evaluation of the management of the undertaking. In the currently effective regulations, the European Commission has defined an undertaking in difficulty in the interest of greater objectivity using so-called „hard” criteria, which should not allow subjective assessment), but are based on Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014, known as the General Block Exception Regulation (GBER).

Moreover, applicants (main applicant, other participants) must comply with the condition set out in Article 8 of Act 37/2021 Coll., on the Registration of Beneficial Owners, i.e., be registered in the register of beneficial owners. In the event of non-compliance, the applicant for support will not be admitted to the call for proposals, as the legal obligation of the applicant would not be fulfilled. The entities listed in Article 7 of Act 37/2021 Coll., on the Registration of Beneficial Owners, do not have a beneficial owner, so this obligation does not apply to the listed types of entities.

In the event that the Confirmation of Submission of the Electronic Project Proposal is not sent properly and on time, then the project proposal will not be considered as being submitted properly and on time and will not be checked as part of the formal control for other requirements (e.g., proof of the eligibility of applicants).

A project proposal may not contain classified information pursuant to Act 412/2005 Coll., on the Protection of Classified Information and on Security Clearance, as amended.

8.5 Evaluation and Submission of Documents

The evaluation of project proposals is governed by SME-34 Guidelines for the evaluation of project proposals submitted to a call for proposals. Activities of the Expert Advisory Body are governed by RAD-02 Statutes and Rules of Procedure of an Expert Advisory Body.

No information related to a particular project proposal or to interim evaluation results shall be provided during the course of the evaluations.

Before signing the project contract, applicants are obliged to demonstrate their continuing eligibility in a manner laid down in Article 18(5) to (7) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development, or other facts laid down in the decision on the result of the call for proposals. In their decision, TA CR will state everything that needs to be documented by the applicants.

8.6 Reserved Rights of TA CR

In accordance with Article 24 of the Act on the Support of Research and Development, the provider reserves the right to:

- cancel an announced call for proposals and not support the project proposals submitted under that call for proposals, in accordance with SME-10 Guidelines for the Cancellation of a Call for Proposals; and/or
- restrict the number of project proposals to be funded.

The decision to cancel a call for proposals or to restrict the number of project proposals to be funded will be made based in particular on the total amount of funding allocated to TA CR for the support of applied research, experimental development, and innovations from the state budget of the Czech Republic.

In justified cases, the provider reserves the right to include in the decision on the result of the call for proposals additional conditions established on the basis of facts determined during the evaluation of the project proposal, with the provision that a project contract will be signed with the main beneficiary, or a decision on the provision of funding for the implementation of this project will be issued in its favour only after these conditions have been met. In case of doubt, TA CR may also request relevant documents to be submitted (for example, documents proving that the funding granted by the decision of an R&D provider was not used due to its withdrawal from the agreement).

In cases where among the applicants for the project proposal (the main applicant, other participants) there will be an enterprise in which a public official pursuant to Article 2(1)(c) or a person controlled by it owns a share representing at least 25% of the partner's participation in

the enterprise (Article 4c of Act 159/2006 Coll., on Conflicts of Interest), the provider reserves the right to not conclude a project contract with the main applicant.

Pursuant to Article 17(3) of the Act on the Support of Research and Development, the provider stipulates the condition that no beneficial owner of the applicant (main applicant, other participant) within the meaning of Act 37/2021 Coll., on the Registration of Beneficial Owners, shall be a public official pursuant to Article 2(1)(c) of Act 159/2006 Coll., on Conflicts of Interest, or that no such beneficial owner shall be listed among the persons on whom a sanction applicable under Act 69/2006 Coll., on the Implementation of International Sanctions has been imposed.

If the applicant does not have a beneficial owner, then the related parts shall not be relevant to the applicant.

In accordance with Article 32 of the Act on the Support of Research and Development, TA CR will publish project details through the Information System of Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI IS). After signing the project contract, the provider reserves the right to publish the information published through the RDI IS, and to keep it and provide access to it in the DAFOS system, in particular in its public component, the TA CR STARFOS search engine available at www.starfos.tacr.cz.

When announcing the results of compliance with the conditions of the call for proposals and the results of proposal evaluations, TA CR will publish the following information from the project proposals: code of the project proposal, name of the project proposal, the main applicant, and other partners. TA CR will not publish confidential information.

Information on project proposals that TA CR decides will not be funded is not published, except for the information published when announcing the results concerning compliance with conditions of the call for proposals and the results of proposal evaluations.

8.7 Appeal

The main applicant may file an appeal against the TA CR procedure to check compliance with the conditions of the call for proposals or the procedure to evaluate and select project proposals in the call for proposals. It may do so in accordance with the guideline SME-08 Guidelines for Complaints within Calls for Proposals.