Invitation to a

JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Topic:

Bioenergy demonstrations of the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative

Deadline for submission of Stage 1 proposals: 27.03.2013

Contents

This document is an invitation to take part in a joint call by the ERA-NET Plus BESTF. The partners involved in this call are from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Navarre, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

BESTF is a network of national and regional ministries and funding organisations that wish to invest in industry-led bioenergy projects to meet their strategic aims as well those of the European Commission.
The principal objective of this joint call is to fund public-private projects that de-risk bioenergy technologies at demonstration[1] scale and to encourage further investment or commercial exploitation.

Call dates

Call opens	**07 January 2013**
Deadline for submitting Stage 1 proposals	**27 March 2013**
Letters to applicants/invitation to stage 2	**1 July 2013**
Deadline for submitting Stage 2 proposals	**16 August 2013**
Expected project start	**From January 2014**

This call is published on the BESTF web page and on the web pages of the participating national programmes.
See: www.eranetbestf.net

Please note:
It is up to each consortium member to check that their work is eligible for national/regional funding!

[1] Definition of "demonstration" as taken from the EIBI Implementation Plan: "Demonstration plants are considered the last non-economic step to demonstrate the performance and reliability of all critical steps in a value chain so that the first commercial unit can be designed and performance guaranteed from the outcome of the demo unit".

1. Background

The European Union (EU) is committed to combatting climate change and to increasing security of its energy supply. Bioenergy plays a key role for both. Bioenergy is one form of renewable energy among many from other sources (wind, solar, hydraulic, geothermal etc.), and if produced sustainably, it saves greenhouse gas emissions. Bioenergy already accounts for more than two thirds of total renewable energy in the EU and feedstocks for bioenergy are storable; bioenergy can thus be produced constantly and is a reliable source of energy. Biomass is amply available in most parts of Europe and can be either in solid, liquid or gaseous form and can be used to produce electricity, direct heating, or transport fuels.

The European Council in 2007 adopted ambitious energy and climate change objectives for 2020 – to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, rising to 30% if the conditions are right, to increase the share of renewable energy to 20%, and to make a 20% improvement in energy efficiency. The European Parliament has continuously supported these goals.
While it is clear that a number of energy carriers and pathways will have a role to play towards achieving these ambitious goals, it is acknowledged that bioenergy is and will remain a vital part of Europe's future energy supply[2].
The EIBI Implementation Plan for 2010-2012 foresees that; "*Bioenergy will play a key role in the EU long-term energy strategy for all applications and especially the transport sector, contributing up to 14% of the EU energy mix and up to 10% of energy demand in transport in 2020*"[3].

The EIBI is one of the industrial initiatives launched under the SET Plan. It will support demonstration or flagship plants for innovative bioenergy value chains which are not yet commercially available (thus excluding existing biofuels and heat and power technologies) and which could be deployed at large scale. The EIBI aims to contribute to the commercial availability of advanced bioenergy at large scale by 2020, aiming at production costs which allow competitiveness with fossil fuels at the prevailing economic and regulatory market conditions (bearing in mind that production costs of biofuels depends heavily on investment intensity, on utilisation of primary energy and on feedstock prices, with significant differences across geographic areas and specific feedstock types). EIBI further aims to contribute to advanced biofuels (i.e. sustainable biofuels with a broader material base and/or better end product properties than biofuels currently on the market) covering up to 4% of EU transportation energy needs by 2020.
BESTF will be run using the ERA-NET Plus mechanism which provides additional Community financial incentives to those national research programmes that pool financial resources to organise a joint call. ERA-NET Plus is only used in a limited number of cases, which represent particular European value. Innovative bioenergy pilot and demonstration plants are not being built due to a lack of finance as well as number of remaining technical hurdles. The BESTF joint call will support this type of projects, across seven identified value chains, by sharing the financial risk between public and private sources as well as by encouraging innovation through collaboration.

2. Goal of BESTF

The BESTF joint call will support bioenergy projects in which credible processes and technologies for the production of bioenergy demonstrated. Projects may also take a multi-product or biorefinery approach, but the major focus must be energy production. The energy produced can be for electricity, direct heating, or transport fuels.
The call will support the European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative (EIBI) implementation plan which links to demonstration projects.
Specifically, the partners of BESTF will make sure that the joint call leads to:

- Assessment and funding of bioenergy demonstration projects, in accordance with the EIBI priorities. Funding is provided by the participating national or regional funding organisations, by the EC and by industry.

[2] A resource-efficient Europe – Flagship initiative under the Europe 2020 Strategy: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, The Council, The European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, Brussels, 26.1.2011 COM(2011) 21.
[3] Boosting the contribution of bioenergy to the EU climate and energy ambitions. European Industrial Bioenergy Initiative Implementation Plan, 05.11.2010, http://www.biofuelstp.eu/eibi.html (accessed 15.08.2012).

- Monitoring the projects.
- Dissemination of non-confidential project results.

3. Scope of the call

ERA-NET-Plus funds will be used to support bioenergy demonstration projects that fit into one or more of these seven value chains:

1) **Synthetic liquid fuels and/or hydrocarbons and blending components via gasification**
2) **Bio-methane and other synthetic gaseous fuels from biomass via gasification**
3) **High-efficiency heat and power generation via gasification of biomass**
4) **Bioenergy carriers via other thermochemical processes (e.g. pyrolysis, torrefaction)**
5) **Ethanol and higher alcohols from ligno-cellulosic feedstock via fermentation**
6) **Renewable hydrocarbons through biological and/or chemical synthesis from biomass containing carbohydrates**
7) **Bioenergy carriers from CO2 and sunlight through microorganism-based production and upgrading into fuels and valuable bio-products**

Within the timeframe of each project, applied research will be moved into demonstration, which is the primary focus of the call. Funding may also include supporting research and development (R&D) or necessary piloting measures.
Projects must be **industry-led** and must de-risk commercial-scale deployment upon successful completion. They should also make progress to meeting EIBI's key performance indicators (KPIs) http://setis.ec.europa.eu/implementation/eii/eii-key-performance-indicators/KPIs_EIBI/view.

4. Eligible projects

Since demonstration units, by definition, aim to produce marketable products, any such products must be marketed for sale whenever possible. Any revenues generated during the project will be deducted from the public funding awarded (please refer to your national/regional agency for detailed procedures).
Fundable projects must provide a high degree of transparency in order to act as a catalyst for others or for further investment. Consequently, experiences made during operation, as well as the operation process itself, must be carefully documented, analysed and evaluated. The potential for further optimisation during and after the project's completion must be identified and built into the project and appropriate methods to deliver them be formulated.

Eligible projects will include:

1. Technological modifications of existing and tested demonstration plants, if these modifications serve to realise processes which differ significantly from the past operations of said plant. The term "modification" includes the necessary engineering tasks in planning and design as well as technical installations and their operation (start-up). Technological adaptations and test operations are eligible for funding in this case, insofar as they are reasonable and caused by the project. The aim is to use existing experience to achieve improved plant configurations.
2. New demonstrations of innovative bioenergy conversion technologies, covering one or several of the seven value chains and including analysis and evaluation of results, plus strategies (and proposals) for optimisation building on this work.

In connection with either of the above, supporting scientific, technological, commercial research and economic studies which contribute directly to the goals and objectives of BESTF, and which are firmly integrated into the demonstrations mentioned under the previous two points are also eligible. Such accompanying research or necessary pilots must aim to determine the KPIs of the project and evaluate activities in the context of the SET-Plan. This includes scientific/technological assessments of results of existing demonstration plants, and conceptual planning and design of new industrial-scale plants on the basis of such assessments ("scale-up" planning) for these demonstration projects.

The demonstration and research topics that will be supported by BESTF will be closely aligned to the value chains identified by the EIBI.

! All projects must be led by an industry partner as coordinator. A consortium may include non-industrial partners (universities etc.), but at least 51% of person-months as well as at least 51% of costs must be incurred by the industrial partners, not taking into account non-technical sub-contracts.

BESTF expects the majority of funding allocated will be to fund the operational costs of projects, rather than significant capital funding. Projects which require significant capital funding need a strong business case and may wish to speak to their relevant funding bodies prior to submission.
In order to deliver meaningful results, projects that require significant capital funding must provide evidence that they will complete both the construction and significant operation of plants within the project duration. Any proposal will need to demonstrate value for money and show that the commercialisation and implementation aims of the BESTF programme can be achieved.
However, in order to ensure a broad coverage of value chains, we reserve the right to apply a „portfolio" approach, subject to applications meeting the required quality threshold. This means that, if competition in a particular value chain (number of high-quality proposals submitted) is particularly high, a proposal judged to be of the same technical quality, but covering a different value chain may ultimately rank higher.

! BESTF will not support failed or ailing projects, i.e. projects that have already failed to meet existing objectives or that have proved unsatisfactory in operation.

Strong technological advancement is sought. All funding must meet all applicable rules of the funding bodies.
The costs of official permissions/ or licenses for operation are not eligible for funding. This includes preparation of approval procedures.
A key selection criterion for project applications to this action will be the verification of matched funding, from either internal or external sources. Allocation of funding will only be possible upon the verification of these third party funds.
Each applicant consortium must be led by an industry partner with relevant experience and own interest in the project. The industrial partners' costs must account for a significant part of the total project costs (public funding plus industrial co-funding).

5. Guidance for applicants

General

The BESTF call for demonstration projects and supporting R&D will be undertaken in two distinct stages.
Projects approved at the first stage will be able to progress to second stage. At the first stage, proposals will be evaluated at national/regional level, while the second stage will be at transnational level.
Projects supported will be funded according to the usual national or regional regulations and through contributions from:
1) European level
2) National or regional level
3) Participant level (own contribution)

BESTF funded projects will represent the last steps prior to commercial operation, i.e. primarily:
- Full-scale, similar (prototypical) system demonstrated in relevant environment or
- Actual system completed and qualified through test and demonstration[4].

However, it is recognised that BESTF may need to support projects with slightly less mature technologies[5], depending upon the value chain being supported.
Proposals are expected to address one or more of the points mentioned under **"scope of the call"**.

[4] Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) 7 and 8. Source: US Department of Energy (2011): Technology Readiness Assessment Guide. Accessed online at https://www.directives.doe.gov/directives/0413.3-EGuide-04a/view on 05.10.2012.
[5] i.e. with a lower TRL

Please note that individual national/regional funding organisations may be limited in the kind of project they could support.
These restrictions, as well as other important national regulations, can be found in Annex I of this document.
In case of any further questions, please contact your national funding organisation *prior* to submitting a proposal.

Consortia
Proposals are invited from transnational consortia involving large companies, SMEs and/or research organisations depending on national funding conditions.

Proposals must include at least two partners from **at least two different countries** involved in the call via one or several funding organisations. As transnational cooperation is a key criterion, consortia are encouraged to go beyond these minimum requirements. There must be true cooperation between the consortium partners, and the results of the project should be dependent on the work of each partner. Project outputs are expected to provide benefits to all partner countries.

As projects are expected to be market-oriented, **it is vital that industrial partners** take the leading role in the consortium.

Partners from countries which are not members of BESTF are also encouraged to join a consortium as additional partners. These partners are called "third country partners" (no matter whether they are from EU countries or from outside the EU) and they must finance their activities from other sources, as the BESTF resources will *not* provide for it. Projects must ensure that the exploitation of R&D results focuses on the BESTF partner countries, and in particular that IPR is handled in such a way that the ultimate aim of BESTF, Europe's technology leadership, is not endangered.
The proposal must address the added value derived from European cooperation, in comparison to national projects. This should be evident in the layout and execution of the work packages.
The number of partners per consortium is not limited, but the manageability of the consortium must be demonstrated. Consortia also need to be balanced, such that all project partners contribute to and benefit from an equitable cooperation.

The project partners are required to sign a consortium agreement in order to agree on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and other relevant issues dealing with responsibilities within the project and exploitation of results.
The consortium agreement

- **must be provided** (not necessarily signed yet) **together with the Stage 2 proposal and**
- **must be signed by all partners before the first payment can be made.**

BESTF partners do not provide information on potential partners in their countries.

Funding
Projects will receive grants **from national or regional sources plus EC contributions**, and **are subject to national/regional and EU funding rules**. Each organisation funds their own national/regional actors, while European funding will be deployed via a mixed-mode funding model as per the EC rules for ERA-NET Plus actions.
Each participating funding agency has made separate arrangements for funding the national participants. The amount of public funding available for individual projects depends on the relevant national rules. Additional co-financing from stakeholders is expected following national and European rules for R&D funding. The total funding budget is limited. For details please contact your national funding agency.

Project duration
Projects are expected to start **from January 2014** and the end date must be the same for all partners in one consortium. All work, including all reporting, must be finished by 31.08.2017.

Application process

The project application process will follow two stages. Stage 1 applications will be collected at a central point (Call Secretariat) and evaluated at national level.
Proposals approved at Stage 1 will then be permitted to progress to an application at a European level, Stage 2.
Stage 1 proposals must be received via the electronic submission system available at https://ess.eranetbestf.net

Structure of submission

Stage 1:
The Stage 1 proposal consists of one common document following the structure of the template available from January 07 2013 on https://ess.eranetbestf.net.
Stage 1 proposals must be full applications.
Proposals will describe:

- The composition of the consortium with all key players and their skills and resources, the location(s) of the plant and contact persons (1 page max.). The plant site(s) must be in the participating countries.
- The potential impact of the project and its relevance to the EIBI Implementation Plan.
  - The relevance to EIBI value chains.
  - Strong trans-European industrial cooperation.
  - Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- The level of innovation and proximity to market.
- Description of technology with simplified process flow sheet including mass and energy data, schedule of the project and information on the energy utilisation of project outputs. At least 70% of the biomass-based products of a project shall be bioenergy (biofuels, heat, power), calculated on energy basis. A project must address innovative technologies and processes or novel integration of known technologies and processes. At least one "section" of the value chain or the integration of "sections" of the considered value chains should not have been deployed at demonstration / commercial scale before. The incorporation of sustainability measurements. This includes the provision of sufficient information regarding raw materials, compliance with the EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED 2009/28/EC, article 17) and a minimum Green House Gas (GHG) emission reduction of 60 %.
- A detailed analysis of project risks and associated mitigation strategies.
- A detailed business plan which will include a market study and a supply chain analysis, as well as the required regulatory approvals.
- A project management structure.
- A detailed budget breakdown per consortium member and country, including all eventual funding sources.

Some national funding bodies may also require specific national documents (application forms or similar) from “their” applicants at this stage.
Such national documents are **not** submitted at the central website, but directly to the relevant ministry or agency. Please consult the relevant National Annexes at the end of this document for further details.

All proposals should be written in English and using the Times New Roman font with a minimum acceptable font size of 10.
Proposals for on-going work, or work that will be on-going before the call is fully implemented, are **ineligible** for funding under this call.
If in doubt, please make sure to contact your national/regional funding organisation *prior* to submitting a proposal!

The deadline for submitting Stage 1 proposals is **March 27 2013, 14:00 CET**.
It is the responsibility of each applicant consortium to ensure their documents are submitted on time.

Stage 2:
On 1st of July 2013, only consortia whose Stage 1 proposals pass the first evaluation stage will be invited to submit Stage 2 proposals, taking into account any feedback they received on their Stage 1 proposals.
The deadline for submitting Stage 2 proposals will be **August 16 2013, 14:00 CET**.

6. Proposal evaluation

Stage 1 evaluations will determine the overall eligibility of the proposal and the consortium, and will include the following eligibility criteria:

- The proposal must be within the scope of the BESTF call and the respective national/regional programme.
- The proposal must be industry-led.
- The proposal must have matched funding.
- Partners must demonstrate that they have the financial resources to deliver the project, including exploitation of results at the end of the project.
- The proposal must represent value for money.

Stage 1 evaluations will assess technical/scientific/commercial aspects as required by national/regional regulations in order to assess the eligibility of a proposal for national/regional funding (see paragraph “national/regional requirements”).

Stage 2 evaluations will assess the detailed techno-commercial quality and innovativeness of the proposal, using the evaluation criteria detailed later in this document.
Proposals will only change between Stage 1 and Stage 2 in so far as recommendations from Stage 1 assessments need to be incorporated.
Stage 2 proposals will be evaluated by an international evaluation jury, selected by the funding organisations involved in the call. The criteria which Stage 2 proposals will be judged by can be found under Annex II.
The international evaluation jury will provide recommendations for funding. The final decisions will be taken by the BESTF funding organisations.

The evaluation of Stage 2 proposals will take place between August and October 2013 and the funding decisions will be communicated as soon as possible. Projects are expected to start from January 2014.

Beyond these instructions above, your participating national or regional funding agency’s guidelines should be followed.

7. Project monitoring and expected deliverables

In addition to the standard national requirements BESTF requires the following:

1. Participation in and presentation at two BESTF status seminars (mid-term and final seminar).
2. An annual, common interim report following the template which will be provided in due time. This interim report will be available to the funding organisations involved, but will not be made public. Be aware that national regulations will apply to interim reports. Care will be taken by all funding bodies to minimise the bureaucratic workload for the consortia.
3. A common publishable and public final report, describing the activities and outcomes of the work including an exploitation plan stating how the results of the project will be implemented. Confidential results will be presented in a separate confidential report. National guidelines have to be followed as well. Detailed requirements for this report will be distributed to successful applicants once the projects have started.
4. An abstract of the main results of the project, to be published in a “joint call brochure” after the end of the projects.

Annex I: National/regional funding requirements

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

The total minimum budget for EUDP funding in a BESTF context will be 3 M € on the condition that projects are qualified to receive support. EUDP will fund projects according to the EU state aid rules which allows up to 25-40 % support to demonstration projects for large companies and up to 35-60 % for SME´s. Universities and research organisations can apply for higher rates - the actual rate will be decided case by case. Applicants for combined EUDP/BESTF funding shall only use the dedicated BESTF transnational application form and -procedure as described at page xx and according to this call and its deadline. The received project proposals will in the first (national) stage of the BEST call (see page xx) be evaluated according to the usual EUDP evaluation procedure and only projects that is found to be qualified for support will proceed to the second (transnational) stage.

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

Finland
Funding for Finnish project partners is provided by Tekes according to Tekes' funding principles. Tekes' innovation funding is intended for companies and public operators for R&D and innovation operating in Finland. Typically funding for companies can be provided in the range of 25-50 % of the eligible costs of the project and for research institutions up to 70 %. The total budget available for funding in Finland is 6 M€ plus additional EC contribution.
Finnish project partners shall submit a national application through Tekes' submission system (http://www.tekes.fi/asiointi) in the first stage of the call in addition to the transnational application.

Germany
Funding quota of German participants can be up to 100 % for universities or research organisations. In the case of companies, funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities, commercial perspective of exploitation, typically up to a range of max. 50 %.
In case of small and medium enterprises, an additional bonus of 10-20 % funding quota can be awarded.
The maximum project duration for projects with German partners will be 36 months.
There is no obligation regarding the number of companies to be involved from Germany, but company participation is recommended for dissemination and exploitation of results.
The relevant national R&D programme for German project partners is the BMELV's "Nachwachsende Rohstoffe" ("Renewable Resources") managed by FNR. Please note that only operational costs are eligible for funding in case of new bioenergy demonstration plants (i.e. additional staff and material cost), while depreciation of the plant itself is not.
There is no need for additional national application forms without request by the funding organisations. The central transnational application is sufficient.
Only the German project partners of positively evaluated projects will, at a later stage, be invited by FNR to submit national application forms within one month after notification.
The usual FNR funding rules and forms will apply: AZA or AZK using the electronic proposal assistant "easy" (see http://www.kp.dlr.de/profi/easy/formular.html for details).
The total budget available for both call topics in Germany is 5 Mio €.

FNR's contact person for topic-specific questions during the application phase is Dr.-Ing. Thorsten Gottschau, +49-3843-6930-110, t.gottschau@fnr.de.

Navarra
Organisation: Government of Navarra, Department of Economy, Finance, Industry and Employment (DEHIE)
The total Budget available for this call is 1.5 M€.
Limits of funding per proposal are applied according to OJEU 2006/C 323/01 (2006-12-30). In practice, companies will be funded depending on their size and the type of project (small: up to 60%, medium: up to 50% and large: up to 40%). Universities and Research organisations: up 100% depending on the type of project.
In addition to the BESTF application forms (which must be submitted following this call's procedure – see page 8), applicants for funding from the Government of Navarre should submit also the specific application forms available at:
http://www.navarra.es/home_es/Servicios/ficha/2896/Ayudas-para-proyectos-de-investigacion-desarrollo-e-innovacion-(I-D-i)
The usual DEHIE funding rules and conditions apply (Decreto Foral 360/2000)

Portugal
FCT (*Foundation of Science and Technology*), through FAI (*Innovation Support Fund)* will support the Portuguese participation in transnational projects that meet the objectives stated under "scope of the call" on the following topics (value chains) only:

- *1- Synthetic liquid fuels and/or hydrocarbons and blending components via gasification*
- *4 - Bioenergy carriers via other thermochemical processes (e.g. pyrolysis, torrefaction)*
- *5 - Ethanol and higher alcohols from ligno-cellulosic feedstock via fermentation*
- *7 - Bioenergy carriers from CO2 and sunlight through microorganism-based production and upgrading into fuels and valuable bio-products*

Preferably, Portuguese support shall be attributed to projects with the demo stage in Portugal, up to a maximum of 200.000 € per eligible project plus additional EC Contribution. If the demonstration stage is not carried out in Portugal, FCT and FAI have the right to decline funding the projects, depending on positive proof of the added-value for Portuguese economic development.

The overall budget to support eligible projects under this framework is 1.000.000 €.
Projects might be required to partially reimburse the incentive, depending on the revenue basis of the demonstration project.

All types of institutions are eligible, with the following limits:
- Entities belonging to the national technological and scientific system (Higher Education, Non-Profit Research Institutions, national laboratories) and other non-profit organizations (up to 70% of eligible costs)
- SME (up to 50% of eligible costs)
- Large companies (up to 20% of eligible costs)

Overheads are accepted as eligible costs at a flat rate of 10% of labour costs. Other eligible costs are detailed in FAI regulations relating to demonstration projects (see www.fai.pt):
- Human resources (other limitations apply)
- Investment (other limitations apply)
- Subcontracting (other limitations apply)

Portuguese candidates must submit a national form, available from FAI (www.fai.pt), when submitting BESTF phase 1 proposals.
The final decision to fund a proposal shall be made by FCT's Board of Directors and the Management Board of FAI.

The maximum project duration for projects with Portuguese partners will be 36 months.

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Sweden

Funding of Swedish participants underlies the Swedish Energy Agency.

Decisions on funding research, development and innovation in the energy area are taken according to the ordinance SFS 2008:761 in the Swedish Code of Statues. Funding quota will be decided on a case-by-case basis depending on the size of the company, type of research/development, risk associated with the research activities, commercial perspective of exploitation, typically up to a range of max. 50 %. State aid rules allows up to 25 % when it is close to market and regarded as experimental development. In case of small and medium enterprises, an additional bonus of 10-20 % funding quota can be awarded. Universities and research organisations can apply for higher rates - the actual rate will be decided case by case.

Projects in this call are supposed to demonstrate applications close to the market. Awarded projects are expected to lead to market implementation of the new products and technologies developed by the project and an important objective is to ensure involvement of private investors in projects. It is important to concentrate on functionally delineated projects, with innovative technological content that is deemed technically practicable and which meets a market demand and has a well-defined customer target.

There is no obligation regarding the number of companies to be involved from Sweden, but company participation is obligated and must accept dissemination and exploitation of results.

For applications with Swedish partners it is necessary also to send in full proposal for the Swedish part of the project to Swedish Energy Agency, preferably the online application form E-kanalen[6] or a Swedish Energy Agency application form is necessary. The common proposal for the consortium should be appended. Granted projects have to meet conditions such as submitting interim and end reports as well as accounts. In addition, the projects should contribute to evaluations, conferences and other common programme activities.

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

More criteria might be added depending on the topic.
The total budget available for funding in Sweden is 3,5 M€ plus additional EC contribution.
Swedish project partners shall submit a national application through Swedish Energy Agencies' submission system (https://www1.stem.se/etjanster/) in the first stage of the call in addition to the transnational application.

Switzerland

Funding of Switzerland participants underlies the SFOE (Swiss Federal Office of Energy) pilot- and demonstration programme application rules (see http://www.bfe.admin.ch/dokumentation/01700/index.html?lang=de).
Funding of Swiss participants is limited to 40% (in exceptional cases 60%) of the eligible project costs. Eligible projects costs are defined as the additional project costs which cannot be amortized over the expected lifetime of the developed installation or solution. Additional projects costs are the additional

[6] http://energimyndigheten.se/E-Tjanster/E-kanalen/

project costs compared to the costs of implementing an equivalent, conventional technology or solution.
Eligible funding recipients are private and public sector entities (companies, research institutes, municipalities, or communities consisting of several of the former).
Admission criteria include

1) Project topic contributes to increasing energy efficiency or use of renewable energy;
2) High application and success potential;
3) Project topic in line with the Swiss energy policy;
4) Gathered results are publically accessible and disseminated among interested circles.

More criteria might be added depending on the topic / adjudication mode.
For submission of proposals please use the SFOE form (http://www.bfe.admin.ch/dokumentation/01700/index.html?lang=de) as well as the dedicated BESTF transnational application form (www.eranetbestf.net).

Contact persons for questions during the application phase are: yasmine.calisesi@bfe.admin.ch (administrative issues); sandra.hermle@bfe.admin.ch (technical issues)

United Kingdom

The total UK budget for eligible projects under this programme is £10M. The UK funding bodies may choose not to allocate the full budget.

Requirements for Industrial Participants

Partners: Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

- All UK participants must be separate legal entities;
- Companies must have been trading for at least 12 months before the closing date for applications (i.e. 28th March 2013). UK companies must be VAT registered and registered at Companies House;
- Companies have to provide evidence they have the resources and finances to undertake the project;
- Companies with fewer than 5 Full Time staff cannot lead a project, unless agreed prior to application with the Technology Strategy Board;
- There are specific accountancy rules for Sole Traders & Micro Companies [companies with less than 10 employees];
- Claims under the UK grant must be for project costs incurred in the UK, including subcontracting. UK subcontracting is capped at a maximum of 20% of the UK budget;
- The management of the project must be undertaken by a project participant and cannot be subcontracted;
- Industry partners are eligible for a maximum of 50% funding of project costs. It is necessary that applicants demonstrate evidence of private funding to cover the balance of the eligible project costs. Such funding may come from a company's own resources or external private sector investors, but may not include funding attributable to any public authority or EU institution;
- Grants will be provided under Article 31 of the EU State Aid General Block Exemption Regulation ("the Block Exemption"[7]), as Experimental Development (as defined under Article 30);
- The terms of the Grant Offer Letter will be designed to reflect the requirements of the Block Exemption, and companies will need to be aware that a failure to comply with those terms may result in DECC, TSB, the European Commission or a court requiring the grant to be repaid together with interest.

[7] http://ec.europa.eu/competition/state_aid/legislation/block.html

- For eligible project costs contact Graham.mobbs@tsb.gov.uk

National Call Secretariat:

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Requirements for Academic Participants

Partner: Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

Funding is available for biological research under Value Chains 5, 6 and 7 only and where the feedstock is not derived from material that would be used for the human food chain or animal feed. Agricultural resides such as straw would be acceptable as a feedstock under this call (see http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Policies/bioenergy-position-statement.pdf). Subject to all conditions of eligibility and peer review being fully met, the budget earmarked by BBSRC for collaborative proposals is up to £3M.

If applicants are in any doubt about the above exclusions, please contact the National Call Secretariat for further clarification (see below). Proposals should be for a maximum of three years duration.

Eligibility

UK Universities, Independent Research Organisations and Institutes that receive strategic funding from BBSRC are eligible to apply. Full details of eligibility conditions can be found on the BBSRC website: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/eligibility-overview.aspx

Specific national regulations and guidelines

Research studentships (PhD) will not be suppported under this initiative.

Funding will be awarded on the basis of full economic cost as described on the BBSRC website. UK applicants who are invited to prepare a stage 2 proposal will also be required to complete a BBSRC proforma alongside their full application to ensure their proposal complies with full economic cost requirements. Applicants are encouraged to clearly justify all the requested resources. Further details and a copy of the proforma, will be provided when full proposals are invited.

BBSRC has a very restricted budget available for equipment and other capital items. Applicants requesting items of equipment costing over £10k in their full proposals will be required to follow the guidelines as set out on the BBSRC website.
http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/research-equipment-guidance.aspx

National Call Secretariat

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Annex II: Evaluation criteria

Projects will be assessed as to their fulfilment of the below-mentioned criteria and contribution to the listed indicators.
Some of those points are guided by the EIBI Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). In the frame of BESTF, and the projects we are looking at funding, the KPIs represent indicative parameters, and the expert panel will assess whether a proposal will facilitate a significant development towards achieving the KPIs.
The KPIs, their background and rationale are described here: http://setis.ec.europa.eu/implementation/eii/eii-key-performance-indicators/KPIs_EIBI/view

Evaluation criteria and indicators	Unsatis-factoy	Poor	Average	Good	Very good
Fundamental criteria					**60**
1 Fit to Call	0	2	5	8	10
a Proposal complete and complies with specifications of BESTF and other relevant programmes					
b min. 70% of the bio-products produced are bioenergy, based on energy content of products					
c Incentive effect of BESTF Grant					
2 EU-Dimension and industrial leadership	0	2	10	15	20
a Consortium requirements met					
b Can the project contribute to achieving the relevant KPI					
3 Project set-up	0	2	15	20	30
a Quality of the consortium					
i adequate competence (management experience and know-how)					
ii adequate industrial and scientific competence					
iii financial strength*					
iv operational capacity to carry out the project?*					
b Realistic timeline of project and deployment					
Technical criteria					**90**
1 Innovation	0	2	10	15	20
Addresses innovative technologies and processes or novel integration of known technologies and processes to be established at the appropriate scale					
2 Quality of the technological concept	0	2	20	30	40
a work plan with clear tasks, deliverables and milestones, methodology including LCA analysis, efforts					
b progress monitoring/control					
c techno-economic and environmental analysis of the value chain					
d Energy efficiency to primary end product					
e Feedstock availability and logistics					
f Quality specifications of production, logistics and end user requirements					

3	**Risk analysis**	0	2	15	20	30
	a Identification and assessment					
	b management incl. Quality Assurance Plan					
Economic and environmental criteria						**70**
1	**Implementation potential**	0	2	5	8	10
	a Operation of demo plant planned for 2018?					
	b Learning curve for further development?					
2	**Sustainability**	0	2	10	15	20
	a Renewable Energy Directive and Green House Gas Emission targets/regulations met, based on LCA and RED calculation					
	b Future contribution to reducing GHG emissions					
	c Sustainably managed raw material					
	d Environmental impacts other than GHG					
3	**Future market deployment of the concept**	0	2	10	15	20
	a Realistic feedstock and market potential for industrial scale described and volume potential of corresponding bioenergy market outlined					
	b Economic performance of the commercial concept					
4	**Strong business case**	0	2	10	15	20
	a Clear identification of target groups and added value for consumers					
	b Adequate analysis of competition					
	c Adequate analysis of market potential					
	d Adequate marketing plan					
	e Adequate cost-benefit ratio of the concept					
Others						**30**
1	**Impact, dissemination and exploitation plan and knowledge sharing**	0	2	5	8	10
	a contribution to call goals and to European knowledge, including dissemination plan					
	b benefits to EU public					
	c detailed exploitation plan incl. IPR issues					
2	**Societal issues**	0	2	10	15	20
	a employment					
	b health & safety					
	c training					
	d rural development					
	e public acceptance					

* must be at least average

Projects will need to reach at least 50% of possible points - but the final threshold will be determined by expert panel recommendations and budget constraints.