



Bridging the Interoperability Gap of the Internet of Things

Open Call II Overview



Open Call

BIG IoT project, funded by the H2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014 - 2020), has reserved a portion of its budget for specific tasks to be carried out by third parties. These third parties are selected by means of two open calls.

This document describes the basic information concerning the second open call, i.e. its objectives, the submission process, the eligibility and evaluation criteria.

In general, the conditions for participation and funding are those of H2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, as defined principally in Regulation (EC) No 1290/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 ¹.

Who?

The call is open to individual **European SMEs, startups, companies, universities, research institutes, public agencies, public utilities, publicly owned companies** that:

1. at the moment of the presentation of the proposal are legally registered in a member state of the European Union or in an H2020 associated country²;
2. at the moment of the submission of the proposal are not funded by or otherwise affiliated with any BIG IoT partner³.

Selected entities will receive funding according to the conditions of the H2020 Framework Program for Research and Innovation as third parties of Siemens AG⁴.

Only **one entity per proposal** will be admitted, so activities in co-operation will not be considered eligible; each participant can submit more than one application but only one application per participant will be funded. Documented support of other parties can strengthen a proposal. For

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/legal_basis/rules_participation/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf

² Eligibility criteria are the same as H2020 rules of participation cited in the previous note.

Legal entities established in the following countries are eligible to receive funding through this Open Call:

- The Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their overseas departments (based on the general H2020 rules);
- The EU associated countries participate in Horizon 2020 under the same conditions as EU Member States.

³ List of the BIG IoT partners can be found on <http://big-iot.eu/>

⁴ http://www.fch.europa.eu/sites/default/files/h2020-rules-participation_en.pdf

example, a company integrating an IoT platform of a governmental institution can strengthen its proposal through documented support of that institution (e.g., in form of a letter of intent).

It is **not required** that the applicants are located **in any of the three pilot sites**, i.e. Barcelona, Piedmont region, Northern Germany.

Successful applicants, who have been awarded funding, are expected to provide proof of their registration in one of the eligible countries² using the PIC number. In addition, successful applicants will be required to sign a Collaboration Agreement with Siemens AG, the BIG IoT Project Coordinator, on behalf of the BIG IoT Consortium in order to be able to receive the funds and become third party of the project. The draft collaboration agreement with the rights and obligations assumed by the third party will be included in the application package.

What?

The main objective of the open call is **to grow the BIG IoT ecosystem** by integrating new IoT platforms and data sources to the BIG IoT marketplace and exploiting existing and new offerings by developing innovative applications and services.

Proposals should focus on the BIG IoT project domains, i.e. **smart mobility and environmental monitoring**, and provide description of exactly one out of the two following type applications:

- **Type 1:** development of new applications/services based on existing BIG IoT offerings. This kind of proposal **only** focuses on **development of new applications and services** using the existing offerings.
- **Type 2:** integration of own IoT platforms/services as new offerings on the BIG IoT marketplace **and** development of new applications/services based on own and/or existing BIG IoT offerings. This kind of proposal foresees **both platform integration and development** of new applications and services. Participants are expected to do both activities.

Proposals can provide data or services/applications concerning geographical areas other than BIG IoT pilot ones. **Nonetheless a minimum of 100.000 Euro funding pro pilot will be reserved for proposals targeting one of the 3 pilot areas: Barcelona, Northern Germany (Berlin and Wolfsburg) and Piedmont.** For further details concerning the pilots' state of the art, the developed use cases and open call expectations, together with a list of the offerings available in the marketplace, please refer to "BIG IoT- Marketplace Offerings and Pilot Use cases Overview " document published here

<http://big-iot.eu/second-open-call/>.

How?

Proposals are submitted in a **one-stage process** that means that applicants submit a full proposal before the deadline. However, the applicants will be offered a pre-feasibility check and get feedback to a draft idea. Participants can submit a maximum two-page document describing the proposal and they will receive some high level indication on it, within a week from the submission.

The proposal language has to be **English**. Proposals submitted in any other language are not eligible. The proposals are submitted by filling out the application form on the F6S portal⁵.

Information requested in the proposal:

1. Title of the contribution, and identification of organization and contact person.
2. Type of the contribution, i.e. Type 1, or 2.
3. Area of reference of the proposed solution (e.g. a specific pilot area / more than one pilot area/other area external to the pilots one)
4. The description of the contribution and the objectives, relating to the BIG IoT approach. The proposals must describe how proposed collaboration fits into BIG IoT vision (e.g. with the Pilots expectations) and what is the added value for the BIG IoT. Additionally, a list of activities and their time plan, aligned with the experimentation period must be laid down.
5. Key milestones and deliverables, considering also the alignment with the internal evaluation periods.
6. The organization profile and key member's CV, organization, skills and resources.
7. Budget.

When?

Call open for applications:	17:00 CET 30th of January, 2018
Pre-feasibility check:	17:00 CET 13th of April, 2018
Deadline for the proposals:	17:00 CET 4th of May, 2018
Notification of selected projects:	End of May, 2018
Project Start:	June, 2018
Project End:	October, 2018

⁵ <https://www.f6s.com/>

Why?

By taking part in the BIG IoT ecosystem:

- **application** and **service developers** can on one hand reduce time-to-market of their services and applications by decreasing efforts for implementing platform specific interfaces. On the other hand, they can build their services on top of a rich pool of offerings coming from different platforms and domains.
- **platform owners** and **service providers** can reach more customers for their offerings and seize the opportunities to partnership with other parties in order to provide more sophisticated offerings.

Funding conditions

The financial support to be provided to the third parties in the second open call corresponds to a total of 429.095€. The proposals of type 1 will receive up to 35.000€ and proposals of type 2 up to 60.000€ funding. Proposals exceeding the maximum budget will be discarded and not considered in the evaluation.

Projects that are eligible for receiving BIG IoT funding shall provide the following activities and expected achievements:

- Adjust own software components to work with new releases of the API until the end of the BIG IoT project (Dec. 2018)
- Provide access to own offerings for other parties in the project
- Keep alive of own offerings for four years after the end of BIG IoT Project (accordingly to art. 28 of the GA⁶)
- Keep alive of gateway systems to open data streams four years after the end of BIG IoT

⁶ GA n. 688038— **ARTICLE 28 of EXPLOITATION OF RESULTS**

28.1 Obligation to exploit the results

Each beneficiary must — up to **four years** after the period set out in Article 3 — take measures aiming to **ensure ‘exploitation’ of its results (either directly or indirectly**, in particular through transfer or licensing; rfr Article 30) by:

- a) **using them in further research activities (outside the action);**
- b) **developing, creating or marketing a product or process;**
- c) **creating and providing a service, or**
- d) **using them in standardization activities.**

This does not change the security obligations in Article 37, which still apply. “

Though this article regards only beneficiaries and not third parties, the results of the open call are results of the project and they have to be exploited.

Project (accordingly to art. 28 of the GA). Provision of scalable and future proof technologies/solutions, e.g. to integrate open data

Regarding the eligible costs, participation as a third party in an H2020 project will cover all the incurred costs. However, for further information on this specific issue please refer to the "Rules for Participation Legal & Financial Issues", Article 6, page 38⁷.

In addition, to be eligible the costs must meet the following criteria:

- I. they must be incurred in the period set out in Article 3 of the project GA⁸, with the exception of costs relating to the submission of the technical report and financial statement;
- II. they must be identifiable and verifiable, in particular recorded in the Third Party's accounts in accordance with the accounting standards applicable in the country where the Third Party is established and with the Third Party's usual cost accounting practices;
- III. they must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labour and social security, and
- IV. they must be reasonable, justified and must comply with the principle of sound financial management, in particular regarding economy and efficiency.

'Ineligible costs' are costs that do not comply with the conditions set out above (see article 6.5 of the BIG IoT GA⁹) and costs reimbursed under another EU or Euratom grant (including grants

⁷ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

⁸ ARTICLE 3 of the BIG IoT GA n. 688038 — DURATION AND STARTING DATE OF THE ACTION
The duration of the action will be 36 months as of 1 January 2016 ('starting date of the action').

⁹ Art. 6.5, of BIG IoT GA- Ineligible costs- 'Ineligible costs' are:

(a) costs that do not comply with the conditions set out above (Article 6.1 to 6.4), in particular:

(i) costs related to return on capital;

(ii) debt and debt service charges;

(iii) provisions for future losses or debts;

(b) costs declared under another EU or Euratom grant (including grants awarded by a Member State and financed by the EU or Euratom budget and grants awarded by bodies other than the Commission for the purpose of implementing the EU or Euratom budget); in particular, indirect costs if the beneficiary is already receiving an operating grant financed by the EU or Euratom budget in the same period.

(iv) interest owed;

(v) doubtful debts;

(vi) currency exchange losses;

(vii) bank costs charged by the beneficiary's bank for transfers from the Commission;

(viii) excessive or reckless expenditure;

(ix) deductible VAT;

(x) costs incurred during suspension of the implementation of the action

awarded by a Member State and financed by the EU or Euratom budget and grants awarded by bodies other than the European Commission for the purpose of implementing the EU and Euratom budget).

The form of financial support to be used will be a pre-defined lump sum. Funds will be provided to the third parties in this way: 40% of the overall financial support as advance payment after signing the Collaboration Agreement, 30% of the overall financial support as interim payment based on the evaluation by the BIG IoT consortium, 30% of the overall financial support as final payment based on the final report.

The planned funding conditions include in case of not fulfillment of contractual obligations certain control measures and the possibility of reducing the financial support as described in the Collaboration Agreement.

Evaluation process

Each proposal will be evaluated by **external and independent experts**. The experts will be individuals with experience in the fields of innovation linked to this Open Call and also with the highest level of knowledge. The selected experts will sign a declaration of confidentiality concerning the evaluation process and the content of the proposals they evaluate. They will also declare their absence of any conflict of interest for the assigned tasks. Each evaluator will record his/her individual opinion on each proposal using an evaluation form. Experts will then agree on a common evaluation of the proposal. The result of that agreement (comments and scores) will be reflected on the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR), which will be signed by both.

The proposals will be evaluated under six criteria:

- I. **Relevance to BIG IoT:** relevance is evaluated according to two main criteria:
 - a. **Usefulness:** the degree of expected use of provided offerings: i.e. does the proposal aim at integrating real data? Are the data related to domain Smart Mobility and Environmental Monitoring? Are data relevant for the pilot areas?
 - b. **Complementarity:** the degree to which the provided offerings will add value to the BIG IoT ecosystem. The score should reflect the potential of the extension to: enlarge the critical mass of the existing offerings, as well as to probe the interoperability solutions developed within the project, by providing additional offerings that could be

combined with existing ones in order to provide new, innovative cross-platform applications and services.

- II. **Impact and sustainability:** In which way the proposal contributes to further maturity of BIG IoT approach, and which are beneficiaries of the proposed solution; the guarantee of availability of the resources offered/implemented in absence of this open call funding will be evaluated. The documented presence of an endorsement letter from a public entity (e.g. municipality) assessing the interest of the proposed solution will be considered as partial fulfillment of this requirement.
- III. **Technical excellence:** Soundness of concept, quality of objectives and innovative elements present in the proposal
- IV. **Quality of implementation:** feasibility of the work plan, quality and effectiveness of the technical methodology, including the work plan, contribution to collaboration with BIG IoT to achieve objectives of the project, appropriateness of the allocation and justification of the resources to be committed (staff, equipment...)
- V. **Quality of the team:** Quality and relevant experience of the individual participants, quality of the team as a whole (including complementarity, balance)
- VI. **Economic fairness:** the requested budget should be adequate with the proposed Work plan.

After the proposals are evaluated, a ranking list will be assembled. In the ranking process, the above criteria will be weighted 0,30 / 0,30 / 0,10 / 0,10 / 0,10 / 0,10, respectively. Finally, the group of external experts, who evaluated the proposals, will meet together with the BIG IoT representatives in a discussion round to clarify the evaluations. This meeting will conclude with the final ranking list. A minimum budget per pilot area of 100.000 Euro will be taken into account in the selection of proposals for funding. In case several proposals have the same score the coverage of the above defined Type of the proposal will be taken into account to balance the number of accepted proposals across Type 1 and 2, to sort out the ties.

The external experts will oversee the whole ranking and selection process to ensure compliance. Notifications on funding or rejections will together with any feedback be sent out by the end of April 2018.

Once the Open Call evaluation is finalized, representatives of the selected proposals will be invited to sign a Collaboration Agreement (final version included in the application package) with Siemens and become a third party. During the Collaboration Agreement signing process, the selected applicants will have to provide all relevant documentation concerning their legal and financial status, as well as any amendments in their technical proposals according to the comments received by the evaluators during the evaluation process, if applicable.

Support options

There will be different events in which the open call will be presented and support will be provided in preparing the applications. Please follow the web site and also the twitter of the project to get information about the open call.

The BIG IoT consortium will maintain a frequently asked questions (FAQ) section available at BIG IoT website¹⁰. It will be updated continuously. For specifically technical details check first the available documentation in the website.

The answers that you can't find in the FAQ section can be submitted over the online contact form¹¹.

Furthermore, during the preparation of the proposal, a feasibility check will be possible (only one for each proposal). The check is possible by filling out the online form¹².

¹⁰ <http://big-iot.eu/second-open-call/frequently-asked-questions/>

¹¹ <http://big-iot.eu/opencalls/open-calls-information-contact-form/>

¹² <http://big-iot.eu/feasibility-check/>