

EUROHPC-2022-CEI-QC-01

FAQ

Question 1

Q: Is there a size limit for the attached file sent to calls@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu?

A: There is a size limit of 50 MB for the attachments to the above mailbox.

Question 2

Q: Did you define a process to send the application files packaged in a zip file?

A: Zipped files should be password protected. You can send your password:

- in a letter to the EuroHPC JU
- via email to daniel.opalka@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu
- Via SMS to +352 621 670 274 including the acronym of the application

The JU will confirm to the applicant that the content of the password protected zip file was accessible.

Question 3

Q: Is it possible to send the application several times to calls@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu or can the application be sent only once?

A: It is possible to send the application more than once but no later than the 30 June 2022 at 17:00 CET. Only the latest version will be considered in the evaluation.

Question 4

Q: Is the signature of the hosting agreement considered as the starting point of the project?

A: Upon signature of the hosting agreement, the formal status of 'hosting entity' is established according to COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2021/1173.

Question 5

Q: Are the costs eligible from the signature of the hosting agreement up to the end of operation of the Quantum Computer?

A: The provisions of the hosting agreement will apply. Specific terms and conditions for the eligibility and reimbursement of the part of the operating costs of the EuroHPC supercomputer to be covered by the Union financial contribution will be defined in a separate agreement (operating grant).

Question 6

Q: Should all the operating costs other than personnel work be included in the Other Direct Costs?

A: Once the signature of the hosting agreement is signed, the Digital Europe Model Grant Agreement will be used as the model to prepare the grant agreements for operating and integration costs.

Question 7

Q: What does “EU synergy call” mean at the practical level and what types of funding are eligible as matching funding?

A: An EU synergy call envisages that grants and procurements can be linked with another grant funded from any other EU funding programme such as the European Structural and investment funds (ESIF). The grants under both calls will be managed as linked actions.

Question 8

Q: What limitations on the synergistic grants are in place?

A: The overall funding rate must not exceed 100%.

Question 9

Q: How can we access more information about use cases, notably the projects resulting from the Quantum Flagship call HORIZON-CL4-2021-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02-10: Strengthening the quantum software ecosystem for quantum computing platforms?

A: A total of 9 proposals have been submitted to call HORIZON-CL4-2021-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02-10, which closed on 27 January 2022. The funded projects have not yet been published, however, we suggest that applicants consult the horizon dashboard for any update: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon-dashboard>;

Question 10

Q: Which agreement (hosting agreement, grant agreement for operation, or grant agreement to integration) covers the hosting entity costs associated with the preparation of acquisition of the quantum computer, e.g., verification of the technical specifications?

A: Hosting entity costs associated to the preparation of the hosting site for the installation of the quantum computer are ineligible in this call, and therefore none of the grant agreements mentioned in the question will cover these costs. The procurement of the quantum computers will be implemented by the EuroHPC JU and hosting entities will not be reimbursed for their contributions to the preparation of technical specifications.

Question 11

Q: Please specify how the documents required should be signed, and whether they should be submitted only electronically or sent also by letter in case of handwritten signatures.

A: Document must be digitally signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant organisation. Specific and detailed guidelines are provided e. g. in the template for Anne 1B (Mandate Letter).

Question 12

Q: Are capitalised and operating costs of large research infrastructure eligible for this call?

A: Capitalized and operational costs of large research infrastructures are not foreseen in the Digital Europe Programme, therefore, they should be considered ineligible in this call;

Question 13

Q: Are internally invoiced goods and services eligible for this call?

A: The Digital Europe Model Grant Agreement will be used for the grants for operation and integration of the quantum computers. According to Article 6.2.D.2 of Digital Europe MGA, costs for internally invoiced goods and services directly used for the action may be declared as unit cost according to usual cost accounting practices if they fulfil the general eligibility conditions for such unit costs and the amount per unit is calculated:

- a) using the actual costs for the good or service recorded in the beneficiary's accounts, attributed either by direct measurement or on the basis of cost drivers, and excluding any cost which are ineligible or already included in other budget categories; the actual costs may be adjusted on the basis of budgeted or estimated elements, if they are relevant for calculating the costs, reasonable and correspond to objective and verifiable information
- b) and according to usual cost accounting practices which are applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

Question 14

Q: Which Model Grant Agreement will be used?

A: The Digital Europe Model Grant Agreement (MGA) will be used for the grants for operation and integration of the quantum computers. The MGA is published under the link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/digital/agr-contr/mga_dep_en.pdf

Question 15

Q: We are planning to propose a duration of 4 years with one first year at the signature of the hosting agreement or at the signature of the contract with the selected supplier plus 3 years of operation of the system when installed, is it something you could envision?

A: The COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2021/1173 establishing the EuroHPC JU states in Article 12(7) states:

“Without prejudice to the winding up of the Joint Undertaking, as referred to in Article 23(4) of the Statutes, at the earliest four years after the successful acceptance test by the quantum computer or quantum simulator installed in a hosting entity, the ownership of the quantum computer or quantum simulator may be transferred to that hosting entity, sold to another entity or decommissioned upon decision of the Governing Board and in accordance with the hosting agreement.”

Question 16

Q: Can multiple actors from a participating state be part of the application? Specifically, if there are actors spanning multiple countries who are all members of EuroHPC, can such an actor then be part of the application even though there is already another actor present from one or more of the participating states?

A: In principle yes, however only one Hosting Site (i.e. one quantum computer) per application is permitted and appropriate mandate letters for all actors involved must be provided for the consortium.

Question 17

Q: The application template states in section III.5, that “The applicant should specify the benchmarks or deliverables which the applicant intends to employ to achieve the expected results and targets and how they will be used. These should include at least the SLAs in the Hosting Agreement and information related to...” However, the SLAs in the referred Hosting Agreement Annex II and III discuss mainly about supercomputers and do not reflect the call content related to the quantum computers. Can you please clarify, how to comply with this requirement?

A: The requested information in section III.5 refers to the existing supercomputer at the hosting site where the quantum computer will be integrated. Applications should also explain how these services may be used/extended to ensure a high quality of service to the users of the hybrid system.

Question 18

Q: Can a quantum computer be upgraded, e. g. the QPU replaced after 2 years of operation?

A: The replacement e. g. of the QPU during the lifetime of the system does not represent an upgrade in the sense of COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2021/1173 Art. 15 . If such a replacement is included in the initial

procurement of the system, then the concept must be clearly described and justified in the application and will be subject to evaluation. In any case, the minimum requirements defined in the call documents must be fulfilled by the initially delivered system.

Question 19

Q: Can a country that hosts a EuroHPC system also host a quantum computer?

A: Yes, this is possible. COUNCIL REGULATION (EU) 2021/1173 Art. 9 (1) sets out conditions for Participating States already hosting EuroHPC supercomputers. It states *“EuroHPC supercomputers shall be located in a Participating State that is a Member State. In case a Participating State is already hosting a EuroHPC supercomputer which is a high-end or a mid-range supercomputer, it shall not be eligible to participate in a new call for expression of interest for the incremental generation of such supercomputers before at least five years from the selection date following a previous call for expression of interest. In the case of the acquisition of quantum computers and quantum simulators, or the upgrade of a EuroHPC supercomputer with quantum accelerators, that period is reduced to two years “*

Question 20

Q: Can the supplier of the quantum computing system be identified in the application?

A: No, applications must not refer to a specific vendor and the description of the quantum computer must avoid unnecessary and discriminatory elements that limit the selection of potential suppliers.