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Call documentation

4th call for proposals

DELTA 2 Programme

Funding programme for applied research, experimental
development and innovation

Ref. No.: TACR/9-18/2022

The focus and conditions of the 4th call under the DELTA 2 Programme


What is the focus of the call?

- The 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 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 also to promote the transfer of international knowledge, share good practice and facilitate the penetration of foreign markets.
- 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 full list of foreign organisations, the conditions of their call and contact details are given in [Annex No. 1 to the Call Documentation](#).
- 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.
- TA CR provides funding only to the Czech part of the consortium. Foreign participants are financed from foreign sources.
- More detailed information on the specific conditions of international cooperation is provided in Chapter 3.2 International Cooperation.
- 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.
- **The project proposal shall be submitted in English.**

Who can apply for funding?

Entities with a foreseen cooperation with a foreign partner, which may apply as:

- Research organisation;
- Enterprise.

 Applicants (regardless of their legal form) can choose the **„enterprise“ type of applicant** (e.g. non-profit organisations, associations, contributory organisations, organisational units of the state, local/regional authorities).

Important dates

Call is open for submissions: from 19. 5. 2022 until 13. 7. 2022

Announcement of results: 30. 11. 2022

Start of project implementation: January 2023–March 2023

Project duration: 12–36 months

Maximum amount of funding and funding rate

Maximum amount of funding per project: unlimited

Maximum funding rate per project: 74 %

Questions about the call can be submitted via the [Helpdesk](#). You can use regional consultants at [contact points](#) for a personal or telephone consultation.

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Introduction

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 7), 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);
- 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

The main applicant may:

- be only an **enterprise** that has its registered office, establishment or branch in the Czech Republic;
- implement the project independently or in cooperation with other partners;
- 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 3.3 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.



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.

Foreign partner:

- there must be at least one foreign partner from the locations listed in the table below and at the same time in Annex 1 to the Call documentation, supported by the relevant foreign organisation;
- according to definitions, it is not **other project partner**;
- may be related to the Czech applicant as a partner or linked enterprise within the meaning of Annex I to the Regulation only if this is permitted by the foreign partner organisation (see Annex 1 to the Call Documentation);
 - if the Czech applicant and the foreign partner are in a relationship that would meet the definition of a partner or linked enterprise within the meaning of Annex I to the Regulation, one of the Czech applicants must also be an enterprise that does not meet the definition in relation to the foreign partner. The main applicant confirms compliance with this condition by sending a [Sworn statement on the consortium composition](#) (for more details see Chapter 5.1 Demonstration of eligibility).

Locality	Foreign partner agency	Abbreviation
Federative Republic of Brazil	Brazilian Agency for Research and Industrial Innovation	EMBRAPII
Federative Republic of Brazil	National Service for Industrial Training	SENAI
Zhejiang	Zhejiang Science and Technology Department	ZSTD
Republic of Korea	Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology	KIAT
Republic of Korea	Korea Institute of Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning	KETEP
Federal Republic of Nigeria	National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure	NASENI
Québec	Consortium for Research and Innovation in Aerospace in Québec	CRIAQ
United States of America	Department of Energy of the United States of America	DOE
State of Israel	Israel Innovation Authority	IIA
Taiwan	Ministry of Economic Affairs	MoEA
Taiwan	Ministry of Science and Technology	MoST
Jiangsu	Jiangsu Provincial Department of Science and Technology	JSTD

Applicants (regardless of their legal form) can choose the „enterprise” type of applicant (e.g. non-profit organizations, associations, contributory organisations, organisational units of the state, local/regional authorities) in ISTA.

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

2 Dates and deadlines

Dates and deadlines related to the project proposal submission and to the proof of eligibility

Call opening (from this time onwards, project proposals can be filled in and submitted in ISTA)	19. 5. 2022 at 9:00 a.m.
Call deadline (deadline for the submission of project proposals through ISTA)	13. 7. 2022 at 16:29:59 p.m.
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	13. 7. 2022 at 23:59:59 p.m.
Deadline for the receipt of proof of eligibility documents (except for documents which 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. 2022** at the website www.tacr.cz. Subsequently, TA CR shall send the **Decision on the results of the call for proposals** to the main applicant through the data box.

Dates and deadlines related to **project implementation**

Start of the project	January 2023 – March 2023
Project duration	12–36 months
Deadline for project completion	December 2025

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 boxes provided in ISTA or in the annexes to the project proposal). If TA CR decides to support the project proposal and a project contract is signed¹, 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 project proposal submission.

3.1 Focus of the call

The 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 expected support of foreign organisations.

The objective of the call is to increase the number of specific outputs/results of applied research. These outputs/results 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 the entry to foreign markets. The synergistic effect is also the transfer of „best practice” from abroad to the Czech Republic.

The call will support joint projects of applicants from the Czech Republic and applicants from abroad. Funding will be provided to projects aimed at acquiring new knowledge and skills for the development of new or substantially improved products, processes or services, and for a new product, process or service. The selected projects must respond to the current or future needs of the countries concerned. Therefore, the call is not specifically thematically focused by the TA CR, the selection of topics is determined with each foreign organization 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 4th call of the DELTA 2 programme:

- The participation of a foreign partner in the project is a prerequisite. 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 to the Call Documentation](#).

¹Where the call documentation refers to a **project contract**, this includes also a **decision on the provision of funding** which the TA CR issues only if the applicant is an organizational unit of the state or an organizational 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 Chapter 1 of the Call Documentation. The foreign partner(s) participate(s) in the project without being eligible for funding from the DELTA 2 programme.
- The foreign partner must submit a complementary project proposal to one of the listed foreign organisations. Within the call, its/their participation in the project is specified in the project proposal and confirmed in the Common Proposal.
- A project proposal may be accepted into the 4th call for proposals under the DELTA 2 programme only if it is accepted into a call for proposals launched by a foreign organisation (hereinafter referred to as the call) 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 Chapter 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 shall enclose to their project proposal a mandatory annex called **Common proposal**.

This form has the following elements:

- It is a form to be submitted by the main applicant to TA CR and by the foreign partner to the relevant foreign organisation.
- 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).
- 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. An exception is made for project proposals submitted in collaboration with foreign participants from the Canadian province of Québec (CRIAQ foreign organisation), where only the main applicant, and not the other partners, signs on the Canadian side.

- The Common Proposal forms are included among the documents associated with the launch of the 4th call for proposals under the DELTA 2 programme.

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

3.4 Optional annexes to project proposal

Applicants may enclose to their project proposal the following optional annexes:

- **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.
- **Market research**, the aim of which is to describe the commercial prerequisites, the expected economic benefits, and the marketability of the research outputs/results, which 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.

3.5 Differentiation from similar projects



The Technology Agency of the Czech Republic only supports project proposals, the content of which or its part has not been in the past and is not currently being addressed within another own project of the applicant². Double funding is not allowed.

Applicant are obliged to indicate (especially where there are identical key persons in research teams, and the same fields are being addressed) their own:

² **Own projects** mean all projects to any provider of public funding, involving an entity with the same ID number, regardless of whether it is the main applicant or other project partner.

- **completed projects**, if the planned outputs/results constitute their follow-up and to describe this link;
- **currently running related projects** and to describe the differences between those projects and the project proposal submitted to this call;
- **project proposals submitted simultaneously to this or other calls**, where the simultaneous selection for funding **would not lead** to double funding. In that case, differences between those projects need to be described;
- **project proposals submitted simultaneously to this or other calls**, where the simultaneous selection for funding would lead to double funding. In that case it must be stated that only one project contract will be concluded, and this commitment must be adhered to.

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 call documentation.

If there are no such projects from which you would need to differentiate your proposal, **please state this explicitly**.

Please indicate the **differentiation** from own projects in the field „Differentiation from similar projects and solutions“ under the „Project presentation“ tab. **Novelty** relative to other known solutions should be described in the field „State-of-the-art, novelty and research uncertainty“ under the „Project presentation“ tab.

To verify the completeness of the list of related projects and to demonstrate the novelty of the proposed Innovation, TA CR recommends to use [STARFOS](#), a search tool for funded projects or the R&D Information System ([IS VaVal](#)).

3.6 Thematic classification of project proposal

The classification of a project proposal in a correct category serves for statistical and analytical purposes and for the evaluation of public spending in the area of science, research and innovation. The classification is a mandatory step in the proposal submission process. The correct classification of the project proposal also has an impact on the correctness of the evaluation process. The objectives and fields that can be selected for the classification (defined according to the focus of the programme) are listed in the references provided below or in the help function in ISTA.

All the following details are entered in ISTA in Chapter 3. PROJECT INTRODUCTION, in the **Definition of the project** tab:

- objectives of National priorities of oriented research, experimental development and innovation (RDI priorities) – a list of objectives is given in the ISTA help system;
- fields according to Central Register of Projects (**CRP**) and according to Fields of Research and Development (**FORD**). The selected CRP and FORD fields should be in accordance;
- domains of research and innovation specialisation of the National Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Czech Republic (**RIS3 strategy**).

3.7 Outputs and results

In this call, TA CR can only fund project proposals where **practical exploitation of outputs/results** is expected. At least one **main output/result** must be chosen in each project proposal. The main outputs/results are generated into the binding parameters and thus constitute a part of the project contract. According to the General Terms and Conditions, all main outputs / results must be achieved by the time of the project completion.

Definitions and descriptions of individual types of results can be found in [Annex No. 4](#) of the Methodology for the Evaluation of Research Organizations and Targeted Support Programmes for Research, Development and Innovation (hereinafter referred to as the „[Methodology](#)“).

SUPPORTED TYPES OF RESULTS and their mandatory annexes:

Fprum - industrial design;

Fuzit - utility model;

Gprot - prototype;

Gfunk - functional sample;

Nlec - medical procedure;

Nmap - specialized map;

Npam - preservation procedure;

NmetA - methodologies and procedures accredited by the authorised body;

NmetC - methodologies certified by the authorised body;

NmetS - methodologies approved by the competent state administration body for the matter in question - **Form for the NmetS type of result is a mandatory annex**, the annex can be confirmed in Czech or English, but it must always be filled in in a second language;

P - patent - **patent search is a mandatory annex³**;

R - software;

S - specialised public database;

Zpolop - pilot plan;

Ztech - verified technology;

O - other 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 others, documented also by a state-of-the-art search, or product search and patent search (hereinafter referred to as „search“). The search can be performed either by any 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.

If the planned output / result **does not correspond** to any description in the [Methodology](#), choose the **result of the „O” type**. If a result corresponds to a type of result according to the Methodology and is not allowed as the main type of result in the Call Documentation, it can be listed in the project proposal in the section **Other outputs/results**. It is not permissible for these results to be listed among Main Outputs/Results (e.g. as results of the O type - other results).

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

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

4 Funding rules

Expected amount allocated to the call	CZK 250 million
Maximum amount of funding per project	unlimited
Maximum funding rate per project	74 %
USD exchange rate according to the CNB as of May 18, 2022	23,422 CZK

Beneficiaries must cover a mandatory co-funding at a minimum rate of 26 % from other sources⁴.

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 No. 1 to the Call Documentation](#)).

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

The anticipated financing of the foreign part of the project (whether in the form of funding from a foreign organisation or otherwise) must be documented in writing on the Common Proposal form already at the stage of project proposal submission to the call for proposals. In the Common Proposal, the financial amounts shall be stated in USD on both the Czech side and the foreign side, at the exchange rate of the Czech National Bank on the date of the announcement of this call for proposals.

There is no legal entitlement to the funding.

⁴ The project proposal **will not distinguish** between other public and non-public sources.

§ 4.1 Funding rate

The funding rate is determined according to the type of applicant and with regard to the nature of the activities planned in a given year (ratio of industrial research and experimental development). However, **the maximum funding rate per project** must always be respected.

Funding rate of an applicant

The funding rate of an applicant is determined as a percentage of individual applicant's costs which is covered by funding.

If an **applicant, which is an enterprise**, meets one of the conditions of effective cooperation, its maximum funding rate can be increased according to the table below. **The effective cooperation is:**

- **between an enterprise and one or more research organisations**, if that organisation bears at least 10 % of eligible costs and has the right to publish the outputs/results of 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 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 which is a party to the EEA Agreement, and with no enterprise covering more than 70 % of eligible costs.

The maximum permitted funding rate for each type of applicant **must be respected in each year of the project**, according to the amount of costs actually incurred in the given year. The maximum funding rate is set out in the table below:

Types of applicants/ 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 %
Big enterprise	50 %	65 %	25 %	40 %
Research organisation	100 %			

You do not need to provide any document as evidence of effective cooperation. In its financial plan in ISTA, the enterprise only needs to choose that it requests the increased funding rate. Compliance with the conditions of effective cooperation is assessed within the evaluation process.

4.2 Eligible costs

All cost categories are listed and detailed in Article 18 of [General terms and conditions](#).

In this call, eligible costs **include**:

- **personnel costs** – including scholarships⁵;
- **subcontracting costs**;
- **other direct costs**;
- **indirect costs** – can be reported using the following methods:
 - **“full cost”** – the organization 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.

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 on a prescribed form [Sworn statement of the applicant](#).

The sworn statement:

- must be sent by each applicant from its data box (each applicant for itself) to the TA CR data box (data box ID: afth9xp);
- does not need to be physically signed (the signature is replaced by the sending from the appropriate data box);
- in the „Subject matter“ data box, the following text should be entered „DELTA 2 Programme – Proof of eligibility“.

In the event that **the other project partner is an entity that has its registered office outside the Czech Republic**, it shall send the Sworn statement of the applicant in documentary form (if it

⁵ TA CR warns applicants that in the case of reporting personnel costs in the form of **scholarships**, it is necessary to ensure the adjustment of **the license conditions between the student and the university**. The opinion of the TA CR on this load can be found [HERE](#).

does not have a data box). In this case, the Sworn statement must be signed by the applicant's statutory representative and must be an original.

The **following additional condition**⁶ applies for main applicants collaborating with foreign partners from the following foreign organisations - EMBRAPPII, SENAI, KIAT, KETEP and JSTD:

Together with the Sworn statement of the applicant, the main applicant shall also submit a [Sworn statement on consortium composition](#) stating that it is either not in a relationship with the foreign partner that corresponds to that of a partner enterprise or linked enterprise or, if this situation arises, that it has verified that one of the other participants in the project proposal is an enterprise that in relation to the foreign partner does not meet the definition of a partner enterprise or linked enterprise.

Sworn statement on consortium composition:

- must be sent by the main applicant from its data box to the TA CR data box (data box ID: afth9xp) together with the Sworn statement of the applicant;
- does not have to be physically signed (the signature is replaced by sending from the respective data box).

Applicants must further comply with the obligation stipulated by the Accounting Act and **publish their financial statements for years 2018, 2019 and 2020**. TA CR will use them to check whether the applicant is not an undertaking in difficulty and that the type of applicant was correctly chosen.

If the applicant submitted the financial statements to the court maintaining the commercial register ex-post and they had not been published before submission of the project proposal, the applicant shall enclose the financial statements in annexes to the project proposal, including confirmation of delivery to the appropriate commercial court.

In addition, applicants must be registered in the register of beneficial owners. If the applicant is not registered in the register of beneficial owners by the deadline for the submission of proposals, i.e. by 13 July 2022, TA CR will not admit the project proposal to the call.

⁶ In practice, this condition only applies to main applicants cooperating with partners that are supported by foreign organisations which allow the participation of linked and partner enterprises in their call conditions. Specifically, the foreign organisations in question are EMBRAPPII, SENAI, KIAT, KETEP and JSTD. An exception cannot be granted to the other main applicants, as foreign organisations other than the aforementioned, do not allow in their call conditions the participation of linked and partner enterprises.

If the applicant's organisation is not in this register, submit an application for registration of the data in the register of beneficial owners to the applicable registration court or an application for registration to a notary (including a certificate for registration). Please note that the applicant must be registered in the register of beneficial owners by the deadline for the submission of proposals. More information can 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 section „Professional CV“. Each main applicant must have at least one person in the role of a researcher in the project proposal and each potential other project partner must have at least one person in the role of other investigator.
- **authorisations to carry out the activities planned in the project proposal** – a copy is submitted with the project proposal (e.g. authorisation to perform a biological testing, authorisation to carry out 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 he/she does not have an ownership structure, this obligation does not apply to him/her).

5.2 Method to document the eligibility of foreign project partners

Other foreign participant is an applicant established in a Member State of the European Union or another State constituting the European Economic Area or the Swiss Confederation, not a foreign partner.

Foreign partners shall send [Sworn statement of the applicant](#) as a hard copy (if they do not have a data box). In this case, the sworn statement must be signed by a statutory representative of the partner and it must be an original.

A foreign project partner which is an enterprise must provide in the annexes of the project proposal **a document in the form of a sworn statement** which shall **contain financial details necessary for the calculation of whether it does not fall into the category of „undertaking in difficulty“ for the years 2018, 2019 and 2020**. Specifically, the document must contain the following details: share capital, share premium, other equity funds, revenue reserves, profit or loss in the past years, profit or loss and the amount of advance payment of a share in the profits. The document must be signed by a person authorised to act on behalf of the partner.

The other foreign participant shall **provide information on its beneficial owner in the annexes to the project proposal** either by means of an extract from a foreign register similar to the register of beneficial owners or, if no such foreign register exists, by providing in an annex to the project proposal the identification data of all persons who are the beneficial owners of the foreign legal

entity, and submitting 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, a list of shareholders, a decision of the statutory body on the payment of a share of profits, a charter, a memorandum or articles of association. The applicant shall provide a translation of these data into Czech. **Without these data, TA CR will not admit the project proposal to the call.**

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 is permitted.

After submitting the project proposal through ISTA, the owner⁷ of the project proposal shall generate a document „**Confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal in ISTA**”. This document contains clear identifiers which must be identical with the electronically submitted project proposal.

Confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal in ISTA:

- It must be sent from the data box of the main applicant to the TA CR data box (data box ID: afth9xp);
- in the „Subject matter“ data box, the following text should be entered „DELTA 2 Programme – Confirmation of submission“.

The owner of the project proposal can himself **withdraw the project proposal** in ISTA (e.g. in order to correct or complement an already submitted project proposal). After submitting the project proposal, the "Project proposal withdrawal" button will be displayed to the owner of the project proposal in the PROJECT PROPOSAL OVERVIEW tab. This step cancels the submission of the project proposal. For a proper submission, the project proposal needs to be re-submitted in ISTA. Subsequently, the confirmation of project proposal submission needs to be generated and sent to the TA CR data mailbox.

Once the call is closed, it is no longer possible to modify anything in the proposal.

5.4 Notification of changes after the submission of project proposal

As applicants, you are obliged to inform TA CR in writing about **changes** which take place **in the period from the project proposal submission until the possible conclusion of the project contract** and which concern your legal status (e.g. change of size of the enterprise, registered office, statutory representative, merger, or break-up) or the details required to demonstrate eligibility or which could have an effect on the TA CR decision making.

⁷ **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.

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 from 14. 7. 2022 to 30. 11. 2022. Immediately after the closing of the call, a formal check will begin to verify the basic requirements. Afterwards, TA CR will publish on its website which project proposals will be further evaluated and which will not be admitted to the call.

Details concerning individual evaluation steps, 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 that is 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 decide on the selection of project proposals in the call.

6.2 Scored criteria

If 0 points are awarded for a scoring criterion, the project proposal cannot be recommended for funding.

Scored criterion	Point scale
1. Compliance of the project proposal with the objectives and focus of the programme and national priorities	0; 4; 8; 12
2. R&D&I project and suitability of the methods used	0; 3; 6; 9
3. Knowledge of state-of-the-art	0; 3; 6; 9
4. Relevance of project results	0; 2; 4; 6
5. Applicability, project's benefits, and the applicant's ability to introduce the results into practice	0; 4; 8; 12
6. Economic and time efficiency of the project proposal	0; 3; 6; 9
7. Project organisation and technical facilities, risk analysis	0; 4; 8; 12
8. Project team	0; 3; 6; 9

9. International cooperation and consortium composition	0; 4; 8; 12
10. Incentive effect of funding	0; 1; 2; 3

6.3 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 authorized 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 can be sent to the e-mail address protikorupci@tacr.cz.

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 can be changed before signing of 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.

If the applicants in a project proposal (main applicant, other project partners) include:

- a company in which the beneficial owner is a public official as defined in § 2 (1) (c) of the Act on conflict of interest,
- or a public official or a person controlled by him/her owning a share representing at least 25 % of the shareholder's participation (§ 4c of Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on conflict of interest),
- or if the applicant's beneficial owner is listed among the persons sanctioned under Act No. 69/2006 Coll., on the implementation of international sanctions,

a project contract will not be concluded with the main applicant.



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

Documents that need to be submitted 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;

- 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 becomes 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 for proposals are provided. First, an **agreement on participation in the project** must be signed between the main applicant and the other project partners and only then the **project contract** is signed between the main applicant and the TA CR.

7.1 Provision of funding

TA CR will provide the **funding in 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 public universities, public research institutions or other entities defined by the Act on Budgetary Rules to a bank account established with the Czech National Bank.

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 can 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 signature of the project contract will be eligible, provided the contract is subsequently signed.

During project implementation, TA CR checks the project in several ways. Interim reports shall be submitted once a year. Other methods of project monitoring include administrative and financial inspections, monitoring visits or interim project evaluations. A final project evaluation shall take place after the end of project implementation.

If the original project proposal changes during the project implementation, you must always inform us about such change. Types of changes, required supporting documents and method of their notification can 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.

8 Legal framework of the call

The DELTA 2 Programme was approved by Government Resolution No. 307 of 16. 5. 2018. The provider is the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic with its registered office at Evropská 1692/37, 160 00 Prague 6. The programme text, call documentation and other documents related to the call are published on the website www.tacr.cz. It is a one-stage call. It is announced pursuant to the [Act on the support of research and development](#) and in accordance with the [Framework, Regulation](#) and [Budgetary rules](#).

The call is held in accordance with the updated National Research, Development and Innovation Policy of the Czech Republic for the period 2021+ as approved by the Resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 759 of 20 July 2020, 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.

The scope of the data on project proposals and data on applicants to be disclosed within the meaning of § 17 (6) of the Act on the support of research and development is set out in the ISTA.

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

Directives and statutes present binding procedures of TA CR resulting from legislation and other regulations. The versions applicable to this call are given in the third column of the table below.

Code	Name of the directives or statutes	Version
SME - 06	Directive on the admission of project proposals to a call	v8
SME - 08	Complaints within the call	v5
SME - 10	Directive on the cancellation of a call	v4

SME - 11	Directive on call preparation and announcement	v10
SME - 13	Directive on 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	v7
SME - 34	Directive on evaluation of project proposals submitted to a call	v5
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	v8

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 No. 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 out that a project proposal or its part duplicates another project proposal and the applicants have not explained how their project proposal differs from that other project proposal, 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 applies also to similar project proposals submitted to this or another ongoing call, which have not been disclosed in the relevant part of the ISTA system.

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

8.3 Funding

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

⁸ The [User guide to the SME definition](#) from the European Commission can serve as a guidance for **determining the size of an enterprise**. In the light of the current case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union, we point out that the recommendations set out in this guide are not legally binding and therefore it is necessary first and foremost to follow the provisions of the Regulation, which are legally binding.

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

The applicant must ensure that:

- 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 28 under provision 2.2.2. of the Framework;
- overlap with other state aid for the same eligible expenditure (double financing) is avoided.

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

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 in 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 eligibility

Only applicants meeting the eligibility conditions laid down in § 18 (2) (b) to (i) of the Act on support of research and development and given by the Regulation may receive funding. Each applicant shall demonstrate its eligibility separately pursuant to § 18 of the Act on support of research and development.

Failure to meet the eligibility requirements or the obligation to demonstrate eligibility is a reason for not admitting a project proposal to the call.

If the „Confirmation of submission of an electronic project proposal“ is not sent properly and in time, such a project proposal will not be considered as submitted properly and in time and will not be checked for other requisites (e.g. proof of eligibility of applicants).

A project proposal may not contain classified information pursuant to Act No. 412/2005 Coll., on the protection of classified information and on security clearance, as amended.

In addition, the applicants (main applicant, other project partners) must comply with the condition set out in § 8 of Act No. 37/2021 Coll., on the registration of beneficial owners. This means that they must be registered in the register of beneficial owners. In case of non-compliance, the applicant will not be admitted to the call as the applicant's legal obligation would not be fulfilled.

8.5 Evaluation and submission of documents

The evaluation of project proposals is governed by SME-34 Directive on evaluation of project proposals submitted to a call. Activities of the expert advisory body are governed by RAD-02 Statutes and rules of procedure of the expert advisory body.

No information related to particular project proposals or to interim evaluation results shall be provided in the course of the evaluations.

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

8.6 Reserved rights of TA CR

In accordance with § 24 of the Act on support of research and development, the provider reserves the right:

- to cancel an announced call and not to support the project proposals submitted under that call, in accordance with SME-10 Directive on the cancellation of a call and/or
- to restrict the number of project proposals to be funded.

The decision to cancel a call or to restrict the number of project proposals to be funded will be based especially 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 state in the Decision on the results of the call for proposals additional conditions determined on the basis of facts identified by the provider in the course of the evaluation of the project proposal. Only after those conditions are met, the project contract will be signed with the main beneficiary or, as the case may be, the Decision on the provision of funding to implement the project will be issued in favour of the main beneficiary. In case of doubt, the TA CR may also require the submission of relevant documents (for example, documents proving that the funding granted by the decision of any provider for R&D has not been used due to withdrawal from the contract).

Furthermore, the provider reserves the right not to conclude a project contract with the main applicant in cases where the applicants in the project proposal (main applicant, other project partners) include a company in which a public official pursuant to § 2 (1) (c) or a person controlled by him/her owns a share representing at least 25 % of the shareholder's participation in the company (§ 4c of Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on conflict of interest).

In accordance with § 17 (3) of the Act on the support of research and development, the provider sets the condition that no beneficial owner of an applicant (main applicant, other project partner) within the meaning of Act No. 37/2021 Coll., on the registration of beneficial owners, may be a public official pursuant to § 2 (1) (c) of Act No. 159/2006 Coll., on conflict of interest, or that no such beneficial owner may be listed among the persons subject to sanctions applicable under Act No. 69/2006 Coll., on the implementation of international sanctions.

If an applicant does not have a beneficial owner, the sections concerned are not relevant for that applicant.

In accordance with § 32 of the Act on support of research and development, TA CR will publish the project's details through the R&D Information System. 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 concerning compliance with conditions of the call and the results of proposal evaluation, 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 project partners. TA CR will not publish confidential information.

Information on project proposals for which TA CR has decided that they would not be funded is not published, except for the information published when announcing the results concerning compliance with conditions of the call and the results of proposal evaluation.

8.7 Appeal

The main applicant may file an appeal against the TA CR procedure to check compliance with conditions of the call or the procedure to evaluate and select project proposals in the call. He/she may do so in accordance with the directive SME-08 Complaints within the call.