FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TARGET-X

1st Open Call

Submission of applications starts on
the 9th of May 2023 at 13:00 Brussels Time

Submission deadline:
the 26th of July 2023 at 17:00 Brussels Time

Version 05/05/2023

Thank you so much for your interest in the TARGET-X 1st Open Call and welcome to our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). We hope these questions can help you solve your doubts about the application and submission process of the TARGET-X Open Call.

This FAQ will be updated based on the questions we receive and if you cannot find the answer to your question here, please submit your question(s) at **TARGET-X HELPDESK.**

This document refers to the 1st Open Calls under the TARGET-X project, which launches on the 9th of May 2023 at 13:00 Brussels Time and has a submission deadline on the 26th of July 2023 at 17:00 Brussels Time.

Please refer to **https://target-x.eu/** for more information about the TARGET-X project and to the 'Guide for Applicants' (GfA) for information about the call.

You can submit your application at the Open Call microsite **https://target-x.fundingbox.com/.**

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1. WHERE CAN I FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROJECT?

Project website: https://target-x.eu/

Open Call website: https://target-x.fundingbox.com/

Open Call helpdesk: https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/iot-community-target-x-helpdesk

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/target-x/about/

OC helpdesk email: contact.target-x@ipt.fraunhofer.de

2. WHAT TARGET-X 1ST OPEN CALL OFFERS FOR ME?

Under the 1st TARGET-X Open Call, the beneficiaries will take part in the 7 months 'Support Programme'. The grant will be paid in instalments in three stages:

- Stage 1 – Individual Mentoring Plan
- Stage 2 - Project development
- Stage 3 - Market uptake

The exact amount of financial support to be granted to each selected entity under the 1st TARGET-X Open Call is up to €60 000 per entity. If you apply as a Consortium composed by 2 entities, you can get up to €120 000.

During the 1st Open Call approximately 50 entities will be selected. Please find more details in section 2 of the 'Guide for Applicants'.

3. WHAT IS TRL?

TRL - Technology Readiness Level - Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are indicators of the maturity level of particular technologies. This measurement system provides a common understanding of technology status and addresses the entire innovation chain.

There are nine technology readiness levels; TRL 1 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. In our project we refer to Annex B of the General Annexes for Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 for a full description of TRLs.

DEPLOYMENT	TRL9	Actual system proven in operational environment
	TRL8	System complete and qualified
	TRL7	System prototype demonstration in operational environment
DEVELOPMENT	TRL6	Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
	TRL5	Technology validated in relevant environment
	TRL4	Technology validated in lab
RESEARCH	TRL3	Experimental proof of concept
	TRL2	Technology concept formulated
	TRL1	Basic principles observed

Table 1 TRLs

4. HOW DO YOU KNOW MY PROJECT IS ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING?

We will check the eligibility and admissibility criteria of all proposals submitted before the deadline (26th of July 2023 at 17:00 Brussels Time) via our online application form https://target-x.fundingbox.com/ .

All the eligibility and admissibility criteria are listed in section 3. of the 'Guide for Applicants'. The projects that do not comply with those criteria will be excluded and marked as ineligible. We will check the eligibility and admissibility criteria based on the information provided in your application form during the whole evaluation process (please find more details about the evaluation process in section 4 of the Guide for Applicants).

5. CAN I APPLY TOGETHER WITH OTHER ORGANISATION?

Yes, you can. Consortia are allowed but only composed of two individual legal entities (each of which must be SME): one technology provider and one end user or both end users.

6. WHAT IS AN SME?

An SME will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As summary, the criteria defining an SME are:
- Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250;
- Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For detailed information check EU recommendation: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en.

7. CAN I APPLY AS A LARGE COMPANY?

No, **only SMEs** can apply to the TARGET-X 1st Open Call.

8. CAN I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION IF MY COMPANY IS NOT YET ESTABLISHED?

No, you can't. It's only for entities registered before the 1st Open Call starts: the 9th of May, 2023.

9. CAN I CHOOSE MORE THAN ONE TOPIC IN ONE PROPOSAL?

No, you can't. You must select exactly one topic from the list provided by TARGET-X. All topics are described in Annex 1 of the 'Guide for Applicants'.

10. HOW DO I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION TO THE OPEN CALL?

Applications to the 1st Open Call must be submitted through the TARGET-X Open Call microsite at https://target-x.fundingbox.com/. Applications submitted by any other means will be rejected. Inside the online application form there are specific fields to provide descriptions.

11. WHAT SECTIONS SHOULD I FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM?

The applications submitted to the 1st Open Call will include the following sections:

- BASIC INFORMATION
- LEGAL INFORMATION

- PROJECT
- EXCELLENCE
- IMPACT
- IMPLEMENTATION
- ETHICS SELF ASSESSMENT
- STATISTICAL SECTION
- DECLARATION OF HONOUR
- PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

All mandatory sections of your application- generally marked with an asterisk - must be filled in (admissibility criterion).

12. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO FILL IN THE APPLICATION?

In order to successfully fill in the application form you will probably need 1-2 days of writing, but we imagine that your team is composed of members specialised in their area of expertise so you can divide the work. You'll be able to add contributors to your application so that each team member can tackle their application area and you will be done quicker.

Take into account that specific character limits have been established in each section of the online application form, so we encourage you to keep your application focused on the requested information keeping in mind the topics and verticals covered by this 1st Open Call. We also recommend that you start the submission process quite before the deadline in order to avoid last minute circumstances.

13. HOW SHOULD THE IDEAL PROJECT BE LIKE?

- **Example from the Construction vertical:**
  To make your project ideal you should optimise and automate the handling and assembly processes for heavy construction elements on-site. By reducing the workload for operators, minimizing the time needed for crane lifting, and improving the precision of positioning, these processes can also increase on-site efficiency. Furthermore, when connected to Building Information Modeling (BIM) systems and given proper feedback, the continuous flow of information allows for further improvement in overall productivity.

- **Example from the Energy vertical:**
  In the distribution network as well as for different verticals an increasing amount of information about power flow and energy use can help in optimizing the processes. To achieve this goal a device with fast sampling rates is beneficial. For that the edgePMU, a Raspberry PI based acquisition device, can be used and is further developed within TARGET-X. This device combines low cost and 5G capabilities in order to enable new use cases based on edge cloud capabilities.

14. CAN ONE ORGANISATION SUBMIT TWO PROJECT IDEAS?

Yes, it is possible. However, even though applicants can submit multiple applications, one entity can be funded only once per one Open Call by TARGET-X. If more than one proposal from the same organisation is selected, only the proposal with the highest number of points will receive the TARGET-X grant.

15. HOW MANY PROJECTS AND ENTITIES WILL BE FUNDED IN THE 1ST OPEN CALL?

We will select approximately 50 entities in the 1st Open Call. These entities can be an individual legal entity or a consortium composed of two individual legal entities collaborating on a single project. Since both individual entities and consortia are allowed, as a result, the number of projects funded in the 1st Open Call will fluctuate between 25 and 50 projects. For instance, if we select 20 consortia and 10 single applicants, there will be 30 funded projects in total, but since consortia consist of two entities, we will fund 50 entities out of 30 funded projects (=20 consortia (x 2 entities) +10 single entities = 50 entities).

16. CAN I APPLY IF I OR MY ORGANISATION IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARTNERS OF TARGET-X?

Applicants cannot be affiliated (directly or indirectly, for example through board members or third parties) with any of the TARGET-X Consortium Partners. They can't be the TARGET-X Consortium Partner's employees nor board members nor permanent collaborators. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

17. CAN I APPLY IF I HAVE RECEIVED FSTP GRANTS FROM OTHER PROJECTS BEFORE?

Yes, it is possible to apply to other open calls. The only point that you should pay attention to if you are selected (funded) for multiple EU projects is the "no double funding" rule. "Double funding" means the situation where the same costs for the same activity are funded twice through the use of public funds. It is not allowed in any circumstances. That means that you have to be able to confirm that funding received from the TARGET-X project will not cover the same costs/tasks which were already funded by other EU projects (if you have received any).

18. CAN I APPLY IF I HAVE RECEIVED FSTP GRANTS FROM OTHER 6G-SNS PROJECTS BEFORE?

Yes, it is possible to apply. The only point that you should pay attention to if you are selected (funded) for multiple EU projects is the "no double funding" rule.

19. CAN I APPLY IF I AM A PARTNER IN OTHER 6G-SNS PROJECT?

Yes, as a Partner in other 6G-SNS projects, you can apply for the TARGET-X 1st Open Call. All possible cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

20. ARE APPLICANTS REQUIRED TO INCLUDE THE BUDGET PLAN IN THE APPLICATION?

Details about the budget are not required at the application stage. The detailed budget planned for execution will be requested only from the organisation selected for funding, at the beginning of the Support Programme as part of the SubGrant Agreement (Annex 1 'Individual Mentoring Plan'). At this stage, we will ask you about the overall budget and distribution of funds per entity if you apply as a consortium. In case you are for -profit entity we ask you to provide the budget taking into consideration the compromise of 30% self-financing.

21. WHAT HAPPENS IF I DO NOT SUBMIT MY APPLICATION WITHIN THE DEADLINE?

Applications must be submitted before the deadline (26th of July 2023 at 17:00 Brussels Time). We do not accept applications after the deadline - they will be rejected. We strongly encourage you not to wait until the last minute to submit your proposal. Failure of meeting the submission deadline for any reason will result in the rejection of the proposal.

22. WILL I BE ABLE TO MODIFY MY PROPOSAL AFTER SUBMISSION?

You can modify the application as many times as you need after submission, but before the deadline. **REMEMBER!** You need to submit it before the 26th of July 2023 at 17:00 Brussels Time. You won't be able to modify your application after this deadline.

23. WHAT TYPE OF SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR PREPARING THE APPLICATION?

The 'Guide for Applicants' is the main reference document. It provides detailed information about the requirements of the application, evaluation and selection processes. A helpdesk service for the 1st Open Call is at hand at https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/iot-community-target-x-helpdesk to clear up any doubts you may have relating to the application process (eligibility rules, application form information requests, etc.). If there is any doubt left, you can contact contact.target-x@ipt.fraunhofer.de .

Further information on the 'Topics' for the support of your proposal preparation will be available during the online Info Days and webinars. The events will explain TARGET-X support activities to individual entities and consortia and the opportunities and benefits it entails, answering questions that might arise from the audience:

- Presentation of the selected industrial topics per vertical.

24. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUBMITTED?

The applicants will receive communication from the system indicating that their application has been submitted. Right after the submission deadline on 26th of July, 2023 at 17:00 Brussels Time there will be a admissibility and eligibility check if the applicants meet the eligibility criteria included in Guide for Applicants.

25. HOW TO WRITE A PROPOSAL THAT CONVINCES EVALUATORS?

Make sure you do not leave any information out of your proposal. Be specific and provide precise answers to the questions in the application form. If you want to stand out, quality is the way to go. The proposed project should provide a solution to the specific topic, while having in mind the overall goal of the TARGET-X project.

26. HOW WILL WE EVALUATE YOUR PROPOSAL?

The evaluation process has 6 steps + formal verification.

- **Step 1.** Admissibility and Eligibility Check.
- **Step 2.** In/Out Scope Screening.
- **Step 3.** Independent Individual Evaluation.

- **Step 4.** Evaluation Consensus Group.
- **Step 5.** Consensus Meeting.
- **Step 6.** Ethics Review.
- **Formal verification:** SubGrant Agreement Preparation and Signature.

Before signing the SubGrant Agreement you should provide documents regarding your formal status. The TARGET-X Consortium will proceed to a verification of these documents to make sure you are eligible.

Please find more details about the evaluation process in section 4 of the 'Guide for Applicants'.
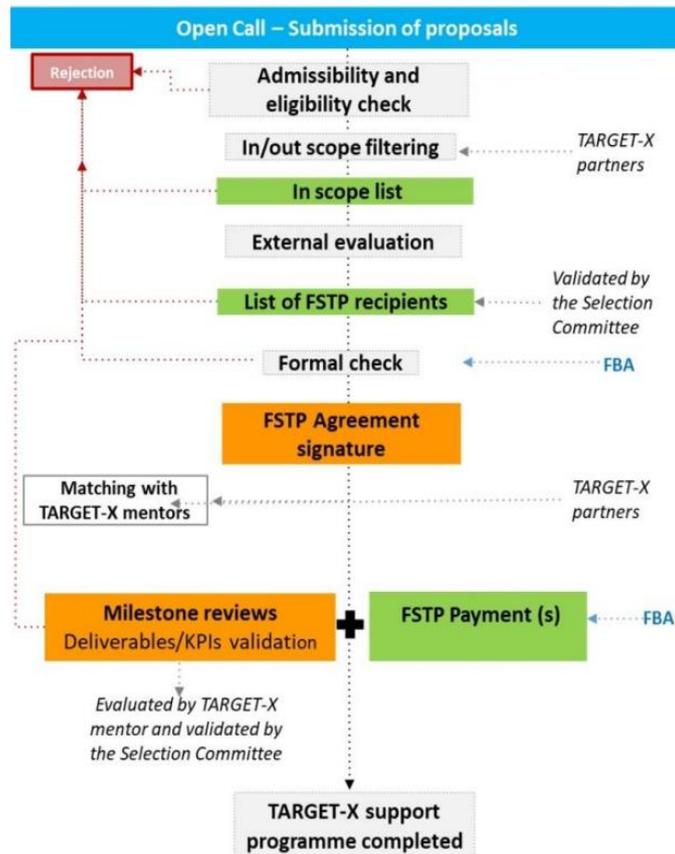
Figure 1 Selection and FSTP flow

27. WHO ARE THE EXTERNAL EVALUATORS?

The External Evaluators are external, independent experts with proven experience in the verticals in which the TARGET-X Project is focused: energy, construction, automotive and manufacturing.

The External Experts come from relevant industry and academia (5G,6G, manufacturing, robotics).

28. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CONSENSUS MEETING?

After the Consensus meeting TARGET-X project team will be carrying out an 'Ethics Review' and 'Formal Check' of all finalists indicated on the 'List of finalists'. In case some finalist fails to comply with the formalities required, the next-ranked proposals on the 'Reserve List' would be approved.

29. DO SELECTED CONSORTIA GET ANY MONEY IN ADVANCE?

No. The first payment (up to 5,000€) will be made after the signature of the SubGrant Agreement and upon validation of 'Individual Mentoring Plan' (expected timeline: M1).

30. WHAT COSTS WILL BE ELIGIBLE?

Lump sum budgets are based on a cost estimation which means that you need to provide us with a detailed budget table with realistic cost estimations for each cost category (personnel costs, subcontracting costs, purchase costs, other costs) per beneficiary.

These cost estimations and the resources you commit for the purposes of implementing the project, are the basis to justify the lump sum. The cost estimations must be an approximation of your actual costs.

The costs are eligible if they met the following requirements:
- they are set out in your project budget in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan';
- they are compliant with the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants (reference to actual costs as described in Art. 6 of AGA – Annotated Grant Agreement);
- they are in line with your normal practices;
- they are reasonable/not excessive;
- they are in line with and necessary for implementation of your project, and the corresponding tasks and part of your project have been properly implemented and the expected milestone/deliverables have been achieved;
- they must be actually incurred by you;
- they must be incurred only during the lifetime of the project. Period of costs' eligibility is from the SubGrant Agreement signature date (from the start date of the programme period of your project) until the end of the project period.

31. WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT EVALUATION PHASES AND THE EXPECTED SCHEDULE?

Phase	Approximate Date	Number of applicants
Applications	May- July 2023	no limitations
Admissibility & Eligibility Check	July - August 2023	-
In/Out Scope Screening	July – August 2023	-
The Independent, Individual Evaluation	September 2023	-
Evaluation Consensus Group	September 2023	-
Consensus Meeting	October 2023	approximately 50 entities
SME check + SGA signature	October - November 2023	approximately 50 entities
Plan Phase	November - December 2023	approximately 50 entities
Implementation Phase	January 2024	approximately 50 entities

Table 2 Schedule

The table above presents the indicative dates of the 1st Open Call in which each of the evaluation phases will end and the number of expected applicants that would go through to the next phase.

32. WHAT IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST?

Conflict of interest may occur, if there are capital or personal connections between two or more entities (Applicant, TARGET-X Consortium Partner or any person involved in the selection process), in particular, it should be understood as:

- any ownership relations - ownership of shares, financial links and economic connections - like joint venture, holding, joint participation, silent partner, e.g. Applicant's entity owns shares in the TARGET-X Consortium Partner company or the TARGET-X Consortium Partner company owns shares in the Applicant's company (it also refers to the Applicant's partners/linked enterprises). As an economic connection, we can understand exclusive licenses and sale agreements if they concern products or solutions covered by your application etc;

- family and personal relationships, in particular: marriage, kinship, a relationship or affinity to the second degree in a straight line or lateral line, adoption, custody or guardianship or actual life and other close personal ties binding the Applicant and the TARGET-X Consortium Partner or any person involved in the selection process – e.g. person representing the TARGET-X Consortium Partner company has family/personal ties with anyone representing the applicant company;

- the existence of material, especially financial relationships (such as the receipt by a person involved in the selection process from Applicant any significant gifts, donations, future contracts or employment, etc;

- relationships based on employment, cooperation or existing civil contract between the TARGET-X Consortium Partners and people involved in the Applicant's structure, including managerial or supervisory functions, position in managing or supervising bodies. E.g. Director of the TARGET-X Consortium Partner is involved in the management bodies of an Applicant company; the applicant's employees involved in the Project are employed or contracted by the TARGET-X Consortium Partner company etc;

- remaining in a legal or factual relationship that may give rise to justified doubts as to the impartiality of the people involved in the selection process (expert/evaluator/employee/member of the management bodies of any of the organisations taking part in the application process).

The reasons set forth above may result in a conflict of interest if they occur at the time of an action or have occurred in the past (during the last 3 years before the action starts). Time limits do not apply to family and personal relationships.

Remember that the concept of conflict of interest should be understood widely, so if you have any doubts about the conflict of interest please consult with our team **contact.target-x@ipt.fraunhofer.de** The situations listed above are mere examples, all cases of conflict of interest will be assessed on a case by case basis.

33. WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT CONDITIONS?

For the sake of simplicity and transparency, the Financial Support will be paid against the achievement of certain milestones or KPIs (which will be included in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan'). You can find detailed information and the schedule of the payments in the 'Guide for Applicants', section 6.1.

34. WHAT IS A 'LUMP SUM'? IS ANY ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIRED ON THE WAY THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN USED, E. G. INVOICES AND OTHER FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS? ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC RESTRICTIONS ON HOW THE FUNDS ARE UTILISED?

Each FSTP beneficiary will receive a fixed lump sum of up to €60 000. If you apply as a Consortium composed by 2 entities, you can get up to €120 000. In the case of for-profit entities, the compromise of 30% self-financing of activities should be secured by each for-profit entity.

The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed with Horizon Europe funds. It means that you are not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the costs incurred. However, you are obliged to demonstrate that the implementation of the project is in line with the milestones set for it. Simply speaking, it means that we will carefully assess your progress and the quality of your work during Interim Reviews, not your accountancy.

In any case, the lump sum methodology does not release you from the obligation to collect documentation to confirm the costs under fiscal regulation.

Please bear in mind that by participating in the TARGET-X support programme, receiving the grant and signing the SubGrant Agreement you will also be responsible towards the competent tax authorities, and the EC audit bodies such as the European Court of Auditors (ECA), European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF).

35. WHAT DOES SUBCONTRACTING INVOLVE?

Subcontracting is allowed for covering a limited part of the action (core activities cannot be subcontracted) - max up to 20% of total cost. Subcontracting includes tasks/services subcontracted to academic and industry experts from the targeted sectors.

Subcontracting costs in the framework of the TARGET-X Support Programme might come in the form of specialised and dedicated studies, testing, certification and other tasks carried out by a provider-subcontractor via a legal agreement.

Subcontracting between beneficiaries within one grant is not allowed.

36. WHAT ARE THE GENERAL PAYMENT TERMS?

- All payments will be made in Euros (€);
- Expenditures incurred before the SubGrant Agreement signature (before the start of the programme period of your project) or after the programme period of your project are ineligible;
- Costs incurred for the implementation of the project must be used for the sole and close purpose of achieving the objectives of the project and its expected results.

37. WHERE CAN I ASK MY QUESTION?

If you still have any doubts regarding our Open Call process, feel free to get in touch with us:

- Ask your question in the Helpdesk space of the TARGET-X Community;
- Send us an email to the following address: contact.target-x@ipt.fraunhofer.de.

38. WHICH ORGANISATIONS ARE THE PARTNERS OF THE TARGET-X CONSORTIUM?

Fraunhofer	FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FÖRDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV (IPT)	https://www.fraunhofer.de
ERICSSON	ERICSSON GMBH (EDD)	https://www.ericsson.com/en/about-us/company-facts/ericsson-worldwide/germany
RWTH AACHEN UNIVERSITY	RHEINISCH-WESTFAELISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE AACHEN (RWTH)	https://www.rwth-aachen.de/
Applus⊕ IDIADA	IDIADA AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOGY SA (IDIADA)	https://www.applusidiada.com/
CONSTRUCTION ROBOTICS	Construction Robotics GmbH (CCR)	https://construction-robotics.de/en/
i2cat	FUNDACIO PRIVADA I2CAT, INTERNET I INNOVACIO DIGITAL A CATALUNYA (I2CAT)	https://i2cat.net/
MARPOSS	MARPOSS SOCIETA PER AZIONI (MARP)	https://www.marposs.com/ita/
FundingBox	FUNDINGBOX ACCELERATOR SP ZOO (FBA)	https://fundingbox.com/
ERICSSON	ERICSSON ARASTIRMA GELISTIRME VE BILISIM HIZMETLERI ANONIM SIRKETI (EBY)	https://www.ericsson.com/en/about-us/company-facts/ericsson-worldwide/turkey

Fivecomm	5G COMMUNICATIONS FOR FUTURE INDUSTRY VERTICALS SL (FIVE)	https://fivecomm.eu/legal-notice/
MARPOSS	MARPOSS MONITORING SOLUTIONS GMBH (MMS)	https://www.marposs.com/eng/address/marposs-monitoring-solutions
neutroon	NEUTROON TECHNOLOGIES SL (NEU)	https://www.neutroon.com/
MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC Changes for the Better	MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC EUROPE BV (MEE)	https://pl.mitsubishielectric.com/en/
FundingBox	FUNDINGBOX COMMUNITIES SL (FBC)	https://fundingbox.com/
Qualcomm	QUALCOMM CDMA TECHNOLOGIES GMBH (QCOM)	https://www.qualcomm.com/home

Table 3 TARGET-X Consortium Partners