



Call for Ideas 2022

“To identify and demonstrate disruptive space innovations based on ideas and concepts”

EPFL Space Innovation Unit (SIU) is initiating a new Call for Ideas to foster low Technology Readiness Level (typically TRL 1-2) research and development studies related to space activities. The present call is reserved to Space Innovation Unit members.

The aim of this Call is to identify and demonstrate disruptive space innovations based on ideas or concepts and to initiate collaborations between SIU members. Thanks to a short-term implementation and light administrative requirements, the selected studies shall focus on technical and/or scientific work.

Objectives

The two main objectives of this Call for Ideas are to foster and promote SIU members' technological and scientific competences that have a clear potential for space products and applications as well as to initiate collaborations between SIU members. More particularly, this Call for Ideas aims:

- to foster the development of novel ideas and disruptive concepts related to the space sector;

- to encourage collaborations between SIU members, including new coming entities and start-ups, encouraging them to pursue in the space domain and evaluate the potential of their proposed idea;
- to better position SIU members with regard to future European and global activities and
- to support the development of novel technologies and services for future space science and technology applications.

Topics

For this Call for Ideas, all topics can be addressed as long as they target potential future space products and/or services.

The proposed topics can be genuinely novel space ideas or spin-ins from non-space application domains. As a general rule, a transfer from non-space to the space domain decreases the Technology Readiness Level TRL ([WEBLINK](#)) of existing technologies by 1-2 levels.

Eligibility

The present Call for Ideas is open to **members of the Space Innovation Unit only**. For each proposal it is required to have a consortium of minimum two different SIU member entities¹ that collaborate. The requested funding for each participant in the consortium shall be higher or equal to 20% of the total requested funding.

Format of the proposal

1. Cover letter
2. Technical & administrative proposal (10 pages max., a MS Word template is available on SIU website [WEBLINK](#)).

The technical & administrative proposal shall be structured according to the following main sections:

- Technical and/or scientific objectives
- Description of the study
- Key personnel
- Financial aspects
- Payment plan (in principle 20% at kick-off, and 80% after reception of the final report)

Please note that detailed costing based on ESA PSS standard is not required.

¹ There is no restriction with respect to the entities collaborating in a proposal: academic, industrial as well as research and technology organization members.

Duration of the study and meetings/reviews

The proposed studies shall last for a maximum of **6 months** from the kick-off to the delivery of the final report. The start of the project (T0) shall not be later than April 1st, 2023.

The following reviews are planned at contractor premises or by teleconference:

- Kick-Off meeting (date T0)
- Progress Meeting (date T0 + 3 months)
- Final Presentation (date T0 + 6 months)

Deliverables

A short Final Report of the activity shall be provided to Space Innovation Unit at the end of the study, together with the presentations given during the reviews/meetings. The Final Report shall be self-standing and shall provide a complete description of all the work done during the activity. It shall cover the whole scope of the activity, i.e. a comprehensive introduction of the context, a description of the programme of work and report on the activities performed as well as the main results achieved. The deliverables shall be provided in electronic format (PDF).

Financial support

A minimum amount of 20'000 CHF and a maximum amount of 50'000 CHF will be allocated to each selected study, to be considered as a unique subsidy which cannot be extended. The funding shall be used exclusively to pay salaries. No management or administrative costs are foreseen under this scheme. There is no direct follow-up funding foreseen in the frame of this Call for Ideas.

Intellectual property rights and confidentiality

Intellectual property created in the study will remain with the proposers. An IP agreement must be submitted to the Space Innovation Unit (attn. Gilles Feusier) by the consortium **3 working days before** the kick-off meeting.

With the exception of the title of the study and the lead entities, no information about the funded projects will be publicly available, unless prior written consent is obtained from the proposers.

Evaluation

During the evaluation exercise, consideration will be given to concepts and ideas with a clear potential in one or more of the following areas:

- scientific excellence,
- clear potential for commercialization,
- benefits for society and citizens,
- potential for use in key applications (high-end niche products).

The selection will be made by Space Innovation Unit, which will perform the evaluation by setting up an internal evaluation board that will consult with external experts for recommendations.

Schedule

- 1 September 2022: Publication of the Call for Ideas
- 14 October 2022: Deadline to submit the proposals to the Space Innovation Unit
- 1 December 2022: All participants are informed of the outcome of their submissions by the Space Innovation Unit
- January-March 2023: Kick-off meetings / Start of studies
- July 2023: End of studies, Final Report submitted

Submission of the proposals

Only proposals received by Friday 14 October 2022 at 2 pm (14:00 CET) will be accepted for evaluation. Proposals, written in English, shall be submitted **in electronic format (PDF)** to the following address:

EPFL
Space Innovation Unit
Gilles Feusier
PPH 337, Station 13
CH-1015 Lausanne
Tel: +41 21 693 69 76
Email: gilles.feusier@epfl.ch

Questions and requests for clarifications

All questions related to this Call for Ideas shall be submitted by email to Gilles Feusier, at the latest **5 working days** prior to the submission deadline. All applicable information will be published on Space Innovation Unit website: [WEBLINK](#)