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CALL FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATORS
FLUIDOS - Open call for external evaluators

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The scope of the document is to provide a comprehensive set of information regarding the FLUIDOS Call for Evaluators, in order to recruit and select FLUIDOS external evaluators. Such information provided to the applicants includes: FLUIDOS background, the project´s objectives, and impact, key information about FLUIDOS Open Calls, including the definition, purpose, and objectives. The document explains the role of evaluators, their responsibilities, duties, and the benefits they will receive from FLUIDOS. It outlines the criteria for selecting evaluators and guides interested parties on how to apply for the role, specifying the required documentation and submission deadline.

Furthermore, the document addresses personal data protection, explaining the data collection and processing procedures while providing information about the evaluator's service contract.

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1 OVERVIEW OF FLUIDOS PROJECT

1.1 BACKGROUND, OBJECTIVES, AND IMPACT

FLUIDOS aims at the creation of a dynamic, scalable, and secure computing continuum, bridging the gap between edge and cloud computing. Building upon established Operating Systems and orchestration solutions such as Kubernetes, FLUIDOS aims to introduce a new layer of enriched functionality. This layer facilitates resource sharing through innovative advertisement and agreement procedures in the horizontal dimension, while adopting hierarchical aggregation of nodes, inspired by the inter-domain routing principles employed on the Internet, to achieve vertical integration.

At the core of FLUIDOS' vision is intent-based orchestration, which harnesses advanced AI algorithms to optimise costs and energy usage within the continuum. By promoting efficient utilisation of edge resources, FLUIDOS ensures a seamless integration of computing power. The adoption of a Zero-Trust paradigm enables FLUIDOS to securely control and access geographically dispersed resources, while Trusted Platform Modules guarantee the safe deployment of applications and services.

FLUIDOS is guided by the following key objectives:

1. Fluidify the Edge and Unify it with the Cloud: FLUIDOS aims to create a borderless, decentralised continuum that effortlessly combines edge and cloud computing. Through automatic, autonomous resource discovery and integration, this approach ensures a cohesive and cohesive computing environment.

2. Move Gravity Outside Data Centers: By fostering a cross-provider, community-based computing, and service fabric, leveraging open-source software, FLUIDOS reduces the dependency on centralised data centres. This approach encourages a collaborative approach and a more distributed computing landscape.

3. Orchestrate Services and Hyper-Distributed Applications: FLUIDOS endeavours to orchestrate services and hyper-distributed applications seamlessly across multiple devices and domains. Leveraging energy-efficient AI learning algorithms and mobility/behaviour prediction and traffic forecasting training, FLUIDOS ensures optimal performance and resource utilisation.

4. Introduce a Zero-Trust Paradigm: FLUIDOS is committed to establishing a secure and authenticated means of accessing geographically dispersed resources. This Zero-Trust paradigm provides a robust security framework, safeguarding the integrity of the computing continuum.

5. Enable a Multi-Stakeholder Market of Edge Services and Apps: FLUIDOS seeks to nurture the growth of a diverse market for edge services and applications, independent of cloud providers. By fostering European digital autonomy, this approach encourages innovation and diversity within the computing ecosystem.

In conclusion, FLUIDOS' mission is to pave the way for a new era of computing by creating a reliable, efficient, and secure computing continuum. Through its innovative goals, FLUIDOS aims to revolutionise the way computing resources are utilised, forging a path towards a more interconnected and decentralised future.

2 FLUIDOS OPEN CALLS

2.1 DEFINITION AND PURPOSE

The upcoming FLUIDOS Open Calls, scheduled for launch in December 2023, are aimed at European high-tech SMEs, researchers, and innovators. FLUIDOS Open Calls present a unique opportunity for participants to explore the project´s novel mechanisms for data sharing and processing in the computing continuum. Successful applicants will benefit from financial support of up to 120,000 EURO and technical guidance from FLUIDOS experts. Additionally, they will have the chance to enhance their business models' environmental sustainability through minimised energy consumption for data processing.

FLUIDOS, a cutting-edge initiative, will invite European high-tech SMEs, researchers, and innovators to partake in its Open Calls, designed to propel technological advancements and foster environmental consciousness. This section sheds light on the specifics of the Open Calls, outlining its objectives, available funding, and potential areas of exploration.

2.2 OBJECTIVES OF FLUIDOS OPEN CALLS

The FLUIDOS Open Calls aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Facilitate Technological Advancements: Encouraging applicants to offer additional Open-Source functionalities to be integrated with FLUIDOS, fostering continuous innovation and expansion of the platform's capabilities.
2. Validate FLUIDOS Architecture: Through the FLUIDOS Use Case call, applicants will be invited to test and validate FLUIDOS architecture and software by integrating their own additional software on top of the FLUIDOS system, exploring new sectors beyond environmental monitoring, mobility, healthcare, and security.
3. Promote Environmental Sustainability: Encouraging participants to leverage FLUIDOS' minimised energy consumption for data processing to create business models that are more environmentally sustainable.

2.3 FLUIDOS OPEN CALLS DETAILS

FLUIDOS will boost its community, embracing new members in the consortium through its 2 Open Calls.

Specifically:

FLUIDOS Technology Extension Grant (TEG)	
Eligibility	FLUIDOS TEG will be open to individual entities, including researchers, developers, SMEs, start-ups, business entities, innovators, and research institutions.
Funding	Selected applicants will have the opportunity to receive financial support of up to 75,000 EURO to develop and integrate additional Open-Source functionalities with FLUIDOS.
Number of selected applicants	5

[Table 1: FLUIDOS Technology Extension Grant (TEG)]

FLUIDOS Use Case Grant (UCG)	
Eligibility	FLUIDOS UCG will be open to both individual entities (researchers, developers, SMEs, start-ups, business entities, innovators, or research institutions) and small consortia of 2-3 entities.
Funding	Successful applicants will be granted up to 125,000 EURO to test and validate FLUIDOS architecture and software by incorporating their own additional software on top of the FLUIDOS system and exploring new sectors beyond the traditional application domains.
Number of selected applicants	5 in the first round, 5 in the second round

[Table 2: FLUIDOS Use Case Grant (UCG)]

2.4   TIMELINE OF FLUIDOS OPEN CALLS

The timeline of FLUIDOS Open Calls can be displayed in the below tables.

Open Call I:

Months	**Activities**
M12-M16 ● (August – December 2023)	Preparation for FLUIDOS Open Call I
M16	The first Open Call has to be published for externals to apply.

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● (December 2023)	
M17-M18 ● (January – February 2024)	The call is running
M19 ● (March 2024)	Evaluation
M20 ● (April 2024)	Start of the experiment

[Table 3: Timeline Open Call 1]

Months	**Activities**
M20 - M24 ● (May - August 2024)	Preparation for FLUIDOS Open Call II
M24 ● (August 2024)	The second Opena Call has to be published for externals to apply.
M25 - M26 ● . (September - October 2024)	The call is running
M27 ● (November 2024)	Evaluation
M28 ● (December 2024)	Start of the experiment

[Table 4: Timeline Open Call 2]

In the first open call, the Technology Extension Grant (TEG) and the Use Case Grant (UCG) will be awarded to a total of 10 selected applicants, specifically 5 recipients for each grant category. During the second open call, the Use Case Grant (UCG) will be bestowed upon a total of 5 eligible applicants.

The preparation phase for M12-M16 spans from August to December 2023. However, the Open Call for M16 must be published to external parties during this period. The precise date for publication

within M16 will be defined at the later stage, but it is currently planned for the launch to occur on a date around December 15th.

The second Open Call is scheduled for release at the onset of M24, around August 15th 2024 and will remain open until the conclusion of M26.

Both Open Calls are set to last for a duration of 8 months, with the commencement of the actual work occurring 4 months subsequent to the application deadline.

1. 3. EVALUATORS´ ROLE & SELECTION

A. 3.1 RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

The evaluators will assume the responsibility of providing a neutral and rigorous scientific and/or business assessment of fellows' applications, focusing on the following key aspects:

1. excellence of the candidate.
2. quality of the proposed project.
3. impact of the idea presented in the project.

The evaluation process for each fellow application is expected to take a limited duration of time which includes reading and carefully analysing the application, assessing it against the provided selection criteria and then filling a concise summary of the evaluation. The number of applications assigned to each evaluator will be contingent upon various factors, such as the evaluators' time availability, the total number of submitted applications, and the overall count of evaluators selected for the project.

By participating in the Open Calls, the expert evaluator agrees to the following commitments:

1. Allocate adequate time to conduct the evaluations (one month). Notably for the first call in M19 (March 2024) and for the second call in M27 (October 2024).
   a. Given the existence of two distinct open calls with evaluations scheduled for different months, applicants have the option to express their commitment to participate in either one or both of these opportunities.
2. Attend a 1-hour briefing session and, if necessary, a 1-hour debriefing session following the selection process for each of the two Open Calls
3. They hereby concur to allocate a portion of their time prior to the evaluation process for the purpose of comprehensively acquainting themselves with FLUIDOS' objectives, mission, fundamental concepts, and the underlying principles of its architecture, among other pertinent aspects.
4. Ensure that evaluations are performed impartially and without bias, limiting assessments to applications of researchers and innovators whom the evaluator has no personal familiarity with.

B. 3.2. EXPERT REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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Evaluators undertaking this role shall receive compensation of 350 euro for each proposal evaluated. This price also includes Evaluator's participation in the initial Conference call and the final Consensus call defined above. That is, no additional remuneration for the participation in the above-mentioned calls shall be required by the Evaluator.

The number of proposals to be evaluated will depend on the total number of proposals received, and Evaluator's availability. All proposals will be divided equally among the selected Evaluators and discussed with each Evaluator before signing this contract.

In addition to the above reported remuneration, active participation in this role shall grant evaluators an exclusive membership within the distinguished FLUIDOS community. By becoming an integral part of this esteemed community, evaluators shall wield their influence to shape the landscape of EU innovation and bolster EU competitiveness by playing a pivotal role in selecting tomorrow's unicorn ventures.

To further elevate their professional standing, evaluators shall be prominently featured in a dedicated section on the illustrious FLUIDOS website (following evaluator's consent and willingness to do so), providing a platform to highlight their remarkable accomplishments and expertise.

The extent of involvement in these activities shall be thoughtfully customised to align with the availability of these distinguished specialists, fostering an environment that encourages active engagement and collaboration while accommodating their professional commitments.
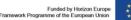
3.3. CRITERIA FOR THE SELECTION OF EVALUATORS

1. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must hold citizenship in any of the following countries: European Union member states, countries associated with the Horizon Europe program, Switzerland, the United States, or Canada. It is important to note that individuals who are not citizens of these countries but are residents or taxpayers in one of these nations are also eligible to become evaluators.[1]
2. All applications must be submitted prior to the call deadline (See 4.2).
3. Applications must be submitted electronically using the DIGITAL SME submission system. The below reported form (See 4.1) should be utilised, and a comprehensive CV must be attached as an integral part of the application process. Notably, paper or email submissions will not be accepted or considered.
4. For an application to be deemed complete and eligible for evaluation, all sections must be thoroughly filled out. Additionally, the CV must be easily readable, accessible, and printable.

If all admissibility criteria are satisfactorily met, prospective candidates will undergo evaluation based on the subsequent criteria:

   a. Experience and Proficiency in the Field of FluidOS: This criterion will be assessed on a scale of 0 to 5 points.

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[1] European Union member states (EU27): Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden. Countries associated with Horizon Europe: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

b. Prior Engagement in the Evaluation of Open Call Applications or EU-Funded Projects: This criterion will be evaluated on a scale of 0 to 2 points.

Following the evaluation process, only the highest-scoring candidates will be contacted by the FLUIDOS consortium.

Moreover, as a condition of engagement, each evaluator is required to sign a code of conduct, underscoring their commitment to ethical standards and professional conduct throughout the evaluation process, as well as impartiality and absence of conflict of interest with the applicants of the Open Call.

Kindly be advised that, to uphold diversity among the chosen external experts, the consortium retains the prerogative to give preference to certain applicants predicated upon the origins, affiliations, and expertise of the experts. This approach is taken with the overarching aim of attaining equilibrium across multiple criteria, encompassing gender, background, affiliation type, age, and expertise.

C.3.4 EXPERT REMUNERATION TIMELINE

Payment for services rendered shall be facilitated in Euros via bank transfer to the personal or company account of the evaluators as provided in the Financial Identification Form (FIF) . Such payment shall be made within a period of up to 30 days after the submission of evaluations and the receipt of an invoice from the respective evaluator.

4 HOW TO APPLY

4.1 REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

External experts meeting admissibility criteria must submit their applications electronically using the DIGITAL SME submission system.

Participants who wish to submit the application are required to fill out the **online form** and upload their CV. The form is divided into three sections, notably:

2. Personal Data

3. Affiliation

4. Profile and experience

5. Availability

4.2 SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline for the submission of evaluators' documents and applications is set for **7/12/2023** (with the possibility of extending the call until all positions are filled, if necessary).

5 PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

5.1. DATA COLLECTION AND PROCESSING

By submitting their application for the FLUIDOS open call program, participants need to acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. Absence of Conflict of Interest: Participants must declare that they are not currently involved, and will not be involved, in any application that is being submitted or evaluated under the FLUIDOS open call program.

2. Acceptance of Data Privacy Policies: Participants are required to understand and accept the data privacy policy of DIGITAL SME platform. They should be aware that the data collected through this application form will be used by the FLUIDOS consortium partners (See Appendix) solely for managing expressions of interest from experts.

3. Acceptance of Non-binding and No Commitment from FLUIDOS: It is important to note that the selection of experts to support the evaluation of the FLUIDOS open calls will be conducted at a later stage. The final selection depends on the number of applications received, experts' experience, and the sub-domains they address. The criteria for selection will also include factors such as the experts' origin, affiliations, expertise, and achieving balance in various criteria, including gender, background, affiliation type, age, and expertise.

Participants must understand and accept that expressing interest to participate as an evaluator in the FLUIDOS open call is non-binding and does not create any commitment, either from them to the FLUIDOS project or from the project to them. Additionally, they should be aware that the project may frequently change the experts involved in the evaluation of applications to maintain impartiality and effectiveness.

5.2. SERVICE CONTRACT FOR EVALUATORS

To formalise the collaboration, a service contract shall be executed between the FLUIDOS coordinator and the selected evaluators.
The Contracting Parties mutually agree to be bound by the terms and conditions specified in the Contract.
By appending their signatures to this contract, the Evaluators affirm that they have thoroughly read, comprehended, and fully accepted all the obligations and conditions outlined in the Contract, which

include adherence to the Code of Conduct and other provisions that constitute an integral part of this agreement.

The service contract delineates the respective rights and responsibilities of the Evaluator and the Contractor concerning the evaluation of proposals submitted to the FLUIDOS project between the years 2023 and 2024.

C. APPENDIX A

1. MARTEL INNOVATE BV (MAR)
2. UNIVERSIDAD DE MURCIA (UMU)
3. FONDAZIONE BRUNO KESSLER (FBK)
4. POLITECNICO DI TORINO (POLITO)
5. RICERCA SUL SISTEMA ENERGETICO - RSE SPA (RSE)
6. ROBOTNIK AUTOMATION SLL (ROB)
7. EUROPEAN DIGITAL SME ALLIANCE (DSME)
8. IBM IRELAND LIMITED (IBM)
9. TELEFONICA INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO SA (TID)
10. CONSORZIO TOP-IX - TORINO E PIEMONTE EXCHANGE POINT
11. BORDERSTEP INSTITUT FUR INNOVATIONUND NACHHALTIGKEIT GEMEINNUETZIGE GMBH (BOR)
12. ELLINIKO MESOGEIAKO PANEPISTIMIO (HMU)
13. STMICROELECTRONICS GRENOBLE 2 SAS (STM)
14. TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAT BERLIN (TUB)