



Questions & Answers

“INVITATION TO SHIFT2RAIL JU ASSOCIATED MEMBERS TO SUBMIT AN ANSWER IN VIEW OF THE REALIGNMENT OF THEIR ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL COMMITMENT TO THE SHIFT2RAIL PROGRAMME”

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| Document history | | |
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| Revision | Date | Description |
| 1 | 30/06/2017 | First issue <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 1 to 10, received during the Conf. call on 23/06/2017.• Questions 11 to 12, received in the info-am email until 29/06/2017 midnight. |
| 2 | 07/07/2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 13 to 14, received in the info-am email until 06/07/2017 midnight. |
| 3 | 11/07/2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 15 to 18, received in the info-am email until 10/07/2017 midnight. |

Questions & Answers

| Q | Topic | S2R Answer |
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| 1 | Some AM Consortia have been applying and selected as AM in the specific Railway operating | The S2R JU confirmed that, while enlarging the participation of R&I activities to SMEs, Research Centres, Universities remains a priority, this is not a condition as such of the call. |

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| | companies and/or Infrastructure Managers composition. In this setup there are no SMEs or Universities, will it be a disadvantage? | |
| 2 | Which kind of authorisation are you expecting from the AM for publishing an email contact detail? | <p>The S2R JU shall publicise this AM invitation in the S2R website and will indicate a contact point for those AM who are interest to participate to this invitation. Third parties could therefore enter in contact with the AM and the JU will organise a first public webinar on the 13 July. A functional mailbox might be a solution instead of providing a personal email.</p> <p>The deadline for communicating to the S2R JU (info-am@s2r.europa.eu) your email contact detail for publication on the S2R website is Wednesday 28 June cob.</p> |
| 3 | Increase/decrease the AM commitment. If an AM decreases its current budget commitment, will the corresponding be considered in addition of the EUR 5.6 million of the JU? | Yes and in such a case the foreseen new total S2R funding available will be communicated to all AM. In this respect, the AM are requested to provide in a non-binding manner their intentions of rebalance or additional commitment at two different occasions during the procedure. |
| 4 | Will the assessment of the Answers resulting from this invitation will be both assessed technically and economically? | Yes, the quality of each technical Answer will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria detailed in the invitation and the AM financial Answers will only be evaluated if firstly the technical Answer satisfy the defined criteria. The new proposed activities will be selected on the basis of the economically most advantageous answer (best value for money principle). |
| 5 | What will happen if the total Answers requests are far beyond the available S2R JU funding? | The negotiation procedure envisaged in the Invitation, Section 5(c), will be activated. |
| 6 | How can the decrease be done? | <p>A concerned AM shall maintain its minimum contribution to remain an AM, under the conditions established in the Call to become an AM and following negotiations. The AMs have two ways to decrease their budget: 1) reduce their IP/CCA contribution or 2) Redistribute the budget between IPs/CCA, for example in case when an AM would like to focus its activities and avoid small contributions to a TD.</p> <p>As already mentioned, in principle, an AM cannot decrease its commitment below the minimum threshold per IP as defined in the AM call. (http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/rail/news/doc/2014-10-06-shift-to-rail-call/2014-10-06-call-associated-member-s2rju.pdf) in order not to lose its AM status.</p> |
| 7 | -The current AM invitation says that the total new value “of the activities offered by the Associated Member in answering this Invitation added to the value of activities stated in the Membership Agreement in force shall not exceed the total value of | The value is total, corresponding to the sum of all IP/CCA contribution of such AM. |

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| | <p>the offer submitted by the concerned Associated Members in answering the Call for expressions of interest to become associated member of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking” is this value total or per IP?</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Can an AM make a proposal that concern activities in an IP where today it is not involved?</p> | <p>As indicated in the Invitation, Section 6 third bullet point, in principle the Associated Members should offer activities in answer to this call in IPs where they are already present in accordance with the respective Membership Agreement. Where an Associated Member intend to submit an answer to contribute to other IPs, this should be duly justified and discussed at the level of IP/CCA as indicated in the Invitation.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Does the first and second draft submission to the JU will be both technical and financial?</p> | <p>The S2R JU confirms that the not binding submission of answers on 18 July and 12 September shall only be financial, per AM and total amount per IP. The S2RJ JU will upload the excel table for such report in the S2R Cooperation tool.</p> |
| 10 | <p>Can the AM discuss within other AM with FM?</p> | <p>Yes, the interaction between interested parties shall help to obtain the most optimal outcome. The special conditions of this Invitation also explained, <i>“answers to this invitation shall be discussed at the level of IP with the objective to ensure integration and added value.”</i> In addition, as written in the current AM invitation, the S2R JU will provide a feedback to the IP coordinators and FM after each draft submission.</p> |
| 11 | <p>The following special condition under point 6 of the present invitation state: the total value of the activities offered by the Associated Member in answering this Invitation added to the value of activities stated in the Membership Agreement in force shall not exceed the total value of the offer submitted by the concerned Associated Members in answering the Call for expressions of interest to become associated member of the Shift2Rail Joint Undertaking</p> <p>From our understanding, this would not allow an Associated Member to increase the IP budget if its initial proposal was approved and accepted in its entirety.</p> <p>Could you please clarify, if the special conditions in chapter 6</p> | <p>The Special Conditions you refer to, Section 6 second bullet point, it is an essential condition to ensure that the current procedure remains within the limits and proposals submitted by the Associated Members in the context of the procedure for their selection in 2015. There is no possible derogation to this condition.</p> |

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| | are mandatory and irrevocable or if there is room for discussions and potential exceptions? | |
| 12 | I am not an AM and the Cooperation Tool is not available for me. Can you provide me with the credentials? | The access to the S2R Cooperation tool is restricted to the S2R JU Associated Members. Nevertheless, minutes and follow up emails will be shared with all the JU Members and Chairs of SRG and SC respectively for information purposes, whenever communication is published in relation to the present Invitation. |
| 13 | Regarding the email that you sent to our representatives, I kindly ask you for clarification on the purpose of publishing the email in the S2R website, please. Is it a requirement to participate in the new call, or is it a facility for those that want to participate together with other third parties and they want to be contacted by these 3rd parties? | If you are interested to participate to this invitation, you should provide a contact detail to the JU for publication. We are kindly inviting you to refer to the question nr 2. The publication of your contacts details on the S2R website do not engage you to answer this invitation alone and/or with the participation of third parties. In any case, if you will not be interested to participate and submit any answer to this Invitation, please let us know at your earliest convenience. In that case, your contacts details do not need to be published on our website. |
| 14 | May I ask you for some clarification. Do you need the email address from each applying AM or only from applying AMs who are interested in having new parties on board? | We are kindly inviting you to refer to the question nr 13. |
| 15 | The main concern is that in the text is indicated that the Invitation is for existing Associated Members to increase their contribution. It is left the possibility to them (the existing AM) to associate with other relevant entities, i.e. to organise a consortium; or to extend their participation to third parties (linked or subco). However, it does not look as open to new Associated Members. | This Invitation is not a call for new Associated Members as indicated in the text of the Invitation itself. It does not pre-empt any future decision in this respect. The present Invitation is open to the S2R JU Associated Members to realign their activities and/or provide additional commitment to the Shift2Rail Programme in various ways, including the possibility to involve new entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directly or through affiliated entities, • where relevant, additions to existing consortia with the participation of new joining entities, without distorting the initial objectives and nature of the relevant consortia, • through third parties with a legal link (linked third parties), in accordance with the provisions of Article 23 of the H2020 Rules of Participation. <p>For the full details, refer to Section 4 of the Invitation</p> |
| 16 | If I understood it correctly, we should indicate our intention in terms of figures by 18th. Is that correct? Can you confirm if you | The only documentation expected before the first draft submission is the one concerning the contact details to be uploaded in the website. |

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| | <p>expect something else from our side in the meanwhile?</p> | <p>We confirm that by the 18th July, each Associated Member shall indicate the expected increase commitment and/or rebalance to their contribution per IP. The JU will publish in the S2R Cooperation Tool the template document to be used for this purpose the 11 July COB.</p> <p>The point 8.a of the present Invitation contain the details of future steps.</p> |
| <p>17</p> | <p>I would like to express my interest for the S2R webinar planned for 13 July.</p> <p>Please send me participation conditions and process.</p> | <p>The open webinar event is planned on Thursday 20 July 2017 at 16:30 and will last for about 1 hour and 30 minutes.</p> <p>The S2R JU will present the context of the Invitation and how it may create opportunities to third parties to work together with S2R Associated Members , whilst giving due consideration to the limited amount of resources available.</p> <p>There are no particular participation conditions; the only requirement is to register for the webinar through the following link. https://shift2rail.clickmeeting.com/shift2rail/register You will then receive in the email indicated for your registration the link to join the webinar, including the Room ID.</p> <p>Please note that the registration is mandatory and that the webinar is limited to 500 participants.</p> |
| <p>18</p> | <p>It has been mentioned in the conference call at the end of June that all AM will receive a template for the submission of the budget indication. Since the deadline ends next week, we would appreciate it if you could circulate the template soon or distribute more information about the formal process of submission among the AMs.</p> | <p>The budget template for the first draft submission will be uploaded on the S2R Cooperation Tool by 12/07/2017</p> |