



Questions & Answers

“CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE SELECTION OF A NEW MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE OF THE SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING”

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Document history		
Revision	Date	Description
1	25/07/2017	First issue <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Questions 1 and 2 received in the scientific.committee email until 18/07/2017 midnight.
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Questions & Answers

Q	Topic	S2R Answer
1	A person who participates as a researcher in an organisation which is an associated member of	As the person is not directly employed by the S2R JU associated member, and the current employer is neither a member nor an affiliated entity of the JU, the person cannot be deemed ineligible

	<p>S2R JU, but who is employed by an organisation which is not a S2R JU member, is eligible to apply in the SC call?</p>	<p><i>prima facie</i>, on those grounds.</p> <p>However, as the assessment of conflict of interest is a subjective matter, the person could be in a state of conflict regardless of the nature of the employment status.</p> <p>Indeed, a conflict of interests exists where a person’s impartial and objective exercise of his/her functions is compromised for reasons involving family, emotional life, political or national affinity, economic interest or any other shared interest with a recipient.</p> <p>If the person decides to submit an application, he/she should submit, with the letter of motivation, a declaration regarding any possible conflict of interest in relation to S2R JU stakeholders and areas of activities which may undermine the performance of the person’s tasks.</p>
<p>2</p>	<p>A person informed the S2R JU that he/she cannot serve in the named fields of the call. Should expertise be needed in the areas i.e. track systems, the person would be pleased to receive a request.</p>	<p>Thank you for your interest in the call for the selection of a member of the Scientific Committee of S2R JU. S2R JU noted your field of expertise and may contact you in the future if other opportunities arise.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Can a member of Shift2Rail JU Scientific Committee involve personally in a project proposal to any type of S2R call (member or associated member or open call, etc.)?</p>	<p>The provisions concerning confidentiality and conflict of interest of the members of the Scientific Committee are laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Scientific Committee (Reference S2R JU, SC 1/2015).</p> <p>These state that “the members of the Scientific Committee must refrain from participating in the preparation of any proposals for calls launched by the S2R JU, or from taking part in the activities to be co-funded by the Joint Undertaking. However, this does not prevent the organisation that directly or indirectly employs the person from participating in the preparation of any proposals for calls launched by the S2R JU, or from taking part in the activities to be co-funded by the Joint Undertaking”.</p> <p>In any case, the SC members should inform before each meeting regarding any possible conflict of interest in relation to S2R JU stakeholders and areas of activities, which may undermine the performance of their tasks.</p> <p>The Rules of procedure of the Scientific Committee can be found at https://www.shift2rail.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/ROP_SC_signed-chair.pdf</p> <p>For further information on the conflict of interest, please also see</p>

		the answer to question 1 of this Q&A.
4	<p>S2R is looking for expertise in "information technology, artificial intelligence, digital sciences and/or similar domains". Operations research is a "similar domain" with competences in IT, AI, DS and specific expertise in modelling and solving complex problems using mathematics and IT technologies.</p> <p>Could these competencies (Operations Research) be considered in the evaluation or not?</p>	<p>The candidate with its submission can further demonstrate the validity of its application according to her/his experience and added-value for the position, especially if the candidate considers that "operations research" can be considered as a similar domain of expertise. We cannot herewith prejudge the assessment of the committee, it is the committee which will identify whether or not the candidates' profiles are similar and eligible for the position.</p>