

## DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

**approving the ranked lists of actions selected for funding, reserve list and the list of rejected proposals under the Shift2Rail JU call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020**

**N°07/2020**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE SHIFT2RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING, (hereafter referred as “the S2R JU”)

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 642/2014 of 16 June 2014 establishing the S2R JU<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 8(p) and (u) of the S2R JU Statutes annexed thereto,

Whereas:

- (1) On 14 November 2019, the Governing Board of the S2R JU (Decision N°08/2019) adopted the S2R JU Annual Work Programme 2020 (“AWP 2020”). The AWP 2020 was the basis for the launch of the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020, which was published on the H2020 Funding and Tenders Portal on 7 January 2020 with an initial deadline of 21 April 2020 17:00. However, during the 23<sup>rd</sup> Governing Board meeting of 26 March 2020<sup>2</sup> it was decided, to extend the deadline until 27 May 2020 17:00, due to the escalation of restraints linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, which might have hampered applicants’ ability to prepare and submit high-quality proposals by 21 April.
- (2) The call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020 comprised a total of 19 topics - 8 open to S2R JU Members (Call For Members, CFM) and 11 open to non-JU Members (Open Call, OC). Each of those topics had its own dedicated budget line. Hence, projects do not compete against each other for the same budget insofar as they come under different topics.
- (3) In response to its 2020 Call for Proposals, the S2R JU received 43 proposals for a total estimated value of €185.8 million and a funding request of €113.4 million. Eight proposals were submitted under the CFM while 35 proposals were submitted under the OC.
- (4) The proposals were verified for their compliance with the admissibility requirements and eligibility conditions of the call. During the verification, it was concluded that all 43 proposals were admissible. During the first-line eligibility check, one proposal was found

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 177, 17.06.2014, p.9.

<sup>2</sup> The minutes of the 23th meeting are available at the following link: <https://shift2rail.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Minutes-23rd-GB-meeting-signed.pdf>



ineligible. The detailed reason for ineligibility is provided in Annex 3 (List of ineligible proposals). As a result, 42 proposals were declared admissible and eligible by the S2R JU.

- (5) The proposals submitted were evaluated by independent experts, as set out in Article 17(2) of the S2R JU Statutes, and in accordance with the evaluation rules set out in the S2R JU AWP 2020. On the basis of this evaluation, amongst the 42 proposals considered eligible, the experts established a ranking list per topic (annex 1), providing a recommended priority order of the proposals having equalled or passed all the award criteria thresholds according to Part H of the General Annexes to the EC Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020, as well as a list of proposals not retained for funding (annex 2) because they did not meet the overall thresholds and/or one or more of the individual thresholds.
- (6) In accordance with the procedures laid down in the Guide for proposal submission and evaluation of the H2020 grant manual, one independent observer was appointed by the S2R JU to observe and offer independent advice on the conduct and fairness of the evaluation sessions, on the application of the evaluation criteria, and on ways to improve processes. The report of the independent observer (Annex 4) concludes that the evaluation was conducted in a fair, transparent and open way and that each proposal received adequate and equal treatment, according to the pre-defined evaluation rules.
- (7) The Governing Board took note of and acknowledged the Report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020, which includes the Call Evaluation Report with its annexes as well as the individual evaluation summary reports that will be attached to the individual notification letters to be sent to the applicants. Nevertheless, Annex 9 was not disclosed to the Industry Members of the Governing Board due to the risk of Conflict of Interest.
- (8) As proposed by the Executive Director in his report, taking into consideration the text of the CFM topics and considering the specific intertwined nature of the CFM Proposals submitted in the Call 2020 - in particular those related to IP2 and IPx but not only, the Grant Agreement Preparation Phase will be essential to ensure the alignment and consistency of the proposed research and innovation activities. To this effect, the Executive Director in his capacity as authorising officer should make use of the possibilities offered by Article 200(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

The ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020 i.e. the lists of actions selected for funding and the reserve list (Annex 1), the list of proposals that do not meet the applicable thresholds for funding (Annex 2) as well as the list of ineligible proposals e (annex 3) are approved.



*Article 2*

The Executive Director shall inform the applicants of the results of the evaluation and shall communicate simultaneously to each of them the relevant individual evaluation summary report, as an attachment to the notification letter. For the actions selected for funding, the notification letter sent by the Executive Director shall invite applicants to start the grant agreement preparation.

*Article 3*

With a view to promoting the alignment and consistency of the proposed research and innovation activities, the Executive Director is invited to consider the application of Article 200(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

*Article 4*

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 17 July 2020.

For the Governing Board



Henrik HOLOLEI  
*The Chairperson*



- Annex 1: Ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020 including the lists of actions selected for funding and the reserve list.
- Annex 2: List of below threshold proposals pertaining to the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020.
- Annex 3: List of ineligible proposals pertaining to the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2020.
- Annex 4: Independent Observer's Report.