

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-2021

N°03/2021

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 JU¹, and in particular Article 8(p) and (u) of the S2R JU Statutes annexed thereto,

Whereas:

- (1) On 12 April 2021, the Governing Board of the S2R JU (Decision N°01/2021) adopted the amended S2R JU Annual Work Programme 2021 (“AWP 2021”). This AWP 2021 is the basis for the launch of the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2021, which was published on the H2020 Funding and Tenders Portal on 15 April 2021 with a deadline of 18 May 2021 17:00.
- (2) The call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2021 comprised a total of 2 topics open to both S2R JU Members and open to non-JU Members. 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 return to its 2021 Call for Proposals, the S2R JU received 5 proposals for a total estimated value of €4.2 million and a funding request of €3.7 million.
- (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 proposals were admissible. As a result, 5 proposals were declared admissible. During the first-line eligibility check, it was concluded that all proposals were eligible. As a result, 5 proposals were declared admissible and eligible by the S2R JU.

¹ OJ L 177, 17.06.2014, p.9.



- (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 2021. On the basis of this evaluation, amongst the 5 proposals considered eligible, the experts established a ranking list per topic (annex 1), providing a recommended priority order of proposals having equalled or passed all the award criteria thresholds (i.e.: “excellence”, “impact” and “quality and efficiency of the implementation”), as well as a list of proposals not retained for funding (annex 2) since 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 an 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 3) finds 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 and acknowledged the Report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2021, which includes the Call Evaluation Report with its annexes as well as the individual evaluation summary reports which will be attached to the individual notification letters to be sent to the applicants. Nevertheless, Annex 9 of the report 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, the Grant Preparation Phase will be essential to ensure the alignment and consistency of the proposed research and innovation activities and coordination and support actions. 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-2021 including the lists of actions selected for funding and the reserve list (Annex 1) as well as the list of proposals that do not meet the applicable thresholds for funding (Annex 2) 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 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 22 June 2021.

For the Governing Board



Henrik HOLOLEI
The Chairperson

- Annex 1: Ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals H2020-S2RJU-2021 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-2021.
- Annex 3: Independent Observer's Report.