

Questions & Answers

Call for proposals 2023
HORIZON-ER-JU-2023

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Q 1	For Innovation Actions, what is the funding rate for profit organizations?	As stated in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (section 2.3.8.1 Conditions of the calls and calls management rules), <i>"the EU-Rail 2023 Call will follow the rules of the European Union's Horizon Europe framework programme and in particular the Horizon Europe rules for participation as well as the General Annexes to the HE Work Programme 2023-2024, which apply, <u>unless specified otherwise</u>, to EU-Rail calls for proposals"</i>. According to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 General Annexes, page 30, the maximum Horizon Europe funding rates for an Innovation action for profit organizations is up to 70% and for non-profit legal entities up to 100%. In particular - as stated in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 -, for the sole Innovation Action
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		for the EU-Rail call for proposals 2023 <i>“EU-Rail SESAR Synergy: Integrated air and rail network backbone for a sustainable and energy efficient multimodal transport system”</i> (section 2.3.8) the funding rate for profit organizations has been set-up at maximum 70% funding rate. In the specific conditions under each of the topics in the EU-Rail call 2023 there is no lower funding rate applied.
Q 2	1. What about Swiss partners participating as Associated Partner in a project/call through a Consortial Agreement? 2. If so, can we receive a copy of the respective Grant Agreement including Annexes for our Swiss funding authorities?	1. In accordance with Article 22(1) of the HE Regulation, <i>“any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organizations, is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation are met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic”</i>. Nevertheless, all exploratory talks regarding the association of Switzerland to the next generation of EU programmes are currently on hold. In the meantime, Switzerland cannot be considered a candidate associated country in Horizon Europe. It should be considered a non-associated third country. As a matter of consequences, legal entities established in Switzerland are not eligible for funding, except if provided for in the specific call conditions, or if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority. The EU-Rail call for proposals included in Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 does not foresee any specific call conditions for legal entities established in Switzerland. Therefore legal entities established in Switzerland could participate in the EU-Rail call for proposals 2023 as “associated partners” (in the meaning of Articles 2 and 9.1 of the Model Grant Agreement - Lump Sum Grants) without the right to charge costs or claim contributions: they may not charge contributions to the action (no lump sum contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible (may not be included in the estimated budget in Annex 2). More information about the participation of Swiss entities in Horizon Europe can be found in the Founding and Tender Portal under FAQ. 2. The Grant Agreement templates are already present in the F&T Portal under the section <i>“Topic Conditions and Documents”</i> in each topic of this call: Funding & tenders.

		Regarding the draft Grant Agreement and Annexes, please be informed that these will be available to the Project Partners during the Grant Agreement Preparation Phase (GAP) if the proposal is successful and selected for funding.
Q 3	How and under which conditions can partners/members from the JU consortium participate in a proposal or collaborate to a project? Does this reduce their already allocated budget in the JU? What is the funding rate?	We confirm that in accordance with the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 and the call conditions (section 2.3.8-Type of call: Open), the EU-Rail calls for proposals 2023 are open to all eligible entities according to Horizon Europe rules for participation. There are no restrictions apart from those laid down in Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annex B. Please note that there is no EU budget allocated to the members of the JU, although EU-Rail Private Members have committed a minimum in-kind (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) and cash contribution to the JU As indicated in the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (under Conditions for the Call-Specific Conditions-Indicative budget) for each call topic, <i>"applicant Private Members (as defined in Article 2(5) of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085) of the EU-Rail part of consortia responding to this topic should provide in-kind contributions to additional activities to be declared via the template model available on the F&T Portal. The amount of total in-kind contributions (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) should be no less than 1.26352 times the funding request, in aggregate, of these applicant Private Members. Any discrepancy shall be well and duly justified.</i> <i>In this respect, the grant agreements will set, in principle, annual deliverable on in-kind contributions for the projects selected under this topic, as well as mandatory reporting requirements, for those applicants who are Private Members of EU-Rail".</i> Regarding your question on the funding rates, as stated in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (section 2.3.8.1 Conditions of the calls and calls management rules), <i>"the EU-Rail 2023 Call will follow the rules of the European Union's Horizon Europe framework programme and in particular the Horizon Europe rules for participation as well as the General Annexes to the HE</i>

		<i>Work Programme 2023-2024, which apply, unless specified otherwise, to EU-Rail calls for proposals</i>". As in the specific conditions under each of the topics in the EU-Rail call 2023 there is no lower funding rate applied, the EU-Rail call for proposals 2023 does not put a lower limit to the maximum Horizon Europe funding rates (see "Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount" of Annex G of the HE Work Programme 2023-2024).
Q 4	Are proposals that include members of the JU awarded higher scoring by the evaluators due to the additional financial resources they will bring to the project?	Please note that the EU indicative budget defined for each of the topics referred in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (under Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - Conditions for the Call - Specific Conditions - Indicative budget) has been set by EU-Rail to be sufficient to cover the activities requested in the topic text. The independent external evaluators will be asked to evaluate the proposal against the call text requirements. The indicative EU budget for each topic is also indicated on the Funding and Tenders portal in the section "budget overview" (under the link Funding & tenders). If additional financial resources are brought to perform activities beyond the call text requirements, those are not part of the call for proposals award criteria announced in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VIII – 2023 Call for proposals – Evaluation Criteria) and therefore are not in principle taken into consideration for the scoring in accordance with Part D of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 General Annexes (award criteria, scores and weighting).
Q 5	Is there a connection between the calls and CNOSSOS-EU?	In accordance with the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-01: NOISE AND VIBRATIONS - Scope section of the topic - Noise in curves) is expected that the applicant will conduct research activities, aiming at addressing the prediction and noise reduction around in urban areas, to improve the EU-CNOSSOS curve noise factor. You will find further information on the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (under the link Funding & tenders).
Q 6	I have a question regarding in-kind contribution and the definition of Private Members. If I understand it well, the reporting of 1,26 times	Please be informed that for 1€ of JU contribution, the EU-Rail Private Member shall contribute in addition of 1.263€ (this is an aggregate multiplier for the Founding Members, comprising in-kind contributions for operational activities

	more work is basically equals to the 70% support rate? In the last presentation it was the number ADDITIONAL 1,26 EUR to every EUR EU contribution, is that correct? In my understanding it should be 1,26	and in-kind contributions for additional activities). This independently on the funding rate on the eligible costs. For more details about the contribution of an EU-Rail Private Member please refer to Q n°3.
Q 7	Can Swiss Partners also lead a project?	For the status of Switzerland and legal entities established in Switzerland in the Horizon Europe Programme please refer to answer to Q2 and the Founding and Tender Portal under FAQ. As regards the question on Swiss Partners, in accordance with Articles 2 and 9.1 of the Model Grant Agreement - Lump Sum Grants), associated partners (such as legal entities established in Switzerland) do not become party to the Grant Agreement (GA), do not sign the GA and do not receive EU funding (i.e.: they may not charge contributions to the action (no lump sum contributions) and the costs for their tasks are not eligible (may not be included in the estimated budget in Annex 2). Therefore, associated partners cannot lead the project (as “consortium coordinator”). Nevertheless, associated partners are mentioned in the GA and can implement important parts of the action, as they perform action tasks directly. They can become work package leaders in collaborative projects and must implement the action tasks attributed to them in Annex 1 (in accordance with Article 11 of the GA.) The GA names them and defines their role (rights and obligations). More information on “associated partners” is provided in the HE Annotated Grant Agreement (AGA).
Q 8	It seems, that some topics in the call have similarities to topics which are already addressed in the ongoing calls of the FP projects, e.g., FP 4. How will a collaboration between the topics be granted and controlled, to be sure that there will be no duplication of work but a good cooperation and complement the topics? And if yes how official interfaces between the projects planned for this?	As specified in section 2.3.8.1 of the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024, in order to facilitate the contribution to the achievement of the EU-Rail objectives, the options regarding 'linked actions' of the EU-Rail Model Grant Agreement and the provisions therein, is enabled in the corresponding EU-Rail Grant Agreements. In accordance with the amended Work Programme 2023-2024, the information regarding complementarities is specified in the “Linked Projects” section in each of the Call topics. E.g., the action that is expected to be funded under the HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-02: FUTURE

		METRO SYSTEMS will be complementary to the following actions: -FP1 - MOTIONAL (GA 101101973) -FP2 - R2DATO (GA 101102001) -FP3 - IAM4RAIL (GA 101101966) Note that this obligation does not entail a specific legal agreement to be put in place and that the list is non-exhaustive, as additional Linked Projects may follow at a later stage of the programme implementation to complement the activity. Please refer to the Funding & Tender Portal for further information (Funding & tenders).
Q 9	For the call 'HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-04 Disruptive Asset Management Solutions including urban use cases', the call wording states: 'Activities are expected to be at TRL 4/5, higher TRL are possible'. Please clarify which of the following this means: 1) the project must reach TRL 4/5 by the end of the project, or 2) the project technology should start at TRL 4/5 and be increased to a higher TRL during the project.	Please be informed that in the time-frame consideration of the project duration, the applicants should consider the expectations stemming from the call conditions to achieve a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4/5, or higher by the end of the JU-funded project. For more detailed information see Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023 - 2024 - General Annexes - Annex B - Technology Readiness Levels - for a guide to the TRL definitions and criteria to be used.
Q 10	Maybe I have wrongly read the information anyway it seems to me that the budget for the call mentioned in the subject (rail and aviation synergy call) in the press release is said to be 7 million Euro, while in the text of the call is indicated 5 million Euro. Could you explain?	The budget for topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-FA1-SESAR can be found on the Funding and Tenders portal in the section "budget overview". The information relative to the budget can also be found in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VII- Call for proposals 2023) (page 154) under "Indicative budget" as follows: <i>The total indicative EU budget for this specific topic is EUR 5 million.</i> 7.1 million euros is the expected potential total project costs, as this topic is defined an Innovation Action with up to 70% funding on the eligible costs. This is also indicated in the AWP 2023-2024 (section 2.3.8 Calls for proposals) on page 57.

Q 1 1	I am contacting you as I couldn't attend yesterday's info day on the rail-related calls for proposals but would be interested in knowing more about it. Is there the possibility for you to share with me the presentation you delivered, or any video you may have made regarding the info day? Also, I would really appreciate if you could provide the link to the eligibility criteria to participate.	Please be informed that the Call for Proposals 2023 is published on Europe Rail's website (Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023 is open for submissions - Europe's Rail). In the EU-Rail web site you can also find the Europe's Rail Info Day 2023 that took place on 4 October 2023 where you can find the presentation and recording of the session. Information about the admissibility and eligibility criteria can be found on the Funding & Tenders Portal (Funding & tenders).
Q 1 2	In the coming months, some partners will prepare a proposal for the Europe's Rail NVH call. I have one administrative question: do you know if Europe's rail core members (DB, Alstom, etc.) can take part in this call or is it reserve to others (university, engineering companies, etc.).	Please refer to the answer provided in Q3. We confirm that in accordance with the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 and the call conditions, the JU calls for proposals are open to all eligible entities according to Horizon Europe rules for participation. There are no restrictions apart from those laid down in Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annex B.

Q 1 3	Our researchers are interested in the joint call with SESAR. We were wondering how the rules for financing work here. We are aware that when we join EU-Rail calls of exploratory research, we have to increase our IKAA for the flagship projects. But we are not sure if this applies also for the call with SESAR as we are not only member of EU-Rail but also member of SESAR. Can you explain us, what we need to consider in terms of budget?	Please refer to the answer provided in Q1 about the funding rate for the call topic “HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-FA1-SESAR: EU-Rail SESAR Synergy: Integrated air and rail network backbone for a sustainable and energy efficient multimodal transport system”. EU-Rail did not lower the funding rate on the eligible cost, in these activities implementing Flagship Area 1, to achieve the leverage effect established in the SBA normally applied to Flagship Projects, this means that the maximum Horizon Europe funding rate in this Innovation Action topic is 70% for profit entities and 100% for non-profit. In your question you indicate that you are both member of EU-Rail and of SESAR 3 JU. Should you join a possible consortium submitting a proposal to answer to this topic, you submit it either as a member of EU-Rail or a member of SESAR 3 JU or a mix of both, that you will need to specify in the budget table information on “Estimated Members’ contribution indicative value per member”. This remains your choice, in function of the type of activities you plan to undertake in your proposal. In case of mix participation of your company as private member of EU-Rail and SESAR, in the table “ESTIMATED MEMBERS’ CONTRIBUTIONS-INDICATIVE VALUE PER MEMBER - Joint call EU-RAIL & SESAR - PROJECT ACRONYM” you may select and duplicate your company’s name (member X) for both EU-Rail and SESAR. Like this EU-Rail will have the information of the estimated Member’s contribution for both EU-Rail and SESAR JU. Please take note that the call topic indicates the requirement of a <i>“Target a balanced participation of entities from both the rail and aviation sector. The contribution brought by those entities is also expected to be insofar as possible balanced between the rail and aviation stakeholders. The applicants can justify a different approach for the correct implementation of the action.”</i> Additionally, as indicated in the Specific Conditions section of the HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-FA1-SESAR topic call, the following applies: <u>Applicant Private members of EU-Rail:</u> Should provide in-kind contributions (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) of an amount should be no less than 1.263 times the funding request, in
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	aggregate, of the applicant Private Members. Any discrepancy shall be well and duly justified. <u>SESAR 3 JU Members other than the Union:</u> will report their IKOP and IKAA as per standard guidance, with no impact on the evaluation procedure. In accordance with SESAR 3 JU standard guidance, the total in-kind Contributions of other members are indicative only (and corresponds at least to the un-funded part of the grant amount, i.e., the IKOP). Please take note that the applicant Private Members should fill the in the budget table information on “Estimated Members’ contribution indicative value per member”, with provides the IKOP and IKAA for each Member (aggregated, of the applicant Private Member). Finally, the Amended Europe’s Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (under Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 – Specific Conditions – Indicative budget), describes the expected amount of total in-kind contributions (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) and condition that only applies to applicants that are Private Members (as defined in Article 2(5) of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 and listed in Annex II) of EU-Rail part of consortia responding to this topic. For the conditions that apply to the in-kind contributions of funding members of SESAR it should therefore be minimum the in-kind contribution for operational activities (IKOP). However, the table made available for this call also allow you to foresee additional activities contributions should that be necessary or envisaged. It is to be noted that the IKAA for SESAR3 JU Members is based on the implementation of the adopted IKAA plan (plan adopted in N-1 and to be reported in N+1). Which means that the SESAR3JU will consider in priority for its reporting purpose, also for the additional activities associated to this call, the estimates provided by its Members in the IKAA plan.
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Q 1 4	We would appreciate, if you could inform us about the steps required for our entity to be part of the Europe's rail partnership.	EU-Rail was established by the Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (the "Single Basic Act" or the SBA) which entered in force on 30 November 2021. In accordance with article 87(1) of the SBA, the members of EU-Rail are: (a) the Union, represented by the Commission, (b) the 25 Founding Members listed in Annex II of the Regulation and (c) the associated members. As announced in the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (section 1.1) EU-Rail intends to launch during the first half of 2024 a call for expression of interest with a view to selecting Associated members in accordance with Article 7 of the SBA, after having performed an in-depth review of the areas where such type of membership would bring added value to the R&I Programme. For the definition of an "associated member" please refer to Article 2(3) of the SBA. As indicated in Article 6(3) of the SBA, in order to become an associated member of EU-Rail, a letter of commitment shall be signed detailing the scope of the membership in terms of content, activities and its duration, as well as the associated members' contributions to the joint undertaking, including an indication of the envisaged additional activities referred to in Article 11(1), point (b) of the SBA. Please note that in order to participate to the activities of the Programme of EU-Rail you do not need to become a member of the partnership. Our Programme it is implemented through grants and tender which are open to all eligible economic actors. In particular for this open EU-Rail call 2023-01 we confirm that in accordance with the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 and the call conditions, the JU calls for proposals are open to all eligible entities according to Horizon Europe rules for participation. There are no restrictions apart from those laid down in Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annex B.
Q 1 5	Does the condition, <i>"Applicant Private Members of the EU-Rail part of consortia responding to this topic should provide in-kind contributions to additional activities to be declared via the template model available</i>	In accordance with the Article 11(1) of the <i>Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe</i> (the "Single Basic Act"), only the Private Members of the JU are requested to deliver in-kind contributions, both in a form of in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP) and in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA).

<i>on the F&T portal. The amount of total in-kind contributions (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) should be no less than 1.26352 times the funding request, in aggregate, of these applicant Private Members. Any discrepancy shall be well and duly justified."</i> , apply to participants that are partially owned by one or more Private members? In other words, a beneficiary that is (partly) owned by one or more Private Members of ERJU or there are legal links between them, does need to in-kind contribute to the project in Exploratory Research?	There are two types of Private Members under the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking – Founding Members and Associated Members (cf. Article 87 of the Single Basic Act). The Founding Members acceded to the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking based on the Letter of Commitments submitted by the interested entities in December 2021. Annex II to the Single Basic Act lists the Founding Members of the JU. Currently, there are no Associated Members of the EU-Rail Joint Undertaking. In accordance with Articles 2(10), 11, 28 and 89 of the Single Basic Act, the only manner for IKOP or IKAAs to be accounted for other than by the JU Private Member or constituent entity, would be as an Affiliated Entity to the JU Private Member or its constituent entity, sustaining a capital or legal link as indicated in Art 187(1)(b) of the Financial Regulation. In accordance with article 2(8) and (10) of the SBA, each Private Member or its constituent entities can agree to distribute the objective of in-kind contributions to the JU (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) and among itself and its affiliated entities (AEs). Therefore, it is up to the Private Member to decide if the affiliated entity is contributing to its in-kind contribution to the JU. In accordance with the Grant Agreement, Affiliated Entities of a Private EU-Rail Member can in turn participate as direct beneficiaries, or affiliated entities or subcontractors to contribute to the action implementation and subsequently access the EU funds, provided they meet the HE eligibility conditions. The costs incurred by the entities affiliated to a JU Member – independently on the way they would participate in the project proposal – would be taken into account and later accounted by the JU as Member contribution to the JU if confirmed by the JU Member as part of their own in-kind contributions. For more information about how those in-kind contribution should be budgeted into the proposal, please refer to the Q13. In accordance with article 1(5) of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046 and article 7 of the Grant Agreement, an 'affiliated entity' of an EU-Rail Private Member can participate in the proposal (and in the consequent Grant Agreement) as a direct beneficiary. In this case the 'affiliated entity' of an EU-Rail Private Member will be formal party to the Grant Agreement (i.e.:
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		as beneficiary must sign the Grant Agreement) and have full responsibility for implementing the action properly and for complying with the obligations under the Grant Agreement (see Article 11). In case of a participation as affiliated entity in the project proposal, please be informed that as stated in Article 2(46)-Definitions) of the Horizon Europe Regulation, 'affiliated entity' means an entity as defined in Article 187(1) of the EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046. Affiliated entities are entities that satisfy the eligibility criteria, do not fall within one of the situations referred to in Articles 136(1) and 141(1) of the EU Financial Regulation and have a link with the beneficiary, in particular, a legal or capital link, which is neither limited to the action nor established for the sole purpose of its implementation. They participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries (obligation to implement action tasks and right to charge costs and claim contributions) but they do not become party to the Grant Agreement (do not sign the GA). If a Grant beneficiary wishes to involve an entity as affiliated to that beneficiary in the project without having any legal link, it must have at least a capital link to be involved as an Affiliated entity.
Q 1 6	Dear Europe's Rail Call Helpdesk, Concerning the call HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-01 NOISE AND VIBRATIONS, can an EU-RAIL Private Member participate as a subcontractor to a consortium member? If an EU-RAIL Private Member can participate as a subcontractor to a consortium member, are there in-kind contributions (i.e., in-kind contributions for operational activities and in-kind contributions for additional activities) to be provided no less than 1.263 times the amount received by the EU-RAIL Private Member as subcontractor?	The EU-Rail 2023 Call will follow the rules of the European Union's Horizon Europe framework programme and in particular the Horizon Europe rules for participation as well as the General Annexes to the HE Work Programme 2023-2024, which apply to EU-Rail calls for proposals. Therefore, an EU-Rail Private Member of the JU can participate in the call and in the topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-01 NOISE AND VIBRATIONS either as a consortium member (i.e.: direct beneficiary), as an affiliated entity of a consortium member or as subcontractor. In case the EU-RAIL Private Member participate as a subcontractor, the standard Horizon Europe and Grant Agreement rules on subcontracting (best value for money etc.) must be respected. As regards the in-kind contributions for a EU-RAIL Private Member of the JU participating as a subcontractor, please note that regardless of whether you participate as direct beneficiary, affiliated entity or subcontractor in the consortium submitting a proposal responding to the JU call 2023 and in particular the topic HORIZON-ER-JU-

		2023-EXPLR-01 NOISE AND VIBRATIONS, as an EU-Rail Private Member, you should confirm it in the proposal by filling in the excel file Annex 1 of part B “estimated Member’s contribution”. This will be compared against the commitments made in the Letter of Commitment by the JU Private Members. This confirmation should also be provided to the JU by the JU Private Member itself. For more information about the estimated members’ contributions, please refer to the Q13.
Q 1 7	I am writing to you for asking about the call mentioned in this e-mail subject (Disruptive Assets Management Solutions, Including Urban Use Cases). We are working in a disruptive asset management digital solution for companies which have Drones Activities in their processes. As I understood in the Topic description, all use case related to robotics and drones are out of scope of this call. Could you confirm if it is right? If so, is there any similar call in your radar were drones use cases are allowed?	In accordance with the Amended Europe’s Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 and the call conditions (under Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-04: DISRUPTIVE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING URBAN USE CASES – Expected outcome) <i>“no robotic/unmanned application shall be considered as use case”</i>, is referring to fact that, in conducting the validation of innovative demonstrators, the use case focus should not be exclusively on the robotic/unmanned application (i.e. development of such solution). While the use of robotics and drones is permitted, if this is useful to validate a wider proposed use case, e.g., as a mean of data collection. The topic text also indicates that among the proposed demonstrators, at least two urban specific use cases should be address.

Q 1 8	I'm writing to ask a couple questions about the HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-04: Disruptive assets management solutions, including urban use cases topic: 1. The topic description explicitly mentions that "no robotic/unmanned application shall be considered as use case". However, "remotely controlled interventions solutions" are listed as innovative demonstrators. We found this somewhat contradictory, so we'd like to clarify whether drones (unmanned aerial vehicles) can be considered in this topic. 2. Additionally, "The objective of the project is to enhance the capability for monitoring/inspection solutions evolving towards non-invasive and <u>self-diagnostic</u> systems with <u>no or minimal</u> service disruptions and/or <u>remotely controlled interventions</u>, through the usage of innovative/disruptive technologies concerning data acquisition, data analysis and maintenance decision making". When it comes to diagnosing a system, it's not clear to us whether the underlined parts exclude using an external component/system for data acquisition, or if it just means that the data processing should be done on the same system, and not	Please refer to the answer provided in Q16. We confirm that as indicated in the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 - (under Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-04: DISRUPTIVE ASSETS MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS, INCLUDING URBAN USE CASES – Expected outcome), "<i>remotely controlled interventions solutions</i>" could imply the possible use of robotic and unmanned application but not as a unique use case – please see reply in Q17. Furthermore, and answering your second question, the established call conditions are not preventing the use of external component system for data acquisition (such as drones), nor set as a requirement the obligation to process the data by the device that collects the data.
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	remotely. For example, would a drone that conducts railway infrastructure inspection and onboard data processing meet the requirements?	
Q 1 9	I want to ask you an essential question about the latest HORIZON-ER-JU-2023_EXPLORATORY RESEARCH call. We are preparing a proposal, and our lead industry partner is a founding private member of EU-RAIL that would like to participate. They would need an official statement that they can participate as a JU Member (Core Member) without any restrictions and with a funding rate of 70%. We would appreciate a prompt and official reply.	For the participation of an EU-Rail private member to the call please refer to answer to Q3, which entails additional expected in-kind contributions that should be no less than 1.26352 times the funding request. We confirm that in accordance with the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (section 2.3.8) the calls for proposals - including the Exploratory Research - are open, with no limitation in terms of participation, beyond the general eligibility conditions laid down in the HE WP General Annexes B. As regards the funding rate please note that all the topics included in HORIZON-ER-JU-2023_EXPLORATORY RESEARCH are described either as a Research and Innovation Action (RIA) or as a Coordination and Support Action (CSA). Accordingly, and in light of the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 General Annexes, page 30, the maximum funding rates are as follows: - Research and Innovation Action: 100%

		- Coordination and Support Action: 100% More information about the specific conditions for each topic can be found in the Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (Annex VII - Destination 8). Finally, EU-Rail does not provide to call participants any official statement related to the call conditions for participation or the funding rates. The conditions of the call are described in the above referred Amended EU-Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 and in the General Annexes to the HE Work Programme 2023-2024.
Q 2 0	I would appreciate if you could clarify the participation of UK entities in the Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023. I understand that for this call, the EC/JU will continue to administer transitional arrangements and the UK will continue to provide funding under the UK Guarantee. This means that for successfully evaluated proposals, the entities established in the UK will not be eligible to receive EU funding under award procedures implemented for this call. From a practical standpoint, for the Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023, in case a UK entity is joining a consortium willing to submit a proposal, should this UK entity be considered as Beneficiary in the proposal (Yes or No) and be allocated part of the EU funding indicated for the call (Yes or No)?	Please note that as EU-RAIL informed during the Call 2023 Info Day on 4th October 2023, the UK is expected to become an associated country to Horizon Europe as of 1 January 2024 and that association would apply only for award procedures implementing 2024 budget and onwards. Until association agreements start producing legal effects either through provisional application or their entry into force, transnational arrangements are applicable. This mean that entities established in the UK applying as "beneficiaries" for Horizon Europe calls for proposals funded from budget appropriations of year 2023 -such as the Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023- will not be able to receive EU funding, even if the signature of the grant agreement takes place in 2024. According to the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2023-2024 General Annexes (General Annex B), the legal entities established in the UK can only participate in the EU-RAIL Call for Proposals 2023 as "Associated Partners" in the consortium and they are not eligible for funding. Therefore, the answer to your first question – if a UK entity can be considered as "Beneficiary" in the proposal

	In case the answers to the question above are Yes and if the proposal is invited for the preparation of the Grant Agreement, what will happen with the EU funding allocated to this UK entity as in principle the UK entity will be funded through the UK Guarantee funding scheme? Will this EU funding go back to the JU or could it be used for additional activities to be proposed by the consortium during the preparation of the Grant Agreement and agreed by the JU?	for the Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023- is NO. Entities established in UK are considered non-associated third country applicants and therefore must submit their proposals as 'Associated Partner' in the consortium. And the answer to your second question – if can be allocated part of the EU funding indicated in the call- is also NO. For the Europe's Rail Call for Proposals 2023, entities established in UK can participate in the consortium (as 'Associated Partner'), implement action tasks but without receiving EU funding (i.e.: costs are not eligible). For information, an entity established in UK can participate as a subcontractor of a beneficiary, under the condition that the principles of subcontracting (ensuring best value for money, no Conflict of Interest, subcontracting of only a limited part of the action, etc.) are respected. For more information, please refer to the list of FAQs related to the UK association published on the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal.
Q 2 1	In Q16 of the Q&A Document (https://rail-research.europa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/QACall2023_4th_Publication-Final-version.pdf) the following is stated: <i>"As regards the in-kind contributions for a EU-RAIL Private Member of the JU participating as a subcontractor, please note that regardless of whether you participate as direct beneficiary, affiliated entity or subcontractor in the consortium submitting a proposal responding to the JU call 2023 and in particular the topic HORIZON-ER-JU2023-EXPLR-01 NOISE AND VIBRATIONS, as an EU-Rail Private Member, you should confirm it in the proposal by filling in the excel file Annex 1 of part B "estimated Member's contribution". This will be compared against the</i>	It is correct that the EU-Rail Member own contribution in a funded project, independently of their participation form, will be deducted from the EU-Rail Member own commitment to EU-Rail in term of IKOP (and IKAA) as described in their Letter of Commitment. In case an EU-Rail Private Member intending to join a consortia for the submission of a proposal -regardless of whether the member participates as direct beneficiary, affiliated entity or subcontractor-, the costs must be indicated in Excel table included in Annex I -Part B "Estimated Members' Contributions". This is also applicable when the EU-Rail Private Member participates as subcontractor of a non-EU-Rail member. In accordance with the Article 11(1) of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe (the "Single Basic Act"), Private Members of the JU are requested to deliver in-kind contributions, both in a form of in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP) and in-kind contributions to additional activities (IKAA). In addition, as indicated in the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (under Conditions for the Call Specific Conditions-Indicative budget) for each call topic, "<i>applicant Private Members (as defined in Article 2(5) of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085) of the EU-Rail part of</i>

	<i>commitments made in the Letter of Commitment by the JU Private Members. This confirmation should also be provided to the JU by the JU Private Member itself."</i> Is the assumption correct that any contribution by a private member in one of the calls, regardless of how one participates (as normal beneficiary, subcontractor etc.) this will be deducted from the private members total funding?	<i>consortia responding to this topic should provide in-kind contributions to additional activities to be declared via the template model available on the F&T Portal (i.e.: Annex I Part B) .</i> For applicants Private Members of the EU-Rail part of consortia responding to a call topic please refer to the previous Q&A n° 3, 6 and 15.
Q 2 2	I would like to ask if for the call of HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-FA1-SESAR, member for Europe's Rail JU and SESAR 3 JU can participate are they eligible. This question is because it is not clear if the call keeps the structure of the previous Shift2Rail calls of Open Calls and Calls for Members.	Please refer to the answer provided in Q3. We confirm that in accordance with the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 – 2nd amendment (adopted by the EU-Rail Governing Board on 5 December 2023) and the call conditions, the JU calls for proposals are open to all eligible entities according to Horizon Europe rules for participation, irrespectively if they are private members of EU-Rail or not. There are no restrictions apart from those laid down in Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annex B.
Q 2 3	We are engaged in a consortium comprising five European universities including ourselves. We note from the call that there is an expectation to award at least 6 to 10 PhD positions for five PhD topics, these are: 1. Measures and mechanisms to support implementation of rail technical innovations supporting the decarbonisation of transport 2. Change Making for Gender Equality in Rail 3. Education and training in rail 4. Rail enabled urban logistics 5. Fast Night Train Operations	We confirm that in accordance with the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 – 2nd amendment (adopted by the EU-Rail Governing Board on 5 December 2023) – (under Annex VII – Call for proposals 2023 - HORIZON-ER-JU-2023-EXPLR-05: EXTENDING THE RAIL NETWORK OF PHDS – Expected outcome), the awarded proposal shall include between 6 and 10 PhDs on different topics. However, please be informed that the five topics listed are only a suggestion and additional or different ones shall be proposed by the Consortium, since the Amended Europe's Rail Work Programme 2023-2024 (pg. 188) states that "<i>The Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking expects to finance successful proposals from universities or similar high-level institutes covering each at least one PhD student <u>in the following proposed areas or additional or different scientific areas to be proposed</u>, always in relation to the EU-Rail Programme"</i>.

The five universities are uncertain about whether they can have more than one PhD position for each theme. This is because the call requirements can be interpreted differently. Please could you clarify if we are allowed to create two PhDs for, let's say, themes 1,2, and 4 as above. Thank you.	We also confirm that there is no limit set in the call for each of those topics in term of number of PhDs, it is up to the consortium to build the most appropriate proposal. Furthermore, please note that within the same proposal the same entity (university) can manage more than one PhD position/PhD topic.
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