



APPLICATION FORM

*Call for expression of interest for associated members
– GB Decision N°09/2024 –*

Date:	21 June 2024
Edition:	1
Status:	Final
Classification:	Public

Please complete this application form electronically and submit it via the functional mailbox of Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking (EU-Rail): info-call@rail-research.europa.eu

The deadline for submitting is **4 November 2024, 12.00, CEST/Brussels time.**

Please only fill in the form in Times New Roman font, pt 12. For filling the application form, please download and save it, complete the form and then save it.

Important:

- The **overall page limit is 20 pages.**
- There is no system to check for compliance and therefore when attempting to upload a proposal longer than the specified limit, **NO** automatic warning will be made. Therefore, the applicants shall check if the proposal exceeds the page limits and if so, re-submit a version that conforms with the abovementioned page limitation.
- Experts will be instructed to disregard the excess pages. The proposal is a self-contained document. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.
- Please, do not consider the page limit as a target! It is in your interest to keep your text as concise as possible.
- Before submitting an application, applicants should check their eligibility, admissibility, and all general conditions to be met and provide all necessary elements required in the application submission process.

Mandatory formatting conditions:

- **Font for the main body text: Times New Roman** (Windows platforms), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions). The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypass the page limits).
- **Minimum font size allowed is 12 points.** Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables. Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible.
- **The page size is A4**, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) and footers or headers of this template shall remain unchanged. Pictures, tables, formulas and graphics can be added but must be legible and are included within the page limits.

1. Information about the applicant			
1.1.	Name of the company/organization		
	Country		
1.2.	Contact person	Name, Surname	
		Job title	
		Phone (e.g., +32-2-....)	
		E-mail address	
	Legal representative of the company/organization	Name, Surname	
		Position	
1.3	Please indicate if you are [select the most appropriate response]: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ infrastructure manager: YES/NO ➤ rail passenger operator, including urban: YES/NO ➤ rail freight operator: YES/NO ➤ rolling stock manufacturer: YES/NO ➤ signaling systems' manufacturer: YES/NO ➤ infrastructure manufacturer: YES/NO ➤ ICT solutions provider: YES/NO ➤ SME: YES/NO ➤ University: YES/NO ➤ Research and Technology Organization: YES/NO ➤ Other (please specify): 		
1.4.	Please also indicate if you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Beneficiary of the EU-Rail's Call for Proposals 2022-1: YES/NO ➤ Beneficiary of the EU-Rail's Call for Proposals 2022-2: YES/NO 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Beneficiary of the EU-Rail’s Call for Proposals 2023: YES/NO ➤ Beneficiary of the EU-Rail’s Call for Proposals 2024: YES/NO
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- 2. Criterion C1: Additional/complementary competences and capabilities:**
1. *Added value of competences and capabilities of the applicant to significantly contribute to the EU-Rail’s integrated programme and its objectives, as defined in the Master Plan (MP), and extending the EU-rail’s membership geographical coverage.*
 2. *Relevance of applicant’s proposed R&I strategy and disruptive technologies able to address the new/enlarged identified R&I areas in the updated EU-Rail’s Multi-Annual Work Plan (MAWP).*
 3. *Ability of the applicant to reach sufficient TRL and industrial readiness to ensure that the market applicability of successful R&I output by the end of the integrated Programme.*
 4. *Ability of the applicant to develop and integrate technologies from non-rail sectors (such as but not limited to digital, artificial intelligence, communication, etc.) into the EU-Rail’s programme.*
 5. *Documented knowledge, experience, track record of the applicant, proof of R&I and engineering capabilities and resources in Europe with clear evidence of European exploitation and contribution to EU competitiveness and in performing impactful R&I relevant to EU-Rail’s objectives (as noted in terms of previous or ongoing R&I, its demonstrated innovation potential and impact).*

Guidance for preparing the application in relation to the above-mentioned assessment criterion including the sections to be addressed:

Section 1.1: Added value of competences and capabilities of the applicant to significantly contribute to the EU-Rail’s programme and objectives, and extending the EU-rail’s membership geographical coverage

Please describe which are your organization’s key competences/capabilities and how they may contribute to the Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking programme and its objectives, as defined in the MP. Please also describe how your organization can contribute to the extension of the European geographical coverage of the current EU-Rail membership to contribute to the effective functioning of the Single European Rail Area and market outreach.

Section 1.2: Relevance of applicant’s proposed R&I strategy and disruptive technologies able to address the new/enlarged identified areas in the updated MAWP

Please provide a description and explain the relevance of your organization proposed R&I strategy and disruptive technologies with respect to the EU-Rail’s specific new/enlarged R&I areas described in the update of the MAWP (v.3.0) to be implemented in view of the second and third wave of Flagship Projects. Please refer to the table titled “MAWP v3.0 updates, main additional elements” that can be found in the related published MAWP update: <https://rail-research.europa.eu/about-europes-rail/europes-rail-reference-documents/europes-rail-key-documents/>

Please explain specifically (and quantify where possible) the envisaged contributions and benefits of the proposed R&I strategy and activities and technologies/systems/

Section 1.3.: Ability of the applicant to reach sufficient TRL and industrial readiness to ensure that the market applicability of successful R&I output by the end of the integrated Programme

Please describe your organization’s ability to mature technologies, systems, sub-systems, concepts and/or major innovations supporting the launch of disruptive new products and services by 2031.

Section 1.4.: Ability of the applicant to develop and integrate technologies from non-rail sectors (such as but not limited to digital, artificial intelligence, communication, etc.) into the EU-Rail’s programme

Please describe your organization’s ability to develop and integrate technologies from non-rail sectors (such as but not limited to artificial intelligence, communication, etc.) needed to complement the traditional rail domain to ensure the implementation of the EU-Rail’s updated MAWP and achievement of its objectives.

Section 1.5.: Documented knowledge, experience, track record of the applicant, proof of R&I and engineering capabilities and resources in Europe with a clear evidence of European exploitation and contribution to EU competitiveness and in performing impactful R&I relevant to the EU-Rail’s objectives

Please provide evidence of your organization’s track record in managing and performing complex and impactful European R&I projects e.g., by detailing the impact of previous/on-going projects or the innovation potential of R&I activities performed, which are relevant to the EU-Rail’s programme and its objectives.

3. Criterion C2: Financial soundness and additional in-kind commitments

- 1. Financial soundness of the applicants** (operational capacity based on typology/size of applicant, financial information, balance sheets etc).
- 2. Applicant's ability to commit long-term financial and in-kind contribution (IKOP and IKAA)¹ to EU-Rail, leverage ratio² of the proposed contributions and relevant additional investments, ability to bring synergies between EU-Rail's programme and other programmes based on:**
 - a. description and estimates of IKOP and IKAA made by the applicant as stated in the application and with EU-Rail**
 - b. typology and size of the applicant and**
 - c. applicant's relevant private investments and/or R&I activities planned/funded under EU/national/regional programmes that are relevant to EU-Rail and its objectives** (such as but not limited to other parts of Horizon Europe including other EU Partnerships, National Recovery and Resilience Plans/NRRPs or regional Operational Programmes) **contributing to the EU-Rail's updated MAWP.**

Guidance for preparing the application in relation to the above-mentioned assessment criterion including the sections to be addressed:

Section 2.1.: Financial soundness of the applicants

Please provide evidence of the financial soundness of your organization (such as but not limited to the financial accounts of the last 2 years), allowing a verification of the proposed financial and in-kind contribution to the EU-Rail's programme.

Section 2.2: Applicant's long-term commitment for financial and in-kind contribution (IKOP and IKAA) to EU-Rail

Please explain your long-term³ commitment for financial (indicatively 5% of the total expected Associated Member's contribution) and in-kind contribution (IKOP and IKAA) to EU-Rail and the leverage ratio of the proposed contributions (in order to support a leverage factor of no less than the ratio between the contribution from members other than the Union and the Union financial contribution, as on the basis of Articles 88 and 89 of Council Regulation (EU) 2021/2085); and please describe your capability to establish and foster synergies between EU-Rail's programme and other programmes e.g. by highlighting the envisaged synergies with other existing R&I programmes and initiatives at European, national and/or regional level. In particular:

Sub-Section 2.2.1.: Description and estimates of IKOP and IKAA made by the

¹ For more information, please consult Article 2 (Definitions), Article 11 (Contributions from members other than the Union and contributing partners) and Article 90 (Scope of additional activities) of the SBA Regulation

² Leverage ratio = (estimated private investments) / (targeted EU funding)

³ Over Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking programme duration (until 2031)

applicant as stated in the application and with EU-Rail

Please detail the estimated overall level of in-kind contribution that your organization plans to bring to Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking over the programme duration (until 2031). Please provide the following details of the estimates of total in-kind contributions and describe the in-kind contributions to operational activities (IKOP), as well as the those to additional activities (IKAA).

Total in kind contributions ⁴ (EUR) (sum of IKOP and IKAA)	Total IKOP ⁵ (EUR)	Total IKAA ⁶ (EUR)

*Please provide an indicative amount of the IKOP based on your participation to date or estimated participation in EU-Rail's call for proposals, by detailing the estimated amount per technical areas of expected contribution (reference should be made to the MAWP). Please fill out the table of estimated IKOP (below, see **Sub-Section 2.2.3**).*

*Please provide an indicative list and amount of IKAA, by detailing IKAA amount per technical areas of expected contribution (reference should be made to the MAWP). Please fill out the table of estimated IKAA (below, see **Sub-Section 2.2.3**).*

*(Optional) Please describe additional commitments, if any. Please fill out the table of estimated additional commitments (below, see **Sub-Section 2.2.3**).*

Sub-Section 2.2.2.: Typology and size of the applicant

Please specify the typology and the size of your organization (e.g., infrastructure manager, rail passenger operator (including urban), rail freight operator, rolling stock manufacturer, signaling systems' manufacturer, infrastructure manufacturer, ICT solutions provider, SME, University, Research and Technology Organization, etc.) and number of employees, researchers etc.).

⁴ The candidate Member's indicative overall in-kind contribution to the EU-Rail.

⁵ Pursuant to Article 2(8) of the SBA, in-kind contributions to operational activities' means contributions by Private Members, constituent entities, or the affiliated entities of either, by international organisations and by contributing partners, consisting of the eligible costs incurred by them in implementing indirect actions less the contribution of that Joint Undertaking and of the participating states of that joint undertaking to those costs. Estimate to be based on the applicable Horizon Europe funding rates for Innovation Actions, i.e., 70% direct costs + 25% indirect costs, and 100% direct costs + 25% indirect costs for non-profit entities. To consider that Members are expected to significantly contribute to Flagship Project, where the funding rate is reduced in accordance with the SBA, and the last call for Flagship Project entailed a funding rate of 60% at project level.

⁶ Pursuant to Article 2(10) of the SBA in-kind contributions to additional activities' means contributions by the Private Members, constituent entities, or the affiliated entities of either, and by international organisations, consisting of the costs incurred by them in implementing additional activities less any contribution to those costs from the Union and from the participating states of that Joint Undertaking. The candidate Member's indicative overall in-kind contribution to additional activities to the EU-Rail. A high-level description is needed at this stage while more information will be required in case of selection under the "Additional Activities Plan" that will be annexed to the EU-Rail Work Programme as approved by the Governing Board.

Sub-Section 2.2.3.: Applicant’s relevant private investments and/or R&I activities planned/funded under EU/national/regional programmes contributing to EU-Rail objectives and contributing to its MAWP

Please specify your organization’s private investments and overall R&I activities targeted (or funded and on-going), under EU/national/regional programmes (such as but not limited to other parts of Horizon Europe including EU Partnerships, National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs) or regional Operational Programmes) contributing to EU-Rail’s MAWP. Please fill out the table of estimated IKOP and the table of estimated IKAA (below) with the requested information.

Table of estimated IKOP

Technical area	Operational Activity	Contribution in-kind [EUR]	Funding source (Specify whether from private investment or from synergy with EU/National/Regional programme. In the latter case provide more details about the funding programme(s) under which the R&I activities are/were funded (e.g., under other parts of Horizon Europe including EU Partnerships, National Recovery and Resilience Plans/NRRPs or regional Operational Programmes, size of the grant received, etc.).	Relevant MAWP research activity and Flagship Area
<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>
...
...
...
	TOTAL	XXX		

Table of estimated IKAA

Technical area	Additional Activity	Contribution in-kind [EUR]	Funding source (Specify whether from private investment or from synergy with EU/National/Regional programme. In the latter case provide more details about the funding programme(s) under which the R&I activities are/were funded (e.g., under other parts of Horizon Europe including EU Partnerships, National Recovery and Resilience Plans/NRRPs or regional Operational Programmes, size of the grant received, etc.).	Relevant MAWP research activity and Flagship Area
<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>
...
...
...
	TOTAL	XXX		

Table of estimated additional commitments (Optional)

Technical area	Additional Commitment	Contribution [EUR]	Further details on the additional commitment	Relevant MAWP research activity and Flagship Area
<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>	<i>[To be completed]</i>
...
...

...
	TOTAL	<i>XXX</i>		