Dear Member Representative,

We want to inform you about 2 important matters related to the current ECSEL Calls 2020:

1/ <u>Corona impact on evaluation thresholds at PO phase</u>

Due to the challenging circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governing Board of ECSEL JU has decided on measures to minimize its impact on stage 1 (PO stage) of the ECSEL IA and RIA calls 2020.
Consequently, the evaluation of the proposals submitted to stage 1 will be performed without thresholds: the thresholds are set to zero (both for the individual criteria and the overall threshold).
The evaluation process will be conducted by experts applying the usual procedures, with the exception that there will be no thresholds.
Therefore, there will be no selection (no proposal rejected) due to the thresholds at the stage 1.
However, ALL the eligibility and admissibility requirements remain unchanged as described in the ECSEL JU Work Plan 2020.
The purpose of this exceptional measure is solely to mitigate the lockdown side effects for applicants who have restricted/no access to information/data necessary to prepare the proposals, while ensuring a minimum disruption in the overall calls workflow. At the same time, the information in the POs will be very relevant for the national authorities, whereas the scoring from the experts will be useful for the consortia in preparing their full project proposals (FPPs).

For more information please visit https://www.ecsel.eu/news/important-calls-2020-updates

2/ <u>Impact of the new Financial Regulation of the European Commission</u>

With the adoption of new Financial Rules by the ECSEL JU (as imposed by the European Commission) for the 2020 Calls of ECSEL, non-members in project consortia cannot be asked anymore to sign a Declaration of Acceptance (DoA) to pay the variable fees which contribute to the JU administrative costs.

As a consequence, non-members in a consortium can only be asked to become a member of one of the three stakeholders associations, AENEAS, ARTEMISIA and EPoSS, for the projects from the Calls 2020.

Please be aware that the C-members have to cover the variable fees for the project participants in a consortium that are non-members.

It is highly recommended that non-members are invited to become a member of one of the three associations as soon as possible during the preparation phase of a consortium, and preferably before the Full Project Proposal is submitted.

A Model PCA for ECSEL projects is now available on the websites of the associations in two versions: one for the Calls 2019 and before, and one for the Calls 2020 in which the DoA is not mentioned anymore. The model can be used as a template for the project PCA to be adapted to the needs of each project.

Please note that for the Calls 2019 and before DoA's are still allowed.

Wishing you success in submitting proposals in ECSEL 2020 Calls.

Best regards

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Director General
AENEAS

Jan Lohstroh
Secretary General
ARTEMISIA

Wofgang Gessner
Director
EPoSS e.V.

AENEAS is an Association, established in 2006, providing unparalleled networking opportunities, policy influence & supported access to funding to all types of RD&I participants in the field of micro and nanoelectronics enabled components and systems. See https://aeneas-office.org

ARTEMIS Industry Association strives for a leading position of Europe in Embedded Intelligence. The multidisciplinary nature of the membership provides an excellent network for the exchange of technology ideas, cross-domain fertilisation, as well as for large innovation initiatives. See https://artemis-ia.eu

EPoSS, the European Technology Platform on Smart Systems Integration, is an industry-driven policy initiative, defining R&D and innovation needs as well as policy requirements related to Smart Systems Integration and integrated Micro- and Nanosystems. See www.smart-systems-integration.org