



Clarification Note #2

EUSPA internal reference – WFID: 307914

Cassini Challenges Prize Contest

Question #36: As I understand, it is possible to apply for multiple tracks (Idea, Prototype, Product). However, can I as a startup submit multiple applications for a single track? E.g. three ideas under separate applications of Idea A, Idea B, Idea C.

Answer #36: According to the Terms of Reference, there are no limits for the number of applications that can be submitted per each Track. According to Section 2.3, applicants can participate in the contest by presenting an idea, or a prototype, or a product, depending on the maturity of the technology at the time of the submission

Question #37: Can our company submit an application to all three tracks and/or submit multiple applications to a single track (e.g. two Idea applications).

Answer #37: Please refer to answer #36.

Question #38: The submission format of the challenge does not support images to further clarify the text introduced within each section. Is this expected to change? Will participants be able to illustrate their submission?

Answer #38: Applicants can use the video to provide visual explanations as needed.

Question #39: Our team includes one natural person, one legal entity, and two university members. Will they be recognized as part of a private entity? We were wondering if each of us needs to sign a separate “Legal Entity Form.” If so, how should we attach all three forms, as the submission format only appears to accept a single document?

Answer #39: As per Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference, participation in the contest is open to individuals or teams composed by legal entities and/or natural persons. A team member can therefore be either a legal entity or a natural person. As per Section 2.6, the applicant must provide *“one [Legal Entity Form] per each team member participating in the contest. If the team member is a legal entity (i.e. companies), then only LEF for the legal entity (company) applying to the contest shall be submitted- no separate natural person LEF for the company’s employees are needed.”*

Applicants can put all required forms into a single document (e.g. pdf) and submit that document.

Question #40: Can I enter the contest on my own or I need a team of various people to participate?

Answer #40: As per Section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference, participation in the contest is also open to individuals.



Question #41: I would like to participate on the mentor's side rather than the participants side of the hackathon. Is there a separate process for this?

Answer #41: CASSINI Challenges is not a hackathon and there are no mentors.

Question #42: Can you please clarify if weather forecasting fits in one of the themes: *Solutions contributing to the competitiveness of the European Space industry in the field of satellite navigation, Earth observation, secure SATCOM or space surveillance and tracking.* Could you elaborate?

Answer #42: The scope of the contest is defined in the Terms of Reference and it is up to the applicant to demonstrate how their solution contributes to the competitiveness of the European Space industry in the defined fields.

Question #43: Can a Colombia national participate to the contest?.

Answer #43: Please refer to Section 2.4 for the eligibility criteria and the conditions for the participation of non-EU economic operators:

“For solutions that contribute to the competitiveness of the European Space Industry in the field of satellite navigation, Earth observation, satellite communication or space surveillance and tracking with no prevalence of Galileo component/satellite navigation or Copernicus component/earth observation, participation is further open to economic operators (natural and legal persons) established in:

- *non-EU countries associated to the Horizon Europe (list of associated countries can be found here: [list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#));or*
- *countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement provided that the agreement applies before the award.”*

Question #44: What is the expected content of the video? Does it also have to include a corporate pitch on the company? More generally, should we consider the video as a summary of the application form or a complementary element to it?

Answer #44: There are no requirements specified for the video content. It can overlap with the contents of the application form or complement it as the applicants see fit.

Question #45: We understand that you cannot reply to questions in an one-to-one basis. Do we nevertheless have to wait for 18.11.2024 for the publication of the answers to our questions about the Prototype track, or do you consider providing answers to earlier point?

Answer #45: Answers to applicants' questions are collected and published periodically. See [Clarification note #1](#) on the CASSINI Challenges website for answers to earlier questions.



Question #46: Could you clarify what EUSPA expects in terms of content and format? For instance:

- Should it be a single-person presentation, or can multiple team members participate?
- Would it be beneficial to include visuals such as images, graphics, or simulations?
- Is there a specific format or style you recommend, like a direct explanation or a more visually engaging approach?

Answer #46: There are no requirements for the video content, format or style.

Question #47: We have a question regarding the section titled "To be filled by each Participant individually and by each member in case of a team application" in the document Annex II: Template Declaration of Honour. In the case of this submission by our company, should each employee/collaborator individually complete this section of the form, or would it suffice for the company representative (myself, as the CEO of the company) to complete it on behalf of the company or should it be skipped?

Answer #47: Section 2.6 of the Terms of Reference states, *"If the team member is a legal entity (i.e. companies), then only DoH for the legal entity (company) applying to the contest shall be submitted - no separate natural person DoH for the company's employees are needed."*

Question #48: We're unsure whether the Prototype or Product track would be the more appropriate fit for us. Could you help clarify the key differences between the Prototype and Product tracks, particularly regarding the expected commercial traction?

Answer #48: It is up to the applicant to determine which track their solution falls into based on the defined TRL levels and descriptions of the tracks in Section 2.3 of the Terms of Reference.

Question #49: The development of our product was partially funded from ESA BIC. Is it possible to join the contest with technology that was partially funded by ESA BIC?

Answer #49: Yes. According to the Terms of Reference section 2.5 Exclusion Criteria, the contest is not open to beneficiaries of other European Union funding for the same action. ESA BIC funding does not fall under this exclusion criterion.

Question #50: Are there minimum or maximum characters or pages to write in the application form?

Answer #50: As the application form is split into separate sections of the online platform, a page limit is not applicable. However, the sections of the online application form have character limits set.

Question #51: We are a team of academics and students who are in the process of creating a spin off. Can we apply as "individuals" and transfer to the company when it exists?

Answer #51: The team will be evaluated as submitted in the application form.



Question #52: Are only upstream solutions, or also downstream solutions eligible?

Answer #52: Teams are welcome to propose upstream as well as downstream solutions.

Question #53: In comparison to other years, this year has new technology fields (e.g. satellite communication). Does this mean that solutions related to for example health, sustainability are not eligible as technology fields?

Answer #53: The Terms of Reference specify the technology fields of the solution, not of the challenge. According to Section 2.2,

“Applicants are requested to identify a pressing commercial, social or environmental challenge on Earth and propose an innovative solution which should:

o Address the challenge identified using space technology in the fields of satellite navigation, Earth observation, satellite communication or space surveillance and tracking; ...”.

Question #54: Is it possible to apply for Prototype track and later apply for Product track with the same solution, if this solution is developed heavily in between both application deadlines?

Answer #54: yes, on the understanding that the product application would have to demonstrate the progress made since prototype in terms of technology readiness as well as commercial advancement to justify the solution as a product.

Question #55: Is diversity reduced to gender diversity or does it encompass age, nationalities, languages communities or socio-eco background?

Answer #55: Diversity is not limited to gender diversity and is understood in the broader sense of the term.

Question #56: Regarding the team, do we really spell out all the team members ? Or just founders or those working on the project?

Answer #56: In case of a very large team, applicants can mention in detail the key personnel involved in the project, i.e. founders, team leaders and specialists, and note the entire team is larger.

Question #57: If we are a UK entity, can we only apply if our prototype is EO service?

Answer #57: See section 2.4 of the Terms of Reference on the eligibility criteria of non-EU entities.

Question #58: Kindly comment on potential eligibility of a downstream solution: A solution that heavily relies on satnav to optimize urban public transport efficiency and thus solve the challenge of social mobility for those people who cannot drive?



Answer #58: Section 2.2 of the Terms of Reference specifies the challenge and the technology fields of the proposed solutions.

Question #59: Is there a single winner or several winners?

Answer #59: As per Section 2.6 of the Terms of Reference, 15 teams will be awarded in the Idea track, 10 teams in the Prototype track and 7 teams in the Product track.

Question #60: Is there an example video from a previous year's winner to see what the expectations could be?

Answer #60: It is not allowed to disclose information from previous years' applications.

Question #61: Is there a similar competition for products as opposed to prototypes?

Answer #61: Applicants can participate in the contest by presenting an idea, or a prototype, or a product. Please see Section 2.3 of the Terms of Reference for details.

Question #62: How many teams applied for the prototype track last year?

Answer #62: It is not possible to disclose this information.

Question #63: If the team has one person only, does it have less points already on the "Diversity" criteria? Or do you also take into account the plan to handle diversity and inclusion in the case of moving forward with commercializing the solution and building a team?

Answer #63: As stated in section 2.8 of the Terms of Reference, the award criteria consider how the applicant addresses diversity.

Question #63: Are there updated ToR that include clarifications already made?

Answer #63: no and please see Answer #45.

Question #64: Are simulation verification sufficiently high for a prototype (especially for more complex system that are expensive to manufacture at such an early stage)?

Answer #64: Please see Section 2.3 of the Terms of Reference for descriptions of the tracks including expected TRL.

Question #65: Are dual use cases also accepted in Cassini? Are there special considerations to keep in mind?



Answer #65: As stated and further detailed in Section 2.2 of the Terms of Reference, in the Cassini Challenges prize contest applicants are requested to identify a pressing commercial, social or environmental challenge on Earth and propose an innovative solution using space technology.

Question #66: To confirm, does the prototype have to use specifically data from EU programmes? Or can it be combined with data from other agencies programmes?

Answer #66: Section 2.2 of the Terms of Reference specifies that the solution should

“Address the challenge identified using space technology in the fields of satellite navigation, Earth observation, satellite communication or space surveillance and tracking; and o Contribute to the EU competitiveness and innovation of the EU Space Industry”

Question #67: Can you participate to prototype track with a prototype solution if you also have other more mature products in the portfolio?

Answer #67: Applicants are evaluated on the submitted solution and not on other solutions in the company portfolio.

Question #68: Can a company propose a prototype submission and also participate as partner in a product submission? (different products/sector)

Answer #68: Yes, provided that the Eligibility Criteria set under section 2.4 of the published Terms of Reference are complied with.

Question #69: If our product and the prototype have the same type of solution but for different domains, are we allowed to apply for both?

Answer #69: Please see Answer #37. Applications must of course be different.

Question #70: "cassini_challenges_2024_application_form_prototype.docx" does not seem to mention page/words limit. Is there any?

Answer #70: Please see Answer #50.

Question #71: If we are not certain if we can manage to finish the prototype in time for application/interview, can we apply to the idea track, and can we present the (unfinished) prototype/proof of concept there?

Answer #71: Solutions are evaluated as submitted by the deadline set under the Terms of Reference.

Question #72: If we ship a substantial feature after the submission deadline, how can we update our application?



Answer #72: Applicants can modify their submissions only until the submission deadline.

Question #73: Can you please give a brief example of TRL 4 - 7? And if there are potential customers expected and on what maturity?

Answer #73: Section 2.3 of the Terms of Reference relates to the definition of TRLs. As stated in the Award criteria, maturity of the solution, which includes commercial progress, is considered for the evaluation.

Question #74: Are only applications that change something e.g. in the satnav area allowed, or is it also allowed to apply with a solution that uses and exploits satnav?

Answer #74: As mentioned in Section 2.2 of the Terms of Reference, the solution should address an identified social, commercial or environmental challenge.

Question #75: Is it possible to keep working on the solution until the interview, or should we stop developing when we submit?

Answer #75: Please see answer #72.

Question #76: How do you select the experts for the evaluation? Can we apply for that position or is the expert pool already finalised?

Answer #76: The evaluation board is appointed according to internal processes and in line with the relevant provision under the Financial Regulation. It is not possible to apply.

Question #77: Is there any inconvenience if part of the prototype code is on a public repository, if the repository and code belong to the applicant?

Answer #77: The evaluation will be performed solely with regard to the application that is submitted through the platform and in line with the modalities explained in the Terms of Reference.

Question #78: Our prototype is not accessible via our website link, as it is installed directly at the pilot client. Do we put our site link anyway? If the data are confidential we cannot share too much.

Answer #78: Please refer to #77. The submitted video can be used to demonstrate the prototype.

Question #79: One of our startups is willing to apply for Cassini Challenge, however we are not sure about their eligibility. The company is incorporated in Turkey, and they plan to apply with a proposal that contributes to the competitiveness of the European Space Industry in the field of Earth observation, leveraging mostly on Sentinel-1 and 2 from Copernicus.

Answer #79: Please see Answer #43.



Question #80: Is there any way to add images to the submission answers? If not, should I defer those visuals for the video presentation?

Answer #80: Please see Answer #38.

Question #81: We are a startup building seaborne surveillance drone ships. We have build a prototype at TRL level 5 to 6. Currently, we are still using 4G mobile cellular network connectivity and GPS and we are planning to use satellite connectivity and Galileo. Are we still in the scope of the Cassini challenge prototype track and eligible to apply?

Answer #81: Please see Answers #64 and #66.

Question #82: Our company is currently marketing its MVP to the target-market. The MVP is not finalized yet and the money from CASSINI prize would be an important push to do that and secure the first sale. Could you please let us know if we are eligible?

Answer #82: Please refer to the Terms of Reference, which specify eligibility criteria and the scope of the contest and its tracks.

-End of document-