Aid programme Infrastructure Services - Call VII

The objective of the programme is to improve the quality of auxiliary innovation infrastructure services, which will increase the intensity of joint research, development and innovation activities among business entities and between the public and the business sector focused mainly on implementation of new technologies and competitive products and services.

SCHEDULE
Receipt of applications for support:

- 20. 03. 2020 – 30. 08. 2020

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

- Provision of services to innovative enterprises - Small and medium-sized enterprises: Science and technology parks, innovation centres and business incubators will, through their own experts or as intermediaries of verified external services, provide specialised consultancy services to incubated and other innovative SMEs.

- Operation of innovation infrastructure – in de minimis regime only. This means operation of an already built Science and Technology Park, a Business Incubator, an Innovation Centre.

- Expansion of innovation infrastructure spaces, acquisition of new equipment and improvement of capacities for joint use of technologies. This means activities expanding the already existing innovation infrastructure (STP/BI), however, any involved building works must not interfere with/change, jeopardize the binding indicator and the target activities of the original project.

- Construction of new shared innovation infrastructure in a region with demonstrated lack of suitable research or innovation infrastructure for business entities.

APPLICANT

- The applicant/beneficiary may be a small and medium-sized enterprise as defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU No 651/2014 or a large enterprise, which is a legal entity that acts as the owner/operator of the innovation infrastructure (science and technology park, innovation centre or business incubator) and its statutes explicitly state that it has been established for the purpose of supporting the intensity, quality and speed of spreading innovation and transferring technology into economic practice of the region with an emphasis on advanced (high-tech) technologies, or is a municipality or a research organisation or a research infrastructure and at the same time, as stipulated in the programme, will keep accounting or tax records expanded with special requirements, or keep separate accounts for the project.
• The applicant/beneficiary is authorised to conduct business corresponding to the supported economic activity which is to be carried out through the project;

• Based on its statutory declaration, it is registered as an income tax payer in any of the EU member states and has been so continuously for at least two closed tax periods preceding the date of submitting the application; the applicant notes that it will have to have an establishment or a branch established in the Czech Republic at the moment of receiving the aid; The applicant must have the branch registered, as of the first request for payment, in the Register of Licensed Trades.

• The applicant is not, based on its sworn declaration, in arrears to selected institutions in the country of its registration, or in the country where its branch is registered, and to providers of support from projects co-financed from the EU budget; Deferral of outstanding arrears or an agreement to pay the arrears shall be considered to constitute settled arrears.

• The applicant does not have any outstanding liabilities, according to its sworn declaration, based on its employees’ wage and salary claims.

• For supported activity (A) meets the definition of a research organisation or a research infrastructure under Chapter 1 (Scope of Application and Definitions), par. 1.3 (Definitions), letter (ee) and (ff) of Communication from the Commission (2014/C 198/01) on the Framework for State aid for Research and Development and Innovation.

• For supported activity (B) and for activities (C) and (D) in a regime not establishing State aid, meets the definition of a research organisation under Chapter 1 (Scope of Application and Definitions), par. 1.3 (Definitions), letter (ee) and (ff) of Communication from the Commission (2014/C 198/01) on the Framework for State aid for Research and Development and Innovation. The applicant/beneficiary must be on the list of research and knowledge dissemination organisations - see http://www.msmt.cz/vyzkum-a-vyvoj-2/seznamvyzkumnych-organizaci. The meeting of the definition of a research organisation under Chapter 1 (Scope of Application and Definitions), par. 1.3 (Definitions), letter (ee) and (ff) of Communication from the Commission (2014/C 198/01) on the Framework for State aid for Research and Development and Innovation will be verified for each specific entity with regard to the activities carried out.

• A demonstrative list of the types of supported legal forms: General partnership, Limited liability company, Limited partnership, Public limited company, Institution, Cooperative, State enterprise, National enterprise, Contributory organisation funded by a territorial self-governing unit, State statutory contributory organisation, Public-law institution, Higher education organisation (public, state), Public research institution, Chamber (economic, agrarian), Interest grouping of legal entities, Voluntary association of municipalities, Municipality, Region, European economic interest grouping, European company, European cooperative society, Branch of a foreign legal entity, Branch or a foreign legal form similar to the above where the applicant is a foreign entity.

SECTORAL DEFINITION

• The aid shall be provided to projects with outputs affecting the sectors defined in Annex 3 to the Supported CZ-NACE Categories.

• The aid shall not be provided to projects with outputs directly affecting any of the following sectors:
  o production, processing and marketing of products listed in part B of the Annex to this Call,
  o agriculture, forestry, fishing, aquaculture (CZ-NACE A 01, A 02, A03);

KEY CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

• The applicant must have ownership or other rights to the property and land plots where the project will be implemented and demonstrate such rights upon request.
The project must include all mandatory elements listed in the Call for its submission.

The project does not expect any aid for activities linked to the quantities exported (export subsidies), aid for the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad or for other current expenditure linked to the export activity (customs duties, insurance, etc.) or any aid contingent upon the use of domestic goods at the expense of imported goods and/or contingent upon the use of domestic services.

The project has not started before the date of filing the application.

Projects with total eligible expenditure at and over CZK 5 million and at the same time with investment expenditure that forms more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure will be required to carry out a Financial Analysis of the investment. Projects with total eligible expenditure at and over CZK 100 million and at the same time with investment expenditure that forms more than 50% of the total eligible expenditure will be required to carry out an economic analysis taking into account socio-economic impacts of the project based on a set code-book. More detailed information on the cost-benefit analysis is provided in the CBA – Applicant’s Manual.

The financial health of the applicant, expressed in a simplified economic assessment by the intermediate body, must not be lower than 5 points.

The project must not violate EU horizontal policies and their basic principles, in particular equal opportunities for men and women, equal opportunities and non-discrimination and sustainable development.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

Under activity (A), the eligible expenditure is:

- personnel costs associated with the provision of consultancy services to final recipients - innovative SMEs (by advisors and experts)
- purchase of external advisory services,
- marketing and publicity (maximum CZK 400 thousand per project),
- overhead costs (15% of the personnel costs under point 5.2a).

Under activities (B), (C) and (D), the eligible expenditure is:

- the expenditure related to the acquisition of tangible fixed assets, such as purchase of land, buildings, machinery and other equipment required to furnish the innovation infrastructure on condition that these assets can be depreciated (except for the land),
- expenditure on acquiring intangible fixed assets (acquisition of patents, licences and know-how not exceeding the typical price where the assessment must not be older than 3 months on the day of acquiring the assets; software etc.), the costs of acquiring intangible fixed assets are limited to 50% of the total eligible expenditure on the project
- operation costs, particularly the services of consultants, experts, studies, training, seminars, workshops, promotion, network non-storable supplies etc. (in the de minimis regime),
- the costs of mandatory project publicity are only eligible if they comply with the mandatory publicity rules determined by the Granting Authority (in the de minimis regime)
- project design documentation (in the de minimis regime)

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

Aid is provided through grants.

For activity (A),
• For activities (B), (C), (D), the grant is provided at
  o CZK 1-30 million for projects not involving construction works
  o CZK 5-200 million for projects involving construction works or up to CZK 300 million for projects that involve construction works and at the same time are implemented in economically problematic regions defined in Czech Government Resolution No 952/2013, within the meaning of Czech Government Resolution No 826/2015.

**AID INTENSITY - BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SOURCES**

• The aid intensity for activity (A) is
  o 75% of duly documented eligible expenditure in the case of final recipients (SMEs) - users of the advisory services
  o 100% of duly documented eligible expenditure in the case of beneficiaries who are the intermediaries of aid according to the Framework.

• The aid intensity for activities (B), (C), (D) is:
  o 50% of duly documented eligible expenditure
  o 75% of duly documented eligible expenditure pursuant to the Framework outside the State aid regime for beneficiaries who meet the conditions of points 19 and/or 20 of Communication from the Commission - Framework for State aid for research, development and innovation (2014/C 198/01), i.e. the aid must be used for non-economic activities of the research organisation or research infrastructure pursuant to item 19 of the Framework, or may be used for ancillary economic activities provided that all conditions of item 20 of the Framework are met.