

BUDGET	APPLICATION PERIOD
<p style="text-align: center;">1 300 000 000 €</p> <p>General auction: 600 000 000 € RFNBO and low-carbon H₂: 400 000 000 € Maritime & Aviation sector: 300 000 000 €</p> <p>Auction as a Service: additional funds for projects in these countries:</p> <p>Germany (general auction): 1 300 000 000 € Spain (general auction): 278 600 000 € Spain (maritime & aviation): 136 400 000 €</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">From 04 December 2025 to 19 February 2026 (17:00:00 CET)</p>
ELIGIBLE PERIOD	TYPE OF FUNDING
<p style="text-align: center;">Between 10 and 15 years from Grant Agreement signature</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grant</p>
OBJECTIVE	
<p>The objective of this topic is to support the production of renewable fuel of non-biological origin (RFNBO) hydrogen and/or electrolytic low-carbon hydrogen in Europe, as defined respectively in the Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2021 and its Delegated Acts, and in the Hydrogen and Gas Market Directive 2024/178824 and its Delegated Acts. The produced hydrogen can be sold to any off-taker or self-consumed or stored.</p> <p>The call is divided in 3 topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO hydrogen production (default call). ○ Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO and/or electrolytic low-carbon hydrogen production. ○ Fixed Premium Auction for RFNBO and/or electrolytic low-carbon hydrogen production for the maritime and aviation sectors (at least 60% of their expected total production needs to be supplied to offtakers belonging to these sectors). <p><u>Auction conditions</u></p> <p>This call is awarded based on a competitive bidding procedure (auction). Proposals will be evaluated (within their respective topic) according to the following cascade:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proposals will be first ranked according to their bid price, from the lowest to highest. ○ Those proposals whose maximum grant amounts fit within the topic budget and the budget from national funding windows, and the proposals necessary to fill the reserve list (if any) will be assessed against the award criteria of 'Relevance' and 'Quality', on a pass/fail basis. ○ Remaining proposals will be rejected. They will not be evaluated against the 'Relevance' and 'Quality' award criteria. <p><u>National funding windows ('auctions as a service')</u></p> <p>Projects that pass the evaluation for the Innovation Fund auction grant but cannot be funded because they exceed the budget ceiling, may benefit from national funding, if the project is located in a country with a national funding window, if it complies with Member State specific funding conditions and if it has consented to be considered for national funding.</p>	

BENEFICIARIES AND CONDITIONS

Applicants must be **legal entities (public or private bodies)** established in any country in the world. Projects can be carried out by individual entities or a consortium of several applicants.

The projects must be **located in EU Member States or EEA countries** (i.e. Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein). In addition, the projects must:

- **Reach financial close within 2.5 years** after grant signature.
- **Enter into operation within 5 years** after grant signature.
- **Operate for a maximum of 10 years**, unless the total volume committed to in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement is reached earlier, due to the production flexibility rules.

FUNDING CHARACTERISTICS

The grant will be a **unit grant**. This means that it will reimburse a fixed amount per unit, based on unit contributions, corresponding to the **fixed premium per unit of production of the final product as stated in the bid ('pay as bid')**.

Project budgets (requested grant amount) must be calculated using the calculator provided in the 'financial information file' (Innovation Fund template) and respect the following conditions:

- Project budget:

$$\left[\text{Bid price in } \frac{\text{€}}{\text{kg}} \right] * \left[\text{expected average yearly volume of production in } \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{year}} \right] * [10]$$

- Only bids that do not exceed bid prices of **EUR 4.00/kg** of hydrogen produced will be eligible.
- A completion guarantee covering 8% of the requested maximum grant amount will be required to avoid speculative bids.

There is no pre-financing payment. There will be one or more interim payments:

- Reporting Period 1, after:
 - Financial close, within a maximum of 2.5 years (end of WP 1: 3 months after planned financial close date) — no payment.
 - Entry into operation, within a maximum of 5 years (end of WP 2: 3 months after planned entry into operation date) — no payment.
 - First 6 months of operation (end of WP3) – first interim payment
- Reporting Periods 2 -20: semi-annual payments after entry into operation (WP 4 to 22).

ELIGIBLE COSTS

The activities that can be funded are the **installation of new, additional, RFNBO and/or low-carbon electrolytic hydrogen production capacity** (i.e. hydrogen production capacity for which at the time of the grant application the start of works did not yet take place) as well as the **verified and certified production of hydrogen from those installations** (in kg of produced volume) for a period of **up to 10 years**.

Project requirements

- The bid price per unit is expected to cover the premium required by the producer, i.e. the difference between the expected revenues from the sale of one unit and the unit's levelized cost. (i.e. elements like production, sale, transport and storage can be priced into the bid).
- The installed capacity of the electrolyser must be **at least 5 MWe** and must be in a **single location** (virtual pooling is not permitted).
- At least 75% of the electrolysers included in the project must originate in a country different than China.
- Projects must comply with the cybersecurity and data security criteria as stated in Article 5 (a) to (d) and Article 16 of Implementing Regulation 2025/11761.
- Projects must comply with the DNSH Technical Screening Criteria (TSCs) set out in the Climate Delegated Act Regulation (EU) 2021/2139 for the Manufacture of Hydrogen during the entire implementation period.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- The proposals will follow the standard submission and evaluation procedure (one-stage submission. The **award criteria** for this call are as follows:
 - **Relevance (Pass/Fail)**: Contribution to the objectives of the call; consistency, quality, soundness and reliability of the information provided in the proposal. Subcriteria:
 - Production of RFNBO and/or electrolytic low carbon hydrogen.
 - Achieving security of supply of essential goods and contribution to Europe's industrial leadership and competitiveness.
 - **Quality (Pass/Fail)**: Technical and financial maturity and operational quality, in terms of the project's readiness to reach financial close within 2.5 years and enter into operation within 5 years after signature of grant agreement; consistency, quality, soundness and reliability of the information provided in the proposal. Subcriteria:
 - Technical maturity.
 - Financial maturity.
 - Operational maturity.
 - **Price**: Bid price in EUR per kg to be expressed with two digits after the comma.
- A **completion guarantee** letter of intent is needed at proposal submission for all projects, as well as a completion guarantee **covering 8% of the requested maximum grant** amount for projects invited to Grant Agreement preparation.
- **Open and competitive calls.**
- **Incentive effect.** For the capacity to which the bid refers, the works must not have started by the time of submission of this application
- **This sheet is merely informative and, thus, does not gather all the information. Referring to the regulatory legislation is imperative.**