



Space Exchange Switzerland – Q&A¹

Q: Is the initial contract duration 1.5 years or 5 years?

A: The decision for the initial funding mandate will be for 5 years. However, the SERI will conclude annual performance agreements with the selected consortium. This allows both the stability needed to establish the SXS as well as to adapt the mandate to potentially changing needs over the years.

Q: Can you share the contractual conditions of the scientific NPOC? How does this fit into the allocated funding for SXS?

A: The mandate for the scientific NPOC is currently contracted with University of Zurich (Remote Sensing Laboratory RSL) who can be contacted in case of questions regarding the current NPOC mandate.

The indicative, minimum allocated funding of 700'000 CHF per year may include funding needed for the activities carried out under the mandate of the scientific NPOC. The indicative, maximum allocated funding of 1'000'000 CHF per year must include the funding needed for the activities carried out under the mandate for the scientific NPOC.

As per the call, it is the mandate of the SXS to coordinate its activities in the first half year of operations (S2/2021) and to work towards integration of the scientific NPOC under the SXS umbrella by 1.1.2022.

Q: What are the reporting requirements?

A: Reporting conditions are generally linked to payment milestones. This involves an activity as well as a financial report. These reports cover the objectives and results of the activities carried out under the mandate of the SXS for the designated period, as per the contract.

Q: Are there specific preferences regarding geographical distribution of consortia?

A: No. SERI expects that consortia or bidding entities can demonstrate an appropriate, viable and reasonable geographical distribution of activities of the SXS mandate. This can include, but is not limited, to a concentration of each specific activity in one location (with different locations for different activities) or to distribute several activities over the same two or more locations. While there is no minimal share of activities per location, proposals showing signs of “pro forma” distribution of very minor (or non-core) activities as their means of achieving this objective will likely be rated less well than proposals showing a more balanced approach to this objective.

Q: Is the presentation of the outline proposal on 9 march public?

A: No. Based on the outlines submitted, applicants with good chances of success for a full application will be invited by SERI to present their proposal on 9 march and will have the opportunity to discuss their outline with SERI representatives alone.

Q: Will there be a homogenization of proposals?

A: At this stage, this can neither be confirmed nor excluded. Depending on the outline proposals received and their strengths and weaknesses, SERI might offer feedback which could eventually lead

¹ V1.0 as of 4 February 2021



to an implicit homogenization of proposals by means of different consortia deciding to cooperate on a common proposal. However this is neither a requirement nor an expectation of SERI.