



GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

CALL FOR PROPOSALS (CFP)

DIGITAL-JU-CHIPS-2026-SG-JAPAN

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION - JOINT CALL EU AND JAPAN ON SEMICONDUCTORS

Ref. Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027 – Appendix 8

Version 1.0
18/06/2026

Version	Date	Change	Page
V 1.0 ED 2026 363	01/07/2026	First version	

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1. CONTEXT

The Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027 describes in its Appendix 8, related to the initiative part of the JU's activities for 2026, the launch of a Call for International collaboration EU and Japan on semiconductors. Applicants are invited to consult the section **“5.5 International collaboration – Joint Call EU and Japan on semiconductors”** of the above-mentioned Appendix 8 (available in the Call Documents section on the call page). It contains all the relevant information for the preparation and submission of proposals to this call.

This document offers guidance for applicants to this call.

2. INTRODUCTION

This call for proposals is funded under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) as “Simple Grant” type of action.

The guide for applicants is structured on the following outline:

- background, objectives, scope and activities that can be funded as well as the expected results (chapter 3)
- timetable and available budget (chapters 4 and 5)
- admissibility and eligibility conditions (including mandatory documents; chapter 6 and 7)
- criteria for financial and operational capacity and exclusion (chapter 8)
- evaluation and award procedure (chapter 9)
- award criteria (chapter 10)
- legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements (chapter 11)
- how to submit an application (chapter 12)

3. CONTEXT, EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND SCOPE

The context, expected outcomes and scope for the proposals to be submitted to this call are described in Appendix 8 of the Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027 in the dedicated sub-sections: **5.5.1 Context, 5.5.2 Expected Outcomes, 5.5.3 Scope**

4. AVAILABLE BUDGET

The available budget and specific funding conditions are described in the Appendix 8 of the Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027:

- EU budget – section **“5.5 International collaboration EU and Japan on semiconductors”**
- National budgets **”4. National Budgets for the Chips for Europe Initiative Calls 2026”**.

5. TIMETABLE AND DEADLINES

Proposals must be submitted before the call **deadline 24 September 2026 at 17:00:00 Brussels time**.

6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

Proposals must be **submitted before the call deadline** (see above).

Proposals must be **submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System** (accessible in the Search Funding & Tenders section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals (including annexes and supporting documents) must be submitted using the **mandatory forms/templates provided inside the Submission System**. Failure to use the mandatory template will render the proposal inadmissible.

Proposals must be **complete and contain all the requested information and all required annexes and supporting documents**. All below mentioned parts are mandatory. Applicants must pay special attention to upload all the annexes in the portal as they are mandatory. **Caution:** the submission system does not check that all annexes have been uploaded and allows the proposal to be submitted without having all the annexes uploaded in the portal. Failure to submit all mandatory parts and annexes will render the proposal inadmissible

- **Application Form Part A** — contains administrative information about the participants (coordinator, beneficiaries and affiliated entities) and the summarised budget for the project. This form is filled in directly online. The submission tools run some high level automatic checks which are meant as a helping tool (validation) but the accuracy and validity of the information/data provided is the coordinator’s responsibility.

– **Application Form Part B** — contains the technical description of the proposal. The template (as word/.rtf file) of the Part B is available to be downloaded directly from the Portal Submission System after the draft proposal is created by the coordinator. The template must be completed with all the requested information (instructions are provided throughout the document on how to fill the different sections of the template). *Applicants are invited to pay particular attention to the page limits of each criterion as only the information within the page limits will be taken into account for the proposal evaluations (see more details on the page limits below).* When ready for submission the word file must be converted to pdf and upload it directly in the portal in the dedicated placeholder. Caution is advised as conversion word/pdf can render some parts (figures/tables/ images) not readable, which can impact the evaluation as the information not readable cannot be taken into account by the experts when evaluating the proposal.

In the Application Form Part B, following section is not applicable for this call
1.4 Financial obstacles

– **Ownership control declaration (mandatory annex)** — should contain the declaration of ownership control for each of participant (beneficiaries and affiliated entities, associated partners and subcontractors — except for entities that are validated as public bodies by the Central Validation Service). A mandatory Word template is provided in the system (“Ownership-control-declaration_en”). This template should be filled in and signed by each participant. All the declarations of ownership control from all participants should be merged into a single PDF file and uploaded in the portal. See [Guidance on participation in DEP, HE, EDF and CEF-DIG restricted calls](#) for more information.

– **National Budget Table (mandatory annex)** — contains information on the national budgets/national funding. The Excel template for the National Budgets Table can be downloaded with the other templates from the submission tool in the Funding and Tenders portal. The eligibility for the national funding is country specific and all the details are provided in the *Annex: Country specific eligibility rules applicable to the Chips for Europe Initiative calls 2026* of the Appendix 8 of the Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027.

The *maximum number of pages for this call* (see also section **5.5.4 Admissibility** of the Appendix 8 of the Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027) are as follows:

- The page limit for the chapter **RELEVANCE** is **20 pages**
- The page limit for the chapter **IMPLEMENTATION** + chapter **WORK PLAN, WORK PACKAGES, ACTIVITIES, RESOURCES AND TIMING** all together is **40 pages**.
- The page limit for the chapter **IMPACT** is **20 pages**.

More detailed information about the admissibility criteria is provided in the Appendix 8 of the Chips JU Work Programme 2023-2027 sub-section **5.5.4 Admissibility** and “Annex II: General Digital Europe Programme conditions”.

7. ELIGIBILITY

The eligibility conditions are described in the sub-section **5.5.5 Eligibility** and in “Annex II: General Digital Europe Programme conditions” of the WP General Annexes and is subjected to **specific eligibility conditions**. Noncompliance with these eligibility criteria may result in non-eligibility of the proposal. Additional information concerning the restricted participation can be found here: [Guidance on participation in EU calls with ownership and control restriction](#).

Caution: applicants are invited to also pay special attention to the **consortium size/composition and restricted participation** eligibility criterion.

8. FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY AND EXCLUSION

The financial and operational capacity and exclusion conditions are described in the sub-section **5.5.6 Financial and operational capacity and exclusion** and “Annex II: General Digital Europe Programme conditions” of the WP General Annexes. More information is also available here: [Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment](#)

9. EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

The evaluation and selection procedure are described in Appendix 8 of the Chips JU Work Programme in sub-section “**5.5.7. Evaluation procedure**”

10. AWARD CRITERIA

The award criteria are described in the sub-section “**5.5.8 Award criteria**”. For this call the scores will be given with a resolution of 1 decimal and the criterion “Impact” has a weighting factor of 1.5 which will be taken into account when establishing the ranking procedure.

11. LEGAL AND FINANCIAL SET-UP OF THE GRANT AGREEMENTS

After the completion of the evaluation procedure, the proposal(s) selected for funding by the Public Authorities Board (PAB) will be invited to the next step of the award process:

the grant agreement preparation. At this stage the coordinator (on behalf of the consortium) and the assigned Chips JU Project Officer will prepare and finalize the Grant Agreement.

This Grant Agreement sets the legal and financial framework for grant (its terms and conditions) , in particular concerning deliverables, reporting and payments.

[The Model Grant Agreement](#) and the [EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement](#), that will be used (and all other relevant templates and guidance documents) can be found on [Portal Reference Documents](#). The Annotated Grant Agreement contains detailed annotations on all the provisions in the Grant Agreement including cost eligibility, payment schedule, additional obligations, etc.

12. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

All proposals must be submitted directly online via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System. Paper applications are NOT accepted.

Submission is a **2-step process**:

a) **create a user account and register your organisation (if not yet done!)**

To use the Submission System (the only way to submit proposals), the participants need to [create an EU Login user account](#).

Once the EU Login account created, the applicants can go to the next step and [register their organisation](#) in the Participant Register (if not yet registered). When the registration is finalised, the applicants will receive a 9-digit participant identification code (PIC) with which the organisation can be added to the consortium.

b) **submit the proposal**

Access the Electronic Submission System via the Call page in the [Search Funding & Tenders](#) section.

Submit the proposal with all the mandatory parts by filling it the data directly in the portal (Part A), upload the various parts of the proposal in the dedicated place holders (screen shot below for reference).

Part B and Annexes

In this section you may upload the technical annex of the proposal (in PDF format only) and any other requested attachments. 

Part B *			Upload 
List of previous projects			Upload 
Ownership control declaration			Upload 
Other annexes			Upload 

Documents must be uploaded to the **right category (place holder)** in the Submission System otherwise the proposal might be considered incomplete and thus inadmissible.

The proposal must be submitted **before the call deadline** (see chapter 5). After the deadline, the system is closed and proposals can no longer be submitted. Proposals can be changed and re-submitted until the deadline for submission.

Once the proposal is submitted, the applicants will receive a **confirmation e-mail** (with date and time of submission). If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the Submission System, you should immediately file a complaint via the [IT Helpdesk webform](#), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Details on proposal submission process, procedures and steps are described in the [Online Manual](#). The Online Manual also contains the links to FAQs and detailed instructions regarding the Portal Electronic Exchange System.

13. HELP

The first source of information and help is the online manual and the FAQ section of the portal (links below).

– [Online Manual](#) presents in detail the procedures to register and submit proposals online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (‘Portal’). It also has recommendations for the general preparation of an application

- [Portal FAQ](#) (for general questions).

It is advised to consult the call page regularly as all the update/changes related to the call will be published there

Contact

For all IT questions related to the Portal Submission System, the applicants are advised to contact the [IT Helpdesk](#) as soon as possible after they encountered problems with the portal. In order to facilitate the handling of the case by the IT help desk team applicants are encouraged to describe the problem as clearly as possible and add screen shots with the error messages received.

For non-IT related questions applicants can contact the Chips Ju calls team: Calls@chips-ju.europa.eu, clearly referencing of the call to which the question relates (see cover page). Our office run multiple calls at the same time, with different funding mechanisms (HE, DEP), different conditions (eligibility, admissibility) therefore it is of outmost importance to know to which call the inquiry relates in order to provide timely help/answers to the applicants

14. IMPORTANT

- **Don't wait until the end** — Complete your application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last minute submissions (*e.g. congestion, etc*) will be entirely at your risk. Call deadlines CANNOT be extended.
- **Consult** the Call page regularly. Chips JU use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call and topic updates).
- **Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Exchange System** — By submitting the application, all participants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the [Portal Terms & Conditions](#).
- **Registration** — Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the [Participant Register](#). The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the Application Form.
- **Consortium roles** — When setting up your consortium, you should think of organisations that help you reach objectives and solve problems.
The roles should be attributed according to the level of participation in the project. Main participants should participate as **beneficiaries** or **affiliated entities**; other entities can participate as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions. **Associated partners** and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding).

- **Coordinator** — The proposals submitted to this call if funded will be multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator, who will take care of the project management and coordination and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities (i.e. entities linked to a beneficiary which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations as the beneficiaries, but do not sign the grant and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves). They also receive funding must therefore comply with all the call conditions and be validated (just like beneficiaries); but they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition.
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners (i.e. partner organisations which participate in the action but without the right to receive funding). They participate without funding and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For the Chips JU projects it is mandatory for the consortium to have a consortium agreement: the internal arrangements that allow the consortium to deal with IP protection and exceptional or unforeseen circumstances. The consortium agreement is expected to be in place when the grant agreement is signed.
- **Balanced project budget** — Grant applications must ensure a balanced project budget and sufficient other resources to implement the project successfully (*e.g. own contributions, income generated by the action, financial contributions from third parties, etc*). Applicants may be requested to lower the estimated costs, if they are ineligible (or deemed excessive).
- **Completed/ongoing projects** — Proposals for projects that have already been completed will be rejected; proposals for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in this case, no costs can be reimbursed for activities that took place before the project starting date/proposal submission).
- **No-profit rule** — The recipients of grants are not NOT allowed to generate profit.
- **No cumulation of funding/no double funding** — It is strictly prohibited to cumulate funding from the EU budget (except under 'EU Synergies actions'). Outside such Synergies actions, any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget and cost items may under NO circumstances be declared under two EU grants. If you would like to nonetheless benefit from different EU funding opportunities, projects must be designed as different actions, clearly delineated and separated for each grant (without overlaps).
- **Multiple proposals** — Applicants may submit more than one proposal for different projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).

Organisations may participate in several proposals.

BUT: if there are several proposals for very similar projects, only one application will be accepted and evaluated; the applicants will be asked to withdraw the others (or they will be rejected).

- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the call conditions set out in the documents mentioned above. Proposals that do not comply with all the call conditions

will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: All applicants need to fulfil the eligibility criteria; the one(s) who do not they must be replaced or the entire proposal will be rejected.

- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call. In this case, applicants will be informed via a call or topic update on the call page. Please note that cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#), information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the [Europa website](#).

This includes:

- o beneficiary names
- o beneficiary addresses
- o the purpose for which the grant was awarded
- o the maximum amount awarded.

The publication can exceptionally be waived (on reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that the disclosure could jeopardise applicants rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm their commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of a proposal under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with the applicable legal framework. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating your proposal, subsequent management of your grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication. Details are explained in the [Funding & Tenders Portal Privacy Statement](#).