Frequently Asked Questions

TALOS Open Call

Submission of applications starts: September 30, 2024
Submission deadline: December 3, 2024 at 15:00 Brussels Time

Executive Summary

Welcome to the TALOS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). The following information is intended to provide you with additional information about the TALOS Open Call. Please remember that this is a complementary document for the Guide for Applicants that you should read first.

The FAQ will be updated regularly based on the questions we receive during the open call application period.

If you cannot find the answer to your question here, you can post your questions in the Connected World Helpdesk in Discord. Here you can find out how to access the Community or tell us directly at: TALOS.help@fundigbox.com.

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1. General Questions related to the TALOS project

1.1. What organisations take part in the TALOS project?

The TALOS consortium is led by EDP NEW (EDP) and brings together a multidisciplinary team, composed by:

2. INESC TEC - Instituto De Engenhariade Sistemas E Computadores, Tecnologia E Ciencia (INESC)
3. Desarrollo De Tecnicas Para Astilleros SA (DTA)
4. SolarCleano S. A R. L. (SLC)
5. Fundingbox Accelerator sp z o.o. (FBA)
6. Fondazione ICONS (ICONS)
7. Isotrol SA (ISO)
8. Alisys digital SL (ALISYS)
9. Ingeteam Power Technology SA (IPT)
10. Stichting Wageningen Research (WR)
11. Ethniko Kentro Erevnas Kai Technologikis Anaptyxis (CERTH)
12. Edencore Technologies IKE (EDEN)
13. Geoponiko Panepistimion Athinon (AUA)

1.2. Where can I find more information about the project?

More information about TALOS is available in the following links:
- Project description on EC portal: https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101119744
- Main project website: https://talosproject.eu/about/
- Open Call website: https://talos-oc.fundingbox.com/

2. Questions related to TALOS Open Call

2.1. Who can apply?

We are looking for an individual Startups or SMEs registered in the following countries:
- [The Member States of the European Union](#) and its Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT)
- [Associated Countries (AC) to Horizon Europe](#)

The applicants who are subject to [EU restrictive measures](#) under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) are not eligible to participate in this open call.

The TALOS Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees, or permanent collaborators CANNOT be involved in the grantees' projects. They are not eligible to act as applicants in the TALOS Open Call.

2.2. What is the difference between SME and Startup?

An **SME** will be considered as such if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. As a summary, the criteria defining an SME are:

• Headcount in Annual Work Unit (AWU) less than 250;
• Annual turnover less or equal to €50 million OR annual balance sheet total less or equal to €43 million.

Note that the figures of partners and linked enterprises should also be considered as stated in the SME user guide. For detailed information check EU recommendation:

https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition_en

Startup refers to a tech-oriented SME that employs less than 10 people (but more than 2 full-time equivalent staff), that has operated for less than three years, and has attracted more than €50k early-stage private sector investment or has demonstrable sales growth over 50% pa.

2.3. How do I submit my application to TALOS Open Call?

Register or Log in to the FundingBox Platform. Click the 'APPLY NOW' button available through the TALOS microsite: https://talos-oc.fundingbox.com/.

Once you have filled out all required fields click SUBMIT.

2.4.   How long does it take to fill in the application?

To successfully fill in the application form, you will approximately need 1-2 days.
Specific character limits have been established in each section of the online application form. We encourage you to keep your proposal focused on the requested information.
We recommend you start the submission process well before the deadline to avoid last-minute circumstances. Please remember that we do not accept applications after the deadline.

2.5.   What is TRL?

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) are indicators of the maturity level of particular technologies. This measurement system provides a common understanding of technology status and addresses the entire innovation chain.
There are nine technology readiness levels; TRL 1 being the lowest and TRL 9 the highest. In our project, we refer to Annex B of the General Annexes for Horizon Europe Work Programme 2021-2022 for a full description of TRLs.

DEPLOYMENT	TRL9	Actual system proven in operational environment
	TRL8	System complete and qualified
	TRL7	System prototype demonstration in operational environment
DEVELOPMENT	TRL6	Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
	TRL5	Technology validated in relevant environment
	TRL4	Technology validated in lab
RESEARCH	TRL3	Experimental proof of concept
	TRL2	Technology concept formulated
	TRL1	Basic principles observed

Table 1 - TRLs

2.6.   What is included in the Application Form?

The applications submitted to this Open Call will include the following sections:
1. Basic information
2. Legal information
3. Challenge
4. (Scored) EXCELLENCE
5. (Scored) IMPACT

6. (Scored) IMPLEMENTATION
7. Statistical Section
8. Declaration of Honour - confirmation of the exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest to be accepted by the Applicants.
9. Processing of Personal Data - legal requirements related to the processing of the personal data of the Applicants (following the General Data Protection Regulation, EU 2016/679).

2.7.   Can one applicant submit two applications?

One applicant can submit a maximum of 3 proposals for different challenges in this Open Call, but only the one with the highest score can be funded by TALOS. Please note that only the application's last edit will be considered.

2.8.   What should I include in the budget proposal?

At the application stage the budget is not definitive, it will be completely defined during the first Stage of the Support Programme and included in the Individual Mentoring Plan.

Being TALOS a Horizon Europe project , the main cost categories to be included in the budget are:

- Personnel Costs
- Purchase costs (travel/ equipment/ other goods, work or services)
- Subcontracting Cost (below 15% of total costs)
- Overheads (25% of the sum of all other costs)

Please note that subcontracting is allowed but for small tasks and amounts. You can not subcontract a main task inside your project and it will be studied case by case when developing the Individual Mentoring Plan with the TALOS Mentors.

In the application it is only necessary to include a summary of the foreseen (estimated) costs.

See Annex of this document for examples of budgets for TALOS Support Programme

2.9.   What happens if I do not submit my application within the deadline?

We do not accept applications after the deadline. We strongly encourage you not to wait until the last minute to submit your proposal. Failure of meeting the submission deadline for any reason, including extenuating circumstances, will result in the rejection of the

proposal. Please make sure that in addition to filling in all sections, you submit the proposal by clicking the submit button at the end of the online form.

2.10.   Will I be able to modify my proposal after submission?

If you submit your application before the deadline (3rd December, 2024 at 15:00 Brussels Time), you can still edit it until the Open Call closes.

After 3rd December 2024 at 15:00 CET (Brussels Time) you will not be able to modify the submitted application.

2.11.   Can I apply if I have received FSTP grants from other projects before?

Yes, it is possible to apply if you received funding from other EU projects before. However no costs for the same activity can be funded twice from the EU budget. You cannot be awarded twice for the same project.

Thus, the only point that you should pay attention to if you are selected (funded) for multiple EU projects is the "no double funding" rule. "Double funding" means the situation where the same costs for the same activity are funded twice through the use of public funds. It is not allowed in any circumstances. That means that you have to be able to confirm that funding received from the TALOS project will not cover the same costs/tasks that were already funded by other EU projects (if you have received any).

2.12.   How to add contributors to the application form?

You can add contributors by entering the application form and clicking Add Contributor bottom.

This application was NOT submitted

Fill in all the required form sections to submit your application.

Status: Draft
Started 3 minutes ago by @pat.kul

⟳ Show history

+ Add a contributor

★ 1 Basic Information*   Fill

★ 2 Legal Information*   Fill

The invited person (contributor) has to register into the FBOX platform (https://spaces.fundingbox.com/signup). Once registered, he/she should go to the Open Call website:https://talos-oc.fundingbox.com/ and click the "Apply now" button. The started application will be there ready to be edited. Note that only sections that are saved will be visible to your contributors.

2.13.   Can I apply if I or my company is associated with the partners' of TALOS?

No, Applicants cannot be affiliated (directly or indirectly, for example through board members or third parties) to any of the consortium partners. They can't be consortium partner's employees nor board members.

If detected, the potential Conflict of Interest should be reported to the TALOS team and will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

2.14.   Can project partners help me with the proposal writing?

No, Project partners engaged in the TALOS consortium cannot directly or indirectly intervene in the writing of the applicant proposals.

2.15.   What is a Conflict of Interest?

Conflict of Interest may occur if there are capital or personal connections between two or more entities (Applicant, Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process), in particular, it should be understood as:

- **any ownership relations** - ownership of shares, financial links and economic connections – like joint venture, holding, joint participation, silent partner. E.g. Applicant entity owns shares in the Consortium partner company or Consortium partner company own shares in the Applicants company (it also refers to the Applicant partner/linked enterprises). As economic connection we can understand exclusive licence, sale agreements if they concern product or solution covered by your application;
- **family and personal relationships**, in particular: with marriage, kinship, a relationship of affinity to the second degree in a straight line or lateral line, adoption, custody or guardianship or actual life and other close personal ties binding the Applicant and Consortium partner or any person involved in the selection process (it refers also to employees, shareholders, members of the management body, members of the board, managers, subcontractors etc.) – e.g. person representing the Consortium partner company has family/personal relationship with any person representing the Applicant company;
- the existence of **material, especially financial** relationships (such as the receipt by a person involved in the selection process from Applicant any significant gifts, donations, future contracts or employment, etc;
- **relationships based on employment, cooperation or existing civil contract** between the Consortium partners and people involved in the Applicant structure, including managerial or supervisory functions, position in managing or supervising bodies. E.g. Director of the Consortium partner is in involved in the management bodies of an Applicant company; the Applicant employees involved in the Project are employed or contracted by the Consortium partner company;
- remaining in a **legal or factual relationship** that may give rise to justified doubts as to the impartiality of the people involved in the selection process (expert/evaluator/employee/member of the management bodies of any of the Consortium partners).

The reasons set forth above may result in a Conflict of Interest if they occur at the time of an action or have occurred in the past (during the last 3 years before the action starts). Time limits do not apply to family and personal relationships.

Remember that the concept of the Conflict of Interest should be understood widely, so if you have any doubts about the Conflict of Interest please consult it with our team.

All cases of Conflict of Interest will be assessed case by case.

3. Questions related to TALOS Evaluation Process

3.1. What happens after my application has been submitted?

The applicants will receive communication from the system indicating that their application has been submitted. Get in touch with us if it is not the case.

Right after the submission deadline on the 3rd of December 2024 at 15:00 Brussels Time, there will be a First Check to see if the applicants meet the eligibility criteria included in the 'Guide for Applicants'. See the [Guide for Applicants](#) for a complete description of the Evaluation Process.

3.2. Who are the Expert Evaluators?

Each proposal will be evaluated by three independent evaluators (2 External and 1 from Partners' Experts per proposal). The evaluators will be appointed by the Consortium and only Experts with appropriate background and knowledge in Energy, PV , AI and data will be selected.

3.3. What is the minimum score to pass the Experts Evaluation phase?

The thresholds needed to pass to the next stage are:
- For each criterion, the minimum threshold is 3 out of 5 points.
- For a total sum of three individual scores, the minimum threshold is 10 out of 15 points.

3.4. Will I need to present my project on Jury Day?

Yes, if your project is selected to be presented at the on-line Jury Day, you will receive an invitation to pitch your project to the TALOS Selection Committee.

3.5. What happens after the Jury Day?

At this stage, the Selection Committee will decide on the 'Provisional List of FSTP recipients', and 'Reserve List'. The results will be communicated to the candidates and those selected will proceed with Formal Check before signing the Sub-Grant Agreement with TALOS Consortium.

4. Questions related to the Support Programme

4.1. What is the Structure of the Support Programme ?

Beneficiaries from the TALOS Open Call will join an up to 9 months Support Programme. The technical Partners will provide technical support with expertise in engineering integration, testing and validation to the selected beneficiaries to demonstrate the added value of their solutions to address the challenges of the Pilot Scenarios. The Support Programme includes the following stages:

Stage no.	Name	Duration	max. funding for Startups	max . funding for SMEs (not Startups)
Stage 1	Individual Mentoring Plan (IMP), Definition & Virtual Prototype	1 month	12,000 €	8,400 €
Stage 2	Solutions Development	3 months	66,000 €	46,200 €
Stage 3	Solutions Integration & Demonstration	5 months	122,000 €	85,400 €

4.2. What is the payment schedule?

For the sake of simplicity and transparency, the Financial Support will be paid against specific Deliverables of each stage and based on the results of the Milestone Reviews.

The final beneficiaries will receive the funding upon reaching specific Milestones and successful conclusion and validation of the Deliverable established for it:

Stage no.	Deliverable Name	Due Date	Payment Date	fixed lump sum [1]

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[1] The lump sum is a simplified method of settling expenses in projects financed with Horizon Europe funds. It means that the beneficiary is not required to present strictly defined accounting documents to prove the costs incurred (e.g. invoices), but is obliged to demonstrate the implementation of the project is in line with the milestones set for it. Simply speaking, we will carefully assess your progress and the quality of your work during Interim Reviews, not your accountancy. The milestones (deliverables, KPIs and ethical recommendations) will be defined in the 'Individual Mentoring Plan' elaborated at the beginning of the programme.

Stage 1	Individual Mentoring Plan & Virtual Prototype	month 1	month 2	up to 12.000 € if 100% funded up to 8.400 € if 70% funded
Stage 2	Solution Developed	month 4	month 5	up to 66.000 € if 100% funded up to 46.200 € if 70% funded
Stage 3	Solutions Integration & Demonstration Report	month 9	month 10	up to 122.000 € if 100% funded up to 85.400 € if 70% funded

The Milestone evaluation at each stage will be done based on the following criteria:
- Deliverables' quality (Weight 30%)
- Technical performance indicators (Weight 60%)
- Deadline Compliance (Weight 10%)

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 10 and, based on the weight of each criterion, the final score will be calculated.

According to this final score, beneficiaries over the threshold (7 points) will successfully receive the corresponding part of the grant and continue the programme. The beneficiaries who haven't reached the threshold (7 points) will be invited to leave the programme without receiving the corresponding payments.

4.3.   What is a Sub Grant Agreement?

It is the contract that selected Applicants sign with TALOS Consortium before starting the Support Programme. You may want to read the draft of the Sub Grant Agreement that is made available for Open Call Applicants for reference only.

4.4.   Should we expect any reviews/audits?

TALOS Support Programme is co- funded by the European Commission. That is why on top of the standard Milestones Evaluation procedure performed by the TALOS team, European Commission may, during the implementation of the Project and/or afterwards (up to 5 years), carry out checks/investigation reviews and/or audits concerning the Project to ensure its proper implementation and compliance with the obligations under the Agreement and applicable EU law.

5. Questions raised during the Open Call

This section will be regularly updated during the Open Call

Annex -Examples of budgets / FSTP to receive

	Identification of Costs	Description	Value in €	Total in €
Stage Name	Personel Costs	Number of Person Months	Monthly Cost	Costs in euros
Stage 1: Individual Mentoring Plan Definition & Virtual Prototype (1 month)	2 people working full time x 1 month	2	5100	
			Subtotal Personnel Costs	10.200 €
	Purchase costs(travel/ equipment/ other goods, work or services)			Costs in euros
				- €
	Subcontracting Cost**			Costs in euros
				- €
	Overheads (25%)			2.550 €
	Sub-total budgeted for the stage			12.750 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for Start-ups (100% founded)			12.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for SMEs (70% founded)			8.400 €
	Amount to be received as FSTP			12.000 €
Stage Name	Personel Costs	Number of Person Months	Monthly Cost	Costs in euros
Stage 2: Solutions Development (3 months)	3 people working full time x 3 months	9	5100	
			Subtotal Personnel Costs	- €
	Purchase costs(travel/ equipment/ other goods, work or services)			Costs in euros
		Brief description and justification of the trips / Description of the goods/services and justification		7.000 €
	Subcontracting Cost**			Costs in euros
		Brief description of the subcontracting service and justification		1.500 €
	Overheads (25%)			2.125 €
	Sub-total budgeted for the stage			10.625 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for Start-ups (100% founded)			66.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for SMEs (70% founded)			46.200 €
	Amount to be received as FSTP			66.000 €
Stage Name	Personel Costs	Number of Person Months	Monthly Cost	Costs in euros
Stage 3: Solutions Integration & Demonstration (5 months)	3,2 people working full time x 5 months	16	5100	
			Subtotal Personnel Costs	81.600 €
	Purchase costs(travel/ equipment/ other goods,			Costs in euros
		Brief description and justification of the trips / Description of the goods/services and justification		14.000 €
	Subcontracting Cost**			Costs in euros
		Brief description of the subcontracting service and justification		2.500 €
	Overheads (25%)			24.525 €
	Sub-total budgeted for the stage			122.625 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for Start-ups (100% founded)			122.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for SMEs (70% founded)			85.400 €
	Amount to be received as FSTP			122.000 €
		Total Amount to be received as FSTP		200.000 €

Example 1: Start-up - eligible costs equal or above max FSTP available

	Identification of Costs	Description		Value in €	Total in €
Stage Name	Personel Costs	Number of Person Months		Monthly Cost	Costs in euros
Stage 1: Individual Mentoring Plan Definition & Virtual Prototype (1 month)	2 people working full time x 1 month	2		5100	
			Subtotal Personnel Costs		10.200 €
	Purchase costs(travel/ equipment/ other goods, work or services)				Costs in euros
					- €
	Subcontracting Cost**				Costs in euros
					- €
	Overheads (25%)				2.550 €
	Sub-total budgeted for the stage				12.750 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for Start-ups (100% founded)				12.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for SMEs (70% founded)				8.400 €
	Amount to be received as FSTP				8.400 €
Stage Name	Personel Costs	Number of Person Months		Monthly Cost	Costs in euros
Stage 2: Solutions Development (3 months)	3 people working full time x 3 months	9		5100	
			Subtotal Personnel Costs		45.900 €
	Purchase costs(travel/ equipment/ other goods, work or services)				Costs in euros
		Brief description and justification of the trips / Description of the goods/services and justification			7.000 €
	Subcontracting Cost**				Costs in euros
		Brief description of the subcontracting service and justification			1.500 €
	Overheads (25%)				13.600 €
	Sub-total budgeted for the stage				68.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for Start-ups (100% founded)				66.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for SMEs (70% founded)				46.200 €
	Amount to be received as FSTP				46.200 €
Stage Name	Personel Costs	Number of Person Months		Monthly Cost	Costs in euros
Stage 3: Solutions Integration & Demonstration (5 months)	3,2 people working full time x 5 months	16		5100	
			Subtotal Personnel Costs		81.600 €
	Purchase costs(travel/ equipment/ other goods,				Costs in euros
		Brief description and justification of the trips / Description of the goods/services and justification			14.000 €
	Subcontracting Cost**				Costs in euros
		Brief description of the subcontracting service and justification			2.500 €
	Overheads (25%)				24.525 €
	Sub-total budgeted for the stage				122.625 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for Start-ups (100% founded)				122.000 €
	Maximun amount of financial support for SMEs (70% founded)				85.400 €
	Amount to be received as FSTP				85.400 €
			Total Amount to be received as FSTP		**140.000 €**

Example 2: SME - eligible costs equal or above max FSTP available