This presentation sets out the essential elements of information and practical guidance for potential candidates interested in responding to a Call for Proposals within the Clean Sky 2 programme.

Several Call for Proposals have been held to date; further calls are planned up to 2020. The Clean Sky 2 JU Work Plan highlights the Calls foreseen within the Work Plan’s period which is generally 2 years in duration.
This slide shows the timescales of the Call that is now open.

Please note: Deadlines are immutable and set electronically. Your bid will be rejected whether it arrives two seconds, two hours, or two days after the bid closes.
Partners are selected through open procedures known as Calls for Proposals [or CfP in short]. The JU will normally launch two calls per year, and they are targeted for publication in the first and third quarters of the year, but subject to the finalization of the Call topics and our Governing Board approval for their launch and their funding budget.

Partners’ proposals are evaluated against the topics as published and they are selected for the performance of these research tasks. The topics are of scope and duration that are limited when compared to the overall Programme effort. Although there are a wide array of topic areas and types, and funding budgets will vary considerably, a general [rough] average of 3-4 years duration and an overall average of 1.0m€ estimated funding levels are a good indication.

A Topic Manager will represent the Member of the Joint Undertaking [which will therefore be one of the Leaders or Core Partner organizations], who has proposed the topic for the call and for execution within the Programme. He / She will monitor and follow the activity in a technical capacity and ensure the linkage between the project and the activity in the IADP / ITD /TA or Transverse Area where the topic resides.
The **topic descriptions**, which are available on the **Participant Portal**, are a result of the elaboration of the overall CS2 Programme high-level goals in the **Joint Technical Programme** [or JTP] and the “through life” planning for the Programme’s areas, like IADPs, ITDs and TAs that is updated annually through what is known as the **CS2 Development Plan**.

From this long-term plan the JU has a **Work Plan** which normally covers a 2-3 year period, and which is amended from time to time to reflect the dynamic nature of executing research. The **topics in every call originate from the Work Plan** of the CS2JU where the activity is described over the [2-3 year] period for which it is valid.

This Work Plan – and its amendments are adopted by the Governing Board of the JU and it constitutes the legal basis for the funding of the JU, and as a consequence provides the committed funding to launch calls and award Grants.

On the Participant Portal you will find this Work Plan and its Annex describing all Topics. You will also find what we call the **indicative topic funding values** and more material on how the proposals are evaluated in terms of eligibility for funding. More on this later.
In order to help you submitting a proposal you will find proposal templates on the Participant Portal. Two parts of the template make up the technical proposal.

The first is Part B.1 and covers the main aspects of the proposal (budget, timing, resources, and risk assessment) in line with the evaluation criteria. This part should not exceed 70 pages. Any additional pages will be disregarded and will not be taken into consideration in the evaluation.

Part B.II allows you to provide details about the applicant, such as legal status of the entities involved, core competences and track record, CVs. Part B.II is also where any potential concerns or issues-related to ethics and/or security should be raised.

If your proposal has potential synergies with Structural Funds such as ESIF, this can be described in Part C. More information will be given on the different possible scenarios.
If you are considering the submission of a proposal, the Part B.I is an important first item to carefully review and internalize. This template is structured in such a way as to assist applicants in describing their proposed project in terms and in an overall structure that facilitate an efficient and effective evaluation of the proposal’s merit against the topic description and importantly: against the evaluation criteria that will be used in selecting proposals for funding. We strongly recommend that you follow this template in building and later submitting your proposal as this will assist in its correct evaluation.

The next three slides look in turn at the three evaluation criteria used to score and rank each submission. These criteria are the same as in all Horizon 2020 [H2020] calls and evaluations. But there are specific “considerations” that we have defined for the Clean Sky 2 evaluations and they are explained in the following three slides. These “considerations” are specific to the Call for Proposals [or CfP] such as currently open. It is highly recommended to review and understand these considerations when you are building a proposal, as we instruct the experts who evaluate all proposals submitted and eligible to use these as a guidance in their evaluation for scoring and then ranking of proposals.

Be careful that thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score:
- the default threshold is 3
- and the default overall threshold is 10.
The first criterion is excellence. As you can see there are several considerations related to the practical interpretation of the Excellence criterion in the context of a CS2 CfP Call Topic Evaluation.
The second criterion is impact. The basic assumption is that the proposal will be successful. One point in this criteria is the dissemination of the results, more important than in the previous frame work program.

The expected impact towards the objectives as described under the relevant topic. Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant.
The third criterion is Implementation. This area of your proposal is where you should clearly describe how you propose to address and structure your work. This goes from the content of the work package, the timing and deliverables to the internal management of your consortium or cluster, and risks and their mitigation. Importantly, you should clearly explain and justify your allocation of resources and how you aim to provide the best and most efficient allocation and use of resources, sometimes broadly and popularly referred to as Value for Money.

As it was stated earlier: the topic descriptions make use of “indicative topic funding values” and in your Implementation details you will need to explain any budgetary variances between your proposal and the reference value linked to the “indicative topic funding value”.

Please see the Participant portal for more details on the evaluation criteria.
Compared to Clean Sky 1, the topic funding value is an estimate made by the topic manager who has written the topic. The applicants must fully address the scope of the topic, and shall give both requested funding and total eligible costs. These total eligible costs should be considered for *Adequacy and efficiency of the allocation of the resources*. 
The slide you now see concerns the efficiency of resource allocation within the scoring structure of the implementation criterion. First of all, you need to understand how total eligible costs and total project costs relate to the requested funding. Then there is the indicative funding value of the topic itself and what might be termed the **topic reference value**.

These items are interrelated and the objectives of this and the following slides is to offer guidance on how we judge this value for money. We take a very practical approach. So, this should be based on the total eligible costs, and no ceiling shall be applied.
In case of exceedance, the applicant must justify its choice. The reviewer will take into account the level of exceedance or the potential savings in its evaluation.

Depending on the action, Research Innovation Actions or Innovation Actions the Topic gross budget will be computed differently as indicated in the slide.
The rules on Clean Sky 2 funding rates are clear. Actions by Partners are labelled either Innovation Actions [IAs] or Research Innovation Actions [RIAs] under the Horizon 2020 procedures. This entitles them to a reimbursement of 70% or 100% of total eligible costs.

These consist of direct costs, plus a flat rate of 25% based on the Direct Costs to cover indirect costs, plus subcontracting costs.

Note that Non-profit entities which are part of a successful submission can reclaim 100% of total eligible costs both in RIAs and in IAs – this is also in accordance with H2020 Rules.
The framework is based on a triangular relationship.

The GAP, Grand Agreement for Partner will be prepared and signed between the JU and the partner or the consortium represented by its coordinator. The technical content of the proposal will be discussed on its implementation phase between the topic manager representing the Leader or the Core Partner in charge of the topic and the partner or the consortium coordinator. The Partner or consortium will be requested either to accede to the ITD/IADP/TA level Consortium Agreement or to sign a bilateral Implementation Agreement with the topic manager. The applicable framework will be indicated by the topic manager since the choice may depend on the topic.

A specificity of the JU is the complementarity nature of the topic and the GAP to the ITD/IADP. The beneficiaries must agree on technical implementation of the action within the IADP/ITD/TA by acceding to the IADP/ITD/TA Consortium Agreement or by signing a bilateral Implementation Agreement with the topic manager. This information will be given by the topic manager at the beginning of the preparation of the GAP.

Template Implementation Agreement and ITD/IADP/TA Consortium Agreement are published with the CfP.
Single entities can apply, which is not the case with all EU research programmes. Legal entities may also apply jointly as Consortium. If the proposal is submitted by a Consortium, an internal Consortium Agreement must be in place by the time of start of the project within the consortium to agree on their internal arrangements.

By “cluster” we mean a legally constituted association of entities able to enter into grants and contracts under that nation’s national laws.

Applicants must include a minimum of one legal entity established in an EU member state or a country which is an associated of the Horizon 2020 programme.

An up-to-date list of associated countries is published on the Horizon 2020 portal. Entities established in third countries can however also respond to calls for proposals. Their eligibility for funding depends on the country of origin and can be found in the H2020 funding guide.
Clusters and consortia must appoint a single cluster/consortium leader to coordinate internal activities and act as the single point of contact with the JU and the programme Leaders.

This person will be responsible for negotiating the grant agreement with the JU and have operational, financial, and management responsibility for the consortium or cluster as a whole. This also means operational aspects, including the timely delivery of work packages, and the execution of payments.

Note also the possible requirement of a statement of joint and several liability.
Clusters and consortia have several options for presenting their candidature. It is important to make sure you explain clearly in your submission the operational and management structure of your consortium or cluster. The same applies to the need to explain carefully how the combination of their capabilities will result in organisational and operational structures capable of executing the project activities jointly, efficiently and effectively.

The linked third parties must be identified in the Grant Agreement.
For Intellectual property rights, the rules of H2020 apply. The beneficiary who generates the results owns the rights. To be noted, there is a general obligation in H2020 to disseminate the results and this will be closely monitored by the JU.

In all your dissemination actions and your demonstrators, or equipment, use the JU logo and standard sentence to make visible the JU funding.

The transfer and exclusive licences outside the Union or Associated countries are subject to the agreement of the other parties.

The grant agreement will foresee the JU right to object a request of transfer of ownership or the exclusive licensing of results to a third party established in a non-EU country not associated with the H2020.
All reference documents can be found on the Participant portal and the website, in the same area.
Disclaimer

The selection of Partners will be based on Horizon 2020 Rules for Participation, the Rules for submission of proposals, evaluation and selection of Partners, as adopted by the Governing Board of Clean Sky 2 JU and will apply to the calls for Partners

The content of this presentation is not legally binding.

This presentation wishes to provide a preliminary overview of these rules.

The proposed content/approach is based on the consultation with the “National States Representative Group” and the “Task Force” of the Clean Sky 2 Programme.

Clean Sky 2

Thank you for your attention