



## **SNETPFORWARD**

### D4.2 Terms of reference for the study on nuclear start-ups & SMEs and action plan

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## Document information

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Project Title	SNETP strengthening to consolidate collaboration within and beyond the nuclear sector
Project Acronym	SNETPFORWARD
Project Coordinator	Abderrahim Al-Mazouzi (EDF)
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Related Task(s)	Task 4.2
Lead Organisation	ORANO
Contributing Partner(s)	ORANO
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Submission Date	09 February 2024
Dissemination level	PU

## Introduction : description of the process

This task is aiming to foster innovation within EU nuclear community. It intends to build a scenario to launch a 'booster' that would facilitate industrial-driven and intersectorial innovation in nuclear for current and new applications. This work was to focus on the scope of services to be provided and the booster business model based on the benchmark of other accelerators. The idea was to set up a call for tender as planned in the initial SNETP FORWARD -description of work.

It turns out that the budget initially allocated to this study (10k€) was estimated not to be sufficient and attractive enough for a consulting company from outside the consortium when considering the fact that no EU-wide accelerator for nuclear projects is currently available and the challenges to be faced.

Thus, the steering committee of the project, in agreement with the SNETP secretariat, decided to charge ORANO (member of the consortium) to perform this study in order to speed up the process and launch a pilot call. The project informed the European Commission about this modification in due time.

During the summer 2023, ORANO, with the support and active involvement of two 'non-nuclearised' young students (one as apprentice within ORANO and one within Nuclear Valley) took the initiative to draft the terms of reference for such a 'booster' as described below.

## Call for tender launched by SNETP-FORWARD

**Subject:** Invitation to tender for a study 'Identifying needs & opportunities to support cross-cutting project ideas'

Dear Madam/Sir,

SNETP, referred to below as the contracting authority, is planning to award the contract resulting from the above procurement procedure.

### **Article 1. Object and scope of the procurement**

*Title:* Identifying needs & opportunities to support cross-cutting project ideas

*Type of contract:* Services

*Short description:* The proposed study will assess the context of nuclear start-ups and SMEs involved in nuclear or cross-cutting topics that could be applied to nuclear.

*Estimated total value:* EUR 15.000

*Description of the procurement:* SNETP-FORWARD’s main objective is to increase innovation actions inside the SNETP community, and notably for start-ups and SMEs. SNETP core activities are indeed related to the participation of entities in Euratom research and training programme (R,D&I), and these projects are currently mainly undertaken by other types of entities. Due to a lack of time, dedicated resources and information, smaller companies are less involved in these collaborative projects (and therefore in SNETP activities) – while they are often the ones in the best position to develop disruptive innovations. Thus, the Euratom project will support SNETP in its efforts to boost innovation in the nuclear sector, and to increase participation of Start-Ups/SMEs in Euratom collaborative projects. The study should cover:

- i) Definition of the context and SNETP’s needs;
- ii) A clear overview of a panel of EU programs accessible for SMEs and start-ups;
- iii) Exploring some existing initiatives for assistance and support in developing Start-Ups and SMEs. This section should integrate focuses on nuclear, institutionalized and business initiatives;
- iv) A panel of recommendations based on several scenarios, detailed with pros and cons will help pave the way for an increased participation of start-ups and SMEs in Euratom calls for projects. This section should also include an implementation strategy for the one that will be preferred.

## **Article 2. SNETP presentation**

The Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) was launched in 2007 and is recognized by the European Commission as a European Technological and Industrial Platform (ETIP) within the SET Plan (European Technology and Innovation Platform). With the objective to represent the nuclear fission related technologies under a unique legal entity, SNETP is an international non-profit association under Belgian law since 2019.

The SNETP Association gathers today 3 pillars, NUGENIA (Nuclear Generation II & III technologies), ESNII (European Sustainable Nuclear Industry Initiative) and NC2I (Nuclear Cogeneration Initiative).

## **Article 3. Awarding procedure**

Submission to tender: Economic operators interested in this contract are invited to submit a tender in English via email (secretariat@snetp.eu). Please note that it is not possible to submit a tender after the time limit for receipt. Submissions must respect a 5-pages limit for the technical document. A second document is expected presenting the budget on one page.

## **Article 4. Legal effects of the invitation to tender and submission of a tender**

This invitation to tender is in no way binding on the contracting authority. The contracting authority's contractual obligation commences only when the contract with the successful tenderer is signed by both parties.

Up to the signature of the contract, the contracting authority may cancel the procurement procedure without tenderers being entitled to claim any compensation. Any such decision must be substantiated, and tenderers notified.

### **Article 5. Opening of tenders**

Tenderers will be invited to attend a virtual session describing the main objectives of the study. One representative per tender will be allowed.

### **Article 6. Evaluation phase (after the opening of tenders)**

Except in duly justified cases, tenderers who have failed to submit evidence or to make statements as required in the procurement documents, shall be contacted by the contracting authority to provide the missing information, or clarify supporting documents. The contracting authority may correct obvious clerical errors in the tender after confirmation of the correction by the tenderer.

Evaluation will take place based on three criteria, i.e., excellence, management, and capacity, and requested budget. For each criterion, the candidate can receive a score between 1 and 5.

- Excellence:
  - o Clarity and pertinence of the work description.
  - o Response to the study goals
  - o Soundness of the proposed methodology, including if applicable the underlying concepts, models, and assumptions.
- Management and capacity:
  - o Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, time plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall.
- Requested Budget: following the Excel template provided
  - o Proposal with the better cost-effectiveness will receive the highest score.

Be aware that the Horizon Europe funding rules applies (ie. eligible costs...).

The following scores will be awarded:

- o Equal scores if difference with highest proposal is within 10% of study budget
- o 1-point separate score if difference is between 10 and 20% of study budget
- o 2-point separate score if difference is between 20 and 40% of study budget
- o 3-point separate score if difference is between 40 and 70% of study budget
- o 4-point separate score if difference is between 70 and 100% of study budget

The scores per criterion will be averaged by the reviewers and rounded off with 1 decimal and subsequently summed up over the three criteria. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3.

The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10. All criteria will have the same weight.

Proposal that passes the individual threshold and the overall threshold will be considered for funding. Other proposals will be rejected.

If no candidate can be selected based on the above thresholds, SNETP will follow the below procedure:

- In case of equal scores, the score on excellence will be decisive. In case there is still no decision, the score on price will be decisive.

- In case this also leads to no decision, the coordinator of the SNETP Scientific and Industrial Innovation Committee together with the independent reviewers may decide to further prioritize by considering the other following factors related to the objectives of the call:
  - Alignment with the SNETP strategy
  - Overlapping with studies already existing

**Article 7. Award phase**

Tenderers will be notified of the outcome of this procurement procedure by e-mail. Only one study will be funded.

**Article 8. Type of procedure**

This call for study is an open call to all EU Member States and third countries associated to the EC Programme. Applications must be submitted online within the deadlines set out in this document.

Time limit for receipt of tenders or requests to participate:

Date: 01/06/2024

Local time: 17:00

Duration of the contract, framework agreement or dynamic purchasing system:

Duration in months: 4

This contract is subject to renewal: no