EUROHPC JU CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE EXTREME SCALE ACCESS MODE

Full Call Details

The information provided below is a compilation of information that is important for applying to the Extreme Scale Access call. The main purpose is to provide this information in a single page, complementing the information provided in the EuroHPC JU Access Policy and the Terms of Reference.

DECRIPTION

The Extreme Scale Access mode is designed for applications with high-impact, high-gain innovative research, open to all fields of science, industry and public sector justifying the need for and the capacity to use extremely large allocations in terms of compute time, data storage and support resources. This access mode distributes resources from the EuroHPC pre-exascale and exascale systems.

CUT-OFFS AND TIMELINES

The Call for Proposals for EuroHPC JU Extreme Scale Access Mode is continuously open, with a maximum time-to-resources-access (start-date) of **six (6) months after the cut-off date**. The allocations are granted for **one (1) year (single-year access)**.

The cut-off dates for 2026 are:

27 April 2026 – 10:00 AM Luxembourg time
19 October 2026 – 10:00 AM Luxembourg time

Timeline for awarding Extreme Scale Access Mode:

	Cut off 27/04/2025	Cut off 19/10/2026
Communication of allocation decision	End of September 2026	End of March 2027
Indicative allocation period for awarded proposals	01 October 2026 – 30 September 2027	01 April 2027 – 31 March 2028
Submission of Progress / Final Reports for continuation proposals	Within three (3) months after the completion of the project via the platform on the submission form	Within three (3) months after the completion of the project via the platform on the submission form
Type of Access	Single-year access	Single-year access

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Users from academia, industry and public sector can apply for access to EuroHPC JU resources provided that they satisfy the specific criteria listed below:

Academia and public research organizations

a)   The academic, public research organization is established or located in a Member State or in a third country associated to Horizon 2020 for accessing the supercomputers acquired by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking established by Regulation (EU) 2018/1488.

b)   The academic or public research organization is established or located in a Member State or in a third country associated to the Digital Europe Programme or to Horizon Europe for accessing the supercomputers acquired by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking after 2020.

c)   The Principal Investigator has an employment contract in the organization at the time of proposal submission and valid for at least 3 months after the end of the allocation period.

Commercial companies and public sector organizations

a)   The company or the public organization is established or located in a Member State or in a third country associated to Horizon 2020 for accessing the supercomputers acquired by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking established by Regulation (EU) 2018/1488.

b)   The company or the public organization is established or located in a Member State or in a third country associated to the Digital Europe Programme or to Horizon Europe

for accessing the supercomputers acquired by the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking after 2020.

c)   The employment contract of the Principal Investigator is in force when the proposal is submitted and valid for at least 3 months after the end of the allocation period.

d)   The access is devoted solely for open R&D purposes.

The access eligibility is also specified in Section 2– "Eligibility criteria" in the Extreme Scale Access call "Terms of Reference" document.

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

All proposals consist of 2 parts: an online form and the 'Project Scope and Plan' document.

Please keep in mind that the used Project Scope and Plan template should be the most recent version uploaded in the designated cut-off page. Any inconsistency with the latest version of the document and its contents can result in an administrative rejection of the proposal.

The applicants (Principal Investigators) can only have one Extreme Scale Access proposal awarded at any given time.

CONTINUATION PROPOSALS

The applicants can submit a continuation proposal, continuing the previously done research on the EuroHPC JU systems.

The continuation proposals are submitted in the same way as the first submission proposals. A new proposal needs to be submitted via the platform along with a corresponding final/progress report but the applicants should select a **Continuation** option in the application form and provide either a **Progress** or a **Final Report** (depending on the status of the previous project). The templates for the Progress and Final Reports are available online in the call's Documents section.

RESUBMISSION PROPOSALS

Proposals that were previously unsuccessful and are re-submitted as new proposals should select a **Re-submission** option in the application form and indicate the previous project ID in their new submission.

APPLICATION TRACKS

The Extreme Scale Access Mode offers three distinctive application tracks:

- **The Scientific Access Track**
  Open to all fields of science, will call for applications with a case to enable progress of science in the domains covered. These applications are expected to be able to justify the need for large allocations in terms of compute time, data storage and support resources because they are significantly contributing to the progress in their domain.
  The Scientific Track prioritizes 75% of the total resources available at each cut-off period.

- **The Industry Access Track**
  Prioritizes 20% of the total resources available for this cut-off period for proposals with a Principal Investigator from industry;

- **The Public Administration Access Track**
  Prioritizes 5% of the total resources available for this cut-off period for proposals with a Principal Investigator from the public sector.

For further details see Section 1 in the Extreme Scale Access call "Terms of Reference" document.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND THE SCORING SYSTEM

The proposals are evaluated according to three criteria:
- **Excellence** – aims to evaluate the scientific quality and merit of the project. This criterion is weighted more for proposals submitted to the Scientific Access Track.
- **Innovation and Impact** – intends to assess the innovative nature, the potential impacts and contributions of the project. This criterion is weighted more for proposals submitted to the Industry and Public Administration Access Tracks.
- **Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation** – intends to evaluate the quality and feasibility of the work plan in order to deliver the project successfully.

The scores are given per criterion and can be decimal numbers from **0-5.** In order to pass the evaluation, each criterion must be graded with a **minimum 3**, but the overall score sum of all three criteria must be **minimum 10**.

The EuroHPC JU **Access Resource Committee (ARC)**, composed of leading international scientists and engineers, ranks the proposals received and produces a recommendation to award EuroHPC JU resources based on scientific and technical excellence.

For further details see Section 3 in the Extreme Scale Access call "Terms of Reference" document.

THE PEER-REVIEW PROCESS

The Peer-Review process for proposals submitted to the Extreme Scale Access call follows the workflow below:

1. **Administrative check**

The Peer-Review Sector checks the proposals in two parts: the **online submission form** and the **Project Scope and Plan** document. The proposals are assessed for any administrative inconsistency. The proposals must pass the administrative check in order to proceed to next evaluation steps. The Peer-Review Sector will communicate the outcome of the Administrative check within 1 week of the cut-off date to the applicants. Proposals that have been administratively rejected will not proceed further and are advised to be resubmitted to another cut-off taking into consideration any comments provided by the Peer-Review Sector.

2. **Technical assessment**

The Hosting Entities evaluate the technical feasibility of the proposals submitted to their systems. The proposals can be technically accepted, conditionally accepted or rejected. In case the proposal has been rejected, it will still proceed to the further steps of the evaluation.

3. **Scientific evaluation**

The proposals are evaluated on their scientific merit by three (3) external Scientific Reviewers. Each Reviewer will evaluate the proposal according to the three (3) evaluation criteria: Excellence, Innovation and Impact, Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation.

4. **Response phase**

The applicants will have the opportunity to reply to the submitted evaluations in order to explain potential criticisms raised by the technical and scientific referees.

5. **Rapporteur reporting**

Each proposal is assigned to two Rapporteurs that are members of the Access Resource Committee. The Rapporteurs will evaluate and grade the proposals according to the three evaluation criteria. Each Rapporteur will write an Individual Report after which, upon agreement, the Lead Rapporteur will submit a Consolidated Report.

6. **Access Resource Committee (ARC) meeting**

All proposals are discussed, graded and ranked. The meeting outputs are: a final scoring per proposal according to the mentioned criteria, an overall ranking of the proposals and a resources recommendation per proposal.

7. **Resource Allocation Panel (RAP) meeting**

Taking into consideration the provided ranking of all proposals and the resources recommendation, the HPC resources are officially distributed to proposals. The proposals will be awarded resources according to the recommendations and their respective positions in the ranking list provided during the ARC meeting. The proposals may be moved to other suitable systems or not be awarded in case the resources have been exhausted on the selected system.

8. EuroHPC JU Governing Board list adaption

The final resources distribution list is forwarded to the EuroHPC JU Governing Board who approves the allocations.

9. Communication of Results

The Peer-Review Sector will communicate the final results to all applicants. They will receive an email with the decision regarding their proposal and can consult this same final outcome in the Peer-Review Platform.

10. Award acceptance

The applicants should, if awarded resources, accept the award in the Peer-Review platform. This action will trigger a notification to the Hosting Entities to officially contact the applicants regarding their access to their systems.

COMPUTING TIME AWARDED

The total awarded resources (total computer time and/or expert support) cannot be changed. If applicants are unable to use their awarded resources due to a technical problem, the Peer-Review Sector (access@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu) must be notified as soon as possible and in any case during the allocation period.

PROJECT EXTENSIONS

Users may request extension of their allocation of **up to 3 months** in the event that they were not able to consume the assigned resources and complete their project in the allotted time. In such cases, the PI should submit a formal request to EuroHPC JU Peer-Review Sector (PRS) at least 1 month before the conclusion of the project. After the acknowledgement of the request, the PRS will unlock a step in the online platform (https://access.eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/). The JU will together with the Hosting Entity assess the request and communicate the results as soon as possible after the extension request submission date.

The maximum resources that will be available during this extension period will be **up to 20% of the initial allocation**. The project team should keep in mind that the overall resources usage will be taken into consideration for deciding on the extension duration and available resources. Proposals with heavily underutilized resources will not be eligible for an extension except in dully justified cases.

OBLIGATIONS FOR AWARDED PROJECTS

REPORTING

For all awarded projects, the Principal Investigator (PI) has to submit a Final Report within three (3) months of the completion of an allocation, using the proper EuroHPC JU template, with the results obtained through the access to the EuroHPC JU systems, as well as qualitative feedback on the use of the resources.

This report needs to be submitted via the Peer-Review portal within the Final Report step of the application. Alternatively, it can be sent to EuroHPC Peer-Review (access@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu). Failure to submit a Final Report may disqualify future proposal submissions to EuroHPC JU by any member of the research group.

The template for the Final Report is available for download:
Extreme Scale Access - Final Report
The template for the Progress Report is available for download:
Extreme Scale Access - Progress Report (for continuation submissions)

DISSEMINATION

In case the proposal is awarded, EuroHPC JU would like to publish the **PIs and team members names and organizations**. Applicants commit to collaborate with EuroHPC JU, upon its request, in the preparation of dissemination material. This may involve sharing this information on our website, social media channels, or in other promotional materials related to the project.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Applicants **must acknowledge EuroHPC JU** in all publications that describe results obtained using EuroHPC JU resources. Acknowledgement should be made of the role of the Hosting Entity (HPC Centre), the EuroHPC JU and of any relevant partners in all publications which include the results above mentioned.
Users shall use the following wording in such acknowledgement in all such papers and other publications:

"We acknowledge EuroHPC JU for awarding the project ID EHPC-EXT-XXXXXX-XXX access to [resources on partition name hosted by site]"

Use as many instances of the pattern [resources on partition name hosted by site] as the number of systems awarded via EuroHPC JU. Please follow these examples:
- LUMI at CSC, Finland;
- Leonardo at CINECA, Italy;
- MareNostrum5 at BSC, Spain;
- Jupiter at JSC, Germany.

ANNEX 1 – PEER-REVIEW PROCESS WORKFLOW