

## CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for upgrading the EuroHPC JU Supercomputers

### Questions summary

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question	Answer
1	10/05/2022	20/05/2022	The call aims for an upgrade of an existing supercomputer, therefore preserving the conditions of maintenance, integration, and interoperability between the EuroHPC system and the upgrade. Given this context, what is the envisioned provisioning methodology so that the objectives of the upgrade can be achieved?	Upgrading of the system may be implemented either by a stand-alone public procurement process or with an extension of the existing contract according to the provisions of the Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, Article 172.
2	10/05/2022	20/05/2022	Can the expression of interests be made by a single applicant even if the original hosting entity (for the EuroHPC supercomputer) was a consortium?	Yes, this is possible.
3	10/05/2022	20/05/2022	Can the documentation referred to in the following just be digitally signed and included in the expression of interests submitted via email? “Applications should include the provision of appropriate supporting documentation proving the commitment of the Member State where the hosting entity is established and, in the case of a hosting Consortium, of the competent authorities of the Participating States of the hosting consortium to cover the share of the total cost of ownership of the supercomputer that is not covered by the Union contribution as set out in Article 5 of the Regulation or any other Union contribution as set out in Article 6 of the Regulation, either until its ownership is transferred by the EuroHPC JU to that hosting entity or until the supercomputer is sold or decommissioned in case there is no transfer of ownership”	Yes, this is acceptable.

4	12/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The call says:  In accordance with Article 15(5) of the Regulation, the Union financial contribution for the upgrade shall cover up to 35 % of the acquisition costs of the upgrade, depreciated over the expected remaining lifetime of the original supercomputer and up to 35 % of the additional operating costs. Participating States will be required to fund the remaining total costs of the upgrade. The total cost of the upgrade shall not exceed 30 % of the total acquisition cost of the original EuroHPC supercomputer.  Please which interpretation is correct:  a) „The total cost of the upgrade“ = „acquisition costs of the upgrade“.  or  b) „The total cost of the upgrade“ = „acquisition costs of the upgrade“ + „additional operating costs“</p>	<p>The JU will cover both 35% of acquisition and additional operating costs.</p>
5	12/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The call says:  2. OBJECTIVES  <i><b>The upgrades should lead to an extension of the supercomputers' lifetime, increase the operational performance, and provide new functionalities to address the evolution of user needs.</b></i>  Where is the lifetime of the original petascale supercomputer stated?  In the Hosting agreement we have the following:  <i>II.14.4 End of the operations of the EuroHPC supercomputer</i></p>	<p>The lifetime of the supercomputer has been agreed in each Hosting Agreement. For this case mentioned, in this question, the depreciation/ownership lifetime is indeed 5 years starting from the final acceptance of the supercomputer. The operational lifetime of the original supercomputer may be extended depending on the timing and nature of the upgrade.</p>

			<p>1. After the full depreciation of the supercomputer, the part of the ownership of the petascale supercomputer owned by the Joint Undertaking shall be transferred to the hosting entity. The Joint Undertaking shall not be liable for any costs incurred after the transfer of ownership of a petascale supercomputer. <b>For that purpose, linear depreciation using a period of 5 years will be applied.</b></p> <p>Does it mean that the lifetime of the original supercomputer is 5 years from the perspective of EuroHPC JU?</p>	
6	12/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The call says:</p> <p>2. <b>OBJECTIVES</b>  <b>The upgrades should lead to an extension of the supercomputers' lifetime, increase the operational performance, and provide new functionalities to address the evolution of user needs.</b></p> <p>3. <b>BUDGET AVAILABLE</b>  <b>The Union financial contribution to the EuroHPC JU shall cover up to 35% of the acquisition costs depreciated over the expected remaining lifetime of the original supercomputer plus up to 35 % of the operating costs of the supercomputer. The remaining total cost of ownership of the supercomputer (including VAT if applicable) shall be covered by the Participating State where the hosting entity is established or by the Participating States in the hosting consortium.</b></p>	<p>a) No this is not possible. The JU regulation explicitly requires that upgrades will lead to an extension of supercomputer operational lifetime.</p> <p>b) The acquisition costs of the upgrade must be depreciated over the expected remaining lifetime of the original supercomputer, even if the lifetime of the original supercomputer is extended.</p> <p>c) The contribution of the JU to the acquisition of the upgrade is 35% . In the example given in this question the JU will contribute with 350.000 EUR.</p> <p>d) Please see answer to Q4.</p> <p>e) The access time of the JU should remain unchanged and will apply to the access time provided by the extended/upgraded system as a whole.</p>

		<p>a) Is it possible that the upgrade will not lead to an extension of the supercomputers' lifetime?</p> <p>b) Which of the following statements is correct:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the acquisition costs of the upgrade must be depreciated over the expected remaining lifetime of the original supercomputer, even if the lifetime of the original supercomputer is extended.</li> <li>- the acquisition of the upgrade does not have to be depreciated over the expected remaining lifetime of the original supercomputer in the case of an extension of the lifetime of the original supercomputer.</li> </ul> <p>c) If the upgrade will lead to an extension of the supercomputers' lifetime, how will the EuroHPC JU contribution to the acquisition cost be calculated and what will be its amount in example mentioned below?</p> <p>Example - The upgrade will extend the lifetime of the original supercomputer by one year</p> <p><i>Date of the acquisition of the original supercomputer: 01.01.2021</i></p> <p><i>Depreciation period according to the Hosting agreement for purpose of transfer of the petascale original supercomputer (years): 5</i></p> <p><i>Date of full depreciation of the original supercomputer: 31.12.2025</i></p> <p><i>Date of the acquisition of the upgrade: 01.01.2024</i></p> <p><i>The acquisition costs of the upgrade 1 000 000 EUR</i></p> <p><i>Supercomputer life extension due to upgrade: 1</i></p> <p><i>Date of full depreciation of the upgraded supercomputer: 31.12.2026</i></p>	
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7	12/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The call says in part 12.3.3. Operating Costs: <i>Applications must include at least the following information and/ or estimations:</i></p> <p><i>2. Updated depreciation time for the building, technical building infrastructure and IT investments and method used for the depreciation of the assets (e.g. linear).</i></p> <p>Do you consider original petascale supercomputer as IT investment?</p> <p>Czech accounting regulations differ from those governed by the EuroHPC JU. The supercomputer falls into the depreciation category for a period of 4 years in our institution. The part of the supercomputer owned by EuroHPC JU is governed by the accounting regulations of its country or the EU.</p>	<p>The quoted information and/or estimations refer to equipment procured/upgraded/expanded in order to support the upgrade. The original supercomputer is not considered as an IT investment.</p>

8	12/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>Previous public procurement on acquisition of the EURO_IT4I_Supercomputer (AKA KAROLINA) has been held as a joint public procurement procedure, where VSB-TUO has been designated as "the lead contracting authority" and the only contact point between the Contracting Authorities (i.e. EuroHPC JU and VSB-TUO) and economic operators for the purposes of the procurement.</p> <p>Do you prefer the same model where VSB-TUO executes the procurement in fact, or do you recommend different approach to the procurement?</p>	<p>It is expected that a similar approach as the original procurement will be followed. This can be further agreed and validated after the acceptance of the proposal. Regarding how the upgraded system will be procured please refer to Q1.</p>
9	12/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>Reflecting on current worldwide situation. Are there any mandatory requirements on the content of procurement documents how to highlight or to take into account sanctions implemented by the EU and US against some countries regarding usage/sharing of ICT?</p> <p>We are considering a procedure in which, from this point of view, we would check the selected economic operator before signing the contract. According to the Czech Public Procurement Act (Act No. 134/2016 Coll., on Public Procurement, as amended) such a procedure could be laid down as a condition of suppliers' cooperation before the conclusion of the contract.</p>	<p>It is up to the description of the JU to agree with the Hosting Entity on supply chain security measures to be applied in the procurement.</p>

			<p>For the sake of completeness, we are aware of the EUs' economic sanctions especially against the Russian Federation and, of course, we will comply with them, even if you do not insist on any other conditions/requirements.</p>	
10	18/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The call says:  11. PROCEDURE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS  Applications must be submitted by an electronically signed and encrypted email to <a href="mailto:calls@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu">calls@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu</a>. The application files should be packaged in a password protected zip file.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Can you, please, describe the mechanism of signing and encrypting an email to meet your requirements?</li> <li>- What do you concretely mean by "electronically signed" e-mail? - What key should we use to send the encrypted email?</li> <li>- Is there a downloadable public key fingerprint that can be used to encrypt the email?</li> <li>- How should we tell you the password for the password-protected zip application files?</li> </ul>	<p>The application files need to be packaged as a zip file secured by passcode and submit it to <a href="mailto:calls@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu">calls@eurohpc-ju.europa.eu</a>. No encryption is necessary for the email. There is a size limit of 50 MB for the attachments to the above mailbox. If the zip file is larger, you may upload it in a public file sharing service (e.g. dropbox) and submit the link by email to the above address. The email must be sent before the expiration of the submission deadline. The passcode for unzipping the file should be sent by SMS to:  +352-621511549</p> <p>Documents must be signed using certified electronic signatures (see <a href="#">EC AV PORTAL</a>)</p>
11	18/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The Application form: SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION  Concerned Supercomputer Name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- What is expected to fulfil in Concerned Supercomputer Name box? For example: "KAROLINA" or "LUMI" etc.?</li> </ul>	<p>Yes, this should be filled with the system name.</p>

12	18/05/2022	20/05/2022	<p>The Application form – instructions for completing the form: Please include in the header (top left) of each page the Acronym of the Application.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Do we have to use for the acronym reference the same acronym we used in previous application under the “CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST call for the selection of Hosting Entities for Petascale Supercomputers” (in our case EURO_IT4I) or do we need to create a new acronym?</li></ul>	Both options are acceptable.
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