

Policy **4** Science

FAQ

Call for proposals 2024 -2025

Princess Elisabeth Station Antarctica



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P4Science call 2024 – 2025 - Princess Elisabeth Station Antarctica

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1. The infrastructure call within the Policy for Science (P4Science) Programme

1.1. How does the infrastructure call deviate from the general rules of the P4Science Programme?

The call is only open for R&D-projects and not to all research tools within the P4Science toolbox. Research proposals specifically dedicated to synergy development, valorisation/Impact or capacity/skills development are not eligible.

The call is open to (networks of) researchers from the entire Belgian research community: universities colleges, FSI, other public scientific institutions and non-profit research centres.

The proposals/projects must not be initiated and coordinated by an FSI.

1.2. How are the next infrastructure calls organised and what is the timeframe?

Calls for proposals dedicated to the federal research infrastructures RV Belgica and Princess Elisabeth Antarctica will be launched every 2 years.

Indicative calendar of the calls:

Calls	Launch	Start projects
1: Princess Elisabeth Station	October 2024	April 2025
2: RV Belgica	end 2025 – begin 2026	begin 2027
3: Princess Elisabeth Station	end 2027 – begin 2028	begin 2029
4: RV Belgica	end 2029 – begin 2030	begin 2031

1.3. What type of proposals does the programme support?

For the infrastructure calls (Princess Elisabeth station Antarctica & RV Belgica) only R&D projects are allowed.

2. Submission and evaluation procedure

2.1. Can a research unit participate in more than one project?

Yes. There is no limitation to the number of proposals a given applicant may participate in as partner and/or coordinator.

2.2. Is my institution eligible to submit a proposal?

This call is addressed to the Belgian scientific community: universities, colleges of higher education, FSIs, public research centres, non-profit organisations etc. If you are in doubt, please contact P4S-Infra@belspo.be and attach the statutes of your organisation and the completed “institution request form” available on the call website ([Calls | P4Science & S4Policy \(belspo.be\)](#)). Please inquire us about your eligibility before the deadline of submission of the Eol (2 December 2024)!

2.3. Are international partners eligible to participate in this call?

International partners are allowed to participate as “non-funded” partners but are not eligible to receive BELSPO-funding.

2.4. Should the operator of the research infrastructure be included as a (non-funded) partner in the proposal?

No, the operator of the research infrastructure, IPF for the Princess Elisabeth Station and RBINS for the RV Belgica (not this call), are not to be included as a partner in the project. If there is a specific need for field support from the operator, this should be mentioned in the proposal, but this is not a specific task within the work programme.

2.5. In case of a consortium submitting a proposal, do we need a signed collaboration agreement?

The proposal submitted by a network of partners does not require that a collaboration agreement is attached to the proposal. By submitting the proposal, partners bind themselves to implement it collectively in case of selection. In this latter case, the research contract with BELSPO will not require such an agreement as it constitutes an agreement between the respective contracting parties.

2.6. Will I receive feedback on my Expression of Interest?

You will only receive a confirmation that the Eol is submitted successfully.

The Eol mainly serves to find experts for the evaluation process and to have an idea how many Full Proposals might be submitted.

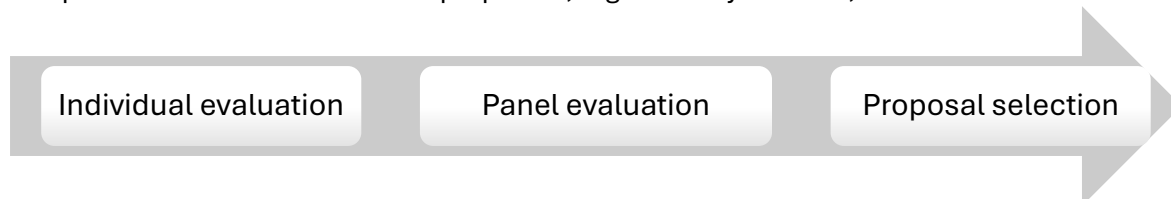
Attention! In order to submit a Full Proposal, you must submit an Expression of Interest!

2.7. Is it possible to modify information in my Full Proposal as opposed to my Eol?

The content of the description in the Full Proposal may vary from that of the Eol to some extent. However, it cannot diverge to the point that the expertise mobilised for the evaluation of the proposal will become irrelevant. The acronym, partners, indicative budget and keywords must remain the same. Changes concerning the title or the non-funded partners are accepted.

2.8. Do I need to present my proposal in front of the experts?

The procedure for the selection of proposals, organised by BELSPO, is as follows:



Throughout this process, the applicant will not have the opportunity to interact with the evaluators. The evaluations are done solely on the basis of the written Full Proposal submitted by the applicant.

2.9. Do we need to contact the stakeholder committee before the Full Proposal or can it be a list of potential members?

It is sufficient to include a list of potential stakeholders (including a motivation why). You are free to gather (a) letter(s) of intent, but you do not have to include these when submitting the proposal.

2.10. Should I submit the Eol and Full proposal through an online platform

No, exceptionally for the current call 2024-2025 the submission of the Eol and Full proposal will be via email.

The completed forms for the Eol and Full proposal (3 files: proposal description, budget form and Gantt chart) should be sent to P4S-Infra@belspo.be before the set deadline.

3. Budget & Funding

3.1. Are all Funded partners eligible for funding at the same rate?

Yes. Universities, for example, do not automatically get more funding than colleges of higher education or other research institutions.

3.2. What type of personnel can be funded for the project?

Staff devoted to the implementation of the project; this is, recruited personnel and/or non-statutory personnel made (partially) available to the project and to be implemented on the project budget. BELSPO does not allow cumulative wages for Staff. Statutory staff can therefore not be remunerated at the expense of the PROJECT. A researcher contractually bound to an institution through other funding - full-time or part-time - cannot claim BELSPO staff budget for that part already funded.

BELSPO prefers staff to be hired under labour contract.

Tax-free doctoral or post-doctoral scholarships can be exceptionally accepted under the following restrictive conditions: the total number of person months funded by the BELSPO project under a tax-free scholarships scheme is limited to max. 50% of the total number of person months funded under labour contract. In any case, there shall not be more than 2 tax-free scholarships per project.

3.3. Do I need to foresee campaign costs and do scientists have to go on site?

The call is aimed at supporting research that makes use of the federal research infrastructures Princess Elisabeth station on Antarctica or the RV Belgica (not the current call). Scientists preferably make direct use of the research infrastructure by going on site. However, projects making use of new data/samples acquired at the research infrastructure via f.ex. automatic equipment/instruments or equipment deployed by the operator and for which therefore scientists are not necessarily needed on site are eligible as long as the data/samples are gathered in the course of the project. Proposals using only “historic” data/samples acquired at the research infrastructure will not be accepted.

4. Contracts

4.1. When will the contract (and my project) start?

The start of the contract is foreseen for 15 April 2025. Three extra months will be added to the project duration to allow for practical and administrative arrangements (hiring new staff, etc) in the beginning of the research project.