

Call for independent experts to serve as members of the European Hydrogen Sustainability and Circularity Panel

1. Contractor

Ecorys Nederland B.V. (acting on behalf of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, 'the Contracting Authority')

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2. Full description of the fields covered by the call for expressions of interest

Ecorys, in consortium with TNO and Grant Thornton, have been contracted by the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (JU) under a public procurement contract to set-up and coordinate the European Hydrogen Sustainability and Circularity Panel (henceforth referred to as 'the EHS&CP').

Under this contract, Ecorys is tasked by the Clean Hydrogen JU to select up to 15 independent experts to serve as members of the EHS&CP, who will assist the Clean Hydrogen JU with advice at both the project and the programme level. The selected experts will be assigned to task forces (for example hydrogen production; hydrogen storage and distribution; hydrogen end uses; cross-cutting issues) and based on their specific field of expertise in one or several of the following topic areas:

- Eco-design and eco-efficiency
- Raw materials and supply chain
- Manufacturing processes, automation and scaling up
- Waste management and recycling
- Hydrogen end-use applications (industrial and transport)
- Techno-economic and social science
- Environment and life cycle assessment.

Experts will be contracted according to the number of days needed per task. In addition to the expert fee days (remuneration), travel and subsistence costs will also be covered whenever experts are requested by the Contractor to travel for the performance of their tasks.

The work of the panel shall focus on the following areas under support and guidance of the Contractor:

- a. Conduct data collection and analysis on the level of integration of the sustainability and circularity aspects by the Clean Hydrogen JU funded **projects**¹ and at the **programme level** in relation to hydrogen technologies, the associated value chains, cross-cutting issues and other priorities identified in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda²;
- b. Assess the state-of-play and propose a set of actions and guidance for better integration of the sustainability and circularity aspects in the future Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Programmes;

¹ Projects repository of the Clean Hydrogen JU: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/projects-repository_en

² Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the Clean Hydrogen JU: https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/about-us/key-documents/strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda_en

- c. Support the Clean Hydrogen JU in defining a comprehensive strategy in relation to the hydrogen sustainability and circularity, identifying gaps and innovation potential for supporting the development of sustainable and circular hydrogen technologies, products and related supply chains;
- d. Develop a methodology (e.g. KPIs, scoreboard, etc.) to monitor the advancements of the Clean Hydrogen JU-funded projects and its overall Programme, including the achievement of the overarching KPIs related to sustainability and circularity;
- e. Contribute to improve the understanding of the overall role of sustainability and circularity in the transition towards a hydrogen-based economy and strengthen the EU knowledge by:
 - i. Supporting the Clean Hydrogen JU in knowledge-based decisions, including dealing with ad-hoc requests on hydrogen-related sustainability and circularity;
 - ii. Providing a preliminary feedback on the impact of scaling up of hydrogen technologies and large adoption of hydrogen-based products and services vis-a-vis the three dimensions of the sustainable development (i.e. the economic, social and environmental) and alongside the principles of the circular economy;
 - iii. Collaborating with the Joint Research Center (JRC) of the European Commission, which supports the Contracting Authority on hydrogen sustainability matters through a framework contract and Annual Rolling Plan (e.g. Annual Work Programme 2023)³. This collaboration will help the assessment and implementation of sustainability aspects of hydrogen-based technologies;
 - iv. Defining a comprehensive multi-annual work plan and a set of activities.

3. Application procedure

The objective of this call for expression of interest is to set up a panel of experts on hydrogen sustainability and circularity.

Expressions of interest should be submitted by electronic means at the following address:
<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/ApplicationEHSCP>

Interested applicants can submit their application package:

- The Survey Application Form;
(note that areas of expertise and professional experience should be adequately detailed and documented as requested in the application form)
- A CV, using [Europass CV](#) model;
(including list of publications and/or research projects and information in order to assess the selection criteria – see section 9), and
- A signed Declaration on Honour;
(annexed to the application form).

Please be aware that inclusion to the list of experts entails no obligation of the Contractor to conclude contracts with experts.

4. Information and documents to be provided

Applicants should fill in the [Survey Application Form](#) accompanying this call in one of the official languages of the European Union, preferably in English, and provide the information and documents requested therein.

³ Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Programme 2023 (https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu/document/download/3aca5d27-2002-4100-813f-d0edf89b2911_en?filename=Clean%20Hydrogen%20JU%20AWP%202023_0.pdf)

General description of the procedure

Natural persons are invited to submit their expression of interest in accordance with the rules set out in this notice.

On the basis of the applications received, the Contractor in consultation with the Contracting Authority will draw up a main list of up to 15 experts who meet the criteria set out at point 9 and possibly a reserve list with backup experts.

Where (a) particular task(s) relating to the fields described in point 2 is to be performed, the Contractor will assign experts to the task(s) on the basis of professional expertise and experience, language skills, geographical and business-sector balance in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests.

5. Protection of personal data.

The processing of the application form and documents submitted as part of the application package involves the collection and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV). Such processing will be carried out pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679.⁴ Unless indicated otherwise, your reply to this notice and any personal data requested are required for the purposes indicated above in point 3 and will be processed solely for those purposes as indicated in point 2.

The controller is the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking and the processor is Ecorys.

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available on this [Privacy Statement](#).

Use of the list resulting from this notice

The list resulting from this notice will be used exclusively for the execution of the tasks as described at point 2. The list will be valid until December 31, 2024.

6. Place of delivery

As required, tasks may be carried out either:

- remotely, using electronic communication tools, or
- at any other premises where a meeting / workshop organised by Clean Hydrogen JU will take place, including the Contractor's premises.

7. Expiry date

The received applications resulting from this notice are valid until December 31, 2024. Any interested natural person may apply from the date of dispatch until **Friday, 8 December 2023 at 18:00 CET (GMT+1)**.

Experts may withdraw their application at any time during the period of validity of the registration by written notice to the Contractor using this email: EHSCP@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu

8. Exclusion criteria

Experts who are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e., exclusion or financial penalty decision) or are in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funds can NOT work as panel experts:

- a. bankruptcy, winding up, court-ordered administration, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities or similar procedures;
- b. in breach of social security or tax obligations;
- c. guilty of grave professional misconduct;

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2016/679/oj>

- d. committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking;
- e. shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar;
- f. guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95;
- g. have created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin.

Additionally, experts cannot participate in the panel if it is found that:

- a. during the contract award procedure they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information;
- b. they are in a conflict of interest.

Similarly, it is not possible to contract experts who are excluded from receiving EU funds on other legal grounds (e.g. entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU), etc).

Before signing the contract, experts shall provide a declaration on their honour stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed above. In case of doubt, they may be requested to provide supporting evidence of non-exclusion. The Declaration on Honour model is attached to the Survey Application Form and must be part of the application package.

9. Selection criteria

The selection of experts will be made from the applications received, on the basis of selection criteria such as professional expertise and experience, language skills, geographical and business-sector balance, gender balance, regular rotation, and absence of conflict of interest.

The procedure will be objective and follow the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment.

Technical and professional capacity

As a prerequisite, the applicant shall be a natural person, not a legal entity.

The following criteria shall apply:

- a. Minimum a university degree (or equivalent) that enables them to undertake post graduate studies; in the absence of a degree the applicant should demonstrate that they have an equivalent recognised professional qualification and experience;
- b. Minimum of 6 years of experience in the field of activity related to hydrogen, renewable energy, circular economy, sustainable development or other closely linked fields of activities. This may include practical experience with EU-funded projects, relevant academic work, contributions to conferences, participation in associations active in the areas for which they are applying or other experience relevant to the performance of the tasks listed in point 7.
- c. Ability to work and perform (read and write) the assignments in English (minimum C1 level).
- d. Ability to use Microsoft Office tools.
- e. Some experts may act as task force leads and therefore will be required to manage the work of their dedicated groups and ensure reporting timelines are met. Enhanced communication skills and leadership experience may be required.

Supporting evidence

All above requested experience and expertise will be assessed based on the information applicants must provide in their curriculum vitae which is a part of their application.

10. Conditions of remuneration and reimbursement of experts

Contracts signed under this call for expressions of interest will be standard expert contracts with a fixed fee of € 750 flat rate per working day per expert.

As a general rule, the cumulative working days shall not exceed 20 days during the period of experts' assignment (maximum 12 months). The number of cumulative working days can be extended to 25 days if an expert is assigned as a task leader.

The number of days may be broken down into half day sessions each week or a full day bi-weekly sessions throughout 12 months. Applicants will be requested to mention their interest to become a task leader in the application form. A maximum of 4 task force leaders will be selected.

Travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed under the conditions set out in the contract.

If you are selected as a panel expert, you will be notified via email (see point 1). A contract will be sent to you electronically defining the applicable rights, obligations, terms and conditions. The contract will, in no circumstances, form an employment relationship.

In the event that you are not selected as a panel expert but would like us to retain your data for potential future involvement with the panel, you may express this intention by indicating your consent within the application form. Your data will be securely stored for this purpose, and we will contact you accordingly if an opportunity arises.

11. Communication with the Contractor

Communications related to the status of your application, your contract, administrative documents or any other related matters should only be addressed to the dedicated email as noted in point 1.

12. Ex-post transparency

The list of experts selected as panel members will be published on the Contractor's and the Clean Hydrogen JU's dedicated **project webpage**. The information shall be removed after the expiry of the expert's assignment.

13. Date of publication

21 November 2023