



CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

Call for Applications

**Call for Applications for Receiving Project Development
Assistance Support as part of Hydrogen Valleys Facility**

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Introduction

Under this Call for Applications, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership aims to provide PDA services for up to 15 Hydrogen Valleys located within an EU member state or a country associated to Horizon Europe via two different tracks of support programmes, depending on the maturity of the individual Valley at hand: PDA light and PDA plus.

The PDA services will cover the following four dimensions: 1) commercial 2) technical, 3) regulatory and 4) governance.

The Annexes to this Call for Applications consist in the following documents:

- Annex I: Model Declaration of Collaboration
- Annex II: PDA Application Form
- Annex III: Declaration of Honour
- Annex IV: Letter of Commitment

Applications must be submitted exclusively via pda.h2v.eu and in English. Deadline for the submission of applications is 19/09/2025 23:59:59 P.M. (CET).

Applicants are planned to be notified of the outcome of the evaluation by mid-October 2025. The start for the Project Development Assistance is planned by beginning of November 2025.

Info Day on Friday, 18/07/2025 at 09:30-1130 AM CET on the Call for Applications and on PDA support: [Link to Info Day](#) (MS Teams Meeting).

Contact email address for questions regarding this call for applications: h2v@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu.

1. Context and background information to this call for applications for PDA support

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership (as per its legal name Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking), is a unique public private partnership supporting research and innovation (R&I) activities in hydrogen technologies in Europe. Its aim is to strengthen and integrate EU scientific capacity, in order to accelerate the development and improvement of advanced clean hydrogen applications.

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership is currently setting up a Hydrogen Valleys Facility aimed to support Hydrogen Valleys and a broad range of stakeholders within the hydrogen context to advance their hydrogen projects and to contribute to capacity building, knowledge sharing and skill development.

For the purpose of this Call for Application, **Hydrogen Valleys** are to be interpreted as hydrogen ecosystems that cover a specific geography ranging from local or regional focus (e.g. industrial cluster, ports, airports, etc.) to specific national or international regions (e.g. cross-border hydrogen corridor), thereby supplying with a common hydrogen supply infrastructure several sectors in their geography such as mobility, industry and energy end uses. Across their geographic scope, Hydrogen Valleys cover multiple steps in the hydrogen value chain, ranging from hydrogen production, storage of hydrogen and distribution to offtakers via various modes of transport.

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As part of this Hydrogen Valleys Facility, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership will be providing critical Project Development Assistance (PDA) to Hydrogen Valleys at different maturity stages to accelerate their progress and to advance their projects towards Final Investment Decision (FID).

Under this Call for Applications, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership aims to provide PDA services for up to 15 Hydrogen Valleys located within an EU member state or a country associated to Horizon Europe¹ via two different tracks of support programmes, depending on the maturity of the individual Valley at hand: PDA light and PDA plus.

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership has mandated the consulting firm Roland Berger, with its specialised subcontractors Worley and Inycom, to provide the PDA services under this call and manage the application process (PDA Service Consultants). The PDA services will cover the following four dimensions:

- 1) Commercial aspects (incl. renewable and derivatives production, transportation, offtake, business planning, commercial structuring as well as financing and funding)
- 2) Technical aspects (incl. process design, tech selection, site selection, cost estimates and risk management)
- 3) Regulatory aspects (incl. permits, certifications and public acceptance strategy)
- 4) Valley governance aspects (incl. consortium building, stakeholder management, project governance and planning)

1.1 PDA light programme track

The PDA light programme is aimed at supporting early-stage hydrogen projects in advancing towards a compelling pre-feasibility project concept through structured consulting, gap analysis and standardised support packages. The total programme duration is six weeks and consists of c. 80 person days that are distributed between the PDA Service Consultants.²

The six-week support includes a baselining based on the hydrogen project data and documents, stakeholder interviews and the assessment of key project elements and gap analysis. Thereafter, a detailed project concept regarding commercial, technical, regulatory, as well as valley governance will be developed and translated into a consolidated project outline with an action plan on the next steps to advance the Hydrogen Valley.

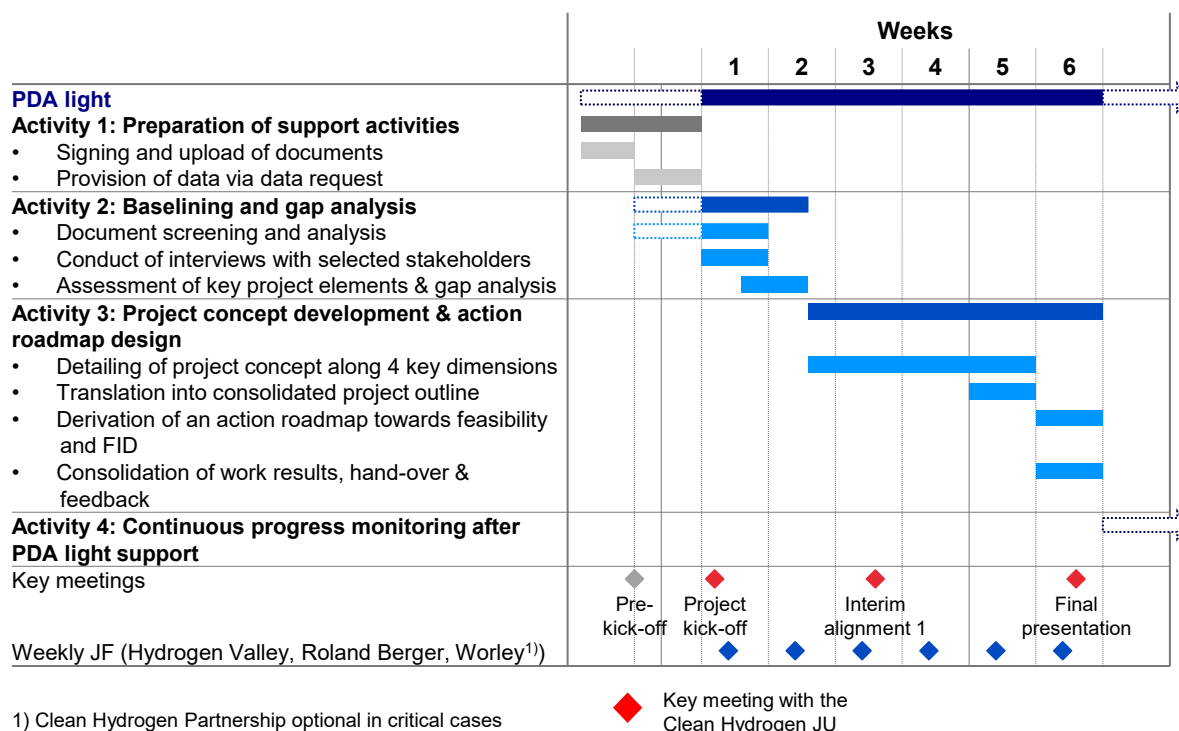
Key deliverables of a PDA light include, but are not limited to a detailed gap analysis and baselining, a consolidated project presentation along the four PDA dimensions (commercial, technical, regulatory, valley governance) and a detailed action roadmap towards feasibility and Final Investment Decision stage.

The envisaged project plan for the PDA light programme track is as follows:

¹ Associated countries under Horizon Europe are listed [here](#). Transitional arrangements will be taken into consideration at the time of the evaluation of this Call for any new association agreement.

² The total number of person days to be allocated per PDA and for each of the four support dimensions is to be decided together with the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking based on the results of the gap analysis for the respective Hydrogen Valley.

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1.2 PDA plus programme track

The PDA plus programme is aimed at supporting more advanced hydrogen projects that already have a concept study in place with modular, customised assistance to advance towards the feasibility milestone, and a detailed roadmap to FID. The total programme duration is 12 weeks and consists of c. 270 person days that are distributed between the PDA Service Consultants.³

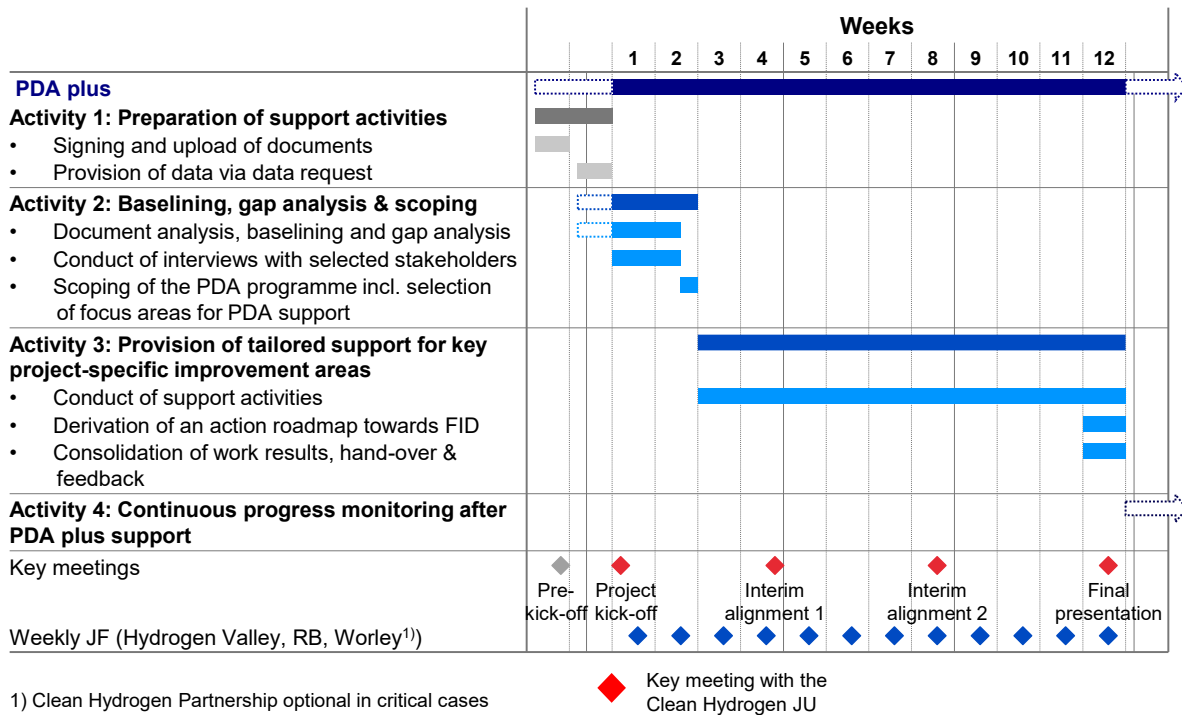
The twelve-week support consists in the first step of a dedicated baselining based on hydrogen project data and documents, stakeholder interviews and the assessment of key project elements to derive gaps that will be addressed with the PDA plus support. As a result, within all relevant dimensions for project development (i.e., commercial, technical, regulatory and valley governance) dedicated support areas will be determined. Based on a modular approach, beneficiaries and the PDA Service Consultants will jointly identify focus areas that will be advanced and supported by the PDA Service Consultants throughout the duration of the PDA plus programme.

Key deliverables of a PDA plus include, but are not limited to a gap analysis and baselining, a detailed action roadmap towards Final Investment Decision stage and tailored deliverables according to the agreed project-specific improvement areas.

The envisaged project plan for the PDA plus programme is as follows:

³ The total number of person days to be allocated per PDA and for each of the four support dimensions is to be decided together with the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking based on the results of the gap analysis for the respective Hydrogen Valley.

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2. Application for PDA support

2.1 Application process

2.1.1 Designation of a lead developer

Applications must be submitted by legal entities that are the lead developers of the respective Hydrogen Valley, i.e., the primary company or organisation officially responsible for the overall project development of the Hydrogen Valley.

The persons signing the documents that require signature (see chapter 2.2 Application documents) need to be acting as a legal representative of the lead developer organisation.

The lead developer may list as part of the application other companies and organisations that are (consortium or supporting) partners of the respective Hydrogen Valley. Such other companies or organisations are not entitled to submit the application for Project Development Assistance. These companies or organisations are encouraged to declare their commitment to participate and contribute in the Project Development Assistance delivery via signing the Letter of Commitment (Annex IV) to be submitted by the lead developer as part of the application.

2.1.2 Submission of applications

Applications are to be submitted via the PDA programme application portal (pda.h2v.eu). Applications submitted in any other way (e.g., e-mail or by letter) will be disregarded.

In order to submit an application, applicants will need to register within the application portal.

Applicants must ensure that their submitted applications contain all the information and documents required as set out in chapter 2.2 Application documents.

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After the submission, changes of the application are not possible anymore.

Only one application per applicant can be submitted.

All costs incurred for the preparation and submission of applications are to be borne by the applicants and will not be reimbursed.

Only information submitted before the application deadline will be considered for the evaluation of all applications. Applicants are not allowed to submit any information related to the application thereafter.

2.1.3 Allocation to PDA programme track (i.e. “light” or “plus”)

All applicants need to fulfil the eligibility criteria as set out in chapter 3.1 Eligibility

Eligible applicants that have completed the concept stage for the Hydrogen Valley, i.e., have completed a concept study (Front-end loading 1 (FEL 1) study⁴ or equivalent) in place that covers at least 70% of the overall CAPEX of the Hydrogen Valley and with a commercial date of operations for 70% of the Hydrogen Valley of a maximum of 42 months (3.5 years) in the future as of the date of the submission deadline are eligible for the application to the PDA plus programme.

All other eligible applicants can apply for the PDA light programme.

Eligible applicants need to clearly indicate for which PDA programme track (PDA light or PDA plus) their application is submitted. Applicants cannot apply for both PDA programme tracks.

2.1.4 Signature policy

Where a document needs to be signed, the signature must be either hand-written or, preferably, a qualified electronic signature (QES) as defined in [Regulation \(EU\) No 910/2014](#).

Applicants are strongly encouraged to sign with a QES⁵ all documents requiring a signature and only exceptionally to sign such documents by hand. The originals of any hand-signed documents (other than the contract) do not need to be submitted but the applicant must keep them for a period of five years starting from the notification of the outcome of the procedure.

All documents must be signed by the signatories (when they are individuals) or by their duly authorised representatives.

The delegation of the authorisation to sign on behalf of the signatories (including, in the case of proxy(-ies), the chain of authorisations) must be evidenced by appropriate written evidence (copy of the notice of appointment of the persons authorised to represent the legal entity in signing contracts (together or alone), or a copy of the publication of such appointment if the legislation which applies to signatory requires such publication or a power of attorney).

⁴ The Front-end loading 1 represents the definition of the scoping and conceptual design of the project with a class 5 cost estimate (+/- 65 to 35%). A FEL 1 should include as a minimum requirement the preliminary design basis, in- and outflow diagrams, an equipment list, a plot plan and a class 5 cost estimate.

⁵ See [here](#) how to sign a document with a QES.

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2.1.5 Contacts during the application phase

Questions on this call for applications need to be submitted via the H2V Platform via the “contact email address” button. All questions will be answered publicly on the H2V PDA application area website (without disclosing the submitting applicant). The deadline for questions regarding the call for applications is the 12/09/2025. It is the obligation of each applicant to constantly visit the website in order to stay updated with any clarifications regarding this Call for Applications and Q&A.

On July, 18 at 09:30 to 11:30 AM CET, there will be a virtual information session with the purpose of presenting this call for applications, answering questions related to the call that were submitted via the contact form and, if time permits, answering of any other ad-hoc questions that might arise during the virtual information session. The virtual information session can be accessed via [this link](#). Previous registration is not necessary.

Answers to general questions on the Call for Applications can be publicly accessed in the FAQ section (pda.h2v.eu) that will be continuously expanded based on any other incoming questions.

2.1.6 Notification of the outcome of the evaluation

Applicants are planned to be notified of the outcome of the evaluation by mid-October 2025 via the e-mail address provided by the applicant (contact person as indicated in the registration) when the application was submitted.

The same e-mail address will be used by the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking and the PDA Service Consultants, for all other communication with the applicant. It is the applicants' responsibility to provide a valid e-mail address and to check it regularly.

The start for the Project Development Assistance is planned by beginning of November 2025.

2.1.7 Legal effects of the invitation to this Call for Applications and submission of an application

This Call for Applications is in no way binding on the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking. Any obligations by the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking commence only when successful applicants will be awarded and when the Collaboration Agreement is signed by all parties.

Up to the point of signature, the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking may cancel this call for applications without applicants being entitled to any services or compensation.

The submission of an application implies the acceptance of all terms and conditions as set out in this document and in the Model Declaration of Collaboration (Annex I).

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2.2 Application documents

Every application must include the following documents:

Document	PDA light	PDA plus	Expected content	Format	Required signature	Relevance for evaluation
Business Plan	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companies involved in the Hydrogen Valley Commercial architecture of the Hydrogen Valley Market fundamentals and status and evidence of commercial offtake agreements Financial structure and business plan, incl. total CAPEX investment⁶ 	pdf document;	n/a	Award criteria
Basic Technical Outline	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping and conceptual design High-level cost estimates, incl. CAPEX and OPEX 	no specific format required, based on		Award criteria
Concept study		✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping and conceptual plant design, description of supply chain and high-level construction planning and permitting plan Information on operations, maintenance and risk management Class 5 cost estimate, incl. CAPEX and OPEX 	existing documents of the applicant		Award criteria
Governance and Implementation Plan	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project governance structure Implementation plan and overall timeline until COD 			Award criteria
Completed and signed PDA Application Form (Annex II)	✓	✓	See Annex II	pdf document	Authorised signatories of lead developer company/organisation	Award criteria
Signed Declaration of Honour (Annex III)	✓	✓	See Annex III	pdf document		Eligibility criteria
Letter(s) of Commitment (Annex IV)	Encouraged		See Annex IV	pdf document (one document per partner)	Authorised signatories of partner companies/organisations	Award criteria

⁶ The business plan document must indicate the total planned CAPEX investment volume of the Hydrogen Valley. Please note that there is a minimum CAPEX investment volume of EUR 30 m or 500 tonnes of hydrogen production per year to be eligible for PDA support (see Chapter 3.1 Eligibility criteria).



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For the business plan, the technical concept (basic technical outline or concept study) and the governance and implementation plan, we kindly ask applicants to build on and compile already existing documents of the Hydrogen Valley. There is no page limit for these compiled documents, but applicants are asked to provide all information in a concise manner.

All documents are to be submitted in English.

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2.3 Application deadline

Deadline for the submission of applications is 19/09/2025 23:59:59 P.M. (CET).

3. Evaluation and award

3.1 Eligibility criteria

In order to be considered for evaluation, applications must meet all of the following eligibility criteria:

1. Submission of applications before the submission deadline via the PDA applicant's area
2. Submission of all application documents in English
3. No exclusion situation as per Declaration of Honour (Annex III)
4. Location of the Hydrogen Valley and location of the legal entity of the lead developer organisation within an eligible country, i.e., within an EU member state or a country associated to Horizon Europe⁷ (to be indicated in the application interface)
5. Fulfilment of the following criteria (to be indicated in the application interface):
 - a. Project should be based on clean hydrogen, i.e., hydrogen produced with renewable energy sources⁸
 - b. Planned total CAPEX investment of at least EUR 30 m in hydrogen production, hydrogen storage, hydrogen transport, hydrogen distribution and hydrogen end use in mobility, industry and energy applications (renewable energy generation is excluded from planned total CAPEX investment)⁹
 - c. Project is under real project development, i.e., at least has a defined project outline (this criterion is proven based on the availability of the governance and implementation plan document)
 - d. Project has a defined geographical scope, i.e., specific local or regional coverage
 - e. Coverage of multiple steps of the value chain from hydrogen production to storage, transport and offtake
 - f. Supply of more than one end use, thereby showcasing the versatility of hydrogen in key sectors such as mobility, energy and industry

If the verification of one or more elements demonstrates that there are grounds for rejection, the application will be rejected and will not be subjected to further full evaluation. The unsuccessful applications will be informed of the ground for rejection without being given feedback on the non-assessed content of their applications.

⁷ Associated countries under Horizon Europe are listed [here](#). Transitional arrangements will be taken into consideration at the time of the evaluation of this Call for any new association agreement.

⁸ In early stages of the hydrogen production, low-carbon hydrogen can be used. However, there must be a clear pathway towards the use of renewable hydrogen as ultimate objective of the project. As defined in the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda 2021-2027 ([SRIA of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership](#), p. 20), clean hydrogen refers to renewable hydrogen, i.e. either electricity-based hydrogen produced through the electrolysis of water and with the electricity stemming from renewable sources or through the reforming of biogas or biochemical conversion of biomass.

⁹ Details of the distribution of the planned total CAPEX investment volume are to be indicated in the business plan document and the basic technical outline (for PDA light applicants)/the concept study (for PDA plus applicants).

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Only applicants for whom the verification of all elements did not reveal grounds for rejection will be evaluated and ranked against the award criteria described below.

3.2 Award criteria

All applications that fulfilled the eligibility criteria, will be considered for the award phase.

The evaluation takes place based on the following four award criteria that are weighted equally (i.e., 25%).

#	Award criterion	Score	Weight	Document for assessment	Aspects to be assessed
1	Commercial maturity	1-10	25%	Business Plan Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Companies involved in the Hydrogen Valley (stakeholders involved, partnerships, history) - Commercial architecture of the Hydrogen Valley (commercial relationships, players along the value chain) - Market fundamentals (target markets and end users, key suppliers and offtake) - Status and evidence of commercial offtake agreements (e.g., Letters of Interest, Memoranda of Understanding, Heads of Terms) - Financial structure and business plan (financing structure regarding equity, debt and government support, financial model with key parameters and assumptions, incl. CAPEX and OPEX estimates)
2a	Technical maturity (PDA light)	1-10	25%	Basic Technical Outline Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scoping and conceptual design (key technology options under consideration, sizing of plant, background information on site selection) - High-level cost estimates, incl. CAPEX and OPEX estimates
2b	Technical maturity (PDA plus)	1-10	25%	Concept Study Document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scoping and conceptual plant design (inputs, process, outputs) - Description of supply chain (in- and outflows) - Permitting plan - High-level construction planning - Information on operations, maintenance and risk management - Class 5 cost estimate, incl. CAPEX and OPEX estimates
3	Governance & operational maturity	1-10	25%	Governance and Implementation Plan document	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project governance structure (details about key project team members and resources involved (in FTE), organisation chart) - Implementation plan and overall timeline until commercial operations date - Letters of Commitment by partner companies/organisations
4	Contribution to	1-10	25%	PDA Application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rationale why Hydrogen Valley contributes to the REPowerEU Plan, in particular the

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#	Award criterion	Score Weight	Document for assessment	Aspects to be assessed
	REPowerEU and the Clean Industrial Deal as well as rationale for PDA		Form (Annex II)	<p>acceleration of the deployment of green energy, and to the Clean Industrial Deal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasoning and motivation how and why the PDA can advance the Hydrogen Valley - Explanation of how the PDA support is complementary to existing funding and will deliver a distinct and additional benefit that cannot be covered via existing funding (only in case if other public funding is received)

3.3 Evaluation procedure and ranking

Applications will be checked for eligibility and then evaluated regarding the four award criteria by an evaluation committee composed of a panel of assessors from the PDA Service Consultants and the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking.

Per PDA programme, a different evaluation procedure of the award criteria takes place, i.e., PDA light applicants will be evaluated against all other PDA light applicants and PDA plus applicants will be evaluated against all other PDA plus applicants.

All eligible applications will be evaluated and ranked according to the highest scoring based on the four award criteria, thereby applying a score from 1 (unfavourable) to 10 (very favourable) with half-marks. The minimum threshold for a PDA award is a scoring of 5 out of 10 points in each of the four award criteria. If the total score between various applicants is the same, the higher rating in the fourth award criterion is decisive.

In its award decision, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership will take into account the ranking order as well as a broad geographic coverage of Hydrogen Valley projects within eligible countries.

A maximum number of 15 PDAs will be awarded in this Call for Applications. The specific distribution between PDAs light and plus will be decided based on the incoming applications.

4. Responsibilities of beneficiaries that will be awarded with PDA support

Selected beneficiaries that are awarded with Project Development Assistance support are expected to comply with certain responsibilities before, during and after the PDA support which are specified in the Model Declaration of Collaboration (see Annex I).

With the submission of an application, applicants accept the conditions set out in the Model Declaration of Collaboration and agree to sign the Model Declaration of Collaboration if awarded for a PDA programme.

5. Protection of personal data and confidentiality

5.1 Protection of personal data

If processing a reply to this call for application involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, address and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to

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[Regulation \(EU\) 2018/1725](#) on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data by the Union institutions, bodies, offices and agencies and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, any personal data will be processed solely for evaluation purposes under this call for applications by Clean Hydrogen Partnership and the PDA Service Consultants. Details concerning the processing of personal data are available in the [Privacy Statement for processing of personal data related to procurement procedures](#).

If you would like to exercise your rights under Regulation (EU) 2018/1725, or if you have comments, questions or concerns, or if you would like to submit a complaint regarding the collection and use of your personal data, you can contact h2v@clean-hydrogen.europa.eu by explicitly specifying your request.

The applicant's personal data may be registered in the [Early Detection and Exclusion System](#) (EDES) if the applicant is in one of the situations mentioned in Article 136 of the Financial Regulation.¹⁰

5.2 Confidentiality of data submitted with the application and under PDA delivery

In connection with this application as well as with the preparation and execution of the PDA services, the applicant will disclose certain confidential information. With a view to this exchange of confidential information in connection with the application and under PDA delivery, the following provisions will apply:

The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking and its mandated PDA Service Consultants treat any confidential information, i.e., any information or documentation (whether communicated orally, in written or electronic form) related to the PDA which it or the PDA Service Consultants receive with this application and in relation to the PDA by the Beneficiary, its Affiliates, or its employees or consultants, confidentially and does not disclose it to Third Parties¹¹ without the Beneficiary's consent and only to use it for purposes of the evaluation of the applications and the conduction of the PDA.

Confidential Information shall not include information that the JU and the PDA Service Consultants for the conduction of the PDA can prove:

- was in its possession, respectively received from or on behalf of the Beneficiary before the start of the PDA;
- it has legally received from Third Parties;
- was received by it in the framework of its own, independent research; or
- that is generally known or becomes generally known

¹⁰ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 (OJ L 193 of 30.07.2018, p. 1).

¹¹ "Third Parties" shall be anyone who is not an "Authorised Recipient", which latter term shall include (i) statutory representatives and employees of the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, (ii) advisors subject to professional secrecy obligations or (iii) subcontractors hired or other parties included with the consent of the Beneficiary.