



CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

Call for Applications

**2nd Call for Applications for Receiving Project Development
Assistance Support as part of Hydrogen Valleys Facility**

20 April 2026

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

Contents

Introduction	3
1. Context and background information to this call for applications for PDA support 3	
1.1 PDA light programme track	5
1.2 PDA plus programme track	6
2. Application for PDA support.....	7
2.1 Company/organization entitled to submit the PDA application	7
2.1.1 PDA applicants that act as coordinating authority/umbrella organization...	7
2.1.2 PDA applicants that are project developers.....	7
2.2 Allocation to PDA programme track (i.e. “light” or “plus”)	8
2.3 Application process.....	8
2.3.1 Submission of applications	8
2.3.2 Signature policy	8
2.3.3 Contacts during the application phase	9
2.3.4 Application deadline.....	9
2.3.5 Notification of the outcome of the evaluation.....	9
2.3.6 Legal effects of the invitation to this Call for Applications and submission of an application	9
2.4 Application documents.....	11
3. Evaluation and award.....	13
3.1 Eligibility criteria.....	13
3.2 Award criteria	14
3.3 Evaluation procedure and ranking	15
4. Responsibilities of beneficiaries that will be awarded with PDA support	16
5. Protection of personal data and confidentiality	16
5.1 Protection of personal data.....	16
5.2 Confidentiality of data submitted with the application and under PDA delivery	16

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

Introduction

Under this Call for Applications, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership aims to provide Project Development Assistance (PDA) services for up to 13 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.

Concretely, the 13 PDAs will be awarded within three separate programme lines, each with a separate application and evaluation process:

1. **Up to 5 PDA pluses** for Hydrogen Valleys in EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe
2. **Up to 4 PDA lights** for Hydrogen Valleys in EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe
3. **Up to 4 PDA lights** for Hydrogen Valleys located in an EU 13 Member State¹

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 Support by the local or regional authority
- Annex V: Letter of Commitment

Applications must be submitted exclusively via pda.h2v.eu and in English. Deadline for the submission of applications is Friday, 26/06/2026 23:59:59 P.M. (CET).

Applicants are planned to be notified of the outcome of the evaluation by mid-July 2026. Successful applicants are requested to make themselves available for a 2-3 week scoping phase to define the scope of work for their PDA support jointly with the PDA Service Consultants, from ca. mid- to end July 2026.

The PDA support delivery period (6 weeks for PDA light and 12 weeks for PDA plus) is foreseen to start at the beginning of September 2026.

Two Info Days on the Call for Applications and on PDA support will be held around 3 to 4 weeks following the opening of the Call for Applications with more information being announced at the PDA application website pda.h2v.eu.

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

¹ The term "EU13" refers to the 13 countries that joined the European Union during the 2004 and 2007 and 2013 enlargements. These countries are: Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

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 has set 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.

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 13 Hydrogen Valleys located within an EU member state or a country associated to Horizon Europe² via two different tracks of support programmes, depending on the maturity of the individual Valley at hand: PDA light and PDA plus.

1. **Up to 5 PDA pluses** for Hydrogen Valleys in EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe
2. **Up to 4 PDA lights** for Hydrogen Valleys in EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe
3. **Up to 4 PDA lights** for Hydrogen Valleys located in an EU 13 Member State³

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:

- **Commercial aspects** (incl. commercial structuring, business planning and financial modelling, H₂ and derivatives market analysis, offtake strategy and pricing, financing and funding g)
- **Technical aspects** (incl. technical validation and benchmarking, optimization of technical concept focused on CAPEX & OPEX, power sourcing concept with focus on LCoH improvement)

² 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.

³ The term "EU13" refers to the 13 countries that joined the European Union during the 2004 and 2007 and 2013 enlargements. These countries are: Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

- **Regulatory aspects** (incl. regulatory analysis of RFNBO-H2 and LCH regulations, RED III, EU ETS and certification schemes, socio-economic impact assessment)
- **Valley governance aspects** (incl. development of project storyline, stakeholder organization, project planning & dependencies)

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.⁴

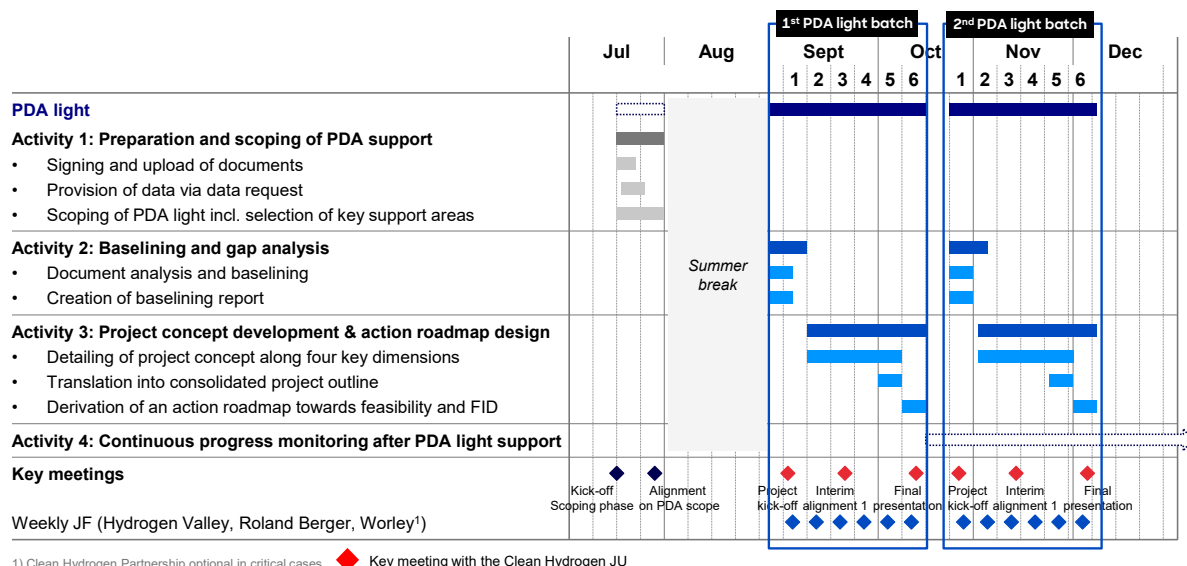
The PDA light support will be delivered as follows:

- **Scoping phase from mid- to end July 2026:** Initial scoping phase with PDA Beneficiary incl. c. 1-3 meetings with key developer and other relevant project stakeholders to determine PDA light scope of work and focus areas of PDA support
- **PDA light delivery from beginning of September 2026 or end of October 2026⁵**
 - 1-week baselining phase with detailed status assessment and gap analysis of project
 - 5-week project concept development for selected support areas as defined in scope of work and in baselining report

Key deliverables of a PDA light include, but are not limited to:

- Baselining Report incl. detailed gap analysis for all four PDA dimensions
- Consolidated project concept report along the four PDA dimensions
- Detailed action roadmap towards feasibility and Final Investment Decision stage

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



⁴ 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.

⁵ The PDA light will be delivered in 2 batches, i.e., 4 PDA light Beneficiaries will be supported from September to mid-October 2026 and the remaining 4 PDA light Beneficiaries from mid/end-October to mid-December.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

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.⁶

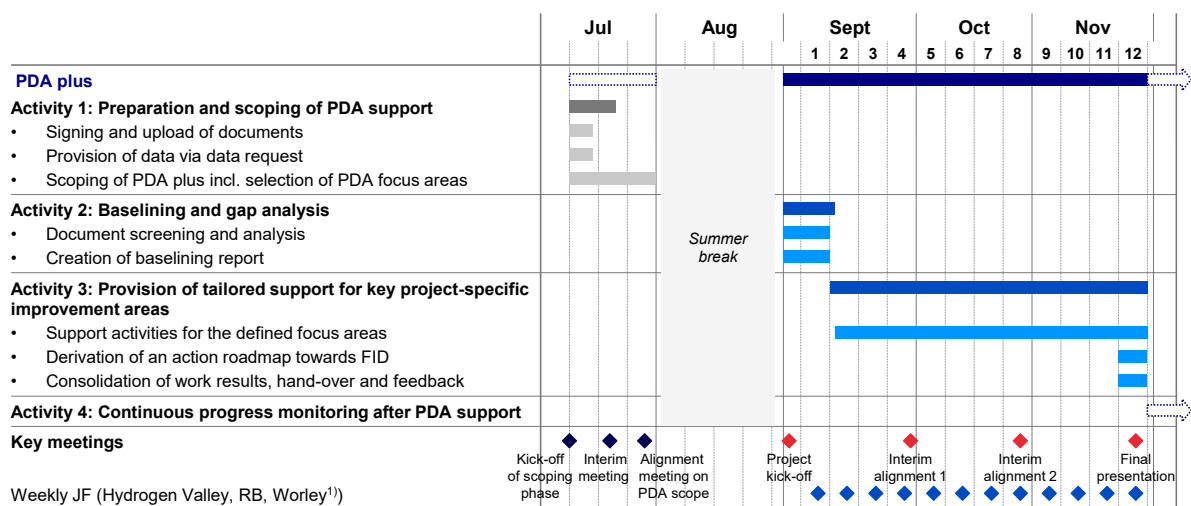
The PDA plus support will be delivered as follows:

- **Scoping phase from mid- to end July 2026:** Initial scoping phase with PDA Beneficiary incl. c. 1-3 meetings with all relevant project stakeholders to determine PDA light scope of work and focus areas of PDA support
- **PDA plus delivery from September to mid-December 2026:**
 - 1-2 week baselining phase with detailed status assessment and gap analysis of project
 - 10-11-week tailored support for identified focus areas as defined in scope of work and in baselining report

Key deliverables of a PDA plus include, but are not limited to

- Baselining report incl. gap analysis for all four PDA dimensions
- Tailored deliverables as agreed within the scoping phase
- Detailed action roadmap towards Final Investment Decision stage

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



1) Clean Hydrogen Partnership optional in critical cases ◆ Key meeting with the Clean Hydrogen JU

⁶ 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.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

2. Application for PDA support

2.1 Company/organization entitled to submit the PDA application

Applications can be submitted by two types of organizations:

1. Organizations that serve as a coordinator of various projects within a given Hydrogen Valley, but do not develop the projects by themselves. These could include regional, local or other authorities and public bodies, umbrella or cluster organizations
2. Valley project developers (either private or public)⁷ who develop the Hydrogen Valley project(s) directly

Irrespective of the type of organization, the PDA application must be submitted by legal entities that are the primary company or organisation officially responsible for the overall project development of the Hydrogen Valley.

The PDA applicant 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 V) to be submitted by the PDA applicant as part of the application.

2.1.1 PDA applicants that act as coordinating authority/umbrella organization

PDA applicants acting as coordinating authority or umbrella organization and that hence do not request PDA support (not exclusively) for themselves are required to coordinate with the individual project developers in their Hydrogen Valley and align with them on the scope of PDA support needed.

This information is then to be consolidated and specified in the PDA application form (Annex II) by the coordinating authority or umbrella organization. The completed form must then be co-signed by each project developer in the Hydrogen Valley intending to receive PDA support.

2.1.2 PDA applicants that are project developers

PDA applicants acting as project developers of a Hydrogen Valley can submit the PDA application themselves. Given the importance of collaborating with local or regional authorities as important facilitators and enablers for Hydrogen Valleys and the emergence of truly connected local and regional ecosystems, the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking requests all PDA applicants that are project developers to seek the commitment of the respective local or regional authorities in the Valley area and submit documentation of the support and endorsement in the form of Annex IV (Letter of Support by the local or regional authority) signed by the respective local or regional authority.

Local or regional authorities in this context are to be understood as the public authorities with administrative or political responsibilities within the territory/territories in which the Hydrogen Valley will be deployed.

⁷ Such project developers can include oil and gas companies, energy and utility companies, independent project developers, engineering and consulting companies, research institutions or any other public or private developer of hydrogen projects.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

2.2 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.

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.

To qualify for the PDA plus programme track, applicants must fulfil two formal requirements:

1. Concept stage completed (to be proven with a concept study (Front-end loading 1 (FEL 1) study⁸ or equivalent)
2. Planned commercial date of operations until 01/01/2030

In case these two requirements are not met, applicants are free to apply for the PDA light programme.

2.3 Application process

2.3.1 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 0 2.4 Application documents.

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.

Note: Applicants that have applied in the First Call for Applications for PDA support must register again, but can use the same e-mail address as for the first call.

2.3.2 Signature policy

The persons signing the documents that require signature (see chapter 0 2.4 Application documents) need to be acting as a legal representative of the lead developer organisation.

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 QES⁹ all documents requiring a signature and only exceptionally to sign such documents by hand. The originals of any hand-signed

⁸ 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.

⁹ See [here](#) how to sign a document with a QES.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

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).

2.3.3 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 19/06/2026. 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.

Two Info Days on the Call for Applications and on PDA support will be held around 3 to 4 weeks following the opening of the Call for Applications with more information being announced at the PDA application website pda.h2v.eu. 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.

2.3.4 Application deadline

Deadline for the submission of applications is 26/06/2026 23:59:59 P.M. (CET).

2.3.5 Notification of the outcome of the evaluation

Applicants are planned to be notified of the outcome of the evaluation by mid-July 2026 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 September 2026. Successful applicants are required to make themselves available for a ca. 2-3 week scoping period starting immediately after the notification of the evaluation result.

The above calendar is indicative and it does not represent a commitment on the side of the Contracting Authority.

2.3.6 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.



CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

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).

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

2.4 Application documents

Documents that require signature must be signed by authorised signatories of the respective organization.

Every application must include the following documents:

#	Document	PDA light	PDA plus	Expected content	Format	Required signature	Relevance for evaluation
1	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 			Award criteria
2.1	Basic Technical Outline	✓		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scoping and conceptual design - High-level cost estimates, incl. CAPEX and OPEX <p>Note: Min. CAPEX volume is EUR 30 m</p>	pdf document; no specific format required,		Award criteria
2.2	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 <p>Note: Min. CAPEX volume is EUR 30 m</p>	based on existing documents of the applicant	n/a	Award criteria
3	Governance and Implementation Plan	✓	✓	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project governance structure - Implementation plan and overall timeline until COD 			Award criteria
4	Completed and signed PDA Application Form (Annex II)	✓	✓	See Annex II	pdf document	If PDA applicant is a coordinating authority/umbrella organization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signature of section 1 by coordinating authority/umbrella organization 	Award criteria

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

#	Document	PDA light	PDA plus	Expected content	Format	Required signature	Relevance for evaluation
						- Signature of section(s) 2 by all project developers within the Hydrogen Valley that request PDA support If PDA applicant is a project developer: signature of application form by project developer under section 2	
5	Signed Declaration of Honour (Annex III)	✓	✓	See Annex III	pdf document	If applicant is coordinating authority or umbrella organization: Coordinating authority/umbrella organization If PDA applicant is project developer: Project developer	Eligibility criteria
6	Letter of support by local or regional authority (Annex IV)	✓	✓	See Annex IV	pdf document	Only for PDA applicants that are not local or regional authorities: Signature by local or regional authority	Eligibility criteria
7	Letter(s) of Commitment (Annex V)	Encouraged		See Annex V	pdf document (one document per partner)	Partner companies/ organisations	Award criteria

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. Successful applicants from the First Call for Applications indicated an average preparation time for the application documents of around 40 hours.

All documents are to be submitted in English.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

3. Evaluation and award

3.1 Eligibility criteria

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

1. Submission of applications before the submission deadline via the PDA applicant's area including all required signatures
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 Europe¹⁰ (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 sources¹¹
 - b. Planned total CAPEX investment of at least EUR 30 m in hydrogen production, hydrogen storage, hydrogen transport & distribution and hydrogen end use in mobility, industry and energy applications (renewable energy generation is excluded from planned total CAPEX investment)¹²
 - 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
6. Only for PDA applicants that not local or regional authorities: Signed Letter of support by local or regional authority (Annex IV) by local or regional authority
7. Only for PDA plus applicants: Proof of the following two requirements:
 - a. Concept stage completed and submitted with your application of a concept study (Front-end loading 1 (FEL 1) study¹³ or equivalent)
 - b. Commercial date of operations until 01/01/2030 to be proven within the governance and implementation plan document

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ 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.

¹² 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).

¹³ 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.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

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.

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 with the fourth criterion, the contribution to REPowerEU and the Clean Industrial Deal as well as rationale for PDA (PDA Application Form) weighted the highest (35%).

#	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)
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 CAPEX & OPEX estimates and their plausibility
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 CAPEX and OPEX estimates and their plausibility
3	Governance & operational maturity	1-10	15%	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)

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

#	Award criterion	Score	Weight	Document for assessment	Aspects to be assessed
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery mechanism of the organisation (incl. information on which organisation(s)/legal structure develops the Hydrogen Valley) - Implementation plan and overall timeline until commercial operations date - Letters of Commitment by partner companies/organisations
4.1	Contribution to REPowerEU/Clean Industrial Deal	1-10	10%	PDA Application Form (Annex II – Section 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rationale why Hydrogen Valley contributes to the REPowerEU Plan, in particular the acceleration of the deployment of green energy, and to the Clean Industrial Deal
4.2	Rationale for PDA	1-10	25%	PDA Application Form (Annex II – Section 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reasoning and motivation how and why the PDA can advance the Hydrogen Valley, incl. requests regarding scope and content of the PDA support - 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 (<i>only in case if other public funding is received</i>)

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.

Concretely, the 13 PDAs will be awarded within three separate ranking lists resulting in the following, each with a separate application and evaluation process:

1. **Up to 5 PDA pluses** for Hydrogen Valleys in EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe
2. **Up to 4 PDA lights** for Hydrogen Valleys in EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe
3. **Up to 4 PDA lights** for Hydrogen Valleys located in an EU 13 Member State¹⁴

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership reserves the right to adjust the number of PDAs awarded per ranking list if the number of applications exceeding the evaluation threshold in any of the three lists is lower than the maximum number of PDAs available for that list

For each ranking list, the evaluation and ranking of all eligible applications takes place 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.

¹⁴ The term "EU13" refers to the 13 countries that joined the European Union during the 2004 and 2007 and 2013 enlargements. These countries are: Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bulgaria, Romania and Croatia.

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

In its award decision, for each ranking list, 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.

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

Selected PDA 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 [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.¹⁵

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:

¹⁵ 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).

CLEAN HYDROGEN JOINT UNDERTAKING

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 Parties¹⁶ 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

¹⁶ "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.