

**Clean Hydrogen  
Partnership**

# Call for Applications for PDA support

Info Day

July 18 2025

Roland  
Berger

# In this call today

## Contracting authority



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## Mandated PDA Service Consultants



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**Christopher Schmitt**  
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**Markus Kaufmann**  
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**Franziska Hörth**  
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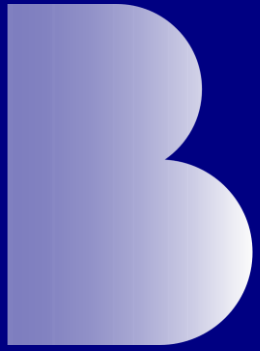
**Nicola Knight**  
Director Low Carbon



**Sam Gordon**  
Senior Consultant

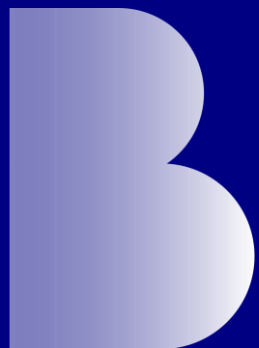
# Agenda

Topic	Time
<b>A</b> Introduction & Welcome by the Clean Hydrogen Partnership	09:30-09:40
<b>B</b> Setting the scene: The H2V facility	09:40-09:50
<b>C</b> Overview of the PDA programme	09:50-10:10
<b>D</b> Application process for the PDA programme's first call for applications	10:10-10:50
<b>E</b> Evaluation and award	10:50-11:10
<b>F</b> Questions and answers	11:10-11:30



## A. Introduction & Welcome





## B. Setting the scene: The H2V facility



# Hydrogen Valleys have become a key pillar of Europe's emerging clean hydrogen sector – The Clean Hydrogen JU has been spearheading the initiative

The Clean Hydrogen Partnership's success story of Hydrogen Valleys

2018

## Igniting Hydrogen Valleys

The idea of European  
“**Hydrogen Valleys**” is born



2019-2021

## Launching the H2V Platform

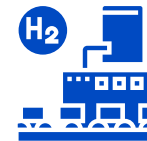
**H2V Platform** officially  
**kicked off, with 30+  
Hydrogen Valleys** featured  
and **funding of first  
Hydrogen Valleys**



2022-2024

## Accelerating the ramp-up

**Platform relaunched** with  
**90+ Hydrogen Valleys**  
featured and so far, **21  
projects** with funding of  
**>EUR 250 m supported**



2025+

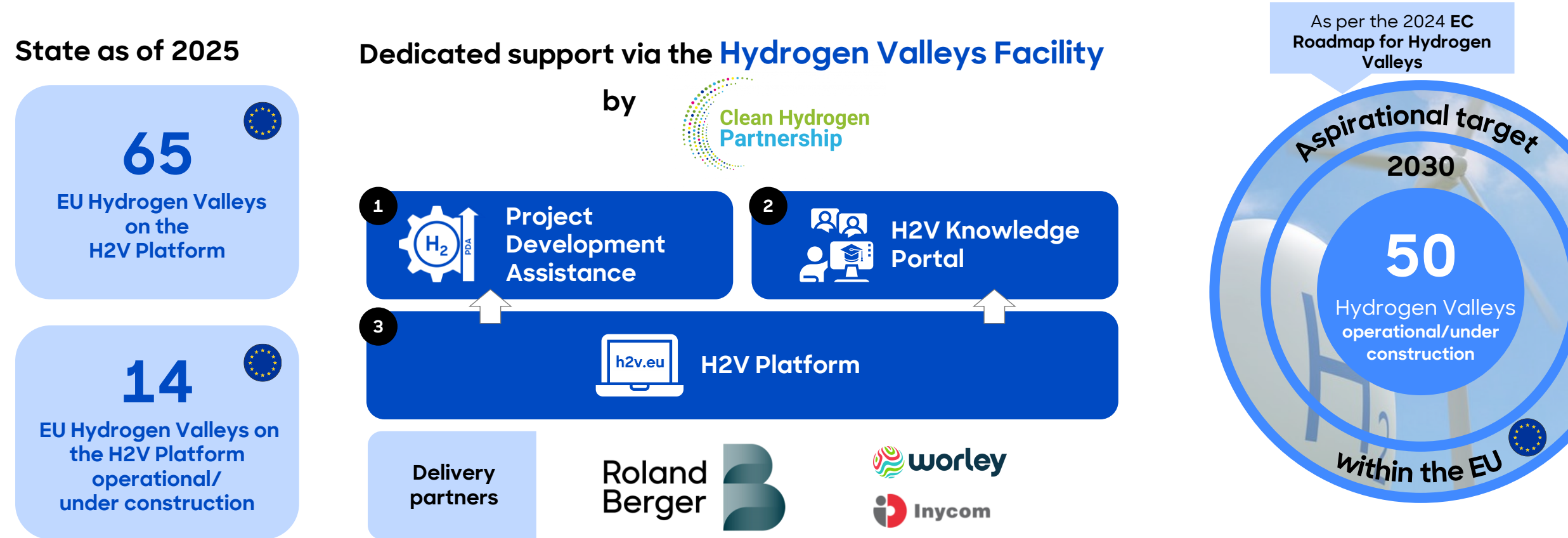
## Navigating beyond

Set-up of a tailored  
Hydrogen Valleys Facility  
with **Project Development  
Assistance** as key pillar



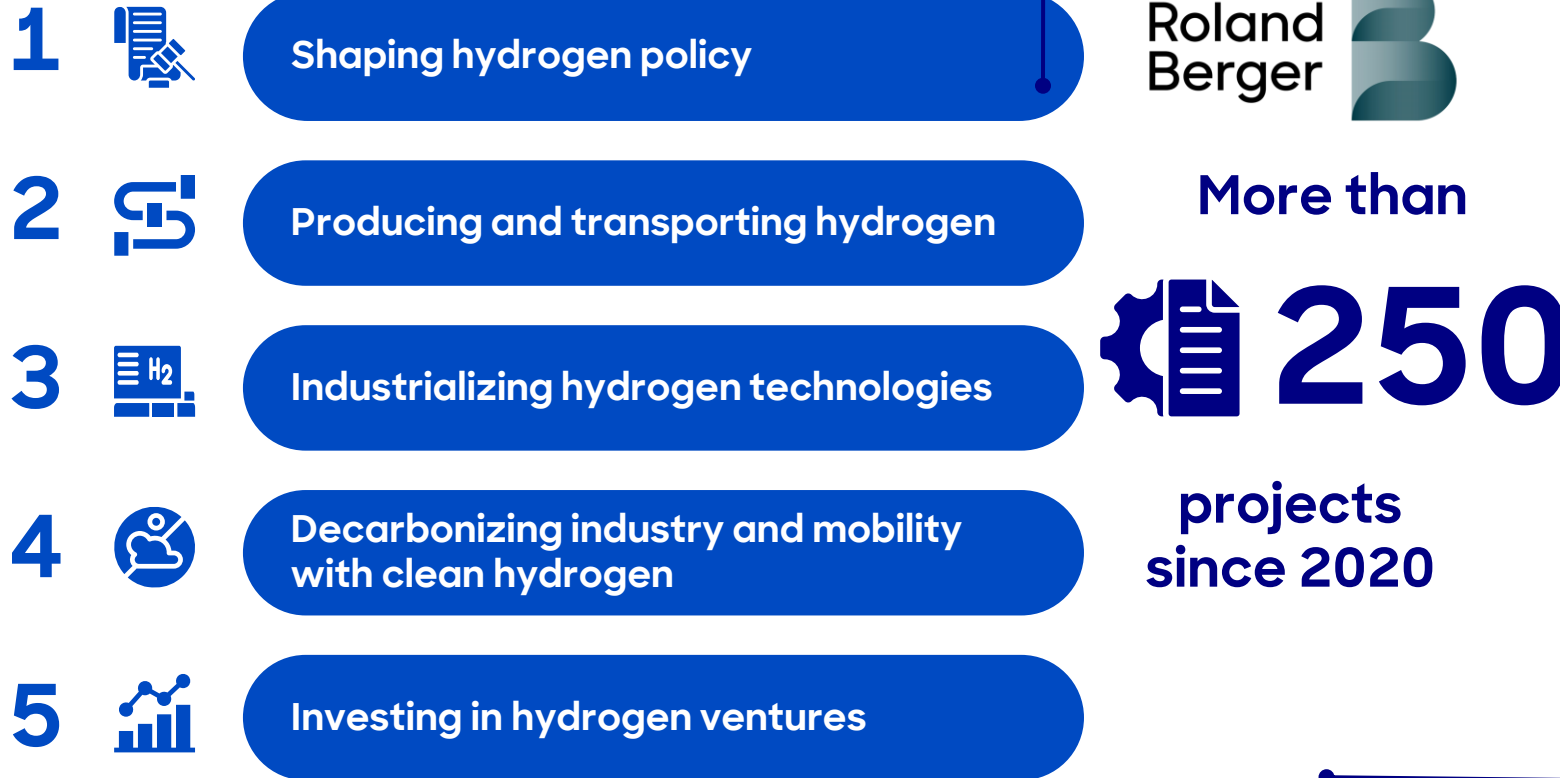
# The H2V Facility addresses the support needs in the market with the aspiration of 50 Hydrogen Valleys operational or under construction in the EU by 2030

## The Hydrogen Valleys Facility



# Roland Berger is a leading strategy consulting firm with strong expertise in clean tech and hydrogen project development

Roland Berger capabilities and expertise



## A strong global team

30+ hydrogen partners and principals, 50+ consultants



## True thought leadership

across the New Hydrogen Economy, 20+ publications in the last 2 years



## Proprietary market intelligence

Ready-to-use toolbox and knowledge base

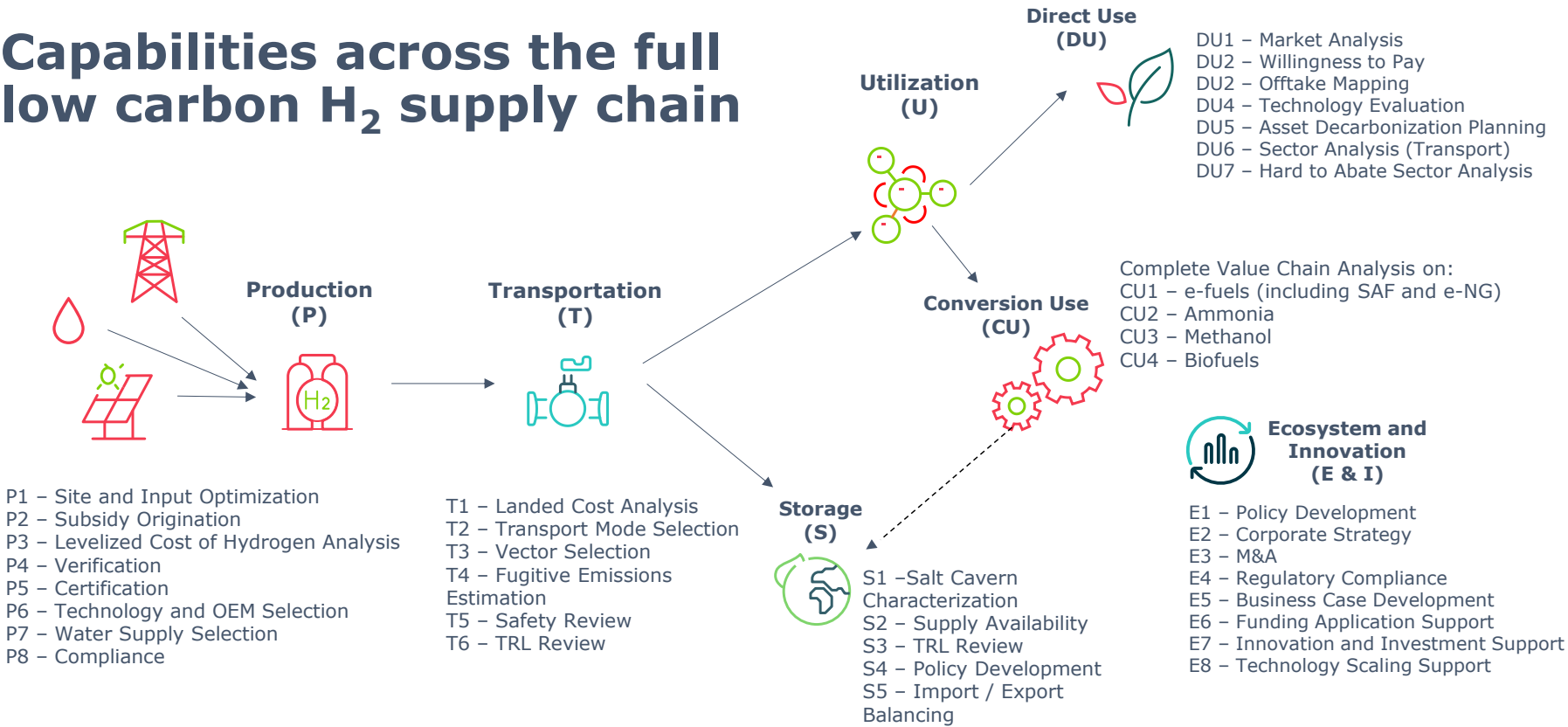




# Worley is a leading global provider of technical services related to hydrogen with a strong reputation in resource and infrastructure project development

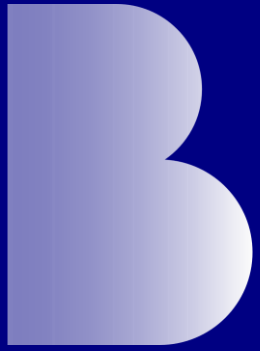
Worley capabilities and expertise

## Capabilities across the full low carbon H<sub>2</sub> supply chain



100+

hydrogen projects,  
supporting various  
customers in their projects



## C. Overview of the PDA programme

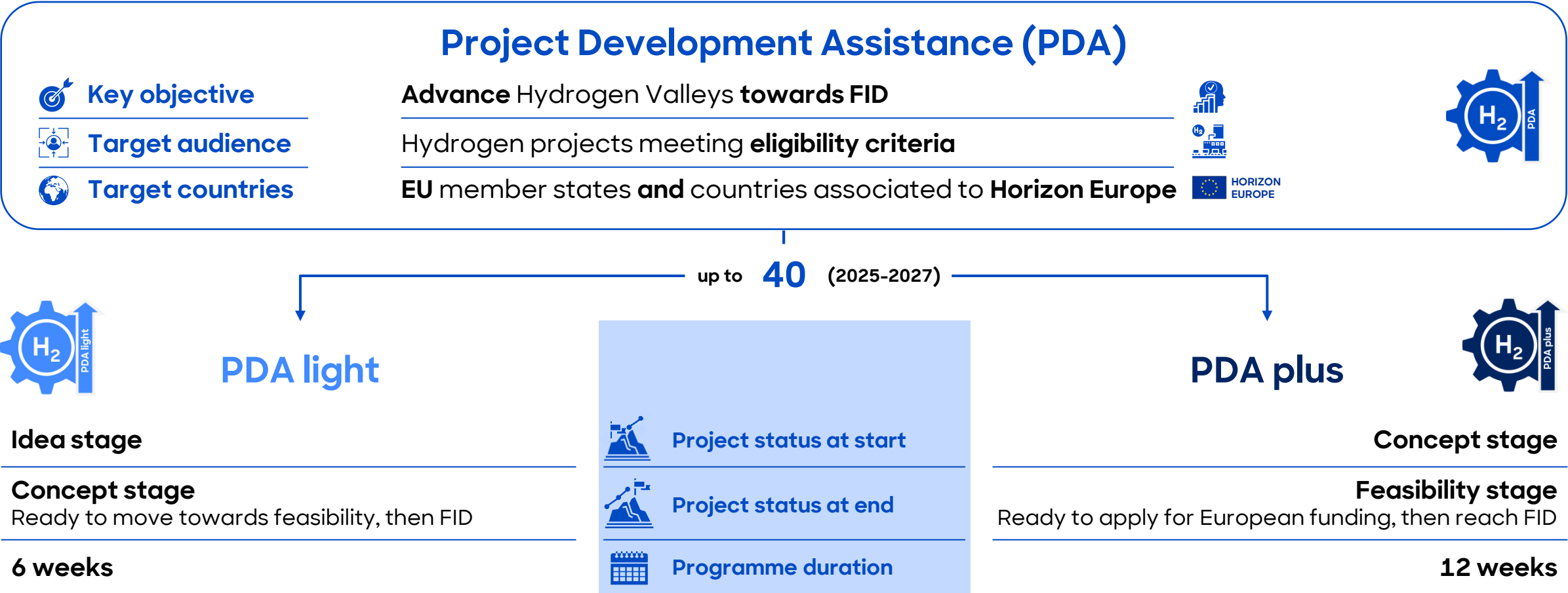


## Disclaimer

Please note that this session is of informative nature only.  
All binding information can be found in the Call for Application documents and in the Frequently Asked Questions on the PDA Programme website.

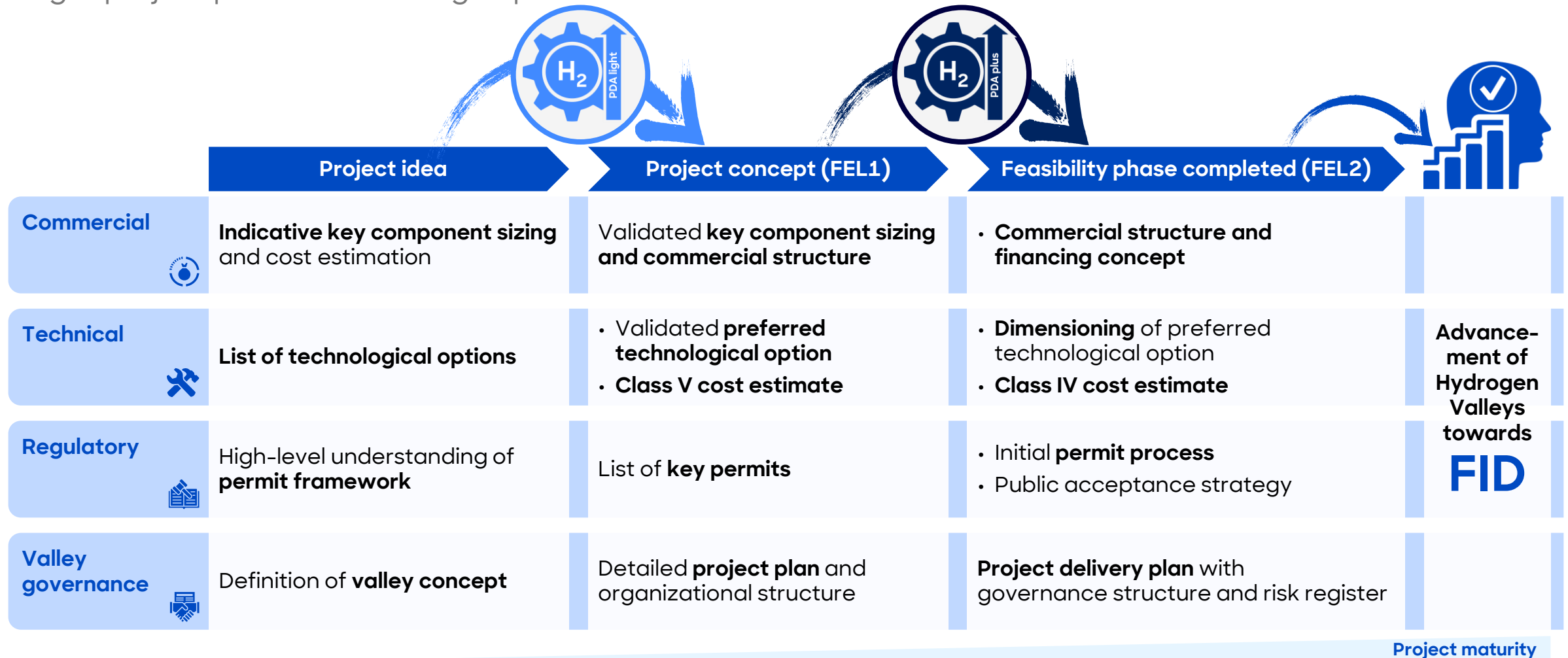
# With the Project Development Assistance, the Clean Hydrogen Partnership supports Hydrogen Valleys to mature towards feasibility stage & FID

PDA light and PDA plus programmes



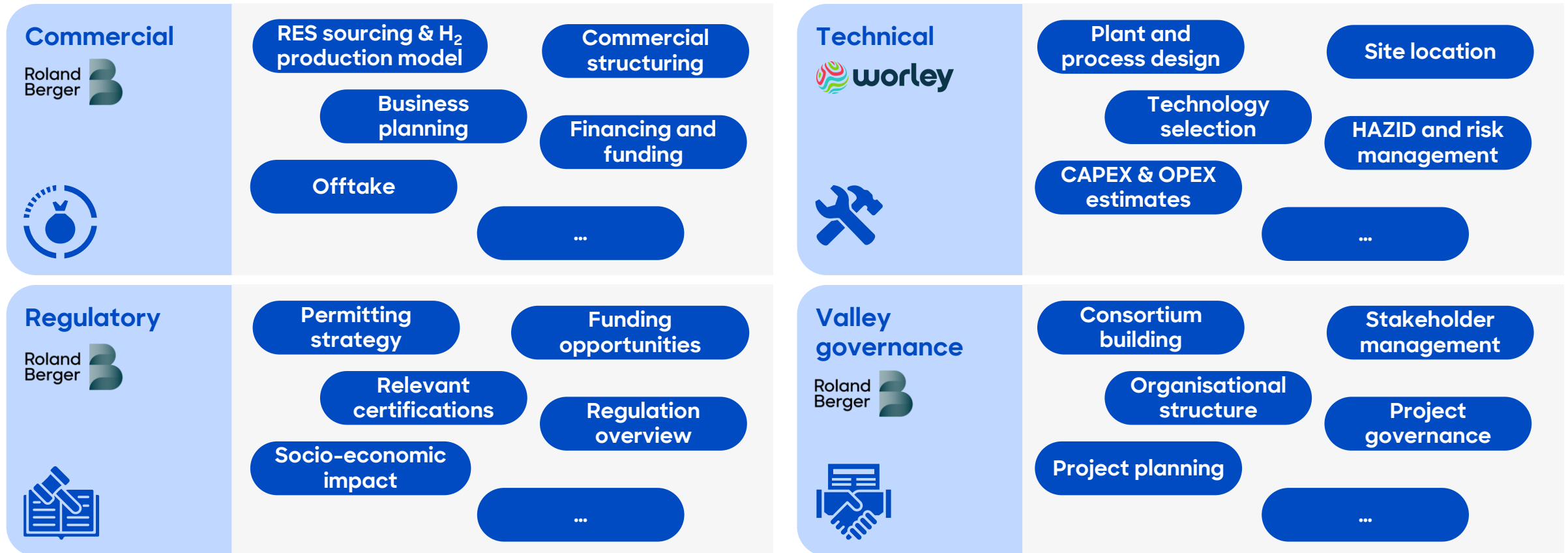
# The PDA support aims to advance Hydrogen Valleys from project idea to project concept (PDA light) and from project concept to feasibility (PDA plus)

Target project phases for PDA light/plus



# The PDAs aim to advance the valleys in the four dimensions commercial, technical, regulatory and valley governance

## Selected PDA dimensions



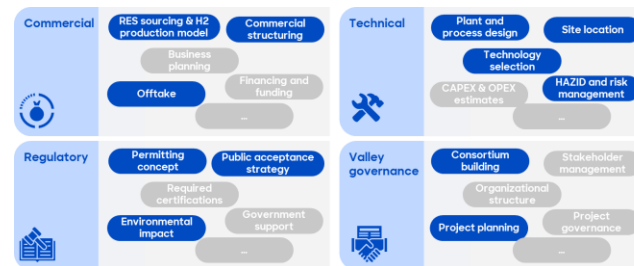
# Each 12-week PDA plus will be tailored to the specific needs of the Hydrogen Valley based on joint prioritization

PDA plus delivery

Analyse gaps and areas for improvement need

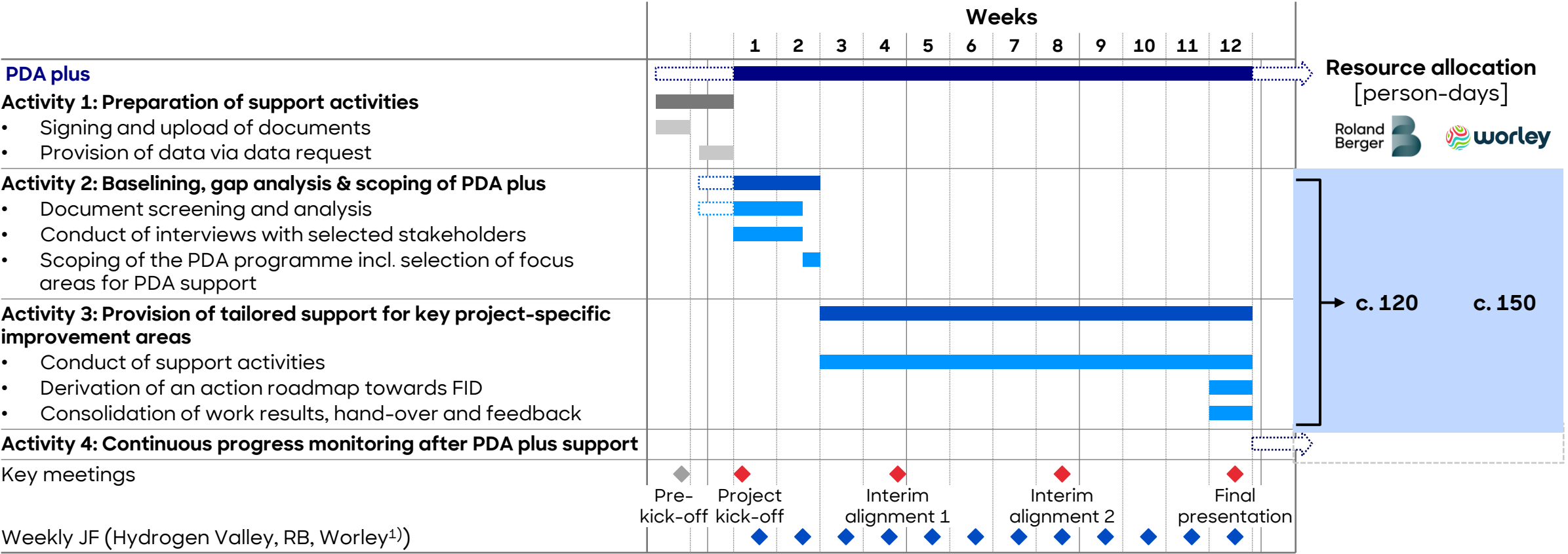
Select focus support areas

Align on PDA plus delivery plan



# A PDA plus has a duration of 12 weeks and focuses, after a baselining, on a tailored support for key project-specific improvement areas

Timeline and resource allocation for a PDA plus

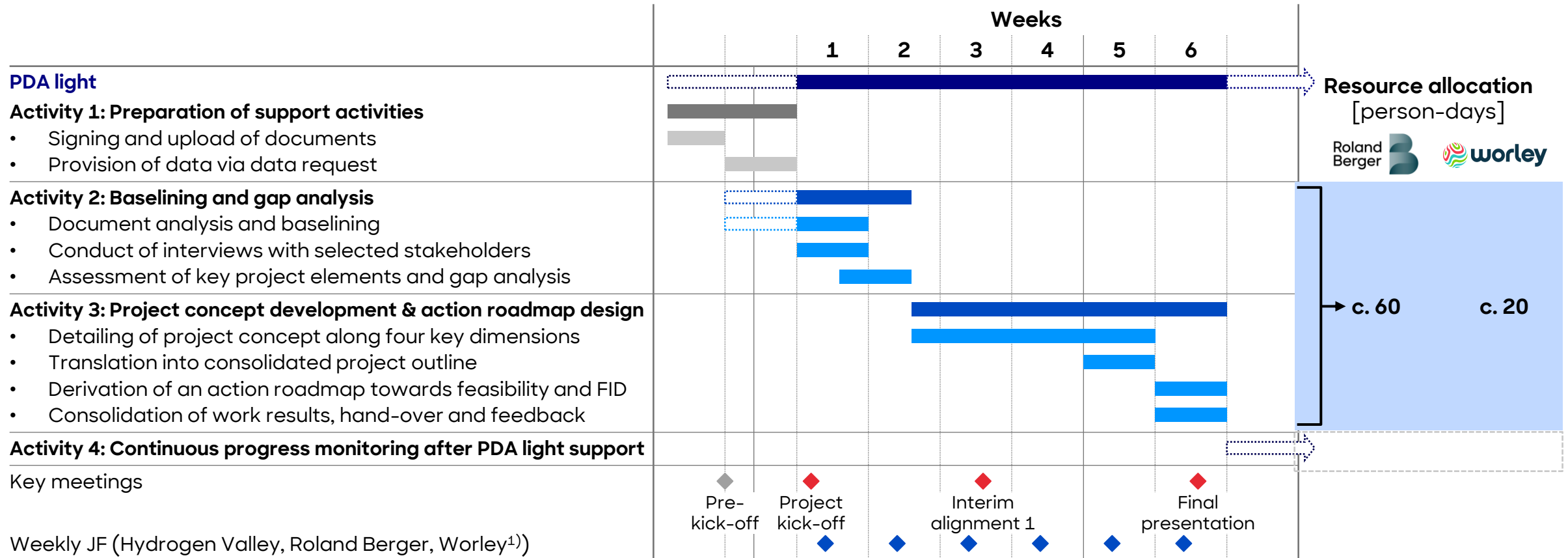


1) Clean Hydrogen Partnership optional in critical cases ◆ Key meeting with the Clean Hydrogen JU

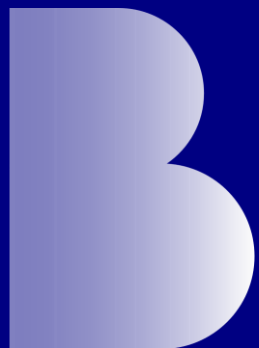


# A PDA light has a duration of six weeks and consists in a gap analysis, a detailed project concept development and the design of an action roadmap

## Timeline and resource allocation for a PDA light



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

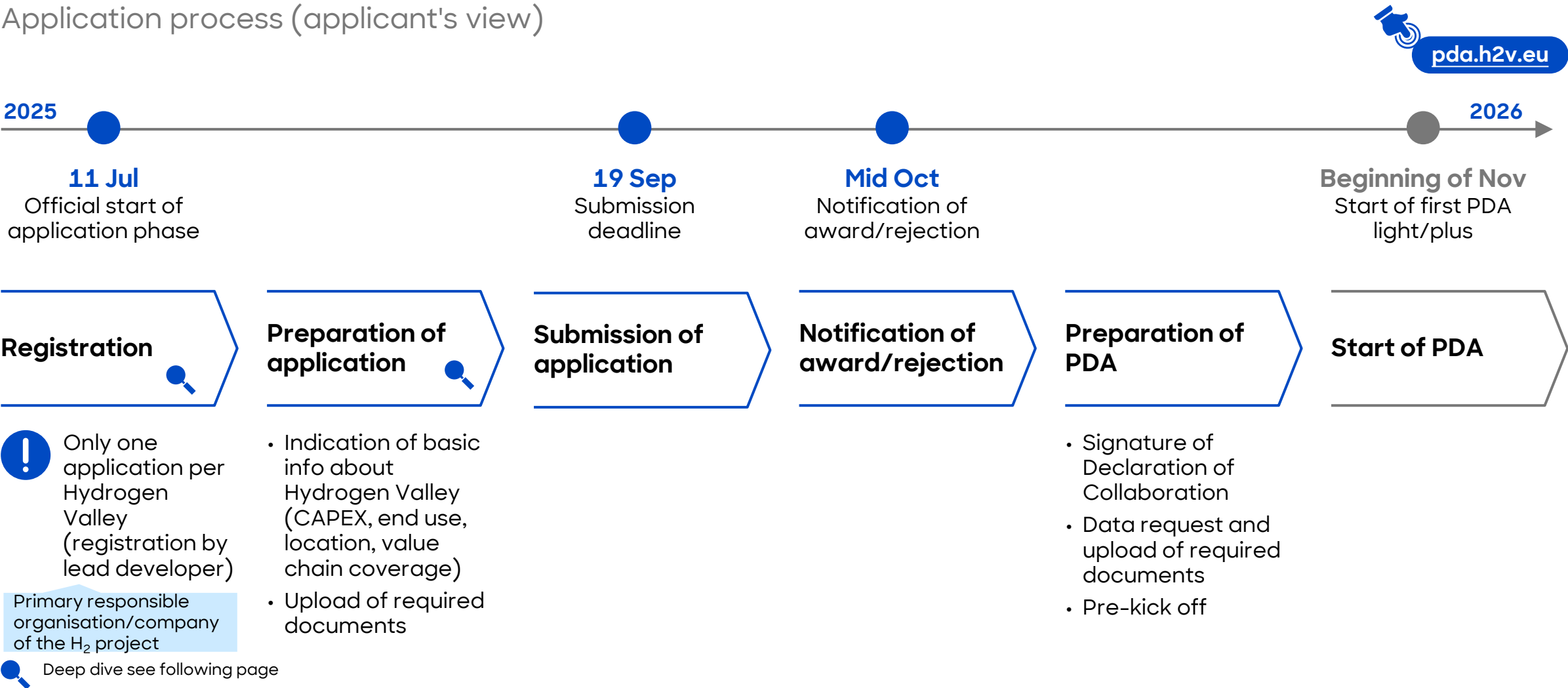


## **D. Application process for the PDA programme's first call for applications**



# The application runs via a dedicated application platform, where applicants can register, enter their project info, and upload application documents

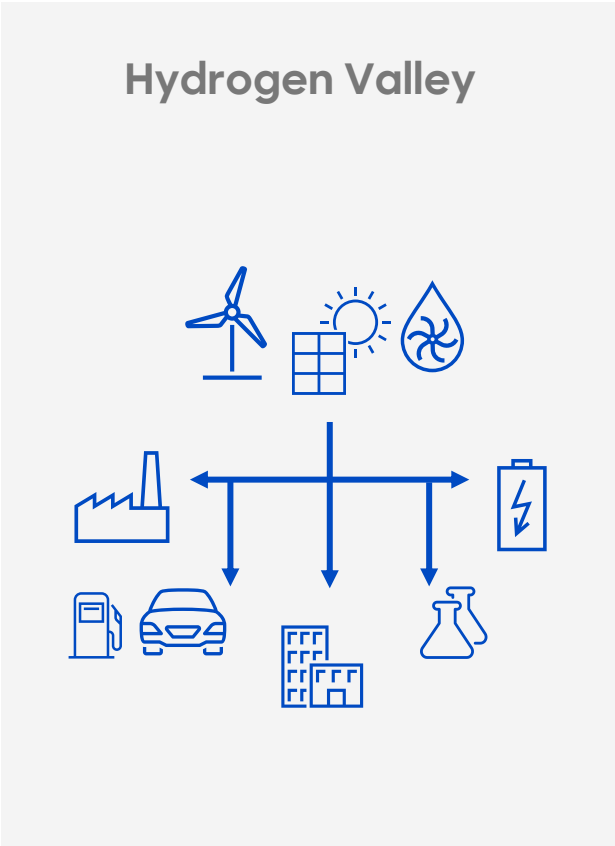
Application process (applicant's view)



# Per Hydrogen Valley, one lead developer needs to be designated that submits the application on behalf of the entire valley

Registration: Designation of a lead developer

	Lead developer of the Hydrogen Valley	Partner companies/ organisations
Description	<b>Primary company/organisation</b> (officially) responsible for the overall project development of the Hydrogen Valley	<b>Other companies/organisations</b> company/organisation that develop the Hydrogen Valley
Roles & responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Registration</b> on PDA website (authorised representative)</li><li>• <b>Compilation and submission of all application</b> documents and forms on behalf of the entire Hydrogen Valley</li><li>• <b>Listing of partner companies/ organisations</b> of the Hydrogen Valley</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Optional (but encouraged) <b>signature of a support letter</b> (Annex IV) that endorses the application of the lead developer</li></ul>
	Entitled to submit a PDA application	Not entitled to submit a PDA application



# Applicants must find their PDA programme track (i.e., PDA light vs. PDA plus) – There are two clear criteria that must be fulfilled to apply for a PDA plus

Criteria to determine PDA programme track

## 1 Technical concept study (FEL 1 or equivalent)

Has the applicant **completed a technical concept study (Front-end loading 1<sup>1</sup>) or equivalent** that covers at least **70% of the overall CAPEX** of the Hydrogen Valley?

Yes



## 2 Commercial date of operations (COD)

Is the **COD for 70% of the Hydrogen Valley max. 42 months (3.5 years) in the future** as of the submission deadline (19 September 2025)?

Yes



No



No

PDA light






PDA plus



1) 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.

# Applicants need to upload a business plan, a technical outline/concept study and a governance & implementation plan as well as the completed Annexes II-IV

## Preparation of application documents

Type of document	Document	PDA light	PDA plus	Expected content (selection)	Required signature	Relevance for evaluation
<b>Existing documents</b> to be compiled by the applicant based on the expected content	<b>Business plan</b>	✓	✓	Commercial architecture, companies involved in valley, financial structure, business plan	n/a	<b>Award criterion 1</b> Commercial maturity
	<b>Basic Technical Outline</b>	✓	n/a	Scoping and conceptual design, high-level cost estimates (CAPEX, OPEX)		<b>Award criterion 2</b> Technical maturity
	<b>Technical concept study</b>	n/a	✓	Plant design, high-level construction planning, info on ops. & maintenance, class 5 cost estimate		<b>Award criterion 2</b> Technical maturity
	<b>Governance &amp; Implementation Plan</b>	✓	✓	Project governance structure, overall timeline until COD		<b>Award criterion 3</b> Governance & operational maturity
<b>Pre-defined forms</b> Annexes to the Call Specifications to be filled out by the applicant	<b>Application Form</b> (Annex II)	✓	✓	Pre-defined 4-page form (to be filled out)	<b>Lead developer</b>	 <b>Award criterion 4</b> Contribution to EU objectives & PDA rationale
	<b>Declaration of Honour</b> (Annex III)	✓	✓	Pre-defined 4-page form (to be filled out)	<b>Lead developer</b>	 Eligibility criteria
	<b>Letter(s) of Commitment</b> (Annex IV)	✓	✓	Pre-defined 1-page form (to be filled out)	<b>Partner companies / organisations</b>	 <b>Award criterion 3</b> Governance & operational maturity

✓ Mandatory document/form    ✓ Optional, but highly encouraged form

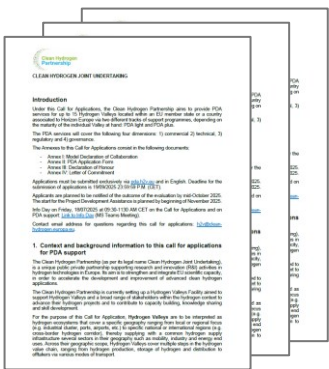
# The Call for Application documents consist of the Call Specifications as a main document and four Annexes

## Call for Application documents

### Call Specifications

#### Call Specifications

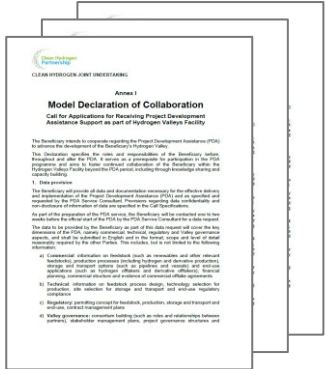
Specification of details of Call for Application, incl. context and background, scope, application procedure, evaluation and award



### Annexes to Call Specifications

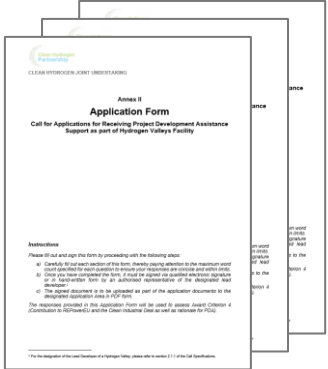
#### Annex I Model Declaration for Collaboration

Clarification of the roles and responsibilities of the beneficiary in case of PDA award, to be signed by the beneficiary upon award



#### Annex II Application Form

Application form on contribution of H<sub>2</sub> project to EU objectives (REPowerEU & Clean Industrial Deal) and rationale for PDA support



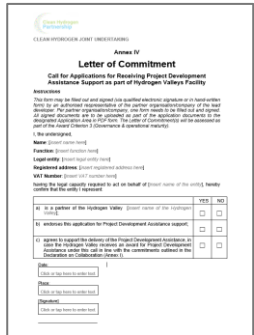
#### Annex III Declaration of Honour

Declaration to demonstrate compliance of lead developer with rules and regulations, part of the eligibility criteria



#### Annex IV Letter of Commitment

Declaration to handed in optionally to demonstrate support and commitment by other project partners



# The Call Specifications provide applicants with all relevant information about the Call for PDA support, incl. on application procedure, evaluation and award

Call for Application documents: Call Specifications

## Overview

- Details to **all relevant aspects of the Call** for Applications for PDA support
- **References to relevant Annexes**








## Structure of Call Specifications


- 1. Context and background information to this Call for Applications for PDA support**
  - a. PDA light programme track
  - b. PDA plus programme track
- 2. Application for PDA support**
  - a. Application process (incl. designation of a lead developer, submission, allocation to PDA programme track, signature policy, contacts during application phase, notification of the outcome of the evaluation, legal effects of call and submission of application)
  - b. Application documents
  - c. Application deadline
- 3. Evaluation and award**
  - a. Eligibility criteria
  - b. Award criteria
  - c. Evaluation procedure and ranking
- 4. Responsibilities of beneficiaries that will be awarded with PDA support**
- 5. Protection of personal data and confidentiality**
  - a. Protection of personal data
  - b. Confidentiality of data submitted with the application and under PDA delivery



# The Annexes consist of three forms to be handed in as part of the application (Annexes II-IV) & the Declaration of Collaboration to be signed in case of award

Call for Application documents: Annexes

	Annex I Declaration of Collabor. 	Annex II Application Form 	Annex III Declaration of Honour	Annex IV Letter of Commitment
Content	Clarification of <b>roles and responsibilities of the beneficiary</b> in case of PDA award	Explanation of <b>contribution to EU objectives</b> and <b>rationale</b> for <b>PDA support</b>	<b>Declaration of non-exclusion situations</b> and other grounds for rejection from Call procedure	<b>Demonstration of support and commitment</b> by other project partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirmation as partner</li> <li>• Endorsement of support of PDA application</li> <li>• Support in the PDA delivery in case of award</li> </ul>
Required signature	n/a <sup>1)</sup>	Authorised representative of <b>lead developer</b> 	Authorised representative of <b>lead developer</b> 	Authorised representatives of <b>partner companies/ organisations</b>  Optional, but encouraged One form per partner
Relevance for evaluation	n/a	<b>Award criteria</b> <b>Award criterion 4</b> (contribution to REPowerEU/Clean Industrial Deal & rationale of PDA)	<b>Eligibility criteria</b> <b>Eligibility criterion 3</b> (no exclusion situation)	<b>Award criteria</b> <b>Part of award criterion 3</b> (governance & operational maturity)
With application submission, applicants accept this declaration		Documents to be completed, signed and handed in as PDF		

 Deep dives see following pages

1) To be signed by authorised representative of lead developer upon award

# The Declaration of Collaboration outlines the roles and responsibilities of the lead beneficiary and must be signed in case of PDA award

## Declaration of Collaboration (Annex I)

### Overview

- **Prerequisite for participation in the PDA programme** (to be signed in case of PDA award)
- Aim is to **foster continued collaboration of the Beneficiary** within the Hydrogen Valleys Facility beyond the PDA period

With the submission of an application, **applicants accept the conditions** set out in the Declaration of Collaboration

Data confidentiality and non-disclosure of information are guaranteed (see chapter 5 of Call Specifications)

### Elements

1	Data provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead developer <b>provides data</b> regarding commercial, technical, regulatory and governance aspects to be provided <b>c. 1-2 weeks before official start of PDA in secure data room</b></li><li>• All documents, data and information are to be provided <b>in English</b></li></ul>
2	Availability for key meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead developer <b>ensures timely availability of suitable representatives with sufficient decision-making authority and expertise</b> for all key meetings</li></ul>
3	Adherence to schedule for the PDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead developer <b>adheres to agreed timeline, deadlines and milestones</b> of respective PDA schedule and as agreed during the PDA kick-off</li></ul>
4	Contribution to activities related to the H2V Facility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead developer/partners may <b>contribute after PDA support to interactive formats of the H2V Facility</b> (e.g., by sharing of lessons learnt, best practices and case studies)</li><li>• Lead developer/partners may <b>collaborate in the development of knowledge products</b> (e.g., guidelines, dossiers, templates) as part of the H2V Facility</li></ul>
5	Monitoring of project progress after PDA support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead developer <b>remains available</b> to Clean Hydrogen JU and PDA Service Consultants <b>for regular progress monitoring activities</b></li><li>• Lead developers are expected to <b>implement the timeline developed during PDA support</b></li></ul>

# The application form must be completed and signed by the lead developer and is taken into account as part of award criterion 4

## Application Form (Annex II)

### Overview

- Form to be **completed and signed by authorised representative of lead developer**
- Evaluation for **award criterion 4** (contribution to REPowerEU and the Clean Industrial Deal as well as rationale for PDA)

### Elements

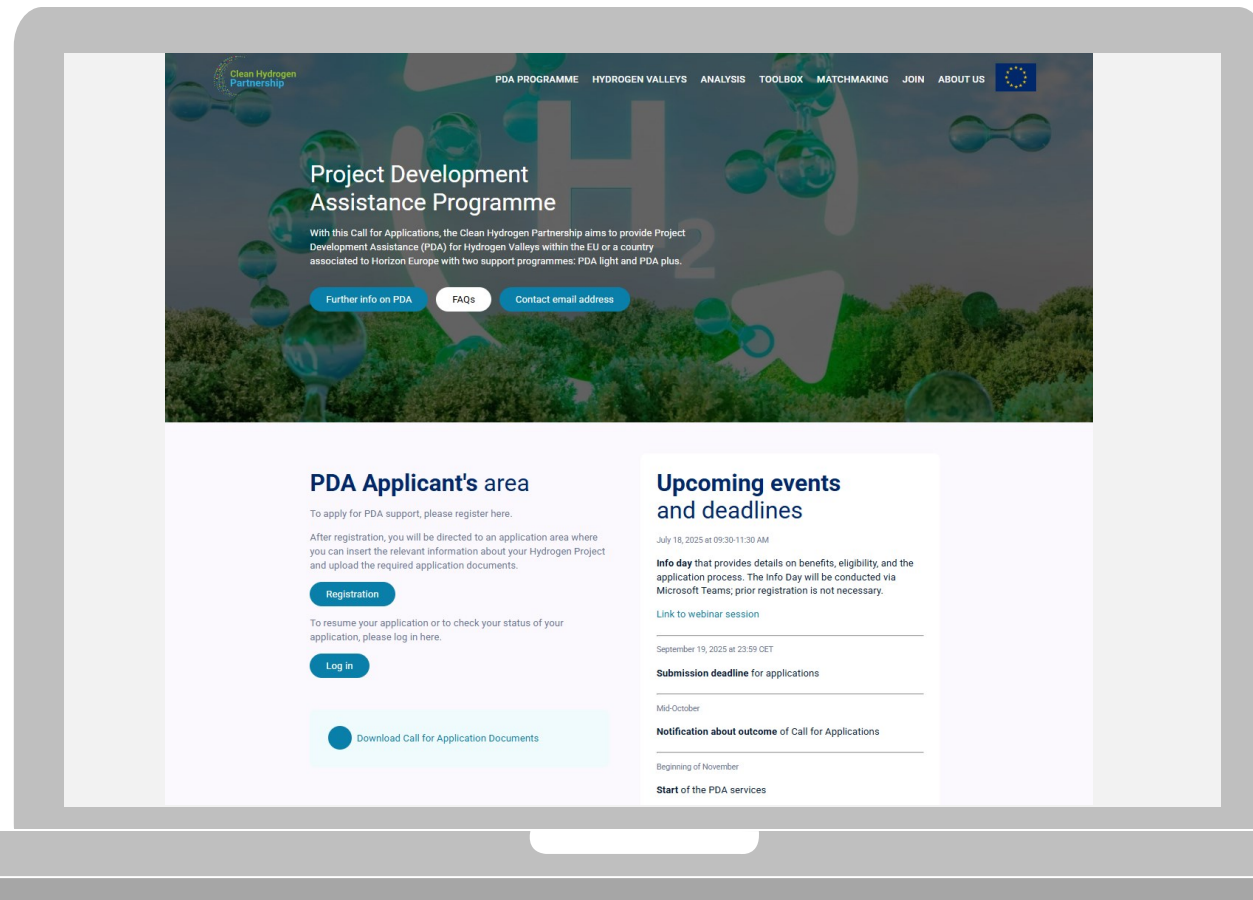
<b>1</b> REPowerEU 1 page	Contribution of Hydrogen Valley to overall <b>objectives of REPowerEU Plan</b> , in particular to <b>acceleration of the deployment of clean hydrogen production and infrastructure</b>
<b>2</b> Clean Industrial Deal 1 page	Contribution of Hydrogen Valley to support the <b>focus areas of the Clean Industrial Deal</b> (energy-intensive industries and clean-tech sector) with regard to competitiveness, decarbonisation and switch to clean energy
<b>3</b> Rationale for PDA 1.5 pages	<b>Reasoning and motivation</b> for PDA application and <b>expected outcome</b> of PDA for Hydrogen Valley
<b>4</b> Additionality of PDA 0.5 pages	Explanation of <b>complementarity and additionality of PDA to existing funding sources</b> (public or private funding (if any))

# Applications need to be submitted via the PDA application website until September 19 2025

PDA application website



[pda.h2v.eu](https://pda.h2v.eu)



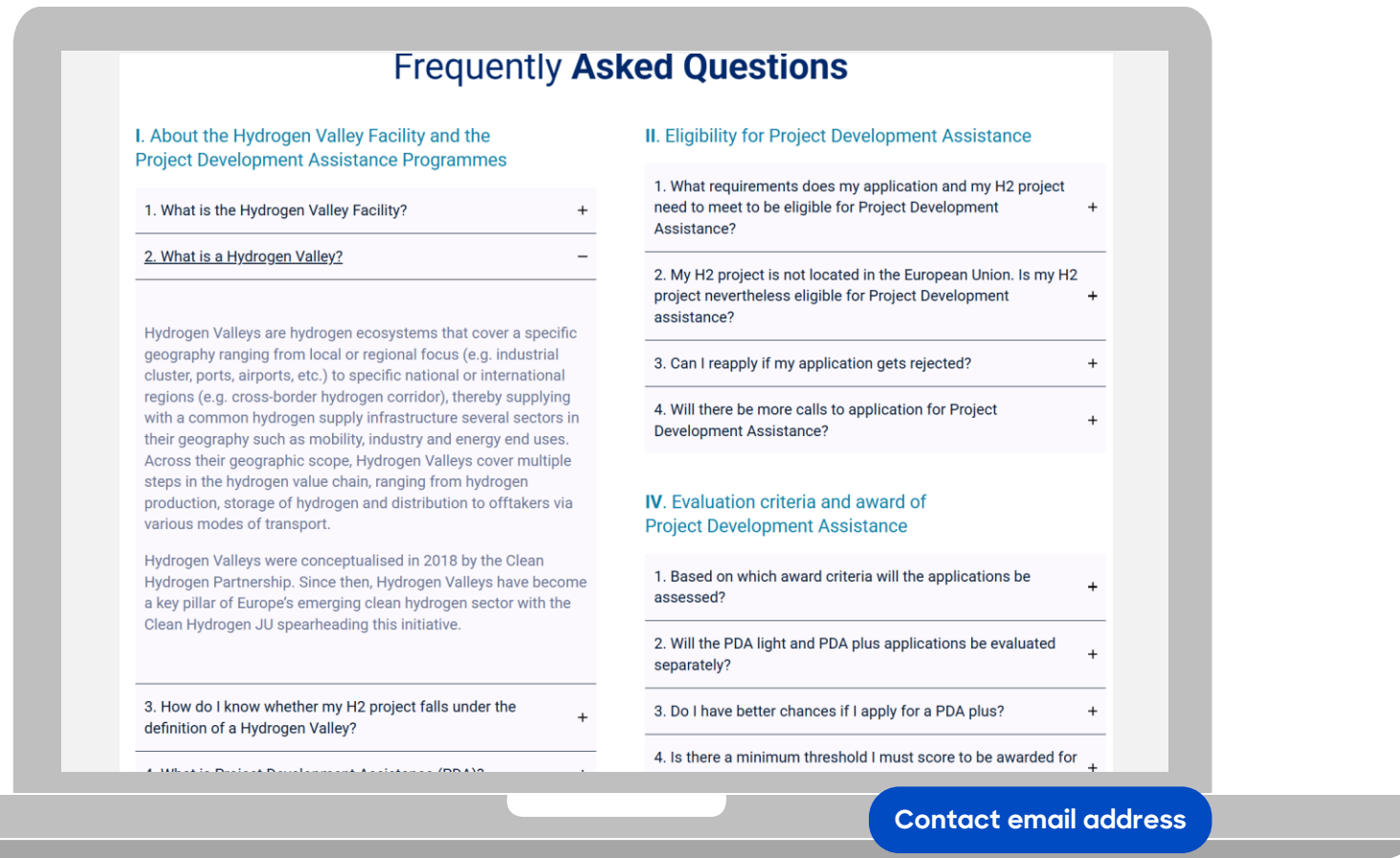
- **PDA applications** are to be **submitted exclusively** via the website [pda.h2v.eu](https://pda.h2v.eu)
- **Per Hydrogen Valley, one person can register** to complete and submit the application

# The PDA application website contains a dedicated FAQ section on all questions around the Call for Applications

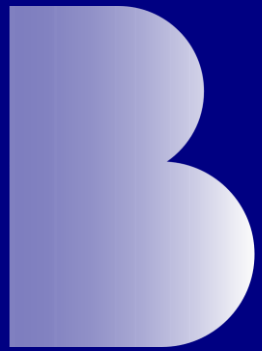
FAQ section on the PDA application website



[pda.h2v.eu](https://pda.h2v.eu)



- **Questions** on this Call for Applications can be submitted via the **contact email address button on PDA website**
- **Deadline** for submitting questions is **12 September 2025**
- Questions will be **answered publicly** (without disclosing applicant's name) in separate section **in this FAQ**



## E. Evaluation and award



# Applicants that fulfil all five eligibility criteria will be assessed and ranked based on four equally weighted award criteria



## Evaluation criteria


### Eligibility criteria

#### Pass vs. no pass

Exclusion in case not all eligibility criteria are fulfilled

#### Eligibility criteria

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Submission of application by submission deadline   |   |
| 2 | Submission of all application documents in English   |   |
| 3 | No exclusion situation as per Declaration of Honour (Annex III)                                      |   |
| 4 | Location of H <sub>2</sub> project <u>and</u> of lead developer legal entity within eligible country |  |
| 5 | Fulfilment of "Hydrogen Valley Criteria"   |  |

 Deep dive see following page

### Award criteria

#### Weighted scoring

- 4 award criteria with equal weight (25% each),
- Each with scale 1-10 with half-marks
- Minimum threshold 5/10 in all award criteria
- If the total score between various applicants is the same, the higher rating in the fourth award criterion is decisive for the ranking

Award criteria	Basis for assessment
1 Commercial maturity	Business plan
2 Technical maturity	Technical outline Techn. concept study
3 Operational maturity and governance	Governance & implementation plan
4 Contribution to EU objectives & PDA rationale	Application Form (Annex II)

# Eligible countries are EU Member States and countries associated to Horizon Europe

Eligible countries

## EU Member States

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## Countries associated to Horizon Europe

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- Albania
- Armenia
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Canada
- Egypt
- Faroe Islands
- Georgia
- Iceland
- Israel
- Kosovo
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- North Macedonia
- Norway
- Republic of Korea
- Serbia
- Switzerland
- Tunisia
- Türkiye
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom

As per list of participating countries in Horizon Europe (V3.4 10.04.2025). Transitional arrangements will be taken into consideration at the time of the evaluation of this Call for any new association agreement.



# Hydrogen projects must fulfil all six Hydrogen Valley criteria to be eligible for PDA support

## Hydrogen Valley criteria

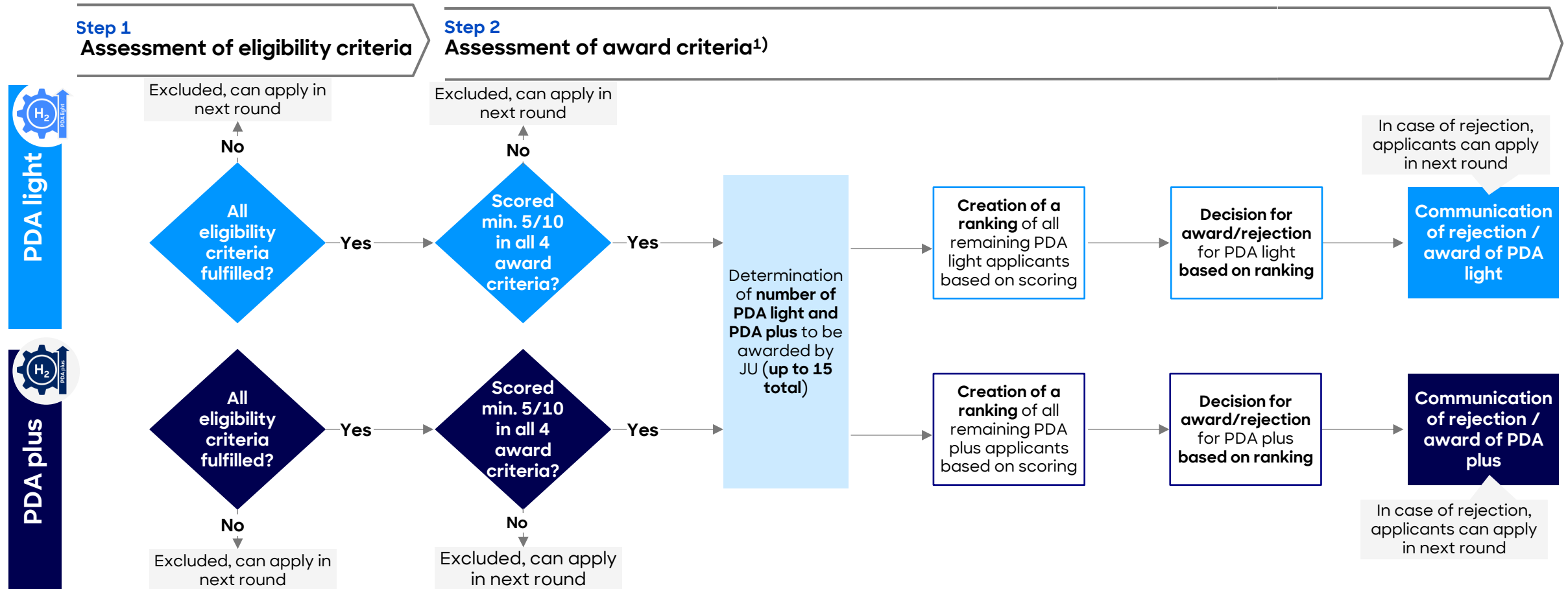
Hydrogen Valley criterion	Explanation
1 Project based on clean hydrogen	The hydrogen will be produced <b>with renewable energy sources</b> <sup>1)</sup>
2 Planned CAPEX of at least EUR 30 m	CAPEX investment refers to <b>H<sub>2</sub> production, H<sub>2</sub> storage, H<sub>2</sub> transport, H<sub>2</sub> distribution and H<sub>2</sub> end use</b> . Please note that renewable energy generation is excluded from planned total CAPEX investment.
3 Project is under real project development	Project has <b>at least a defined project outline</b> , i.e. a governance and implementation plan in place
4 Defined geographical scope	Project has a specific <b>local or regional coverage</b>
5 Coverage of multiple steps of the value chain	Project must cover <b>more than one step in the value chain</b> , i.e., H <sub>2</sub> production, H <sub>2</sub> storage, H <sub>2</sub> transport, H <sub>2</sub> distribution and H <sub>2</sub> end use
6 Supply of more than one end use	Project must supply more than one end use <b>in key sectors such as mobility, energy and industry</b>

1) 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.

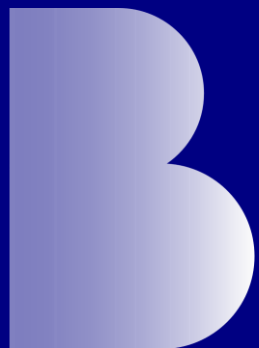
Source: Roland Berger

# All eligible applicants that score minimum 5/10 points per award criterion will be ranked per PDA track – The award decision is based on overall score

## Evaluation procedure



1) 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.



## F. Questions and answers



# Up to 15 PDA light/plus will be offered to Hydrogen Valleys – The application deadline is on 19 September with the start of PDAs by beginning of November

First call for applications for PDA support

## Details for the first PDA call

### What is offered?

Up to 15 PDAs total  
(light & plus)



### Who can apply?

Hydrogen projects in the EU and in  
countries associated to Horizon  
Europe



### How to apply?

Application on dedicated  
application platform



### What are the award criteria?

- 4 award criteria**
- Commercial maturity
  - Technical maturity
  - Governance & operational maturity
  - EU objectives & rationale for PDA

## Timeline application / award process





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