EVALUATION GUIDE

Call for Advanced Computing Projects (2nd edition)

Ref.: FCT/CPCA/2021/01

Table of contents

1. Introduction

1.1 About FCT

[Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT)](#), the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, is the public agency responsible for implementing the Portuguese government's science and technology policy.

FCT funds all areas of knowledge, including exact, natural and health sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities.

FCT's mission is to promote the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge in Portugal, exploring opportunities to attain the highest international standards, in any scientific or technological domain, and to stimulate the diffusion of that knowledge and its contribution to improve education, health, environment, and quality of life and well-being of citizens.

FCT pursues its mission by funding fellowships, studentships and scientific employment, research projects, research centres and infrastructures, via competitive calls with international peer-review.

1.2 About RNCA

RNCA, the National Network for Advanced Computing ([Rede Nacional de Computação Avançada](#) - RNCA) offers services of advanced computing to research, innovation and public administration communities.

This network was created in 2018 by the Portuguese digital competence's initiative [INCoDe.2030](#). It was integrated in the RNIE - National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures of Strategic Interest, via Dispatch no. 4157/2019 of the minister of Science and Technology, as the Portuguese counterpart of the Iberian Network for Advanced Computing (RICA), in terms of the Agreement signed between Portugal and Spain in 2018, based on the creation of «MACC — Minho Advanced Computing Centre», in collaboration with FCT IP. FCCN, the scientific computation unit of FCT, acts as RNCA's promoter and general manager.

Through the Supercomputer "Bob" at MACC, as well as other platforms, RNCA has already served many scientific areas from exact sciences and engineering, to environmental and life sciences, with more than 50 million core.hours since the pilot phase started in June 2019.

Since 2018 RNCA has expanded and at present incorporates 4 operational centers:

- **Bob** operated by MACC — Minho Advanced Computing Centre (https://macc.fccn.pt/);

- **Navigator/Navigator+** operated by LCA-UC - Laboratório de Computação Avançada da Universidade de Coimbra (www.uc.pt/lca);
- **Oblivion and Vision** operated by HPC -UE – *High Performance Computing* da Universidade de Évora (https://www.oblivion.uevora.pt/).
- **Cirrus-A and Stratus** operated by INCD - Infraestrutura Nacional de Computação Distribuída (www.incd.pt);

RNCA provides a variety of valuable resources, now available in this call to all scientific domains in research, innovation and public administration areas. The following computational resources are included: HPC (high performance computing) in 4 different supercomputers, and Cloud Computing (Virtual Machines). To use them, three types of access are available in this call: A0 – Experimental Access, A1 – Preparatory Access and A2 – Project Access, detailed in further sections.

2. Call for Advanced Computing Projects (CPCA) – 2nd edition

The 2021 Call for Advanced Computing projects - CPCA 2nd edition, aims to provide computational resources to support Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation to existent and future projects in all scientific domains, without costs to its users.

This call was launched by FCT through a public announcement outlining the required features of the applications and the evaluation criteria to be applied. The rules under which the applications and the accepted projects are governed are specified in a public document entitled: Regulation Governing Access to Advanced Computing Projects (*Regulamento de Projetos de Computação Avançada*). Its 1st edition occurred in 2020 providing 35 million core.hours to 129 projects across all 4 operational centres.

The current call distributes computational capacity only. It does not provide financial support or human resources to develop or support the computational projects present on the applications.

2.1 Framework and motivation of CPCA

The Call for Advanced Computing Projects are included in the actions promoted by the National Digital Competencies Initiative e.2030, Portugal INCoDe.2030 (namely Axis 5 - Research). It aims to promote the use of advanced computing resources amongst the scientific research, technology, innovation and public administration communities.

Advanced computing resources are very useful tools for science, technology and innovation processes. It is used for numerical modelling and analysis. Some problems cannot be solved without large calculus capabilities only available at large facilities integrated on networks such as RNCA.

Also, last decade's technical development in computing allows to collect and process unprecedented amounts of data. This possibility is deeply changing the methodologies used by the different fields of knowledge and activity. It is expected that INCoDe.2030 takes benefit from the National Network for Advanced Computing (NNAC) resources for processing, analysis, visualization and presentation of data, thus stimulating cooperation and development of specialized digital skills.

2.2 Main Aspects of the Applications

This call is intended to support SR&TD and innovation projects sharing computational resources, carried out by a team of the IR and co-IR. These are the legal institutions that will receive the computational service from FCT, and herein named as beneficiary entities.

The beneficiary entities that may apply, either individually or jointly, are:

a) Non-entrepreneurial entities of the R&I system.
b) Entrepreneurial entities of any legal framework.

2.3 Computational Models

The following computational models are available to applicants:

- High Performance computing (HPC).
- Scientific Cloud Computing.

2.3.1 High Performance computing (HPC)

In the present call, each HPC system consists of the following elements:

✓ A set of compute nodes operating simultaneously, temporarily dedicated to a single application; each set together can execute at least 40×10^{12} floating point operations per second, tightly coupled, operating in standard nonspecialized microprocessors.
✓ A filesystem accessible to each compute node with a shared bandwidth of at least 40 Gbps with multiple simultaneous flows in each compute node.

2.3.2 Scientific Cloud Computing

In the present call, each Cloud computing system consists of the following elements:

✓ A set of compute nodes shared among several users and applications, available via a self-service system with maximum a quota available, through a virtualized software layer in cloud computing IaaS.
✓ Virtual machines (VM) made available will access a virtual disk through local devices, or with a remote filesystem.

2.4 Types of access

The applications should select one or more of the following types of access, further explained here:

- **A0 – Experimental Access.** This type of access should be used for all projects without previous experience in HPC and/or Scientific Cloud Computing usage history in the proposed computational resources of RNCA. Basic technical support will be made

available for all users from each operational center. Each A0 access will have a maximum time limit of 6 months, renewable for another 6 months, in justifiable and approved cases. Maximum limit of computational resources is **15.000 core.hours or vCPU.hours.**

- **A1 – Preparatory Access.** This type of access should be used for all projects with some previous experience in HPC and/or Scientific Cloud Computing usage history in the proposed computational resources of RNCA. It should be primarily focused on software performance or scalability tests, benchmarking, re-factoring and even small/short projects that do not require more than the resources limit established for this access. Basic technical support will be made available for all users from each operational center. Each A1 preparatory access will have a maximum time limit of 6 months, renewable for another 6 months, in justifiable and approved cases. Maximum limit of computational resources is **100.000 core.hours or vCPU.hours.**

- **A2 – Project Access.** This type of access is intended for HPC or Scientific Cloud Computing usage, mainly for larger projects requiring more than 100.000 core.hours or vCPU.hours,up to a maximum limit of 3.000.000 core.hours or vCPU.hours, with renewable possibility upon request. Maximum admitted duration in this access is 12 months, renewable for another 6 months, in justifiable and approved cases. Use of resources should be distributed in time, in a fair-share system. At least 40% of approved resources should be used until half of the project duration. To demonstrate scalability and minimum performance, there should be a prior run in access mode A1 or other similar system outside RNCA. Justification for these resources and a software scalabilty graph will be asked on the application form. For all projects that require virtual processing and/or storage capacity, they can select Cloud Computing. For this computational model, maximum admitted duration for this access is 12 months, renewable for another 6 months, in justifiable and approved cases. Moreover, maximum resources limit will be 256 GB of RAM, 128 vCPU and 5 TB of disk per approved project, conditioned to any changes related to the capacity installed at the operational center.

2.4.1 Submission and Evaluation details

A0 – Experimental Access and A1 – Preparatory Access

A0 and A1 Applications will be submitted through RNCA website: https://rnca.fccn.pt/?page_id=2251 Approval of A0 and A1 smaller projects is solely based on technical review and will occur in the evaluation calendar on the appendix of this document. **This type of access does not have Scientific Evaluation.**

The submission period is continuously open between **July 19th** and **April 28th 2022** or until all resources are fully booked.

A2 – Project Access

A2 applications will be submitted and evaluated through myFCT platform: https://myfct.fct.pt/. Evaluation of A2 submitted applications will have a more

comprehensive review with 2 parts: Technical Suitability and Scientific Merit Evaluation. The first performed by the operational centers and the latter by 6 External Scientific Panels, appointed by FCT.

The submission period is open between **July 19th** and **September 13th 2021**.

2.5 Available Resources

In the present call, the following table shows the available resources at the 4 operational centers enlisted in RNCA. FCT can at any time reinforce or adjust maximum allocation of available resources, if justifiable.

Operational center	Platform	System	Computacional model(s)
MACC	Bob	360 compute nodes, each with two Intel X86 Xeon E5-2680 (8 cores each CPU) @2.7Ghz 2GB-RAM/core	HPC (CPU)
LCA-UC	Navigator/ Navigator+	-164 compute nodes, each with two Intel Xeon E5-2697v2 (12 cores each CPU)@2.7 GHz -32 compute nodes, each with two Intel Xeon Gold 6148 (20 cores each CPU)@2.4 GHz + GPU	HPC (CPU+GPU)
HPC-UE	Oblivion and Vision	68 compute nodes, each with two Intel Xeon Gold 6154 (18 cores each CPU)@3.0 Ghz + GPU	HPC (CPU + GPU)
INCD	Cirrus-A	- CPU type AMD EPYC 7501, each with 500GB and 64 cores; - CPU type AMD Opteron 2356, each with 32 GB-RAM and 8 cores - CPU type AMD Opteron 2356, each with 24 GB-RAM and 8 cores - CPU type Xeon E5-2680 v3 @ 2.50GHz, each with 200 GB-RAM and 24 cores - GPU type Tesla T4, each with 16GB-RAM and 2.560 cores;	HPC (CPU + GPU)
	Stratus	vCPU using AMD EPYC 7501, 500GB-RAM and 64 cores	Cloud

Annotations:

- Details about Hardware and Software can be found at the [technical sheet](#).
- **Important Note: Platform Bob:MACC may not be available from January 2022. Hence, it will not be available for A2 – Project Access.**

2.6 Beneficiaries and Project Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria, both for beneficiary entities and projects, follow the applicable Regulations, and will be subject to an administrative review to be carried out by FCT. Eligibility is thus not part of the evaluation process.

More on eligibility criteria can be found on Article 6 of Regulations on Advanced Computing Projects. All applications will be subject to an administrative validation prior to the evaluation process.

In summary, to be supported under this call must meet the following specific requirements:

- The projects will have maximum duration of 6 or 12 months, depending of the respective type of access A0, A1 or A2, and extendable for above mentioned period of time during its execution, if justified and approved.
- Have a maximum total of resources established in this call for each type of access.
- Identify the Responsible Investigator (IR) for the project that is responsible, for meeting the proposed objectives and rules governing the use of RNCA resources.
- The IR must have a working contract or post-doctoral fellowship with the proponent institution.
- Identify a co-responsible for the project, the Co-Responsible Investigator (Co-IR), that will replace the IR when he/she is unable to fulfil his/her duties;
- Each IR and co-IR may only submit, in that quality, ONE A2 and ONE A1/A0 application (for these 2 types every 3 months). This condition is administratively verified by FCT;
- Multiple applications of the same project are allowed for more than one computational model (HPC and/or Cloud Computing) and more than one plataform too.

3. Evaluation criteria

Article 15 of the Advanced Computing Projects Regulations establishes that the ranking of applications is made by order of submission or merit, as defined in the notice of each call for applications.

All applications will be reviewed according to the following criteria:

Selection Criteria A0 Access type:
For A0 Access a summary technical validation will be carried out, simplifying criteria T1, T2 and T3; requests will be served on a first come first served basis until the quota defined for these accesses (5%) is exhausted.

Selection Criteria A1 Access type:
- o T1: Technical suitability to RNCA resources (30%);
- o T2: Computational resources planning and reasonableness (50%);
- o T3: Work Plan (20%).

Selection Criteria for A2 Access type:

- o T1: Technical suitability to RNCA resources (10%).
- o T2: Computational resources planning and reasonableness (20%);
- o T3: Work Plan (10%);

o S1: Scientific relevance which includes the proposed activity (20%);
o S2: Justification of the computational activity to support the scientific project (25%);
o S3: Scientific merit of the group and investigator in charge (5%);
o S4: Experience and training in advanced computing (10%).

3.1 Explanation of main criteria

3.1.1 For both A1 and A2 Access types

Technical suitability - *Evaluated by Staff from Operational Centers*

T1 - Technical fitting to RNCA resources architecture

- *score 10 should be given if proposed base software and resources exists in RNCA, within existing frameworks, including software licenses.*
  score 5 should be given if proposed base software and resources can be installed in RNCA, within existing frameworks and deadlines, including software licenses.
  score 0 should be given if proposed base software and resources cannot be installed in RNCA, within existing frameworks and deadlines, including software licenses.
  Intermediate values can be used for in between situations.

T2 - Computational resources reasonability and capacity planning

- *Justifications and calculations for requested quantities of CPU core.hours, GPU.hours, RAM, disk are reasonable (50%) ; proposed software/code scales well, that is, can use the full capacity that is being asked (25%); proposed software/code is parameterized / configured to run as optimal as possible, that is, it will not be installed with default settings, unoptimized (25%). Requested resources and "Justification of computational resources" answer in the form will be useful to evaluate this criterion.*

T3 - Work plan

- *Clear identification of the planned activities, their structure and adequacy to the established methods and objectives (40%); Adequacy of the human resources and methodologies to perform the proposed objectives and tasks and meet the proposed deadlines (40%); Quality (clarity, consistency, and adequacy) of the project, taking into consideration the theoretical framework the research methodology and the work plan (20%). "Work plan" answer in the form will be useful to evaluate this criterion.*

3.1.2 For A2 Access type only

Scientific Merit - *Evaluated by 6 External Scientific Panels*

S1 - Relevance of the global scientific project that includes the activity proposal

- *Scientific merit of the project (50%) - Clear identification of the project objectives and scientific challenges addressed by the proposal, Potential contribution of the research*

project to the advancement of knowledge. The project general description and associated scientific/innovation project details filled by the candidate in the application form might be useful here.

- *Innovative nature of the project (50%) - Potential for breakthrough findings by comparison with the current state-of-the-art of the scientific area; Methodological innovation, and replication potential; Potential impact of the project's outcomes on the economic, technological and societal dimensions. The project general description and associated scientific/innovation project details filled by the candidate in the application form might be useful here.*

S2 - Justification for the proposed advanced computing activity to support the global scientific project

- *score 10 should be given if it is shown that the proposed activity is very relevant to complete the global scientific project;*
  score 5 should be given it is shown that the proposed activity is relevant to complete the global scientific project;
  score 2,5 should be given it is shown that the proposed activity is marginally relevant to complete the global scientific project;
  score 0 should be given it is not shown that the proposed activity is relevant to complete the global scientific project;
  Intermediate values can be used for in between situations.

S3 - Scientific credentials of the applicant research group

- *Scientific merit of the Responsible Investigator (50%) - Merit of the scientific and professional career of the Responsible Investigator valuing the different components: participation in research projects; scientific publications; leadership/organization/participation in networks and conferences; participation in activities of scientific training and management; outreach activities; RI´s qualifications regarding the project's challenges, both at the scientific and management level, as well as the ability to engage young researchers in training; Relevant outcomes of previous projects and their contribution to the advancement of knowledge and to knowledge-based applications, assessed through the qualitative appraisal of publications or other professional and scientific works and actions considered as the most representative of the of the RI's career.*

- *Scientific merit of the Research Team (50%) - Scientific productivity of the team (references to publications and citations in published works, other relevant indicators); Ability to engage young researchers in training; Degree of internationalisation of the team (when appropriate); Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed project in its specific area, considering the team's configuration, the availability and commitment of its members (and other entities, when applicable). Level of commitment of any companies participating in the project (if applicable).*

S4 - Experience and training in advanced computing*

- *score 10 should be given if Software/codes have run successfully on the proposed platform (declarative), by the research group;*
  score 9 should be given if Software/codes have run successfully on similar platform as the proposed platform (declarative), by the research group;

score 4 should be given if The research group has run similar software/codes on similiar size platforms;

score 2 should be given if The research group had training in advanced computing, relevant to the current proposal;

Intermediate values can be used for in between situations. Description of previous experience and Final report of previous CPCA edition might be useful here.

*In cases of justified and proven absence of experience where S4<5 points, the score for criteria S1, S2 and S3 will be increased by 10%.

3.1.2 Scoring, Formula and weights for A1 and A2 Access types

- Scoring is based on a quantitative scale from 0 to 10, with increments of 0.1. The final scores may be rounded up to 2 decimal places.

- For A1 accesses, each platform will generate a ranked list according to the criteria defined. The technical evaluation process will be sufficient to draw up a ranking of proposals. Formula and weights for A1 Preparatory Access:

Final score = $((30\% \times T1) + (50\% \times T2) + (20\% \times T3))$

In case two or more proposals present the same value because of the application of the evaluation criteria, the oldest date and time of submission will be considered.

Gathering the technical evaluations of the technical teams of the Operational Centres, the RNCA access committee (see point 4.4) will integrate and distribute the computing resources by the reserved quota of 25% of the resources for A1 accesses

- For A2 accesses, the technical evaluation - described in section 3.1.1 - will be complemented with the scientific evaluation - described in section 3.1.2.

Formula and weights for A2 Project Access:

Final Score = $(60\% \times scientific\_merit)$ **+** $(40\% \times technical\_suitability)$

Final Score = $((20\% \times S1) + (25\% \times S2) + (5\% \times S3) + (10\% \times S4))$ **+** $((10\% \times T1) + (20\% \times T2) + (10\% \times T3))$

If two or more proposals present the same value, as a result of the application of the evaluation criteria, the one with the highest score in the following criteria will be considered the best ranked: S2, followed by T2 and finally S1.

4. Evaluation process and procedures

4.1 General Information

- All applications will be analysed according to criteria mentioned above in 3.1.
- FCT is responsible for verifying the eligibility requirements of each project according to factual and legally binding criteria.
- Technical validation of A0 -Experimental Access is assessed by Advanced Computing Services at FCCN, FCT unit.

- Technical evaluation of A1 -Preparatory Access is assessed by staff of the operational centers.
- A ranked list and an evaluation report will be produced, comprising all applications eligible. The proposed list of ordered projects will be prepared by the access committee, headed by a Coordinator.
- Whenever a particular expertise is not covered by the access committee members, they may ask advice to external counselling.
- The reviewer has to declare any Conflict of Interest identified for any particular application.
- The access committee will issue a final report on its activities containing the following elements:
  - The score and comments for each of the evaluation criteria
  - A recommendation section for adjusting computational capacity.
- The access committee members are asked to give support to FCT during the period spanning the evaluation meeting and the final decision (i.e., analysis of potential appeals of technical nature presented by the applicants);
- There is an allocated FCT team for the evaluation process, which will act as the contact point for the staff of the operational centers.
- For A2 access types, myFCT platform will generate an individual report for each reviewed application, that can be consulted by the IR or co-IR.

4.2 Constitution of the Technical Suitability Panels

Each Operational center (MACC, LCA-UC, HPC-UE and INCD) will nominate at least 2 elements to evaluate criteria T1, T2 and T3.

4.3 Constitution of the External Scientific Panels

The scientific merit of A2 applications (S1, S2, S3, S4 criteria) will be evaluated by external evaluation panels, according to the scientific sub-area of each application. There are the following panels, each of them coordinated by an element designated as such by FCT, I.P:

  - P1 – Physics and Mathematics;
  - P2 – Chemistry and Materials;
  - P3 - Engineering and Technology;
  - P4 – Life and Health Sciences;
  - P5 – Earth and Environmental Sciences;
  - P6 – Social and Economic Sciences.

MyFCT platform will support A2 evaluation. Scientific Reviewers will receive guidelines on how to access the platform, sign the Term of Responsibility, declare any conflicts of interest (see point 5.2 below) and evaluate each application.

Each application will be automatically integrated in the most relevant panel according to the scientific sub-area filled out by the candidate (check "Panels and scientific areas" document).

4.3.1 Scientific Evaluation stages

To access scientific merit there will be 3 stages: Individual, Pre-consensus and Panel meeting.

- **Individual stage:** Before accessing each application, the reviewer has to declare whether or not a CoI is identified for that particular application. Each reviewer carefully analyses and grades each of their allocated applications. Each application will be reviewed by 2 different evaluators from the same panel. One is appointed as first reader of each application. The allocation of the applications to Panel Members necessarily takes into consideration any declared Conflict of Interest (CoI), as well as the matching of professional and scientific expertise within the topic of the application.
- **Pre-consensus**: In preparation for the panel meeting, 1st readers will join both individual evaluations for each application. If the 1st reader is unable to reach a pre-consensus report based on the two individual reviews, the Panel Coordinator should settle the differences.
- **Panel meeting**: All evaluations from the same panel will meet (remotely) and a panel ranked list will be produced according to pre-consensus graded applications. The panel coordinator will be responsible for managing this meeting and any discrepancies that might arise from the ranked list. The panel must ensure that each application receives a fair judgement and is discussed appropriately. The panel must settle the final scores for each scientific criterion, as well as the comments to be conveyed to the applicants, and ensure that the scores are in agreement with the comments.

Note: Technical Suitability criteria (T1, T2, T3), evaluated outside of myFCT platform by the Operational Centers, will be added to each evaluation form by FCT technicians.

4.4 Constitution of the Access Committee

Note: in this document "access committee", "evaluation panel" and "evaluation committee" are all synonyms for the same expression.

- The access committee (AC) is composed of a coordinator nominated by FCT, and an element from each operational centre (MACC, LCA-UC, HPC-UE and INCD).
- AC is established by the Internal RNCA Regulations, published under no. 1049/2020 in the official law gazette (*Diário da República*).

4.4.1 Ranking of proposals and resources allocation by the AC

For A0 and A1 accesses: for each type, a ranked list of proposals will be defined according to the above defined criteria and timings – see section 3. AC will integrate and distribute the computational resources on the reserved platform quotas of 5% and 25% on A0 and A1 accesses, respectively, until the resources are fully booked.

For A2 accesses: With the results from the Technical and Scientific evaluation, each panel generates a ranked list of proposals according to the defined criteria and weights. Then, the AC will integrate and distribute the computational resources by the platforms reserved quota of 70%, following the 20-40-40 principle:

- 20% of the highest scoring proposals in each panel will have recommended access to 50-100% requested resources, according to the platform preference indicated in the application and its availability.

- 40% of the following proposals will have recommended access to 50-75% of the requested resources.
- The remaining 40% of proposals will have recommended access to 5-25% according to platform availability.

At the end of the process, ranked lists with allocated resources per platform for each Access type will be produced by the AC, considering the candidate platform preference whenever possible. A0 and A1 accesses will most likely have multiple lists while A2 accesses will have only one, approved by FCT.

5. Confidentiality and conflicts of interest

5.1 Confidentiality

The confidentiality of written applications must be protected. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are asked not to copy, quote, disclose or otherwise use material contained in the applications. All reviewers are requested to accept a statement of confidentiality relative to the contents of the applications and to the results of the evaluation.

5.2 Conflicts of Interest (CoI)

Access committee members that have submitted any application to the present Call, as PI, co-PI, team member or consultant to the project, may have to decline participating in the evaluation process.

Moreover, the scientific evaluators on myFCT platform have to fill in the conflict statement for those applications assigned to him. CoI subtypes:

- Personal or financial interest in the application's success;
    a) Have a family relationship with the Responsible Investigator (IR) or co-Responsible Investigator (co-IR).
    b) Have a scientific or personal conflict with the IR or co-IR.
    c) Have a financial interest with the IR or co-IR.
- Current or planned close scientific cooperation;
    a) Have ongoing scientific collaboration with the IR or co-IR.
    b) Have published scientific papers with the IR or co-IR.in the three years prior to the opening date of the application period
- Dependent employment relationship or supervisory, within the last 3 years before the opening date of the call.
- To be in any other situation that may raise doubts, either to you or to third parties, to the candidate, regarding your ability to evaluate the application impartially.

6. Glossary and translations

- CoI = Conflict of Interest
- Co-Ir = Co-Responsible Investigator
- FCT-FCCN = unidade de Computação Científica Nacional da FCT
- IR = Responsible Investigator

- R&D = Research and Development
- R&I = Research and Innovation
- RNCA = National Advanced Computing Network, acronym for Rede Nacional de Computação Avançada
- SR&TD = Scientific Research and Technological Development
- TA – Technical adequacy

7. Appendix - Applications evaluation calendar

A0 – Experimental access

This access follows a simpler procedure, where small projects will be fast-track evaluated (with a summarized technical validation) every few weeks.

A1 - Preparatory access

This access only requires technical evaluation, where small projects will be selected every 2 months. Preliminary calendar – some dates to be confirmed later:

Evaluation stages	Latest submission date
Round A	2nd September 2021
Round B	28th October 2021 (tbc)
Round C	30th December 2021 (tbc)
Round D	24th February 2022 (tbc)
Round E	28th April 2022

A2 – Project access

Submissions end on September 13th, 2021. Technical and Scientific evaluation will start soon after.