



Smart Grids I PROGRAMME (Distribution networks) – Call II

The aim of the Call is to improve the quality, reliability, security and sustainability of electricity supplies to end-customers and approaching a level considered standard in the EU-15, while at the same time minimising bottlenecks and integrating decentralised energy sources. These changes will contribute to increasing the competitiveness, environmental quality and energy security of the CR.

TIMETABLE

Receipt of aid applications:

- Up to 5 working days following the official receipt of information from the EC approving the revision to the OP EIC, which abolishes the limit on the share of the allocation available to large enterprises in SO 3.5.

Termination of receipt of aid applications:

- 5 months from the date applications began to be accepted.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED

- Comprehensive measures to improve reliability and awareness, to introduce balance and to optimise operations in distribution systems.
- Deployment of automated remote-controlled elements in distribution systems.
- Deployment of technological elements to sequence voltage and electric power output in distribution systems.
- Addressing the local balance by managing output flows between customers and distribution network operators.
- Selective installation of devices to measure the quality of electricity in distribution systems.

APPLICANT

The aid applicant/beneficiary may be a business entity, which is:

- A small or medium-sized enterprise, as defined in Annex I to Regulation 651/2014, a large enterprise, including agricultural undertakings and undertakings in the food and retail sectors .
- Is licenced to operate a business on the territory of the CR corresponding to the supported economic activity for which the project is implemented .
- According to an affidavit, registered as an income tax payer in some of the EU Member States, the applicant also notes that it must have established an operating unit or branch in the CR at the time the support is paid .
- According to an affidavit, has no debt towards selected institutions in the country in which it is based, or the country in which its branches are based, or towards aid providers for projects co-financed from the EU budget .
- According to an affidavit, is not in arrears for wages for its employees .
- It does not have any outstanding obligations arising from a recovery order drawn up on the basis of a Commission Decision, declaring the aid as unlawful and incompatible with the internal market .
- It must have closed its accounts for at least 2 consecutive accounting periods as at the date the aid application is submitted .

If the applicant has only operated a business for a shorter period of time, the required history may also be demonstrated via the entity/entities which exercise a controlling influence over the applicant. The condition of two consecutive closed accounting periods may also be considered to have been met if a change in the applicant's business (transformation) occurred during the period under review.

- It has demonstrated its ownership structure .

SECTORAL RESTRICTION

- Projects whose outcomes are classified under sectors listed in Annex No. 3 Part A to this Call are eligible for aid .
- Projects whose outcomes are classified under sectors listed in Annex No. 3 Part B to this Call are not eligible for aid .

MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must be implemented on the territory of the CR, outside the Capital City of Prague .
- The applicant must clearly demonstrate ownership or other rights to the property and land where the project is to be implemented, by proving it holds a licence to transmit electricity, issued by the Energy Regulatory Office in accordance with Section 5 of Act No. 458/2000 Coll., on business conditions and public administration in the energy sectors (the Energy Act).
- The project must contain all mandatory components set forth in the Call for its submission .
- The project does not envisage aid for activities associated with export volumes (export subsidies) support for the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad, or for other standard costs related to export activities (customs duties, insurance, etc.); or aid contingent on the use of domestic goods in preference to imported goods.
- The project has not started before the date of submission of the aid application.
- The project may not violate EU horizontal policies nor their fundamental principles, such as gender equality and sustainable development.

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- Tangible assets.
- Intangible assets (if necessary for the proper operation of the tangible fixed assets).
- Business plan and project documentation.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- Aid intensity: aid is provided up to 40% of EE
- The aid intensity for the Report on the benefits of the application of intelligent network elements in distribution systems is provided up to 40% of EE
- Maximum and minimum amounts of aid: each area supported has its basic allocation:
 - in area a, up to CZK 100 million
 - in area b, up to CZK 100 million
 - in area c, up to CZK 100 million
 - in area d, up to CZK 100 million
 - in area e, up to CZK 100 million

- Procedure for drawing the allocation: Projects “in individual supported areas”, which achieve the “highest” number of points and for which the aid requested is 100% covered by the basic allocation for the given supported area will be selected first. Subsequently, projects that were not supported under the first sentence because the amount of the basic allocation for the given area was not sufficient to cover part or all of the aid requested will be supported. Projects will be covered by alphabetical order of their supported areas at a “maximum” until the total allocation for this programme, specific objective, has been drawn.

- Aid for projects in the individual areas is provided:
 - for area a, the minimum is CZK 0.5 million, to a maximum of CZK 40 million
 - for area b, the minimum is CZK 5 million, to a maximum of CZK 80 million
 - for area c, the minimum is CZK 5 million, to a maximum of CZK 65 million
 - for area d, the minimum is CZK 5 million, to a maximum of CZK 100 million
 - for area e, the minimum is CZK 5 million, to a maximum of CZK 80 million