



Infrastructure Services PROGRAMME – Call III

The main aim of the programme and Call III is to improve auxiliary innovative infrastructure services, which will intensify joint research, development and innovation activities between businesses, and between the public and the business sector, focusing particularly on the implementation of new technology and competitive products and services.

SCHEDULE

Aid applications may be submitted:

- 15. 1. 2017 (9:00 a.m.) – 15. 4. 2017

SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES

- Operation of innovation infrastructure¹ – in de minimis only.
- Expansion of space for innovation infrastructure, acquisition of new equipment and improving capacity for the joint use of technology².
- Construction of new shared innovation infrastructure³ in regions shown to have a lack of suitable research and innovation infrastructure for businesses.

APPLICANT

The aid applicant/beneficiary is a legal entity (precisely defined in point 4.1 a) Para. 2) of the Call, regardless of size. The legal entity must meet the following conditions:

- It must be the owner/operator of innovation infrastructure (Science and Technology Park, Innovation Centre, Business Incubator).
- It must be licensed to engage in business corresponding to the supported economic activity for which the project is implemented.
- It must confirm (in an affidavit) that it is registered as an income tax payer in an EU Member State, for at least two consecutive taxation periods prior to the date on which the aid application was filed; the applicant is aware that when the aid is paid out it must have set up an establishment or branch in the Czech Republic.

¹ The operation of an existing Science and Technology Park, Business Incubator, Innovation Centre.

² These are activities aimed at expanding existing II (STP/BI), although any construction work must not intervene/change or threaten the binding indicator and target activities of the original project.

³ Construction of new innovation infrastructure, which also includes the reconstruction/expansion of existing infrastructure by a new entity (IČ), which also does not possess/operate existing innovation infrastructure.

- It must confirm (in an affidavit) that it has no outstanding liabilities in connection with employee salaries.
- It has no outstanding liability on the basis of a recovery order issued following a Commission decision declaring aid to be unlawful and incompatible with the internal market.

SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

- Aid is not provided for projects whose outcomes take effect in either of the following sectors:
 - production, processing and marketing of the products specified in Annex No 3 of this Call.
 - agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture (CZ-NACE A 01, A 02, A 03).
- Aid is provided for projects whose outcomes take effect in the sectors defined by sections – Annex No 3 of this Call.

MAIN CONDITIONS OF CALL

- The project must be implemented within the Czech Republic, with the exception of the City of Prague.
- The applicant must provide clear proof of ownership or other rights to the property and land where the project is to be implemented.
- The project must include all the mandatory elements specified in the Call for submission.
- The project does not envisage aid for activities linked to quantities exported (export subsidies), aid for the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad, or for other current export-related costs (customs duties, insurance, etc.); nor does it envisage aid contingent upon the use of domestic goods over imported goods.
- The project may not have been started before the date of submission of the aid application.
- The project must not violate EU horizontal policies and their basic principles, such as equal opportunities between men and women and sustainable development.
- Conformity of the project with the Czech Republic Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation will be verified during the project assessment process, from the viewpoint of meeting the assessment criteria defined in this Call. For the purposes of verification the applicant will use the annex to the Call entitled “Background Material for the Implementation of the National RIS3 Strategy”.
- Under this Call, each applicant (1 IČ) is entitled to submit a maximum of two projects (i.e. two active aid applications in which it acts as beneficiary.).
- The applicant/beneficiary may include the costs of acquiring the project documentation for the construction/reconstruction of a building into eligible expenses, if those costs were incurred after 1 January 2016, although only assuming compliance with the procedure/conditions specified by the Public Procurement Act or the OP EIC Supplier Selection Rules applicable when selecting the supplier for that project documentation. Aid to cover those costs in the case of beneficiaries supported under the state aid scheme (i.e. excluding research and knowledge dissemination organisations) is provided pursuant to Commission Regulation (EU) No 1407/2013.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed tangible assets – purchase of land, buildings, machinery and other equipment needed for innovation infrastructure, provided that they are depreciable assets (excluding land).
- Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed intangible assets (acquisition of patents, licences and know-how not exceeding the usual price as determined by an appraisal issued by a court-appointed expert; this appraisal must not be more than 3 months old as of the date the assets are acquired)
- Expenditure on the acquisition of fixed intangible assets up to the value of 50% of the total eligible expenses on the project.
- Operating costs, particularly the services of consultants and experts, studies, seminars, workshops, promotion, network non-storable supplies, etc.
- The costs of the obligatory project publicity are only eligible if they meet the characteristics required for publicity as stated in the rules stipulated by the aid provider.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- The grant provided for the project amounts to:
 - 1 – 30 million CZK in the case of projects not involving construction work
 - 5 – 150 million CZK in the case of projects involving construction work
- Aid intensity for activities b), c), and d):
 - 50 % of proven eligible expenses
 - 75 % of proven eligible expenses pursuant to the Framework outside of the state aid scheme for beneficiaries that meet the conditions of points 19 and 20 of Commission Communication – Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2014/C 198/01)