

DIRECTORIAL DECREE NO. 310 OF 18-03-2025. PN RIC 2021-2027 - CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES (RI) OPERATING IN THE S3 DOMAIN AIMED AT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT OF ENTERPRISES

The National Research Council (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche - CNR), with registered office in Rome, Piazzale Aldo Moro 7, in its capacity as potential Proposing Entity of the **Digitally enhanced exploratory platform of the NFFA research infrastructure for Deep Tech competitiveness of the Southern Italian Regions in a national and European framework. - DeepNFFA** project proposal, which will be submitted in response to the public notice of the Ministry of University and Research (hereinafter also MUR) No. 310 of 18-03-2025 (hereinafter IR.PNRIC Notice) "Strengthening of public Research Infrastructures (RI) operating in the S3 domain aimed at the technological advancement of enterprises," Action 1.1.1 of the National Program for Research, Innovation, and Competitiveness for the green and digital transition 2021-2027 (hereinafter PN RIC 2021-2027),

INTENDS TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION

of enterprises, through this Expression of Interest (hereinafter EoI), for the strengthening of the research infrastructure **NFFA-Nano Foundries and Fine Analysis** related to the MUR IR.PNRIC notice, according to the procedures specified below.

Preliminary remark

The National Research Council, in compliance with the principles of transparency, equal treatment, and non-discrimination, within the framework of the MUR IR.PNRIC Notice, referred to in MUR Directorial Decree No. 310 of 18/03/2025 "Strengthening of public Research Infrastructures (RI) operating in the S3 domain aimed at the technological advancement of enterprises," intends to submit an application as a Proposing Entity for the strengthening of the research infrastructure (RI) **NFFA-Nano Foundries and Fine Analysis** within the domains of Smart Specialisation Strategy (SNSI) 1. Smart and sustainable industry, energy and environment; 2. Health, food, quality of life; 5. Aerospace and defense, in coherence with the contents of the National Research Plan 2021-2027 and the National Plan for Research Infrastructures.

The project proposal titled **Digitally enhanced exploratory platform of the NFFA research infrastructure for Deep Tech competitiveness of the Southern Italian Regions in a national and European framework. - DeepNFFA**, summarized in Annex 1, provides for "Collaboration with enterprises" as the capacity of Research Infrastructures to attract and integrate the industrial system through the provision of services, structures, and expertise, promoting the active participation of enterprises in research and innovation activities and fostering the shared use of facilities for the development of joint projects and technology transfer.

The project is based on the principles of Open Science, ensuring open access to data and services and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and Open Innovation, to facilitate continuous interaction between the research world and businesses. The active involvement of enterprises aims to generate tangible impacts in the Southern territories and on the strengthened infrastructures, enhancing collaboration between research and the production system.

The services/activities available in the RIs proposing the project are listed in Annex 2.

Art. 1 – Purpose

The National Research Council, through this EoI, intends to collect expressions of interest from enterprises to promote research and innovation activities by encouraging the shared use of facilities for the development of joint projects and technology transfer.

The involvement is defined in accordance the Commission Communication 2022/C 414/01, paragraph 2.2.2 “Collaboration with enterprises,” point 29, with reference to collaboration conditions that do not constitute State aid. Project costs are entirely borne by the participating enterprises. The results of the collaboration that do not generate intellectual property rights must be widely disseminated, and any rights generated must be fully attributed to the RI. Intellectual property rights are to be shared among the partners of the collaboration in proportion to their interests, participation, and contributions to the project.

By way of example and not exhaustively, the collaboration activities may include:

- Technology transfer and strategic innovation development programs;
- Programs for sharing technologies and know-how;
- Programs for developing standards and protocols;
- Programs for training and development of human capital.

The activities related to technology transfer programs, support to enterprises, and the use of research infrastructures by external entities will be carried out under open access mode and include free access to facilities (Annex 2).

The expressions of interest submitted by enterprises serve solely to communicate their willingness to join the project proposal in response to the MUR IR.PNRIC notice.

The CNR reserves the right, in any case, to preliminarily verify: the eligibility requirements, the motivation to collaborate on specific services from the Catalog (Annex 2), as well as the relevance of the contribution to the CNR's proposal on the topics covered by this EoI.

Art. 2 – Eligible entities to submit the expression of interest

Any entity engaging in an economic activity, regardless of its legal form and method of financing (hereinafter also interested parties), that is highly qualified and operates in the industrial, research, and innovation sector within the domains 1. Smart and sustainable industry, energy and environment; 2. Health, food, quality of life; 5. Aerospace and defense, may submit an expression of interest.

At the time of submission of the expression of interest, enterprises must be duly established and registered in the Register of Companies.

Furthermore, in compliance with the provisions of Article 5, paragraph 4) of Ministerial Decree No. 1314 of December 14, 2021, enterprises must not be in any of the following conditions:

- included among enterprises that have received and subsequently not reimbursed aid identified as illegal or incompatible by the European Commission;
- in a situation that qualifies as an enterprise in difficulty, as defined by Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 and by the Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring non-financial undertakings in difficulty, set out in Communication 2014/C 249/01 of July 31, 2014, and subsequent amendments.

Enterprises must also meet any further specific requirements provided by European or national legislation relevant to the conduct of their activities.

It is specified that the above-mentioned requirements must be met by the deadline for the submission of the application related to this EoI.

In the case of groupings such as consortia, Temporary Business Associations, employer associations, HUBs or incubators, it is necessary that the participation of the enterprises within the consortium be clearly identifiable, substantial, and documented, in order to ensure that effective collaboration with enterprises is realized as required by the Notice.

Art. 3 – How to participate in the selection

Interested parties wishing to participate in the selection must submit the following documents:

- a letter of intent, in accordance with the attached template (Annex 3), digitally signed;
- a copy of the valid identity document of the signatory of the application;
- a statutory self-declaration affidavit attesting to the possession of the requirements referred to in Art. 3 of this Notice, drawn up according to the attached template (Annex 4);

The documentation must be sent no later than **12:00 PM on 26/06/2025** to the National Research Council, **exclusively via PEC (certified email)** to the following address: **protocollo-ammcen@pec.cnr.it** and must include the following subject:

MUR RIC NOTICE: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF PUBLIC RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES (RI) OPERATING IN THE S3 DOMAIN AIMED AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT OF ENTERPRISES. “Digitally enhanced exploratory platform of the NFFA research infrastructure for Deep Tech competitiveness of the Southern Italian Regions in a national and European framework. – DeepNFFA”

Submission of the application implies full acceptance of all rules of this call.

Art. 4 – Selection criteria for the applications

The collaboration with enterprises does not require constraints regarding the registered office or operational headquarters of the enterprises. Collaborations with enterprises headquartered **outside the EU** are **not eligible**.

The selection carried out by the Department “Scienze Fisiche e Tecnologie della Materia” of the CNR (hereinafter also CNR_DSFTM) is based on the criterion of consistency between the selected services and the expertise in research, development, and innovation in the fields of **precision medicine, predictive and preventive medicine, advanced therapies, and rare diseases**.

A priority factor is the **generation of tangible positive impacts** in the territories where the research infrastructures benefiting from the contribution are located, promoting synergies between the research world and the local production system.

The publication of this Call for Expression of Interest and the receipt of applications do **not entail any obligation or commitment** on the part of the CNR to proceed with the process in favor of the interested parties and/or grant any rights against the CNR. The CNR reserves the right to **withdraw at any time** from the procedure and to **suspend, interrupt, and/or modify** the related terms and conditions, without the parties who have expressed interest being entitled to make any claims for reimbursement, compensation for damages or indemnities, or for any other reason, including for any expenses incurred in relation to participation in the procedure.

The **registration of enterprises in the list of companies with a legality rating** established by the Italian Competition Authority (Art. 5-ter of Decree-Law No. 1 of January 24, 2012, converted with amendments by Law No. 27 of March 24, 2012, and Art. 8 of Resolution No. 24075 of November 14, 2012, of the Authority, as amended by Decree No. 57 of February 20, 2014), will represent a **preferential selection criterion**.

CNR_DSB reserves the right **not to consider any proposals** deemed incompatible or likely to cause harm or damage to the image of the Institution or the partnership.

Art. 5 – Requests for information

Any requests for clarification may be sent to the following email addresses:

- for general information requests: coordinamento@nffa-di.it
- for services: coordinamento@nffa-di.it

Art. 6 – Publicity

This Call for Expression of Interest is published in the URP section of the CNR website: www.urp.cnr.it.

Art. 7 – Processing of personal data

All personal data acquired by this Administration in connection with this procedure will be processed in accordance with Legislative Decree of June 30, 2003, No. 196 (Personal Data Protection Code), as amended by Legislative Decree of August 10, 2018, No. 101, as well as under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and the provisions of Article 22 of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. Such data will not be disclosed to third parties and may be communicated or made accessible exclusively for the purposes stated in this procedure and under the conditions provided by law, as detailed in the information notice attached pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 – GDPR.

Art. 8 – Final provision

For anything not covered in this Call for Expression of Interest, reference shall be made to the provisions cited in the IR.PNRIC Notice mentioned in the preliminary remark.

Annexes

- IR.PNRIC Notice
- Project Abstract (Annex 1)
- Service Catalog (Annex 2)
- Letter of Intent – EoI (Annex 3)
- Statutory declaration of eligibility requirements for enterprises (DSN Requirements) (Annex 4)
- Privacy notice pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) No. 2016/679 – GDPR (Annex 5)