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Call for Proposals “Innovative Nuclear Reactors”

Note: In case of doubt, the French version prevails.

The Call for Proposals opens on 2 March 2022 and closes on **28 June 2023 at 12pm** (midday, Paris time).

The applications are filed in order of arrival and examined until the available financial resources have been exhausted, in accordance with the 2022 Budget Act for credits relative to the France 2030 Investment Plan and subject to publication of the Prime Minister's Order approving the specifications for this Call for Proposals.

The proposals may be submitted throughout the period during which the Call for Proposals (hereinafter referred to as “CFP”) is open.

The project sponsors are invited to submit **their application file online on the Bpifrance platform:**
<https://www.picxel.bpifrance.fr/accueil>

1. Context of the Call for Proposals

Climate issues constitute a major focus of the action conducted by France since the historic COP21 agreement in December 2015 in Paris where, for the first time in the history of international negotiations, 195 countries reached a universal consensus to limit climate change in the coming decades. Through the Act of 8 November 2019 on energy and the climate, France has committed to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. This objective is translated into an operational roadmap in the National Low-Carbon Strategy (“SNBC” – *Stratégie Nationale Bas-Carbone*) and the Multiannual Energy Programme (“PPE” – *Programmation Pluriannuelle de l’Energie*). Achieving this obliges the maintaining of a carbon-free electrical system in a context of increasing electrification. Consequently, alongside bold targets set for the development of new renewable electricity production capacity, necessitating increased flexibility of the electrical system, the French Government intends sustaining France’s capacity to use nuclear technologies.

In order to ensure its future in a changing energy system and to maintain its position as the 3rd French industrial sector, besides the announcements made by President Macron on 10 February 2022

concerning the construction of new reactors based on the French EPR2 technology – the technological solution on which France intends to rely on in the medium term – it is vital for the nuclear sector to continue investing massively and sustainably in innovation to prepare its positioning over the longer term.

The roadmap has been established for the nuclear sector innovation strategy under PIA4 (Fourth Invest for the Future Programme) and “*France Relance*”, France's new economic stimulus plan. Several actions presenting high-stake R&D and innovation challenges have been identified in the sector. They are directly linked to the strategies decided by the French Government in the PPE or further to the public debate on the French National Radioactive Material and Waste Management Plan held in 2019.

On 12 October 2021 President Macron presented the “France 2030” investment plan which addresses the major challenges of our time, notably the green transition, through a huge investment plan to enable the emergence of tomorrow’s tech champions and to accompany the transitions in our sectors of excellence.

The first objective of France 2030, dedicated to the nuclear sector with a budget of €1bn, is to enable the development in France of innovative nuclear reactors, notably ensuring better management of radioactive substances.

Research and innovation focusing on disruptive nuclear reactor concepts led by new players must provide fresh responses to the issues specific to the nuclear sector, for example in terms of competitiveness, safety, security, closing the nuclear fuel cycle or reducing the volume or activity of radioactive waste.

International feedback shows that innovation in nuclear systems is gathering speed in certain countries today, with massive programmes launched to this end, more specifically in the United States, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, Canada and Japan, where projects initiated by market players are fostered and supported by public funds.

To widen the scope of technologies explored in France, public funding is necessary to enable the emergence of new concepts and new players.

It is in this context that the French Government wishes to step up support for innovation directed towards the development of innovative nuclear reactors. This Call for Proposals (CFP) is part of a programme of three CFPs aiming to support new nuclear reactors – whether fission or fusion – creating a disruption with respect to the reactors currently in service and which would be capable of meeting current and future environmental challenges.

2. Presentation of the CFP programme

The CFP programme provides for a series of three CFPs to support innovative nuclear reactors, each dedicated preferentially to one phase among the following three phases of the innovation continuum: (i) initial maturation, (ii) proof of concept and (iii) prototyping.

The amount of public financial support will be modulated according to the maturity and stage of development of the chosen projects.

The following project phases can be supported under these CFPs:

1. Projects in initial maturation phase:

Prerequisite: Preliminary assessment of the technological and industrial scientific credibility, including from the aspects of nuclear security and safety.

Financial support: Support of up to nearly €10m per project for about two years.
Technical support: During this phase, the successful candidates may receive scientific and technical assistance, at their request, from the CEA (French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission)¹, which will be able to assist them with its expertise during project execution.

Objective: The aim of this phase is that the projects reach at least a TRL² of level 3 or produce at least a pre-CD (preliminary Conceptual Design). An analysis of the short- and medium-term industrial prospects must also be provided at the end of this phase, and will be part of the criteria considered for proceeding to the next phase.

2. Projects in proof-of-concept phase:

Prerequisite: Have a pre-CD and an analysis of the short- and medium-term industrial prospects

Financial support: Support that can amount to nearly €80m per project for three years at most.

Technical support: The CEA may assist successful candidates with reinforced expertise during this phase.

Objective: The aim of this phase is that the projects reach at least TRL level 5 or produce at least a CD. Particular emphasis will be placed on the consolidation of a system-oriented analysis of the project, such that the decision to proceed to the next phase can be based on an informed vision of the technical and economic, commercial, societal and environmental challenges subtending its future success.

3. Projects in prototyping phases:

Prerequisite: Have a CD and an analysis of the technical and economic, commercial, societal and environmental challenges.

Financial support: Support that can amount to nearly €300m per project for five years at most.

Technical support: Apart from the reinforced expertise, this phase may also mobilise the CEA's existing experimental platforms and means of simulation (materials, mechanical, thermohydraulic, etc.) to test the key innovative components of the concept under development. The development of new test resources may also be studied with the CEA if necessary.

Objective: This phase must enable the projects to be taken to a TRL of at least 6, with a demonstration prototype in a representative environment, or to produce at least a BD (basic design).

This CFP preferentially targets projects in the initial TRL phase, as described above, with the aim of being able to take the best project through to the prototyping phase. A second CFP, to be published in early 2024, will target preferentially projects in the proof-of-concept phase; and a last CFP to be published in early 2026 will target in priority a project in the prototyping phase. Projects that do not correspond to the reference development phase of this CFP may nevertheless be submitted and chosen as of now.

¹ The CEA is a public technological research organisation under the authority of the Ministers responsible for Defence, Energy, Industry and Research. Among its activities it conducts research and innovation programmes in two broad areas: support for the French nuclear industry and the development of fourth-generation nuclear systems.

² Technology readiness level. The TRLs constitute a scale for assessing the level of maturity that a technology has reached.

The projects initially chosen in early phases of their development will be able to receive financial support planned for the subsequent stages, after application and selection for the subsequent CFPs.

The phases of deployment and commercialisation of the chosen projects are not covered by this CFP programme, but the French Government will take care to accompany the research and create opportunities conducive to the ultimate realisation of these projects.

3. Expected projects

3.1. Nature of the projects

This CFP aims to support research and development projects focusing on disruptive nuclear reactor concepts that meet one or more of the following objectives:

- Improvement of the competitiveness of the reactors;
- Improvement of the intrinsic operating safety of the reactor;
- Improvement of the intrinsic physical protection of the installation;
- The ability to be integrated in a more decentralised electric system;
- The development of non-electricity-producing applications (hydrogen, heat, cogeneration, strategic radionuclides, etc.);
- Closing of the nuclear fuel cycle and the reuse of nuclear materials;
- Improvement of the management of radioactive substances in the cycle, particularly the waste produced.

The main objective of the reactors, whether functioning by fission or fusion, must be to produce energy in one or more forms with the aim of being able to sell it competitively.

The objective of this CFP is to support and assist promising projects displaying potential that combines technical feasibility with market prospects (at French, European or international level), technological sovereignty and potential economic and industrial benefits in France and Europe.

This CFP preferentially targets the projects in the initial maturation phase (see paragraph 2), with the aim of being able to take the best projects up to the prototyping phase. The submitted projects can nevertheless cover different phases of the innovation continuum and must concern complete nuclear reactor concepts.

The expected projects have a total expenditure base exceeding €5,000,000 (excluding any need for assistance from the CEA).

The projects will be compatible with the “Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)” principle.

3.2. Project sponsors

The project sponsor must be:

- Either a company dedicated to the project submitted under this CFP and registered in France;
- Or a consortium of companies (French or European) of which the leading entity is a company dedicated to the project submitted under this CFP and registered in France. French or European associations and research organisations can also be part of a consortium.

The project sponsors are encouraged in their initiatives to create partnerships with industrial players in the French nuclear sector, with a view to enhancing the credibility of the sponsored project.

Companies in the process of being set up are eligible for this CFP; in this case the file must be submitted by the future shareholders.

4. Terms and condition of financial aid: eligible work and expenditure

The public intervention complies with EC regulations governing State aid (Articles 107 to 109 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). To assess the compatibility of State aid with the internal market, account is taken of the framework State aid schemes and in particular the exempted framework scheme of research, development and innovation (RDI) aid No. SA.58995, taken on the basis of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) No. 651/2014 of the European Commission of 17 June 2014, published in the OJEU of 26 June 2014, amended by regulations 2017/1084 of the Commission of 14 June 2017 published in the OJEU of 20 June 2017, 2020/972 of 2 July 2020 published in the OJEU of 7 July 2020 and 2021/1237 of 23 July 2021 published in the OJEU of 29 July 2021. Details of the aid schemes are available on the website: <https://www.europe-en-france.gouv.fr/fr/aides-d-État>. They set out the conditions of application of this system to ensure its compatibility with European Union law.

The eligible expenses, the extent of the aid, the commitments to maintain investments and the individual notification thresholds are specified in each aid scheme. The amount of aid may not exceed the threshold for individual notification indicated in the aid scheme.

Projects which cannot be supported in the framework of the exempted aid schemes due to exceeding, in particular, the aid thresholds and intensities set by the said schemes, must be notified to the European Commission in application of Article 108 §3 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. This procedure requires the ascertaining of the compatibility of the aid with the internal market (which can take several months) and granting of the aid is dependent on obtaining an authorisation decision from the European Commission.

4.1. Research, development and innovation work (RDI – SA.58995)

The following expenses in particular are eligible:

- personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other support personnel employed for the project;
- the costs of the instruments and equipment used for the project. If these instruments and equipment are not used for the purpose of the project for their entire lifetime, only the amortisation costs corresponding to the project duration, calculated in accordance with the generally accepted accounting principles, are considered admissible;
- the costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents purchased or used under license from external sources under a fully competitive environment, and the costs of consulting advisors and equivalent services used exclusively for the purpose of the project;
- the feasibility studies;
- the incremental overheads and the other operating costs, notably the costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly on account of the project;
- the funded investments must meet the special conditions of the notification-exempted framework schemes or COVID-19 emergency aid framework schemes in their version in effect when the aid is granted.

4.2. Industrial investments work (SA.58979 and SA.59106)

The expenses relating to new investments consisting of the tangible assets corresponding to the cost price, excluding taxes, of the productive investments of the project: equipment and machines, excluding buildings.

As this aid is backed by the AFR (regional aid) scheme, the expenses of large enterprises are only eligible in the event of creation of a new entity or diversification of activity³ within an existing entity.

Investments for identical replacement of tangible assets or to ensure compliance are not eligible for the aid.

It is specified that for costs associated with the rental of tangible assets, where facilities or machines are concerned, the rental must take the form of a financial leasing with the aid beneficiary being under obligation to purchase the asset when the lease contract expires.

As a general rule, the financed investments must meet the particular conditions of each scheme used in their version in effect when the aid is granted.

4.3. Summary of the levels of aid

Aids proposed for economic activities

“Economic” activities are considered to be the activities of entities, usually companies, that consist in offering goods or services on a potential market with the hope of gaining financial returns based on the project’s results.

The following table presents a summary of the maximum levels of aid applicable to the eligible expenses in this CFP. They are given for information only, without prejudice to the amount that will be determined following examination of the file.

⁴ Enterprise with fewer than 50 employees, whose sales turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €10m and which satisfies the independence criterion of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003.

Nature of the work		Type of enterprise	Small enterprise ⁴	Medium-sized enterprise ⁵	Mid-cap and Large enterprises
		AID ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF THE WORK			
Industrial investments ⁶	In AFR zone	on the basis of framework scheme No.SA.58979 and its revision ⁷	35%	25%	15% ⁸
		on the basis of section 3.13 of the temporary framing of State aids in the course of notification ⁹	35% or 70% ¹⁰	25% or 50% ¹¹	15% or 30% ¹²
	Outside AFR zone	on the basis of the SME framework scheme No.SA.100189	20%	10%	-
		on the basis of section 3.13 of the temporary framing of State aid in the course of notification ¹³	35%	25%	15%
Research and development expenses on the basis of framework scheme No.SA.58995	Industrial Research (IR)		70%	60%	50%
	in the framework of an effective collaboration ¹⁴		80%	75%	65%
	Experimental Development (ED)		45%	35%	25%
		in the framework of an effective collaboration	60%	50%	40%

The aid is provided entirely as grants.

Applicants for expenses qualified as “industrial research” must provide substantiated proof of these expenses¹⁵. Failing this, these expenses may be reclassified as “experimental development” and substantiated under the corresponding conditions.

No aid of less than €500,000 will be awarded to a company in the “Large enterprises” category.

Aids proposed for non-economic activities

Activities considered as “non-economic” are the activities of entities, usually research organisations – whatever their status, fulfilling a mission of general interest while devoting a major share of their activity to R&D. The activities coming under public authority prerogatives when public entities act in their capacity as a public authority are also considered as being “non-economic”.

⁴ Enterprise with fewer than 50 employees, whose sales turnover or annual balance sheet total does not exceed €10m and which satisfies the independence criterion of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003.

⁵ Enterprise with fewer than 250 employees, whose sales turnover does not exceed €50m or whose annual balance sheet total does not exceed €43m and which satisfies the independence criterion of Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC of 6 May 2003 (scheme N215/2009).

⁶ Depending on the deployable schemes when the files are examined.

⁷ The levels of aid set by the framework scheme No.SA.58979 will in principle be increased by 5% in the metropolitan zone after the forthcoming publication of the next map for the 2022-2027 period. This bonus should take the aid intensities to 15, 25 and 35% according to the size of the enterprise in the metropolitan zone once the map has been adopted. Lastly, the aid intensities listed in this table apply to investment projects of less than €50m. Beyond this, the aid intensity is degressive.

⁸ Only in cases of creation of a new site or of activity diversification within an existing site in an AFR (regional aid scheme) zone and on condition that this has a 4-figure NACE code different from the codes governing the ongoing activities on the site in question.

⁹ Within the limit of an aid of €17.5m for investments that will comply with the conditions set by regional aid schemes.

¹⁰ Only if the conditions of Article 14 of EU Regulation 651/2014 are satisfied.

¹¹ Only if the conditions of Article 14 of EU Regulation 651/2014 are satisfied.

¹² Only in cases of creation of a new site or of activity diversification within an existing site in an AFR zone and on condition that this has a 4-figure NACE code different from the codes governing the ongoing activities on the site in question.

¹³ Within the limit of aid of €10m.

¹⁴ An effective collaboration exists: i) between enterprises which include at least one SME and no single enterprise bears alone more than 70% of the eligible expenses, ii) between an enterprise and one or more research and knowledge dissemination organisations and the latter bear(s) at least 10% of the eligible expenses and has/have the right to publish the results of their own research.

¹⁵ This proof must enable the operator to verify compliance with the European framework.

Aid for non-economic activities will be provided as grants in accordance with the following conditions:

Type of player	Level of aid
Research organisations and equivalent (as chosen by the entity)	100 % of the marginal costs
	50 % of the full costs ¹⁶

Any expenditure by a research organisation or equivalent associated with application work to develop a solution sponsored by one of the consortium members is to be considered as being made under subcontract for the consortium.

5. Selection process

5.1. Eligibility criteria

For a project to be eligible, it must:

- be administratively complete (see paragraph 5.3)¹⁷;
- be in conformity with the objective of paragraph 3.1;
- be sponsored by a structure that meets the requirements of paragraph 3.2;
- be made up solely of partners who are eligible for public aid, excepting those not requesting funding, and who more specifically shall:
 - not be the subject of legal proceedings;
 - not have the status of a firm in difficulty (as defined by the guidelines of the European Union on aid for rescuing and restructuring firms in difficulty)¹⁸;
 - not be under a court order for the recovery of aid deemed illegal and incompatible by decision of the European Commission;
- target an investment essentially in France, with an opening for projects located in part in Europe and the industrial property held in France, with an opening for joint holding with European partners. The projects may involve foreign partners but only European partners may receive funding. Whatever the case, only those partners having a site or a branch in France at the time of the decision and payment of the aid may receive funding;
- propose an eligible amount of work which is not or has not been funded outside the framework of this CFP by the government, local authorities, the European Union or their respective agencies;

¹⁶ Entities wishing to be funded on the full costs basis must have a cost accounting system.

¹⁷ In some cases, additional documents may be requested in order to determine the status of the partner and the level of aid it receives.

¹⁸ With the exception of enterprises that were not in difficulty on 31 December 2019, but which became enterprises in difficulty during the period between 1 January 2020 and 30 June 2021.

- list all the R&D projects conducted by each partner and supported by the public authority (European, national, regional), indicating the costs of the R&D programmes and the amounts of the aid granted in order to assess the financial capacity of the partners to take the project through to a successful conclusion;
- Ensure compatibility with the DNSH principle (see appendix 1).

5.2. Selection criteria

As a general rule, projects sponsored by emerging players will be given priority, as will disruptive projects, which can present a high level of risk but are likely to see strong growth. Particular attention will be given to projects that adopt a European partnership approach.

In the selection process, the eligible projects are examined on the basis of the following criteria in particular:

- Relevance of the proposal with regard to the guidelines of this CFP, particularly concerning the contribution to several of the themes mentioned in paragraph 3.1;
- Scientific and/or technical quality of the project: scientific excellence, innovative nature, removal of technological barriers, etc.;
- Quality of the project methodology (construction and coordination): project scientific and technical feasibility, project structuring, quality of the coordination plan, etc.;
- Appropriateness of the project, the means and the timeframes: feasibility of the schedule, appropriateness and justification of the amount of funding requested; justification for the personnel resources mobilised, evaluation of the amount of the investments and equipment purchases, etc.;
- Consistency between the financial situation of the company and the scale of the work proposed in the framework of the project(s) presented;
- Quality of the consortium, if applicable: level of scientific excellence or expertise of the teams, quality of match between the partnerships and the scientific and technical objectives, functioning and complementarity of the partnership, collaborative nature of the project and level of involvement of the various partners, maturity of the provisions concerning intellectual property and the results utilisation rights, etc.;
- Overall impact of the project:
 - Strategy for creating value from the project results (patents, licences, etc.);
 - Industrialisation and/or deployment prospects (possible industrial partners, particularly in France; potential financial partners, etc.);
 - Scientific and technological impacts;
 - Commercial and financial impact (project's utilisation potential (including the finished product market prospects), industrial prospects);

- Economic and labour impact (short-term benefits in terms of activity and job creation for each partner, forward-looking benefits in terms of activity creation, investments and jobs, maintaining and increasing skills – in the medium term, especially in France);
- Environmental impact (eco-conditionality/contribution to sustainable development, presenting the effects – whether direct or indirect, positive or negative – in different areas¹⁹ and quantified insofar as possible);
- Degree of incentive of the aid, particularly for non-SMEs (in the European sense) in terms of speeding up work or carrying out work that could not have been achieved without public intervention.

5.3. Application procedure

A specimen application file is available on the Bpifrance website at the following address: <https://www.bpifrance.fr/nos-appels-a-projets-concours/appele-a-projets-reacteurs-nucleaires-innovants>

The complete files must be sent obligatorily in electronic format via the Bpifrance platform: <https://www.picxel.bpifrance.fr/accueil>

The projects are examined by the operator, Bpifrance, assisted by the CEA, in accordance with procedures that are currently being defined in the context of implementation of the “France 2030” Investment Plan.

The files are examined in order of arrival until midday on 28 June 2023.

The timeframe for examination and selection by the selection committee will be approximately three to six months.

The application file must contain the following elements in particular:

- A detailed technical and scientific description of the project, clearly indicating:
 - the initial TRL of the project and the phase in which the project sponsor, in principle, wishes it to be registered, along with a development schedule;
 - the original contributions of the project to the objectives mentioned in paragraph 2.1;
- A description of the planned project organisation in the short and medium term (available and/or necessary skills, profiles involved, structure or company to be created for the project, etc.);
- A description of any needs for scientific and technical assistance with the project from the CEA and a financial assessment of these resources;
- The planned and/or ongoing programme for project examination with the nuclear safety and security authorities, ASN (French Nuclear Safety Authority) and MTE/HFDS (Ministry of Ecological Transition/Senior Defence and Security Official);
- A business plan presenting:

¹⁹ Utilisation of renewable energies, with or without production / energy efficiency / climate through the reduction of GHGs / air pollution / water quality / consumption of resources / waste reduction / impact on biodiversity / societal impact

- The amount of funding aid requested by the project;
- if applicable, the aid envisaged by the European institutions or other Member States;
- any envisaged economic and industrial benefits in France and Europe;
- For companies: the complete tax return of the company with its appendices for the last three financial years or, for a company being created, the complete tax return of its shareholders and a detailed description of the corporate project and its state of progress (if applicable, procedures before the competition authority or the European Commission in view of a merger);
- If the sponsor is promoting a partnership dynamic: indication of the French or European partners who may be involved with a complementary or synergetic role in the activities the sponsor intends developing in the project.

Other administrative, economic and technical elements are required in order to submit the application file which is available on the Bpifrance website.

Possibility of CEA assistance in preparing the application file

For better awareness of potential project sponsors who are not already stakeholders in the sector to the challenges of this CFP and the resulting key technical and scientific questions, an information day will be organised in the near future with the support of the CEA.

In addition, at the CFP application stage, the project sponsors can, if they wish, be assisted by the CEA in setting up the scientific and technical part of their file, and by BPI for the file as a whole.

To this end, the applicants can contact the CEA from 2 March 2022 to 31 December 2022.

5.4. Non-disclosure

The members of the selection committee and any experts called upon by the CFP applicants or during the examination of the files undertake to strictly observe the confidentiality of all the documents transmitted to them in response to the CFP, whatever the outcome of the file selection process.

A code of ethics certifying that there are no conflicts of interest will be signed by the experts involved in the examination of the project.

6. Implementation, project monitoring and allocation of funds

6.1. Signing agreements

Each beneficiary signs an agreement with the operator. This agreement specifies more specifically the utilisation of the funds, the content of the project, the project execution calendar, the project management conditions, the amount of the funding instalments and the criteria triggering the successive instalments, the project co-financing forecasts, the conditions of financial return for the French Government, the method of returning the data necessary for monitoring and assessing the investments, and the methods of communication.

Generally speaking, the aid agreement is signed within four to six months as from the decision, on pain of losing the benefit of the aid decision.

6.2. Project monitoring and fund allocation steps

The beneficiary sets up a dashboard with indicators for monitoring project progress and results. The agreement will define the conditions of project monitoring and interchange with the operator, in relation with the CEA.

The aid will be paid in several instalments, comprising an advance payment when the agreement is signed, one or more intermediate payments, depending on the expenditure level achieved, and a final balance paid at the end of the investment programme. The payments may be conditional upon meeting some of the main commitments described in the application file.

The tangible property financed under this CFP must be kept in the company's assets and situated on French territory for at least three years as from the date of file submission to the operator.

6.3. Communication

Once a project has been selected, each supported beneficiary is obliged to mention this support in its communication campaigns or the publication of project results, with the following single caption: *“Ce projet a été financé par l’État dans le cadre du plan France 2030”* in French and *“This project was funded by the France within the framework of the France 2030 plan”* in English.

The French Government reserves the right to communicate on the general objectives of the action, its stakes and its results, if necessary based on anonymised examples and in compliance with business secrecy. Any other communication is subject to the prior agreement of the beneficiary.

The operator will provide the beneficiaries with a France 2030 “communication kit” setting out the obligatory elements to be communicated in electronic format, such as the logos.

6.4. Information reporting requirements

Throughout the project, the beneficiary is required to communicate to the operator and the French Government the information necessary for project assessment (commercial performance or sales turnover potentially generated, jobs created and associated time horizon, patents, publications or licenses registered, environmental effects, market launch objectives). This information and its developments are specified in the general terms of the aid agreement between the operator and the beneficiary.

These reporting conditions must allow interim assessments to be carried out to give the operator and the French Government greater scope to apply a correction strategy and change the focus of this call for proposals should the majority of the projects fail to meet expectations.

6.5. Selection process transparency

The list of successful candidates for this call for proposals will be published on the following websites: www.ecologie.gouv.fr, www.economie.gouv.fr, www.entreprises.gouv.fr and www.bpifrance.fr.

The documents submitted within the framework of this CFP are subject to the strictest confidentiality and are only communicated for the purposes of the strategic committee, the CFP selection committee and the expert assistance. All people having access to the application files are required to observe strict confidentiality.

6.6. Contacts and information

If you have any questions concerning this Call for Proposals, please send them by e-mail to the following address: aap-france2030@bpifrance.fr

The Bpifrance teams, in relation with the CEA, are available to assist the project sponsors with the preparation of their files.

APPENDIX 1

Environmental performance criteria

Projects that cause significant harm from an environmental viewpoint will be excluded (application of the “Do No Significant Harm (DNSH)” principle).

The environmental sustainability of a project is assessed with regard to the following six environmental objectives:

- attenuation of climate change;
- adaptation to climate change;
- the sustainable utilisation and the protection of aquatic and marine resources;
- the transition to a circular economy;
- prevention and reduction of pollution;
- protection and restoring of biodiversity and ecosystems.

For the technical assessment of the project’s impact with respect to each environmental objective, the applicant must fill out the dedicated document available on the CFP site (application file) and enclose it with the application file.

This requires the applicant to make their own assessment of the foreseeable impacts of the proposed solution (receiving the aid) compared with a reference solution. This analysis takes into account the life cycle of the process and the project product(s) or deliverable(s), according to the uses made of them. These assessments may be supported by more complete life cycle analyses whenever necessary.