

PROGRAMME: LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES – CALL I

The objective of the aid programme and the Call is to support the competitiveness of enterprises and the sustainability of the Czech economy through the introduction of innovative technologies in the field of electromobility, energy management and utilisation of secondary raw materials. Another objective is to increase the use of more efficient and reliable low-carbon technologies that are not yet commonly applied in the Czech Republic.

SCHEDULE

Receipt of aid applications:

- 1 April 2016 – 31 July 2016

AIDED ACTIVITIES

- a) Electromobility (introducing innovative low-carbon technologies in low-carbon transport, the electromobility of road vehicles):
 - Acquisition of electric vehicles.
 - Acquisition of charging (non-public) stations for electric vehicles within the business premises for own use.
- b) Energy storage:
 - Pilot projects for introducing energy storage technologies.
- c) Secondary raw materials:
 - Introduction of technologies for secondary raw material recovery in a quality that is suitable for further use in industrial production, such as from used paper, glass, metals, tires, textiles, plastics, construction and demolition waste, energy by-products and a number of other products at the end of their life.
 - Introduction of technologies to efficiently recover valuable secondary raw materials – which are lacking in both the Czech Republic and the EU (especially critical raw materials) – from used products.
 - Introduction of innovative technologies for the production of innovative products from secondary raw materials, including the replacement of primary resources with secondary raw materials, where economically feasible.

APPLICANT

- The applicant, beneficiary is a business entity; a small or medium-sized enterprise as defined in Annex I to Commission Regulation No 651/2014 or Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC, a large enterprise.
- The applicant is authorised to conduct business activities in the Czech Republic that correspond to the aided economic activity to be implemented through the project.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant has been registered with the tax office as an income-tax payer pursuant to section 125 of Act No 280/2009 Sb., the Tax Code, as amended, without interruption for a period of no less than two closed tax periods preceding the date of the submission of the aid application. In the case of an entity with no history, which uses the option to demonstrate its history through a foreign parent company in accordance with the Transformation of Entity methodological guideline, the condition of two years of registration with the tax office will not apply. The applicant will present a sworn statement about simple registration with the tax office pursuant to Section 125(1) of Act No 280/2009 Sb., the Tax Code, as amended.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant does not have any outstanding arrears towards selected institutions or towards the providers of aid within projects that are co-financed by the European Union budget. Deferment of payment of arrears or agreement on payment of arrears are deemed settled arrears.
- According to the applicant's sworn statement, the applicant does not have any arrears in terms of salary claims by its employees.
- The applicant does not have any outstanding liability arising under a recovery order that has been issued – following a previous decision – by the Commission declaring the aid illegal and incompatible with the common market.
- As at the date of submitting the aid application, the applicant has closed no less than two consecutive accounting periods. If the applicant has only been in business for a shorter period, the required history may be proven through the entity/entities exercising controlling influence in the applicant. The condition of two closed accounting periods can also be deemed fulfilled in the event that, during the period under review, there was a change (a transformation) in the entity of the applicant, see the annex entitled Change (Transformation) of Entity.

SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

- Aid is not provided to projects whose outputs will have an effect in any of the sectors defined in Annex 3 to the Call.

MAIN CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

- The project must be implemented in the Czech Republic except for the capital city of Prague.
- The applicant must clearly prove ownership or other rights to the real estate and land where the project will be implemented.

- The project does not envisage aid to activities that are linked to the quantity exported, to the establishment and operation of a distribution network abroad, or to other current costs linked to export activity (customs duties, insurance), and aid contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods.
- The project must not violate the EU horizontal policies and their basic principles including, without limitation:
 - o Equal opportunities for men and women (compliance with EU and Czech legislation on non-discrimination, especially the Labour Code),
 - o Sustainable development (compliance with EU and Czech legislation on environmental protection).
- The applicant's financial health, expressed through a simplified economic assessment by the Intermediate Body, must not be lower than 5 points.
- For projects with total eligible expenditure in excess of CZK 5 million, there will be an obligation to perform a Financial Analysis of the Investment. For projects with total eligible expenditure in excess of CZK 100 million, there will be an obligation to perform an 'economic' analysis in which the project's socio-economic impacts will be taken into account according to a defined code list.
- Any initial investment (in the case of activity c) started by the same beneficiary (at the level of a group, i.e. linked enterprises) within a period of three years from the date of start of works on another aided investment in the same NUTS 3 region is considered to be part of a single investment project. Where such single investment project is a large investment project, it cannot be supported within the call.
- In assessing the level of innovation, i.e. the project's eligibility for this specific objective, a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) assessment will be applied. Projects at the following levels will be supported:
 - o TRL 5 – technology validated in a relevant environment (in the case of key technologies, an industrially significant environment),
 - o TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in a given environment (in the case of key technologies, an industrially significant environment),
 - o TRL 7 – system prototyping demonstration in an operational environment,
 - o TRL 8 – system is complete and qualified,
 - o TRL 9 – existing system has been validated in an operational environment.
- Aided projects will be required to implement dissemination activities (e.g. an article in the press, information on the web, making a leaflet/brochure, a car sticker (EU logo), participation in a thematic conference/seminar) within which the projects will present their results and outputs beyond compliance with publicity rules. The presentation of the project's results will take place within the project sustainability period specified by the call.
- The project must not be financed through operating aid to renewable energy sources.
- In the case of activity a) Electromobility under this call, the acquisition of used cars cannot be supported.
- In the case of the acquisition of charging stations for electric vehicles, it is required that such stations should only be used for the entrepreneurs' own needs within their premises and not for public charging.
- Within this call, up to 1 subsidy application may be submitted per one economic entity (one ID number).

ELIGIBLE EXPENDITURE

- Fixed tangible assets. When acquiring construction works, the aid provider will only consider eligible expenditure to include investment costs up to the amount of the construction work prices indicated in the ÚRS/RTS/etc. lists for the year in which the aid application was submitted. In this context, the applicant is obliged to submit – along with the aid application – a detailed itemised budget with prices for the construction works that are planned to be implemented within the project. If the price for the construction works is higher than the price indicated in the construction work pricing guidelines (ÚRS/RTS/etc.), such expenditures will be reduced to an amount corresponding to the guidelines.
- Fixed intangible assets (if required for the proper operation of fixed tangible assets).
- Feasibility studies.

FORM AND AMOUNT OF AID

- Aid amount:
- **For activity a) Electromobility:**
 - Acquisition of electric vehicles – the minimum subsidy amount is CZK 70 thousand and the maximum amount is CZK 3 million.
 - Acquisition of charging (non-public) stations for electric vehicles within the business premises for own use – the minimum subsidy amount is CZK 50 thousand, the subsidy is provided up to a maximum amount that is in accordance with the rules for de minimis public aid.
- **For activities b) Energy storage:**
 - The minimum subsidy amount is CZK 50 thousand, the subsidy is provided up to a maximum amount that is in accordance with the rules for de minimis public aid.
- **For activity c) Secondary raw materials:**
 - The minimum subsidy amount is CZK 1 million, the subsidy is provided up to a maximum amount of CZK 100 million.
- Aid intensity:
- **For activity a) Electromobility:**
 - If the beneficiary is a small enterprise, aid is granted up to 70% of EE.
 - If the beneficiary is a medium-sized enterprise, aid is granted up to 60% of EE.
 - If the beneficiary is a large enterprise, aid is granted up to 50% of EE.
- **For activities b) Energy storage:**
 - If the beneficiary is a small enterprise, aid is granted up to 60% of EE.
 - If the beneficiary is a medium-sized enterprise, aid is granted up to 50% of EE.
 - If the beneficiary is a large enterprise, aid is granted up to 40% of EE.

- **For activity c) Secondary raw materials:**
 - If the beneficiary is a small enterprise, aid is granted up to 45% of EE.
 - If the beneficiary is a medium-sized enterprise, aid is granted up to 35% of EE.
 - If the beneficiary is a large enterprise, aid is granted up to 25% of EE.