

Asia-Pacific Space Cooperation Organization

Call For Proposals on APSCO Cooperative Projects

(draft)

1. Background

One of the main goals of APSCO is regional cooperation with the purpose of using space technology and its applications for the development of the region and harnessing benefits of this technology for socio-economic development of the Asia-Pacific. The Secretariat of APSCO has conducted many activities for capacity-building, resource-sharing and technology development. Since the establishment of the Secretariat, cooperative projects have been the main tool of APSCO for achieving the goals of the organization and the Member States have shown great interest in initiating projects in different fields of space science, technology and applications. Many projects have been successfully conducted by the Member States through APSCO cooperative platform. These projects have different technical levels and achievement. Now, the Development Plan Committee (DPC) of APSCO which is in charge of prioritizing the projects and other cooperative activities of APSCO has initiated an effort to focus more on the quality and coverage of the cooperative projects and thus to improve the impact of projects.

2. Purpose

As already mentioned, the Development Plan Committee (DPC) has come out with a new project selection mechanism in order to improve the impact, priority and inclusiveness of the projects. DPC has drafted a Call for Proposals (CFP) on the topics that entertain maximum benefit of the Member States. The current document provides a guideline for proposing the new projects by the Member States. The Call guides the proposing entities to initiate projects in the fields of higher priority based on the survey conducted by the Secretariat.

3. Call Description

- **Scope:** The current call is formulated for collection of proposals to be discussed in 2025 DPC meeting which is going to be held onsite in the first quarter of 2025 based on the Rules on Cooperative Activities of APSCO.
- **Objectives:** The aim of the call is to guide the proposing entities in Member States towards the fields of higher interest among Member States and thus creating the opportunity to collect proposals in fewer fields and providing better selection outcome.
- **Expected outcome:** It is expected that new projects of APSCO include immediate needs and requirements of the Member States and provide the platform for more international cooperation among them.
- **High Priority Fields:** The higher priority fields of project collection has been surveyed by the Secretariat through several rounds of survey population and prioritization. The fields enjoying the support of more Member States shall have higher priority (Annex-1).

4. Submission Guidelines

- **Format:** The format of the proposals shall follow the standard format prepared by the Secretariat (Annex-2).
- **Deadline of Proposal Submission:** The new proposals based on this Call for Proposals shall be submitted by mid-November 2024 for the first round of evaluation by the Secretariat. The final deadline for proposal submission is 31 December 2024 based on the Rules on Cooperative Activities of APSCO.

5. Budget

- **Funding:** The funding of the project shall be provided by APSCO after the project is approved by the Council of APSCO. If the project lead provides part of the budget of the project, the project shall have more chance for selection.
- **Budget Tags:** The budget tag of each high priority field is provided through the survey of project fields (Annex-1). There are three levels for the budget tag, i.e. A-less than 500K USD; B- between 500k to 1000K USD; and C-more than 1000K USD. The budget tags are only working as a guideline and the budget shall be detailed in the project proposal based on the standard budget estimation practice.

6. Evaluation Criteria

- **Criteria:** The evaluation criteria are not changed and the same evaluation form as before shall be used (Annex-3).
- **Process:** The evaluation shall be done by the DPC and in any project field maximum one project shall be selected to be added to the Project Implementation Plan of APSCO.

7. Additional Information

All Member States are currently encouraged to submit program proposals based on their priorities and interests. The opportunity is announced annually. All space-related fields are accommodated with the priority of the project having higher support in the Survey. The process of project evaluation and approval takes at least two years from the initiation until Council approval.