

Call for expressions of interest to set up a list of independent experts to assist the Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking for tasks in relation to the European Hydrogen Safety Panel

1. Contracting authority

IDOM CONSULTING,
ENGINEERING, ARCHITECTURE,
S.A.U.

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SPAIN

on behalf of the [Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking](#), under a public procurement contract.

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2. Objective of the call for expression of interest

The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking (Clean Hydrogen JU) invites applications from individuals with a view to be included in the Clean Hydrogen JU database of experts related to the activities of the European Hydrogen Safety Panel (EHSP), now managed by the consortium composed by IDOM and Ariema under a public procurement contract concluded as a result of a call for tenders. For details on the European Hydrogen Safety Panel and a full description of the fields covered by this call for expression of interest, please refer to section 8.

3. Registration procedure

Expressions of interest should be submitted through the [link](#) to the application form provided on the website of the [European Hydrogen Safety Panel - Clean Hydrogen Partnership](#).

Inclusion on the list of possible experts to be selected for the EHSP entails no obligation on the part of the contracting authority concerning the conclusion of contracts.

4. Information and documents to be provided to the email address indicated under point 3.

Interested parties should provide:

- their full contact details in the [Registration form](#)
- an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae submitted through the [Registration form](#)

Areas of expertise and professional experience should be adequately detailed and documented. The supporting evidence to be provided for the **evaluation of the selection criteria** is indicated under point 12.

5. General description of the procedure

Natural persons are invited to submit an expression of interest in accordance with the rules set out in this notice.

On the basis of the received applications, the contracting authority will draw up a list of experts who meet the criteria set out at point 12.

Where (a) particular task(s) relating to the fields described at point 8 is to be performed by an external expert,

the contracting authority will assign experts to the task(s) on the basis of the skills, experience and knowledge necessary and in accordance with the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment and absence of conflict of interests. When assigning experts to tasks, the contracting authority will also take into account gender, age, and geographical origin.

6. Protection of personal data

If processing your expression of interest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as your name, address and CV), such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). Unless indicated otherwise, your reply to this notice and any personal data requested are required for the purposes indicated above in point 4 and will be processed solely for those purposes by the contracting authority indicated in point 1, which acts as the data processor on behalf of the data controller (Clean Hydrogen JU).

Details concerning the processing of your personal data are available in the dedicated Privacy Statement available at the applications dedicated section and in the application form.

7. Use of the list resulting from this call for expression of interest (CEI)

The list resulting from this CEI will be used exclusively for tasks to be carried out as follows:

- execution of the tasks within the fields described under point 8, with a maximum threshold of €13.500 of total payments (including only remunerations) reimbursements will be paid as incurred

8. Full description of the fields covered by the call for expressions of interest

8.1. Context and background information

The Clean Hydrogen JU is a European public-private partnership between the European Union (EU), represented by the European Commission, and the European hydrogen sector, represented by Hydrogen Europe and Hydrogen Europe Research - its founding members.

The Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking, or Clean Hydrogen JU, is the legal name of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership. It was established under the Single Basic Act of the Joint Undertakings as the successor to the successful Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Undertakings (FCH JU and FCH 2 JU), which operated under the EU's FP7 and Horizon 2020 (H2020) programmes. The JU is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.

With a mission to facilitate the EU's transition to a greener society through the advancement of hydrogen technologies, the Clean Hydrogen JU supports research and innovation (R&I) activities in clean hydrogen solutions under the EU's Horizon Europe programme. It also works in synergy with other EU initiatives and programmes.

The EU has committed €1 billion to the Clean Hydrogen JU for the period 2021–2027, matched by at least an equivalent amount of private investment from the partnership's private members. Additionally, under the REPowerEU initiative, the EU plans to provide an extra €200 million to further develop Hydrogen Valleys across Europe.

The Clean Hydrogen JU aims to contribute significantly to the EU's climate neutrality goals by delivering measurable and impactful results in the development and scaling of hydrogen applications. It focuses on accelerating the deployment of a competitive, safe, and sustainable European hydrogen value chain, with particular support for SMEs and the market entry of innovative clean technologies.

8.2. European Hydrogen Safety Panel

The Clean Hydrogen JU launched the European Hydrogen Safety Panel in 2017 to assist the Clean Hydrogen JU in ensuring the development and deployment of safer hydrogen technologies, systems, and infrastructures. The EHSP's mission focuses on the safe implementation of Clean Hydrogen JU projects and program, and the dissemination of safety culture along the program and beyond. Since 2025, the panel will be managed by the consortium composed of IDOM and Ariema for technical and management activities, under a public procurement contract concluded with the Clean Hydrogen JU.

The mission of the envisaged European Hydrogen Safety Panel is to assist the Clean Hydrogen JU both at programme and at project level in assuring that hydrogen safety is adequately managed, and to promote and disseminate H2 safety culture within and outside of the Clean Hydrogen JU programme. The European Hydrogen Safety Panel will provide the Clean Hydrogen JU a unique, practical, and direct access to an objective: state-of-the-art expert judgment for all issues regarding hydrogen safety.

The panel is envisaged to be composed of a pool of 10 to 15 senior experts, with one appointed Chair, and organized along four thematic areas or Task Forces, dealing with: projects, the programme, data gathering, and dissemination activities, with their corresponding leading experts (or Task Force Leaders).

The experts will be contracted on an ad-hoc basis according to number of days needed per task (based on a previous estimation), including travel costs if needed.

The scope of the activities of the European Hydrogen Safety Panel are structured around four main areas:

- **support at project level**
- **support at programme level**
- **support with regards to the hydrogen safety data collection and assessment**
- **communications**

The potential activities within the scope of the European Hydrogen Safety Panel are further detailed here below:

At project level, the European Hydrogen Safety Panel will continue coordinating a package of measures to avoid any accident by integrating safety learnings, expertise, and planning into Clean Hydrogen JU-funded projects, ensuring that all projects address and incorporate the state-of-the-art in hydrogen safety appropriately. In this respect, the tasks include but are not limited to:

- Provide technical guidance (e.g., in the form of public reports and in events, webinars, workshops, etc.) to ensure hydrogen safety is adequately addressed and managed in the JU-funded projects (and beyond if possible). This task includes, but is not limited to, the regular update and further development of the “Safety Planning and Management in EU hydrogen and fuel cell projects”, in view of keeping supporting the Clean Hydrogen JU and EU projects,
- Support the Clean Hydrogen JU-funded projects through the development of standard forms, checklists, etc., and/or providing guidance and supporting project consortia if needed in their hydrogen safety related activities,
- Perform the review of the safety plans and related information submitted by the Clean Hydrogen JU funded projects (mostly, Innovation Actions), providing feedback and guidance/recommendations to the projects, and following up on the subsequent activities to ensure Clean Hydrogen JU -funded projects incorporate state-of-the-art hydrogen safety by integrating safety learnings, expertise, and planning. This task includes reporting to the Clean Hydrogen JU any issue, piece of news, or relevant information related to hydrogen safety within the Clean Hydrogen JU -funded projects,
- Conduct site inspections and safety assessments and monitor the appropriate safety performance

of the Clean Hydrogen JU-funded projects, where required,

- Deliver basic short introductions and/or training in hydrogen safety (also referred to as “H2 safety 101”), mainly to projects without experienced partners in hydrogen safety. This can also be provided to clusters or groups of projects as part of the “Support at the Programme level” activity area and/ or to the public, as part of the “Communications” activity area,
- Offer short courses on risk/safety assessment and management methodology and hands-on instructions on using related open tools. This can also be provided to clusters or groups of projects as part of the “Support at the Programme level” activity area and/ or to the public, as part of the “Communications” activity area,
- Support for the preparation of presentations, briefings, communications, etc. related with projects on hydrogen safety aspects ,
- Participate in project events, workshops, conferences, webinars, etc. representing the EHSP,
- Undertake additional tasks, as required.

At program level, the European Hydrogen Safety Panel should develop under this area a set of activities intrinsically linked with the activities of the previous activity area but with a broader and cross-cutting dimension, focused on the Clean Hydrogen JU Programme itself and how safety-related aspects can be enhanced within the overall programme and activities. In this respect, the tasks include but are not limited to:

- Act as the focal point or “safety advisor” to the JU Programme, answering questions from the Clean Hydrogen JU related to hydrogen safety in an independent, coordinated, and consolidated way, including via hotline support or even via the physical presence of an EHSP representative at the Clean Hydrogen JU premises, if needed,
- Support the Clean Hydrogen JU in identifying the needs, gaps, areas for research, etc., related to hydrogen safety, notably for the technologies covered in the Clean Hydrogen JU Programme described in the Clean Hydrogen JU SRIA, alongside performing the overall analyses of the state-of-the-art of hydrogen safety, reporting the results as well as of the policy implications. This could include publishing regular progress reports on recent developments and analysis of critical knowledge gaps and technological bottlenecks in the field of hydrogen safety,
- Deploy strategies to reinforce the impact of the collaboration with European and international stakeholders on hydrogen safety, such as the International Association IA HySafe, the AIChE Hydrogen Safety Panel (HSP), the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE), or the Hydrogen Council to name a few, strengthening the contacts and seeking synergies and working topics of mutual interest (e.g., to enlarge the number of events in the HIAD 3.0 database),
- Support the Clean Hydrogen JU in further developing its incident response (internal) procedure, aiming at providing a structured response to any incident or safety threat to a project (and potentially beyond),
- Provide technical guidance (e.g., in the form of reports and/or in events, webinars, workshops, etc.) to the Clean Hydrogen JU, the Clean Hydrogen JU staff, the Clean Hydrogen JU members and cluster of projects dealing with and/or involving a similar technology or technologies, facilitating the learning from others, and sharing good practices in terms of hydrogen safety in a particular need, field or technological area,
- Support for the preparation of presentations, briefings, communications, etc. on hydrogen safety aspects related to cluster and/or groups of projects funded by the Clean Hydrogen JU, either by

area or research theme, by year, by Member State and/or by the whole Programme, and related activities,

- Participate in events, workshops, conferences, webinars, etc. representing the EHSP, either organised by the Clean Hydrogen JU or externals,
- Support the Clean Hydrogen JU in its Annual Work Programme(s) preparation, and in the update of the Clean Hydrogen JU SRJA, where needed. This could include support for drafting the specific section devoted to the EHSP in the Clean Hydrogen JU Annual Work Programme(s), Annual Activity Report(s), where needed.
- Undertake additional tasks, as required.

Concerning data collection, the activities in this category are centered on the collection and analysis of hydrogen safety-related data to derive lessons learned and provide further general recommendations to all stakeholders, as well as of relevant models, practices, etc. related to hydrogen safety. In this regard, the European HSP tasks may include:

- Develop and implementation of a methodology to search, collect, and enlarge the number of events in the HIAD 3.0 database (an updated and refurbished version of the HIAD 2.0 database) either in an MS Excel file or as an online database integrated into the upcoming European Hydrogen Knowledge Hub, managed by the Clean Hydrogen JU. This also includes seeking collaboration with European and international organisations and stakeholders on hydrogen safety to increase the number of events in the HIAD 3.0 database.
- Support for the management of the HIAD 3.0 (public) database. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Support for the development of a user-friendly front-end and back-end, and/or dashboard (e.g., as an online interactive tool) for the HIAD 3.0 database.
 - Act as quality controller of the events included in the HIAD 3.0 database, and of new events, ensuring the information presents high-quality prior to their validation and addition into the database.
 - Act as a contact point and/or helpdesk of the HIAD 3.0 database for issues related to hydrogen safety and/or quality of the information (not related to IT), addressing requests for sharing information, replying to inquiries, etc.
 - Perform analysis (e.g., statistical) of the data contained in the HIAD 3.0 database, identifying trends in the type of incident/accident, origin, root causes, severity, and violation of relevant safety principles, etc., deriving lessons learned and formulating recommendations to improve hydrogen safety in the different sectors, technologies and/or applications.
- Collect, structure, and share relevant information on hydrogen safety, for example, providing guidance on the phenomenological models, risk assessment approaches, and Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) models for hydrogen safety engineering applications, references of books, projects, events, etc., relevant to hydrogen safety.
- Support the JU in the collection, monitoring and assessment of the hydrogen safety-related information submitted by projects (e.g., through the JU Annual Data Collection), proposing corrective measures and/or providing recommendations for improvement where appropriate. This task could also include the support for the monitoring of the JU Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Undertake additional tasks, as required.

Communications, framed within the context of the intended broad information exchange, the European Hydrogen Safety Panel tasks may include but are not limited to:

- Development of a communication strategy for the EHSP, identifying the goals and objectives, target audiences, means and/or channels, key messages, etc.,
- Support the management of a dedicated website for the EHSP. This could include producing and managing multi-media and audio-visual content, as well as providing the content described,
- Participation in events, conferences, webinars, workshops, etc. related to hydrogen safety, in conjunction with the Clean Hydrogen JU and/or its members, and/or other stakeholders, or as own initiative (in line with the communication strategy mentioned above),
- Support the communication team of the Clean Hydrogen JU in matters related to hydrogen safety. This could include support to draft content for the Clean Hydrogen JU website and/ or newsletters, support in the preparation of leaflets, and brochures, support in the organisation of Clean Hydrogen JU events, etc.,
- Support JU-funded projects, whenever required, on communication matters related to sensitive safety aspects,
- Undertake additional tasks, as required.

Note: the list of possible tasks mentioned above is non-exhaustive. The list of concrete tasks for a specific period (period N) will be decided by the Clean Hydrogen JU at the end of the previous period (period N-1).

9. Place of delivery

As required, tasks may be carried out at the Clean Hydrogen JU premises, at any other premises where a meeting/workshop organised by Clean Hydrogen JU will take place, or remotely, using electronic communication tools.

10. Expiry date of the list resulting from this call for expressions of interest

The list resulting from this notice is valid for four years from the dispatch of this notice.

Any interested natural person may submit an application at any time during the period of validity of the call for expression of interest, which will have an initial duration of two weeks.

Experts may withdraw their application at any moment during the period of validity of the registration by written notice to the contracting party.

Validity:

- This is an open call to be used throughout its whole period of validity.
- Experts can register at any time and evaluations will take place during pre-established cut-off dates
- For activities to be carried out in 2025-2026: only candidates who have registered no later than **[date of publication + 2 weeks]** at 18:00, Brussels local time, will be taken into account for the assignment of tasks for the year 2025-2026. Registrations received after this date will be taken into account for the assignment of tasks to be done as of 2026-2027.”

11. Exclusion criteria

Experts shall be excluded from participation if:

- (a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
- (b) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a Member State which has the force of res judicata;
- (c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organisations;
- (d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
- (e) they or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests;
- (f) they are subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresentation in supplying the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a procurement procedure or failing to supply information, or being declared to be in serious breach of their obligation under a contract covered by the budget;
- (g) they have a conflict of interest in connection with the contract; a conflict of interest could arise in particular as a result of economic interests, political or national affinities, family or emotional ties or any other relevant connection or shared interest.

Before signing a contract, experts shall provide a **declaration on their honour** stating that they are not in one of the situations of exclusion listed above. In case of doubt, they may be requested to provide supporting evidence of non-exclusion.

12. Selection criteria:

- **Criteria relating to technical and professional capacity:**

Where a particular task relating to the fields described at point 8 is to be performed by an external expert, he/she shall be selected on the basis of their professional and technical ability to perform the tasks described in this call according to the following technical capabilities criteria:

- Qualifications: Which are the desired qualifications and credentials that a panel member should have. This could, for example, be educational degrees, certifications, and/or published research papers.
- Experience: The desired level of expertise that the experts in the field should have in order to form part of the panel and a given activity. This will, for example, include looking at relevant work experience, area of expertise, and/or professional affiliations.
- Languages: English will be the working language in this project. Nevertheless, other languages will also be valuable and considered. The results from the work completed by the EHSP experts will be documented and reported in English.
- Communication skills: To enable proper communication and achievement of the goals, soft skills will also be evaluated. These skills will be evaluated according to the role the expert might take in the panel, and how each expert will complement the rest of the members of the panel. It is of particular relevance for Task Force Leader Selection.

- **Conflict of interest:** Potential conflicts of interest will also be taken into consideration in the selection process.
- **Availability:** The availability of the experts will be evaluated, ensuring that they will be able to allocate the needed time for the participation in this project.
- **Diversity:** As a means to find a varied panel of experts, diversity in academic backgrounds will also be evaluated alongside other factors such as industry, geographic and demographic diversity. Moreover, gender will be taken into consideration to create a gender balanced panel.

Other formal criteria that will be considered during the evaluation:

- (a) the applicant shall be a natural person, not a legal entity
- (b) a minimum of a university degree or equivalent that enables them to undertake post graduate studies; in the absence of a degree the applicant should demonstrate that they have an equivalent recognised professional qualification and experience
- (c) a minimum of 5 years of experience in the field of activity related to hydrogen/hydrogen safety/other fields of activities described in section 8. This may include practical experience with EU-funded projects, relevant academic work, contributions to conferences, participation in associations active in the areas for which they are applying or other experience relevant to the performance of the tasks listed in point 8
- (d) ability to work and perform the assignments in English (minimum C1 level).

- **Supporting evidence:**

All the above requested experience and abilities will be assessed based on the information applicants must provide in their **curriculum vitae**, which is a part of their application.

13. Conditions of remuneration and reimbursement of experts

Contracts signed under this call for expressions of interest will be a private contract between IDOM and experts, in line with standard practice of subcontracting contracts, concluded with a fixed fee of €450 (four hundred and fifty euro) per working day. Travel and subsistence expenses will be reimbursed under the conditions set out in the contract.

As a general rule, contracts will not cumulatively exceed 30 days per year.

If you are selected as an expert, you will be offered a contract through direct contact. This contract (including its annexes) defines all the rights, obligations, terms and conditions applicable to you. It is not an employment contract or agreement.

Some of the terms and conditions in your contract will vary, depending on the type of expert activity that you are asked to carry out. The contract will indicate whether or not your work will involve travel, the maximum number of days of work that you will be paid for and the planned calendar for your work.

Communication on contract:

You should use only the email provided to communicate about your contract, e.g.

- submitting your identity/bank account details
- signing your contract (electronic-signature)
- making requests for payment and providing related supporting documents.
- any other correspondence related to your contract

14. Ex-post transparency

A list of experts (name and subject of the tasks executed) who have concluded a contract following the procedure set out at point 4 shall be published on the website of the Clean Hydrogen JU.