Call for Ideas

“To identify and demonstrate disruptive space innovations based on ideas and concepts”

The Swiss Space Office from the State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation (SERI/SSO) is initiating a Call for Ideas to foster low Technology Readiness Level (typically TRL 1) research and development studies related to space activities. The objective of this Call is to identify and demonstrate disruptive space innovations based on ideas or concepts. Thanks to a short-term implementation and a relatively light administrative element, the selected studies shall focus on technical and scientific work. The SERI/SSO has entrusted the Swiss Space Center (SSC) to implement this Call for Ideas. The SSC will provide technical support to the studies as well as networking contacts with the aim to spur on innovative ideas towards products, developing niche sectors in Switzerland.
Topics

For this first Call for Ideas, the Swiss Space Center invites submissions on the following topics:

- Micro-Nano Technologies (MNT)
- Materials, Parts and Processes (MPP)
- Optics
- Pico/Nano Sat technology and components

These topics have been identified in the development plan elaborated in 2012 by the strategic committee of the Swiss Space Center, which is composed by its academic and industrial members. The topics stem from the needs expressed by the European Space Agency (ESA).

Format of the proposal

1. Cover letter
2. Technical & administrative proposal (10 pages max)

The technical & administrative proposal shall be structured according to the following main sections:

- Technical and/or scientific objectives
- Description of the study
- Key personnel
- Financial aspects

Please note that detailed costing based on ESA PSS standard is not required.

Duration of the study

The proposed studies shall last for a maximum of 6 months from the kick-off to the delivery of the final report.

Deliverables

The only deliverable is the final report, to be delivered at the end of the study for the date agreed at kick-off.

Financial support

A maximum amount of 20'000 CHF is allocated to each selected study, to be considered as a unique subsidy which cannot be extended. The funding shall be used exclusively to pay salaries. No management or administrative costs are foreseen under this scheme.
Evaluation Procedure

The Swiss Space Center will perform the technical and scientific evaluation by setting up an internal evaluation board. The main criteria will be the degree of innovation of the idea proposed. If needed, the evaluation board may contact external experts for recommendations. The final decision will be made by the Swiss Space Office.

Schedule

- 02 May 2013: Publication of the Call for ideas
- 30 May 2013: Deadline to submit the proposals to the Swiss Space Center
- end June 2013: Decision taken by the Swiss Space Office
- 01 July 2013: All participants informed of the outcome of their submissions by the Swiss Space Center
- July 2013: Kick-off meetings / start of studies
- December 2013: End of studies, final report submitted

Submission of the proposals

Only proposals received by Thursday 30 May 2013 at midnight will be accepted for evaluation. Each proposal, written in English, shall be submitted in electronic format (PDF) to the following address:

Swiss Space Center
Grégoire Bourban
Station 11, EPFL
CH-1015 Lausanne
Tel: +41 (0)21 693 66 65
Email: gregoire.bourban@epfl.ch

Questions and requests for clarifications

Any questions related to this Call for Ideas shall be submitted to Grégoire Bourban by email. All applicable information will be published at: http://space.epfl.ch/