

FAQ

Outer Hebrides Call for Solutions

The RIPEET Project has launched three energy innovation territorial challenges and it is now looking for innovative solutions that can tackle them using “Responsible Innovation” processes and methods. This will include following inclusive and participatory approaches during the implementation of these solutions.

For each challenge, RIPEET will award one solution. Selected European innovators will:

- Co-create and validate the solution with the regional co-creation team
- Receive up to 50000€ to develop the solution over 12 months

RIPEET Outer Hebrides is calling European organisations to:

“Explore solutions to reduce household energy costs by better utilising locally generated energy”

Below are the answers to questions received about the call (this document was last updated on **10th November 2022**)

Q.1. *Can we apply to this project as a company that produces domestic appliances?*

A.1. To be eligible to apply for the call you need to be a legally constituted organisation and fulfil the other eligibility criteria outlined in the “Who can apply?” section the RIPEET Outer Hebrides eligibility criteria which you can [view here](#).

Q.2. *The focus of the project is energy consumption, can we can apply for a solution that reduces energy consumption?*

A.2. The call is looking for a solution to reduce household energy costs by better utilising locally generated energy. Reducing energy consumption could be one element of the solution, we are also looking for a solution which incorporates locally generated energy in some form.

Q.3. *Can we participate in the project as a team consisting of several companies, or can we participate alone? Do we need to join any consortium to apply?*

A.3. An individual organisation OR a consortium can apply for funding. You do not need to join a consortium to apply. If you do apply as a consortium, please have the lead partner as the applicant, and stipulate the roles and responsibilities of other consortium partners in the application form. And in the budget template please mark clearly what the budget allocation for each consortium partner is, these other consortium partners will effectively be sub-contractors to the lead partner.

Q. 4. *If an applicant has put together a funding package for a project where HIE funding is already included, can the applicant also apply to the RIPEET call for solutions for a strand of the project related to the defined energy need since the funding would also come from HIE?*

A. 4. Yes, so long as the RIPEET funding is used for a separate element of the project related to the energy need. RIPEET funding CANNOT be used for an element which has already received financial support from HIE or another source as this would be classed as double funding.

Q. 5. *Is it possible for CES to be a sub-contractor for the pilot project given that they are one of the RIPEET project partners?*

A. 5. No, none of the RIPEET partners can be sub-contractors for the pilot project.

Q. 6. *Can the RIPEET pilot project be one element of a wider project?*

A. 6. Yes, so long as the RIPEET pilot element focusses on addressing the defined energy need: “explore solutions to reduce household energy costs by better utilising locally generated energy” it can be part of a wider project. H2020 funding can only fund the RIPEET pilot project, not the wider project.

Q. 7. *Is the RIPEET call looking to fund one project or several smaller projects?*

A. 7. The RIPEET call is looking to fund ONE project up to the value of €50,000. However, the funding could support several strands within one overall project.

Q. 8. *The energy need has been defined as “explore solutions to reduce household energy costs by better utilising locally generated energy”, does this refer to a domestic level or a wider, community/local level?*

A. 8. The pilot project can operate at a domestic level OR on a wider, community level. The pilot project should propose a solution that reduces household energy costs by better utilising locally generated energy.

Q. 9. *If the applicant wants to test the pilot project, can they sub-contract to their in-house testing institute?*

A. 9. If an applicant wants to include a testing element, please state that clearly on the application form and put the associated costs with this element of subcontracting clearly labelled in the budget template.

Q. 10. *What is the per unit cost of the locally generated electricity?*

A. 10 This can vary a lot between generators and over time as typically generators negotiate Price Power Agreements (PPAs) over 6 months or year long periods and it is difficult to get specific data due to confidentiality but from the community groups we’re in contact with, current PPAs vary between **£90 and £140/MWh**.

Q. 11. *What is the average annual heating cost per household in the Outer Hebrides?*

A. 11. Annual Household Energy Bills: **£2000-£3000**

Q. 12. *If the total project budget is over €50,000, what information is needed in the RIPEET budget template?*

A. 11. If the total project budget is over €50,000, please detail in the budget template what the RIPEET costs would be used for. Then please add another page to the budget template form detailing: items

not funded by RIPEET, the costs of these non-RIPEET elements, whether funding has been confirmed for the non-RIPEET funded element as well as the overall project cost.

Q. 13. *Should the solution be specific to the Outer Hebrides or can the solution be a general solution that could be used in other regions?*

A. 13. The preferred solution needs to respond to the identified regional need as outlined in the call documentation. The preferred solution could be a general solution that would address the regional energy need of the Outer Hebrides but would also work in other regions.

Q. 14. *Is there an obligation to conduct a pilot study or is it possible to apply to the project with designs developed considering the regional conditions as well?*

A. 14. There is no obligation to conduct a pilot study but the solution needs to address the regional energy need in some way within the given timescale.

Q. 15. *In case the project application is not accepted, will the prepared proposals be shared with the 3rd party, or will they remain only in the EU archive?*

A. 15. The project proposals will not be shared with anyone outside the regional evaluation committees (who will sign a confidentiality agreement), the RIPEET consortium and the evaluators of the European Commission.

Q. 16. *When will we hear if we are successful or not? And when does the funding for the pilot project need to be spent and measures installed?*

A. 16. We should be able to let all applicants know the outcome of the open call by the first week of December. It is expected that the official pilot kick-off meeting will be the following week but if there are delays in the evaluation process, the kick-off meeting may happen in January 2023.

Funds should be spent and the project completed (so all measures installed and validated) by the end of January 2024.

Q. 17. *How do we claim the money? Do we have to pay for items upfront ourselves and claim back or do we get money beforehand and then install? Do we claim from CES or somewhere else?*

A. 17. Funds will be claimed from HIE through the following funding process:

- First payment: The first payment of 50% will be made after a mid-review report is delivered and validated.
- Final payment: The final payment will be made after deliverance of the final report and subject to validation

Q. 18. *What does the reporting entail? Would there be a period of review if the work is successful and if so, who would be undertaking this?*

A. 18. The proposed reporting process is as follows:

- Templates and specific indications for reporting & payment will be delivered by HIE to the Solution provider during the implementation of co-creation and reporting. More precisely, templates are intended to enable Solution providers to confirm their activities and interaction with both Challengers & stakeholders during co-creation, as well as to report on the eligible costs incurred.

- The solution provider must keep track of their expenditure and provide records in case an auditor asks them to provide information. These records must be kept for at least 5 years after the end of RIPEET (until February 2029).
- Two reporting periods are foreseen:
 - Progress report in month 5 of the co-creation process. In month 5 of the co-creation process, the solution provider will send a first report on the status of the activities to HIE, once this report is approved the first payment will be made.
 - Final report: 30 days after the end of the co-creation process, the solution provider will send the final report to HIE including all the required technical and financial information, the final payment will be made after this final report has been delivered and validated.
- The solution provider will present the final solution and deliverables as outlined in the grant agreement to the co-creation team. The co-creation team will review the solution and suggest any final amendments to ensure that the solution meets the terms of the Grant Agreement

Q. 19. *What work has already been done to set up a local energy supply company in the Outer Hebrides?*

A. 19. A significant body of investigation has been carried out into the practicalities of establishing a local “white label” energy supply company (ESCo) in the Outer Hebrides. For more information on work done to date please contact sarah.marshall@hient.co.uk or matthew.logan@communityenergyscotland.org.uk

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