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# Welcome

# Introduction to the Clean Hydrogen Partnership 2026 Call

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# Content

- Overview of Clean Hydrogen Partnership Strategy
- What makes a strong proposal
- Overview of calls
- Next steps

# Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

EU Institutional Public-Private Partnership (IPPP)



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EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

1 billion EURO from Horizon Europe\* to implement R&I activities and facilitate the transition to a greener EU society through the development of hydrogen technologies

\* additional 200 million EURO for Hydrogen valleys (under RePowerEU)



# More than 17 years of investment...



# What does a successful proposal look like?

- **Project Name:** NAVHYS
- **Scope:** LH<sub>2</sub> storage and fuel-system below deck integrated in a Service Operating Vessel
- **UK Partners:** University of Birmingham, North Star Shipping (Aberdeen) Limited
- **Budget:** €4.9 million
- **Number of Partners:** 13



# What the Commission wants to see

- Upscaling and demonstration projects to bring Hydrogen technologies closer to market
- Improved fuel cell performance
- Higher electrolyser efficiency
- Lower costs, improved durability, enhanced safety
- Integrated hydrogen ecosystems via Hydrogen Valleys

# What the Commission wants to see

## Technical excellence

- Well-justified TRL progress.
- Strong state-of-the-art + innovation gap

## Impact

- Show industrial relevance and potential for scale-up
- Link explicitly to EU Hydrogen Strategy and REPowerEU

## Implementation

- Clear work plan, credible risk mitigation, industrial participation

# Why is CHP important to the UK?

- 48 UK organisations have successfully applied for funding through the programme since 2021
- Commission has provided £102m+ for Hydrogen research since 2021 (CHP and across Pillars)
- UK has the 4<sup>th</sup> most beneficiaries out of 58 countries represented

Key benefits to the UK include:

- Access to demonstration funding
- Working with international consortia
- Reducing financial risk for emerging hydrogen technologies
- Accelerating scale-up and routes to market

# Universities involved in successful proposals – Hydrogen



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# Research Organisations involved in successful proposals – Hydrogen



# Public Organisations involved in successful proposals – Hydrogen



# Businesses involved in successful proposals – Hydrogen



# Objectives

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## General



Support the implementation of the Commission's **Hydrogen Strategy**



Stimulate **research and innovation on clean hydrogen** production, distribution, storage and end use applications



Strengthen the **competitiveness of the EU clean hydrogen value chain**



Contribute to the EU **ambitious 2030 and 2050 climate ambition**

## Specific



Improve the **cost-effectiveness, efficiency, reliability**, quantity and quality of clean hydrogen solutions across **entire value chain**



Strengthen the **knowledge/capacity of scientific and industrial actors** along the Union's hydrogen value chain while supporting the **uptake of skills**

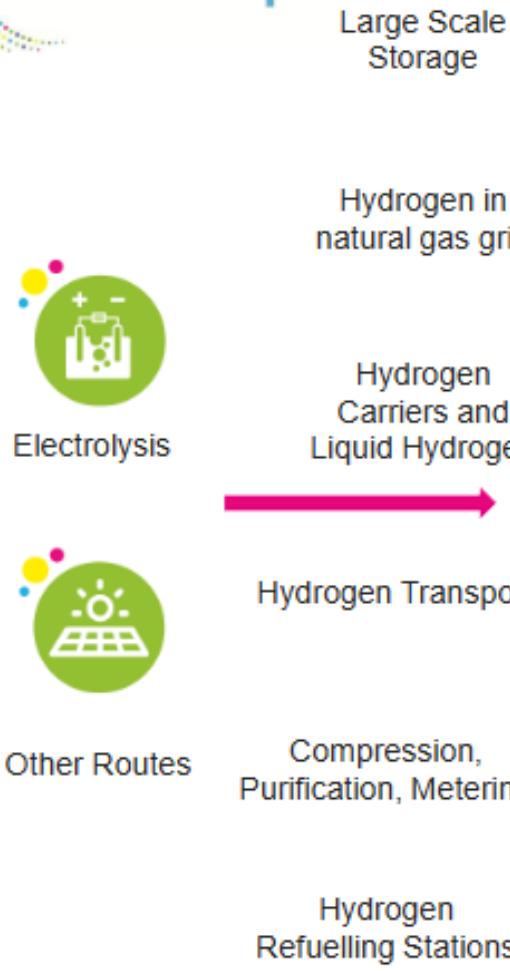


Demonstrations of clean hydrogen solutions with a view to **local, regional and Union-wide deployment**, aiming to involve stakeholders in all Member States and across **entire value chain**



Increase **public and private awareness, acceptance** and uptake of clean hydrogen solutions

# SRIA: Research & Innovation Activities

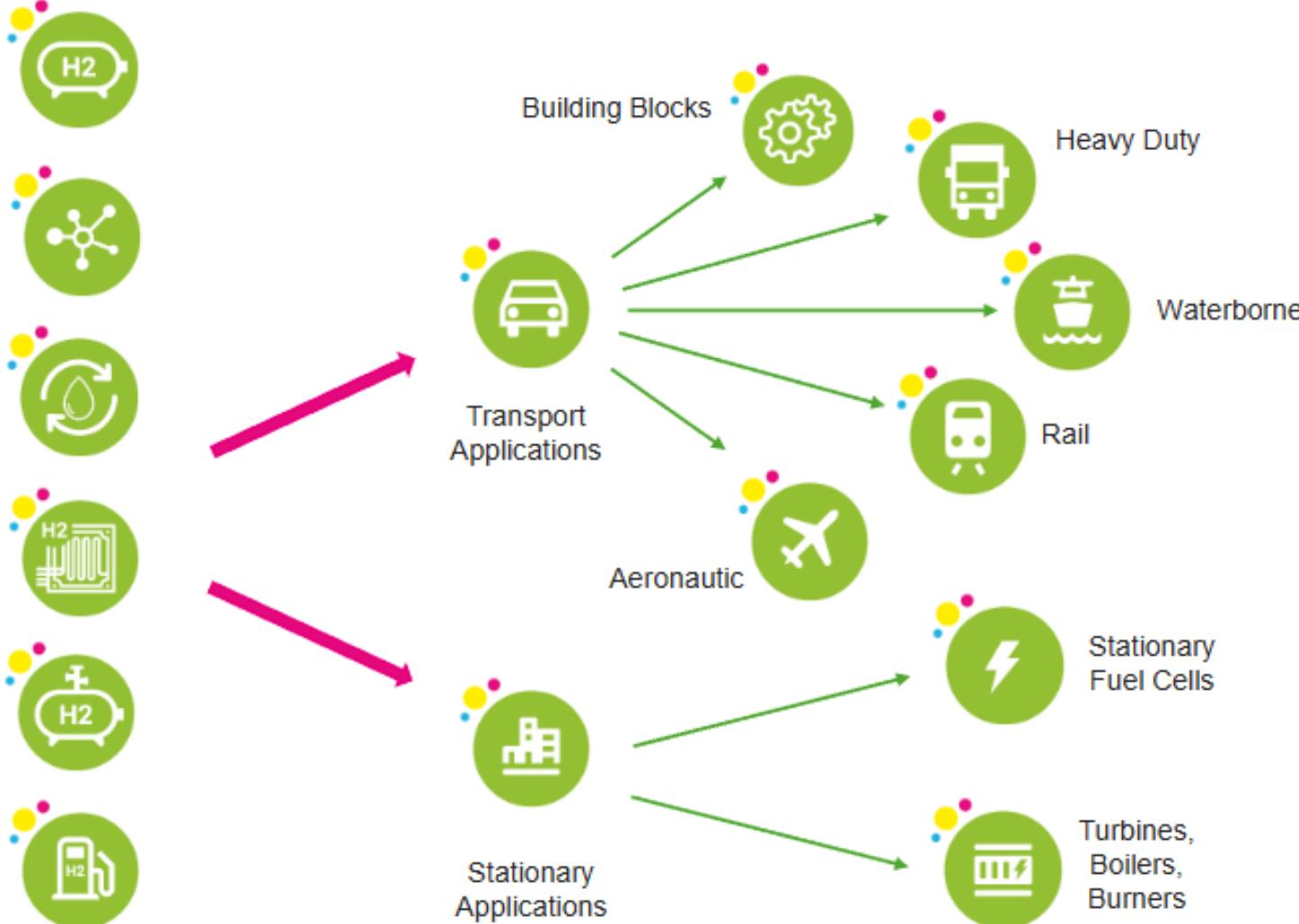


Production

Distribution and Storage

End-use

Horizontal Activities



Additional activities are necessary to fulfil the Clean Hydrogen JU objectives

## Other Activities

5



- Developing synergies with other partnerships and programmes
- Regulations, Codes and Standards
- European Hydrogen Safety
- European Hydrogen Sustainability and Circularity
- Knowledge management
- Competitiveness, SMEs
- International Cooperation
- Communication activities

## Call conditions and common elements to pay attention to:



# Call conditions and common elements (1)



## Lump Sums

- **Lumps sums** will be used **across all topics in the call 2026**.
- Horizon Europe uses lump sum funding **to reduce administration and financial errors**.
- Lump sums are defined up-front and fixed in the grant agreement. **They are paid upon completion of the activities in work packages**.



## Full capitalised costs for purchases

- For equipment, infrastructure or other assets purchased specifically for the action)
- For Innovation Actions, mostly **large-scale demonstrators or flagship projects** specific equipment, infrastructure or other assets purchased specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) can exceptionally be declared as full capitalised costs.

# Call conditions and common elements (2)



## Maximum EU/JU funding per topic

- **Additional eligibility criterion** to limit the Clean Hydrogen JU requested contribution
- **For actions performed at high TRL level**, including demonstration in real operation environment and with important involvement from industrial stakeholders and/or end users such as public authorities
- **Expected to leverage co-funding as commitment from stakeholders**. e.g. through the private investment or co-funding from regional/local funds



## Involvement of private members

- **Additional eligibility criterion** to ensure that one partner in the consortium is a member of either Hydrogen Europe or Hydrogen Europe Research
- For topics targeting actions for **large-scale demonstrations, flagship projects and strategic research actions**, where the industrial and research partners of the JU play a key role in accelerating the commercialization of hydrogen technologies

# Call for proposals 2026

**Total budget: 105 M€**  
**Publication date: 20 January 2026**  
**Deadline: 15 April 2026**



# Topic Summary in 2026

- RIA topics dominate - strong fit for university-led consortia
- 15 × RIA (100% funding)
- 4 × IA (market-oriented, 70% funding for for-profit, 100% for non-profit)
- 2 × CSA (100% funding)

# Hydrogen Production Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-01: Development and validation of innovative approaches, catalysts, electrolytes and components for electrolysis technologies based on low-quality water	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-02: Cost-efficient and reliable designs towards gigawatt-scale electrolytic hydrogen production plants	RIA	2.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-03: Improved components and tools to increase the safety of electrolyzers	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-04: Innovative business models advancing renewable electrolysis integration in industry	CSA	1.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-05: Sustainable hydrogen production from renewable gases and biogenic waste sources through innovative modular reactor design, process intensification and integration	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-01-06: Scalable and high efficiency materials and reactors for direct solar hydrogen production	RIA	3

# Hydrogen Storage and Distribution Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-01: Affordable, Safe and Sustainable aboveground medium to large GH2 storage	RIA	4
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-02: Demonstrating in-line inspection (ILI) to monitor cracks assuring compatibility for operation with hydrogen in new and re-purposed offshore natural gas pipelines	RIA	3.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-03: New thermal insulation concepts for bulk liquid hydrogen shipping	RIA	4
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-02-04: Cost-efficient small scale hydrogen liquefaction	RIA	6

# Transport Applications Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-01: Integration of control & monitoring tools and strategies for improved <b>Fuel Cell System</b> durability & reliability	RIA	4
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-02: Components Development and Experimental Testing for an Onboard <b>Liquid Hydrogen</b> Supply and Conditioning System in High-Power Fuel Cell <b>Aviation Applications</b>	RIA	8
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-03: Flexible and standardised <b>hydrogen storage system</b>	IA	5*
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-03-04: Multi-fuel <b>SOFC</b> powertrain for <b>maritime</b> transport	RIA	8**

**\*This is the maximum Clean Hydrogen JU contribution that may be requested – proposals requesting Clean Hydrogen JU contributions above this amount will not be evaluated**

**\*\* Additional EUR 8 million may become available**

# Clean Heat and Power Applications Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-04-01: Next generation of reversible proton conducting ceramic cells and stacks for efficient energy applications at $\geq 1$ kW scale	RIA	3
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-04-02: Demonstration of rSOC operation for local grid-connected hydrogen production and utilisation	IA	8*
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-04-03: Fuel-flexible gas turbine combustion technology for clean and efficient ammonia firing	RIA	5

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# Cross-cutting Issues Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-05-01: Public datasets of technologies along the hydrogen value chain for life cycle (sustainability) assessment	CSA	2.5
HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026-05-02: Pre-Normative Research on hydrogen odorisation: enhancing safety and detection along the hydrogen value chain	RIA	3

# Hydrogen Valleys - Overview

Topic	Type of Action	Budget (M€)
HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-01: Hydrogen Valleys (large-scale)	IA	17*
HORIZON-JTI-CLEANH2-2026-06-02: Hydrogen Valleys (small-scale)	IA	8*

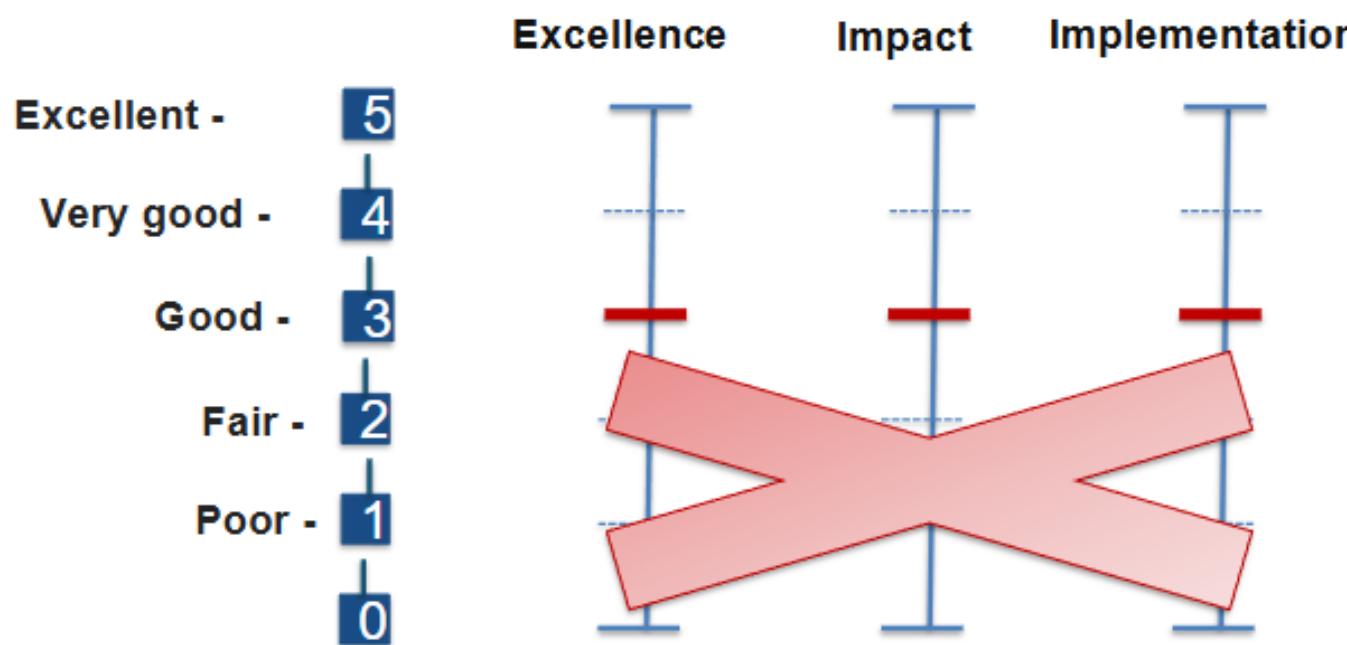
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## Award criteria, scores, weighting and thresholds

The proposals will be evaluated against the following **award criteria**:

- **Excellence**
- **Impact**
- Quality and efficiency of the **implementation**

Evaluation grid available in  
Annex D



Thresholds apply to:

- Individual criterion, score must be  $\geq 3$
- Overall score must be  $\geq 10$

# Make quality your competitive advantage !

## Excellence

- Clearly position the state of the art and **TRLs**
- Explain the science and highlight the **innovation** potential
- Set **clear, measurable KPIs** with a credible path to delivery

## Impacts

- Show **realistic, measurable impacts** aligned with AWP/SRIA
- Define clear, usable **outcomes** and who will take them forward
- Deliver a focused dissemination & exploitation **plan** with innovative communication

## Implementation

- Build a **balanced, relevant consortium** aligned with the topic
- Deliver a **credible work plan** with clear milestones and deliverables
- Manage risks proactively and justify a realistic, **well-structured budget**

Simple Language

Information easy to find

Easy to follow

# Next Steps

- 1 project funded per topic – highly competitive
- Scores of minimum 12/15 likely required
- Lump sums = require robust work planning and credible costing
- No cost reporting = must define work packages precisely
- Deliverables must be realistic and measurable
- Avoid over-promising: lump-sum failures = reduced payment

# Suggested Planner

- Identify topic fit early (Early February)
- Join or help build a consortium (mid-February)
- Provide technical input early (Feb–March)
- Finalise admin + budget (Late March)
- Support final edits and quality assurance (Early April)
- In practise, you will likely hear back in 3 months
- Commission must process Grant Agreement within 8 months – project would start around Dec 26 and could last 2-5 years



# Finding Partners

- The Clean Hydrogen Partnership Project Repository lists all projects and all partners - you can contact through Cordis
- 20 organisations pitched at the Info Day earlier this [month](#)
- The Greenet Partner Search Tool currently has 6 partner requests [here](#)
- The Funding & Tenders Portal Partner Search tool also has numerous partner requests
- Longer term – EU Hydrogen Week takes place 26-30 Oct in Brussels
- Longer term – Hydrogen Europe Research is a crucial forum for researchers in Hydrogen

# Who are the key co-ordinators?

Beneficiary name	PIC number	Organisation type	Country	Number of participations as a coordinator
COMMISSARIAT A L ENERGIE ATOMIQUE ET AUX ENERGIES ALTERNATIVES	999992401	REC	France	26
SINTEF AS	910945140	REC	Norway	18
DEUTSCHES ZENTRUM FUR LUFT - UND RAUMFAHRT EV	999981731	REC	Germany	17
TEKNOLOGIAN TUTKIMUSKESKUS VTT OY	932760440	REC	Finland	16
FUNDACION PARA EL DESARROLLO DE LAS NUEVAS TECNOLOGIAS DEL HIDROGENO EN AR...	997456918	REC	Spain	10
DANMARKS TEKNISKE UNIVERSITET	999990655	HES	Denmark	9
CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE CNRS	999997930	REC	France	8
POLITECNICO DI TORINO	999977754	HES	Italy	8
AGENZIA NAZIONALE PER LE NUOVE TECNOLOGIE, L'ENERGIA E LO SVILUPPO ECONOMICO...	999988521	REC	Italy	7
CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE	999979500	REC	Italy	7



# Next Steps

- 15<sup>th</sup> April deadline will be challenging but still feasible
- Please contact [ncp-energy@iuk.ukri.org](mailto:ncp-energy@iuk.ukri.org) with any immediate queries regarding identifying partners or building a proposal



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# Questions?



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# Thank you



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