



DOCUMENT

GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION OF DRAGON 6 COOPERATION PROPOSALS

Prepared by	ESA & NRSCC DRAGON OFFICES
Reference	ESA-EOP-SD-MA-0471
Issue/Revision	1.0
Date of Issue	25/10/2023
Status	Final



Contents

1 INTRODUCTION 3

2 DRAGON 6 PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND ROLES 3

3 CREATE AN EO SIGN IN ACCOUNT 4

4 STARTING PROPOSAL SUBMISSION 6

5 SUBMITTING A DRAGON 6 FULL PROPOSAL 7

5.1 Dragon 6 main form “Create Project Proposal” 7

5.1.1 Dragon Principal Investigator 2 8

5.1.2 Project Title 8

5.1.3 Project Overview (Executive Summary) 9

5.1.4 Team experience and background 9

5.1.5 Dragon 6 project proposal objectives and description 9

5.1.6 Dragon Topic - subtopic 9

5.1.7 Second Dragon Topic 9

5.1.8 Covered Geographic Area 9

5.1.9 Additional info (contribution and training of the young scientists) 9

5.2 Main form completion and generation of the Proposal ID 10

5.2.1 Attach Dragon EO data requirements excel file 12

5.2.2 Attach Dragon Team composition table 14

5.2.3 Attach file representing Area of interest 15

5.2.4 Acceptance of Call Conditions and save sub-form 16

5.3 Acceptance of final conditions and submission 17

6 HOW TO MODIFY AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL 19

7 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS 20

7.1 Evaluation and selection procedures 20

7.2 Evaluation Criteria 20

7.3 Following Activities 21

ANNEX A: TOPIC AND SUB-TOPIC DRAGON 6 22



1 INTRODUCTION

The European Space Agency (ESA) jointly with The National Remote Sensing Center of China (NRSCC) under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST), announce the opportunity to conduct science and application development projects using ESA, Copernicus Sentinels, ESA Third Party Missions and Chinese EO data.

The main objectives of this announcement of opportunity are:

- **Promote the exploitation of Copernicus Sentinels, ESA, ESA TPM and Chinese EO data**
 - for science and application development
- **Stimulate scientific exchange**
 - *by the formation of joint Sino-European teams*
 - *academic exchanges particularly Young Scientists*
- **Publish co-authored results**
 - *in ESA and NRSCC joint results publication (2026) & (2028)*
 - *in leading scientific journals*
- **Provide training to young European and Chinese scientists.**

The submission of a new proposal can be done by accessing the link "[Dragon-6 submission page](https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/announcement-of-opportunity/dragon-6)" in the Dragon 6 Call Main page (<https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/announcement-of-opportunity/dragon-6>).

A prerequisite for starting the submission process is that both users (both European and Chinese Principal Investigators) must have 1st registered with an ESA Single Sign On account (see section 3 of this document if not already registered).

After the closing date of the call, a peer review will be carried out and all Principal Investigators will be individually notified of the results.

All proposals must be written in English.

2 DRAGON 6 PROPOSAL STRUCTURE AND ROLES

Each Dragon 6 proposal is structured to have **2 Principal Investigators: one from China and one from Europe** for further details and the General Conditions and Objectives of the Call please refer the [main text call](#) document.

The proposal shall be completed by either the Principal Investigators (PIs) from Europe or China.

The acceptance of the conditions (mandatory to complete the submission of the project proposal) to participate in the Dragon 6 Announcement of Opportunity is intended as accepted by both Principal investigators responsible respectively for the Chinese and European teams. All information pertinent to a proposal shall be included by submitting the proposal (information or elements provided via email or via ticketing system **after** submission of the proposal will not be taken into consideration for the evaluation of the proposal).



3 CREATE AN EO SIGN IN ACCOUNT

A pre-requisite for both the Principal Investigator (in charge of the submission) and the other Dragon PI (European/Chinese) to access the Submission area of the Dragon 6 call website is to be logged-in with an active ESA EO Sign in account, also the other Dragon PI (Chinese/European) in order to be appointed during the submission as the other Dragon PI must have an active ESA EO sign in account (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: EO Sign In or Create Account.

In case you are not registered (<https://eoiam-idp.eo.esa.int/myaccount/login>), please select the “Create Account”: this will lead you to the ESA Single Sign On account EO SING IN registration area (see Figure 2), where, as first step you will be requested to enter your email as username. On this purpose we kindly recommend using your institutional email address, then click on “Proceed to Self Register”.

Figure 2: Insert your email and proceed to self-registration.

Then you will be directed to the registration form where you will have to provide *Name, Surname, Country of residence and Institution* (all those fields are compulsory) and create a password (at least 8 characters



long and contain digits, lower-andupper-case letters as well as symbolic characters -such as !?@\$*) – you will be also requested to accept both:

- [Terms and conditions for ESA data](#) and
- [Terms and conditions for ESA TPM data](#) and then click on “Register” (see figure 3).

You will receive a message informing that “A confirmation link has been sent to the email address you just provided as contact email. Please check your spam folder if you do not find it and contact the help desk (eohelp@esa.int) if you need support for the generation of your EO Sign In account.”

The registration link will allow you to activate your registration and, consequently, to proceed in the same browse section with the Dragon 6 proposal submission.

In case you lost / forgot credentials you can always complete procedure [to recover username](#) or [to recover password](#) . In both cases you need only to know the contact email provided at the registration.

In case you need to manage your EO Sign in account you will find all instructions [here](#). In case of problems, please contact ESA EOHELP Team: <https://esatellus.service-now.com/csp> .

Earth Observation sign in and registration

Create New Account

Fill in the form below to complete registration

First Name * Last Name *

Password * Confirm password *

Country of residence *

Please select your country of residence

Contact e-mail *

name.surname@institutionalemail.com

Institution *

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the [Privacy Policy](#) *

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the [Terms and Conditions for the Utilisation of ESA's Earth Observation Data](#) *

I hereby confirm that I have read and understood the [Terms and Conditions for the Utilisation of Data under ESA's Third Party Missions scheme](#) *

Cancel Register

Already have an account? [Sign in](#)

Important: Proposal submission is the responsibility of the person uniquely associated with an ESA EO SIGN IN account: this corresponds to a name, last name and Email and cannot be shared. This person (PI) will accept online the Terms of Conditions for the data's use, so no delegation of the submission to third parties is acceptable. In the case of Dragon Call the acceptance of the conditions (mandatory to complete the submission of the project proposal) to participate in the Dragon 6 Announcement of Opportunity is intended as accepted by both Principal investigators responsible respectively for the Chinese and European teams and both PIs must have an active ESA EO Sign in account .In case third parties need to have full visibility on the proposal, we advise the submitter of the proposal to include them in the proposal as co-investigators.

Figure 3: form to be completed to register for ESA EO SIGN in account.

NB. The PI shall create or have created an ESA Sign in account to be able to access the on-line submission forms. https://esatellus.service-now.com/csp/csp?id=esa_kb_article_view&sys_id=9821e32b1b9f6910fa857805464bcb92 (Step by Step procedure to Register to create a new EO Sign in account) then go to <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/announcement-of-opportunity/dragon-6> (with an ESA EO Sign in account) click on *Dragon-6 submission page*



4 STARTING PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The direct link to access the Dragon 6 submission area and submit a proposal is in the official Dragon 6 Cooperation Call page at <https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/announcement-of-opportunity/dragon-6> (see Figure 3).

Please remember that Dragon project must have two PIs (European and Chinese), and both must be registered with an active ESA EO sign in account in order to complete the Dragon proposal submission.

If between the two, you are the person/PI (Chinese/European) in charge of submitting the proposal in the system, first make sure that your colleague/the other Dragon PI (European/Chinese) has a valid ESA EO SIGN in account and has provided you the email address used for his/her registration. Without this info/email address you will not be able to complete the proposal submission.

Announcement of Opportunity for Dragon 6

ESA, together with the [National Remote Sensing Center of China \(NRSCC\)](#), an entity under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the P.R. China, have cooperated in the field of Earth observation application development for the last 29 years. This cooperation has been successively strengthened by the creation of a dedicated joint Earth Observation cooperation called the Dragon Cooperation.



This successful cooperation between Europe and China will continue in 2024 with the latest follow-on, Dragon 6. ESA and MOST/NRSCC are pleased to offer the opportunity to join the Dragon 6 programme. This presents European and Chinese scientists in the EO community a unique opportunity to work on a broad range of projects, which encourage increased exploitation of ESA and Chinese Earth observation satellite data, using optical, infrared, thermal and microwave sensors.

The Dragon 6 Cooperation Call is now open, with a **proposal submission deadline of 11 December 2023**.

Read the Dragon-6 invitation letter in [English](#) and [Chinese](#) to learn more.

How to apply for Dragon-6

1. Read the [Dragon 6 Cooperation Announcement of Opportunity Information and Conditions](#)
2. Go to the [Dragon-6 submission page](#) on ESA's User Services Portal
3. Register or log in to ESA EO Sign In – *(please note that both European and Chinese PI must be registered/Have an active ESA EO Sign in account)*
4. After logging in, complete the Dragon 6 proposal form and the sub-form following the [submission guidelines](#) including two mandatory files ([Data requirements](#) and [Team composition](#)). We advise downloading the files before starting the proposal, and completing them in collaboration with your European/Chinese PI counterpart.
5. Submit the Dragon 6 proposal
6. The proposal will be evaluated by ESA and NRSCC
7. The results of the evaluation (acceptance/rejection, request for modifications, or requests to combine proposals from different teams) will be communicated to the European and Chinese Principal Investigators (PIs) who shall inform their teams accordingly by Q1-2024.

Related Resources

Read the terms and conditions and legal notices for the use of ESA and Copernicus Sentinel data

- [Legal Notice on the use of Copernicus Sentinel Data](#)
- [Terms and Conditions for the utilization of ESA Data](#)
- [Terms and Conditions for the utilization of ESA Third Party Missions Data](#)

The date and location of the Kick-off Symposium for the Dragon 6 Cooperation Projects will be announced on this website and the Dragon 5 website in November 2023.

Further detailed information on the previous Dragon 5 Programme are available on the [ESA/MOST Dragon 5 Cooperation Programme website](#).



Figure 4: Dragon 6 call info page, highlighted links to main text, guidelines and to start the submission.



5 SUBMITTING A DRAGON 6 FULL PROPOSAL

In the Dragon-6 announcement of opportunity webpage (Figure 4), PIs can find all links related to the Call including the [main information note for scientists](#) and this guidelines document. It is kindly recommended to carefully read the documents before applying to be sure to have all requisites and to be informed about Dragon 6 cooperation Call including what it entails to become part of this prestigious international collaboration.

PI/Submitter (the owner of the EO SIGN IN account used for the submission), in collaboration with the partner institution in Europe/China knows who is the other PI (Chinese / European) - including his/her email used for registration (see paragraph 3) PI can start the submission process, clicking the link [“Dragon-6 submission page”](#) in the AO webpage (figure 4) that will link to:

- the main form “Create Project Proposal” - submission area (See Figure 6) *if the PI is already logged-in with his EO SING IN account.*
- ESA EO SIGN IN interface (See paragraph 3 and Figure 2) *if the PI is not logged-in*

However, it is assumed that all the work and preparation, off-line, of the proposal is done in close collaboration (see in particular the sections concerning the list of team members and data requirements) with the partner and the European / Chinese team. Proposals lacking one of the two Principal Investigators will be rejected.

5.1 Dragon 6 main form “Create Project Proposal”

In the submission area for Dragon 6 proposal in the *main form* “Create Project Proposal” PI must complete all compulsory fields (in red on the right side) to provide all the detailed information to allow ESA and NRSCC to evaluate the proposal properly (see figure 5). To complete the main form PI will be requested to provide:

- Dragon Principal Investigator 1 (European/Chinese) * → *prefilled with his/her name cannot be modified*
- Dragon Principal Investigator 2 (European/Chinese) *
- Project Title*
- Project Overview*
- Team experience and background*
- Dragon 6 project proposal objectives and description*
- Dragon Topic - subtopic *
- Second Dragon Topic - subtopic → *optional – “None” for default*
- Project Start Date* -> *prefilled with 01-07-2024 not modify.*
- Project End Date * -> *prefilled with 30-06-2028 not modify.*
- Covered Geographic Area
- Additional information including contribution and training of the young scientist*

**All compulsory fields*



Figure 5: The main form "Create Project Proposal". Please note: only after all compulsory fields (red one on the right) will be duly completed you can proceed with the second step.

5.1.1 **Dragon Principal Investigator 2**

Please enter here the email of your partner /colleague - the other Dragon PI (European / Chinese). Please remember that Dragon project must have two PIs (European and Chinese) and both must be registered with an active ESA EO sign in account (therefore to complete this step you need to know the email of the EO sign in account of your colleague). Please note that if the email of your Dragon PI colleague is not registered in EO- IAM, the ESA EO identity and access management system, will be automatically removed from the list.

Even if the system allows more than one entry we kindly invite to insert here only the other Dragon PI (European/Chinese), all the other team members (CO-PIs, YS) can be included in the corresponding [Team composition excel table](#) to be completed and uploaded in the next step "Dragon 6 attachments sub-form" - 5.2.2

5.1.2 **Project Title**

The title of the proposal (should not exceed 256 characters).



5.1.3 Project Overview (Executive Summary)

A concise resume is required describing the objective, method, and deliverables of the project. Availability of funding to run the project must be specified in this section (*should not exceed 4000 characters*).

5.1.4 Team experience and background

Institutions involved and overall experience of the teams involved shall be described. Respective experience of the Project leaders and co-Investigators must be described (*should not exceed 4000 characters*). Please note that in the next step of the proposal submission (sub-form Dragon 6 attachments) Principal Investigators will be requested to provide a table list of all team members (CO-PIs, YS) in a separate – compulsory- excel file (European and Chinese).

5.1.5 Dragon 6 project proposal objectives and description

This is the main part of the proposal used for its evaluation (*should not exceed 16000 characters*). It should include as a minimum the following information:

- Technical and scientific approach and methods proposed to meet the proposal's objectives including the contribution to the Dragon 6 AO objectives, expected results and the success criteria of the project.
- Work Plan of the investigation and validation, including a description of key milestones, tools, models and facilities and a schedule of the project phases (preparation, data acquisition, analysis) as well as the plan for reporting (PI can check corresponding section of the [Dragon 6 main text](#) deliverables).
- The planned use of data including justification for the amount and type of requested data products.
- If relevant, the innovative character of the proposal can be described, indicating the related domains.

5.1.6 Dragon Topic - subtopic

The main applicable Topic- Sub-topic for the proposal can be specified in section. The [Dragon 6 Topics table](#) - available as ANNEX in the [main text of the AO](#) and in these guidelines - contains an overview of the possible Topic and corresponding Sub-topic. Please note that the proposed project may span different sub-topics of the same Topic, if this is the case, please select the second subtopic in the next drop-down menu (if not leave the default value NONE).

5.1.7 Second Dragon Topic

This field is not compulsory. Please leave NONE as default - select a value only if your proposal is across theme and can include two sub-topics of the main topic (e.g., Dragon - subtopic -> *3_Atmosphere: 3.2 Air quality* and Second Dragon Topic - subtopic -> *3_Atmosphere: 3.3 Atmospheric-terrestrial-marine carbon cycle*).

5.1.8 Covered Geographic Area

The field Study-area enables to broadly define the geographic area of study (Please note that one of the tasks of the Principal Investigators in the next step “Dragon 6 attachments sub-form” will be to provide a .kmz or .shp file representing the areas of interest of the full proposal).

5.1.9 Additional info (contribution and training of the young scientists)

Please briefly detail the contribution and training of Young Scientists in the frame of this Dragon Project (*should not exceed 6000 characters*).



5.2 Main form completion and generation of the Proposal ID

Once the main form Create Project Proposal is completed in each part (see figure 6).

Figure 6: main form completed ready to be saved.

PI can click the save button. This will generate a pop-up message in green (figure 7):

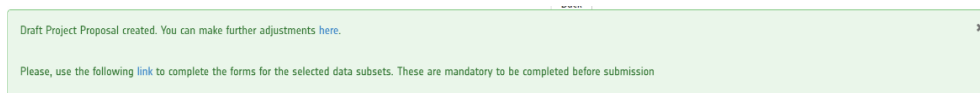


Figure 7: message pop up main form saved.

At this point a draft proposal has been created and PI will receive the pop-up the message above which includes a link to edit the draft and a second link (Please use the following link to complete the forms ...) to start the next step - the completion of the sub-form named “Dragon 6 attachments sub-form” (see figure 8).



Figure 8: sub-form to be completed and unique proposal identifier generated.

At this step PI also received notification email that a draft proposal has been initiated including the corresponding unique id (see figure 8). We kindly invite to take note of the unique id that the system assigned to the proposal submission which will be used in the next steps of the submission (in this example is PP0091548)

The Dragon 6 attachment sub-form is a simple form with self-explained text to guide the PI to upload all compulsory files necessary to complete the Dragon 6 Proposal submission (see figure 9). For each file is available the link for the download (highlighted in figure 9) and a brief step by step guideline. To attach each file duly completed PI must use the clip button (highlighted) on the up right-side corner of the form.

Figure 9: Dragon 6 sub-form for attachments.



5.2.1 Attach Dragon EO data requirements excel file

If not already done (all necessary files are available in the [AO web page](#)) PI will find in the subform the direct link to download the Dragon EO data requirements excel file named “PPXXXXX_Dragon6_Total_EO_Data_Requirements”

[Dragon EO data requirements excel file for the full proposal \(Compulsory\)](#) available [here](#) for download– We kindly recommend the PIs to:

- Download and fill in off-line the EO Data requirements excel table in collaboration with your European/Chinese PI colleague
- Once completed save and rename the xls adding as prefix the alphanumeric unique, ID assigned by the online system to the project (e.g. "PP0090011_Dragon6_Total_EO_Data_Requirements")
- Then upload here the final version of the file duly completed and renamed.

The excel file includes three sheets “D6_ESA_and_ESA-TPM” (figure 10), “D6_Copernicus_Sentinels_data” (figure 11) and “D6_EO_Chinese_data” (figure 12)

Figure 10: sheet where to insert ESA and ESA TPM data requirements.

Figure 11: sheet where to insert Sentinels data requirements.

Figure 12: sheets where to insert Chinese Missions data requirements.

This is an “off-line” task assigned to both Principal Investigators. The Data requirements must in fact be the total ones for both Chinese and European teams, therefore the collaboration with the respective partner is fundamental for the correct compilation of this section. It is strongly suggested to consult ANNEX 2 to ANNEX 6 of the [Dragon 6 main text](#) describing ESA, ESA TPM, Copernicus and Chinese EO Missions offered in the Dragon 6 call.



The PI may be requested to provide details about number of scenes or total of square kilometers of products to be requested (total, archive and new acquisitions) and broad location of the acquisitions but please note that for ESA TPMs Restrained and some of the Chinese Missions the data specified in this section should not be regarded as a final data request and that the amount of data is subject to planning and quota restrictions and may change on acceptance of the proposal. ESA TPMs in particular are subjected to a quota to be approved by the relevant Mission Manager (quota restrictions). To attach the excel file duly completed PI has to use the clip button (highlighted) on the up right-side corner of the form.

ESA TPMs info pages (terms of applicability / minimum order size) are linked below:

ALOS	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/alos
COSMO Sky MED-1/2	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/cosmo-skymed
GEOSAT-1	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/geosat-1
GEOSAT-2	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/geosat-2
ICEYE	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/iceye
PAZ	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/paz
Planetscope	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/planetscope
Pleiades	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/pleiades
PleiadesNEO	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/pleiades-neo
Proba-1	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/catalog/proba-chris-level-1a
Proba-v	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/catalog/proba-v-1km-333m-and-100m-products
RADARSAT 1	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/radarsat-1
RADARSAT 2	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/radarsat-2
RapidEye	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/rapideye
SkySAT	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/skysat
SPOT-6/7	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/spot
TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/terrasar-x-and-tandem-x
Vision 1	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/mission_s/vision-1
Worldview/GeoEye/Quickbird	https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/worldview ; https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/quickbird-2 ; https://earth.esa.int/eogateway/missions/geoeye-1



For further details on Copernicus Missions EO data offered please consult the corresponding section of the [Dragon 6 Cooperation main text](#) main description links also available below:

Sentinel-1	https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-1
Sentinel-2	https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-2
Sentinel-3	https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-3
Sentinel-5P	https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-5p
Sentinel-6	https://sentinels.copernicus.eu/web/sentinel/missions/sentinel-6

You can also check online a more detailed table of [ESA, ESA-TPM and Copernicus missions](#) of the Dragon Cooperation. A summary of main Chinese Missions offered is also available in the table below:

HY-1 & 2	http://www.nsoas.org.cn/eng/column/140.html
GF-1	https://data.cresda.com/#/home *
GF-6	https://data.cresda.com/#/home *
Zhangheng-1	http://www.chinageoss.cn/en/index.html
ZY-1-02D	https://www.sasclouds.com/english/normal/
FY Series	http://www.nsmc.org.cn/nsmc/en/home/index.html
Jilin-1	http://www.chinageoss.cn/en/index.html
CFOSAT	http://www.nsoas.org.cn/eng/column/140.html
TanSAT	http://www.nsmc.org.cn/nsmc/cn/home/index.html

*only reachable from China

You can also check online a more detailed table of [Chinese Missions of the Dragon Cooperation](#)

5.2.2 Attach Dragon Team composition table

Download excel table file PPXXXXX_Dragon6_Team_composition (see figure 13)

Figure 10: Dragon Team composition excel table.



[Dragon Team composition table](#) (**Compulsory**) available [here](#) for download – We kindly recommend the PIs to:

- Download and fill in off-line the Dragon team composition table in collaboration with your European/Chinese PI colleague
- Once completed save and rename the xls adding as prefix the alphanumeric, unique, ID assigned by the online system to your project (e.g., "PP0090011_Dragon6_Team_composition ")
- Then upload here the final version of the file duly completed and renamed.

This is an “off-line” task assigned to both Principal Investigators. The Team composition must include in fact both Chinese and European teams, therefore the collaboration with the respective partner is fundamental for the correct compilation of this section. To attach the excel file duly completed PI must use the clip button (highlighted) on the up right-side corner of the form.

5.2.3 Attach file representing Area of interest

PI is kindly requested to attach a file representing AOI

Area of interest (**Compulsory**)– We kindly recommend the PI to:

- Provide a file representing your Areas of interest (preferably KMZ file)
- For regional/global AOIs please provide in any case a file representing your region of interest
- Please save and rename the file adding as prefix the alphanumeric, unique, ID assigned by the online system to your project (e.g., "PP0090011_AOI.kmz ")
- Then upload here the final version of the file renamed (you can use the clip button on the up right-side corner of this form)



5.2.4 Acceptance of Call Conditions and save sub-form

After the three compulsory files are attached (using the clip button on the up right-side corner - see figure 14 and 15) the last step to complete the sub-form is to accept the additional conditions of the specific call specified by the following statement: -

By checking this box, we agree that all information within the proposal will be made available to Chinese and European reviewers in order to assess the proposal and to grant you access to the data and in case of acceptance of the proposal we agree that project proposal main info will be published in the Dragon webpages. To remove such information after the end of the Dragon 6 cooperation you can email the Dragon team.--> (mail to dragon@esa.int)

Then PI can save the sub-form (red squared button in figure 14)

SF0004392 📎

Attachments Edit

📄 PP0091548_D6_ANNEX_A_YS_TrainingProposal_Template.pdf
📄 PP0091548_Beijing.kmz
📄 PP0091548_Dragon6_Team_composition.xlsx
📄 PP0091548_Dragon6_Total_EO_Data_Requirements.xlsxm

Please provide the additional attachments required for the Dragon proposal. We remind You that all attachments are downloadable also from the Dragon Announcement of opportunity page..

The following documents and file are mandatory and must be attached to this Dragon proposal subform:

Dragon EO data requirements excel file for the full proposal (Compulsory) available [here](#) for download – We kindly recommend the PIs to :

- Download and fill in off-line the EO Data requirements excel table in collaboration with your European/Chinese PI colleague
- Once completed save and rename the xls adding as prefix the alphanumeric ,unique, ID assigned by the online system to the project (e.g. "PP0090011_Dragon6_Total_EO_Data_Requirements")
- Then upload here the final version of the file duly completed and renamed (you can use the clip button on the up right-side corner of this form)

Dragon Team composition table (Compulsory) available [here](#) for download – We kindly recommend the PIs to :

- Download and fill in off-line the Dragon team composition table in collaboration with your European/Chinese PI colleague
- Once completed save and rename the xls adding as prefix the alphanumeric ,unique, ID assigned by the online system to your project (e.g. "PP0090011_Dragon6_Team_composition ")
- Then upload here the final version of the file duly completed and renamed (you can use the clip button on the up right-side corner of this form)

Area of interest (Compulsory) – We kindly recommend the PI to :

- Provide a file representing your Areas of interest (preferably KMZ file)
- For regional/global AOIs please provide in any case a file representing your region of interest
- Please save and rename the file adding as prefix the alphanumeric ,unique, ID assigned by the online system to your project (e.g. "PP0090011_AOI.kmz ")
- Then upload here the final version of the file renamed (you can use the clip button on the up right-side corner of this form)

We kindly remind You that your proposal cannot be considered without compulsory attachments. You can use the [clip button](#) on the up right-side corner of this form [to add the attachments](#).

Submitted Dataset Forms

Dataset Name

Collection name

* Additional Acceptance conditions

Figure 14: sub-form completed (all files attached) ready to be saved.

Once saved PI can back to the Proposal for the final check and submission (figure 15)



Figure 15: click back to re check and submit proposal.

5.3 Acceptance of final conditions and submission

At this step PI can still modified the proposal in each part (figure 16) before to save it for the final submission

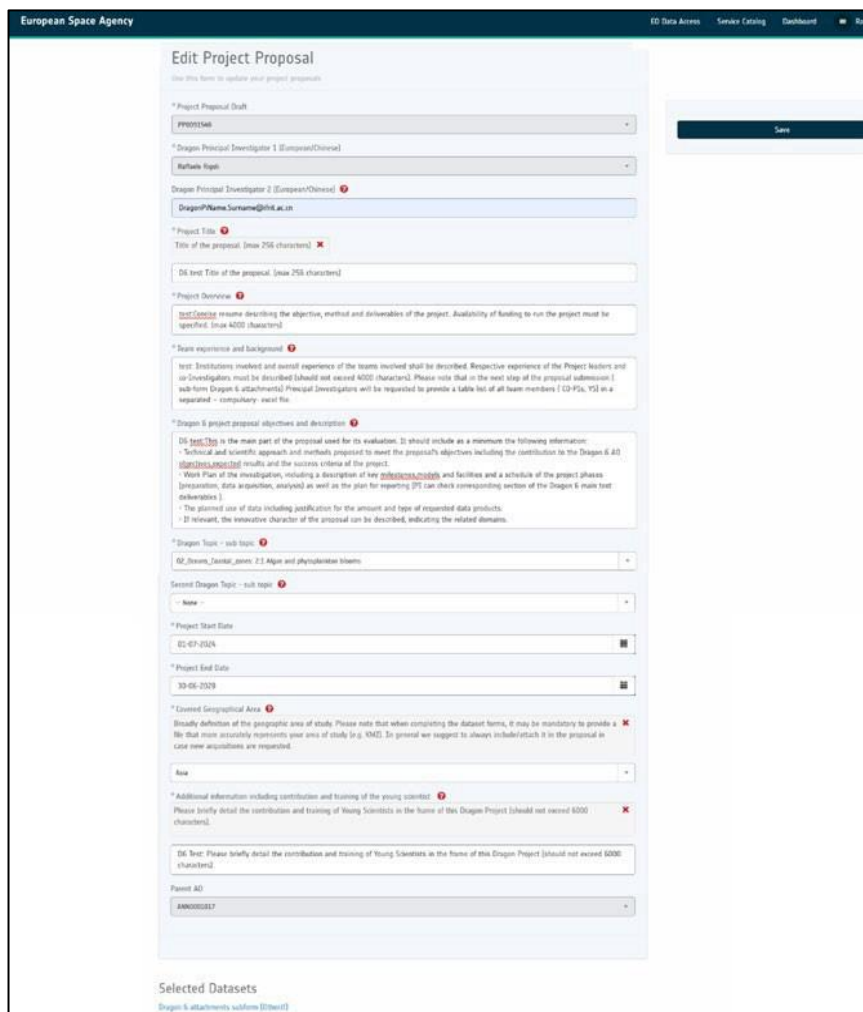


Figure 16: Proposal can still be edited.

Click “save” button PI will be direct in the personal area (figure 17) where are listed all proposals initiated and corresponding status (in this example is PP0091548). In particular on the top right PI will see the proposal id with corresponding buttons for edit, **submit** and withdraw.

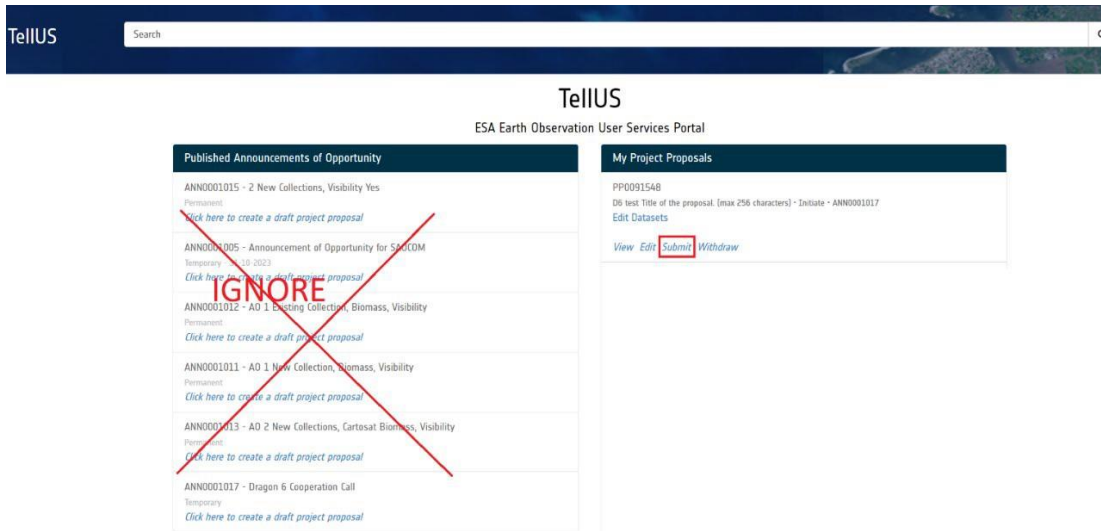


Figure 17: Personal EO Sign in area where all proposals are listed

Click the highlighted submit button and the system has last step will request to accept the standard ESA conditions for proposal submission specified by the following statement: -

By confirming the submission, in case of acceptance of my Proposal/Data Service Request, I agree to submit to ESA at the end of the project a final report describing the results of my project and how the data provided by ESA have been exploited. I also agree that all information provided within this Proposal/Data Service Request will be made available to the people involved in the review process and to grant the data access. In case of acceptance, ESA could contact me to inform about workshops and conferences related to my project. Personal information provided can be erased, rectified, completed, or amended by contacting ESA.

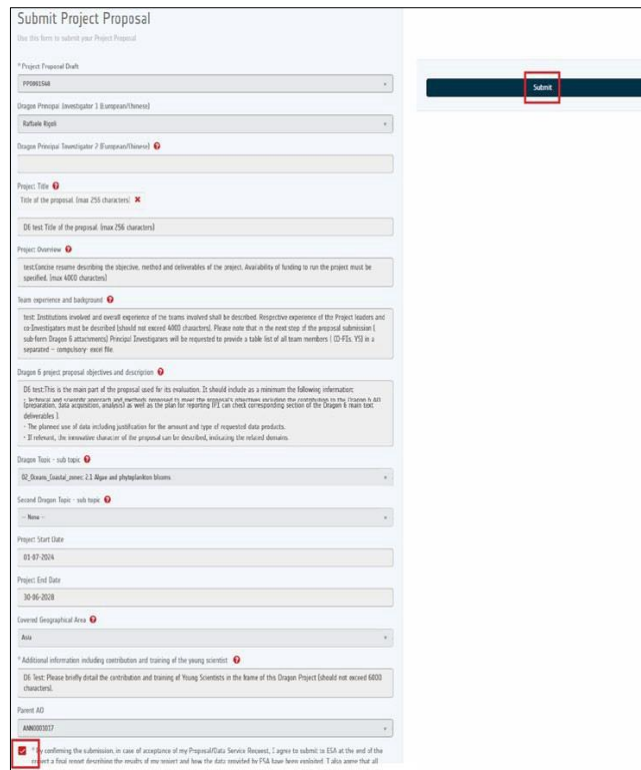


Figure 18: accept conditions and submit proposal.



Acceptance of this Conditions is compulsory to complete this section and then to click “submit” button which finally completed the Dragon 6 project proposal submission.

In the PI personal area is possible to follow the evolution of the request (figure 19), however from this point all official communications regarding the evolution (and the evaluation outcome) of the proposal will be communicated directly via email to both PIs (European and Chinese) and will refer to the proposal through the unique id associated (in this example is PP0091548).

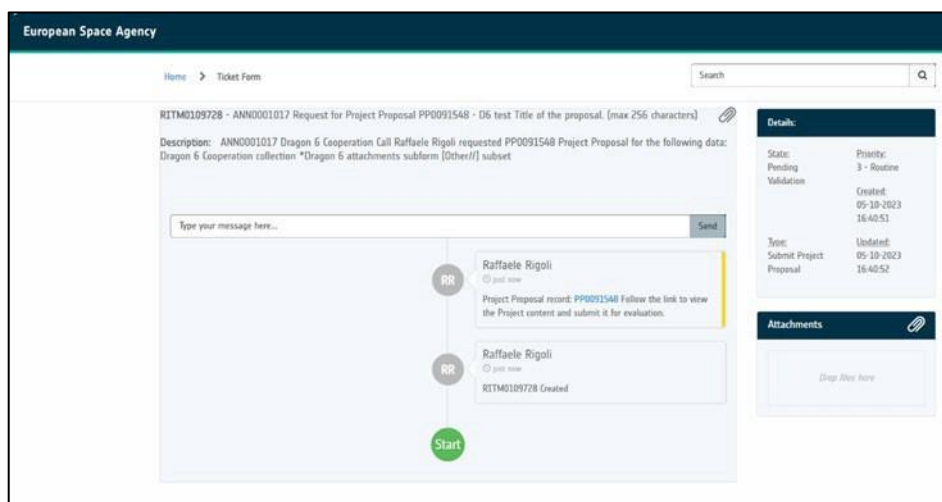


Figure 19: PI personal area to follow Proposal status.

Again PI, if not already done, is kindly invited to take note of the unique id that the system assigned to the proposal submission which will be used in all communications with Dragon team (in this example is PP0091548).

6 HOW TO MODIFY AND SUBMIT A PROPOSAL

Proposal submission can be quit at any moment, the PI shall ensure to press the "save" button in order to save all the information to be re-accessed at a later stage of proposal submission. To re-access the proposal the PI shall access his/her Tellus personal area and will find it listed in the section My Projects, with its associated status. A project with status “initial” can be still modified and updated by the PI (each one of the saved forms), once a proposal has been submitted, this cannot be any more modified (if you need still to modify the proposal after the submission and enough in advance to the final deadline please contact dragon@esa.int with in copy eopi@esa.int).

Please remind that PI complete the Dragon 6 proposal submission by clicking the relative button. Before pressing the submit button, PI can still go through each section if he/she wishes to modify the proposal then can click the submission button.

Final submission of the proposal can be done only after all the fields have been duly completed and corresponding 3 compulsory files attached in the sub-form, a "Submit" button will appear in the Proposal Submission Area (figure 18). Pressing the button will produce a formal submission of the proposal (e.g., no more changes can be performed to the proposal's contents), and an automatic submission acknowledgement will be sent to the Email of the PI.



7 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

7.1 *Evaluation and selection procedures*

Proposals that are submitted in the framework of the Dragon 6 cooperation will be reviewed by a scientific committee with representatives appointed by ESA and MOST/NRSCC:

- With expertise that encompass scientific research, technology, applications development, national and international research programmes and EO satellite missions.
- With a broad understanding of Earth observation data's uses, including operational systems.

The purpose of the review is:

- To assess whether the specific projects are in accordance with ESA, ESA TPM, Copernicus Sentinels & Chinese EO data policy and with the specific objectives of the Dragon 6 cooperation.
- To evaluate the scientific, application and technical merits of the proposed projects in relation to their technical feasibility.

The final decisions concerning the acceptance of proposals for projects will be made upon recommendation of the scientific review committee. Final approval will be granted according to the ESA and MOST-NRSCC acceptance procedures.

ESA/NRSCC may decide to select only a portion of the proposer's investigation, in which case the investigator will be given the opportunity to accept or decline such partial acceptance. The kickoff for the Dragon 6 cooperation, with high level representatives from Europe and China, will take place next year in Europe, the precise dates and location of the Symposium will be published within November 2023 on the [Dragon 5 website](#) and on the [Dragon 6 AO website](#).

7.2 *Evaluation Criteria*

Within the overall context of the call's objectives, the evaluation process is expected to identify opportunities for joint exploitation of Earth Observation missions including synergistic exploitation of data. The following criteria will be used in the evaluation process:

- Suitability of the proposal to the conditions for scientific use of EO and other data.
- Continuity of the ESA-MOST Dragon 5 projects and themes and / or new scientific exploitation of EO and other data.
- Relevance of the proposed project to the objectives of the ESA Earth Observation and Chinese EO missions and the specific call objectives.
- The merit of the project from a scientific, technological, economic and operational viewpoint and the degree of innovation of the proposal.
- The technical feasibility of completing the project and achieving positive results within a period of typically four years, with special emphasis on the adequacy and practicability of the schedule presented in the proposal.
- The competence and relevant experience of the Principal Investigators as an indication of their ability to complete the project successfully.
- Involvement of young scientists and in particular assignment of research packages lasting 1 to 4 years and reporting.
- Proposed teaming on both European and Chinese side, including the identification of Principal Investigators and joint teams to undertake research packages within each project.



7.3 Following Activities

An analysis of data requirements will be done by ESA and NRSCC to define a product/programming quota of the restrained dataset based on the amount of data requested in the proposal. The results of the evaluation (acceptance/rejection, request for modifications or request to combine proposals from different teams) will be communicated to the European and Chinese Principal Investigators (PIs) who shall inform their teams accordingly by Q1-2024

At the start-up of an accepted project the PIs will be granted:

- Access to all ESA/Copernicus/Chinese EO data systematically available online requested in the frame of the proposal.
- An estimation of product/programming quota of the restrained ESA TPM EO dataset for the project (the final quota assigned for some ESA TPMs data can be communicated after kick off meeting that will take place next year in Europe, the precise dates and location of the Symposium will be published within November 2023 on the [Dragon 5 website](#) and on the [Dragon 6 AO website](#). A product/programming quota for some restrained Chinese EO data for the project.

Following notification, the selected Principal Investigators will have to:

- Confirm their intention to proceed with the project.
- Confirm the funding of the project (including a written confirmation from the funding entity).

In some cases, the principal investigators will be required to amend their proposal in order to meet the acceptance criteria and in accordance with the remarks expressed by the evaluators.



ANNEX A: TOPIC AND SUB-TOPIC DRAGON 6

The potential list of ESA-MOST Joint Proposal Topics Table [new Dragon 6 items in bold]

Topic	Sub-topic
1. Solid Earth	1.1 Seismic deformation monitoring 1.2 Monitoring of surface deformation of large landslides 1.3 Infrastructure health diagnosis and safety monitoring 1.4 Subsurface target detection
2. Oceans & Coastal zones	2.1 Algae and phytoplankton blooms 2.2 Marine dynamic environment 2.3 Sea surface characteristics 2.4 Marine disasters 2.5 Sea level rise and coastal zones management
3. Atmosphere	3.1 Greenhouse gases and carbon emissions 3.2 Air quality 3.3 Atmospheric-terrestrial-marine carbon cycle
4. Climate Change	4.1 Climate change modelling 4.2 Climate change adaptation and mitigation 4.3 Climate change resilience 4.4 Disaster prevention and monitoring
5. Sustainable Agriculture and Water Resources	5.1 Food security 5.2 Crop growth and yield monitoring 5.3 Water resources and its utilization 5.4 Drought and flood disaster
6. Ecosystems	6.1 Detection of forest cover change 6.2 Collaborative estimation of forest quality parameters 6.3 Grassland and its degradation monitoring 6.4 Forest and grassland disaster monitoring 6.5 Wetlands and ecology 6.6 Biomass – AGB estimation techniques
7. Urbanization and Environment	7.1 Urban expansion 7.2 Urban land use structure and its change 7.3 Urban environment 7.4 Smart cities
8. Cryosphere and Hydrology	8.1 Inversion of key elements of the cryosphere in Pan Third Pole Region 8.2 Validation of key elements of cryosphere in Pan Third Pole Region 8.3 Integration of eco-hydro models and multi-source data simulation 8.4 Wetlands and ecology
9. Calibration and Validation	9.1 Satellite calibration field network and cross calibration 9.2 Cross radiation calibration and normalization processing 9.3 Validation network and technology 9.4 Common product production and verification services 9.5 Biomass L1, L2 & L3 product verification
10. Data Analysis	10.1 Big Data Analytics 10.2 Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning 10.3 Cloud Platforms 10.4 Advanced Processing Techniques

Table 1. Dragon 6 ESA-MOST Joint Proposal.