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ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPPORTUNITY

EOhopS (EO hosted processing for Science)

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1 INTRODUCTION

With the **EOhopS** call, ESA offers EO satellite data together with hosted-processing capacities to scientific and R&D users. The CloudEO managed service is available from the EOhopS portal: <https://store-eohops.cloudeo-ag.com>.

The new offer allows scientists and R&D users also from the industrial environment to analyze commercial and Sentinel data in a powerful hosted-processing environment for their project together with analytical software (ENVI, IDL, ESA SNAP). At the same time, the user can also upload own content, like in-situ measurement data or scientific algorithms to the virtual workbench.

The aim of this pilot project is to promote the implementation of science and R&D projects in a remote IT environment.

1.1 Applicable Documents

[A1] Guidelines for EOhopS Call submissions and related services available at <https://earth.esa.int/aos/eohops>

1.2 Glossary

EOhopS	Earth Observation hosted processing for science
EO	Earth Observation
ESA	European Space Agency
TPM	Third Party Mission



2 DESCRIPTION OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

2.1 General Objectives

2.2 Specific Objectives

2.2.1 Science and Application Objectives

The Announcement of Opportunity is open to projects in the field of research, development of application and pre operational projects or projects funded out of ESA's programmes namely DUE, EOMD/VAE and CCI Projects as well as ESA internal usage (e.g. research fellows, stagiaires, trainees, etc.).

2.2.2 Technological and Engineering Objectives

Currently, ESA provides Third Party Mission (TPM) data to users physically by download from ESA archives or from data providers' servers. In the future, ESA intends to offer users also the possibility to process TPM data in hosted processing infrastructures. In that case, users will not download the original EO data, but only view and process it, and download results of their processing. The purpose of this Announcement is to gain experience with regard to this new set-up and to test user acceptance of such a model.

Projects will therefore be selected also regarding their intention to make best use of the technological novelties, namely:

- Capacity to process large amounts of data remotely
- Upload own content to a remote environment for analysis
- Download only of processing results.

2.3 Offered Services

The announcement allows the selection of a workbench and one or more items from the EOhopS service and products catalogue, which are detailed on the [EOhopS portal](#).

2.4 Procedures

The announcement is open to applicants worldwide. Please note, that for some EO satellite data certain country restrictions apply.

Only a limited number of projects can be served within ESA resources allocated to the service, and projects will be accepted based on their matching with the above objectives and on a first come first serve basis.

Proposals compiled according to the specific guidelines applicable to the requested service and provided in [A1] can be submitted at any time for evaluation via the dedicated Web site at: <https://earth.esa.int/aos/eohops>.

Following submission, each proposal will be reviewed according to the criteria described in chapter 3.2. Based on the review outcome, ESA may decide to select only a portion of the requested services, in which case the investigator will be given the opportunity to accept or



decline such partial acceptance. Also, ESA reserves the right to propose alternative planning for the approved activities to better match with the available resources.

All selected Principal Investigators will be required to submit at the project closure a final report or evaluation of the EOhopS resources consumed in accordance with a given format to be defined by ESA. Upon invitation, PIs may be requested to present their results or part of their results at symposia or specialised workshops to be organised by ESA.

2.5 ESA Funding

The cost of the agreed service will be entirely supported by ESA, however no funding can be made available by ESA through this call. When required, potential investigators are encouraged to seek financial support from national and international research programs making reference to this call.

2.6 Intellectual Property Rights and Confidentiality

As per agreement with CloudEO as the EOhopS service provider, the service provider shall not acquire and does not claim any intellectual property rights to the user's content and all rights to such content remain with the user.

Applicants are hereby informed, that for the purpose of evaluation, the project proposals may be shared by ESA with CloudEO. In the case a proposal asks for access to TerraSar-X data, the proposal may also be shared with the German Aerospace Centre DLR. The proposal information will only be used for the purpose of evaluating the potential allocation of resources to the project.

3 PROPOSAL EVALUATION PROCEDURES

3.1 Review Panel and Procedures

The proposals will be reviewed by a panel of reviewers who will assess the merits of the proposed investigations in relation to the call objectives.

The purpose of the review is:

- To assess whether the specific projects are in accordance with the objectives of the opportunity.
- To evaluate the scientific, application and technical merits of the proposed projects in relation to their technical feasibility.

The selection process will take into account the relevance to the call objectives of proposed projects and their feasibility requirements within the available system resources and support framework. ESA reserves the right to propose alternative planning for the approved activities to better match with the available resources



The results of the evaluation (acceptance/rejection or request for modifications) are then transmitted to the PI, typically within 2 weeks from proposal submission.

3.2 Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess the proposals:

- The merit of the project from a scientific viewpoint
- The merit of the project from an engineering viewpoint:
 - the technical feasibility of hosting the proposed project within the available resources and support framework
 - readiness of the PI core application for integration within the system
- The adequacy and practicability of the schedule presented in the proposal to complete the project and achieve positive results within a reasonable timeframe.