

High Tech for a Sustainable Future 2021

Call for Expression of Interest (Eoi)

August 2021

4TU.Federation

1. Introduction

1.1. Context

The 4TU.Federation, made up of the four Universities of Technology of the Netherlands, is committed to strengthening and pooling technological knowledge in the Netherlands. The first edition of the High Tech for a Sustainable Future (HTSF) programme was shaped around these ambitions and will end at the end of 2022. The 4TU.Federation now aims to award a new set of theme-based capacity building programmes through the next call: High Tech for a Sustainable Future - call 2021. The call for proposals for this round of HTSF will be published in November 2021. The Call for Proposals will contain all necessary information detailing who can apply, what you can apply for and which thematic lines have been selected. The present document is the **Call for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)**. This is a mandatory step for main applicants (envisioned programme leaders) in the HTSF 2021 procedure.

1.2. Goal

The goal of the High Tech for a Sustainable Future 2021 call is to stimulate **structural and sustainable collaborative theme-oriented** research and education **between the 4TU's** on topics that require 4TU collaboration and for which it is more difficult to acquire funding externally yet (i.e. new or high risk topics). The **societal relevant** programmes **attract & develop new and diverse talent** for the 4TU's and aim to **deliver societal impact through scientific breakthroughs**. After a funded start-up period of five years, research and education should **continue without 4TU.Federation funding**. The programmes strive to increase **visibility and impact of the 4TU Federation in society**.

1.3. Characteristics of the programme

The complete detailed information about the programme will be presented in the Call for Proposals. Here we briefly introduce the most important characteristics.

- Programme duration: 5 years, after which programmes are expected to become financially independent
- Room to finance 3-4 programmes
- All four TU's are involved (with commitment from the involved faculties¹) and will host each at least 1 Tenure-Track position
- All Tenure-Track positions are funded for three years and have commitment from the involved faculties to maintain the Tenure-Track position.
 - Co-funding by the faculties is integrated in the program by the salary costs of the Tenure Trackers starting in the fourth year of employment.
 - All Tenure-Track positions are supported via the HTSF 2021 program with a starting package, worth 1 PhD-position (yearly contribution for a 4 year duration).
- Main applicant of the Eoi and the full proposal is a senior scientist with a permanent position at one of the four TU's.
 - At least one of the applicants of the full proposal should have submitted an Expression of Interest to submit a full proposal.
 - The main applicant of the full proposal will be the programme leader.
- Themes for which a full proposal can be submitted will be selected by the deans of the four TU's based on the submitted Expressions of Interest.
- Themes awarded in the previous HTSF programme are excluded.
- External funding is possible, but not necessary.

¹ Wherever 'faculties' or 'deans' is mentioned, 'science groups' and 'general directors' are considered for WUR.

1.4. Who can apply?

1.4.1. Main & co-applicants

All senior 4TU researchers with a fixed contract can act as main applicant for the Expression of Interest and for the full proposal. Ideally, an expression of interest will develop into a full proposal with the same main applicant². The main applicant is intended to become programme leader in case the proposed programme is awarded. Expressions of Interest (Eoi; about 1 A4) should be submitted by a **minimum of 2 universities** (the main applicant with at least one co-applicant).

1.4.2. Consortium

At the full proposal stage the consortium should consist of all four universities and make abundantly clear in the proposal why 4TU collaboration is necessary for this programme. All full proposals have to have written commitment by the deans of the involved faculties. Collaboration with external parties (e.g. other universities, TO2 institutes, societal partners, industrial partners etc.) within the consortium is possible, but not necessary.

2. Procedure

The application process has the following steps:

- Call for Expression of Interest – August 2021
- **Deadline Expression of Interest – Deadline: October 6th 2021, 14.00 hrs**
- Selection of themes by deans – November 2021
- Call for full proposals – November 2021
- Registration for matchmaking – November 26th 2021
- Matchmaking around themes – December 3rd 2021
- **Full proposal submission – Deadline: March 11th 2022, 14.00 hrs**
- Evaluation and selection of proposals - April/May 2022
- Publish Tenure Track vacancies – June 2022
- Start programme – January 2023

2.1. Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest can be submitted by (incomplete) consortia with a minimum of two involved 4TU universities, using the Expression of Interest form in the separate Word-document. The application form should be sent as a PDF-file in an e-mail to secretaris@4tu.nl. The closing date for expressing interest is October 6th 2021, 14:00 hrs. Expressions of Interest received after the deadline or with only one involved university will not be taken into consideration. Submission of an Expression of Interest is a mandatory step for main applicants (envisioned programme leaders) in order for programmes to be included in the selection process. The Expression of Interests will be clustered by the 4TU Research Committee and will serve as input for the selection of themes.

² This is not mandatory. The full proposal application form will contain a section to detail the development from an Eoi to a full proposal and if applicable a change in the main applicant (e.g. in case of the merge between several Eoi's). At least one of the applicants of a full proposal should have submitted an Expression of Interest.

2.2. Selection of themes

Based on the submitted Expressions of Interest, the deans of 4TU will select (and describe) 4-6 research themes for which full proposals may be submitted. Theme selection will be done at the discretion of the deans in alignment with the goal of the HTSF 2021 programme.

The chosen themes will be described in the Call for Proposals which will be published shortly after the selection of themes in November 2021.

2.3. Matchmaking

4TU will organize a matchmaking event on December 3rd. The aim of the event is to bring together (future) partners that can together develop full proposals for this call.

The matchmaking can be attended by all main and co-applicants of the Eol's as well as by participants invited by the dean of their faculty. The matchmaking will be centred around the chosen themes. If the topic of your Expression of Interest does not fit any of the selected themes we suggest that you withdraw from the application process.

3. Questions and Contact information

In order to answer any questions that you may have about the HTSF 2021 programme and the Call for Expression of Interest we organize three online webinars / questions hours:

- Wednesday, September 8, 9.00-10.00 hrs: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Tuesday, September 21, 16.30-17.30 hrs: [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Friday, October 1, 12.30-13.30 hrs: [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Attending the webinars is not mandatory to submit an Eol; they are just meant to answer questions you may have. Each webinar has the same set-up: short presentation about the HTSF 2021 programme and the Call for Expression of Interest, followed by plenty of time for questions. You do not need to register for the webinars; you can just pick the date that suits you best and join the meeting on Microsoft Teams. We will also record the meetings, for those who want to watch it at a later stage.

Contact point for the HTSF 2021 programme is Marjolein Dohmen-Janssen: secretaris@4tu.nl

Appendices

Expression of Interest Application form (separate Word-document)