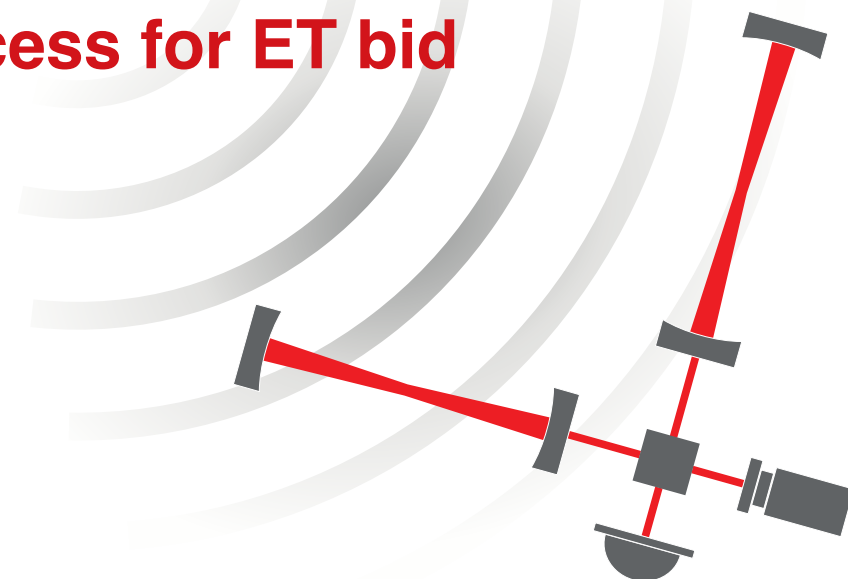# HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-DEV-02:
Early phase implementation of ESFRI Projects
Included in Roadmap in 2021

Scope, key topics, approach and process for ET bid

EINSTEIN
TELESCOPE

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Call overview

- **Call launch date:** 6 May 2025

- **Submission deadline:** 18 September 2025

- **Indicative total budget:** M€16,5

- **Expected EU contribution:** M€1 to M€1,5 - *but other amounts possible*

- **Type of Action:** Coordination and support Actions

- **Funding Model:** 100% Lump sum funding

Call scope and focus

- **Scope:** This call targets the 11 ESFRI Projects that entered the ESFRI Roadmap in 2021, including the Einstein Telescope

- **Focus:** Applicants must identify and address **key bottlenecks in the transition from preparatory to implementation phase**. Funded activities may include:

  ‣ Governance and legal entity establishment

  ‣ Membership enlargement and partner engagement

  ‣ Addressing staff and procurement related issues

  ‣ Securing Funding and related sustainability strategies

  ‣ Consolidation of the international dimension

  ‣ Development of ICT and FAIR-compliant data management solutions.

  Remarks from ETO-INFN Coordination team:
  - *Proposed activities must address **bottlenecks identified specifically for the ET project***
  - *A limited number of activities should be proposed to ensure that effort is not diluted and funding is used to achieve substantial progress and deliver fully in the relevant project period*

General considerations towards a relevant and strong ET bid

Connection and alignment of ET bid with ETO's growth and activities

- ETO mandated by the BGR to develop a detailed Work Plan for period 2025-2028 (by Oct 2025)
- First summary of the ETO Work Plan submitted to and endorsed by the BGR in May 2025
- Topics and activities in the ETO Work Plan correspond to bottlenecks for the ET as an ESFRI
    - ✓Several of the ETO Work Plan activities/topics perfectly fit the scope of this INFRA DEV call
    - ✓The ET bid for this call should contribute to address relevant topics/activities

ETO-INFN Coordination Team: responsibilities and work structure

- ETO Directorate responsible for ET bid's aims and objectives
- INFN responsible for bid's optimal alignment with call requirements and management of the specific grant, once awarding takes place
- *ETO Directorate and INFN work side-by-side as one team for the development and implementation of the ET bid - together with (prospective) consortium partners*

Overall approach and underlying reflections

This INFRA DEV proposal should:

- Build on the experience, results and set-backs of the **current preparatory phase (that is much broader that the INFRA DEV ET-PP bid)**

- Identify and address the most critical issues that could prevent or delay entering of the ET project into the implementation phase.

All work should be under ETO's responsibility and fully in line with ET0 Work Plan and new ETO mandate

ET-bid process

Between 24 July and 18 September 2025

1. ETO and INFN finalise INFRA-DEV EI Consortium **by 25 July 2025** - ongoing

2. ETO-INFN deliver a first concept, incl. a WP- and deliverable-based budget by **30 July 2025**

3. ETO-INFN coordinate consortium's work to produce a pre-final version by 4 September 2025

4. ETO and INFN consolidate all feedback and upload a first version of the full application package

5. INFN submits ET INFRA DEV final bid on 17 September (to mitigate risks of IT issues on 18 September)

*Here we present an **early draft** of the Work Plan for discussion with potential consortium partners. We welcome additional interest and available for further discussions in the coming days.*

Proposed scope, WPs and Tasks

WP1: Management of GRANT-NAME project - WP leader: INFN

<u>Overall aim:</u> to provide effective management and coordination for the work to be carried out under this specific project.

The recent critical EC-evaluation of the present ET-PP-INFRADEV project is closely taken into account:

- to streamline organisational structures for the management of this INFRADEV-call and

- to integrate these structures as much as possible into the broader context of overall ET-project and its organisation, managed by ETO.

T1.1 ET INFRA DEV GRANT-NAME management

T1.2 The INFRA DEV GRANT-NAME Steering Committee – incl. ETO Directors (Chairs) and all WP leaders – will be set up to contribute to all

T1.3 ET INFRA DEV GRANT-NAME project monitoring, follow up and communication with the Agency

Proposed scope, WPs and Tasks

WP2: Establishing ETO as future-proof organisation – WP Leader: Nikhef/ETO Directorate (TBC)

This WP is based on the Tasks of the ETO Directorate and will be further defined in light of this consideration.

<u>Overall aim:</u> to provide concrete and sound solutions/frameworks for highly crucial topics, such as ET-wide management structures, in-kind staff contributions framework, coordination of in-kind R&D contributions, costing of the ET and ICT infrastructures and policies.

T2.1 Establishing an ET-wide management structure (incl. but not limited to project management) under ETO responsibility

T2.3 Development and implementation of in-kind personnel contribution and in-kind R&D contribution frameworks for the ET ESFRI project

T2.3 Development of ETO rules and procedure for the preparation of project cost assessments

T2.4 Building resources and organisational structures towards ETO becoming an efficient entity

Proposed scope, WPs and Tasks

WP3: GRANT NAME Membership enlargement and partnership engagement (excl. INFN and Nikhef - TBD)

This WP is based on the Tasks of the ETO Directorate and will be further defined in light of this consideration.

T3.1 Evolution and strengthening of international funding and commitment to ETO through BGR and ETO Funders Group (EFG) for the early implementation phase

T3.2 Developing funding models towards the future legal entity of ETO

T3.3 Supporting ETO activities towards widening participation in the ET-project, incl. planning and contributions to relevant European and national meetings

Proposed scope, WPs and Tasks

WP4: ET Data Management and FAIR solutions - WP Leader: TBD

Final scope to be defined

T4.1 Development of FAIR-aligned data management planning - in line with FAIR principles

T4.2 Development of Findability and Accessibility solutions

T4.3 Defining policies for Interoperability and Reusability

T4.4 Defining Data Infrastructure and EOSC Integration (and globally?)

... Thank you!