

# 2021 R&I GRANT SCHEME INFORMATION SESSION

Thank you for joining us.  
The information session will  
begin shortly.

We kindly ask you to keep your  
cameras on and microphones  
muted.



# INFORMATION SESSION

2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR  
R&I PROJECTS IN ENERGY AND WATER



# Agenda

- **Presentation on the R&I Scheme**
  - Overview
  - Eligibility – Applicants & Projects
  - Funding & eligible costs
  - Application process
  - Proposal & evaluation criteria
  - Post-selection process

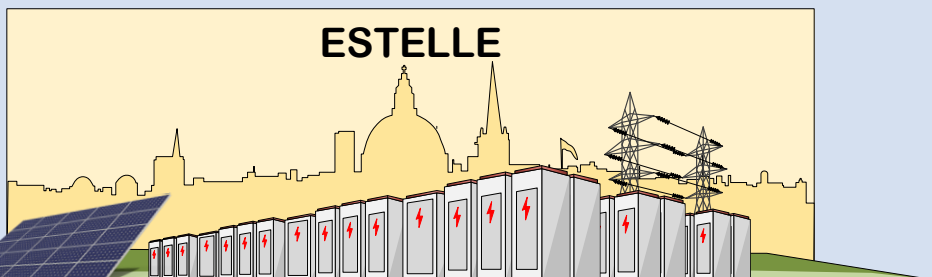
- **Question and answer section**

To ask a question, kindly use the “Raise Hand” button – you will be asked to unmute and ask your question.



# Overview

- **National Strategy for R&I in Energy and Water** (2021-2030) published in 2020
- **First R&I Grant Scheme** launched in 2020
  - 5 projects awarded a research grant
  - Total investment of Eur 558,000



# Overview

## Second R&I Grant Scheme - 2021 Call for Proposals

- Application deadline: **30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**
- Eur 700,000 available
- Grant per project: **Eur 60,000 – 120,000** (excl. co-funding)
- Objective: to support R&I projects which are **in line with national policy** and seek to contribute in a **tangible manner** to addressing:
  1. A national policy priority or challenge; or
  2. Economic competitiveness and growth

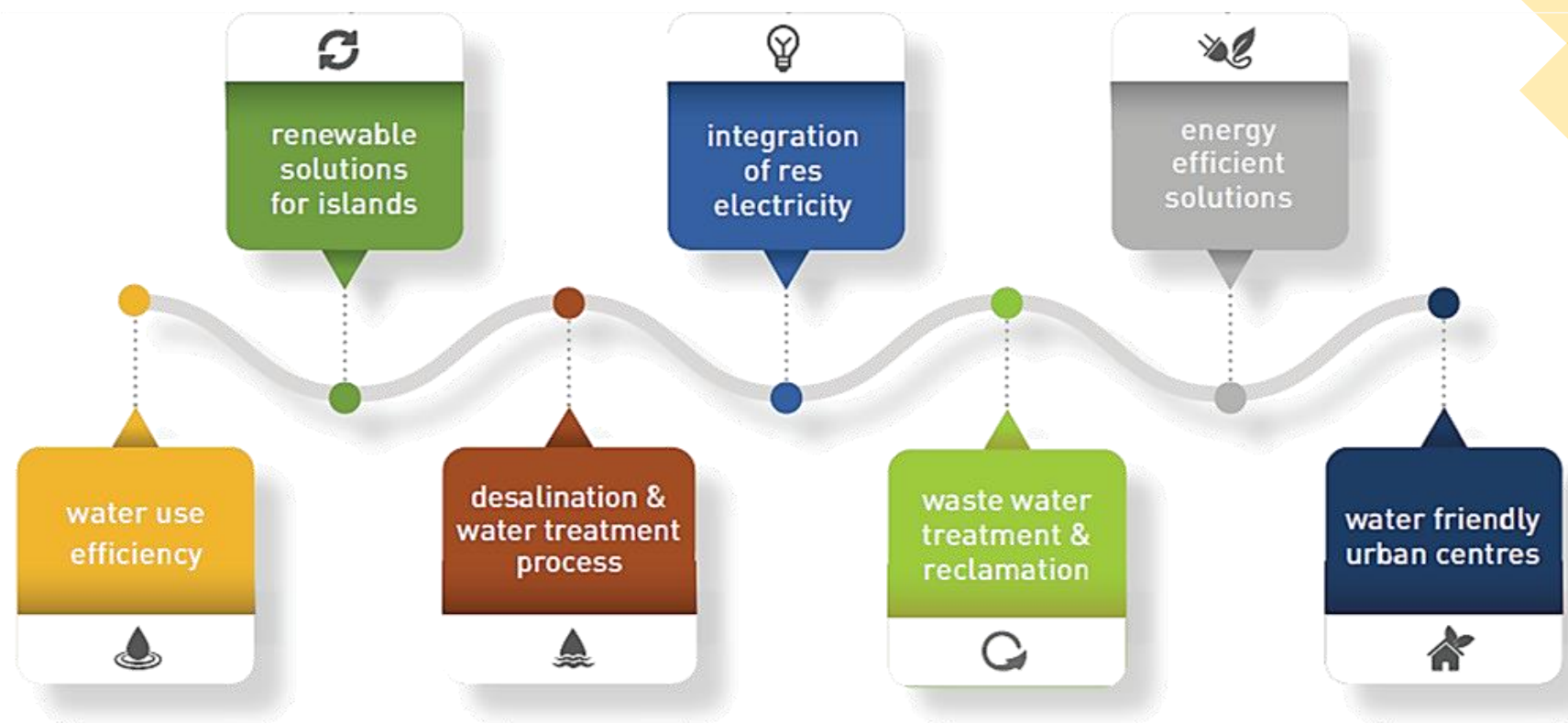


# Eligibility – Target Projects

- **Duration:** 18 – 24 months
- **TRL scale:** levels 2 – 6
- **Target disciplines:** projects from a wide range of disciplines encouraged
- **Target areas:** seven priority areas have been identified (no preference attributed to any particular one)

**PROJECT MUST CONTRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE TWO OVERALL OBJECTIVES**

DEPLOYMENT	9	ACTUAL SYSTEM PROVEN IN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
	8	SYSTEM COMPLETE AND QUALIFIED
	7	SYSTEM PROTOTYPE DEMONSTRATION IN OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
DEVELOPMENT	6	TECHNOLOGY DEMONSTRATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
	5	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN RELEVANT ENVIRONMENT
	4	TECHNOLOGY VALIDATED IN LAB
	RESEARCH	3
2		TECHNOLOGY CONCEPT FORMULATED
1		BASIC PRINCIPLES OBSERVED



**TYPES OF RESEARCH**

ENGINEERING AND NATURAL SCIENCES

BIG DATA, DIGITALISATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND BEHAVIORAL RESEARCH

# Eligibility – Applicants

✓ Single entity

✓ Consortium

*\*LEAD PARTNER must have establishment or branch in Malta at the time of payment of the grant*

✓ Maltese entities

✓ Foreign entities

*\* IF SINGLE ENTITY APPLICATION, must have establishment or branch in Malta at the time of payment of the grant*

✓ Academia/Researchers

✓ Businesses

✓ Public bodies

✓ NGOs

✗ Individuals

*Preference for projects which involve two or more different types of partners*



# Funding

- Eur 60,000 – 120,000 per project (excluding co-funding, if applicable)
- Aid intensity is determined on an **entity basis** & according to the **level of research**

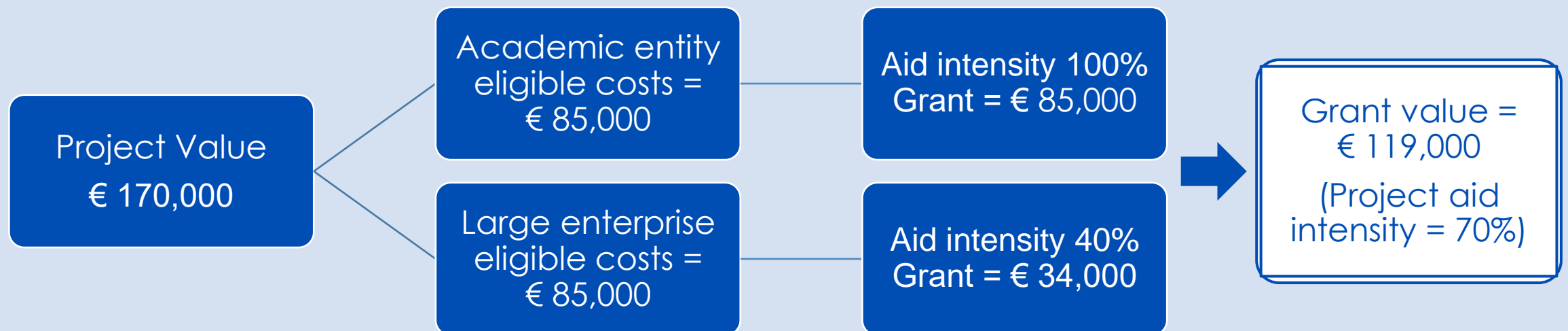
	Non-State aid	State Aid Small Enterprise	State Aid Medium Enterprise	State Aid Large Enterprise
Fundamental	100%	100%	100%	100%
Industrial	100%	70% (+10%)	60% (+15%)	50% (+15%)
Experimental	100%	45% (+15%)	35% (+15%)	25% (+15%)

*Additional % is subject to effective collaboration*

# Aid Intensity for Consortia

- Aid intensity of a collaborative projective is thus determined according to:
  - The number and type of partners (State aid applicable/not applicable)
  - Level of research activity (fundamental, industrial, experimental)

**Example: Collaboration between academia and private sector on a project at TRL 6 where each bear 50% of the eligible costs**

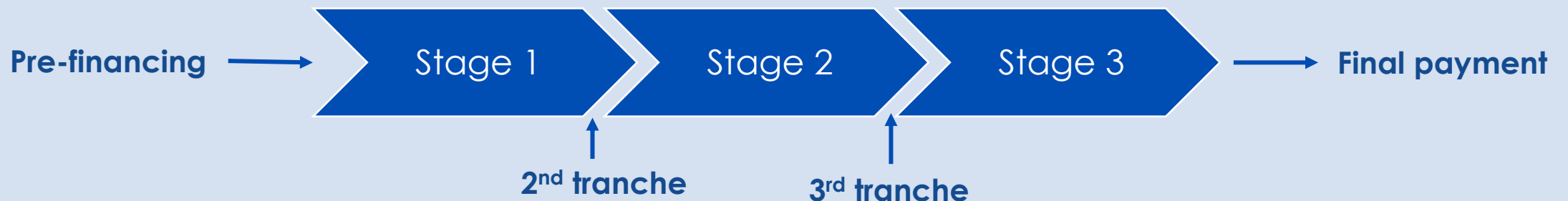


# Funding Conditions

- For **collaborative projects**: reasonable distribution of workload and financing
  - Overall portion of individual partner < 75%
  - Combined funding for any group of partners within a category < 75% (if applicable)
  - Minimum portion of funding for any one partner is 10%
- Funding available on the basis that the **applicant has not benefited from any other form of assistance for the same eligible costs** as those being applied for under this Call
- EWA **reserves the right to request a Bank Guarantee** up to a maximum of 60% of the financial support requested by the specific Applicant/partner

# Funding Disbursement

- In the case of a consortium, **disbursement to Lead Partner** - it is the responsibility of the Lead Partner to disburse the financing between partners
- Project shall be divided into 2-3 stages
  - Disbursement will be made in **3-4 tranches** (depending on number of stages)
  - Each stage shall have a maximum duration of **12 months**
  - Funding for any one stage cannot exceed **60% of grant value**
  - Retention consisting of **20% of the grant value** will be withheld and only released upon successful completion of the project.



# Eligible Costs

	ELIGIBLE EXPENSES	CONDITIONS
1	Personnel costs	Total funded hours for existing employees 20% max. Limits on number of new personnel per project
2	Instruments and equipment	If their full life exceeds duration of project, only the depreciation costs are eligible
3	Scientific information	
4	Consumables	Up to 30% of project value
5	Subcontracted activities	Up to 25% of project value
6	Overheads	Up to 5% of eligible costs
7	Contingency	Up to 2% of eligible costs

All eligible expenses must be incurred between the Project Start Date and the Project End Date and must be limited to the budgeted value.

# Application Process

## Stage 1

Deadline: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021



Application form  
(dated and signed)



CVs of key researchers  
(max. 2 pages each)



GDPR declaration form  
(one per entity)

## Stage 2

Deadline: 10 working days of notification



Project details form  
(one per project)



State aid declaration  
(one per entity)



Default event declaration  
(one per project)



Audited financial statement for  
previous 3 fiscal years

# Proposal & Evaluation Criteria

- Section 5 of the Application Form (Stage 1) constitutes the project proposal
- Divided into three sections, corresponding to the evaluation criteria detailed in the Rules for Participation:
  1. **Excellence** – clarity, quality & approach of proposal (30%)
  2. **Impact** – proposed project objectives & outcomes (40%)
  3. **Implementation** – ability of entity/consortium to effectively carry out the proposed project (30%)
- Compliant project proposals which receive > 65% in evaluation move to Stage 2.

# Deliverables

- End of stage/project **technical and financial** reports
- At least 1 **newspaper/magazine article** per stage
- For projects that involve an **academic entity**: at least 1 research paper in peer-reviewed open access journal
- For projects that involve a **public entity**: at least 1 oral presentation at a conference/press conference
- For projects that involve a **private entity**: at least 1 oral presentation at a conference/press conference





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# Post-Selection Process

- Proposals **which pass both stages** of the application process shall be eligible for the R&I Grant
- They will be ranked according to the marks achieved during Stage 1 proposal evaluation, and offers of support will be made according to ranking order
- Project Coordinators will be **notified of the outcome by email** – email will include the draft Grant Agreement and any potential conditions made by EWA
- Hard copies of the Grant Agreement must be signed (by all Partners in the case of a consortium) within **20 working days** from award offer (email)
- **Project Start Date** shall be not later than six (6) months after award offer

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

## QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Kindly click the “Raise Hand” button if you wish to raise a question.

These slides will be uploaded to the Agency’s website, along with the official replies to questions received today.

For queries after this information session or to schedule a one-on-one meeting, please do not hesitate to contact EWA:  
[rni-energywateragency@gov.mt](mailto:rni-energywateragency@gov.mt)

