

EUROPLANET TA CALL #3 – CALL TEXT

The third Call opens on: **26 January 2017**

Call closes on: **30 March 2017, at 12.00 (noon) CEST (Brussels, Paris time)**

1. Timeline:

Application to the third call should be filled in using the template available on the call page: [LINK](#) and submitted by **Thursday, 30 March 2017 at 12:00 (noon) CEST (Brussels, Paris time)**.

2. Background – The Europlanet 2020 RI programme and the TA call

The Europlanet 2020 Research Infrastructure (<http://www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu>) is a major programme funded under Horizon 2020 to support the research activities of the European planetary science community and particularly to foster collaboration.

A central part of the programme is to allow any European researcher interested in pursuing planetary science research access to a comprehensive set of laboratory facilities and field sites tailored to the needs of planetary research.

Access is provided by a **Transnational Access (TA)** programme which supports travel and local accommodation costs of European researchers (and of researchers from Third Countries under certain conditions), at the facility for an approved period of time to conduct their own research programme. Applications are made to annual calls and are subject to peer review. It should be noted that applicants must apply to use facilities outside the country in which they are employed (i.e. it is a transnational access). Applications can be made for analytical time or access to planetary analogue sites ranging from single days up to several weeks and up to two researchers can be fully financed in each research visit.

Europlanet2020 RI is designed to support planetary science but applications in other research disciplines are also considered based on innovation and potential scientific and technological impact to the planetary sciences field.

Europlanet invites application for Transnational Access through the three themes (detailed list of sites and facilities as well as contact details are provided in Annex 1).

TA1 - Planetary Field Analogues (PFA)

This theme offers access to five well-characterised terrestrial field sites that have been selected so as to provide the most realistic analogues of surfaces of Mars, Europa and Titan, to which planetary missions have either recently been directed or are planned. Access is provided for scientists to perform high quality scientific research and test instrumentation for space missions under realistic planetary conditions and undertake comparative planetology research.

Details on the analogue sites are available on Europlanet-RI website: <http://www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu/europlanet-2020-ri/planetary-field-analogue-sites>

TA2 - Distributed Planetary Simulation Facility (DPSF)

This theme provides access to a set of laboratory facilities that are able to recreate and simulate the conditions found in the atmospheres and on the surfaces of planetary systems with special attention to Martian, Titan and Europa analogues. The TA also includes the possibility to characterise the

texture and mineral composition of samples in unprecedented detail as well as the ability to detect and characterise life, including Next Generation Sequencing.

Details on the distributed Planetary Simulation Facilities are available on Europlanet-RI website: <http://www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu/europlanet-2020-ri/distributed-planetary-simulation-facility-dpsf>

TA3 - Distributed Sample Analysis Facility (DSAF)

This theme combines the resources of four of the world's leading analytical laboratories to analyse meteoritic and sample returns with un-paralleled precision, offering possibility to apply a wide variety of stable and radiogenic isotopic systems.

Details on the Distributed Sample Analysis Facilities are available on Europlanet-RI website: <http://www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu/europlanet-2020-ri/distributed-sample-analysis-facility-dsaf>

3. Rules for participation

Maximum number of applicants funded per project

The expenses of **up to two** researchers will be covered per access visit. Upon agreement with the host facility, additional researchers will be allowed to visit the facility but will not have their expenses paid.

Additional funding from other sources (COST actions for example) can be used to specifically extend the duration of a TA visit or to arrange a follow up visit for data interpretation and preparation of a publication with the agreement of facility.

Maximum number of grants per applicant

It is recommended that separate applications are made so that sample characterisation and the results from an initial visit are fully evaluated before any follow up work. Sequential applications are encouraged; for example a field visit followed by analyses elsewhere. However, during the life span of the EuroPlanet project, **applicants will not be supported more than four times.**

Projects duration

Typical unit of access is:

- For TA1 the unit of access is **a week** (five working days) with typical visits lasting **two to three weeks** by agreement of facility;
- For TA2 and TA3 the unit of access is **a day** with typical visits lasting up to **five working days.**

Funding principles

Finances to cover TA visits are limited, so applicants are expected to make efficient use of the funds by using economy travel and hotels suggested by the host institution. Living expenses will depend upon the host city.

The eligible expenses covered by the call are:

- Travel (economy class)
- Accommodation (up to 100 Euros/night)
- Contribution to living expenses (up to 50 Euros/day)

Travel tickets and accommodation costs will only be reimbursed on production of receipts and the final visit report. Generally, accommodation will be arranged by the host facility and, in exceptional circumstances, travel tickets can be booked by the host facility. Expenses will be transferred to the applicant's bank account on production of receipts and the final visit report.

4. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible and considered

- Application should be submitted by **30 March 2017 at 12.00 (noon) CEST (Brussels, Paris time)**.
- Applications should be written in English, using font Arial, minimum font size 11.
- Application should be filled in using the template available on the call and submission page: ([LINK](#)).
- The core of the application (all parts provided and uploaded as pdf document) should respect the page limit (3 pages maximum all included, i.e. figures, tables, charts, etc.). All page limits indicated in the template are mandatory.
- The Project Leader of the application should work for an organisation based in an EU Member State or an H2O2O affiliated country.¹
- None of the Project Leader and co-applicant(s) should apply for a facility/site located in the country in which they are employed.¹
- The core of the application (all parts provided and uploaded as pdf document) are anonymous and therefore should not contain any information (name of the Project Leader and co-applicant, affiliation, etc.) allowing to identify the applicant(s).
- The Project Leader and co-applicant(s) should be researchers actually participating into the visit (i.e. application on behalf of another person is not allowed).
- Maximum one application per applicant per each TA is allowed for each call.

Proposals not respecting any of the points above will be considered ineligible and will not undergo scientific assessment.

5. Technical feasibility

All applications submitted will be addressed to the designated operators of the sites, laboratories and facilities who will check and validate the **technical feasibility** of the investigations proposed.

The technical feasibility validation process is not a scientific assessment, it will not consider the application from a scientific point of view, but rather from an operational and technical implementation perspective.

In the event of an application being considered not to be feasible, it will not be assessed further and the applicant will be informed of the outcome of the validation process and why his/her application has failed.

Proposals deemed not feasible will not undergo scientific assessment.

6. Evaluation process

All document will be treated confidentially – no information will be circulated outside the assessment process.

The scientific evaluation process will be anonymous. All applications will be assessed by a disciplinary panel set up by the European Science Foundation. Review panels will be constituted to reflect the

¹ <http://www.europlanet-2020-ri.eu/about-europlanet-2020-ri/europlanet-ta-facilities/frequently-asked-questions>

scientific profile of all application submitted. Review panel will assess applications submitted to the three TAs falling in their domain.

All applications will be made available to review panel members before review panels convene and each application will be assessed in detail by two review panel members (rapporteurs) before the review panel meeting.

During the review panel meeting (by teleconference), all applications will be presented in detail by the rapporteurs and discussed by the full review panel. Review panel will agree on an overall mark for each application and produce one ranked list per TA. These lists will then be integrated into three ranked lists across all themes (one per TA).

7. Evaluation Criteria

Each proposal will be assessed on four criteria:

- **Criterion 1 - Innovative nature of the proposal** (originality of the research proposed and/or of the methodology to be applied);
- **Criterion 2 - Science and Technology excellence** (Overall scientific or technical merit of the proposal, soundness of concept, and quality of the objectives);
- **Criterion 3 - Implementation** (The quality, effectiveness and feasibility of the methodology and associated work, relevance of the facility/site, strategy for utilisation and publication of the new data);
- **Criterion 4 - Scientific impact** (How the objectives and expected results contribute to advancing the state of the art; relevance of the project to the European and/or international planetary scientific community and/or past or future missions and/or industry and other research disciplines).

Each criterion will be rated on a 0 to 5 scale with an equal weight (total score on 20). The table below provides a guideline illustrating the value and meaning of individual marks.

Numeric score	Corresponding wording	Definition
5	Excellent	The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.
4	Very good	The application addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible.
3	Good	The application addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary.
2	Fair	While the application broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
1	Poor	The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

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The application fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information.

Threshold will apply for each of the criteria (2/5) and for the overall score (13/20): only proposals meeting these requirements will be considered for selection.

8. Europlanet Policy - Reporting requirements

Successful applicants are required to prepare a short (approx. 2 pages A4) report on their visit and findings. This report should also include plans of how they will disseminate their findings to the planetary science community and to actively engage with the impact and outreach work packages within Europlanet2020-RI to reach the general public. Moreover, the successful applicants are expected to present their results at a future European Planetary Science Congress. Data obtained from facilities operating within Europlanet2020 RI will be stored at the host institution.

These data will be made open access a year after the agreed completion of the research visit, with the exception of commercially sensitive information.

In case of conflicting information found outside the call document, this call document prevails.

Transnational Access (TA) programme themes

The programme is arranged in three themes:

TA1. Planetary Field Analogues (PFA) offers access to 5 well-characterized terrestrial field sites that have been selected so as to provide the most realistic analogues of surfaces of Mars, Europa and Titan, to which planetary missions have either recently been directed or are planned. Access is provided for scientists to perform high quality scientific research and test instrumentation for space missions under realistic planetary conditions and undertake comparative planetology research. The PFA are:

1. Rio Tinto Field Site, Spain
<http://www.isa.au.dk/networks/euroPlanet/facilities/tna1/rioTinto.html>
2. Ibn Battuta Centre, Morocco <http://www.ibnbattutacentre.org/the-centre.html>
3. The glacial and volcanically active areas of Iceland, Iceland
4. Danakil Depression, Ethiopia
<https://auditore.cab.inta-csic.es/europlanet/2015/10/16/ta1-earth-analogues/>
5. Tírez Lake, Spain
<https://auditore.cab.inta-csic.es/europlanet/2015/10/16/ta1-earth-analogues/>

TA2. Distributed Planetary Simulation Facility (DPSF) provides access to a set of laboratory facilities that are able to recreate and simulate the conditions found in the atmospheres and on the surfaces of planetary systems with special attention to Martian, Titan and Europa analogues. The TA also includes the possibility to characterise the texture and mineral composition of samples in unprecedented detail as well as the ability to detect and characterise life, including Next Generation Sequencing. The DPSF are:

1. Planetary Emissivity Laboratory, Germany
2. Planetary Environment Facilities at Aarhus University, Denmark
3. Open University Mars Chamber, UK
4. High-pressure laboratory at VUA, NL
5. Cold Surfaces spectroscopy, Institut de Planétologie et Astrophysique de Grenoble (IPAG), France
6. Center for microbial life detection at Medical University Graz, Austria
7. Petrology-Mineralogy Characterisation Facility (PMCF), Mineral and Planetary Sciences Division, Natural History Museum, London, UK

TA3. Distributed Sample Analysis Facility (DSAF) combines the resources of four of the world's leading analytical laboratories to analyse meteoritic and sample returns with un-paralleled precision, offering possibility to apply a wide variety of stable and radiogenic isotopic systems. The DSAF are:

1. Radiogenic and non-traditional stable isotope facility: Geology and geochemistry, Faculty of Earth and Life Sciences, VU University, Amsterdam, NL
2. Radiogenic, non-traditional stable & rare gas isotopes. Le Centre de Recherches Pétrographiques et Géochimiques (CRPG), Nancy, France
3. Stable Isotope Analytical Facilities - The Open University, UK
4. NanoSIMS 50L Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometer - The Open University, UK
5. Radiogenic & non-traditional stable isotopes: Institute for Planetology (IfP); University of Münster, Münster, Germany

Full details of all the capabilities of the locations and nature of the facilities of each of the TA's can be found using the links to each TA.