

PROSSE 2026

FAQ PROSSE 2026

The period dedicated to clarifications for the 2026 PROSSE call (PROdex for Science in Space Exploration) was open between February 5 and March 13, 2026. This document includes the answers to the main questions that the Portuguese Space Agency received.

Q1 – What is the indirect cost rate to be used?

R1 – There is no specific rate to be used. Each entity should use the indirect cost rate that best reflects the indirect costs to be supported by them.

Q2 – Can private companies participate to PROSSE?

R2 – Yes. The goal of PROSSE is to fund scientific projects and consortia should be led by a Research Centre or a Higher Education Institution and cannot be led by companies. Nonetheless, if the participation of a private company as part of the consortium is duly justified, it is possible for the company to be part of the consortium, for as long as the focus is the impact of scientific research.

Q3 – Is there a limit to the number of members in a proposal?

R3 – No, there is no limit.

Q4 – Can the proposal include experts from foreign universities?



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R4 – In general all type of entities and experts can collaborate in the project. However, the following should be considered: 1) The lead entity should be a Portuguese Research Centre or Higher Education Institution; 2) Regarding funding for human resources, subcontracting and others please check in detail chapter 7 of the regulation, in particular footnotes (1), (2) and (3).

Q5 – Is there any specific format for CV to be used?

R5 – No, each proposal can use the format that it deems better.

Q6 – Should any of the team members be funded by the project?

R6 – No.

Q7 – As per understand it, there a Phase 1 evaluation from PT Space and a Phase 2 evaluation by ESA. In Phase 1 only PT Space members vote in the jury? If there are external members to PT Space, but national, will the list be revealed in order to ensure transparency?

R7 – The evaluation process is the following one:

- Phase 0: Eligibility -> Done internally by the Portuguese Space Agency.
- Phase 1: Technical / Scientific evaluation -> The Portuguese Space Agency only evaluates criterion A3. The other criteria (A1, A2, B1, B2, C1 and C2) are evaluation by at least 2 international experts (not living in Portugal) based on the database of ~100 experts of +15 countries that have shown interest to evaluate proposals in the different areas (it includes Portuguese experts living abroad). Experts are chosen and contacted specifically for each



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proposal for them to have the required expertise to evaluate the different thematics. No expert is affiliated to a Portuguese institution to avoid conflicts of interest. In any case, all experts must sign a Confidentiality and No Conflict-of-Interest Agreement before receiving the proposals. Furthermore, unless specifically indicated by the experts, we do not publicly share the names of the evaluators to avoid pressure or other situations, to promote an objective and fair evaluation. At the end all proposals receive the full evaluation reports from the experts that evaluated the proposal. Criterion D is automatically calculated as per the formula included in the Regulation.

- Phase 2: ESA PRODEX team evaluates financial and technical feasibility of the pre-selected proposals.

Q8 – Can RTOs participate in PROSSE?

R8 – Yes, RTOs are considered Research Centres.