DRIVING GROWTH

Call Presentation

“FAST TRACK INNOVATION CYBERSECURITY»”

enterprise europe network
Business Support on Your Doorstep

October 2026

Objectives

To support existing enterprises that invest in the rapid development and market deployment of competitive and innovative cybersecurity products and services, specifically through:

- The development of innovative cybersecurity software solutions;
- The development of innovative cybersecurity hardware solutions;
- The development of innovative cybersecurity educational and training materials, for example for critical infrastructures, SMEs, students, and other target groups.

The Programme supports the enhancement of existing products, services, and processes through research and development (R&D) activities, or the development of new products and services that can generate new revenue streams for the enterprise within a short period of time.

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General Call Information

Call Code	NCC-CY-FTI/1026
Call Budget	€ 1,500,000
Maximum funding per proposal	€ 100,000
Date of Publication	9 October 2026
Closing Date	8 December 2026, 13:00

Project Duration: Up to 12 months

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Beneficiaries & Conditions for Participation

Beneficiaries

- **Small and Medium Enterprises** (Categories B.1, B.2) in territories under the control of the Republic of Cyprus.
- One (1) Project Proposal per Host Organisation.

Requirements

- No outstanding amounts owed to the DSA.
- OCA: no direct or indirect control by an ineligible third country.
- Project management workshop and mandatory financial management seminars.

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Conditions for Participation (2)

- The Proposal Coordinator **must be employed by the Host Organization** at the time of proposal submission and must take on the role of **Project Manager**. The Project Manager is responsible for planning, managing and executing the project from start to completion, ensuring that deadlines, budget and required specifications are met.
- At least one person from the Host Organization participating in the project team should take on the role of **Product Developer**. *This role cannot be undertaken by the same person who will also act as Project Coordinator / Project Manager.* The Product Developer is the person responsible for the strategy, design, development and management of a product throughout its life cycle.

Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία
ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΡΕΥΝΑΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΙΝΟΤΟΜΙΑΣ
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Eligible Activities (1)

- **Experimental Development (TRL 6-8)**: Prototyping, demonstration, pilot operation, testing and validation of new or improved innovative products / services or new functionalities, features, and uses for the MVP

- Experimental development activities must correspond to Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) of 6 or higher, in accordance with the relevant definitions adopted by the European Union.
- Dissemination activities are not eligible for funding. However, they constitute a prerequisite for applicants seeking the additional aid intensity provided under the Call.

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Eligible Costs

Experimental Development:

- Personnel Costs
- Costs for Instruments and Equipment (depreciation)
- Costs for External Services
- Costs for Travelling Abroad
- Consumables
- Other specific costs
- Overheads

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Proposal Submission

- **Proposals are submitted** through the Research and Innovation Foundation's IRIS Portal (https://iris.research.org.cy)
- The Project Proposal consists of the following parts:
  - **Part A** – General Information & Budget *(electronic form (fields) to be completed online through the IRIS Portal)*
  - **Part B** – Technical Annex *(document to be uploaded as an Annex on the IRIS Portal in PDF format)* - **Maximum number of pages 20 – Template Available!**
  - **Annex I** – Curricula Vitae *(CVs of the Coordinator and the key personnel– Mandatory Submission)*
  - **Annex II –** Call Specific Information: **(a) Ownership Control Declaration – OCA**

IRIS Portal

- [Home Page - IRIS (research.org.cy)]

NCC - Fast Track Innovation
NCC-CY-FTI/1026

Short Description / Σύντομη Περιγραφή

Fast Track Innovation in Cybersecurity

Announcement Date:
09/10/2026

Deadline:
08/12/2026 13:00

Call Documents:
Call for Proposals (EL)
Call for Proposals (EN)
Part B – Technical Annex
Guide for Evaluators

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PART B – TECHNICAL ANNEX [Page limit count starts here]

1. Degree of Innovation and Originality

Innovation of the proposed product/service/process: Describe the degree of innovation and diversity of the proposed product/service/process, relative to existing or competing solutions and practice at an international level.

Describe how the proposed product/service/process will be able to enter the existing market or create a new market. Emphasis should be placed on clearly identifying the strengths and weaknesses of innovation, as well as opportunities and threats.

2. Value Proposition & Competitive Advantage

Product/Service/Process Description: Describe the innovation, its competitive advantage and the problem it solves. Include the needs it addresses and the value it creates for the market.

Market Opportunity: Provide an analysis of the market opportunity, including the market size, segments, key geographical areas, and the projected growth over the next five years. Explain the significance of the opportunity and the timing for its implementation.

Voice of the Customer: Document key customer interest or willingness to use the innovation.

Competitor Analysis: Identify competitors and their strategies and explain how the proposed innovation offers a competitive edge.

3. Technology and Product/Service/Process Development

Technology Overview: Describe the core technology behind the product/service/process.

Current Technology Readiness Level (TRL): State the current TRL of the technology at the start of the project and provide a justification/evidence supporting the stated TRL.

Competitive Advantage: Explain how your technology stack or development approach ensures a sustainable competitive advantage.

4. Market Opportunity & Business Environment

Business Dynamics: Analyze the business environment, including trends, driving forces, market entry barriers, and other dynamics that could affect the product's market entry and growth.

Regulatory Framework: Summarize the relevant regulatory landscape, including opportunities and potential barriers. Discuss how these factors could affect market entry and growth.

5. Business Case

Revenue streams and cost structure: Present expected revenue streams and cost structure, including cash flows projections, Net Present Value (NPV), and Internal Rate of Return (IRR).

PART B – TECHNICAL ANNEX

Impact on company growth: Describe the estimated expected impact of the funding on the growth of the company.

Key Resources: Identify critical resources (e.g., infrastructure, partnerships, talent) required for successful market entry and growth.

6. Implementation Plan

Project Implementation Plan: Describe the Project Schedule and Milestones, outline key phases, activities, and milestones and present a realistic and well-structured timeline.

Budget Justification: Provide a detailed breakdown of the proposed budget. Justify how each cost contributes to the successful implementation of the project.

Risk Management & Mitigation Plan: Identify key risks associated with the project (e.g., technical, financial, regulatory). Detail risk mitigation measures to ensure the timely delivery of the product/service/process. Explain contingency plans in case of unforeseen challenges.

7. Work Package Description

A separate Work Package (WP) Form should be filled for each WP. There is no limitation on the number of WPs.

Work Package Number:	1	**Start Month:**		**End Month:**		
Work Package Title	**Project Management**					
Work Package Leader						
Partner Role	HO	PA1	PA2	PA3	PA4	PA5
Person Months						
Work Package Objectives						
Briefly describe the objectives of the WP.						
Work Description and Expected Key Results						

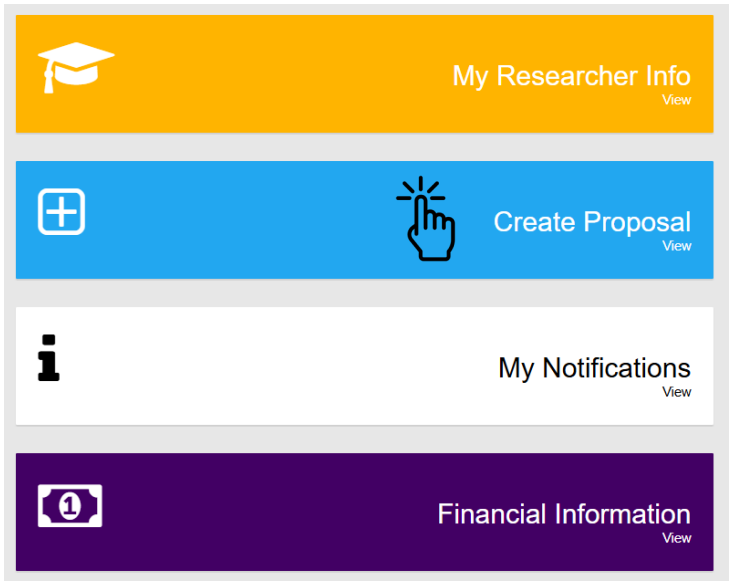
IRIS Registration

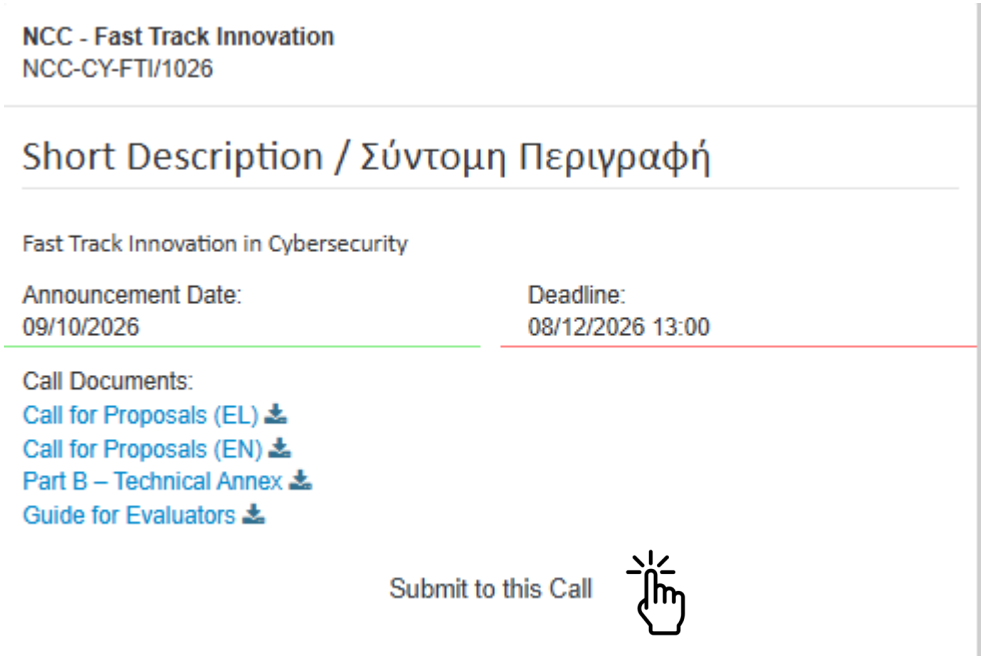
- Registration of the Legal Representative
- Legal Representative Request
- Organisation Information Submission

- Registration of Coordinator on IRIS
- Registration as Researcher on IRIS

Create a Proposal

- [IRIS- Dashboard (research.org.cy)]





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Evaluation & Project Selection

- Preliminary Check.
- Remote evaluation by two independent evaluators.
  - Excellence: 30%
  - Added Value and Benefit: 35%
  - Implementation: 35%
- Proposals which secure an Evaluation Score of at least 12.00/15.00 are eligible to qualify to Stage B of the Evaluation.

Eligible proposals are prioritised in order of submission to the RIF until the Call budget is exhausted (non-competitive procedure).

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Evaluation & Project Selection

- In Stage B, proposals are evaluated by the Independent Evaluation Committee.
- Proposals shall proceed to Stage B in descending order of score, until the cumulative amount of funding requested by the selected proposals reaches twice the total budget available under the Call, provided that the proposals have been deemed eligible for funding (with a score of at least 12.00/15.00).

Eligible proposals are prioritised in order of submission to the RIF until the Call budget is exhausted (non-competitive procedure).

Useful Documents

- **IRIS & registration :** Πύλη IRIS / εγγραφή ΣΕ · Εγγραφή ΝΕ · Εγχειρίδιο εγγραφής
- **Organisation details :** Δήλωση χαρακτηριστικών ΜΜΕ
- **Call documents :** GR · EN
- **Proposal forms :** Οδηγός Part A · Πρότυπο Part B
- **Regulatory framework :** RESTART – GR · EN

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Information – Contact Details

For More Information

RIF Website: www.research.org.cy

IRIS Portal: https://iris.research.org.cy/

Supporting RIF's Clients

RIF Support Service:

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Thank you!

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