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Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

sweet swiss energy research
for the energy transition



SWISS ENERGY RESEARCH FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION SFOE LAUNCHES SWEET CALL 1-2020

SFOE, 25 June 2020

Welcome to SWEET!

SWEET stands for “SWiss Energy research for the Energy Transition”.

SWEET is a new funding program of the Swiss Federal Office of Energy, the “SFOE”.

Today, the SFOE launched the very first SWEET call.



THIS VIDEO IS ONLY A FIRST INTRODUCTION

SFOE Advice

Please study all details in the call guideline at

www.bfe.admin.ch/sweet

before submitting a proposal.

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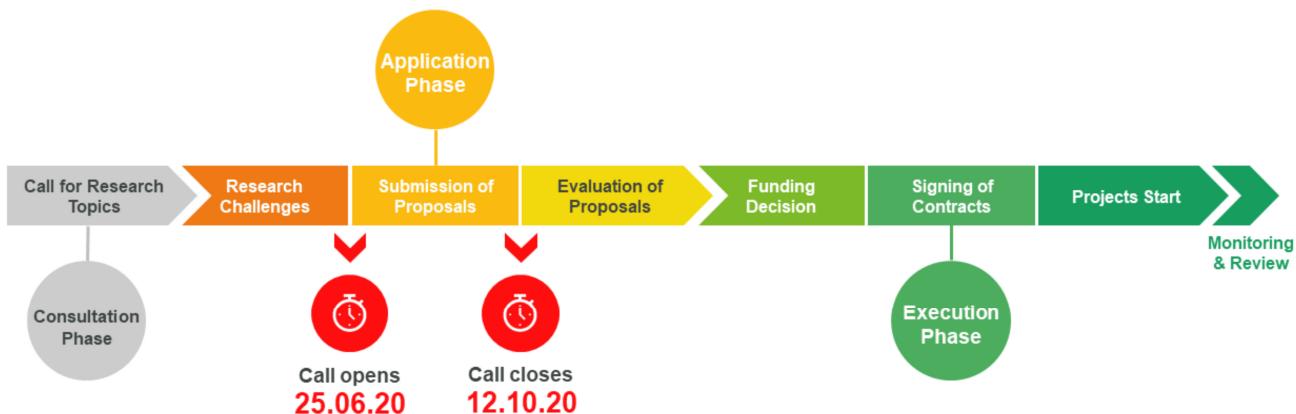
This video can only give a brief introduction on the key features of the first SWEET call for proposals.

If you consider submitting a proposal to this call, then we urge you to carefully study the call guideline as the ultimate source of legally relevant information around this call.

For your convenience, the call guideline, with all supporting templates and other very useful information, is posted at our website www.bfe.admin.ch/sweet .



CALL 1-2020 FOLLOWS A TIGHT SCHEDULE



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With the objective to minimize funding gaps after the sun setting of the Swiss Competency Centers for Energy Research, the first SWEET call follows a very ambitious timeline.

Let's step through the 3 stages of this call:

In the consultation phase earlier this year, the SFOE invited stakeholders to propose potential research topics under the first call's guiding theme. Special thanks to each and everyone who contributed their ideas!

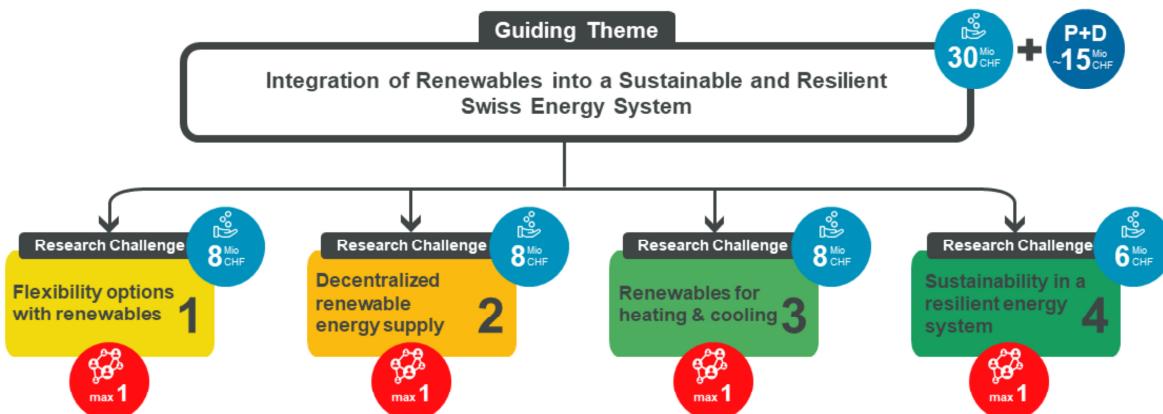
From about 120 submissions received, SFOE distilled thematic research challenges. Now we are in the application phase. The call opened for proposals on June 24. Submissions are welcome until the call closes on October 12. Independent experts will then evaluate and rank the submitted proposals.

Pending parliament's approval of the SWEET budget, the execution phase begins early in 2021. SFOE can then allocate funding to the top ranked proposals. If there are no delays in the contracting period, then SWEET consortia can start their work in the Spring of 2021.

SFOE takes a keen interest in SWEET research and will follow all projects closely. Review panels will engage with research consortia and support them to generate maximal impact from their work.



THIS CALL POSES 4 RESEARCH CHALLENGES



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The guiding theme of the first SWEET call is:
«Integration of Renewables into a Sustainable and Resilient Swiss Energy System».

There are 4 research challenges under this guiding theme:

- Improve renewable energy system efficiency through flexibility and sector coupling,
- Integration of decentralized renewable energy supply into the Swiss energy system,
- Enabling renewables for heating and cooling, and
- Sustainability at the heart of a resilient Swiss energy system.

The call guideline gives more explanation about scope and expected impact of these challenges.

Pending parliamentary approvals, a total of CHF 30 Million will be allocated to this very first SWEET call.

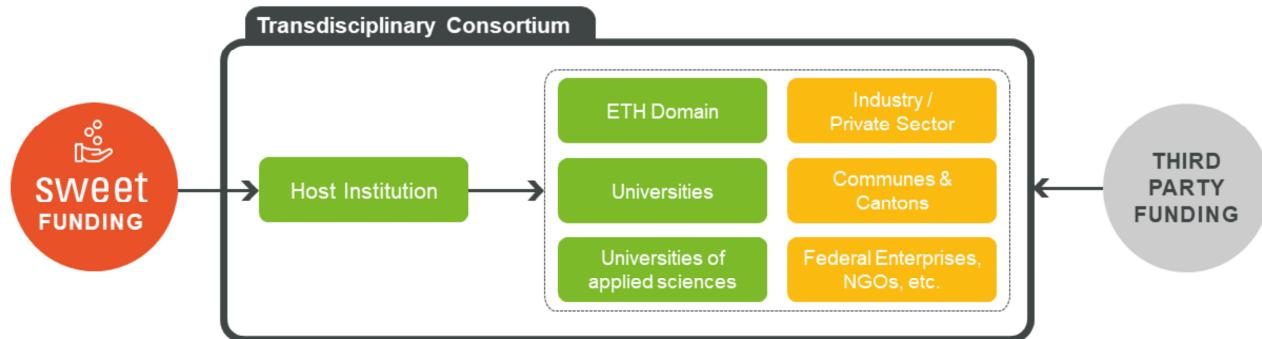
As consortia are expected to drive their research towards deployment, additional funds will be available for qualified pilot & demonstration projects.

SWEET funding per research challenge is capped at CHF 8 Million for challenges 1, 2 and 3 and CHF 6 Million for challenge 4.

In this competitive call, no more than one consortium will be funded per research challenge. And one consortium can only apply to one single research challenge.



SWEET SUPPORTS DIVERSE CONSORTIA



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Research in science & technology as well as in social sciences & humanities will pave the way for a successful implementation of Switzerland's energy strategy 2050. This is why, complementary to other funding instruments, SWEET is specifically designed to support collaboration in transdisciplinary consortia.

Successful consortia will bring together all the necessary capabilities to respond to SWEET challenges with tangible impact. Every member is expected to deliver unique and impactful contributions to the consortium's overall success.

The call guideline gives you more details on «who can apply».

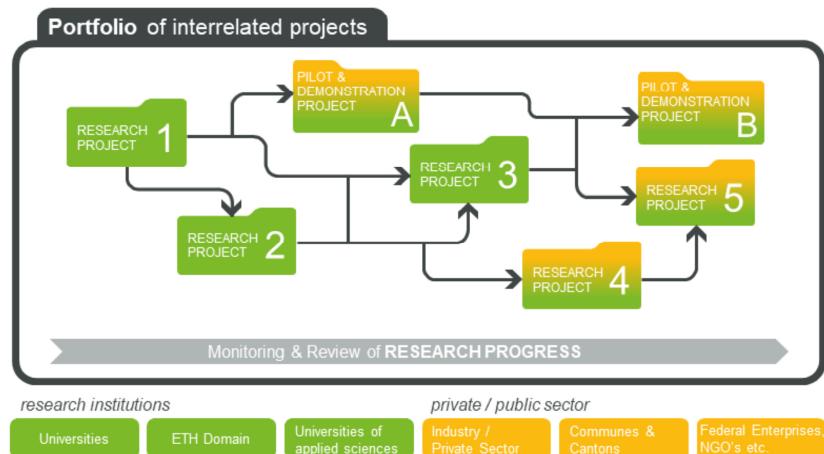
SWEET consortia are led by a host institution. SWEET funding flows via the host institution to the members of the consortium. In return, the consortium establishes a project portfolio that addresses a specific SWEET research challenge.

SFOE's funding is subject to the principle of subsidiarity. In the context of SWEET, this means that consortium partners acquire third party funding and contribute their own funds according to their abilities, while SWEET funding supplements the financial needs associated with the consortium's work programme.

Please refer to the call guideline for funding rules and more details on roles & responsibilities in SWEET consortia.



SWEET PROJECTS ARE INTERRELATED



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With a focus on research deployment and impact, SWEET supports consortia that pursue interrelated projects of varying maturity in the research and innovation cycle. These projects can be categorized as research & development or pilot & demonstration projects.

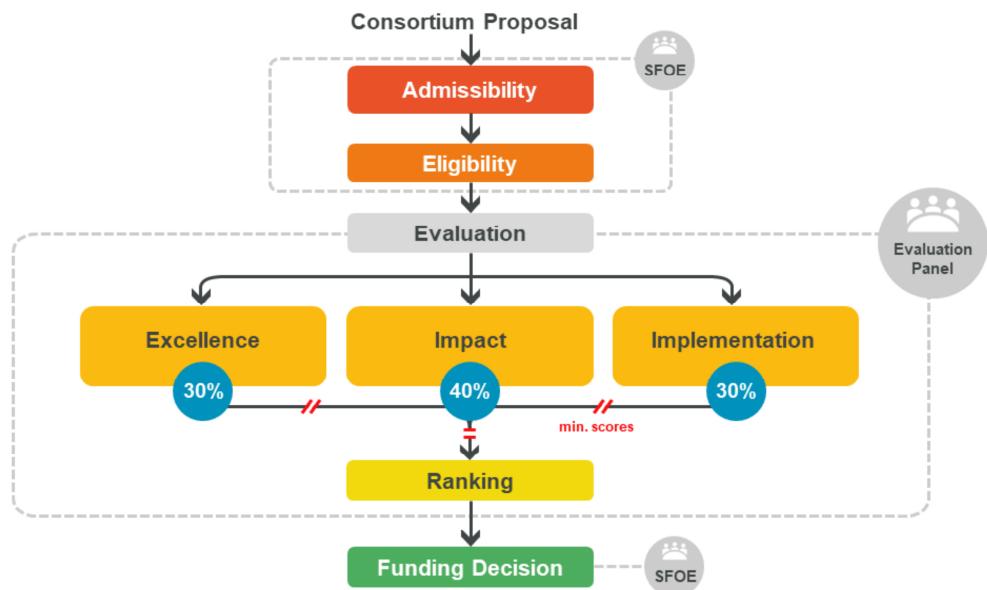
SWEET puts a strong emphasis on implementation. Research results have to be put into practice! Consequently, collaborations of research institutions with the private sector and the public sector are very much encouraged.

The typical lifetime of a consortium may range from 6 to 8 years. It is foreseen that a first set of projects will start as soon as the consortium is launched, while others follow later to build on the insights gained in the early projects. In a proposal for SWEET funding, the initial set of projects must be described in detail while later projects may be described more conceptually.

Over the duration of a consortium, its composition and project portfolio may evolve. SFOE review panels will stay in close contact with the consortia, and follow the progress of the interrelated projects. Procedures for change management are described in the call guideline.



EXPERTS EVALUATE AND RANK PROPOSALS



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SWEET consortium proposals are evaluated and ranked by independent experts.

Before a proposal enters the actual evaluation process, the SFOE checks whether all formal requirements are met. All admissible & eligible proposals are passed on to the evaluation panel.

Independent experts then evaluate the proposals with regard to the 3 principal criteria of excellence, impact and implementation. Each assessment leads to a score. The total score of a proposal is calculated as the weighted average of the impact score at 40%, the excellence score at 30%, and the implementation score at 30%.

All proposals that exceed the required threshold scores are ranked according to their total score. For each challenge, the proposal with the highest score will be recommended to the SFOE for funding.

This is only a brief overview; the call guideline describes the entire process and all criteria. Furthermore, the evaluators' manual will also be posted at the SWEET website.



THE GUIDELINE EXPLAINS SUCCESS FACTORS



Build strong consortia

High quality team and integration of diverse partners



Connect the projects

Excel in your concept & methodology for research and innovation projects - the whole is more than the sum of its parts!



Balance your portfolio

Integrate technical and non-technical research across disciplines



Aim for impact

on Switzerland's energy strategy 2050 in all dimensions of sustainability



Plan carefully

Prepare detailed plans for research, implementation and communication



Pay attention to details in the call text

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As a new funding program, SWEET complements existing SFOE programs and differs in important aspects from the established Swiss Competency Centers for Energy Research. The unique features of SWEET are comprehensively described in the call guideline.

This slide just summarizes a few critical success factors to be considered when applying for SWEET funding.

- Build strong and diverse consortia
- Do not propose isolated projects, but design a portfolio that is much more impactful than the sum of its parts.
- Balance your portfolio to benefit from the diverse perspectives of different research disciplines.
- Aim for impact on Switzerland's energy transition - this is SWEET's ultimate goal!
- Getting there is a long journey, thus we all need to plan carefully.
- And again: Please study the call guideline in detail, it is your best source of information.



QUESTIONS AFTER READING THE GUIDELINE?

Send your remaining questions to
sweet@bfe.admin.ch

Deadline
15 July
2020



Questions & answers will be published at www.bfe.admin.ch/sweet by 31 July 2020.

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Once you have fully digested the call guideline, it is very likely that you will have no more questions about this SWEET call. Still, if you see a need for further clarification on specific details of the call guideline, then please send us your question no later than July 15.

Questions and answers will be posted by July 31 at the SWEET website. We invite you to visit the website frequently to check for updates.



SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE BY 12 OCTOBER 2020

Important Information

Submit your complete application package by

12 October 2020

to **sweet@bfe.admin.ch**

All templates and guidelines are available for download at www.bfe.admin.ch/sweet.

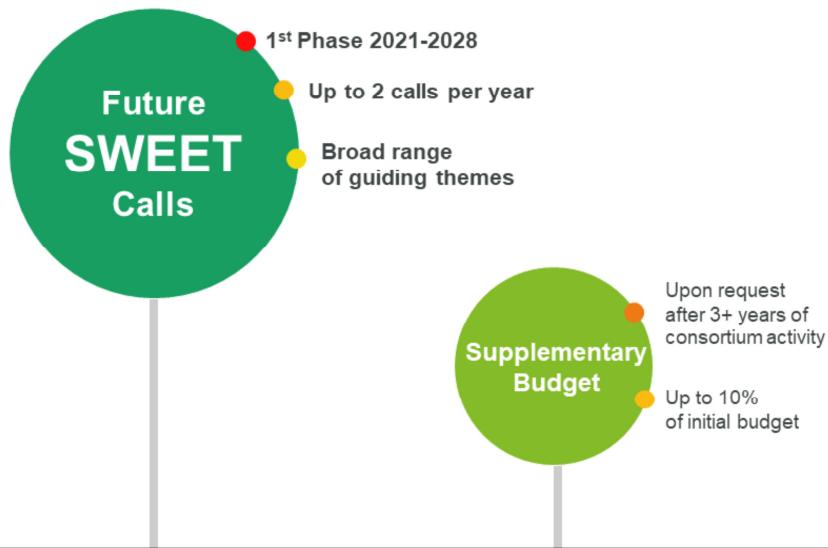
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In the event that you consider to apply for SWEET funding, then please make sure to submit the complete application package via e-mail to sweet@bfe.admin.ch no later than October 12.

The call guideline tells you exactly how to compile the application package. All necessary templates and supporting documents are available for download at the SWEET website.



SFOE WILL LAUNCH FURTHER CALLS



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So far, we have only talked about the very first SWEET call. But this is not the end of the story.

The first phase of SWEET will span the years 2021-28. During this period, SFOE expects to launch further calls on a broad range of energy-related guiding themes.

Furthermore, ongoing SWEET consortia will become eligible to apply for small amounts of supplementary funding after they have completed at least 3 years of their program of work.

More to come - stay tuned!



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