

Questions and Answers

NER 300 first call for proposals – 9 February 2012 and beyond

This document continues the series of Questions and Answers documents on the NER 300 programme and the first call for proposals published on the NER 300 website (http://ec.europa.eu/clima/funding/ner300/index_en.htm).

267) What information will the EIB provide to the Commission on 9 February 2012?

The EIB will provide to the Commission a report on the completion of the due diligence assessment.

This will comprise a list of projects that have passed the due diligence assessment, ranked by increasing cost-per-unit performance in each of the two groups (carbon capture and storage as well as innovative renewables - see FAQ 16), as well as a list of projects that have failed the due diligence assessment.

268) Will the results of the due diligence assessment be made public?

No. To ensure respect for the ongoing competitive process, the results of the due diligence assessment provided by the EIB by 9 February 2012 will not be made public.

269) In the case of individual projects failing the due diligence assessment, will the project sponsors and/or Member States concerned be informed?

Yes, the Commission will inform project sponsors and those Member States concerned of any proposed projects that have failed the due diligence assessment.

270) Will the EIB actually make recommendations for award decisions to the Commission on 9 February 2012?

No, other than foreseen in the NER 300 Decision and the Call for Proposals, the EIB will not yet be able to make recommendations for award decisions on 9 February 2012. This is due to the fact that the proceeds from the sale of the first 200 million allowances are not known yet.

271) When will the results of the monetisation be known?

Pursuant to the NER 300 Co-Operation Agreement between the Commission and the EIB, the EIB has to monetise the first 200 million allowances within ten months of their delivery. The allowances were delivered to the EIB on 2 December 2011. Hence monetisation has to be completed by 2 October 2012.

272) When does the Commission intend to take the award decisions?

The Commission intends to take the award decisions by end 2012 (see FAQ 15). However, as the results of the monetisation will only be known in early October 2012 (see above FAQ 271), the process in the run-up to the award decisions as originally foreseen in the Call for Proposals has been adjusted accordingly (see below FAQ 273).

273) How will the selection process continue after 9 February 2012?

Based on the report from the EIB, the Commission will perform "competitiveness checks" for a limited number of project proposals. This step is required in the case where one or two proposals have been submitted under a specific sub-category.

The Commission will also review the eligibility checks performed by the Member States before submitting the project proposals to the EIB.

In parallel, the Commission will approach Member States to confirm provisionally projects on the list provided by the EIB, including where appropriate the value and structure of the total public funding contribution to projects.

Following the completion of monetisation (see above FAQ 271), the total available funds will be determined and balancing will be done as required (see below FAQ 274).

After that, the Commission will ask Member States to confirm definitively the projects they wish to support as well as the value and structure of the total public funding contribution as appropriate (see FAQ 32).

On this basis, the Commission will draw up a final list of projects for award decision, consult the Climate Change Committee on this list and make and issue the award decisions.

274) What happens if not enough funds are available compared to the total funding request?

Where the total available funds are lower than the total funding request of the two groups (carbon capture and storage as well as innovative renewables), the number of selected projects has to be reduced. This so-called "balancing" step will be done in accordance with the methodology set out in the NER 300 Decision, and further specified in the Procedures Manual (available on the NER 300 website).