EVALUATION GUIDE

Call for Advanced Computing Projects (4th edition)

Ref.: FCT/CPCA/2023/01

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1. Introduction

1.1. About FCT

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT), the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, is the public agency responsible for implementing the Portuguese government's science and technology policy.

FCT funds all areas of knowledge, including exact, natural and health sciences, engineering, social sciences and humanities.

FCT's mission is to promote the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge in Portugal, exploring opportunities to attain the highest international standards, in any scientific or technological domain, and to stimulate the diffusion of that knowledge and its contribution to improve education, health, environment, and quality of life and well-being of citizens.

FCT pursues its mission by funding fellowships, studentships and scientific employment, research projects, research centres and infrastructures, via competitive calls with international peer-review.

1.2. About RNCA

RNCA, the National Network for Advanced Computing (Rede Nacional de Computação Avançada - RNCA) offers services of advanced computing to research, innovation and public administration communities.

This network was created in 2018 by the Portuguese digital competence's initiative INCoDe.2030. It was integrated in the RNIE - National Roadmap for Research Infrastructures of Strategic Interest, via Dispatch no. 4157/2019 of the minister of Science and Technology, as the Portuguese counterpart of the Iberian Network for Advanced Computing (RICA), in terms of the Agreement signed between Portugal and Spain in 2018, based on the creation of «MACC — Minho Advanced Computing Centre», in collaboration with FCT IP. FCCN, the scientific computation unit of FCT, acts as RNCA's promoter and general manager.

Through its calls, RNCA has already served many scientific areas from exact sciences and engineering to social and economic sciences, with more than 70 million core.hours.

2. Call for Advanced Computing Projects – 4th Edition

2.1. Main Aspects of the Call

This call is intended to support R&D and innovation projects sharing computational resources, carried out by a team of the IR and co-IR or only the IR. The institutions and individuals referred to in Article 3 of the Regulations for Advanced Computing Projects may apply for the allocation of computer resources, either individually or in co-promotion.

2.2. Computational Models

The following computational models are available to applicants:

- High Performance Computing (HPC)
- Scientific Cloud Computing (SCC) or Virtual Research Environment (VRE)

2.2.1. High Performance computing (HPC)

In the present call, each HPC system consists of the following element (for further details please check the section 3 of the call notice):

a) A set of compute nodes operating simultaneously, temporarily dedicated to a single application; each set together can execute at least 40 x 10^12 floating point operations per second, tightly coupled, operating in standard nonspecialized microprocessors.
b) A filesystem accessible to each compute node with a shared bandwidth of at least 40 Gbps with multiple simultaneous flows in each compute node.

2.2.2. Scientific Cloud Computing (SCC) or Virtual Research Environment (VRE)

Both models, SCC and VRE are realised through a computing architecture of a virtual servers.

- **Scientific Cloud Computing (SCC)**
  In the present call, each Cloud computing system consists of the following elements (for further details please check the section 3 of the call notice):
  a) A set of compute nodes shared among several users and applications, available via a self-service system with maximum a quota available, through a virtualized software layer in cloud computing IaaS.
  b) Virtual machines (VM) made available will access a virtual disk through local devices, or with a remote filesystem.

- **Virtual Research Environment (VRE)**
  In the present call, each VRE or Virtual Environment consists of the following elements (for further details please check the section 3 of the call notice):
  a) A set of interoperable online tools that facilitate the management, storage, processing, and visualization of research data between one or more groups/institutions.
  b) Similarly to SCC, they require a set of compute nodes, memory and data storage capacity, and the possibility of creating VMs.
  c) VREs can make use of SCC and these can be complemented by HPC to perform heavier processing tasks.

2.3. Types of Access

The present call includes the following access typologies:

- **A0 – Experimental Access**
- **A1 – Development Access**
- **A2 – Regular Access**
- **A3 – Larger Access**

Table 1. Summary of access typologies with duration and maximum limits per application.

	A0	A1	A2			A3
Computational model	HPC			SCC	VRE	HPC
Platforms	All		Navigator, Oblivion, Vision, Cirrus	Stratus		Deucalion, Mare Nostrum 5
Duration (months)[a]	**6**	**12**		**12**	**23**	**12**
CPU core.hours [b]	50.000	100.000	100.000 - 3.000.000	-		100.000 - 20.000.000
vCPU.hours[b]			1.200.000			-
GPU. hours[b]	730	4.380	8.760			70.000
Quotas[c]	**10%**	**10%**	**80%**			

[a]Maximum duration, extendable for a further 3 months (A0/A1) and 6 months (A2/A3) in duly justified and approved cases;
[b]Maximum limits of computational resources, or less, in case the capacity installed in the operational centre does not allow the maximum limits mentioned. For projects requesting SCC or VRE, applicants should consider a maximum limit of 256 GB RAM (memory) and 5 TB storage per project;
[c]Quota of resources reserved for each access typology. Should the resources requested not meet one of the aforementioned quotas, the remaining part may be allocated to other(s) typology(ies).

2.3.1. A0 – Experimental Access

This type of access should be used for all projects without previous experience in HPC or SCC or no usage history in the proposed computational platform of RNCA. Basic technical support will be provided to all users by the Operational Center.

Applications for this type of access will be subject to administrative validation by FCT and technical assessment by members of the RNCA operational centres.

In the context of this call, requests to use visualization resources (e.g. GPUs dedicated for this purpose), by teams with or without previous experience, will also be admitted in this type of access.

2.3.2. A1 – Development Access

This type of access should be used for all projects with some previous experience in HPC or SCC or usage history in the proposed computational platform of RNCA. It should be primarily focused on software performance or scalability tests, benchmarking, re-factoring and even small/short projects that do not require more than the resources limit established for this access. Basic technical support will be provided to all users by the Operational Center.

The applications for this type of access will be subject to administrative validation by the FCT and technical assessments by members of the RNCA operational centres.

2.3.3. A2 –Regular Access

This type of access is intended for HPC, SCC or VRE usage and is recommended for scientific or innovation projects carried out by a team with previous demonstrated experience in advance computing. To demonstrate scalability and minimum performance, there should be a prior run in access mode A1 or A0 or other similar system outside RNCA. Justification for the requested resources and a software scalability graph will be asked on the application form.

The applications for this type of access will be subject to technical assessment by members of the RNCA operational centres and scientific evaluation by external evaluation panels invited by FCT, I.P.

2.3.4. A3 – Larger Access

This type of access is intended for HPC usage in Deucalion or MareNostrum 5 platforms and is recommended for scientific or innovation projects carried out by a team with previous demonstrated experience in advance computing. To demonstrate scalability and minimum performance, there should be a prior run with A0, A1 or A2 accesses or other similar system outside RNCA. Justification for the requested resources and a software scalability graph will be asked on the application form.

The applications for this type of access will be subject to technical assessment by members of the RNCA operational centres and scientific evaluation by external evaluation panels invited by FCT, I.P.

2.4. Available Resources

In the present call, the following table characterizes the available resources. FCT may, at any time, reinforce or adjust maximum allocation of available resources, if justifiable. The sum of the **total capacity available is over 400 million CPU core.hours or vCPU.hours and 275 thousand GPU.hours**.

Table 2. Summary of the operational centres and their computing platforms available in this call. Detailed information on hardware and software can be found in the technical sheet of this call.

Operational centre	Platform	Computational model	System	Access types

-	Deucalion	HPC	ARM: 1 632 compute nodes, each node with Fujitsu ARM A64FX x86: 500 compute nodes, each node with AMD EPYC GPU (em x86): 33 placas GPU Nvidia	A0, A1, A3
-	MareNostrum 5		GPP – 6408 compute nodes, each node with 2x Intel Saphire Rapids 8480+(112 cores each node)@2 GHz ACC – 1120 compute nodes, each node with 2x Intel Saphire Rapids 8460Y(64 cores each node)@2,3 GHz e 4 GPUs Nvidia Hopper NGT GPP – Nvidia Grace	A3
LCA-UC	Navigator Navigator +		164 *compute nodes*, each one with 2 Intel Xeon E5-2697v2 (12 cores each CPU) @2.7 GHz 32 *compute nodes*, each one with 2 Intel Xeon Gold 6148 (20 cores each CPU) @2.4 GHz; 4-8 GB-RAM/core; 8 GPU Tesla V100; 2 GPU Nvidia A40 for visualization	A0, A1, A2
HPC-UE	Oblivion		88 *compute nodes*, each one with 2 Intel Xeon Gold 6154 (18 cores each CPU) @3.0 Ghz; 5.33 GB-RAM/core	
	Vision		16 GPU Tesla A100	
INCD	Cirrus-A		CPU AMD EPYC 7501, each one with 500GB-RAM and 64 cores; CPU type AMD Opteron 2356, each one with 32 GB-RAM and 8 cores; (see technical sheet); 5 GB-RAM/core; 4 GPU Tesla T4	
	Stratus	SCC or VRE	vCPU AMD EPYC 7501, each one with 500GB-RAM and 64 cores	

Annotations: The computational allocations per RNCA platform are detailed in the technical sheet of the present call and correspond to the best projection that is possible at the time of publication.

2.5. Beneficiaries and Project Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria, both for beneficiary entities and projects, follow the applicable Regulations, and will be subject to an administrative review to be carried out by FCT. Eligibility is thus not part of the evaluation process.

More on eligibility criteria can be found on Article 6 of Regulations on Advanced Computing Projects. All applications will be subject to an administrative validation prior to the evaluation process.

Each application must include the following information to be provided via online form:

- **duration of the project** that can be up to 6, 12 or 24 months, depending on the respective type of access and computational model (HPC, SCC or VRE).

- total **requested computational resources** according to the type of access and the objectives of the proposed project.
- Indicate the **computational model(s)** along with **platform preference(s)** to execute the project. The same proposed project can apply for more than one computational model (HPC, SCC or VRE) and should indicate platform preference.
- **title and brief description** of the advanced computing project.
- a scientific plus a computational **work plan** and a **justification** for the resources requested.
- brief description of the **work team**, including the identification of the **Responsible Investigator** (IR), who is responsible, for meeting the proposed objectives and rules governing the use of RNCA resources.
- other elements indicated in the application form.

Multiple applications of the same project are allowed for one or more computational models (HPC, SCC or VRE) and for one or more platforms too.

The maximum limit of applications per Principal Investigator (IR) or co-Principal Investigator (co-IR) is as follows:

- Each IR and co-IR may submit a **maximum of ONE application for A2 and A3 access types**.
- Each IR may submit a **maximum of ONE application for A0 and A1 access types every 3 months**, in non-consecutive rounds, always subject to the availability of resources in these types.

3. Evaluation Criteria

In accordance with Article 14 and 15 of the Advanced Computing Projects Regulation, (Regulation No. 10/2022), all applications received will be assessed with the following criteria:

Selection Criteria for A0 – Experimental Access and A1 – Development Access

- Qualitative technical assessment (accepted/not accepted) with the following criteria:
  - T1: Technical fitting to RNCA resources;
  - T2: Computational resources reasonability and capacity planning;
  - T3: Work Plan.

Selection Criteria for A2 – Regular Access and A3 – Larger Access

- Quantitative scientific merit evaluation (100% final grade)
  - S1: Scientific relevance (40%);
  - S2: Impact and innovation (30%);
  - S3: Planning and implementation (30%);
- Qualitative technical assessment (accepted/not accepted) with the following criteria:
  - T1: Technical fitting to RNCA resources;
  - T2: Computational resources reasonability and capacity planning;
  - T3: Work Plan

3.1. Explanation of Main Criteria

3.1.1. Technical assessment

All applications will be assessed by the technical teams that operate the computational platforms. This assessment is merely qualitative and does not interact with the scientific evaluation grades. If required, the technical assessment may redirect projects to a more appropriate system. Outcomes are:

- Accepted - The application fulfils all technical requirements to run on the selected system(s).
- Conditionally accepted - The application does not meet the technical requirements to run in the selected system(s), but the technical reviewers can identify the measure and time frame necessary to meet them.
- Rejected - The application does not meet the minimum technical requirements to run in the selected system(s).

Assessment will be done based in the following criteria:

T1 - TECHNICAL FITTING TO RNCA RESOURCES

What is being assessed?

a) Existence of proposed base software and resources at RNCA platforms, within existing frameworks, including software licenses. The codes necessary for the project must already be available on the system requested or, in case of codes developed by the applicants, they must have been sufficiently tested for efficiency, high scalability, and suitability. For Regular and Larger Accesses, scalability tests must be submitted together with the application.

b) Feasibility of the requested resources. The requested system(s) must be suitable for the proposed project.

T2 - COMPUTATIONAL RESOURCES REASONABILITY AND CAPACITY PLANNING

What is being assessed?

a) Justifications and calculations for requested quantities of CPU core.hours, GPU.hours, RAM, storage.
b) Scalability of software / code.
c) Parameterization and configuration of proposed software/code.

Requested resources and "Justification of computational resources" answer in the form will be useful to check this criterion.

T3 - WORK PLAN

What is being assessed?

a) Identification of the planned activities, their structure and adequacy to the established methods and objectives.
b) Adequacy of the human resources and methodologies to perform the proposed objectives and tasks and meet the proposed deadlines.
c) Quality (clarity, consistency, and adequacy) of the project, taking into consideration the theoretical framework of the research methodology and the work plan.

"Work plan" answer in the form will be useful to check this criterion.

3.1.2. Scientific Merit Evaluation

Only A2 and A3 access types will go through the Scientific Merit Evaluation. For these access types the evaluation of proposals comprises two steps: the scientific merit is assessed by external reviewers' panels followed by a qualitative technical assessment done by the operational centers, according to the criteria described in section 3.1.1.

Scoring is based on a quantitative scale from 0 to 10, with increments of 0.25. Intermediate values can be used for in between situations. The final scores may be rounded up to 2 decimal places:

Score	Explanation
10	Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
8-9	Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
6-7	Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
5	Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3-4	Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
0-2	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.

Minimum threshold for each criterion and final grade is 5.

Formula and Weights – For A2 and A3 applications a final score is generated applying the following formula and weights:

$$Final\ grade = 40\% \times S_1 + 30\% \times S2 + 30\% \times S_3$$

In the event of a tie - If two or more proposals present the same value, as a result of the application of the evaluation criteria, the one with the highest score in the following criteria will be considered the best ranked: S1, followed by S2 and finally S3.

Ranking - A2 and A3 access type applications generate 2 separate rankings per panel. This step will be performed by the scientific panels, according to the scientific sub-area of each application.

The final A2 and A3 rankings, with all panels per access type, will be produced by the access committee with the method 20-40-40 as explained in 4.4.1.

Scientific criteria (S1, S2, S3) are explained and detailed below:

S1 - SCIENTIFIC RELEVANCE

Sub-criterium: S1.1 - Scientific merit of the project

What is being evaluated?

a) Identification of the project objectives and scientific challenges addressed by the proposal.
b) Potential contribution of the research project to the advancement of knowledge.

Sub-criterium: S1.2 - Scientific merit of the Responsible Investigator (IR)

What is being evaluated?

a) Merit of the scientific and professional career of the IR valuing different components: participation in research projects, scientific publications, leadership/organization/participation in networks and conferences, participation in activities of scientific training and management, outreach activities.
b) IR´s qualifications regarding the project's challenges, both at the scientific and management level, as well as the ability to engage young researchers in training.
c) Relevant outcomes of previous projects and their contribution to the advancement of knowledge and to knowledge-based applications, assessed through the qualitative appraisal of publications or other professional and scientific works and actions considered as the most representative of the of the IR's career.

Sub-criterium: S1.3 - Scientific merit of the Research Team

What is being evaluated?

a) Scientific productivity of the team (references to publications and citations in published works, other relevant indicators).
b) Ability to engage young researchers in training.
c) Degree of internationalisation of the team (when appropriate).
d) Availability and commitment of its members (and other entities, when applicable).
e) Level of commitment of any companies participating in the project (if applicable).

Useful EVALUATION TOOLS than can be found within the applications for S1 criteria:

- Project general description
- Project Scope
- Associated scientific/innovation project
- CienciaVitae records
- Team description
- Scientific and computational Work plans

S2 – IMPACT AND INNOVATION

Sub-criterium: S2.1 - Innovative nature of the project

What is being evaluated?

a) Potential for breakthrough and novel findings by comparison with the current state-of-the-art of the scientific area. In case of a project build on existing work, it should include transformative aspects.
b) Methodological innovation, and replication potential.
c) Potential impact of the project's outcomes on the economic, technological, and societal dimensions.

Sub-criterium: S2.2 - Impact of the project

What is being evaluated?

a) Strategy to make the data produced publicly available and openly accessible, including a clearly defined Data Management plan.
b) Intention to disseminate the results in scientific journals and conferences.
c) Proven dissemination of results from previous advanced computing projects funded by FCT (when applicable).

Useful EVALUATION TOOLS than can be found within the applications for S2 criteria:

- Project general description
- Project Scope
- Associated scientific/innovation project
- Scientific work plan
- Previous projects and final reports
- Existence of a Data Management Plan (DMP)

S3 – PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

Sub-criterium: S3.1 – Justification for the computational activity

What is being evaluated?

a) Identification of the link between the advanced computing activities and the tasks of the global scientific project.
b) Impact of the advanced computing project on the goals of the global scientific project
c) How the methodology (methods, algorithms and tools) is used to achieve the goals of the project.

Sub-criterium: S3.2 – Work Plan

What is being evaluated?

a) Identification of the planned activities, their structure and adequacy to the established methods and objectives.

b) Adequacy of the human resources and methodologies to perform the proposed objectives and tasks and meet the proposed deadlines.
c) Quality (clarity, consistency, and adequacy) of the project, taking into consideration the theoretical framework of the research methodology and the work plan.

Sub-criterium: S3.3 - Experience in Advance Computing

What is being evaluated?

a) Level of knowledge/training of the team in advanced computing, including its relevance to the current proposal.
b) Existence of previous advanced computing projects in RNCA or other entities.
c) Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed project in its specific area, considering the team's configuration.
d) Level of experience of the team on the proposed platform, including information of software/codes that have run previously on the proposed platform.

Useful EVALUATION TOOLS than can be found within the applications for S3 criteria:

- Previous projects and final reports
- Previous experience details
- Computational work plan
- Justification of requested resources
- Additional comments

4. Evaluation Process and Procedures

4.1. General Information

- All applications will be analysed according to criteria mentioned in section 3.1.
- FCT is responsible for verifying the eligibility requirements of each project according to factual and legally binding criteria.
- Technical assessment is assessed by staff of the operational centres.
- Scientific evaluation is assessed by scientific external reviewers, according to the scientific sub-area of each application.
- The scientific external reviewer has to declare any Conflict of Interest identified for any particular application.
- A ranked list and an evaluation report will be produced, comprising all applications eligible. The proposed list of ordered projects will be prepared by the access committee, headed by a Coordinator.
- Whenever a particular expertise is not covered by the access committee members, they may ask advice to external counselling.
- The access committee will issue a final report on its activities containing the following elements:
    - The score and comments for each of the evaluation criteria
    - A recommendation section for adjusting computational capacity.
- The access committee members are asked to give support to FCT during the period spanning the evaluation meeting and the final decision (i.e., analysis of potential appeals of technical nature presented by the applicants);
- There is an allocated FCT team for the evaluation process, which will act as the contact point for the staff of the operational centers.

- For A2 and A3 access types, myFCT platform will generate an individual report for each reviewed application, that can be consulted by the IR or co-IR.

4.2. Constitution of the Technical Assessment Panels

Each Operational center will nominate at least 2 elements to perform technical assessment on the applications allocated to them.

4.3. Constitution of the External Scientific Panels

As mentioned before the scientific merit of A2 and A3 applications will be evaluated according to the scientific sub-area of each application. There are the following panels, each of them coordinated by an element designated as such by FCT, I.P:

- P1 – Physics and Mathematics;
- P2 – Chemistry and Materials;
- P3 - Engineering and Technology;
- P4 – Life and Health Sciences;
- P5 – Earth and Environmental Sciences;
- P6 – Social and Economic Sciences.

MyFCT platform will support A2 and A3 scientific evaluation. Scientific Reviewers will receive guidelines on how to access the platform, sign the Term of Responsibility, declare any conflicts of interest (see point 5.2 below) and evaluate each application.

Each application will be automatically integrated in the most relevant panel according to the scientific sub-area filled out by the candidate (check Panels and scientific areas document).

4.3.1. Scientific Evaluation Process

To access scientific merit there will be 3 stages: Individual, Pre-consensus and Panel meeting.

- **Individual stage:** Before accessing each application, the reviewer must declare whether a CoI is identified for that particular application. Each reviewer carefully analyses and grades each of their allocated applications. Each application will be reviewed by 2 different evaluators from the same panel. One is appointed as first reader of each application. The allocation of the applications to Panel Members necessarily takes into consideration any declared Conflict of Interest (CoI), as well as the matching of professional and scientific expertise within the topic of the application.
- **Pre-consensus**: In preparation for the panel meeting, 1st readers will join both individual evaluations for each application. If the 1st reader is unable to reach a pre-consensus report based on the two individual reviews, the Panel Coordinator should settle the difference prior to the panel meeting, whenever possible.
- **Panel meeting**: All evaluations from the same panel will meet (remotely) and a panel ranked list will be produced according to pre-consensus graded applications. The panel coordinator will be responsible for managing this meeting and any discrepancies that might arise from the ranked list. The panel must ensure that each application receives a fair judgement and is discussed appropriately. The panel must settle the final scores for each scientific criterion, as well as the comments to be conveyed to the applicants, and ensure that the scores are in agreement with the comments.

Note: As the ranked list is being produced, the technical assessment will be done by the Operational Centres in separate.

4.4. Constitution of the Access Committee

As stated in the regulations, the access committee is responsible to distribute and propose the resources allocations until they are exhausted for each quota.

- The access committee (AC) is composed of a coordinator nominated by FCT, and an element from each operational centre.
- AC is established by the Internal RNCA Regulations, published under no. 1049/2020 in the official law gazette (*Diário da República*).

4.4.1. Ranking of Proposals and Resources Allocation by the AC

For A0 and A1 accesses: for each round, a ranked list of proposals will be defined according to the above defined criteria and timings – see section 3. AC will integrate and distribute the computational resources according to the quotas of 10% to A0 and 10% to A1 accesses and/or until the resources are exhausted.

For A2 and A3 accesses: each panel generates a ranked list of proposals for each access type according to the defined criteria and weights – see section 3. Then, the AC will integrate and distribute the computational resources by the platforms reserved quota (80% in case of A2), following the 20-40-40 principle:

- 20% of the highest scoring proposals in each panel will have recommended access to 50-100% requested resources, according to the platform preference indicated in the application and its availability.
- 40% of the following proposals will have recommended access to 50-75% of the requested resources.
- The remaining 40% of proposals will have recommended access to 5-25% according to platform availability.

At the end of the process, ranked lists with allocated resources per platform for each Access Type will be produced by the AC, considering the candidate platform preference whenever possible. A0 and A1 accesses will have, respectively, a ranked list for each round, while A2 accesses will have only one and A3 accesses another. All ranked lists will be approved by FCT.

5. Confidentiality and Conflicts of Interest

5.1. Confidentiality

The confidentiality of written applications must be protected. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are asked not to copy, quote, disclose or otherwise use material contained in the applications. All reviewers are requested to accept a statement of confidentiality relative to the contents of the applications and to the results of the evaluation.

5.2. Conflicts of Interest (CoI)

Access committee members or reviewers that have submitted any application to the present Call, as IR, co-IR, team member or consultant to the project, may have to decline participating in the evaluation process.

Moreover, the scientific reviewers on myFCT platform must fill in the conflict statement for all applications assigned under the same scientific panel. CoI subtypes:

- Personal or financial interest in the application's success;
    a) Have a family relationship with the Responsible Investigator (IR) or co-Responsible Investigator (co-IR).
    b) Have a scientific or personal conflict with the IR or co-IR.
    c) Have a financial interest with the IR or co-IR.
- Current or planned close scientific cooperation;
    a) Have ongoing scientific collaboration with the IR or co-IR.
    b) Have published scientific papers with the IR or co-IR in the three years prior to the opening date of the application period.
- Dependent employment relationship or supervisory, within the last 3 years before the opening date of the call.
- To be in any other situation that may raise doubts, either to you or to third parties, to the candidate, regarding your ability to evaluate the application impartially.

6. Glossary

- CoI = Conflict of Interest
- Co-Ir = Co-Responsible Investigator
- FCT-FCCN = unidade de Computação Científica Nacional da FCT
- HPC = High Performance Computing
- HPC-UE = High Performance Computing - Universidade de Évora
- INCD = Infraestrutura Nacional de Computação Distribuída
- IR = Responsible Investigator
- LCA-UC = Laboratório de Computação Avançada da Universidade de Coimbra
- MACC = Minho Advanced Computing Center
- R&D = Research and Development
- R&I = Research and Innovation
- RNCA = National Advanced Computing Network, acronym for Rede Nacional de Computação Avançada
- SR&TD = Scientific Research and Technological Development
- SCC = Scientific Cloud Computing
- VM = Virtual Machine
- VRE = Virtual Research Environment

7. Appendix - Applications Evaluation Calendar

a) A0 – Experimental access and A1 - Development Access

These smaller projects will be fast-track validated with a summarized technical assessment every 2 months.

Applications round	Latest submission date (13h, Lisbon time)	Technical assessment expected from	Preliminary results from
A	30 November 2023	4 December 2023	January 2024
B	1 February 2024	5 February 2024	March 2024
C	30 March 2024	2 April 2024	May 2024
D	30 May 2024	3 June 2024	June 2024

b) A2 – Regular access

This access requires both technical and scientific evaluation. Preliminary evaluation calendar:

Latest submission date (13h, Lisbon time)	Scientific evaluation expected from	Technical assessment expected from	Preliminary results from
19 December 2023	January 2023	March 2024	April/May 2024

a) A3 – Larger access

This access requires both technical and scientific evaluation. Preliminary evaluation calendar:

Latest submission date (13h, Lisbon time)	Scientific evaluation expected from	Technical assessment expected from	Preliminary results from
8 February 2024	February 2023	April 2024	April/May 2024

Last update: 15/11/2023

Resources allocated to this call:

FCT call supported by: