



# Call for Expressions of Interest 2016 for experts to be appointed members of the Scientific Committee of the BBI JU

## 1. The Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking

The Bio-Based Industries Joint Undertaking is a Public-Private Partnership between the European Union and the Bio-based Industries Consortium (BIC). BBI JU is operating under Horizon 2020 rules and its activities are driven by the Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SIRA), which was developed by industry. The BBI JU was established on 6 May 2014 by the Council Regulation (EU) No 560/2014 ([BBI Regulation](#)).

The public founding partner, the European Union is represented by the European Commission (EC). The private founding partner, BIC is a non-profit organisation that was created to represent the industry group that supports the BBI JU. The members of BIC cover the entire bio-based value chain and consist of large industries, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), regional clusters, European trade associations, and European Technology Platforms. The aim of BIC is to ensure and promote the technological and economic development of the bio-based industries in Europe.

BIC developed the SIRA based on extensive consultation with public and private stakeholders. The SIRA describes the main technological and innovation challenges that need to be overcome in order to develop sustainable and competitive bio-based industries in Europe and identifies research, demonstration and deployment activities to be carried out by a Joint Technology Initiative on Bio-based Industries, the BBI JU.

**The mission of BBI JU is to implement the SIRA.** This shall be achieved by means of supporting research and innovation activities by using resources from the public and private sectors. To this end, the BBI JU should organise calls for proposals for supporting research, demonstration and deployment activities.

### The objectives of the BBI JU are:

(a) to contribute to the implementation of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 and in particular Part III of Decision 2013/743/EU.

(b) to contribute to a more resource-efficient and sustainable low-carbon economy and to increasing economic growth and employment, in particular in rural areas, by developing sustainable and competitive bio-based industries in Europe, based on advanced biorefineries that source their biomass sustainably, and in particular to:



- Demonstrate technologies that enable new chemical building blocks, new materials, and new consumer products from European biomass, which replace the need for fossil-based inputs;
- Develop business models that integrate economic actors along the value chain from supply of biomass to biorefinery plants to consumers of bio-based materials, chemicals and fuels, including through creating new cross-sector interconnections and supporting cross-industry clusters; and
- Set-up flagship biorefinery plants that deploy the technologies and business models for bio-based materials, chemicals and fuels and demonstrate cost and performance improvements to levels that are competitive with fossil-based alternatives.

The main decision-making body of the BBI JU is the Governing Board, which carries the overall responsibility for the operations of the BBI JU. The Governing Board is composed of 10 Board members representing equally the two BBI's founding partners, the European Commission and the BIC.

The BBI JU is led by Executive Director, who is responsible for the day-to-day management of the BBI JU and who is supported by the executive programme office

The BBI JU is assisted by two advisory groups: The States Representatives Group and the Scientific Committee.

More information on the BBI JU can be found on the BBI JU website <http://www.bbi-europe.eu>.

## 2. The role of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee is an advisory body of the BBI JU established in accordance with BBI Regulation (Annex: Statutes of the BBI JU, Article 11).

The Scientific Committee assists the BBI JU in providing scientific advice on the areas of work undertaken by the BBI JU,

The Scientific Committee has two major tasks:

- a) Advise on the scientific priorities to be addressed in the annual work plans;
- b) Advise on the scientific achievements described in the annual activity report.

Moreover, the Governing Board can ask the Scientific Committee to provide advice on a specific matter of interest to the BBI JU such as the adjustment of the Strategic Innovation and Research Agenda (SIRA).

## 3. Composition of the Scientific Committee

The Scientific Committee shall consist of no more than fifteen members who are appointed for three years. The appointment can be renewed once for a new three-year term upon a recommendation of



a pre-selection panel<sup>1</sup>, and confirmation by the Governing Board. Each member serves in an independent scientific capacity and do not represent countries, employers nor similar interests. Currently BBI JU has 10 SC members.

The members should reflect a balanced representation of worldwide recognised experts from academia, industry, SMEs, non-governmental organisations and regulatory bodies. Collectively, the Scientific Committee members shall have the necessary scientific competencies and expertise covering the technical domains needed to make science-based recommendations to the BBI JU as well as reflect regional and gender balances to the extent possible. The Scientific Committee has a chairperson and two vice-chairpersons who are elected from amongst its members.

New Members shall be appointed pursuant to the Specific Criteria and Selection Process for the Composition of the Scientific Committee, adopted by the Governing Board, and each time the number of Members becomes less than fifteen.

#### 4. Meetings and indemnities

The members of Scientific Committee are expected to attend its meetings on a regular basis – currently twice per year. Meetings of the Scientific Committee shall normally be held at the BBI JU offices in Brussels. The schedule of such meetings is known at least thirty calendar days in advance.

Members of the Scientific Committee do not receive remuneration but are entitled to an indemnity for each meeting, i.e. reimbursement of travel expenses, a daily allowance and an accommodation allowance in accordance with the European Commission rules for reimbursement of expert's expenses.

#### 5. Scope of the Call

The BBI JU is organising this call to appoint Scientific Committee members with expertise in one or more areas relevant to the work of the BBI JU. BBI JU is looking for highly skilled, open-minded and independent experts with an innovative vision.

##### 5.1 Eligibility Criteria

Candidate Members of the Scientific Committee ('Committee') shall have:

- a) A university degree in a relevant scientific area, preferably at post-graduate level;
- b) At least seven years of relevant professional experience after having obtained the above mentioned degree.

European Commission staff, including external staff working for the Commission, BBI JU staff, officials of Member States, and of national, regional or local authorities are not eligible candidates.

Persons who are employed by an organisation that is full member<sup>2</sup> of BIC are not eligible candidates.

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<sup>1</sup> See section 6.1 of this call.

<sup>2</sup> As described in the [BIC statutes](#).



Persons who participate in consortia under the BBI JU, either in their personal capacity, or as representative of the organisations to which they belong are eligible candidates according to the [Scientific Committee Rules of Procedures](#)).

The candidates should have a very good command of written and spoken English.

## 5.2 Selection Criteria

Eligible expressions of interest will be subject to a comparative evaluation. Candidate Members of the Scientific Committee must have proven competence and expertise in some or all of the following areas:

- 1) Areas of relevance to bio-based industries, including at European and/or international level such as biomass supply and pre-treatment, transformation/conversion, downstream processing, market uptake of bio-based products, sustainability, international and regional dimensions
- 2) Areas of horizontal nature, including cross-cutting issues of relevance to Horizon 2020 and in particular bio-based industries; These consist of: international cooperation; multidisciplinary, including social and economic sciences, and humanities, and cross-cutting research and innovation (including demonstration and deployment); responsible research and innovation, including gender; bridging from discovery to market application; sustainable development and climate change; dissemination, knowledge transfer and broader public engagement; SMEs, and societal and economic impact, financial/business background; understanding of the full value-chain.
- 3) Industrial R&D;
- 4) Cooperation projects with academia and industry, including EU projects;
- 5) Peer-reviewing scientific work;
- 6) Research organisation and management;
- 7) Providing scientific advice in areas relevant to bio-based industries;

## 5.3 Application procedure

Interested candidates are requested to submit their expression of interest by providing the following documents:

- 1) A curriculum vitae. The CV shall contain a list of the applicant's scientific publications, preferably in English, and other professional experience.
- 2) A signed letter of motivation providing an overview of the areas of technical expertise and experience in the relevant field, demonstrating ability to perform the role of a Scientific Committee member. The letter should contain also a declaration on any potential conflict of interest in relation to BBI JU stakeholders and areas of activities which may undermine the performance of the tasks;
- 3) Scanned copies of diplomas and relevant certificates.



Candidates are requested to send their expression of interest with the enclosed supporting documents to [SC.candidates@BBI.europa.eu](mailto:SC.candidates@BBI.europa.eu) by 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at 12.00 (noon) Central European Time.

Supporting documents may be requested at a later stage.

All expressions of interest will be treated as confidential.

## 6 Selection process

Scientific Committee members are identified through an open call process published in the Official Journal. A reserve list with short listed candidates will be created, which will be valid for 3 years. The candidates will be selected by the BBI JU Governing Board on the basis of a recommendation from the pre-selection panel.

### 6.1 Pre-selection

The BBI JU Executive Director will appoint and chair a pre-selection panel, composed of two members of the BBI JU senior scientific staff and two independent senior scientific experts. The BBI JU shall ensure the secretariat, and receive, register and file all applications and other relevant documents.

The pre-selection panel shall verify the eligibility of the candidates in accordance with the requirements set out in the point 5 of this call. A candidate who does not meet all the eligibility criteria will be ineligible and be excluded from the next steps of the selection process.

The pre-selection panel shall assess each eligible candidate against the requirements for selection set out in point 5.2. It shall draw up an 'Individual Assessment Form' which shall grade each candidate on each requirement and contain a summary of the total grading.

The Executive Director of BBI JU shall present the results of the pre-selection process to the Governing Board, indicating the candidates proposed by the BBI JU State Representative Groups (SRG), and including information on the candidates deemed ineligible.

### 6.2 Selection

1. The BBI JU Governing Board will assess all eligible candidates on the basis of the selection requirements mentioned in point 5.2.

2. In this assessment the Governing Board will take into account:

- a) The results of the work of the pre-selection panel;
- b) The candidates proposed by the States Representatives Group;
- c) The need to reflect a balanced representation of world-wide recognised experts from academia, industry, small and medium enterprises, non-governmental organisations and regulatory bodies;
- d) The need to have the necessary scientific competencies and expertise covering the technical domain needed to make science-based recommendations to the BBI Joint Undertaking;
- e) The need to ensure geographical and gender balance.



- f) The geographical origin will be treated as specific secondary criterion while maintaining expertise as the primary criterion.

3. The Governing Board shall establish a shortlist of fifteen candidates who are considered best suited for appointment, as well as a reserve list of at most fifteen candidates. These lists will include merit points and a conclusion concerning the suitability as a Member of the Committee for each candidate.

4. The Governing Board can, in justified cases, and especially due to changes in the current Scientific Committee membership or the need to cover of missing expertise based on gap analysis, establish a new shortlist or reserve list, from the initial pool of eligible candidates within the period of 5 years, or if this is not possible, by launching a new selection procedure.

5. The BBI JU will inform the applicants of the outcome of the process.

## **7 Appointment and term**

The experts who meet best the selection criteria will be appointed for a term of three years which may be renewed once for a maximum of another three-year period. It is foreseen to appoint 5 experts in spring 2017.

## **8 Confidentiality**

For each task they perform, the selected Members of the Scientific Committee shall demonstrate appropriate ethical conduct and must respect the confidentiality of the information and documents to which they will have access.

## **9 Independence and absence of conflict of interest**

Selected members of the Scientific Committee will be appointed on a personal basis. They are required to sign declaration of absence of conflict of interest as required under the BBI JU Regulation. Applicants are invited to indicate already at application stage in the motivation letter their direct or indirect involvement (if any) in the activities which may be deemed prejudicial to their independence.

## **10 Equal opportunity**

The BBI JU applies the EU policy of equal opportunities and accepts applications without distinction on the grounds of age, race, political, philosophical or religious conviction, gender or sexual orientation and regardless of disabilities, material status or family situation.

## **11 Protection of personal data**

The BBI JU will ensure that candidates' personal data are processed as required by Regulation (EC) No 45/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18.12.2003 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data by the Community institutions and bodies and on the free movement of such data. This applies in particular to the confidentiality and security of such data.