

Additional Ethics Info Report

Call Reference	H2020-SU-SEC-2019
Proposal Number	
Acronym	

The following additional information is needed to complete the ethics review:

Article 19(2) of Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020, stipulates that “Research and innovation activities carried out under Horizon 2020 shall have an exclusive focus on civil applications.” However, the [REDACTED] project proposal indicates a military focus. The project claims that the enhancement of civil-military interoperability and the improvement of the competitiveness of Europe’s defence industry are its major objectives [REDACTED]. The project also involves the key players mentioned in the market report and the primary distribution partners are presented as world leaders in the defence industry. In addition, the [REDACTED] proposal also states that it aims to improve the competitiveness of Europe’s defence industry by developing dual-use technology, as it will reduce costs [REDACTED]. Moreover, the language used in the Letter of Clarification provided by the [REDACTED] Project Coordinator (dated 20 November 2019) also is ambiguous on the exclusive focus on civil use applications, with statements such as, [REDACTED]

Thus, the Horizon 2020 funding requirement for an exclusive focus on civil applications needs further explanation and clarification. We draw attention to two documents: (1) the European Commission’s “Guidance note — Research with an exclusive focus on civil applications” (available at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/other/hi/guide_research-civil-apps_en.pdf), which provides some guidelines to help applicants determine whether or not their research meets this criterion. It is noted that this document states: “Only research and innovation activities focusing on civil applications are eligible for funding under Horizon 2020. Research intended to be used in military applications, cannot be funded under this framework programme.” It also states: “Research on defence related subjects may still qualify for funding, as long as its aims are exclusively focused on civil applications.” With reference to this document, additional information is needed as to how the [REDACTED] has an exclusive focus on civil applications (with an emphasis on the exclusivity component); (2) the European Commission’s “Horizon 2020 Programme: Guidance: How to complete your ethics self-assessment”, version 6.1 (4 February 2019) (available at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf). Page 35 of this document explains the exact meaning of the “exclusive focus on civil applications”. This document, too, may provide useful guidance as to the kind of additional information needed to determine how the [REDACTED] project has an exclusive focus on civil applications (with an emphasis on the exclusivity).

In sum, additional information is needed on two aspects regarding the Horizon 2020 funding requirement for an exclusive focus on civil applications: (1) Explanation regarding

the *exclusive* civilian focus of the research; and (2) Justification of the inclusion of military partners or military technologies (i.e. explain how they relate to civilian applications, e.g. in the context of law enforcement activities).

Please submit the missing information — within 2 weeks of receiving this letter — via your

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