Grant Agreement Number: 101249723, Project URL: https://aenaon-project.eu/, Funding Authority: European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC), Call Identifier: DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07-LARGEOPER

AENAON

Ex-Ante cybersecurity Federated Digital Twin-based Cyber Range and managed security services for offshore wind farms

Annex 3

Version 1.0

AENAON TECHNICAL PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

OPEN CALL 1

JULY 2026

This document is published in the context of and for the objectives of the AENAON project. AENAON is funded by the European Union under the DIGITAL Europe Programme, Grant Agreement No. 101249723. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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Instructions for Applicants

Delete this instruction page before submitting the proposal. Delete all grey guidance text and placeholders. Do not modify section headings, table structures or mandatory declarations unless expressly permitted by the Open Call Notice.

Language	English
Submission format	PDF, submitted through the official AENAON Open Call portal
Technical proposal page limit	Maximum 10 A4 pages, covering Sections 0–5. The cover page, this instruction page, Section 6 (Mandatory Applicant Declarations), Section 7 (Proposal Package Checklist) and separately submitted mandatory annexes are excluded from the page limit. Pages beyond the limit will be disregarded during evaluation, unless the relevant Open Call Notice specifies otherwise.
Font and size	Arial, minimum 10 pt
Line spacing	Single
Margins	At least 1.5 cm on all sides
Open Call 1 duration	8 months
Open Call 2 duration	10 months
Funding rate	50% of the eligible sub-project budget
Maximum AENAON support	Up to EUR 100,000 per participating legal entity, cumulatively across both Open Calls

Recommended allocation within the 10-page limit: General Information 1 page; Excellence 2 pages; Impact 2 pages; Implementation 4 pages; Ethics/IPR 1 page in total.

Important submission rules

- Use the official template and complete every mandatory section and table.
- Provide information that is clear, concise, verifiable and consistent across the technical proposal, application form, budget and declarations.
- Do not include sensitive vulnerability details, credentials, identifiable infrastructure configurations or other operationally sensitive information unless strictly necessary. Mark specific sensitive passages [CONFIDENTIAL] in accordance with the Guidelines for Applicants.
- The final Open Call Notice, the '**AENAON Open Call 1 – List of Eligible Countries'**, the Guidelines for Applicants and the other documents published as part of the official Open Call package are the source of truth for dates, country eligibility, award conditions, submission requirements and contractual clauses.
- Pages beyond the 10-page limit for Sections 0–5 will be disregarded during evaluation.

Each participating legal entity must be established in a country included in the definitive '**AENAON Open Call 1 – List of Eligible Countries.'** For consortium proposals, the inclusion of one legal entity established in an ineligible country will render the entire proposal ineligible

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0. General Information

Open Call round	[Select: Open Call 1 / Open Call 2]
Proposal acronym	[Maximum 20 characters]
Full proposal title	[Insert title]
Lead applicant / coordinator	[Legal name]
Proposal duration	[8 months for OC1 / 10 months for OC2]
Total eligible sub-project budget (EUR)	[Insert amount]
AENAON financial support requested (EUR)	[Maximum 50% of eligible budget; cumulative ceiling applies per legal entity]
Co-funding amount (EUR)	[Insert amount and source]
Primary AENAON capability area	[Cyber Range Platform / Training / Ex-ante services / Integration and validation]

Eligibility note: Every participating legal entity must be legally established in one of the 27 Member States of the European Union, Iceland, Liechtenstein or Norway, or in another country expressly confirmed as eligible for Specific Objective 3 – Cybersecurity and Trust in the definitive 'AENAON Open Call 1 – List of Eligible Countries.' Applicants established in countries associated with the Digital Europe Programme only for Specific Objectives 1, 2, 4 or 5 are not eligible. For consortium proposals, if any participating legal entity is established in an ineligible country, the entire proposal will be declared ineligible and will not proceed to quality evaluation.

Applicant / consortium composition

No.	Legal name	Short name	Country	Organisation type	Role	Eligible budget (EUR)	AENAON support requested (EUR)	PIC or equivalent identifier	Country eligibility confirmed?
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Yes/No]

Add rows as necessary. For small consortia, identify one lead applicant/coordinator. The cumulative EUR 100,000 ceiling applies separately to each participating legal entity across both Open Calls.

The lead applicant is responsible for verifying that every consortium member satisfies the applicable country-eligibility requirements before submission.

Proposal summaries

0.1 Confidential abstract

Provide a concise summary for evaluation purposes (maximum 2,000 characters including spaces). This abstract will not be published. If your proposal contains information you consider genuinely sensitive — for example OT/IT infrastructure details, vulnerability or incident information, proprietary methods, or commercially sensitive data — you may designate it as confidential in accordance with Section 17 of the Guidelines for Applicants. List each element below. Do not designate the entire proposal as confidential; identify specific sections, passages or data, and mark the corresponding text in the proposal body with [CONFIDENTIAL] at its start and end. AENAON will respect these designations subject to its legal and audit obligations. Leaving this section blank means no part of your proposal is designated confidential.

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[Applicant response]

0.2 Public summary

Provide a security-cleared, non-confidential summary suitable for publication (maximum 2,000 characters including spaces). Do not include sensitive operational, commercial or cybersecurity information.

[Applicant response]

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1. Excellence

This section addresses the Excellence evaluation category. Explain the proposed concept, technical approach, innovation and alignment with the relevant AENAON Open Call. Each sub-criterion is scored from 0 to 5.

1.1 Technical and methodological quality

Describe the challenge, objectives, use case and methodology. Explain the technical approach for using, integrating, validating or extending relevant AENAON tools, services and platform assets. Address technical maturity, assumptions, dependencies, interoperability and operational relevance to offshore wind or related critical infrastructure.

[Applicant response]

Objectives and measurable outcomes

Objective ID	Objective	Related AENAON capability / call scope	Expected measurable outcome	Verification method
OBJ-1	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
OBJ-2	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

1.2 Innovation potential

Explain the novelty, technological advancement or originality of the idea compared with existing practice. Identify the starting maturity and the advancement expected through the sub-project.

[Applicant response]

1.3 Alignment with AENAON objectives

Explain how the proposal contributes to AENAON objectives, the scope of the selected Open Call, expected use cases and the uptake or validation of AENAON tools, services and platform capabilities. Identify the relevant eligible activity code(s) from the Guidelines/Open Call Notice.

[Applicant response]

AENAON assets and services to be used

Asset / service	Purpose in the sub-project	Access or integration needed	Applicant background brought to the action	Expected validation / improvement
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

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2. Impact

This section addresses the Impact evaluation category. Explain the expected benefits, exploitation and ecosystem contribution. Each sub-criterion is scored from 0 to 5.

2.1 Expected outcomes and benefits

Describe the expected technical, operational, organisational, regulatory, economic and sectoral outcomes. Explain the contribution to target communities, offshore wind stakeholders and measurable cybersecurity preparedness or resilience results.

[Applicant response]

Impact indicators and KPIs

KPI ID	KPI name	Definition / measurement method	Baseline	Target	Evidence source	Timing
KPI-1	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
KPI-2	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
KPI-3	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

Applicants must define realistic and measurable sub-project KPIs proportionate to the scope, scale and complexity of the proposed action. Relevant indicators may include offshore-wind cybersecurity risk scenarios, penetration-testing or validation activities, industry stakeholder engagement, platform integration, simulations, resilience exercises and training activities. The AENAON targets of more than 20 risk scenarios, more than 10 penetration tests and more than five industry stakeholders are collective targets across the relevant funded Open Call projects and are not minimum requirements for each individual applicant.

2.2 Dissemination and exploitation strategy

Describe plans for knowledge sharing, adoption, sustainability, exploitation and market or operational uptake. Distinguish public outputs from confidential or security-sensitive results. Explain how required EU and AENAON visibility obligations will be met.

[Applicant response]

2.3 Contribution to the AENAON ecosystem

Explain the strategic value, stakeholder engagement and potential for real-world uptake, including contribution to the validation, improvement, replication or wider adoption of AENAON assets and services.

[Applicant response]

2.4 Gender equality, diversity and inclusive participation

Describe credible and proportionate measures supporting gender equality, diversity and inclusive participation in the sub-project, including where relevant team composition, governance, stakeholder engagement, training or dissemination activities. Assessment is based only on information explicitly provided here.

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[Applicant response]

3. Implementation

This section addresses the Implementation evaluation category. Provide a realistic and internally coherent work plan aligned with the applicable 8-month or 10-month implementation period and the milestone-linked payment structure.

3.1 Work plan and methodological coherence

Explain the logical structure of activities and the consistency between objectives, tasks, deliverables and timing. Include planned onboarding, integration, testing or validation activities involving AENAON tools/services.

[Applicant response]

Work packages / activities

WP / Activity	Lead	Objectives and description	Start month	End month	Outputs / deliverables	Dependencies
WP1	[Insert]	[Insert]	M[ ]	M[ ]	[Insert]	[Insert]
WP2	[Insert]	[Insert]	M[ ]	M[ ]	[Insert]	[Insert]
WP3	[Insert]	[Insert]	M[ ]	M[ ]	[Insert]	[Insert]

Deliverables and payment milestones

ID	Deliverable / milestone	Description and acceptance evidence	Due month	Responsible partner	Payment stage	Public / confidential
D1	Project Plan / onboarding package	Detailed work plan, KPI targets, risk register, budget/co-funding confirmation and data/security arrangements	M1	[Insert]	30% following signature of the Sub-Grant Agreement and completion of the required onboarding arrangements	Confidential
D2	Mid-term progress package	Progress report, technical evidence, KPI status and milestone evidence	OC1: M5	[Insert]	40% after acceptance	Confidential
D3	Final results package	Final report, deliverables, KPI evidence, validation results, lessons learned and security-cleared public summary	OC1: M8	[Insert]	30% after acceptance	Mixed

3.2 Management structure and governance

Describe the management setup, partner roles, coordination mechanisms, decision-making workflows, escalation routes and financial accountability. Explain how the lead applicant will coordinate any small consortium.

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[Applicant response]

Partner roles and responsibilities

Partner	Main role	Key tasks / WPs	Decision-making responsibility	Effort (person-months)
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

3.3 Resource allocation and budgeting

Justify the requested resources and demonstrate cost-efficiency and financial realism. Explain the proportionality of requested support to use of AENAON tools/services, integration effort, validation activities and expected contribution to AENAON objectives.

[Applicant response]

Budget overview by partner

Partner	Personnel	Travel	Equipment	Other direct costs	Subcontracting	Total eligible budget	AENAON support requested (50%)
[Partner 1]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]
[Partner 2]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]
TOTAL	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]	EUR [ ]

The budget is used for right-sizing and contracting. AENAON funding covers 50% of the eligible sub-project budget. The maximum support is EUR 100,000 per participating legal entity cumulatively across both Open Calls. No double funding is permitted. Where the amount requested by the next-ranked proposal exceeds the budget remaining under the Open Call, AENAON may offer support limited to the remaining available amount. In such a case, the applicant may be invited during contracting to submit a proportionately revised scope, work plan, budget, milestones and deliverables. Acceptance of a reduced amount is voluntary and subject to AENAON approval of the revised action.

3.4 Risk identification and mitigation

Identify technical, operational, integration, security, legal, data protection, resource and schedule risks. Explain credible mitigation and contingency measures.

[Applicant response]

Risk ID	Risk description	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation / contingency	Owner	Trigger / monitoring indicator
R1	[Insert]	Low/Med/High	Low/Med/High	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

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R2	[Insert]	Low/Med/High	Low/Med/High	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
R3	[Insert]	Low/Med/High	Low/Med/High	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

3.5 Team experience and capacity

Describe the expertise, track record and complementarity of the applicant or consortium. Demonstrate capacity in cybersecurity, offshore wind/energy, OT/IT, digital twins, cyber ranges, risk assessment, validation and project delivery, as relevant.

[Applicant response]

Core team

Name	Partner	Role	Relevant expertise	Relevant experience / projects	Person-months	Profile link (optional)
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

3.6 Monitoring and quality assurance

Describe progress tracking, internal quality controls, KPI monitoring, deliverable review, change control and evidence management. Explain how the team will cooperate with AENAON technical monitoring and review meetings.

[Applicant response]

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4. Ethics, Security, Data Protection and Confidentiality

Complete this section for all proposals. Provide proportionate detail. Additional evidence may be requested during evaluation or contracting.

Country-of-establishment eligibility and ownership-and-control compliance are separate requirements. An entity established in an eligible country may still be subject to an ownership-and-control assessment under Annex 7.

4.1 Ethics and EU values self-assessment

Question	Yes / No	Explanation, safeguards and required approvals
Does the action involve human participants, personal data or monitoring of individuals?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Does the action involve sensitive operational, infrastructure, incident or vulnerability information?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Does the action involve cybersecurity testing that could affect live or operational systems?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Does the action involve dual-use potential or tools that could be misused?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Does the action involve export-control, sanctions or strategic-autonomy considerations?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Does the action involve EU-classified information or information subject to specific security restrictions?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Does the action require ethics committee, data protection officer, operator or competent-authority approval?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Could the action create environmental, safety or operational risks through testing or simulation?	[Yes/No]	[Insert]

4.2 Cybersecurity and responsible disclosure

Describe technical and organisational security measures, access control, secure environments, handling of vulnerabilities, responsible disclosure, incident notification and protection of OT/IT or digital-twin configurations.

[Applicant response]

4.3 Data protection

Where personal data are involved, describe the data categories, purpose, lawful basis, roles, minimisation, retention, access controls, cross-border transfers, data-subject procedures, pseudonymisation/anonymisation and breach response.

[Applicant response]

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4.4 Confidential information designation

Do not designate the complete proposal as confidential. Identify only specific passages or annexes whose disclosure could create security, commercial, data-protection or operational risks, according to Section 18 of the Guidelines for Applicants.

Document / section	Information designated confidential	Reason / risk	Proposed handling restriction
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

5. IPR, Background, Results and Access Rights

The information provided in this section must be consistent with the separately submitted Annex 9 – IPR and Background Declaration.

5.1 Background and third-party rights

Identify pre-existing software, data, models, tools, standards materials, licences and third-party rights required for the action. Explain that the applicant has or can obtain the necessary rights.

[Applicant response]

Owner	Background / asset	Purpose	Licence / access conditions	Restrictions	Open-source component?
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]
[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]	[Insert]

5.2 Expected results and ownership

Identify the expected results and proposed ownership. Explain any joint ownership, access rights, licensing, interoperability or contribution to AENAON assets that may require contractual clarification.

[Applicant response]

5.3 Exploitation and sustainability

Explain how results will be maintained, exploited, replicated or adopted after the sub-project, including expected users, business/operational model, standards or policy relevance and dependencies.

[Applicant response]

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6. Mandatory Applicant Declarations

The legal representative or authorised signatory must confirm the statements below. Separate signed declarations may also be required as annexes to the online submission.

Declaration	Confirmed (Yes/No)	Comments / reference to supporting document
The information in this proposal is complete, accurate and consistent with the application form and supporting documents.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
The applicant and, where applicable, every consortium member is legally established in a country included in the definitive “AENAON Open Call 1 – List of Eligible Countries.”	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
For a consortium proposal, the undersigned understands that if any consortium member fails the applicable country-eligibility requirements, the entire proposal will be declared ineligible.		[Insert if applicable]
The applicant and, where applicable, every consortium member is neither an AENAON Grant Agreement beneficiary nor an affiliated entity of an AENAON beneficiary.		[Insert if applicable]
No participating legal entity will exceed the cumulative EUR 100,000 AENAON FSTP ceiling across both Open Calls.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
The proposed action and costs are not funded through another public source in a manner that constitutes double funding.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
The applicant can provide the required 50% co-funding and has adequate operational and financial capacity.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
All actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest have been disclosed.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
The applicant and each participating legal entity will submit the required Ownership and Control Declaration and comply with the applicable ownership-and-control, security, sanctions and strategic-autonomy requirements.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
The applicant will comply with ethics, security, confidentiality, GDPR, ownership/control, sanctions, export-control and EU strategic-autonomy requirements.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]
The applicant accepts that the final published Open Call package, the Sub-Grant Agreement and applicable EU rules prevail in the event of inconsistency.	[ ]	[Insert if applicable]

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Prior AENAON funding

Legal entity	Previous AENAON Open Call / proposal	Amount awarded (EUR)	Amount requested in this proposal (EUR)	Cumulative total (EUR)	Maximum remaining AENAON eligibility (EUR)
[Insert / Not applicable]	[Insert / Not applicable]	[Insert / Not applicable]	[Insert / Not applicable]	[Insert / Not applicable]	[Insert / Not applicable]

Authorised signatory

Legal entity	[Insert]
Name and position	[Insert]
Date	[Insert]
Signature	[Insert or sign through the submission system]

7. Proposal Package Checklist

Document	Included?	Notes
Online application form	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Annex 3 – AENAON Technical Proposal Template	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Budget and co-funding justification	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Legal-entity information and registration evidence	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Annex 5 – Declaration of Honour for each participating legal entity	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Annex 6 – Consortium and partner declaration(s), where applicable	[Yes/Not applicable]	[Insert]
Annex 7 – Ownership and Control Declaration for each participating legal entity	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Annex 8 – No Double Funding Declaration for each partivipating legal entity	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Annex 9 – IPR amd background Declaration	[Yes/No]	[Insert]
Additional supporting Documents required by the Open Call Notice	[Yes/Not applicable]	[Insert]

END OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL TEMPLATE