

Tire Industry Project 2025 Open Call for Projects

Call Document



World Business
Council
for Sustainable
Development



Tire Industry
Project

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1. Introduction

The Tire Industry Project (TIP) is issuing this Open Call for Projects (OCP) for research proposals in the field of ecotoxicology of tire and road wear particles (TRWP). Applicants should read the OCP materials carefully, paying particular attention to this document.

This document includes the following sections:

- [Section 2. Background](#): General overview and rationale.
- [Section 3. Grant Objectives](#): Specific scope and objectives.
- [Section 4. Budget](#): Information about the available funding.
- [Section 5. Timeline](#): Key dates and milestones.
- [Section 6. Eligibility Criteria](#): Eligibility criteria applicants must meet.
- [Section 7. Admissibility and Documents](#): Mandatory documents to be submitted as part of the submission.
- [Section 8. Evaluation procedure](#): Overall evaluation process
- [Section 9. Award Criteria](#): Criteria for the awarding of grants.
- [Section 10. Submission Process](#): Instructions for the submission process.
- [Section 11. Support and Enquiries](#): Contact details for general enquiries.

Applicants are also encouraged to visit TIP's website, which includes information regarding this OCP, a link to the Call webinar(s), including FAQs that will be updated following the webinars, an online portal to be used to submit proposals, as well as an online form to contact the TIP WBCSD team for any questions applicants may have.

2. Background

Formed in 2005, TIP is a voluntary, CEO-driven initiative with a mission to anticipate, understand, and address global environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues relevant to the tire industry and its value chain. Currently TIP brings together 10 leading tire companies, collectively representing over 60% of the global tire manufacturing capacity. TIP is facilitated by World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). TIP commissions independent research of the highest standards, collaborates on sectoral solutions, and engages with external stakeholders.

Through this OCP, TIP intends to fund innovative ecotoxicology research activities that can result in meaningful impact and a diversified project portfolio for TIP at a global level.

3. Grant Objectives

The goal of this TIP OCP is to contribute to fund rigorous research projects that align with TIP's objectives and priorities and contribute to addressing the following knowledge gaps in the field of ecotoxicology: Assess and measure potential ecological impacts (real-world, lab-based or in silico) from tire wear emissions, during the use phase of a tire, including tire chemicals, leachates and their transformation products.

Projects are expected to produce relevant scientific results to the scientific field, ideally culminating in a publication in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

Examples of topics eligible for funding under this OCP include, but are not limited to:

- Impact assessments of aquatic and terrestrial organisms, without limitations on endpoints such as acute, chronic, lethal, or sublethal effects;
- Investigations of transformation processes of tire-associated emissions (particles, leachates and remaining materials after degradation), preferably separating the tire contribution from other sources, and their exposure potential under environmentally relevant conditions;
- Development/improvement of test methods (including in-vitro and computational modeling) for assessing the ecotoxicological potential of tire-associated materials and their transformation products, including TRWP.

4. Budget

The maximum grant for each project is \$400,000.

Please note: TIP will not directly transfer financial support to third parties involved in the execution of the research projects awarded with a grant.

5. Timeline

Call Opening	26 August 2025
Call Webinar	23 September 2025
Deadline for Submission of Proposals	15 January 2026 – 17:00:00 CET
Completion of the Evaluation	16 March 2026
Notification of Evaluation Results	15 May 2026
Fund Agreement Signature	1 September 2026

The dates above may be subject to changes.

6. Eligibility criteria

Applicants must review the eligibility criteria associated with this OCP carefully to ensure they meet all requirements before submitting their proposals.

To be eligible for consideration and funding, applicants must demonstrate a clear alignment with the Scope of this OCP, uphold scientific credibility, and articulate the pursuit of tangible outcomes.

Basic eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible, applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- Be active legal entity (public or private bodies)
- Not be subject to any sanctions or prohibitions pursuant to Article 1 of the Swiss Federal Act on the Implementation of International Sanctions, or any sanctions laws or regulations of the European Union, Korea, Japan, the United States, or any other jurisdiction applicable to TIP Member companies (collectively Sanctions Measures).

Proposals must adhere to the established submission protocol, which entails a single-stage submission followed by an evaluation process.

Applicants may be requested at a later stage to submit official documents verifying their eligibility.

Only projects that have not started at the time of submission can be funded.¹

Specific cases

- **Not eligible:** Natural people or entities devoid of legal personality under their respective national law
- **Eligible:** International organizations, Government and State bodies are eligible to apply for funding.

Consortia

Proposals submitted by a consortium of applicants must adhere to the following requirements:

- Each member within the consortium must fulfil all eligibility criteria.
- A single partner must be designated as the coordinator and representative of the consortium.
- The consortium must collectively adhere to the budget framework outlined in section 4.

Geographical location (target countries)

There is no restriction on the location of projects, subject to any restrictions imposed by Sanctions Measures.

Duration

Projects must be completed within 18 months.

Project teams must be able to initiate work no more than 3 months following the signing of the Grant Agreement.

Project Budget

Project budget funded by TIP cannot exceed \$400,000 per project. Applicants are required to declare any additional funding from other external sources for the same project. It is also important to understand that the grant awarded by TIP may be less than the amount requested.

Financial capacity

Applicants must demonstrate stable and adequate resources to successfully execute projects associated with this OCP and fulfill their financial commitments. Organizations involved in multiple projects must possess and demonstrate sufficient capacity to manage them effectively.

Financial capacity assessments will rely on documents submitted during the grant preparation. Evaluations will utilize impartial financial indicators, considering factors like capacity to raise funds beyond TIP.

All beneficiaries are typically subject to financial checks, except public bodies or international organizations. Affiliated entities may also undergo assessments if necessary.

¹ "Start of works" refers to the first commitment that makes the project irreversible.

In instances of inadequate financial capacity, additional information may be required. Measures such as enhanced financial responsibility arrangements, installment prefinancing, prefinancing guarantees, or the elimination of prefinancing might be proposed. In extreme cases, this could lead to either the replacement or rejection of the proposal.

Exclusion

Applicants will be disqualified if subject to bankruptcy, court-administered winding up, arrangements with creditors, or similar legal proceedings. Furthermore, applicants will be disqualified in case of any breach or official public incrimination and/or sanctions related to fiscal obligations, professional conduct, fraud, corruption, and other criminal activities. Additionally, significant non-compliance with contractual obligations or creation of entities to evade legal responsibilities will result in disqualification.

7. Admissibility and Documents

Applicants should ensure that proposals are submitted:

- In English
- Before the submission deadline 15 January 2026 – 17:00:00 CET
- Using the online submission form on the OCP section of TIP's website (<https://tireindustryproject.org/>). Paper submissions are NOT accepted.
- Containing all the following documents:
 - ✓ Concept Note using the template word document (4 pages limit).
 - ✓ Submission form, using the template word document, containing:
 - i. Detailed project description, including at least: an introduction (contextual background, research objectives, and hypotheses); literature review (critical analysis of existing knowledge gap); methodology (research design, experimental methods, and approaches to data analysis); technological innovation (innovation beyond the state of the art).
 - ii. Work plan and timeline (work packages, tasks, milestones, deliverables); budget justification; project risk assessment and mitigation strategies.
 - iii. Environmental and socio-economic impacts; potential commercialization (if any).
 - ✓ Budget and timeline table, using the template excel document, ensuring that the entered/calculated amounts correspond to those in the submission. For equipment, only depreciation incurred during the project duration is eligible for funding. In case of discrepancies, the amounts in the budget table will prevail (no hard coded figures, nor macros).
 - ✓ Brief CVs of the core project team (each CV must not exceed 4 pages).
 - ✓ Declaration of Compliance, signed by authorized representative.
 - ✓ Optional annex: agreements and endorsements (e.g., letters of support, MoUs, indicative terms of agreement, conflict of interest disclosure) from key suppliers, construction/EPC parties, license or any intellectual property rights, permits related to environmental aspects and authorizations, if any.
- The sum of all documents cannot exceed a total of **50 pages**. Proposals exceeding such criteria will not be accepted.
- The individual submitting the proposal should confirm via the online submission form:
 - ✓ the mandate to act on behalf of the other applicant(s)/entity(ies),
 - ✓ that the information provided in the submission is accurate and complete,
 - ✓ that participants/entities meet all the listed conditions for receiving funding.
- Before signing the agreement, each beneficiary and affiliated entity will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honor. Submissions not fulfilling such requirements will be rejected.

Additional documents might be requested at a later stage for matters including, but not limited to, legal entity validation, financial capacity check, or bank account validation.

8. Evaluation procedure

All proposals will be reviewed by an **evaluation committee**, with an initial check focused on the fulfilment of the formal requirements (admissibility, and eligibility, see sections 6 and 7). Proposals found admissible and eligible will be evaluated against the award criteria (see section 9) and then ranked according to their scores.

For proposals achieving identical scores, priority will be determined based on their respective scores for the 'Applicant's capabilities and personnel qualifications' award criterion. Should these scores also be identical, priority will then be established according to their scores for the 'Relevance to objectives' criterion (see section 9).

All applicants will be notified of the evaluation result. Successful proposals will be invited for grant signature while the remaining proposals will either be placed on a reserve list or rejected. Rejected proposals will be notified by email to the main applicant, but no information on the evaluation report will be disclosed.

Applicants have no right to appeal against the decisions made by the evaluation committee, which are to be considered final and binding.

9. Award Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the specified criteria. Proposals will be ranked based on their total scores, with higher-scoring proposals receiving priority consideration for funding.

Applicants' capabilities and personnel qualifications

This criterion evaluates the relevance and depth of experience of the applicant teams, including individual personnel and associated organization(s). The qualifications and expertise of key personnel involved in the project will be assessed, including their ability to contribute effectively. Additionally, the criterion examines demonstrated success in implementing similar initiatives or projects, as well as the track record of - or potential for establishing - strategic partnerships and collaborations.

Relevance to objectives

This criterion assesses the extent to which the proposal aligns with the objectives and scope of this OCP, focusing specifically on the objectives set forth in section 3.

Feasibility and methodology

This criterion evaluates the proposed project's feasibility and methodology including:

- the clarity, organization, definition, and coherence of the project plan and timeline;
- the adequacy of the proposed resources, methodology, and infrastructure to support project implementation and the effective achievement of the proposed scope;
- the cost-effectiveness of the proposed project;
- the capacity to anticipate and overcome potential challenges or risks that may arise during implementation.

Innovation and Technological Impact

This criterion evaluates the innovation of the proposed project and its potential to advance beyond the current state-of-the-art knowledge. Additionally, the criterion assesses the potential of the project for scalability and replicability.

Economic and societal impact

This criterion assesses the anticipated societal impacts, socio-economic benefits, or cost-effectiveness of the proposed project, including the potential to foster public awareness and advancing knowledge in improving environmental quality and human health.

10. Submission Process

Please compile all required documents into a maximum of 6 files (including the excel file). Ensure your submission includes the following:

The “F[#]” field should be included using the following key:

- F1: Concept note
- F2: Proposal
- F3: Budget and timeline
- F4: CVs
- F5: Declaration
- F6: Annex

Please use the following naming convention for all files:

“project lead surname_abbreviated primary institution name_abbreviated proposal title_F[#]”

11. Support and enquiries

For assistance with the submission process or inquiries regarding this Call Document or this OCP, applicants can reach out to the following contacts:

- For technical enquiries regarding this OCP, including the activities and topics in Scope, please contact: contact.ocp@wbcsd.org