

DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

N°10/2023

Approving the outcome of the re-evaluation of the project proposal "Hyperlution" submitted under the Europe's Rail JU call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) No 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe and repealing Regulations (EC) No 219/2007, (EU) No 557/2014, (EU) No 558/2014, (EU) No 559/2014, (EU) No 560/2014, (EU) No 561/2014 and (EU) No 642/2014¹, and in particular point of Article 17(2)(u).

Whereas:

- (1) On 15 March 2023 the EU-Rail Governing Board adopted the GB decision n°05/2023 approving the ranked lists of innovation actions selected for funding and the list of rejected proposals under the Europe's Rail JU call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02²;
- (2) The project proposal Horizon -ER-JU2022- FA7-03 "*HYPERLUTION – Shaping the hyperloop (r)evolution*" (hereafter "HYPERLUTION") did not meet the applicable thresholds for funding and therefore the proposal was rejected for funding (annex 2 of GB decision n°05/2023- List of below threshold proposals pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02).
- (3) On 10 April 2023, the HYPERLUTION project proposal consortium submitted a redress case to the EU-Rail. The Evaluation Redress Committee, formally appointed by the EU-Rail's Executive Director, concluded that the complaint submitted by the consortium was founded and the proposal should be re-evaluated. The EU-Rail's Executive Director ad interim agreed with the redress committee's conclusion.
- (4) The HYPERLUTION project proposal was re-evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of independent experts, as set out in Horizon Europe Work Programme (General Annexes - Annex F) and in accordance with the evaluation rules set out in the WP 2022-2024 (Annex VIII), i.e.: "excellence", "impact" and "quality and efficiency of the implementation".

¹ OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17.

² <https://rail-research.europa.eu/about-europes-rail/europes-rail-structure-of-governance/europes-rail-governing-board/>

- (5) As a result of the re-evaluation the HYPERLUTION project proposal was rejected by the evaluation committee.
- (6) In accordance with the procedures laid down in the Guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing grants under Horizon Europe (Online Manual), one independent observer was appointed by EU-Rail to observe and offer independent advice on the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation process, on how evaluators apply award criteria and on how to improve processes. The report of the independent observer (Annex 2) concluded that the re-evaluation was conducted to the highest professional and quality standards and in an independent, efficient, fair, reliable and transparent manner, with high-quality feedback to applicants as the final results.
- (7) The Governing Board took note and acknowledged the “Report of the Executive Director ad interim on the outcome of the re-evaluation of project proposal HYPERLUTION- Shaping the hyperloop (r)evolution submitted under the Europe’s Rail JU call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02” and its annexes, which includes the call-re-evaluation report (CER-R) as well as the individual evaluation summary report which will be attached to the notification letter to be sent to the HYPERLUTION project proposal consortium. Nevertheless, the “Evaluation Summary Report” and its annexes is not disclosed to the private Founding Members of the Governing Board due to the risk of Conflict of Interest.
- (8) Having examined the results of the evaluation process as reported in the Call re-evaluation report, the EU-Rail Executive Director ad interim recommends to the Governing Board not to finance any activity in the call topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-FA7-03 due to the lack of above-threshold project proposals as well as to consider the unclaimed budget of EUR 2,300,000.00 (compared to the total budget appropriation of EUR 14,700,00.00) for new R&I activities under Flagship Area 7 “Innovation on new approaches for guided transport modes” related to hyperloop in 2024.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS

Article 1

The project proposal “HYPERLUTION – Shaping the hyperloop (r)evolution” submitted under the Europe’s Rail JU call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02 answering the topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-FA7-03 – re-evaluated by an evaluation committee following a redress case – does not meet the applicable thresholds and is rejected for funding (Annex 1).

Article 2

The Executive Director shall inform the HYPERLUTION project consortium of the outcome of the redress case and the re-evaluation and shall communicate the individual evaluation summary report, as an attachment to the notification letter.

Article 3

Not to finance any activity in the call topic HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-FA7-03 due to the lack of above-threshold proposals and to consider the unclaimed budget of EUR 2,300,000.00 (compared to the total budget appropriation of EUR 14,700,00.00) for new R&I activities under Flagship Area 7 “Innovation on new approaches for guided transport modes” related to hyperloop in 2024.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 23 June 2023

For the Governing Board



Maja BAKRAN
The Chairperson

- Annex 1:** List of below threshold proposals pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-02.
- Annex 2:** Independent Observer’s Report.