



NEANIAS
**Novel EOSC services for Emerging Atmosphere,
Underwater and Space Challenges**

**Call for proposals for Companies and Teams of individual researchers
to utilise the services developed within the NEANIAS project**

OPEN CALL

**Call Implementation Details and
Guide for Applicants**



NEANIAS is funded by European Union under Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme via grant agreement No. 863448

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1. General information about the Open Call

Project Acronym: NEANIAS

Grant agreement number: 863448

Project full name: NEANIAS - Novel EOSC services for Emerging Atmosphere, Underwater and Space Challenges

Call title: Call for proposals SMEs, Start-ups, Research institutes, and Teams of individual researchers to utilise the services developed in the frame of the NEANIAS project.

Call opening date: 8 February, 2021, at 12:00 Brussels local time

Deadline of submission: 9 April, 2021, at 17:00 Brussels local time

Expected duration of participation: 3 Months, with expected start in May, 2021

Language in which the proposals should be submitted: English

Web link for further information: <https://www.neanias.eu/>

Email address for further information about the Open Call: opencall@neanias.eu

2. About NEANIAS

NEANIAS is a Research and Innovation Action funded by the European Union under Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. NEANIAS is a project that comprehensively addresses the 'Prototyping New Innovative Services' challenge set out in the 'Roadmap for EOSC' foreseen actions. NEANIAS drives the co-design and delivery of innovative thematic services, derived from state-of-the-art research assets and practices in three major sectors: Underwater, Atmospheric and Space research, each engaging multitudinous academic and business groups, numerous researchers, professionals and governmental entities. NEANIAS Project partners has been developing 10+ novel services in order to overcome the emerging challenges, and bring together actors from several disciplines (astrophysics, planetary, ocean, climate, archaeology, geology, computer science and more) in order to seek opportunities for interdisciplinary research.

3. Purpose of the call

European Start-ups often face difficulties in the early phases, mostly because of the lack of high-quality infrastructure and human resources available to test and develop their technology in an efficient manner. NEANIAS aims to provide technical and financial support to tackle these challenges in similar projects. The purpose of this Open Call is to spark and support the development of a wide variety of innovation projects, by providing novel services created in the frame of the NEANIAS project, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations and

contributing to advance research and innovation in Europe. The overarching goal is to build up and strengthen the European innovation community by identifying and supporting innovative projects with novel services developed in the Underwater, Atmospheric and Space research fields. Innovation in this scope may refer to (a) new operation models for existing services, that can exploit NEANIAS resources (b) improving existing services utilizing NEANIAS offerings to increase their overall offering (c) brand new services inspired by NEANIAS offerings (d) new services in need offerings such as NEANIAS and EOSC ones, and many more. Award winners will have to show strong reuse of NEANIAS offerings and valid sustainability potential.

4. What kind of projects are we looking for?

In the frame of the Open Call, we are looking for applications from **Companies and Groups of individual researchers**, for utilising Atmosphere, Underwater and Space services by validating/developing their novel technologies.

We are looking for Applications, which meet the following criteria:

Novelty	By using one or more services of the NEANIAS project (please check the service list of NEANIAS), a significant impact can be made and achieved on your project in terms of novelty .
Exclusivity	The project can utilise NEANIAS services, which provide an answer to research needs, which would otherwise not be available by using internal competencies .
Technical excellence and industrial relevance	The proposed project provides technical excellence, as by developing a new product and/or service, a novel, innovative technology/service can be developed. The developed product has a novelty and relevance in terms of added value in the given industry.
Feasibility, Sustainability, and Viability	The proposed solution is using NEANIAS services for a limited period, and by utilising these services the added value of NEANIAS is straightforward, and quantifiable metrics are defined.

5. Eligibility Criteria

NEANIAS aims to foster the advancement of interdisciplinary research and innovation, therefore encourages the application of

- Start-ups
- Established private companies from diverse industries (SMEs / Multinationals)
- Groups of individual researchers / innovators of up to 3 members

representing a diversified field of research and innovation, which might use the services of NEANIAS with added value to apply.

6. Conditions to apply

By submitting your application, you agree with the followings:

- NEANIAS Partners will protect the confidentiality of your proposal, by an NDA signed by both parties.
- The evaluation of applications will be made by NEANIAS experts, and are based on NEANIAS criteria and the overall scope of the project. There is no possibility to appeal against the decision made by the NEANIAS evaluation board on the awarded projects. Appeals against decisions taken by the NEANIAS Project Partners will not be handled.
- You declare, that the project you are submitting has not received any EU or Government funding. No double-funding is accepted by the NEANIAS board.
- The prizes assigned will be in the form of
 - o Direct payment of the „legal entity” for performing the work under the proposal.
 - o Direct payment of an individual of the team for performing the work under the proposal.

7. Submission and Evaluation process

1. **Submission:** you are submitting your application by filling out the form – it requires a maximum of 20 minutes. In the submission form we ask general questions about your project. In your answers, please focus on, how you plan to utilise NEANIAS services, and what added values NEANIAS experts might provide you. We kindly ask you to be as concise as possible, by keeping the character limits. Additional characters added against the character limits will not be taken into consideration. In the first stage of the submission process, we do not ask you to submit any supporting documents.
2. **Evaluation:**
 - a. our expert creates a first evaluation of your application and if your project fits into the scope of NEANIAS, you will be informed and requested to participate at an online interview prepared with NEANIAS experts.
 - b. during the interview NEANIAS technical and business experts will ask more details about your project, and check its viability, feasibility, sustainability and fit into NEANIAS objectives. At this stage, NEANIAS experts might request further supporting documents about your project to check any additional technical details.
3. **Selection and granting:** based on the evaluation of experts you will receive an individual score, and you will be informed about the result of your application within one month.

8. The Execution Process

After the selection procedure, the successful winners will start working with NEANIAS experts of the selected thematic fields of Underwater, Atmospheric or Space research. After signing an NDA, and creating a concise project abstract, where the clear goals of the project are defined; the project implementation will start. The awarded projects will receive technical and business-related support in the POC implementation phase, at least during a three months period. This period will be followed by a one-week collaboration with NEANIAS experts on evaluating the POC, and creating the closing report, where the status of development and the added values of NEANIAS will be described. The prizes will be paid after NEANIAS experts received this closing report. The projects might receive additional support from NEANIAS experts to implement their business cases, which can be further negotiated and agreed between the awarded projects and NEANIAS experts.

The main steps:

1. Project abstract creation
2. NDA signing
3. POC implementation (3 months)
4. POC evaluation (1 week)
5. Case report (1 week)
6. Prize payment
7. Optional additional support and extension period

9. Help desk and support

In case of any problems while preparing your application, or about any general questions related to the Open Call, please send us an e-mail to: opencall@neanias.eu

We continuously share information about the Open Call, therefore we advise you to check NEANIAS channels:

Twitter: @Neanias_eu

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/neanias.eu>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/13786081/> or #neanias_eu

YouTube channel: Neanias_eu