

Equity-free funding and support for SMEs innovating in food, energy or environment: PARSEC Open Call 2

Brussels, Belgium, 30th March 2020

On the 30th of March 2020 the PARSEC Accelerator launched its second Open Call for applications. The Accelerator invites SMEs and start-ups to form cross-sectoral and/or cross-border consortia with the 100 winners of Open Call 1, develop and pitch Earth Observation¹-based business solutions for the food, energy or environment sectors. Applications should be submitted before the 20th of June 2020 at 17:00 CET. Contenders will then have to pitch their business ideas in front of a jury at the PARSEC Demo Days on 2-3 July 2020². PARSEC will distribute M€1.5 to 15 winning consortia in equity-free funding and provide second stage business support services.

Open Call 2 is an opportunity for SMEs and start-ups to join the PARSEC Accelerator ecosystem and interact with its members. This is being enabled by the PARSEC online matchmaking platform that will bring together the 100 winners of the Open Call 1 (#100PARSEC) and external companies willing to innovate for food, energy or environment using Earth Observation. Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its developments, the matchmaking process of the accelerator has been redesigned and is in its entirety ensured online. This not only makes this Open Call accessible to all SMEs from the eligible countries but also ensures that the innovation process can safely continue throughout this difficult period. The #100PARSEC start-ups and SMEs, which have already joined the platform, come from come from the accelerator's target sectors and represent 31 different countries. In order to apply for the second Open Call, external SMEs or start-ups have to team up with one of the #100PARSEC and form a cross-sectoral and/or cross-border consortium of 2-4 organisations. The business proposal finetuned by the consortium will be evaluated by a jury of experts consisting of industrial CEOs, investors and business leaders during the PARSEC Demo Days which are scheduled for early July. The jury will select 15 winning consortia which will each get access to equity-free funding of €100.000 and the second stage business support services.

The support for SMEs and start-ups joining the accelerator goes beyond funding, comprehensive training and networking. Joining the Open Call 2 is also an opportunity to access tools needed to make the most of the potential brought by Earth Observation. The PARSEC Accelerator is uniquely positioned to help SMEs and start-ups benefit from the rapid evolution of the Earth Observation sector, enabled by new, maturing and converging technologies such as cloud computing, big data and artificial intelligence. The PARSEC [business catalysts](#), three tools supporting big data processing, in situ data access and access to an Earth Observation marketplace, represent an exceptional opportunity for start-ups and innovative SMEs looking for efficient ways of launching their innovations into the market. The catalysts are available as demonstrators to the #100PARSEC and will be further developed for the needs of the 15 winners of the Open Call 2.

More information about the PARSEC Accelerator Open Call 2 can be found on our website: www.parsec-accelerator.eu.

¹ Earth Observation is the collection, analysis and presentation of information about various features of the Earth via remote sensing technologies such as satellites.

² Currently planned as an on-site event in Brussels, Belgium, due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the safety measures, the date and form of the PARSEC Demo Days and the future PARSEC events are subject to change.



About PARSEC

PARSEC is a business accelerator supporting the creation of new Earth Observation-based products and services. The accelerator targets SMEs, start-ups, entrepreneurs and individuals who want to have an impact on the emerging Food, Energy and Environment sectors. The holistic two-stage acceleration programme offers a total of €2.5 Million in equity-free funding alongside coaching, training and market entry support.

The PARSEC Accelerator partners

PARSEC consortium brings together 9 partners from 7 European countries with in-depth expertise in business innovation, market uptake, R&D commercialisation, design and deployment of big data applications, business clusters and accelerators within Earth Observation and emerging industries. [EARSC](#) – the leading business network representing companies creating EO-based value across Europe – has partnered with leading clusters ([AVAESSEN](#), [bwcon](#)), accelerator experts ([BIOSENSE](#)), and innovative SMEs ([Rasdaman](#), [Geomatrix](#), [DRAXIS](#), [Eversis](#), [Evenflow](#)) to bring the PARSEC vision to life.

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The PARSEC Accelerator Open Call 2 overview

Submissions:

Deadline for applications to the Open Call 2: 20 June 2020 at 17:00 CET.

Participation in the pitch contest at the PARSEC Demo Days: 2-3 July 2020¹.

PARSEC benefits - Impact on your business

- Receive up to €50.000 equity-free funding per organisation (€100.000 per consortium) and the opportunity to attract further capital.
- Scale up your innovations in new sectors and markets across Europe and beyond.
- Discover and apply Earth Observation and new technologies to gain competitive advantage.
- Benefit from training and tools to use Earth Observation effectively.
- Access the European Earth Observation business network.
- Take advantage of market intelligence on services and products already available.
- Validate the market potential of your vision, and receive endorsement for your business plan from industry experts, stakeholders and users.
- Receive professional and tailor-made coaching from sector experts.

WHO?

- Cross-sectoral and/or cross-border consortia of 2-4 members.
- Each member is a Small-to-Medium Enterprise ([SMEs²](#)), a start-up or a single entrepreneur.
- Each member is located in one of the [EU Member States](#) (including the linked Overseas Countries and Territories) or one of the [Horizon 2020 Associated Countries](#).
- The leader of the consortium is a winner of the Open Call 1 ([#100PARSEC](#)).

HOW?

- Read the [Open Call 2 Guide for Applicants](#).
- Join the PARSEC Matchmaking space by filling out [this form](#) and network with [#100PARSEC](#).
- Form a cross-sectoral and/or cross-border consortium of 2-4 organisations.
- Work on an innovation addressing an issue in the Food, Energy or Environment sectors using Earth Observation (recommended use of at least one of the three [Business Catalysts](#)).
- Submit your consortium's application (pitch deck and supporting documents) before **20 June 2020 at 17:00 CET by e-mail to admin@parsec-accelerator.eu**.
- Defend your business solution in front of a jury of industrial CEOs, experts, investors, VCs at **the PARSEC Demo Days on the 2-3 July 2020¹**.

WHEN?

Application submission closes on the 20th of June 2020 at 17:00 CET.

Applications submitted after the deadline will automatically be rejected.

Applicants need to participate in the pitch competition at the PARSEC Demo Days 2 – 3 July 2020¹.

¹ Currently planned as an on-site event in Brussels, Belgium, due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the safety measures, the date and form of the PARSEC Demo Days and the future PARSEC events are subject to change. All updates will be announced through the PARSEC website and social media.

² SME - complying with the EC Recommendation 2003/361/EC5



Official Open Call 2 document and useful links:

- [Open Call 2 Guide for Applicants](#)
- [PARSEC matchmaking space](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)
- [PARSEC Business Catalysts](#)

PARSEC Accelerator timeline and key deadlines

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| March – June 2020 | First stage – 100 winners of Open Call 1 (#100PARSEC) €10.000 funding for each beneficiary, bootcamp, coaching, matchmaking, networking and learning program |
| 20 June 2020 at 17:00 CET | Open Call 1 final report submission deadline |
| 30 March – 20 June 2020 at 17:00 CET | Open Call 2 applications |
| 2-3 July 2020 | PARSEC Demo Days (for Open Call 2 applicants) |
| September 2020 – October 2021 | PARSEC Accelerator Second stage – 15 winning consortia €100.000 funding for each consortium, business catalysts, investment readiness programme, export promotion services |

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