



scientifica
venture capital

Regulation Call4Ideas

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Introduction

Scientifica VC (“Scientifica”) is an innovative venture capital firm that acts as a reference point for Italian start-ups operating in the field of scientific research and technological innovation. The Company is owned by Ventiseidieci S.r.l., an Italian company active in research and development in the field of new materials, biotechnology and artificial intelligence, and by the London-based venture capital operator LSG Ventures Limited.

Scientifica was launched in November 2021 and has already **funded 4 start-ups**. Scientifica’s focus is to select innovative ideas, research projects and innovative start-ups characterised by high technological content and solid scientific foundations.

Scientifica invests in **pre-seed, seed and early-stage**, also providing support in terms of infrastructure and research laboratories. In fact, in addition to Rome and London, Scientifica is based in Abruzzo, in L’Aquila, where it has **Laboratories of Scientifica Lab, with over 1,400 m² of space dedicated to mechatronics, chemistry and biotechnology**, which are available to funded start-ups.

Scientifica’s mission is to give new impetus to Italian research, promoting its excellence on the international stage.

With this in mind, Scientifica is launching its first “Call4Ideas” with a focus on the sectors of **advanced manufacturing, new materials** and **artificial intelligence**, which represent its reference verticals.

The reference scenario

It is well known that scientific innovation holds the keys to a future of economic, social and environmental sustainability. Research activity represents a strategic variable of the competitiveness of economic systems, as it allows the incorporation of a high content of knowledge in the production of goods and services, with positive impacts on the overall economic results.

Unfortunately, **Italy** has long suffered from a significant “**brain drain**”: talented researchers and specialists often emigrate abroad. This implies a serious loss of scientific knowledge and has a significant negative impact on the country’s technological and economic progress.

Scientifica intends to reverse this trend, giving new impetus to investments in new technologies, financing applied research and technology transfer so that Italian scientific thought can once again express its enormous potential. Scientifica’s relationships with Italian and European universities are the key to preferential access to the stream of the best talents and brightest ideas of university research ecosystems.

The aim of the Call4Ideas

Scientifica, with its first “Call4Ideas” (hereinafter, also just “Call”), is to collect and select applications with a high innovative content and with an underlying technology based on the presence of intellectual property. The aim is to support researchers and start-ups with innovative technological ideas, guiding them through a process of growth and defined market positioning.

Eligible initiatives

The Call is open to established companies, preferably in the form of innovative start-ups, and research teams not yet established as companies. The TRL (Technology Readiness Level) set for the eligibility of applications is preferably between 2 and 6.

The “Call4Ideas” is open to applications that fall within the following categories: innovative start-ups, innovative SMEs, research spin-offs, unincorporated teams that

present innovative projects, with respect to the reference verticals of the “Call4Ideas” and are willing to form a company in the forms listed above.

Procedures for participation

Applicants can apply through the application form on the landing page of Scientifica’s “Call4Ideas”. Applications must be submitted no later than **04/05/2022**. Receipt of applications through channels other than the one indicated is not allowed. The applications received must contain the information indicated as mandatory fields of the application form. The presentation deck, to be attached in PDF format, must include the following information:

- **Business overview:** a concise description of the project, highlighting the innovative content, the distinctive elements, the business model applied or to be applied and the current company structure, in case of an established company;
- **Team:** indication of the key people and participants involved in the initiative with their respective roles and level of commitment. Brief description of the academic/professional background of each component;
- **Development stage:** indication of the TRL of the presented project, with the definition of the target TRL to be achieved with the potential investment. Indication, where possible, of the expected economic results;
- **Technology and intellectual property:** description of the technology underlying the proposed solution. Indication of patents with filing status and possible registration. Indication of any major milestones achieved/to be achieved in relation to the technological roadmap of the project;
- **Reference market:** description of the reference market(s) with identification of the target addressable market and its growth estimates. Definition of the strategic positioning of the product/solution of the project with respect to the reference competitive scenario;
- **Financial needs:** indication of the financing round with details of the investments necessary to start/develop the project presented. In particular, it is requested to provide details of the investments needed, in terms of tangible and intangible resources (e.g. scientific instruments, machinery, physical resources, marketing activities etc.).

Selection process and assessment criteria

The Scientifica team will carry out, on a discretionary basis, a preliminary screening of the applications received, verifying their suitability with respect to the eligibility requirements indicated and the completeness of the information contained in the set of documents shared by each applicant/team.

From the day following the “Call4Ideas” deadline, i.e. 05/05/2022, projects deemed eligible will be assessed. The assessment team will be composed of specialists from Scientifica’s scientific and industrial committees, who will analyse the content of the applications submitted from a technical and business point of view. In-depth studies may also include the involvement of any Corporate Partners of the “Call4Ideas”, should specific interest be shown in certain projects.

Should it be necessary to clarify aspects of the project that cannot be deduced from the set of documents received at the time of application, the applicant may be asked to provide additional material and to participate in a more in-depth call.

The projects will be evaluated by the Scientifica committee at its sole discretion on the basis of criteria consistent with the investment philosophy. Below are some of the main criteria that will be adopted for this analysis, by way of example but not limited to:

- level of innovation of the technology underlying the solution/product presented
- presence of intellectual property rights
- coherence of the initiative presented with respect to the reference verticals of Scientifica
- skills and academic and professional background of the applicant/team
- sustainability of the solutions and products presented, leading to positive impacts on the quality of life of people and the planet, promoting social, economic and environmental progress
- technical-economic feasibility guaranteed by the project’s ability to oversee a specific reference market and consequently guarantee scalability

Within 45 days from the closing date of the “Call4Ideas”, a shortlist of projects will be selected from those presented. Applicants will be invited to participate in “Super

Sapiens Day” on 15/06/2022 at the Scientifica Lab based in L’Aquila. The shortlist will include a maximum number of 8 (eight) projects. The Super Sapiens Day will be divided into pitching sessions during which each of the applicants of the selected projects will present their project to the Scientifica board and to an assessment jury composed of sector experts and possible referents of the Corporate Partners involved in the “Call4Ideas” selected by Scientifica.

At the end of the day, a maximum of 4 (four) projects will be awarded prizes, which will have the opportunity to access a possible equity investment by Scientifica in the company or, in the case of teams that have yet to be established, in the company of future establishment.

Scientifica’s investment will be subject to carrying out due diligence and the successful negotiation of the termsheet and investment contract. The projects awarded at Super Sapiens Day will be presented with an Expression of Interest (non-binding), with a period of exclusivity, to enable Scientifica to activate and conclude the above-mentioned processes.

Investment methods and the offer of Scientifica Venture Capital as part of the Call4Ideas

Scientifica shall make investments in the risk capital of the selected companies and/or scientific projects with investment tickets ranging from a minimum of EUR 50,000.00 to a maximum of EUR 500,000.00 on the basis of the funding requirements envisaged by the project presented and against internal assessments of the Scientifica team on the project itself.

The indicated contribution is composed of a cash component and a service component comprising a series of activities aimed at guiding and strengthening the development of the funded initiative. Scientifica’s offer includes, but is not limited to, the following services:

- **Scientifica Lab:** provision of laboratories dedicated to scientific research and pre-industrial development, enabling the testing of new technologies and the implementation of proof of concepts of the funded enterprises;
- **Technology Validation:** support, through a team of highly qualified resources, in technology assessment and validation processes, through the use of scientific technologies and instruments in the Scientifica Lab spaces;

- **Marketing and Communication:** assistance, through a team of highly qualified experts, in defining branding and communication strategies through the development of online and offline tools. Processes for defining brand guidelines and drawing up marketing plans for the positioning of products/services on the reference market;
- **Funding Support:** support, through a team of highly qualified experts, in the search for opportunities related to the search for partners to participate in nationally and European funded projects and public grants. Support in the set-up round processes for potential equity and semi-equity investments by qualified investors and business angels.

Focus on reference verticals

Advanced Manufacturing

Scientifica aims to support the development of complex products, to improve processes and ensure a lower environmental impact. The funded projects focus on environmental sustainability through the reduction of waste and pollutants, lower consumption of materials and the sustainable use of energy.

Focus on potential areas of interest: Sustainable Product, Additive Manufacturing, Generative Design, Robotics, Laser Scanning, Rapid Prototyping, Computerized Numerical Control, Customised Product, Smart & Connected Product

Advanced materials

Scientifica aims to support the development of projects related to new materials with new or improved properties, thanks to nanotechnologies and chemical research.

Focus on potential areas of interest: Nanomaterials and Quantum Dots for advanced technologies, Self-cleaning and functional coating, Diagnostic, sensor and photonic materials, Biopolymers, Multi-functional composites, Advanced chemical processes

Artificial Intelligence

Scientifica aims to support the development of ideas and projects that exploit artificial intelligence, a set of different technologies that interact to enable machines to perceive, understand, act and learn with levels of intelligence similar to those of humans, helping people to make decisions more effectively, positively impacting the environment and society.

Focus on potential areas of interest: AI in Cybersecurity, AI for the Metaverse, Low-code and no-code AI, Creative AI, AI in energy efficiency processes, AI in Healthcare, Hyperautomation, Multimodal AI, AI-driven Scientific Discoveries, Explainable AI (XAI)

Legal and Privacy Section

I. Intellectual Property

By submitting the application, the applicants declare that they are the sole and exclusive owners of the intellectual property rights relating to the projects developed and submitted to Scientifica.

Only prototypes, materials and original designs that do not infringe in any way on the intellectual property rights of third parties are eligible for the Call.

By participating in the Call, the applicants, therefore, undertake to indemnify and hold harmless from this point onwards Scientifica and its representatives from any and all liabilities, responsibilities, claims for damages and/or compensation that may be made by any third party with reference to the use and ownership of intellectual property of prototypes, projects and materials, and that may be related to the exploitation and/or even only to the publication and dissemination of the same, including by Scientifica.

The applicants acknowledge and accept that, at the end of the selection process, the winners of the Call will enter into one or more agreements with Scientifica to agree and regulate in detail, inter alia, the modalities of provision and use of the investment (and related services), as well as the forms and terms of participation of Scientifica in the development and economic exploitation of the project (which may include, as appropriate, also forms of allocation of intellectual property rights).

II. Protection of privacy and confidentiality

The applicants undertake not to disclose or communicate to third parties the contents of the documentation and information of a technical, commercial or financial nature that may be provided by Scientifica or otherwise acquired by virtue of their participation in the Call and the initiatives connected to it.

Scientifica, in its capacity as data controller (with registered office in Via SS 17 SNC – Tecnopolo D’Abruzzo 67100 (L’Aquila) – Tax code 02130080662), will process the personal data provided mainly by means of computerised and telematic systems, for the

purposes envisaged by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

For more information, you can consult the complete information on <https://www.scientifica.vc/call4ideas-privacy> e <https://www.scientifica.vc/privacy-policy>

III. Limitations of liability

In relation to the procedures for participation in the initiative described in these regulations, Scientifica shall not be held liable in the event of failure or incompleteness of electronic registration, or in the event of errors and/or incompleteness of the documentation transmitted, for any reason whatsoever. Furthermore, it assumes no responsibility for technical, hardware or software malfunctions, interruptions of network connections, temporary unavailability of the system, submissions that for any reason are unsuccessful, incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, illegible, damaged, lost, not received, delayed, misdirected or intercepted, electronic or other communications that have been delayed, or other technical problems related to the registration and uploading of content within the scope of the Call.

Any form of reimbursement and/or compensation to the applicants and/or third parties, whether in part or in full, is also excluded for:

- any damage to property, for any reason and/or cause, that occurred during the various stages of the initiative;
- any injuries and/or damages incurred by the applicants during the various stages of the initiative;
- any theft and/or loss of objects or goods of any kind left unattended by the applicants in the areas where the various stages of the initiative will take place.

IV. Guarantees and indemnities

Each Call applicant is solely responsible for everything submitted in order to finalise the project application, as well as for their own documentation, computer equipment and personal belongings. Therefore, each applicant undertakes, as of now, to indemnify and hold harmless Scientifica from any claim, including for damages, that may be made, for any reason whatsoever, in relation to the submission, the documentation or, in any event, as a result of their participation in the event, except in cases of fraud and gross negligence.

V. General Terms and Conditions

Registering, joining and participating in the event implies the unreserved acceptance of these regulations by the applicants.

Applicants are aware and accept that Scientifica shall have the right at any time to cancel, modify or suspend, in whole or in part, the Call, as well as any of its contents, aspects or selection criteria, or to select a smaller number of winning projects than initially planned, at their sole discretion, after communicating the changes on the Scientifica website.

Scientifica may transfer or assign any rights or obligations arising from the Call and/or these regulations to any company within its group.

It is understood that participation in the Call is free of charge and that no obligation or commitment of any nature whatsoever beyond that provided for in these regulations will arise on the part of both Scientifica and the applicants.

Applicants shall, in any case, accept any decision and assessment made by the Scientifica team in relation to the project assessment procedure. Under no circumstances shall the submission of the application, selection and award of the Call be understood or construed as an offer or contract of employment between Scientifica and the applicant.

Under no circumstances may the Call and its regulations be construed and/or interpreted as a public offer pursuant to Article 1336 of the Italian Civil Code.

Any violation of the regulations and, in any case, any conduct from which illicit behaviour can be inferred or presumed and/or any irregularity committed before or during the Call will result, as the case may be and on the basis of the unquestionable decision of Scientifica, in non-participation, expulsion or disqualification, as well as the removal of any material and/or content already transmitted or published.

VI. Veracity of the information

The applicants undertake to carry out all appropriate checks in order to ascertain the truthfulness of all the information, data and, more generally, any other material provided to Scientifica in the submission of the application and/or in any other stage of the Call, and therefore guarantee that the latter are accurate, correct, truthful and complete, thus assuming full and exclusive responsibility therefor.

VII. Effectiveness

The obligations contained in the regulations shall take effect as of the submission of the application and shall remain in force until the end of the Call, unless, due to the nature or type of certain provisions in the regulations, it becomes necessary to comply with them after the end of the Call.

It should be noted that this Call does not constitute a contractual proposal, does not lead

to the establishment of legal relations or obligations of any kind on the part of Scientifica (including the obligation to enter into contracts of any nature whatsoever) and does not bind Scientifica in any way. Scientifica shall therefore be free to suspend, modify, cancel and re- launch the procedure relating to this Call at any time without any claim whatsoever on the part of the applicants.

VIII. Disclaimer

The applicant acknowledges that participation in the Call does not bind Scientifica in any way. Therefore, the latter shall not make any commitment to the applicant in relation to their application or other circumstances related to the Call.

The applicant undertakes to unconditionally accept any decision taken by Scientifica (including through its team) in relation to the application assessment procedure.

IX. Applicable law and jurisdiction

These regulations are governed by Italian law and must be interpreted accordingly. All disputes inherent in and/or arising from these regulations, as well as any other disputes, shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Rome.

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