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Call for Tenders (AAC) | Investment RP-C21-i18 | Support scheme for grid flexibility and storage | AAC No. 01/C21-i18/2026

Measure C21-i18 – “Support scheme for grid flexibility and storage” – is part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan (*Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência*) (“PRR”) and has two objectives: (i) firstly, to introduce flexibility mechanisms into the Public Service Electricity Network (*Rede Elétrica de Serviço Público*) (“RESP”) to enable its optimisation and flexible management; and (ii) secondly, to distribute and use renewable energy by strengthening and expanding the network, and creating the energy infrastructure necessary for the decarbonisation of energy systems, thus contributing to the national targets of the National Energy and Climate Plan (*Plano Nacional de Energia e Clima*) (“PNEC 2030”).

Call for Tenders (*Aviso de Abertura de Concurso*) (“AAC”) No. 01/C21-i18/2026, published on the Environmental Fund portal (available [here](#)):

- i) provides for the submission of applications for funding for electrical energy storage systems; and
- ii) was initially published on 16 February 2026 and was republished yesterday (10 March 2026), with a single change: eligible beneficiaries are now expressly identified as *private* collective entities.

The AAC is structured around the following key pillars:

1. Geographical scope

It covers the entire territory of mainland Portugal (NUTS1 PT1) and applies to the electricity sector.

2. Beneficiaries and respective eligibility criteria

- Private collective entities whose main or secondary economic activity includes the production of renewable electricity are eligible for support, which is not limited to CAE class 3512.
- Applicants must comply with the eligibility criteria set out in point 7 of the AAC. Specifically, they must be legally constituted and registered (including in the Central Registry of Beneficial Owners), comply with relevant tax and social security requirements, and be in good standing regarding European Funds.

3. Types of eligible operations and respective eligibility criteria

The installation of battery-based electricity storage systems at the scale of transmission and distribution networks, with a nominal inverter capacity of at least 1 MVA, ensuring charging and discharging at maximum power for a minimum of two hours, associated with independent power production centres with an installed capacity of more than 1 MVA, from renewable energy sources directly connected to the RESP. The nominal power must be guaranteed throughout the entire useful life of the storage system.

Additional requirements for the storage system:

- It must be associated with an existing power plant with a prior control title (TRC, production licence, or operating licence). Note: “operation” means being connected to the RESP, with the necessary authorisations.

- It must be connected to the production facility, upstream of the meter of the electricity production centre to which it is or will be connected, using the same point of connection to the RESP.
- It must be the only storage system connected to a given reception point.
- The storage component must absorb at least 75% of its energy annually from the renewable energy production facility to which it is directly connected.
- The injection into the RESP, at any given moment, of the combination of the storage system and the production units of the power plant, is limited to the injection capacity value in the RESP allocated to that power plant.

Regarding eligibility criteria, operations must fall within the AAC categories; demonstrate maturity and economic viability; justify the need for financing; present technical characterisation, a communication plan, and comply with PRR obligations, including the provision of data and contribution to climate objectives. In addition, projects must comply with the “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) principle and applicable environmental legislation. Projects already supported in the previous call for tenders (C21-io8/2024), and storage systems associated with UPP/UPAC or facilities without a direct connection to the RESP, are not eligible and must also comply with the rules on State Aid.

4. Funding

Nature of support	Non-repayable grants
Total AAC allocation	€60,250,000.00
Maximum funding rate	Up to 20% of eligible costs
Maximum amount per company/project	€30,000,000

All investment components (production and storage) are considered to constitute an integrated project for the purposes of verifying thresholds, meaning that any public funding prior to the power plant must be counted towards the limit of €30 million per company and per investment project.

5. Degree of maturity and deadlines

At the application stage, the minimum degree of maturity required consists of the existence of preparatory documents for the installation procedure(s) relating to the most relevant investment for the operation, excluding any commitment that constitutes the start of work.

Key deadlines:

- Start of work: after the submission of the application to the Environmental Fund.
- Start of operation: 6 months after signing the term of acceptance.
- On-site implementation of approved operations: 24 months after signing the term of acceptance.

6. Eligible expenses

- Expenses for approved operations that have actually been carried out and are necessary for the installation of the energy storage system, including: (i) electricity storage systems (batteries); (ii) the construction or adaptation of infrastructure necessary to install the storage system, including auxiliary equipment, management, metering and control systems; (iii) technical assistance for the project, as well as communication and monitoring measures, provided they are relevant to the project.
- Infrastructure and technical assistance expenses, which may not exceed 15% of the total eligible cost of the operation.

- Expenses related to the storage system and its connection to the existing power plant, while expenses related to changes to the power plant are not eligible for funding.
- The following, among others, are not eligible: VAT, cash payments, financial charges or financing costs, operating expenses, maintenance or indirect costs, the purchase of used goods, the purchase or lease of real estate or land, routine advertising, investments for electricity production, working capital, transfers, and rights to use spaces.
- All expenses must be supported by invoices or equivalent documents and cannot be financed by other European Union instruments.

7. Deadline and procedure for submitting applications

- Start of the application period: 5 p.m. on 10 March 2026.
- Closing date for applications: 5:59 p.m. on 8 April 2026.
- Applications must be submitted via the Environmental Fund website on www.fundoambiental.pt.
- To submit applications, promoters must first register and verify their identity on www.fundoambiental.pt.
- Applications must be accompanied by all the documents and information required in the AAC.

8. Selection criteria

Applications that meet all eligibility conditions are ranked, up to the AAC budget limit, on the basis of three cumulative selection criteria and their respective scores: preferred location (5 or 1 points), maturity (20, 10, or 1 points), and experience (3, 2, or 1 points).

9. Decision, contracting and payment

The selection decision will be made within a maximum of 45 days of the deadline for the submission of applications (i.e. 8 April 2026). If a favourable decision is issued, a Term of Acceptance will be signed between the Environmental Fund and the beneficiary, under the eligibility rules of the notice and the approved funding. Payment may be processed using: an advance payment (up to 40% of the approved amount, upon presentation of a bank guarantee); payment against an invoice; reimbursement of up to 95% of the approved amount; and payment of the final balance. The beneficiary must submit a semi-annual progress report until the investments are fully implemented

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