



RIANA Terms of Use SME

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INTRODUCTION

In the framework of **RIANA**, access is being offered to more almost 70 different research infrastructures, located in 22 of European countries, having diverse legal forms and funding schemes, and being subject to different national regulations. For this reason, it is impossible to present one common set of regulations, constituting the **Terms of Use** applicable to all RIANA facilities.

Instead, users are requested to acknowledge the specific **Terms of Use**, respectively Terms and Conditions of Access, in place at the facilities to which access has been granted.

However, there are some overarching provisions that need to be respected irrespective of the actual research infrastructures that will be used.

This document contains the provisions regarding the SME access route available for **RIANA** users.

RIANA-SMALL & MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES (SME) ACCESS

The SME companies applying for proprietary access to **RIANA** are required to accept the following Terms of Use:

1. PREPARATION PHASE

Prior to proposal submission it is strongly recommended that the company consults with the industrial contact points of the facilities. An updated list of the contact details can be found in the [RIANA webpage](#).

Only companies considered as SMEs according to the [EU definition](#) can request access to the facilities participating in ReMade-SME.

Proposals should address projects concerning nanoscience and nanotechnology.

The service access to RIANA-SME facilities will be based on the submission of a proposal by the company and their partners through the single-entry portal created by [RIANA](#).





The RIANA-SME proposals must be submitted via this ARIA portal and must contain the information requested. This comprises in particular the project description, the type and number of samples (including fabrication/modification/characterization), the innovation potential, and the expected impact of the project.

Proposal evaluation will be performed on a continuous basis to minimize the response time to the companies. **Companies can only submit one proposal at the time. If a SME wants to submit a second** proposal or a follow-up proposal, the evaluation form needs to be submitted prior to any new proposal. Please note that priority will be given to SMEs using RIANA for the first time. If a proposal has been rejected, it can be rewritten and resubmitted. For a particular project, only one proposal can be accepted and realised, except in very well justified cases in which the submission of a second proposal for a further step in the implementation of the project may be approved.

The selected facility or facilities will validate the technical feasibility of the proposal. If more than one facility is selected, each facility will validate the technical feasibility.

The proposals will preferentially be assigned to the main facility stated on the proposal. However, the choice of a particular facility in no way implies a commitment or obligation of the facility to actually realise the project at their site. **RIANA** reserves the right to assign a facility different from the company's preference according to feasibility checks and the internal rules of the facilities.

An independent panel of experts will evaluate the proposals according to the established evaluation criteria: the scientific merit, the product or service innovation, and the potential impact of the proposal.

2. EXPERIMENT PHASE

If approved, the SME and the facility will discuss the proposal details for an optimum experiment design. A non-disclosure agreement can be signed between the company and the facility, if required.

An access form will be issued by the facility through the ARIA portal considering the estimated time required to carry out the experiments and works for the realisation of the proposal.

Experiments can be carried out in-person or remotely, based on a mail-in or remote procedure. In the latter case, the company will send the sample(s) in a timely manner and in accordance with all instructions from the facility.

The experiments and work will be carried out following the access rules of the facilities. Refusal to follow those regulations may imply the termination of the service.

At the conclusion of the service the company will receive the experiment results containing the information agreed between the company and the facility.

3. FOLLOW-UP AND OBLIGATIONS

Directly after completion of the experiments, users are requested to provide a publishable summary as well as to fill and submit a *User Feedback form* following instructions received via the **RIANA** portal. Failure to submit these documentations can prevent the evaluation of any further proposal for access to **RIANA** facilities.

4. CONFIDENTIALITY

The information included in the proposal and resulting from the experiment will be treated as confidential. Due to the proprietary nature of the experiment performed, the experiment results obtained at the facility (or facilities) under the present **RIANA** service access shall be owned by the SME and **no publication of the results is required**. However, as the works performed are supported by the **RIANA** project, which is funded





by the European Union, the companies shall grant RIANA and the service-providing facility (or facilities) the right to disseminate their company name, a short background of the company (agreed on with the company) and a non-confidential summary on their website, social media or other platforms deemed appropriate to the facility.

5. PUBLICATIONS

If a publication is sought for, companies are required by the European Commission to provide open access to the publications resulting from the research supported through **RIANA**. Choosing gold open access journals should be considered whenever possible. Companies are obliged to acknowledge support from **RIANA** by the following text string that needs to be literally included into any dissemination action resulting from the proposal (peer-review articles, conferences, book chapters):

“Funded by the European Union as part of the Horizon Europe call HORIZON-INFRA-2023-SERV-01 under grant agreement number 101130652. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union.”

6. REIMBURSEMENT

To ease the burden on SMEs, SMEs will receive a flat fee of 1 000 € for covering the access costs when the project is accepted for funding. They can also use this to commission an external knowledge provider to submit the application via a performance-based contract.

Proprietary users, like scientific users, will be provided with access time and services from the project; however, with the restriction that proprietary users will have to pay a contribution equal to the difference between the full access costs of the Research Infrastructure (RI) and the costs reimbursed by the project, depending on each **RIANA** partner’s legal requirement.

SMEs can receive support of a maximum of 10 000 € for the contractual commitment of intermediary companies as knowledge providers who will carry out and accompany the measurements / the experiment.

As a general rule, expenses of the access provider must comply with the following requirements:

- They must be verifiable.
- They must be incurred by one of the project applicants included in the proposal submission.
- They must be reasonable and for the intended purpose of carrying out the project.
- Taxes such as VAT are not considered eligible costs.

Confirmation of the involvement of a knowledge provider will be made as part of the evaluation of the application for access and payment will be made after completion of the work via reimbursement of the invoice paid by the SME applicant. Successful proposals will be expected to provide a concise report on their work, including a publishable summary highlighting the impact of the work on nanoscience and use of the RIANA facilities.

This commitment does not preclude the need to follow other formalities required by the facility.

DECLARATION

I declare that I have read and fully understood the applicable **RIANA-SME Terms of Use**. I also declare that I agree to be bound by all terms, conditions, and obligations contained therein.