

SBS Webinar – Call for experts 2027

27 August 2026

Q&A

Question asked by attendee	Answer
Is this correct if the contract is preferably signed between the SME organisation and SBS?	No, the contract would be between SBS and the expert, either as an individual or through a company, not with the SME organisation supporting that expert's work. However, if it's a paid contract and the individual (or the company they work with/for) wants access to European Commission funding, there needs to be an organisation willing to co-fund the expert's work within that specific technical committee. This is why SBS launches an annual parallel call to our members and other SME organisations. If SBS has co-funding available for the technical body in question, and we consider it worthwhile to have an expert on that committee, we will appoint the expert and grant him or her a paid position.
In the case of a paid expert, does the co-funding entity need to be the same that provided the letter of support in the application?	These don't necessarily have to be the same organisation since they can be different. Therefore, there are two possibilities: - As a candidate expert, you may have a letter of support from one SME organisation which you've been involved with and for which you are valuable as an expert, while a separate organisation is interested in ensuring there's an opportunity for an expert to follow a particular technical body. - Or – both organisations could be the same. In that case, the key distinction is that the co-funding organisation cannot designate or impose a specific expert to work with a given technical body.

	In all cases, SBS will evaluate every candidate expert's application through an initial selection committee, followed by final approval from the SBS Board. Within this process, co-funding organisations may only express their intent to co-fund work related to a particular technical body. They can therefore expect that experts will be available to take on the role, but they cannot name or select a specific expert as every SBS expert must go through an evaluation process based on equal competitive standing.
How many working hours are expected from one expert?	There's no fixed number of working hours, as the time an SBS expert spends on his or her assignment depends on the standards deliverables to be followed. Likewise, there's no minimum number of working hours required, regardless of how many technical bodies the expert follows.
What is the general content of the back support letter? Are there any guidelines?	There's no fixed template to follow. The key point the letter of support needs to convey is that the expert in question will represent SMEs in the concerned sector, rather than advocating for individual interests. For SBS, a letter of support from an SME organisation serves as one of the elements that helps us understand why a particular expert is qualified for the role.
Is there any interest for SBS experts in Medical Devices & Digital Medical Devices?	SBS isn't just interested in medical devices and digital medical devices — it's already actively involved in this standardisation area.