

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Action 3.12-0009-DE-S-M-17 "Developing the SuedOstLink"
Attachments: 3.12-0009-DE-S-M-17_Draft Annexes I and III.docx

Dear [REDACTED],

Following the call for proposals of 26th April 2017 concerning projects of common interest under the Connecting Europe Facility in the field of energy, on 25th January 2018 the CEF Coordination Committee gave a positive opinion on a list of Actions proposed for funding.

We are happy to inform you that this list also includes Action 3.12-0009-DE-S-M-17 "Developing the SuedOstLink".

For your information, you will find at the bottom of this email the overall comments regarding the proposal as provided by the Evaluation Committee. Information regarding the marks awarded to the proposal may be communicated upon request.

Without prejudice to the final decision to be taken by the European Commission in the coming weeks, and in order to facilitate the next steps, please find attached a first draft version of annexes I and III of the Grant Agreement for your review. We would be grateful to receive your comments and/or modifications on this draft **by 14th February 2018** in order to accelerate the preparation and signature of the Grant Agreement.

I take this opportunity to request that you provide us with the following information:

- The name and title of the person who will sign the Grant Agreement
- The contact details and the name and title for the contact person

Furthermore, we would like to invite you for a meeting on **19th February 2018 at 9:30-13:30** at INEA in Brussels. The purpose of this meeting will be to clarify any open questions on the revised draft Grant Agreement, for you to provide us with an updated presentation of the envisaged Action and to discuss a number of specific elements concerning its implementation (objectives, description of activities and milestones etc.). Depending on your preferred arrangements, a video conference could alternatively be organised to serve the same purpose. For planning purposes, we would be grateful to receive confirmation of your availability for the meeting by 2nd February 2018.

I would like to highlight that this e-mail does not constitute a formal commitment by INEA or the European Commission to provide financial support to the envisaged Action. This will depend on the successful conclusion of the grant preparation process. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that you will not acquire any rights until all parties have signed the grant agreement.

For further correspondence, please always indicate the Action code, i.e. 3.12-0009-DE-S-M-17 in subject and only use the functional mailbox INEA-CEF-ELECTRICITY@ec.europa.eu (please don't reply to the EC ARES NOREPLY email address).

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or clarifications on this matter.

I look forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Best regards,

[Redacted]

European Commission
Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA)

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Overall comments from the evaluation:

The action aims at the preparation and submission of the application for the Federal Sectoral Planning ('Bundesfachplanung') and application for planning Approval (Planfeststellungsbeschluss). Both applications include a number of technical studies (including Environmental Impact Assessment) as well as activities linked to public acceptance. More specifically, the application covers a large number of activities involving the relevant public, administrative bodies and public institutions ensuring a transparent and participative public consultation, thus avoiding any further delays related to the lack of public support. First activities have already started in Spring 2017, which explains the excellent maturity. The action represents the logical sequence in the implementation of the project. Given the size of the project, the related technological risk (full undergrounding of around 580km) and a number of public hearings, the action represents a considerable financial and organisational effort on the part of the project promoters. The key strength of the proposal is the critical relevance of the project for the electricity market in Germany and its neighbouring countries (very high cross-border effect of the project) as well as the uniquely large scope of the activities to be completed under the action. The financial obstacles are explained and justified in a good manner. The CEF grant has a potential to increase the financial credibility of the project for the financial investors.

In the light of the project's high importance for the integration of the European electricity market, and the relevance of the individual activities, priority and urgency of the action are considered very high. The proposal is recommended for funding.