



Mission of Invited Experts from Communities Supporting Xecs

Xecs is an industry-driven Eureka (<https://www.eurekanetwork.org/>) programme designed to accelerate the pace of sustainable innovation in Electronics Components & Systems (ECS) and related Applications. Xecs is a Cluster from Eureka recently launched within the new Eureka Clusters Programme (ECP) and is supported by the three Industry Associations AENEAS, EPoSS and Inside IA.

A team of experts in the field of Electronics Components and Systems and in collaborative international RD&I programmes is being set up to provide support to the programme on all technical matters. Collectively, they shall be an appropriate representation of the European electronics value chain and of the countries participating in Xecs. These experts will act as evaluators, reviewers and mentors to Xecs and the submitted project proposals.

- Evaluators: Both at the Project Outline and Full Project Proposal phases, two to three experts, depending on the proposal size, are assigned to each proposal applying for a Xecs label and present a consolidated evaluation report to the plenary expert meeting. The plenary expert meeting then agrees on a common recommendation to be discussed in the three Industry Associations joint meeting, in view of reaching a decision regarding the invitation to submit a FPP (at the PO evaluation phase) or receive the Xecs label (at the FPP evaluation phase). This process also provides valuable technical feedback to the consortium.
- Reviewers: In the monitoring phase, one to two experts are assigned to each funded project, depending on the project size. They attend the project reviews, providing technical expertise and guidance to the consortium, and assess Change Requests and Progress Reports (Checklists), whenever a technical expertise is required.
- Mentors: After the project outline evaluation, if the consortium is invited to submit an FPP, he/she is assigned as mentor from the group of technical experts. This mentor is not meant as an advocate for the proposal during the evaluation process, but as a two-way communication channel, to avoid misunderstanding and clarify feedback from the plenary expert meeting. After the evaluation process, large projects retain the mentor, who attends the project reviews, provides guidance and act as a two-way communication channel between the consortium and the Xecs Office.

On average, Xecs expert meetings take place four times per year, and last between 0.5 and 1.5 day. Each expert will be in charge of evaluating 2 to 3 projects per year. Experts review an average of one to two running projects per year, and usually mentor at most one running project.



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