ORFEUS Software Development Grants: Call for Applications

ORFEUS (Observatories and Research Facilities for European Seismology; http://orfeus-eu.org/) welcomes applications for grants supported by the ORFEUS Software Development Fund 2021.

Grants will be awarded for the development, consolidation, implementation of relevant software to ease the management of, access to, and processing of data and metadata integrated in the ORFEUS EIDA (European Integrated Data Archive) and Strong-Motion programs. This also includes: processing tools tailored to new quality metrics; software libraries that can be used centrally as well as by external clients; software useful to prepare the ORFEUS infrastructure to deal with new data types and communities.

The grants will be awarded to individuals affiliated with Institutions that are Participants or Core Participants of ORFEUS committed to open data and software policies. The grants are intended to support developments by the wider ORFEUS community (not by members of the ORFEUS Infrastructure Development Groups).

The eligibility criteria for the grants are:

a. affiliation to an Institution that is a Participant or a Core Participant of ORFEUS in good standing by the date of the application;

b. clear identification of the individual who will carry out the activity at the Institution;

c. commitment to free and open-source software development - the software project to be supported should be available on a public software repository (e.g., Github, Gitlab) with an open standard license (e.g., GPL or similar) and dedicated public detailed documentation;

d. commitment to active interaction with the ORFEUS Infrastructure Development Groups to ease integration of the software in ORFEUS workflows as needed;

e. submission of a complete application form following the template in Appendix.

The applications should be sent by email with subject “Application for ORFEUS Software Development Grant” to orfeus_secretary@knmi.nl by 31 March 2021 at midnight GMT.

The applications will be evaluated by the ORFEUS Executive Committee, which may contact the Applicants for questions and clarifications, that may include review of the budget. Applications by Early Career Scientists affiliated with ORFEUS Participating Institutions are encouraged. The existence of a public software repository actively maintained by the Applicant by the date of the application will be regarded positively. The grants are awarded based on the evaluation of the ORFEUS Executive Committee. The grant recipients (individuals, Institutions, brief software description) will be announced on the ORFEUS website (http://orfeus-eu.org/) by 30 April 2021.

ORFEUS expects to award a maximum of three grants. The maximum total expenditure of ORFEUS will be equal to 15,000 Euros, to be distributed among the recipients based on the expected work plans presented in the successful applications. The grants will be transferred (typically in one single payment upon signature of the grant agreement, at the start of the grant period) to the Institutions to support the activities of the individuals identified in the successful applications. The grants are expected to partly support the salary of the Applicant and / or the Applicant’s travel expenses related to the funded project. The project supported by the grant should be complete within one year of the grant start.

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1 The Core Participation or the Participation fee to ORFEUS for year 2020 is paid.
2 Based on the definition used by the European Geoscience Union: "An early career scientist (ECS) is an undergraduate or postgraduate (Masters/PhD) student or a scientist who has received their highest degree (BSc, MSc, or PhD) within the past seven years (provided parental leave fell into that period, up to one year of parental leave time may be added per child, where appropriate)".
3 If the Applicant is planning to permanently move to a different Institution during the grant period, this should be specified in the application.
Appendix – Template of:
Application for ORFEUS Software Development Grant
(Max. three pages, including max. one picture and max. one table; + Applicant’s CV of max. two pages)

- Name and Surname.
- ECS status.
- Title of the software project.
- Current position and its relationship to the software project.
- Affiliation (current and future, if applicable)\(^1\).
- Previous experience in software development and with ORFEUS data and services.
- Link to Applicant’s public software repository, if available.
- Software description: motivation, scope, programming language, expected impacts (also beyond ORFEUS), interoperability with FDSN- and ORFEUS-promoted web services.
  (max 500 words)
- Workplan (3 to 12 months maximum) towards public software release (including essential documentation): milestones to be achieved, timeline, total effort in person-months (PM), expected travel costs (max. 15% of the total budget), total estimated cost\(^2\).
  (max 1/2 page)
- Expected effort needed by the ORFEUS Infrastructure Development Groups for integration and sustainability.
- Please enclose an updated CV of max. two pages.

The Applicant and the Institution commit to:
- free and open-source software development and release: the software project supported by the grant should be available on a public software repository (e.g., Github, Gitlab) with an open standard license (e.g., GPL or similar) and dedicated public detailed documentation;
- active interaction with the ORFEUS Infrastructure Development Groups to ease integration of the software in ORFEUS workflows as needed;
- complete the project supported by the grant within one year of the grant start;
- provide at least one presentation to the ORFEUS community in one of the ORFEUS meetings when development is completed.

The Applicant and the Institution are aware and accept that the awards will be announced on the ORFEUS website, including name and surname of the recipient, affiliation, and a short software description.

Date, Place

Signature of the Applicant

Signature for the Institution (please specify Name, Surname, Role of the Signatory)

\(^1\) While the ORFEUS grant will likely cover only part of the effort, we recommend focusing on projects that can be realistically finalized within a few PM, to optimize the impact of the ORFEUS funding and avoid overcommitment of the recipient.