

	Title Prize I	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

H2020-FETPROACT-2018-01

GrowBot – Towards a new generation of plant-inspired growing artefacts

Deliverable 10.2

Prize I

WP10 – Community building

Authors: [Francesca Tramacere (IIT) and Barbara Mazzolai (IIT)]

Lead participant: IIT

Delivery date: 19 December 2019

Dissemination level: Public

Type: Other



	<p style="text-align: center;">Title Prize I</p>	<p>Deliverable Number 10.2</p>
		<p>Version 0.1</p>


Revision History

Author Name, Partner short name	Description	Date
IIT	Draft	04/12/2019
IIT	Final version	19/12/2019

	<p style="text-align: center;">Title Prize I</p>	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

Contents

1	INTRODUCTION TO WP AND TASK	4
2	FIRST CALL FOR IDEAS	4
2.1	Introduction.....	4
2.2	The topic.....	5
2.3	Details.....	5
2.4	Evaluation criteria	5
2.5	Download	6
2.6	Application form.....	7
2.7	Call spread	8
3	EVALUATION	9
4	REPORT OF THE RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	10
APPENDIX	11
	Proposal template	11

	<p style="text-align: center;">Title Prize I</p>	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

1 WP and Task introduction

WP 10 is dedicated to consolidate a ground-breaking and disruptive community on plant-inspired robotics technologies, strongly grounded on an inter-disciplinary character. GrowBot lays the foundational activities to make this community active within, outside and beyond the project and within and among specialists in biology and technology.

Task 10.2 “Prizes”, led by IIT (month 2-36), aims at promoting initiatives to enlarge the scientific and technological community around plants science, bioinspired materials, and robotics by launching two calls for ideas in the form of prizes (in line with the conditions set out in general Annex K) for performing selected activities at European level.

The calls have been planned to be launched twice during the project on topics that not represent the core activities of the partners, more specifically: i) the first call (prize I – 30 k€) focuses on biological issues relevant to GrowBot; ii) the second call (prize II – 30 k€) aims at proposing technological solutions for specific and assigned application domains.

The calls for ideas are dedicated to young researchers, especially PhD students and young PostDocs (max 35 years old), to support career promotion and enlarge to topics not covered within GrowBot but relevant to the project aims.

The prizes have to be mainly dedicated to support career promotion of young researchers. The policy for the two calls, compliant with EU rules for prizes, was written by the IIT Project Office in collaboration with the Project Coordinator and approved by the Scientific and Management Board. The policy was published on the project website at month 5 on the occasion of the launch of the first call for ideas.

2 First call for ideas

On the project website, under the section Project>>Grants, a page was dedicated to the first call for ideas (<https://www.growbot.eu/project/grants/21-first-call-for-ideas>) in order to gather all the information related to the initiative.

The page consists of four main sections: 1) introduction; 2) topic; 3) details; 4) evaluation criteria; and 5) download.

2.1 Introduction

A brief introduction to the GrowBot call for ideas initiative that aims to enlarge and enrich plant science community (*Figure 1*).

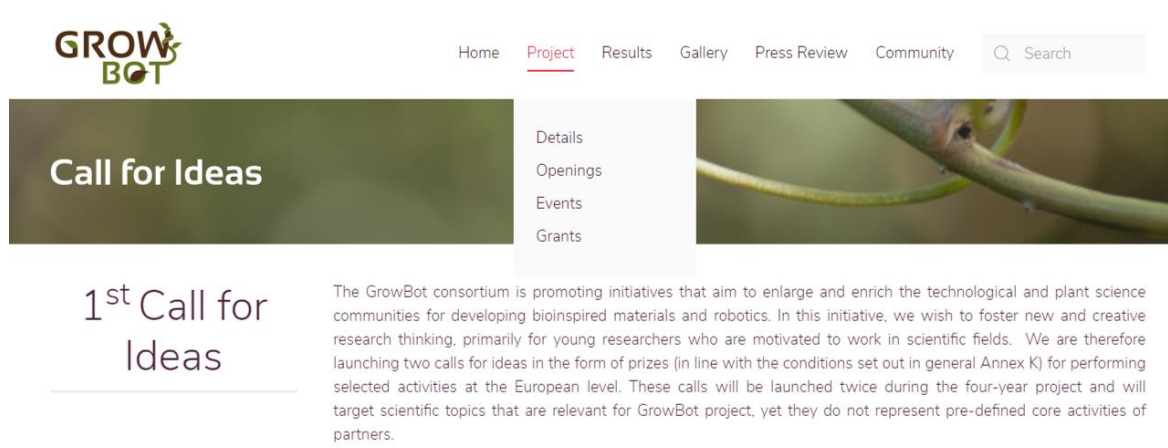



Figure 1: Screenshot of the introduction section of "First call for ideas" page.

	Title Prize I	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

2.2 The topic

The second section of the webpage refers to the topic of the call, which focuses on biological issues relevant to GrowBot. The topic was deeply discussed (especially with partners involved in the biological activities, CNRS and ALU-FR) and defined in the occasion of the kick-off meeting, held in Pisa on 30-31 January 2019.

The selected topic was: *In situ* growth dynamics of vines and lianas in the forest canopy.

The core element of the GrowBot project is to understand how climbing plants move and translate this principle into a new generation of climbing artefacts. However, a very few studies document how vines and lianas behave in the forest canopy. This topic addresses issues relating to the development of new tools and methodologies for the observation of the growth dynamics of lianas in the forest canopy. Currently, the traditional approaches include pictures or movies taken from ground or air. The main drawbacks are related to the difficulty of access, resolution of features, visualizing amid stem and leaf clutter, limited ranges of studied canopies and expense of observing more than a few locations using canopy rafts, cranes or climbers.

Candidates were invited to address these issues by considering all potential options and methods. Improvements over current approaches were strongly encouraged and suggestions for new or unconventional approaches were more than welcome.

2.3 Details

In the third section, the candidates found all the details related to the call (*Table 1*) (*Figure 2*).

Table 1: First call for ideas details

Grant Agreement	824074
Amount of the prize	EUR 30k
Proposer	max 35 years old
Language of the proposal	English
Proposal submission	online submission
Call opening	May 2, 2019
Call deadline	May 31, 2019
Evaluation of the proposals	June 1-19, 2019
Winner nomination	June 20, 2019
Research activities	August 1 – December 31, 2019
Proposal template	provided template (word format)
Proposal features	3-page proposal
Added documents	proposer CV
Info contact	info@growbot.eu

2.4 Evaluation criteria

In the fourth section, the candidates found the details of the evaluation criteria (*Table 2*) (*Figure 2*).


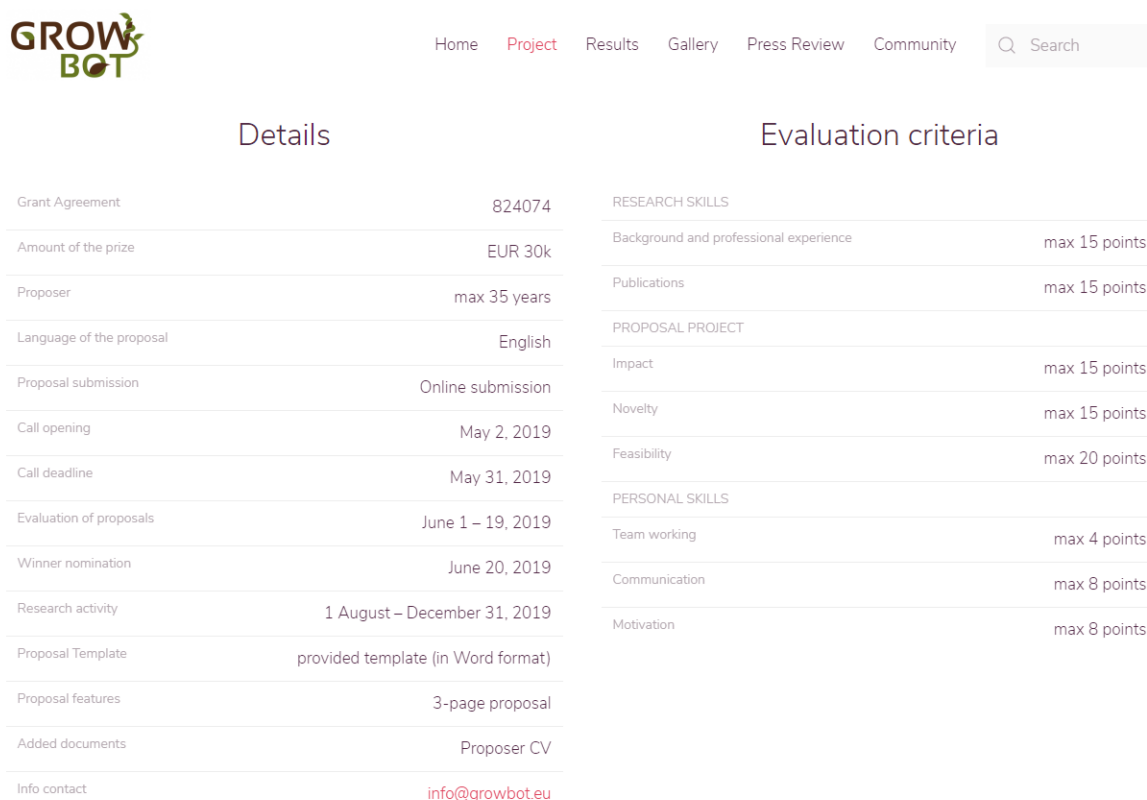
	<p style="text-align: center;">Title Prize I</p>	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

Table 2: Evaluation criteria of the first call for ideas

SKILLS	POINTS
RESEARCH SKILLS	
Background and professional experience	Max 15
Publications	Max 15
PROPOSAL PROJECT	
Impact	Max 15
Novelty	Max 15
Feasibility	Max 20
PERSONAL SKILLS	
Team working	Max 4
Communication	Max 8
Motivation	Max 8



The screenshot shows the GROW BOT website interface. At the top left is the GROW BOT logo. To the right is a navigation menu with links: Home, Project, Results, Gallery, Press Review, Community, and a search bar. Below the navigation, there are two main sections: 'Details' and 'Evaluation criteria'.

Details

Grant Agreement	824074
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Research activity	1 August – December 31, 2019
Proposal Template	provided template (in Word format)
Proposal features	3-page proposal
Added documents	Proposer CV
Info contact	info@growbot.eu

Evaluation criteria

RESEARCH SKILLS	
Background and professional experience	max 15 points
Publications	max 15 points
PROPOSAL PROJECT	
Impact	max 15 points
Novelty	max 15 points
Feasibility	max 20 points
PERSONAL SKILLS	
Team working	max 4 points
Communication	max 8 points
Motivation	max 8 points

Figure 2: Screenshot of the Details and Evaluation criteria section.

2.5 Download

In the fifth section, the candidates found the template of the documents required for the application: proposal and commitment letter (see annex section) (Figure 3).


	<p style="text-align: center;">Title Prize I</p>	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1



Figure 3: Screenshot of Download section and Apply button.

2.6 Application form

Clicking the “Apply” button (Figure 3), located on the bottom of the call for ideas webpage, candidates were invited to fill out the online application form.

In order to properly apply to the call, the candidates had to fill the following fields:

- Name
- Email
- Host Institution

and to upload the following documents:

- Proposal
- CV
- Letter of commitment

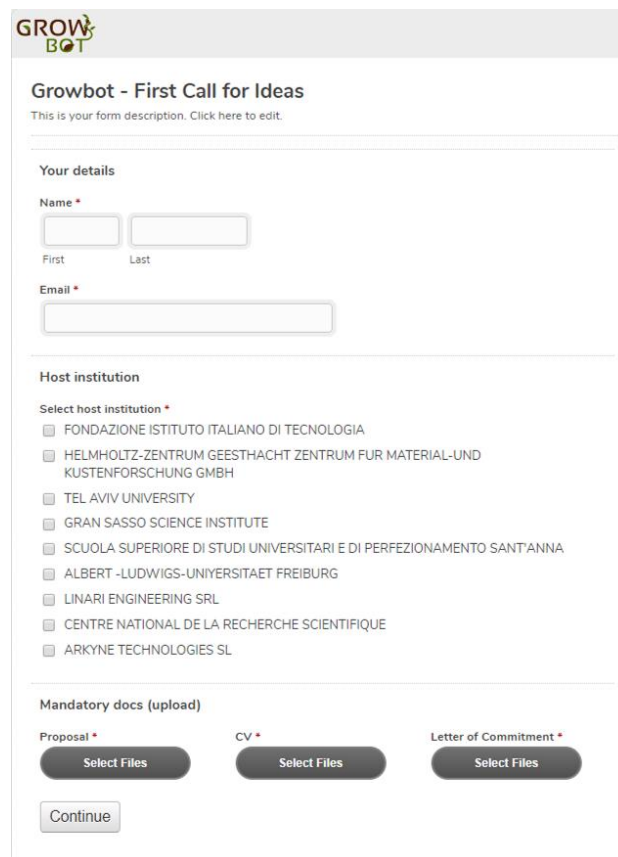



Figure 4: Screenshot of the application form.

	<p>Title Prize I</p>	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

2.7 Call spread

The launch of the first call for ideas was spread via project social channels, i.e., Facebook and Twitter, European Commission research portal EURAXESS, professional platform LinkedIn (Figure 5) and sent to the main mailing lists which each partner belongs to.



EURAXESS

HOME JOBS & FUNDING CAREER DEVELOPMENT PARTNERING INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE NATIONAL PORTALS EURAXESS WORLDWIDE LOGIN / REGISTER

07/05/2019

[EU project GrowBot] - 1st Call for Ideas for young researchers

[EU project GrowBot] - 1st Call for Ideas for young researchers


GrowBot
@growbotproject

1st #callForIdeas GrowBot We are looking for young researchers to study "in situ growth dynamics of vines and lianas in the forest canopy"
<https://www.growbot.eu/project/grants/21-first-call-for-ideas> ... #jobposting #H2020

GrowBot
@GrowBot_project

1st #callForIdeas @GrowBot_project @fet_eu We are looking for young researchers to study "in situ growth dynamics of vines and lianas in the forest canopy" [growbot.eu/project/grants/21-first-call-for-ideas](https://www.growbot.eu/project/grants/21-first-call-for-ideas) ... #jobposting #H2020

Figure 5: Screenshot of the posts published for spreading the GrowBot first call for ideas.

	Title Prize I	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

3 Evaluation

The members of the scientific committee were:

- Dr Barbara Mazzolai (project coordinator)
- Prof Pierangelo Marcati (member of the Scientific Management Board for GSSI)
- Prof Cecilia Laschi (member of the Scientific Management Board for SSSA)
- Dr Stefano Linari (member of the Innovation Management Board for Linari)
- Dr Nicholas Rowe (member of the Scientific and Management Board for CNRS)
- Prof George Jeronimidis (member of the Advisory Board)

Two applicants applied to the call:

- Mrs Begüm Kacamak
- Mrs Mandana Kariminejad

The unique candidate suitable for the evaluation process was Mrs Begüm Kacamak, who submitted all the required documents: CV, proposal template, and commitment letter.

Mrs Mandana Kariminejad submitted the following documents: CV, a research statement, and a recommendation letter. Mrs Kariminejad's did not submit the required documentation and the members of the Scientific Committee considered her not suitable for the evaluation.

The evaluation score of Mrs Begüm Kacamak is reported in *Table 3*.

Table 3: Mrs Begüm Kacamak's evaluation score

SKILLS	POINTS
RESEARCH SKILLS	
Background and professional experience	10/15
Publications	0/15
PROPOSAL PROJECT	
Impact	14/15
Novelty	14/15
Feasibility	18/20
PERSONAL SKILLS	
Team working	4/4
Communication	8/8
Motivation	8/8

The members of the Scientific Committee expressed an eligibility vote of the candidate, as requirement to elect Mrs. Begüm Kacamak as the winner.

Mrs. Begüm Kacamak's got 6/6 score in the eligibility vote.

	<p style="text-align: center;">Title Prize I</p>	<p>Deliverable Number 10.2</p>
		<p>Version 0.1</p>

4 Report on the research activities

The winner of the call for ideas, Mrs Begüm Kacamak, selected the Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (cirad) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) in Montpellier as host institution.

Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic issues, the activities started with a delay of three months (1st November 2019).

Moreover, given the nature of research activities proposed, Mrs Begüm Kacamak and her host institute asked to GrowBot consortium to span the research activities in nine months instead of five months. The project, in fact, requires a series of campaigns of data acquisition in field in North of the Congo Republic that can be better addressed in a longer period of time.

A video contribution of the winner proposal is available online on the Project website:

<https://www.growbot.eu/project/grants/21-first-call-for-ideas>

Appendix

1. Proposal template

Full Title of the proposal

Acronym of the proposal

Name of the applicant: Name Surname
Host institution: Name of the host institution
Applicant email: email

Note: Grey highlighted areas needs to be filled.

Abstract

(Maximum 200 words – Summary of the proposal)

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Maecenas porttitor congue massa. Fusce posuere, magna sed pulvinar ultricies, purus lectus malesuada libero, sit amet commodo magna eros quis urna.

Nunc viverra imperdiet enim. Fusce est. Vivamus a tellus.

Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede. Mauris et orci.

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Section A: Introduction

(Maximum 250 words – Introduction and state of the art)

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Section B.1: Brief description of the proposal

(Maximum 100 words – Description of the proposal highlighting the key and innovative aspects)

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Section B.2: Detailed Working Program

(Maximum 200 words – Detailed description of the research activities)

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Section C: Expected results

(Maximum 100 words – Expected outcomes, publications, conference contributions, patents, etc.)

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Section C: Detail of costs

	Title Prize I	Deliverable Number 10.2
		Version 0.1

(Maximum 50 words – Travel, equipment, services, large research infrastructure, etc.)

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Nunc viverra imperdiet enim.

Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Proin pharetra nonummy pede.

Section D: References

(Maximum 10 references)

1. Surname Name, Surname Name. (Year) Title. **Journal Volume number**: Pages.

2. Commitment letter template

ENTITY LEGAL LETTER

Commitment of the host institution for the call for ideas within EU project

H2020 GA 824074 GrowBot

The XXXXX (*legal entity*), confirms its intention to sign a supplementary agreement with Dr NNNNN (*applicant*) in which the obligations listed below will be addressed should the proposal entitled “NAME” be retained.

The *legal entity* commits itself to engage the *applicant* for the duration of the grant to:

- a) ensure that the work will be performed under the *applicant’s* scientific guidance;
- b) provide research support to the *applicant* and the project awarded;
- c) provide reasonable administrative support;
- d) ensure that the *applicant* enjoy adequate contractual conditions, in particular as regards the salary, which has to be equal to the grant awarded.

For the host institution (applicant legal entity):

Name and Function

Email and Signature of legal representative

Stamp of the host institution (applicant legal entity)