

Business Plan 2023 – 2025

EIT Manufacturing

Permanently Open Call for applications

Transform Call 2024

Version 3.0

June 2024

HISTORY OF CHANGES		
Version	Publication date	Changes
1.0	13.03.2024	
2.0	20.03.2024	Modification of eligibility criteria.
3.0	07.06.2024	Modification in Financial Sustainability section and contact email address

Table of Contents

1	Call summary	3
2	General conditions	5
3	Call specific conditions	6
3.1	Call thematic and applicant's profile.....	6
3.1.1	Purpose	6
3.1.2	Contribution to EIT Manufacturing's Financial sustainability and Further benefits for Corporate or SME and startups	6
3.1.3	Applicants profile	8
3.1.4	Expected results.....	9
3.2	Contribution to EIT Manufacturing's Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	10
3.3	Budget and funding.....	10
3.3.1	Payments.....	11
3.4	Mandatory deliverables for Startups	12
4	Reporting and monitoring	13
5	Proposal preparation and submission	13
5.1	Call Contact Email	15
6	Proposal evaluation and selection process	16
6.1	Eligibility and admissibility check	16
6.2	Evaluation of proposals.....	16
6.3	Communication of results.....	18
6.4	Procedure for complaints and appeal.....	18
6.5	Selected applicants and follow-up	19
7	Other terms and Conditions	20
7.1	Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of funding	20
7.2	Intellectual Property Rights.....	20
7.3	Right to activate audits	21

7.4	Withdrawal of the funding — Recovery of undue amounts	21
7.5	Data protection	21
7.6	Acceptance of the Guidelines	22
7.7	Confidentiality.....	23
7.8	Exclusion Criteria.....	24
7.9	Applicable Law	24

Disclaimer: This document provides the applicants with detailed information on the EIT Manufacturing Transform Call 2024 of the EIT Manufacturing Business Plan 2023-2025. The information given is subject to revision, according to new potential rules or requirements provided by EIT and/or by the EC (European Commission).

Note: for additional details please refer to the other sections of this document.

1 Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Dates	<p>Call opening: 18th March, 2024, 12:00PM CET</p> <p>Cut-off dates:</p> <p>1st Cut-off date: 30th April, 2024, 12:00 pm CET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligibility and admissibility check: 2nd and 3rd May, 2024 - Evaluation of applications: 6th to 24th May, 2024 - Communication of results: 28th May, 2024 <p>2nd Cut-off date: 14th June, 2024, 12:00 pm CET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligibility and admissibility check: 17th and 18th June, 2024 - Evaluation of applications: 19th June to 9th July, 2024 - Communication of results: 11th July, 2024 <p>3rd Cut-off date: 6th September, 2024, 12:00 pm CET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligibility and admissibility check: 9th and 10th September, 2024 - Evaluation of applications: 11th September to 1st October, 2024 - Communication of results: 3rd October, 2024 <p>4th Cut-off date: 29th October, 2024, 12:00 pm CET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligibility and admissibility check: 30th and 31st October, 2024 - Evaluation of applications: 4th to 22th November, 2024 - Communication of results: 26nd November, 2024
Introduction	<p>The EIT Manufacturing's Transform Call aim is to stimulate the adoption of new technology in industry, supporting the transformation process in the European manufacturing ecosystem.</p> <p>EIT Manufacturing aims to support manufacturing corporates and SMEs in solving industrial and innovation challenges, by integrating new technologies from startups that could be further co-developed and integrated in their business operations and production.</p> <p>Transform Call focuses on addressing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The innovation needs of well-established companies, such as manufacturing corporates and SMEs, and; - Business transformation through adoption of new technologies to empower competitiveness and ensure sustainability

	<p>The purpose of this call is to support pilot projects between manufacturing corporates or SMEs (“Challenge Owners”) and startups on a specific industrial challenge.</p> <p>Through a structured process, the EIT Manufacturing Business Creation team will support the collaboration between corporates and SMEs with the best-fitting startup partners for further development and pilot project implementation, and will provide guidance, support, and financing during the pilot project. The Call has the dual goal of providing innovative solutions for the Corporates/SMEs and opening new market opportunities for startups.</p>
The total budget allocated to this call	300,000 EUR ¹
Link to the submission portal	The submission platform will be available as of 18 th March, 2024.
List of documents to be submitted	Application form available on the submission platform (HERE)
List of documents to take into consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This “Transform Call 2024 - Terms and Conditions” - EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda - Eligibility of expenditure - Appeal procedure - Horizon Europe (Model) Grant Agreement (specifically Articles 16 and 17) • Declaration of Honour • Financial Support Agreement • Commercial Agreement (Financial Sustainability agreement)
Evaluation criteria and Sub-criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Excellence (<i>Novelty, Feasibility and Effectiveness</i>) 2. Impact (<i>Environmental, Social and Economic</i>) 3. Financial sustainability (<i>Financial commitment, Return mechanisms, and Market Potential and Revenue generation</i>) 4. Implementation (<i>Team, Plan, and Evaluation</i>) 5. Strategic fit (<i>Relevance, Synergy and Alignment</i>)

¹ The total amount could be increased based on the budget availability.

2 General conditions

The primary objective of the Business Creation team of EIT Manufacturing in 2023-2025 is to stimulate the adoption of new technologies in industry, supporting the transformation process in the European manufacturing ecosystem. EIT Manufacturing seeks to support the application of innovative technologies in Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), mid-cap companies and corporates.

Transform Call 2024 focuses on the innovation needs of well-established companies, such as manufacturing corporates and SMEs.

Providing companies access to an international pool of technologies for improving (operational, production) efficiency, product quality and sustainability.

In the context of supporting collaboration between startups and corporates, Transform Call 2024 emerges as a solution to address the challenges startups encounter when attempting to secure initial businesses with manufacturing customers.

This Call not only focuses on lowering collaboration barriers but also seeks to minimize risks associated with the adoption of novel technologies within industry.

Transform Call 2024 will foster new business relationships between manufacturing startups and companies across Europe while facilitating real business engagements, resulting in mutual growth and advancement within the industry. This Call presents startups with a valuable opportunity to build strong partnerships with manufacturing customers, thereby driving innovation and achieving success in a competitive business landscape.

In conclusion, the collaboration between startups and the manufacturing sector holds the potential for significant innovation impact. Through the practical application of startups' solutions to address real-world manufacturing challenges, the industry can experience heightened efficiency and enhanced competitiveness at a European scale. As individual companies grow and prosper, the broader society also benefits from these advancements, fostering progress in European manufacturing and contributing to a more sustainable and thriving industrial landscape. This partnership between startups and the manufacturing sector represents a remarkable opportunity for transformative growth and positive impact on society.

3 Call specific conditions

3.1 Call thematic and applicant's profile

3.1.1 Purpose

EIT Manufacturing aims to support manufacturing corporates and SMEs in solving industrial and innovation challenges, by implementing new technologies from startups that could be further co-developed and integrated in their business operations and production.

Through a structured process, the Business Creation team will support the collaboration between corporates and SMEs with the best-fitting startup partners for further development and pilot project implementation, and will provide to the partners guidance, support, and financing during the pilot project. The Call has the dual goal of providing innovative solutions for the Corporates/SMEs and opening new market opportunities for startups.

The purpose of this call is to support pilot projects between manufacturing corporates or SMEs (“Challenge Owners”) and startups on a specific industrial challenge. The identified industrial challenges and pilot project proposals have to fit within the objectives of our Strategic Agenda.

EIT Manufacturing strategic objectives (SOs), as set out in the Strategic Agenda 2021-2027, steer our activities and ambitions, and will help respond to major challenges shared by the manufacturing industry and society. These objectives being:

- Put people at the center of manufacturing.
- Accelerate green manufacturing.
- Foster sovereignty and competitiveness.

Therefore, the pilot projects’ proposals that are submitted to this Call by startups must be aligned to EIT Manufacturing’s vision and strategic objectives, and address a specific Corporate or SME’s (Challenge Owner) need.

3.1.2 Contribution to EIT Manufacturing’s Financial sustainability and Further benefits for Corporate or SME and startups

EIT Manufacturing provides 20,000 EUR financial support for this Call for each selected proposal.

EIT Manufacturing request all applicants to contribute with a proposal aligned with EIT Manufacturing's obligation to become Financially Sustainable.

This will allow EIT Manufacturing to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding and secure its ability to continue supporting European manufacturing organizations in the long term.

Proposals are therefore encouraged to include a mechanism, preferably returning at least 75% (15,000 EUR) of 20,000 EUR amount to EIT Manufacturing.

The following are some of the options for applicants to contribute to EIT Manufacturing's financial sustainability:

1. Financial Sustainability contribution by the Corporates or SMEs

Selected Corporates or SMEs (Challenge Owners) can receive EIT Manufacturing's support **for a fixed fee** (EUR 15 000) or be considered for [EIT Manufacturing membership](#)². The support services may include support for challenge definition, scouting for solutions, evaluation of proposals, and ongoing monitoring during a PoC; among other possible services. The support of EIT Manufacturing team to the implementation of the projects, will have the goal to maximize the chances of a successful outcome.

2. Financial Sustainability contribution by the Startups

Startups may make a financial contribution (e.g. a fixed fee EUR 15 000, revenue sharing, success fee; among others) to EIT Manufacturing following a successful completion of the PoC. This mechanism can be defined in the application.

In return, and besides the funding received for their PoC with the Corporate or SME; selected startups stand to gain valuable benefits, such as mentorship, business development support, assistance in navigating their pilot collaboration with the Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner); among others. This support extends to fostering their subsequent growth, providing enhanced visibility, and granting access to manufacturing events. Additionally, EIT Manufacturing may explore prospective funding opportunities for startups, potentially tied to a future shareholding mechanism.

² Please check for more details in the Partnership model:
<https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/partners/partnership-models/>

3. Mutual contribution to Financial Sustainability by both the Corporate or SME, and the Startup

Both Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner) and Startups may propose a joint contribution mechanism that aligns with their preferences and circumstances (revenue sharing, success fee; among others), ensuring the continued success of EIT Manufacturing and its mission to drive innovation and sustainability in European manufacturing.

Corporates or SMEs and Startups are invited to get in contact with Business Creation team at call.programme.management@eitmanufacturing.eu for scheduling a detailed discussion on the proposal's possible Financial Sustainability mechanisms.

It will be mandatory for applicants from selected proposals to sign a Commercial Agreement (agreement to Financial Sustainability mechanism) with EIT Manufacturing before the beginning of the project.

3.1.3 Applicants profile

The Transform Call 2024 is open to startups that **address an identified** corporate or SME's **challenge** and that **have been collaborating** with the Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner) on the planning of the pilot project. The solutions proposed for the pilot project by the startups should have **at least a Technology Readiness Level 7 or higher**.

The startups applying to the Transform Call 2024 must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be a legal entity with registered headquarters in:
 - one of the European Union Member States, including their outermost regions:
Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.
 - countries associated to Horizon Europe and the low- and middle-income countries.³
- Have a dedicated team of at least two (2) full-time equivalent employees.

³ See the [Horizon Europe List of Participating Countries](#) on the Portal for an up-to-date list of these countries

- Have a valid PIC Number⁴.

Before submitting a proposal, all applicants must register on the EU Participant Portal and obtain a PIC number.

If you have already participated in projects funded by the EU before and have your PIC number validated, you can proceed with the registration of your organisation on the submission tool. Please make sure that the information that you are providing on the submission tool is consistent with the legal information connected to your PIC (legal name, VAT, registration number, legal address, LEAR – legally appointed representative responsible for updating the organisation’s information on the EU participant portal). If this is your first time participating in an EU-funded project or your organisation cannot access your already validated PIC and there are updates to the organisational data that need to be done, you need to register/re-register your organisation.

Primary registration of your PIC number takes about 10 minutes, and your PIC number is generated within another 10 minutes and will be sent to the email address that you have indicated during the registration. All new PIC numbers get assigned a status of “Declared”, which means your organisation has not been fully validated, but the new PIC number can already be used during your proposal submission.

Moreover, through the Transform Call 2024, EIT Manufacturing would like to:

- Encourage participation of startups based in EIT RIS countries.
 - RIS’ EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia.
 - RIS’ Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine.
- Strongly encourage teams that embrace gender equality and diversity to participate in our startup Call. By fostering an inclusive environment, we believe that diverse perspectives lead to innovative solutions and stronger collaborations.

3.1.4 Expected results

Transform Call 2024 supports the collaboration between manufacturing corporates, SMEs and startup partners for the adaptation or development of their challenge’s solution by the implementation of a pilot project in the Corporates/SMEs’ facilities.

⁴<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>

The Transform Call 2024 selected startups must conduct an in-situ demonstration of the pilot project within a maximum period of 12 months after the grant has been awarded. All projects must be concluded by November 29th 2025.

3.2 Contribution to EIT Manufacturing’s Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

The startups that are selected for this Call have to contribute to the following mandatory KPI.

KPI	Short title	Minimum target
EITHE03.1	KIC Supported Start-ups/Scale-ups	1

The startups that are selected within this Call could contribute also to the following additional KPIs:

KPI	Short title	Minimum target
EITHE02.1	Number of all innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or within six months after completion. Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) sold.	1
EITHE02.4	Number of innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or within 6 months after completion with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented	1
EITHE06.1	Total EUR amount of private and public capital attracted within year N (€M)	No minimum target

Please, note that once the KPI value is submitted it will not be possible to amend it (only an increase of the value is possible); it will remain as is for the target to be achieved by the end of the activity.

3.3 Budget and funding

The total maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is 300,000 EUR. The available financial support (also known as “sub-grant”) is 20,000 EUR per pilot project for activities which are in line with the overall EIT Manufacturing objectives. EIT Manufacturing retains the authority to conclude the Call if the allocated budget is fully utilized before the third or fourth cutoff dates.

The financial contribution will be awarded to the selected startups, as a lump sum of 20,000 EUR to conduct an in-situ demonstration of the pilot project within a maximum period of 12 months, where one Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner) could only work with one Startup Partner supported within this Call.

The lump sum offered will cover the startup's eligible (direct and indirect) costs for the pilot project.

All Pilot project full proposals must provide a detailed cost estimation, which must be an approximation of the actual costs. Before submitting the full proposal, Startup Partners should double-check that the total requested EIT funding is EXACTLY EQUAL to 20,000 EUR.

The cost estimation provided must be:

- Subject to the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants, i.e. cost estimations can be included only if the same cost item/type of cost would be eligible in an actual cost grant
- Detailed in terms of tasks: applicants must identify the budget assigned to each task and the expected ending date of the task
- Must be in line with normal practices
- Must be reasonable/not excessive
- Must be in line with and necessary for the activities proposed
- Must be in line with the best value for money (or if appropriate the lowest price) principle and ensure that there is no conflict of interests Article 12 of the Model Grant Agreement).

For information on the eligibility of costs of project's budget, please refer to the document Eligibility of expenditure published on the Call webpage ([LINK](#)).

3.3.1 Payments

The lump sum grant will be transferred in two (2) instalments:

- The first payment of the funding assigned will be done according to the following schedule:

<i>First Payment</i>	<i>Estimated date</i>
75% of the funding to be received	At the beginning of the project (DEL 1, M1)

In case of applicants subjected to EU administrative sanctions⁵ or in one of the exclusion situations listed in the “Declaration of Honour” that ban them from receiving European funding, **EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to withdraw the grant at any step of the Call.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: After concluding the evaluation process and communicating the results for each cut-off, and prior to processing the initial payment to the selected startups, EIT Manufacturing is obligated to report the Call's outcomes to EIT. During this period, up to 60-day standstill is in effect, prohibiting the execution of any Financial Support Agreement. Following the conclusion of the 60-day standstill period, the selected startup will be requested to complete DEL1 (refer to section 3.4), after which the payment process will be initiated. It is important to note that the internal reporting and payment process for the phase just mentioned may take from 8 to 10 weeks after communicating the results from the Call.

- The final payment of the funding assigned will be done according to the following schedule:

<i>Final Payment</i>	<i>Estimated date</i>
25% of the funding to be received	It takes place after the official closing of the project (DEL 2).

The 25% funding remaining to be received will be paid upon acceptance by EIT Manufacturing of the mandatory deliverables presented in paragraph 3.4. The non-completion of the mandatory deliverables might affect the balance payment and might imply the application of the performance rate methodology to the balance payment and eventual payment recovery of the first payment.

3.4 Mandatory deliverables for Startups

Deliverables	Value assigned to deliverables regarding the total funding to be received
DEL 1: Kick-off package. This package includes a copy of the signed Financial	75% of the funding (by M1)

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018R1046-20221214>

Support Agreement and Declaration of Honour.	
DEL 2: Final performance report. The report will provide overview of achieved results and deliverables, and will address the EIT Manufacturing branding requirements.	25% of the funding (by closing of the project)

The templates for the deliverables are provided by EIT Manufacturing.

4 Reporting and monitoring

Reporting periods and technical reporting may follow general rules and procedures established in the [EIT Manufacturing's Activities Monitoring guide](#) (Go to Simplified monitoring) with a focus on the successful completion and approval of the mandatory deliverables. However, EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to provide simplified templates for the reporting.

If a mandatory deliverable is declared incomplete or needs to be improved, it will be rejected by EIT Manufacturing, and the lump sum amount concerned will not be paid at that point in time. The startup will have to complete/improve the mandatory deliverable later and resubmit it for its approval and subsequent payment.

If the rejection of the mandatory deliverable is confirmed, the total project budget (or the percentage) linked to it will not be paid or recovered.

Furthermore, EIT Manufacturing will monitor all activities up to 5 years after activity completion to track long-term impact and to ensure the achievement of expected results and outcomes after the activity end.

All pilot projects selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by EIT Manufacturing to ensure effective progress and implementation.

5 Proposal preparation and submission

All applications and supporting documents and material must be submitted in the official language of the call, English (i.e., all submission material must be submitted in English); using the Submission Management Platform "Submittable" – the link to the

application form is accessible on the Call website ([HERE](#)). No paper submissions will be considered.

Applicants' representatives must register and validate the account if this is the first time accessing the platform. If the applicant's representative has already created an account, the representative may proceed to log in. Once logged in, he/she may start a new application in Transform Call. During the application, all compulsory fields must be filled in.

Applicants are invited to send their applications at any time and before any of these cut-off dates:

<i>Cut-off</i>	<i>Dates</i>
First cut-off date	<i>30th April 2024</i>
Second cut-off date	<i>14th June 2024</i>
Third cut-off date	<i>6th September 2024</i>
Fourth cut-off date	<i>29th October 2024</i>

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the submission platform and **within the call cut-off dates**:

- Application form, with all mandatory fields properly filled in
- Pilot project full proposal (Go to Application form for details)
- Company logo
- Company registration certificate
- Confirmation Letter from Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner) including description of the challenge and commitment to the pilot project and Financial Sustainability's contribution to EIT Manufacturing (this latter if applicable)
- Commercial Agreement (Financial Sustainability agreement) will be signed if application selected

The exact number of pilot projects funded will depend on the quality of the applications received.

NOTE: Only applications submitted through the online application link ([HERE](#)) before the deadline will be accepted and considered. The organizers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline; any extension of the deadline will be communicated to the public on the Call website.

Any documentation missing or considered incomplete may be a reason for application rejection.

An indicative timeline is outlined in Section 1. Call Summary. Please note that this calendar is indicative. The dates might be subject to slight changes.

5.1 Call Contact Email

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing to ask questions and clarify any points on general or technical procedures and call content by sending an email message to call.programme.management@eitmanufacturing.eu.

6 Proposal evaluation and selection process

6.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A submission will be considered admissible if:

Completeness	The submission is completed, submitted in time, and via the submission tool, in English; with all its mandatory sections and compulsory documents included (Application form, Pilot project full proposal, Company Logo, Company registration certificate, Confirmation letter and/or Commitment letter.)
---------------------	---

Admissible submissions will be considered eligible if:

Applicant profile	The applicant's profile is in line with the requirements presented under section 3.1.3 "Applicants profile."
--------------------------	--

Applications containing one or more inadmissible or ineligible elements will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the eligibility and admissibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

The applicant deemed ineligible who disputes the ineligibility decision may appeal. This appeal must be made within 5 calendar days from the official EIT Manufacturing notification of ineligibility (see the document [Appeal procedure](#) also linked to the call and available from the Call website).

6.2 Evaluation of proposals

All evaluation stages will be integrated by different groups of criteria and sub-criteria which will be assessed according to the following scores:

Score	Description
1	<i>Extremely poor or None</i> The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific call provisions
2	<i>Bad</i> The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific call provisions

3	<i>Average</i>	The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific call provisions
4	<i>Good</i>	The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific call provisions
5	<i>Excellent</i>	The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity, and coherence, compared to the specific call provisions

The scores shall be given at the criteria level and then summed together to come with a final score.

Two (2) External Expert Evaluators (EEEs) and one (1) Internal Evaluator from EIT Manufacturing Business Creation will evaluate each application that successfully passes the eligibility and admissibility check. The evaluators reserve the right to invite the applicants for an interview. The applications are evaluated and scored against the criteria and sub-criteria, as listed below:

Evaluation criteria	Excellence	Impact	Financial Sustainability	Implementation	Strategic fit	TOTAL
	The application presents an innovative technology-based solution with the potential of the product/service to improve manufacturing and solve the disclosed challenge.	The pilot project contributes significantly towards positive transformation of the manufacturing sector.	The pilot project contributes towards the financial sustainability of EIT Manufacturing.	The application demonstrates a clear growth plan with measurable indicators and clear milestones.	The startup contributes to the EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda and vision, and the business challenge for which it has been submitted.	
Sub-criteria by criterion	Novelty. The degree to which the solution is original, creative, and not previously implemented in the manufacturing sector.	Environmental. The contribution of the solution to reducing the environmental footprint of the manufacturing sector, such as emissions, waste, energy consumption, and resource use.	Financial commitment. The commitment of Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner) and/or Startup to propose a mechanism(s) to contribute to EIT Manufacturing's Financial Sustainability.	Team. The qualifications, experience, and skills of the startup team, and their ability to execute the solution and manage the project.	Relevance. The degree to which the solution and the challenge are related to the EIT Manufacturing's Strategic Agenda and goals and priorities of the organization.	
	Feasibility. The extent to which the solution is technically and practically viable and can be integrated with existing systems and processes.	Social. The contribution of the solution to improving the social aspects of the manufacturing sector, such as working conditions, safety,	Clear Return mechanism(s). The proposed financial return mechanism(s) is(are) clear and effective, gauging innovation in sustaining EIT	Project and Cost Plan. The clarity, coherence, and completeness of the project and cost plan, and the alignment of the objectives, activities, and deliverables with	Synergy. The extent to which the solution and the challenge complement or enhance other initiatives, projects, or partnerships of the EIT Manufacturing, and	

		health, and skills development.	Manufacturing's financial health.	the solution and the challenge.	create added value or benefits.	
	Effectiveness. The potential of the solution to address the specific challenge, and to enhance the performance, quality, and efficiency of the manufacturing process.	Economic. The contribution of the solution to increasing the competitiveness, productivity, and profitability of the manufacturing sector, as well as creating new markets and opportunities.	Market potential and Revenue generation. The proposal has potential to attract external funding, partnerships, and commercialization opportunities, enhancing financial sustainability.	Evaluation. The methods, tools, and indicators used to monitor, measure, and report the progress and outcomes of the project, and to identify and address any issues or challenges.	Alignment. The compatibility of the solution and the challenge with the values, principles, and standards of the EIT Manufacturing, and the adherence to the ethical, legal, and regulatory frameworks.	
Score	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	up to 25
Thresholds	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	15/25

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and the total score. The maximum score for a proposal is 25. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3 and the default overall threshold is 15.

Once the evaluators have concluded their assessment a Consensus Meeting is organised and a ranking list with recommendations is produced, together with an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR). Only applications with a total score equal or over 15 points (threshold) can be considered for funding.

6.3 Communication of results

Each applicant will receive an email notification or message through the submission platform with the results of the evaluation (ESR). If the applicant does not confirm acknowledgement of the decision, it is up to EIT Manufacturing to decide whether to allocate funding to another pilot project or to allocate funding to the next cut-off date.

6.4 Procedure for complaints and appeal

The applicant (the representative of the legal entity or the team) of a rejected application who disagrees with the decision may request an evaluation review. **Only procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review**, for example, process errors or technical problems. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal shall not be the subject of an evaluation review. In this case, the

applicant will have 5 calendar days after receipt of the final evaluation results to submit an appeal to the Evaluation (see document [Appeal procedure](#)).

6.5 Selected applicants and follow-up

The selected Startups will receive the following:

- A “growth package” of Access-to-Market support services provided by the EIT Manufacturing Business Creation team aimed at supporting their internationalisation strategy and deployment of their innovation (Framework Agreement).
- Gain access to EIT Manufacturing's pan-European innovation network and enhancing their visibility and international publicity through EIT Manufacturing's communication channels.
- A monetary grant of 20,000 EUR to implement a pilot project to address the challenge disclosed by the Corporate or SME (Challenge Owner) according to the pilot project full proposal (Financial Support Agreement).

The selected Startups will have to diligently collaborate in the following steps that will be taken after closing the call:

- Providing EIT Manufacturing with required banking and fiscal details.
- Signature of a Declaration of Honour (see point 7.8) which can be downloaded from the Call website (HERE).
- Signature of the Framework Agreement and the Financial Support Agreement.
- Collaborate with the Business Creation team of EIT Manufacturing during the delivery of “growth package” support services.
- Within one month from the end of the Framework Agreement, Startup should provide signature of a Support Review Document (SRD) confirming:
 - i. The length and type of services provided by the Business Creation team of EIT Manufacturing and how such services contributed to the startup growth;
 - ii. The amount, type, and source of financing received by the startup during the support period.

The template of the Support Review Document will be provided in due time by the Business Creation team and shall be signed by a legal representative of the startup.

7 Other terms and Conditions

7.1 Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of funding

Applicants that are awarded funding (financial support to third parties) must promote the funding and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) strategically and effectively. Communication activities related to the funding (including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), must acknowledge EU support and display the EIT Manufacturing logo (emblem) and text. The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands, or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EIT Manufacturing support. When displayed in association with other logos (e.g., sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the applicants that have been awarded funding may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from EIT Manufacturing. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means. Any communication or dissemination activity related to the funding must use factually accurate information.

The EIT Manufacturing may use, for their communication and publicising activities, information relating to the funding, as well as photos or audio-visual material that they receive from the applicants (including in electronic form), and photos and videos taken either in preparation for the dedicated EIT Manufacturing event or during the dedicated EIT Manufacturing event. The EIT Manufacturing will publish the name of both the shortlisted/s and the selected applicants, their origin, the amount of the funding, and their nature and purpose.

7.2 Intellectual Property Rights

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service.

Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Manufacturing and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement by the product or service of applicants. Applicants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology. Applicants agree to respect the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Rules (Article 16 of the Model Grant Agreement). Applicants also agree to respect the [EIT Manufacturing IP Policy](#)

7.3 Right to activate audits

EIT Manufacturing retains the right to activate an audit on Transform Call Startup Partner that have been awarded funding, in case of alerts and/or to confirm governance and proper usage of the financial support.

EIT Manufacturing keeps the right to request any data related to the Transform Call Startup Partners that have been awarded funding for 5 years after completion to ensure transparency and allow monitoring from EIT.

7.4 Withdrawal of the funding — Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Manufacturing may withdraw the funding after its award and recover all payments made if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud, or corruption was used to obtain it;
- the awarded applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded or – the awarded applicants are in serious breach of their obligations under the Guidelines reported in this document.

7.5 Data protection

EIT Manufacturing ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject, you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object, and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing. If you

have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer at dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu. In the case of complaints, you can address them to the French regulator CNIL.

The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the applications and the management, completion, organisation, dissemination of information, and publicity of the Call. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing and/or its subsidiaries.

Personal data shall be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the call awarded to applicants.

Applicants can indicate that EIT Manufacturing may grant access to parts of their submission to trusted investors and partners.

The application submission and evaluation process will be done via Submittable (<http://www.submittable.com>), an online submission management tool by Submittable Holdings, Inc.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF SUBMITTABLE AS SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION TOOL: By submitting your application within this challenge you implicitly state your consent to the Terms and Conditions as well as the Privacy policy of Submittable, available under <http://www.submittable.com/terms> and <http://www.submittable.com/privacy>.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA: By submitting your application within this call you consent that EIT Manufacturing will collect, transfer, process, store, and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

7.6 Acceptance of the Guidelines

By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees to these Guidelines and their Annexes, which form part of the submission. Applicants agree that they have no legal entitlement to funding.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Guidelines. Amendments and additions to these Guidelines shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the applicants on the call page of the EIT Manufacturing website.

EIT Manufacturing also reserves the right to cancel or declare the Call unsuccessful provided all applicants are informed and sufficient justification is given (for example no applications received, or all applications do not pass the default thresholds).

7.7 Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the applicants solely for Transform Call. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

Applicants agree that EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing or establish reports or other necessary documents for EIT.

The applicants agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Manufacturing.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, EIT Manufacturing also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and any form, without the prior written authorization of the company concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for participation in the Transform Call.

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g., Co-Location Centers) solely for the Transform Call Activity. EIT Manufacturing undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on Rapporteurs and independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the call for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

7.8 Exclusion Criteria

Start-ups applying or participating in the program can be excluded at any time (during the assessment, the contracting phase, or the implementation phase) if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in [Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation](#). Applicants shall sign a Declaration of Honour to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. All applicants may be requested to provide relevant recent documentation substantiating the Declaration of Honour. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

7.9 Applicable Law

The present guidelines are governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e., the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation, and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and are complemented, where necessary, by the law of France. The applicants agree to observe the obligations outlined in the [\(Model\) Grant Agreement](#) signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in the contracts to be signed if the application is successful.