



**AI-GNITE**

EIT Manufacturing Open Call  
Business Plan 2023 – 2025

## **AI-IGNITE 2024**

EIT Manufacturing South East 2024

VERSION 1.0



# Index

<b>1. Call summary</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. General conditions</b>	<b>6</b>
2.1 AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call	6
2.2 AI-MATTERS Services for the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call	8
2.2.1 Industrial Digital Twins	8
2.2.2 Intuitive robot programming	8
2.2.3 Dynamic robot task planning & resources orchestration	8
2.2.4 Layout planning optimization	9
2.2.5 AR & VR for operator support & training	9
2.2.6 Industrial IoT platform, analytics & visualization	9
2.2.7 Synthetic data for training machine learning models	9
2.2.8 Monitoring & control of milling processes	10
2.2.9 Quality assessment in Resistance Spot Welding	10
<b>3. Call specific conditions</b>	<b>11</b>
3.1 Call thematic and expected results	11
3.2 Budget and funding	12
3.3 Monitoring and Control related to the "AI-IGNITE 2024" Financial Prize	13
<b>4. Proposal Preparation &amp; Submission</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5. Proposal evaluation &amp; Selection process</b>	<b>15</b>
5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check	15
5.2 Evaluation of proposals	15
5.3 Communication of results	19
5.4 Procedure for complaints and appeal	19
5.5 Selected applicants and follow-up	20
5.6 Reporting	20
<b>6. Other terms and Conditions</b>	<b>21</b>
6.1 Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of funding	21
6.2 Intellectual Property Rights	21

6.3	Right to activate audits.....	22
6.4	Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts.....	22
6.5	Data protection .....	22
6.6	Acceptance of the Guidelines.....	23
6.7	Confidentiality.....	24
6.8	Exclusion Criteria .....	24
6.9	Applicable Law .....	25

**Disclaimer:** this document provides the applicants with detailed information on the EIT Manufacturing South East Open Call AI-IGNITE 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.

# 1. Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
<b>Dates</b>	<p><i>Open call Announcement: 21 May 2024</i></p> <p><i>Open Call Launch: 25 Jul 2024</i></p> <p><i>Open Call Application deadline: 17 Sep 2024</i></p> <p><i>Eligibility and admissibility check: until 20 Sep 2024</i></p> <p><i>Evaluation of proposals: until 25 Sep 2024</i></p> <p><i>Finalists Announcement: until 26 Sep 2024</i></p> <p><i>Pitch Decks received: until 30 Sep 2024</i></p> <p><i>Final Event Day: 3 Oct 2024</i></p> <p><i>Follow up Event: Dissemination of Project Results: Q2-Q3 2025</i></p>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>EIT Manufacturing South East launches the AI-IGNITE 2024 open call that seeks to promote Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital transformation across the South East region. Specifically, through this open call, we aim at accelerating the market deployment of AI-enabled concepts and innovative technologies.</p> <p>The "AI-IGNITE 2024" open call aims at selecting and awarding Startups and SMEs that provide AI-based advanced solutions by taking actions to boost the maturity of related technologies, enhance their competitiveness and productivity. Eligible companies are early-stage or mature companies that are registered and active in one of the following countries supported by EIT Manufacturing South East, namely Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye.</p>

	<p>The AI-IGNITE 2024 open call will award the five (5) top companies positioned for significant growth within the AI landscape, with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A financial award of €10,000 per beneficiary from EIT Manufacturing South East for implementing their development plans</li> <li>- A ticket of up to €40.000 of in-kind contribution from the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite [an entity dedicated to advancing the adoption of AI technologies in manufacturing and related industries] covering the required infrastructure and expertise to design, engineer, deploy, and evaluate the beneficiaries' solutions in their Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF).</li> <li>- A growth package of up to three (3) months of dedicated Access-to-Market (A2M) support services from EIT Manufacturing South East, including introductions to potential customers and invitations to international EITM Events, enhancing visibility and fostering internationalization efforts.</li> </ul>
<b>Total budget allocated to this call</b>	<p>Up to 250.000 EUR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Up to 50.000 EUR (EIT Manufacturing South East)</li> <li>-Up to 200.000 EUR (AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite in-kind contribution)</li> </ul>
<b>Link to the submission portal</b>	<p>The submission platform will be available as of 25 July 2024 (17:00 EEST)</p>
<b>List of documents to be submitted</b>	<p>Application form available on the submission platform</p>
<b>List of documents to take into consideration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horizon Europe (Model) Grant Agreement</li> <li>• EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda</li> <li>• Appeal Procedure</li> </ul>

<b>Evaluation criteria</b>	<p><b>Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts:</b> All submitted proposals will undergo a thorough evaluation process, conducted by independent experts with expertise in AI and manufacturing. Evaluation criteria will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relevance and significance of the proposed innovation activities to the objectives of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call.</li><li>• Technical feasibility and innovation of the proposed AI solutions.</li><li>• Potential impact on enhancing the competitiveness and productivity of the local business ecosystem.</li><li>• Quality of the project plan, including the clarity of objectives, methodology, and deliverables.</li></ul>
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## 2. General conditions

### 2.1 AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call

EIT Manufacturing puts Europe at the center of a global revolution and boosts manufacturing innovation in Europe by connecting people with skills, technologies with markets, and innovators with investors. Technological progress is now exponential, and it is changing the industrial, social, and competitive landscape faster than ever before. Our aim is not only to adapt to this revolution, but to lead it. To do so, we need to overcome value network fragmentation and bring stakeholders together. We need to make better use of our knowledge and our strengths to create value and deploy agile mechanisms to accelerate and steer innovation, shaping the future role of manufacturing in our society. With the needs, concerns and ideas of economy and society at its core, the mission of EIT Manufacturing is to empower its partners and stakeholders to fundamentally transform the manufacturing system and meet the global demands of present and future generations.

Primary objectives of the EIT Manufacturing South East team are to support, scale and accelerate innovative ventures and small businesses into impactful powerhouses. In this context, we will foster activities supporting growth of scaleups and startups, taking them beyond the regional and national borders of the European ecosystems. EIT Manufacturing South East office vision is to make South East Europe a global hub for sustainable and innovative manufacturing.

**AI-IGNITE 2024** is one of the initiatives that emerged following the collaboration agreement between **EIT Manufacturing South East** and **the Greek Satellite of AI-MATTERS** with the goal of enhancing the competitiveness of the local business ecosystem by promoting the testing and implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

**AI-MATTERS** is the world-class reference network of testing and experimentation facilities for AI and robotics technologies in the manufacturing sector. Framed under the Digital Europe Programme, coordinated by CEA from the Paris-Saclay innovation ecosystem, **AI-MATTERS** aims to strengthen Europe's positioning and leadership in the uptake Artificial Intelligence systems by building on the competences, experience, and facilities of 25 major organizations from eight European countries (Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Czech Republic, Greece, Spain and France).

The Greek satellite, with the [Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation \(LMS\)](#) acting as its representative body, has more than 30 years of research activities, combined with industrial customized services and a team of highly qualified and experienced experts. The mission of the Greek satellite is to introduce pioneering technologies in manufacturing, by providing specialized, innovative services, products, and technology transfer to businesses, from SMEs to large corporations. Within AI-Matters, the Greek satellite aims to provide services that enhance the uptake of AI-based solutions in a) factory optimization, b) human robot interaction, c) circular economy, while exploiting the potential of emerging and enabling technologies such as Machine Learning and Generative AI.

Under this framework agreement **AI-IGNITE 2024** is expected to increase the resilience and the flexibility of the European manufacturing sector. By aligning efforts, stakeholders aim to strengthen Europe's positioning and leadership in AI uptake, robotics, and other advanced technologies. In line with the strategic direction of EIT Manufacturing South East, this initiative is set to make significant progress in advancing AI technologies within the manufacturing sector.

**AI-IGNITE 2024** is intended for startups and SMEs from Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye. It is an instrument for EIT Manufacturing to stimulate their ecosystem in order to identify and award the most innovative solution providers in the AI domain. This is a continuation of former EIT Manufacturing South East activities and will further position the office as a key innovation support agent in Europe in the field of AI. The geographical focus on Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye is adapted to changing ecosystem needs, allowing engagement with the full manufacturing innovation ecosystem in those countries to detect best startups' AI projects and award them.

Awarded proposals will receive the monetary prize of €10,000 per beneficiary from *EIT Manufacturing South East* for implementing their development plans and a ticket of up to €40.000 of in-kind contribution from *the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite* covering the required infrastructure and expertise to design, engineer, deploy, and evaluate the beneficiaries' solutions in their Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF). Maximum duration of services is set to 3 months. Subsequently, the best solutions will be awarded with a growth package of up to three (3) months of dedicated Access-to-Market (A2M) support services, from the



*EIT Manufacturing South East Business Development & Innovation team* to cover the needs associated with the commercialization of their innovation activities.

## **2.2 AI-MATTERS Services for the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call**

The following list outlines the AI-MATTERS services available to the applicants of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call.

### **2.2.1 Industrial Digital Twins**

Digital Twins integrated with AI algorithms have the potential of transforming manufacturing by enabling among others contextualized real-time data analytics, and more accurate simulations of what-if scenarios. This service encompasses the creation of precise virtual replicas of physical manufacturing systems such as robotic cells. The robotic cell can be compiled with a set of high / low payload industrial or high / low collaborative robots or mobile robot manipulators or AGVs according to the needs of each company. Experimentation with customized functionalities and adjustments tailored to specific company needs, such as supervision, virtual commissioning, motion planning, task planning, and energy efficiency can be included as part of the service. Leveraging advanced AI and IoT connectivity, digital twins can be continuously updated with live data, enabling detailed analysis and optimization of workflows, predictive maintenance, and rapid scenario testing.

### **2.2.2 Intuitive robot programming**

This service is dedicated to the testing and experimentation with AI tools enabling intuitive and ad hoc robot programming. A diverse set of collaborative robotic cells, including high / low payload, and mobile robots, offer a versatile testing environment to meet various needs. Additionally, multi-modal human-robot interaction can be deployed and tested encompassing natural language processing, gesture-based interaction, voice based interaction, augmented reality based interaction, or even hand guidance depending on the needs of each company.

### **2.2.3 Dynamic robot task planning & resources orchestration**

Dynamic Robot Task Planning & Resources Orchestration service focuses on optimizing robot task execution in dynamic environments. Within this service it is possible to experiment with the potential of AI to enable robot adaptations based on changing environmental conditions and

task requirements. Furthermore, it is possible to test the orchestration of multiple robots and other assets, such as sensors, and actuators. Through the integration of AI algorithms, the use of available resources can be optimized, idle time can be minimized, and bottlenecks can be prevented, thereby maximizing overall productivity and efficiency.

#### **2.2.4 Layout planning optimization**

This service is offered for the testing and experimentation on AI-enabled algorithms for layout optimization. The capabilities and potential of virtual reality simulation for intuitive and multi-stakeholder engagement can be exploited for the comprehensive and user-centred (re)design and improvement of the effectiveness of spatial layout in industrial settings under diverse contexts.

#### **2.2.5 AR & VR for operator support & training**

This service enables the experimentation with AI in the context of safety management and flexible production systems with the use of Augmented Reality (AR)/Virtual Reality (VR) tools for Human robot collaboration. AI empowered algorithms for part detection, instructions generation, personalization of instructions and interfaces are in scope. AR/VR equipment, pre-defined industrial scenarios, integration with IoT, APIs, SW libraries installed etc. AR/VR applications for operator support in manufacturing environment.

#### **2.2.6 Industrial IoT platform, analytics & visualization**

This service provides an industrial testbed for research and experimentation. With the aid of this service, engineers and researchers can set up Internet of Things sensors, gather and process data instantly, and view operational metrics for more thorough examination. It is an ideal instrument for performing research experiments on efficiency and optimization, putting concepts to the test, and developing novel strategies for industrial system management.

#### **2.2.7 Synthetic data for training machine learning models**

Experimentation with the concept of training machine vision solutions with the use of synthetic training data. A set of reference parts will be used to train your machine vision solution. The result of the service will be a feasibility report, an operational demo of a computer vision solution and a set of suggestions for improvement and factory integration.

### **2.2.8 Monitoring & control of milling processes**

Within this service milling infrastructure is available, in combination with sensing technologies, data acquisition systems and computational resources for the development and testing of AI-based monitoring and control solutions for chatter in milling processes.

### **2.2.9 Quality assessment in Resistance Spot Welding**

Within this service, the Greek satellite will provide access to a reference testbed equipped with a robot, welding tooling (resistance spot welding), sensing technologies, and computation resources for developing, tuning, or executing AI-based quality assessment and monitoring the process.

# 3. Call specific conditions

## 3.1 Call thematic and expected results

### Purpose

EIT Manufacturing South East aims to drive innovation in the local business ecosystem, particularly in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI). As part of this initiative, the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call is launched, aiming at enhancing the competitiveness of the local business ecosystem by promoting the testing and implementation of AI technologies.

### Topic description

The primary objective of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call is to support the testing and experimentation of AI in realistic environments towards rapid adoption of AI solutions by the local business ecosystem. AI-IGNITE 2024 aims to bridge the gap between cutting-edge research in AI and its practical application in manufacturing and related companies. By funding innovation activities that leverage AI technologies, EIT Manufacturing South East seek to enhance the competitiveness and productivity of businesses in the region.

The AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call invites proposals for innovation activities that address all areas related to the available Services ( 2.2. AI-MATTERS Services for the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call), namely:

- Industrial Digital Twins
- Intuitive robot programming
- Dynamic robot task planning & resources orchestration
- Layout planning optimization
- AR & VR for operator support & training
- Industrial IoT platform, analytics & visualization
- Synthetic data for training machine learning models
- Monitoring & control of milling processes
- Quality assessment in Resistance Spot Welding

## Applicant profile

To be eligible for consideration, proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Companies must be registered and active in one of the following countries: **Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye.**
- The legal status of the companies requesting to participate should be an **early-stage or mature Startup or SME with a valid PIC number\***.
- The application package should include a **complete application form** and the company **logo** in HD format.

### \*PIC Number

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 organization 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 organization’s information on the EU participant portal). If this is your first time participating in an EU-funded project or your organization cannot access your already validated PIC and there are updates to the organizational data that need to be done, you need to register/re-register your organization. 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 organization has not been fully validated, but the new PIC number can already be used during your proposal submission.

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

## 3.2 Budget and funding

The total maximum funding allocated to this call is:

- Up to 50.000 EUR (EIT Manufacturing South East)
- Up to 200.000 EUR (AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite in-kind contribution)

The AI-IGNITE 2024 open call will award the five (5) top companies positioned for significant growth within the AI landscape, with:

- A financial award of €10,000 per beneficiary from EIT Manufacturing South East for implementing their development plans
- A ticket of up to €40.000 of in-kind contribution from the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite [an entity dedicated to advancing the adoption of AI technologies in manufacturing and related industries] covering the required infrastructure and expertise to design, engineer, deploy, and evaluate the beneficiaries' solutions in their Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF).
- A growth package of up to three (3) months of dedicated Access-to-Market (A2M) support services from the EIT Manufacturing South East Business Development & Innovation team to cover the needs associated with the commercialization of their innovation activities.

### 3.3 Monitoring and Control related to the “AI-IGNITE 2024” Financial Prize

#### CONTROL / COMPLIANCE BEFORE PAYING OUT THE FINANCIAL PRIZE

Before EIT Manufacturing awards the prize money, the winners must provide both their banking and fiscal documentation. Additionally, they must disclose if there are any pending issues with government authorities or agencies in accordance with EU funding rules and Horizon Europe legislation.

All awarded applicants must sign and submit during the application process a “Declaration of Honor” (linked to the call and available from the [Competition Website](#)). In case awarded applicants are subject to EU administrative sanctions or in one of the exclusion situations listed in the “Declaration of Honor” that ban them from receiving European funding, EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to withdraw the grant at any step of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call.

## 4. Proposal Preparation & Submission

All applications and supporting documents and material must be submitted in English using the application forms linked on the [Competition website](#) – no paper submissions will be considered.

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

The official language of the Open Call is English (i.e., all submission material must be submitted in English and the representative of finalists selected to participate in the final event must pitch in English language).

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the submission tool **no later than the call deadline September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 23:59 EEST.**

- A completed Application form
- The company logo in high quality graphic format (this will be used for the call promotional campaign)

NOTE: Only applications submitted through the online link (as noted above) 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 competition website.

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

### [AI-IGNITE 2024 CONTACT EMAIL](#)

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing South East to ask questions and clarify any points on general or technical procedures and call content by sending an email message to [ai.ignite@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto:ai.ignite@eitmanufacturing.eu) and with email subject "AI-IGNITE 2024 Query\_Company name".

# 5. Proposal evaluation & Selection process

## 5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A submission will be considered admissible if:

<b>Completeness</b>	The submitted proposal is completed, submitted in time via the submission tool, in English with all its mandatory sections and compulsory documents included (application form, company logo).
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Admissible submissions will be considered eligible if:

<b>Applicant profile</b>	The applicant's profile is in line with the requirements presented under point 3.1 "Applicant profile"
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Applications containing one or more inadmissible or ineligible elements will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing South East setting out the outcome of the eligibility and admissibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

The applicant deemed ineligible and wishing to dispute the ineligibility decision, may appeal. This appeal must be made within 5 working days from the official EIT Manufacturing notification of ineligibility (see paragraph 5.4 and the document Appeal Procedure linked to the call and available from the [Competition Website](#)).

## 5.2 Evaluation of proposals

The evaluation of all eligible applications will be conducted in two steps:

### 5.2.1 1<sup>st</sup> phase – evaluation of proposals

Applicants' submissions will first be reviewed online by a panel composed by three (3) evaluators with same weighting of scores:

- one member of EIT Manufacturing
- one member of the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite



- one independent evaluator

Each evaluator will have to score each application based on four standardised criteria, explained in detail below:

**1. Alignment**

**2. Feasibility & Innovation**

**3. Impact**

**4. Clarity**

The evaluators will assess each evaluation criterion according to the following scores on a scale from 1 to 5:

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 given at criterion level are then summed together to come to the final score.
- Thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score. The maximum score for a proposal is 20. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3/5 and the default overall threshold is 12/20.

	Alignment	Feasibility & Innovation	Impact	Clarity	TOTAL
Evaluation criteria	Evaluate how well the proposed innovation activities match the goals of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call, ensuring they are relevant and significant.	Assess whether the proposed AI solutions are technically doable and bring new ideas, ensuring they're both achievable and innovative.	Measure the potential effect of the proposed solutions on improving competitiveness and productivity in the local business environment, aiming for substantial positive outcomes.	Assess project plan clarity, ensuring clear objectives, methods, and expected results for an organized roadmap.	
Score	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	Up to 20
Thresholds	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	12/20

### 5.2.1.1 Evaluation Criteria AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call Specifics

- TRL 5-8**

Proposed innovation activities must demonstrate a clear potential for accelerating the adoption of AI technologies in manufacturing or related industries. Companies with solutions of [Technology Readiness Level \(TRL\) 5](#) or higher are strongly encouraged to apply.
- Timeline**

Proposed innovation activities should have a well-defined timeline completed by a maximum period of three months, with a focus on achieving measurable outcomes and impact.
- Market potential & Revenue generation**

Proposed innovation activities with a well-defined market potential and revenue generating scheme are strongly encouraged to apply. Strong use cases with industrial partners and/ or solid commercialization plans are in line with EIT Manufacturing’s goal to empower competitiveness, productivity, and profitability of the manufacturing sector, as well as creating new markets and opportunities.

The evaluators will assess each application. The Submission Management System [SUBMITTABLE](#) will create an average score per application based on the individual evaluators’

scorings and produce an Individual Evaluation Report (IER) per application. The evaluators will meet in a consensus meeting chaired by an independent rapporteur to discuss and build an agreement. The rapporteur will address any notable divergences between their evaluations and will develop the final Evaluation Summary Reports of the evaluation of proposals.

The top 10 ranked applications (the finalists) will be shortlisted for the 2nd phase, the AI-IGNITE 2024 Grand Final event, where the finalists shall participate in-person and pitch their proposal to an expert jury panel and claim the competition awards.

Once the finalists are announced they will be prompted via email to provide a Company Pitch Deck in Microsoft PowerPoint format to be used for supporting their presentation at the AI-IGNITE 2024 Grant Final. The pitch must be tailored to a 5-minute presentation and the following details should be clearly outlined:

- Brief introduction of Company & team members.
- Description of the Project and relevant requirements in equipment, consumables and expertise.
- Description of industrial use case(s) relevant to the AI-IGNITE 2024 Services, if applicable.
- Estimated timeline for project execution (phases & milestones).
- Expected outcomes (TRL upgrade & technical improvements).
- Revenue projections and commercialization plan.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: EIT Manufacturing South East Organizing Committee will announce via email to the finalists their advancement to the AI-IGNITE 2024 Grand Final stage and request the corresponding Pitch Decks. The files must be sent to the dedicated email of the Open Call ([ai.ignite@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto:ai.ignite@eitmanufacturing.eu)) no later than 30 September 2024 17:00 EEST.**

### 5.2.2 2nd phase – AI-IGNITE 2024 Final event

The finalists will be invited to attend in-person the “AI-IGNITE 2024” Grand Final event. Up to 10 shortlisted finalists will be evaluated by a jury panel composed by six (6) external independent evaluators with the same weighting of scores. The jury panel will refer to the same evaluation criteria and scoring system of the 1st phase (section 5.2.1).

The format of the live final presentation/ pitch will be a 5-minutes presentation by the applicants and 5-minutes questions from the jury panel. The final ranking of the successful

applicants will be agreed by the jury members in a consensus meeting, which will be held right after the end of the pitching session and will be chaired by an independent rapporteur. The rapporteur will address any notable divergences between them and will develop the final Evaluation Summary Report of phase 2.

The AI-IGNITE 2024 live pitch will be organized in Athens, Greece in 3 October, 2024. The agenda for this in-person event will be announced on the Competition website. It is the participants' responsibility to keep track of announcements and information on the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call webpage. All shortlisted finalists will also receive an email with the detailed timing of the final pitching competition sessions prior to the event.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Shortlisted finalists which, for whatever reason, fail to attend the in-person final event at the given time and venue will be disqualified and will not be entitled to any award.**

### 5.3 Communication of results

1<sup>st</sup> phase – (online evaluation and selection of finalists): Results will be communicated to the email of the applicant representative registered at the submission platform (Note: Please, check your spam folder). Results will be communicated with a rejection letter or email to non-qualified applicants or an invitation letter or email to phase 2 of the evaluation process requesting the relevant files (Pitch Deck).

2<sup>nd</sup> phase – AI-IGNITE 2024 Final Event: During the event and after the applicants showcase their proposals, the results will be announced publicly at the award ceremony. Individual scores and comments made by evaluators will remain confidential.

### 5.4 Procedure for complaints and appeal

The applicant (the representative of the legal entity) 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 working days after receipt of the final evaluation results to submit an appeal to the Evaluation (see the document Appeal Procedure linked to the call and available from the [Competition Website](#)).

## 5.5 Selected applicants and follow-up

The **5 winning applicants (Winners)**, as nominated by the jury panel during the final event will receive the following awards:

- A financial prize of 10,000€, to support the implementation of their development plans at the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF) will be provided by EIT Manufacturing South East. The award will be provided in 2 instalments:
  - 25% after project kick off. The process to be defined by the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite
  - 75% after project completion. The process to be defined and delivered by the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite no later than 20/12/2024.
- A ticket of up to €40.000 of in-kind contribution from the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite covering the required infrastructure and expertise to design, engineer, deploy, and evaluate the beneficiaries' solutions in their Testing and Experimentation Facilities (TEF). Maximum duration of services is set to 3 months.
- A "growth package" of dedicated business development support for up to 3 months of dedicated Access-to-Market (A2M) support services provided by the EIT Manufacturing South East Business Development & Innovation team.

## 5.6 Reporting

Following the completion of the services provided to the prize winners, they must submit to EIT Manufacturing South East the following Reports:

1. A report outlining the description of the services provided by the AI-MATTERS Greek Satellite, a demo (if applicable) and the commercialization/implementation plan of their solution. Expiration one (1) month after final receipt of support or 3 October 2025, whichever date comes first.
2. A report outlining the description of the services provided by the EIT Manufacturing South East Business Development & Innovation team, confirming the length and type of services provided and how such services contributed to the company's growth, if applicable.

## 6. Other terms and Conditions

### 6.1 Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of funding

Prize winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. Communication activities related to the prize (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 South East 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 South East support. When displayed in association with other logos (e.g., of winners or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from EIT Manufacturing South East. 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 prize must use factually accurate information.

The EIT Manufacturing South East may use, for their communication and publicising activities, information relating to the prize, 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 of the award ceremony or during the award ceremony. The EIT Manufacturing South East will publish the name of both the finalist/s and the selected applicants their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose.

### 6.2 Intellectual Property Rights

Participants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, participants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service. Participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Manufacturing South East and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement by the product or service of participants.

Participants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing and distributing products, services and technology.

Participants agree to respect IPR Rules (Article 16) of the [Model Grant Agreement](#).

Participants also agree to respect the [EIT Manufacturing IP Policy](#).

### **6.3 Right to activate audits**

EIT Manufacturing South East retains the right to activate an audit on AI-IGNITE 2024 prize winners, in case of alerts and/or to confirm governance and proper usage of the financial prize.

EIT Manufacturing South East keeps the right to request any data related to the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call during 5 years after completion to ensure transparency and for monitoring purposes.

### **6.4 Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts**

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

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- the prize winners were not eligible or should have been excluded or
- the prize winners are in serious breach of their obligations under the Guidelines.

### **6.5 Data protection**

EIT Manufacturing South East 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 on [dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto: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, organization, dissemination of information and publicity of the Competition. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing South East and/or its subsidiaries.

Personal data shall be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the competition winners.

Participants have the possibility to indicate that EIT Manufacturing South East 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 open call 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 open call you consent that EIT Manufacturing South East will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

## **6.6 Acceptance of the Guidelines**

By submitting the application form, the participant agrees to these Guidelines and its Annexes, which form part of the submission. Participants agree that they have no legal entitlement to a prize.

EIT Manufacturing South East 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 participants on the call page of the [EIT Manufacturing website](#).

EIT Manufacturing also reserves the right to cancel or declare the Competition 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).



## 6.7 Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing South East undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open 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 South East can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing South East 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 South East also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and in any form, without prior written authorization of the company concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for participation in the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call.

Confidential Information may be shared solely for the purposes of the AI-IGNITE 2024 Open Call Activities. EIT Manufacturing South East 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.

## 6.8 Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in [Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation](#). All Prize winners shall sign a Declaration of Honor to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. All Prize winners may be requested to provide relevant recent

documentation substantiating the Declaration of Honor. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

## **6.9 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 is complemented, where necessary, by the laws of Greece. The applicants agree to observe the obligations set forth 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 contracts to be signed if the application is successful.