Horizon Europe:
EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges

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UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

4 December 2025

Pillar 1
EXCELLENT SCIENCE

- European Research Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

Pillar 2
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

1. Health
2. Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
3. Civil Security for Society
4. Digital, Industry and Space
5. Climate, Energy and Mobility
6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

- Joint Research Centre

Pillar 3
INNOVATIVE EUROPE

- European Innovation Council
- European innovation ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Pillar 3 - Innovative Europe

Supporting and Connecting Innovators Across Europe

- Europe has solid research and industrial base
- Yet it ‘could do better’ at strengthening the use of scientific excellence and industrial prowess to accelerate innovation and turn innovative SMEs into Technology Giants.
- Focus on supporting the development of disruptive and market-creating innovations and on enhancing European Innovation Ecosystems

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Pillar III

INNOVATIVE EUROPE:

European Innovation Council

stimulating **market-creating breakthroughs** and **ecosystems** conducive to innovation

European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

European innovation ecosystems

Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation

The budget: **€10.6 billion**, incl. up to **€527 million** for ecosystems (including NGEU – Recovery Fund parts dedicated to EIC).

circa **€3 billion**

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Six Strategic Goals for the EIC

- To be investor of choice for those with visionary ideas
- To crowd in €30-50 B investment into European **Deep-tech**
- To pull through high-risk technologies in critical areas for society and open strategic autonomy
- To increase the number of **European Unicorns** and Scale-Ups
- To catalyse innovation impacts from European public research and innovation
- To achieve operational excellence

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What is deep-tech?

- Technology that is based on cutting edge scientific advances and discoveries
- Is characterised by the need to stay at the technological forefront by constant interaction with new ideas and results from the lab
- NOT – High-tech which refers to R&D intensity

- Unicorn – private company valued at over 1B€

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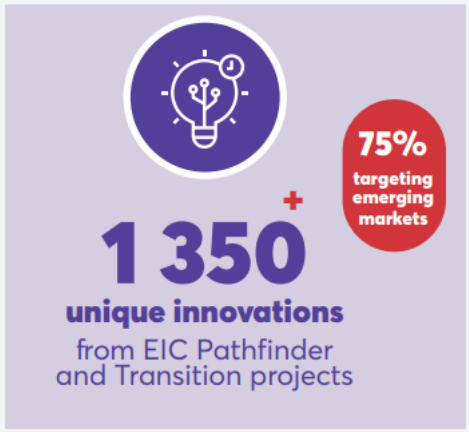
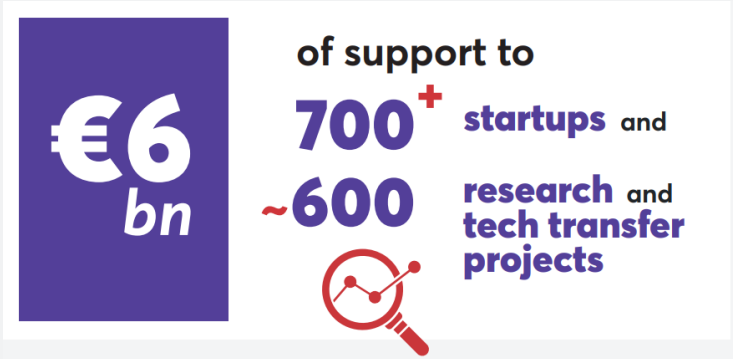
EIC Impact Report 2025

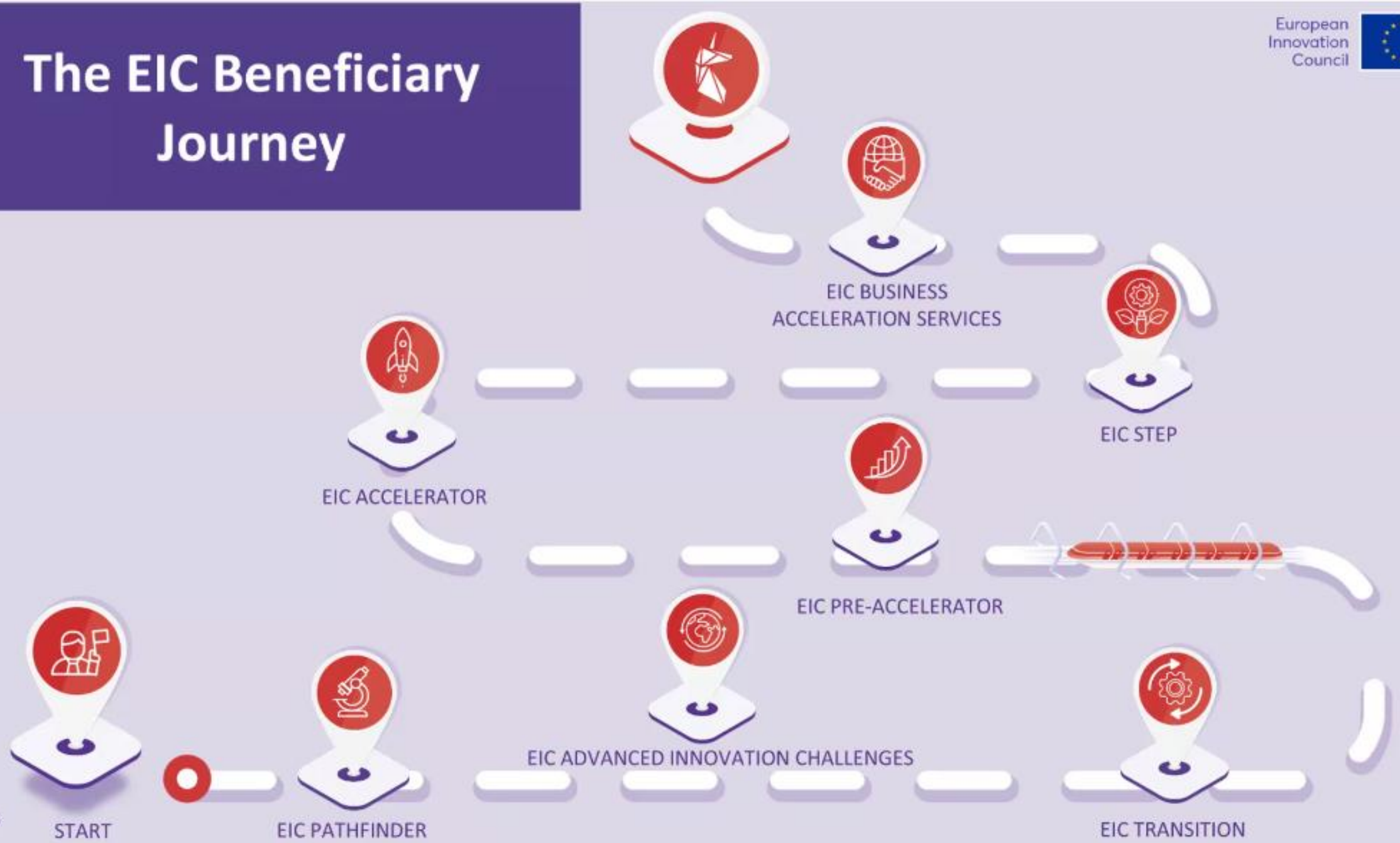
- EIC Impact Report 2025
- Generating new technologies from EU's research base
  - Translating research into market-ready innovations
- EIC Pathfinder & EIC Transition projects have spawned over 1300 innovations and had led to the creation of more than 100 spinout companies
- Includes ~100 projects that are commercialising results from ERC



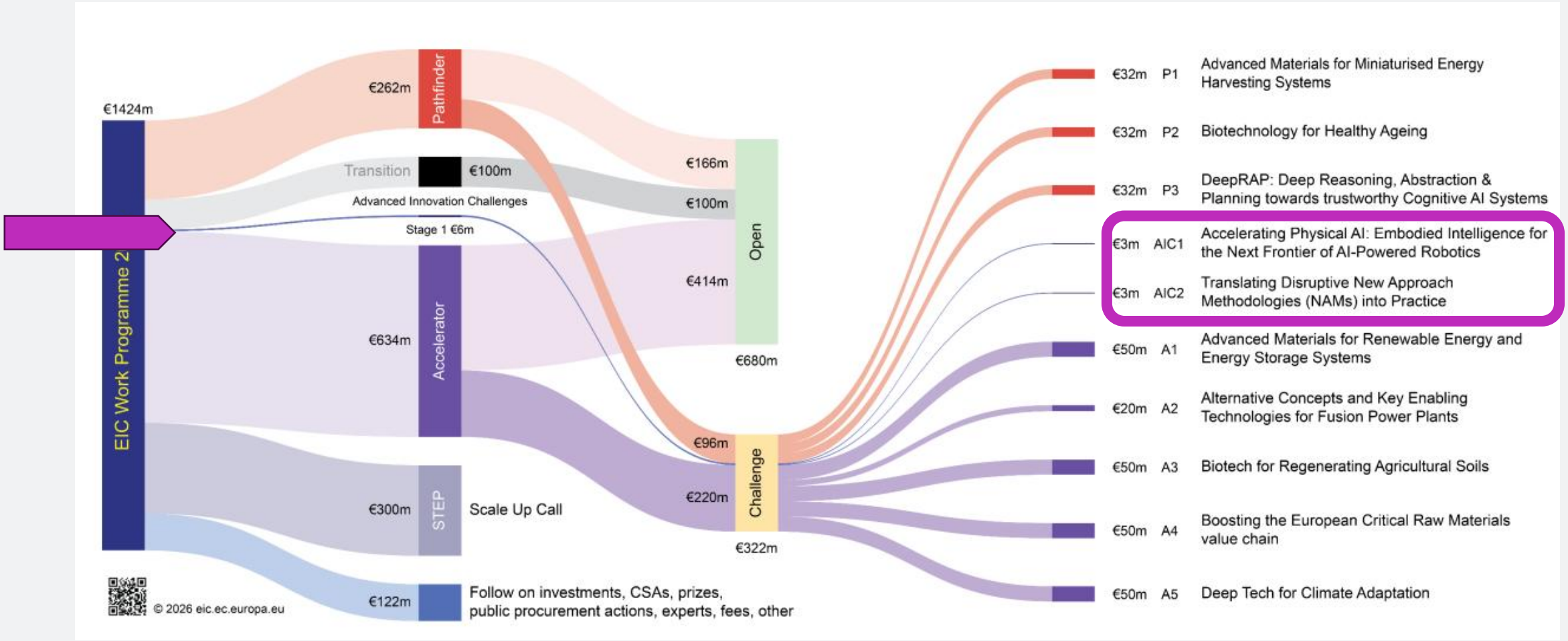


The EIC Beneficiary Journey

European Innovation Council



EIC Work Programme Budget 2026



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EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges (AIC) 2026

PILOT

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Why Advanced Innovation Challenges

- **Draghi Report**: Support for breakthrough disruptive innovation remains limited. → Increase support to disruptive innovation, through an 'ARPA-type' agency;
- EIC Board recommendation aimed at strengthening Europe's position as a leader in deep tech innovation. → Embrace support for high risk, high impact deep tech innovations by introducing ARPA style operations and capabilities.
- **Heitor report**: ARPA-like programmes are missing within the Horizon Europe Programme. →EIC Board and agency should immediately consider the expert report of 2020.
- Conclusion is clear for EIC: reinforce the risk taking and user uptake of innovations

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EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges Pilot

- Aim to support high-risk, demand driven deep tech innovation with transformation potential esp. in areas where there is extensive research but lack of commercial uptake
- Pilot aims to assess if :
  - Competitive, stage-gated support can accelerate the path to market for high-risk deep tech innovations, and
  - whether early integration of demand side actors can enhance the relevance, validation, and ultimately the uptake of breakthrough solutions.
- Will provide evidence on whether these mechanisms lead to more efficient innovation cycles and broader market adoption than other instruments within Horizon Europe

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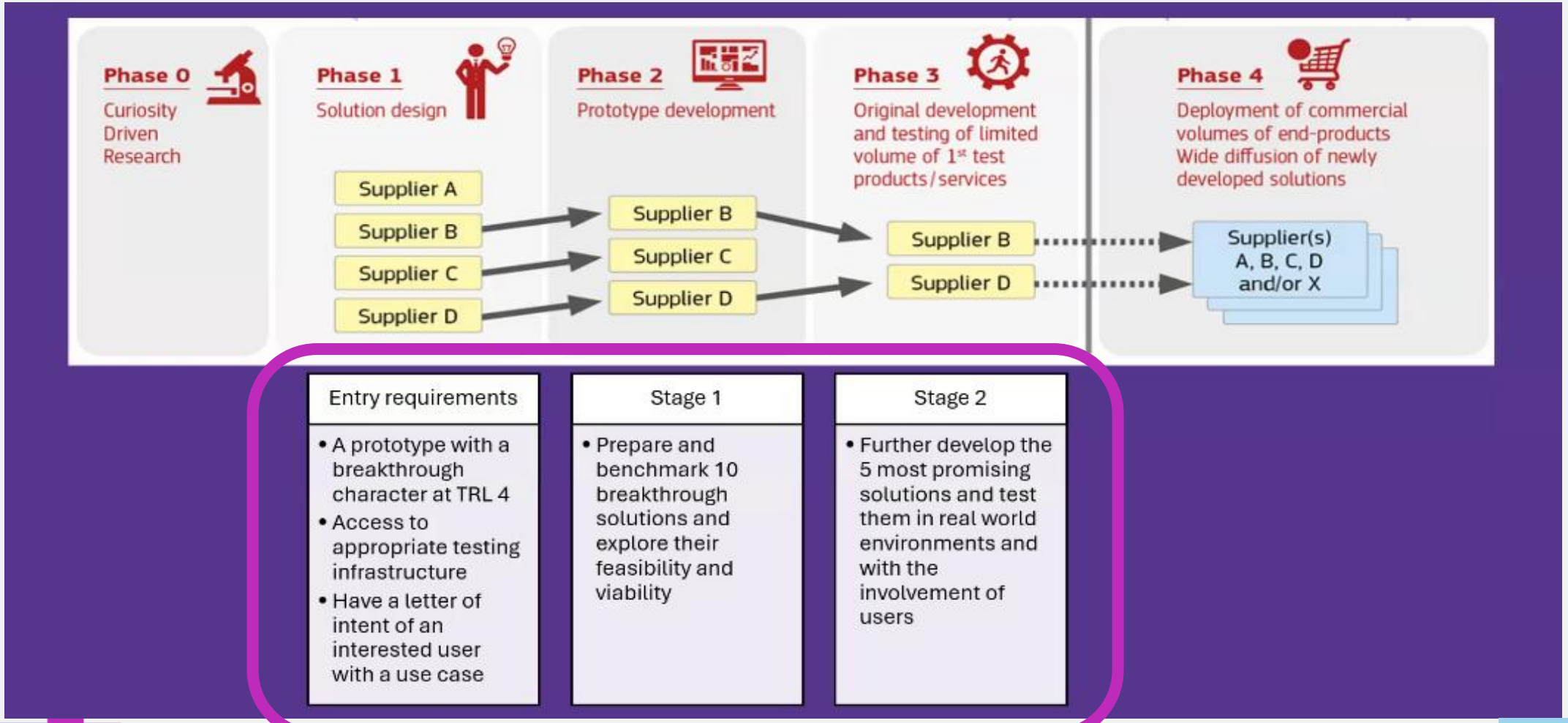
Typical Staged funding vs EIC AIC



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EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges 2026

Accelerating Physical AI: Embodied Intelligence for the Next Frontier of AI Powered Robotics	€ 3 million
Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into Practice	€ 3 million
Indicative call budget	**€ 6 million**

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EIC AIC Pilot

- The EIC Advanced Innovation (AIC) Challenges are shaped and steered by EIC Programme Managers, in collaboration with users and ecosystem actors, to ensure strong alignment between cutting-edge science, demand, and policy priorities

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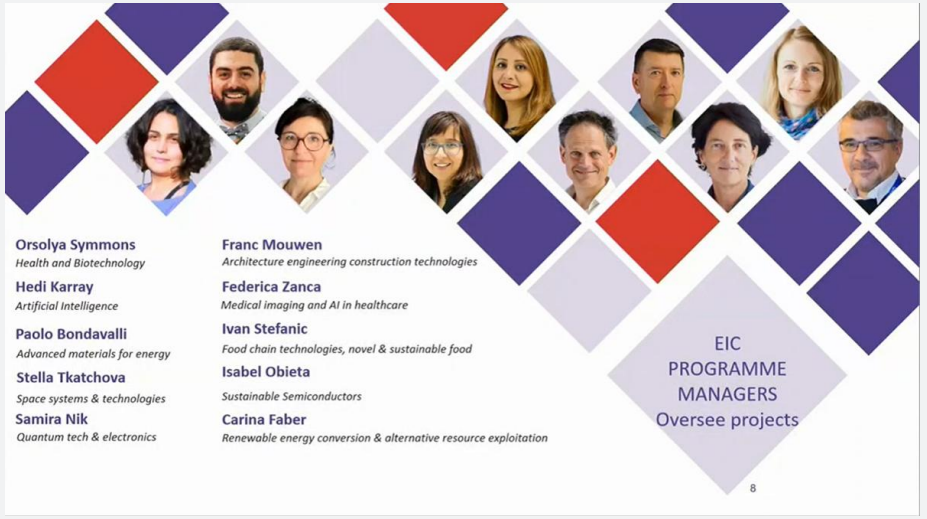
EIC Programme Manager

- Follow on LinkedIn and listen to their ‘Tech Talks’
- Establishes a common roadmap within Portfolio
- Proactively steers portfolio towards the goal of each challenge
- Projects are expected to:
  - Interact and exchange
  - Remain flexible & reactive
  - Progress together toward goals



[EIC Programme Managers - European Commission (europa.eu)]

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Key features of the EIC AIC – 2026 & 2027

- Two-stage, gate funding
  - Stage 1 - €300k lump sum for up to 9 months (Q4 2026 – end Q2 2027) to prepare & benchmark PLUS explore their feasibility & viability
  - Stage 2 – up to €2.5M for 2.5 years to develop most promising solutions & test in real world with users
- Demand side integration
  - Commercial users (e.g. industry or public sector) or end-users
  - Regulatory bodies or other major stakeholders
- Single entity or small consortia
  - Mono-beneficiary for Stage 1;
  - Single entity or small consortia (2-3 partners) Stage 2
- Proactive portfolio management
  - Overseen by PM ensure coherent portfolio development
- Lump Sum Funding – Type 1 – applying means you agree with amount & method of delivery.

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2026

- Open call for Stage 1
- Inviting applications from all entities that meet established admissibility and eligibility criteria
- Can apply as:
  - A single legal entity established in a MS or AC (mono-beneficairy) if you are a start-up, SME or research performing organisation (university, research or technology organisation, including teams, individual Principal Investigators and inventors). Larger companies (i.e. which do not qualify as SMEs) are not eligible to apply as a single legal entity

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2027 - anticipated

- Restricted call for Stage 2 which would be open exclusively to the proposals participating in Stage 1
- Eligibility
  - A single legal entity established in a MS or AC
    - Start-up, SME or research performing organisation (university, research or technology organisation, including teams, individual Principal Investigators and inventors in such institutions who intend to form a spin-off company
  - Larger companies are not eligible to apply as a single legal entity;
    - A small consortium of two independent legal entities from two different MS or AC
    - A consortium of max. 3 eligible independent legal entities (‘multi-beneficiary’) following standard rules i.e. must include at least one legal entity established in a MS and at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different MS or AC

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Support receive if funded

- The total indicative budget for this call is
- Stage 1 - €6 million under EIC 2026 WP and
- Stage 2 - €25 million under 2027 EIC work programme in the restricted call for Stage 2 projects.

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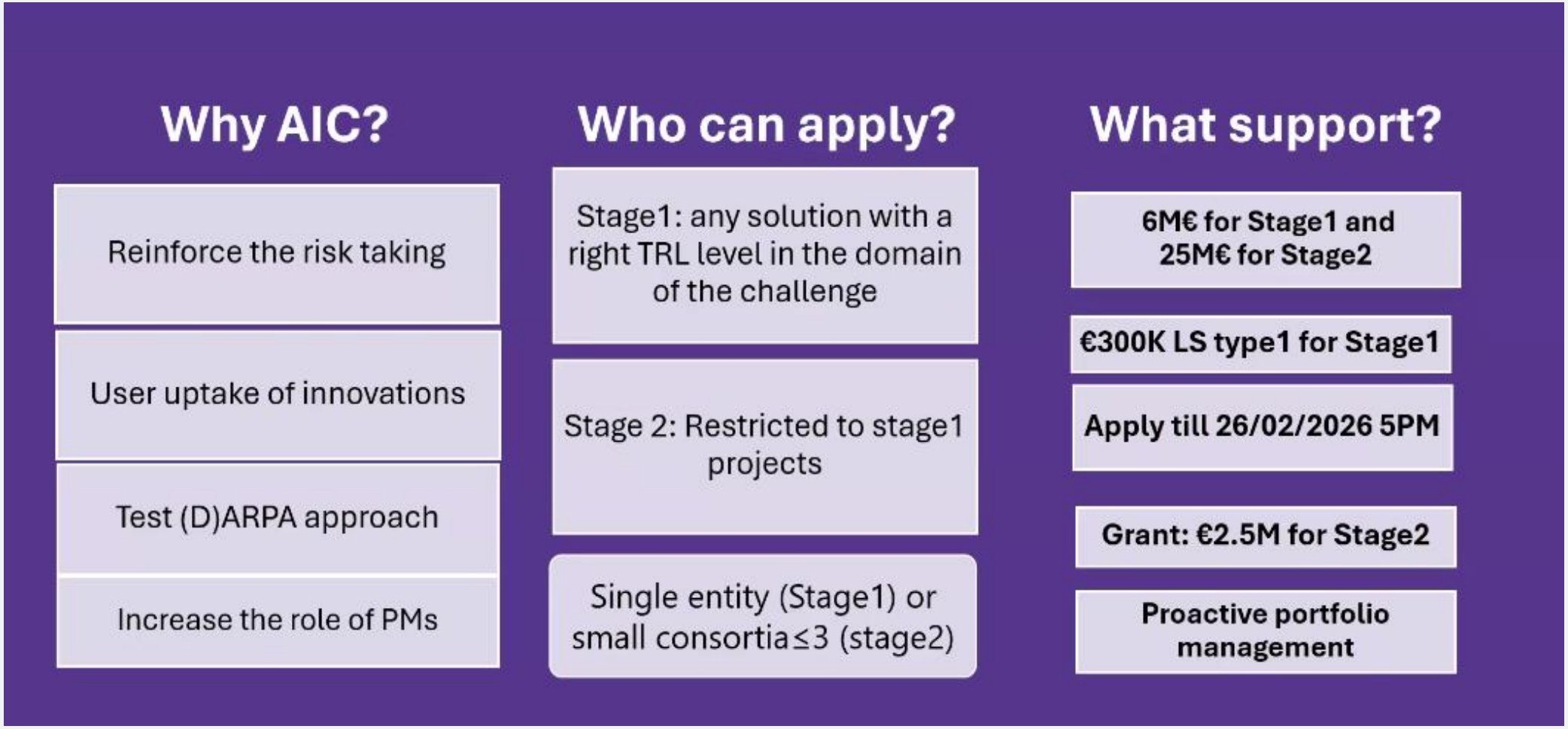
EIC AIC 2026/2027 summary



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EIC AIC – Stage1

- Opened 4 Dec 2025 & Closing 26th Feb 2026 @17:00
- Existing prototype or existing results at least TRL4
- Expected to demonstrate feasibility of solution
- Benchmark against state-of-the-art
- Proposal 11 pages for sections 1-3
- Workshop with other Stage 1 projects, experts & users
- EIC PMs will provide strategic guidance & support
- Encourage collaboration & learning across projects & stakeholders
- Allocate at least 1 person month for portfolio activities

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EIC AIC – Stage 2

- Closing 18th June 2027
- Goal – further develop to TRL6/7 – the most promising solutions from Stage 1 and test them in real work & users
- Proposal – 22 pages
- Mono-beneficiary & small consortia <= 3
- Live pitch in front of Jury Chaired by PM
- Results from Stage 1 taken into consideration
- Access to BAS
- Evaluation will access readiness for real world deployment, and the potential for scale-up and market up-take.
- The goal is to inform applicants approx. 6 weeks after 2nd Stage call closure.

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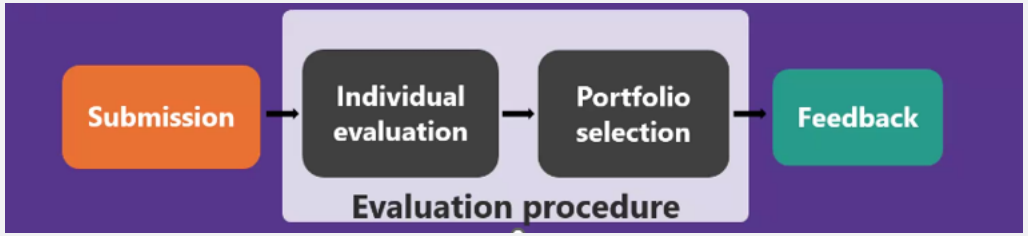
Stage 1 - evaluation & GAP

- Two step evaluation
  - 1 - Each proposal evaluated remotely & scored by 3 independent experts
  - 2 – the PM with evaluation committee will select balanced portfolio
- Accelerated GAP
- All projects should start no later than 1st October 2026



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Step 1- Individual remote phase

- 3 independent expert evaluators to assess each application separately against the 3 Horizon Europe award criteria
  - Excellence
  - Impact
  - Quality & Implementation
- Score for each award criterion is average of evaluators scores
- Overall score is sum of the 3 scores of the three award criteria
- All proposals that meet threshold will be considered at Step 2

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Excellence – Threshold 4/5

- Clarity & relevance of the innovation
  - Problem clearly defined
  - Proposed solution solving the problem in a compelling way
- Breakthrough nature & novelty
- Are expect performance improvement realistic & credible
  - Qualitative
  - Quantitative

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Impact (Threshold 4/5)

- Does the innovation have the potential to develop new markets or significantly transform existing ones
- Does the innovation show potential for wider adoption & scale-up
- Is the innovation bringing sufficient added value to demonstrate attractiveness to investors, industry or public sector procurers
- To what extent are the expected commercial impact(s) described in the proposal, credible & substantial within the project and beyond.

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Implementation (Threshold 3/5)

- Work plan
  - Realistic
  - Within budget & timeline
- Allocation of resources
  - Appropriate & effective
- Quality of the applicant
  - To what extent has the applicant have the necessary capacity and high-quality expertise for performing all the project tasks and move decisively towards the market

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Step 2: Portfolio Selection

- The Programme Manager, with portfolio committee to select a suitable portfolio of proposals to be funded
  - From those above threshold
- **Objective** – balance across technologies, use cases and application domains
- Main list of proposals will be established based on
  - Evaluation scores from first step
  - Each proposal's contribution to balanced portfolio of projects for that challenge

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Stage 2 Funding

- Only projects selected under Stage 1 will be eligible to submit
- Aims to support limited number of projects with highest potential for breakthrough impact & readiness for real-world deployment
- All eligible proposals invited to present Stage 2 Proposal at pitch session before Jury
  - Progress and key achievements of Stage 1
  - Stage 2 Plan
  - Structured Q&A on technical, commercial & strategic aspects of the proposal
- Recommendation based on following award criteria

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Excellence (Threshold 4/5)

- Does the proposal show advances in operational, technological or strategic objectives compared to its competitors?
- Is the proposal sufficiently credible and robust to serve as a strong foundation for successful implementation and scaling
- Does the proposal reflect ambition, novelty, and breakthrough potential

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Impact (Threshold 4/5)

- Does the innovation have the potential to create or transform markets?
- Has the proposal successfully attracted potential users or customers (e.g. procurers)?
- Is the technology attractive to investors?

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Quality & Efficiency of the Implementation (Threshold 3/5)

- Is the work plan clear, credible, and feasible within the proposed timeline and budget
- Does the team demonstrate the capacity to execute under conditions of uncertainty and speed
- Are risks appropriately identified and mitigated

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Accelerating Physical AI: Embodied Intelligence for the Next Frontier of AI-Powered Robotics

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Accelerating Physical AI

Programme Manager – Hedi Karray

Aims to accelerate the development towards integration deployment & commercialisation of breakthrough Physical AI solutions

- Will achieve autonomous systems that can perceive, understand, and act safely in complex physical environments, enabling breakthrough applications
- Addresses the critical gap AI's digital capabilities & real world requirements
- Why is a deep tech approach needed
  - Current AI systems are primarily designed for controlled digital environments
- This challenges requires fundamental breakthroughs in embodied intelligence, integrating advanced in robotics, materials science, and sensor technology to create autonomous PHYSICAL AI systems

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Accelerating Physical AI

- Goal of diverse and strategically coherent set of projects that best address the objectives of the Challenge
- Technical Coverage – address at least 2 of technical aspect
  - Intelligent perception and Cognition
  - Adaptive learning and optimisation
  - Autonomous Decision-making and collective intelligence
  - Human-AI Collaboration and Interaction
  - Physical Integration and Innovation
- Domain Coverage
  - Disaster response and civil security
  - Autonomous labs for Scientific Discovery
  - Personal or professional robot assistants

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Expected Outcomes

Closing the Deployment Gap: Europe must bridge the critical gap between AI research excellence and real-world physical AI systems while still possible to be kept in the competition

Securing Strategic Autonomy: Physical AI is essential for European technological sovereignty in manufacturing, healthcare, defense, and critical infrastructure.

Seize the moment: AI, robotics, and sensor technologies have matured to the point where breakthrough Physical AI systems are finally achievable and commercially viable

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Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into Practice

EU Funding & Tenders Portal

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Translating Disruptive NAMs into Practice

- PM – Orsolya Symmons
- Vision – to move from lab-based proof-of-concept to clinical and industrial adoption
  - To accelerate the uptake of disruptive NAMs in biomedical research, safety, efficacy and quality testing – enabling human-relevant, ethical and faster innovation in health.
- Scope – applicants should propose the further development of innovative and disruptive NAMs addressing one or both areas:
  - Preclinical biomedical research
  - Testing of medicinal products or medical technologies for safety, efficacy or quality.

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Examples of NAMs in scope

Biotech applications

Focus: Understanding and predicting human biology in drug development.

- Human organoids and microphysiological systems to model diseases and drug responses
- In silico and AI-enhanced models to predict efficacy and toxicity
- Digital twins simulating cellular or molecular processes for personalized therapies
- Mechanistic platforms integrating multi-omics data

Goal: human-relevant, data-driven preclinical testing to complement or replace animal studies.

MedTech Applications

Focus: Testing and validating medical technologies in human-relevant systems.

- Digital twins and virtual patient simulations for device performance and clinical validation
- AI-based predictive models for diagnostic accuracy and safety
- 3D human tissue & organ-on-chip systems to assess implant compatibility or material response
- In silico systems to support regulatory-grade submissions

Goal: faster, safer, and more predictive pathways for regulatory approval and clinical adoption.

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Who can apply to Stage 1

- Proven viability at TRL4 (lab or in silico)
- Letters of intent from at least one stakeholder
  - Industrial end-user
  - Regulatory body
- Access to appropriate infrastructure for both Steps 1 and 2

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Stage 1 / Step 1 Feasibility & De-risking

- Building trust & evidence
- Objectives
  - Map regulatory, clinical and industrial needs
  - Engage regulatory authorities, notified bodies & industry
  - Develop performance assessment methodology
  - Conduct small-scale feasibility studies
  - Perform initial benchmarking (human relevance, reproducibility, transferability)
  - Address ethical, data governance, and scalability aspects

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Stage 1 – Key Milestones

- At end of Stage 1
- Demonstrate impact & readiness
  - Evidence of viability for the NAM for human-relevant innovation
  - Clear commitment from industrial end-users
  - A defined regulatory plan for Step 2

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Stage 2 – Scaling up & Transition readiness

- Goal - Develop and validate a functional, scalable NAM prototype ready for regulatory or industrial uptake
- Activities may include:
  - Benchmarking vs. state-of-the-art animal models or human trials
  - Demonstration in disease modelling or product testing
  - Stakeholder workshops (industry, regulators, CROs, standards bodies)
  - Validation in external infrastructures
  - Development of regulatory-grade data packages (e.g., EMA, FDA, OECD)
  - Documentation on scalability, standardisation, and uptake barriers

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Expected Impacts

Trust; Scale; Impact

- Accelerate validation and adoption of disruptive NAMs
- Enable regulatory innovation and evidence-based guidelines
- Strengthen Europe’s health sector competitiveness
- Provide industry with harmonised, NAM-based assessment toolkits
- Benefit citizens through more predictive, human-relevant testing

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What makes a strong proposal

- Clear human relevance and scientific novelty
- End-user and regulatory engagement from the start
- Realistic path to validation and standardization
- Attention to ethical and data governance aspects
- Strong interdisciplinary consortium (biologists, engineers, regulators, AI experts)

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Advised proposal should contain

- **Heilmeier Catechism**
  - What are you trying to do
  - How is it done today; what are the limits of current practice
  - What is new in your approach and why do you think it will be successful
  - Who cares? If you are successful, what difference will it make?
  - What are the risks?
  - How much will it cost?
  - How long will it take?
  - What are the mid-term and final ‘exams’ to check for success.

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Pay attention to instructions!

- Use the correct application template
- Clarity & relevance of the innovation idea
  - Describe what trying to achieve
  - Little or preferably no jargon
  - How done today – limits of current practice
- Breakthrough nature, novelty & suitable of use case
  - What is breakthrough in your approach & compared to state-of-art
  - Why will it be successful
- Potential to develop new markets
  - What difference will it make if successful
- Work plan & resources
  - KPIs – mid and final

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Capability is linked to Capacity

- Both relate to team's ability to achieve goal
- Both need to be successful
  - one influences the other
- Capacity limits capability
  - need to process at intensity & scale
- Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects & contribute their share

	AIC
Total budget	**€6 million**
Proposals (indicative)	Stage 1: €300.000 Stage 2: up to €2.5 million
Funding rate	100% of eligible costs
Opening	15 November 2025
Deadline	Stage 1: 26 February 2026 at 17.00 CEST Stage 2: 18 June 2027 at 17.00 CEST
Length of proposal	Stage 1: 11-page proposal (part B) Stage 1: 22-page proposal (part B)

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Cluster 3 – Civil Security for Society

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Civil Security for Society – Cluster 3

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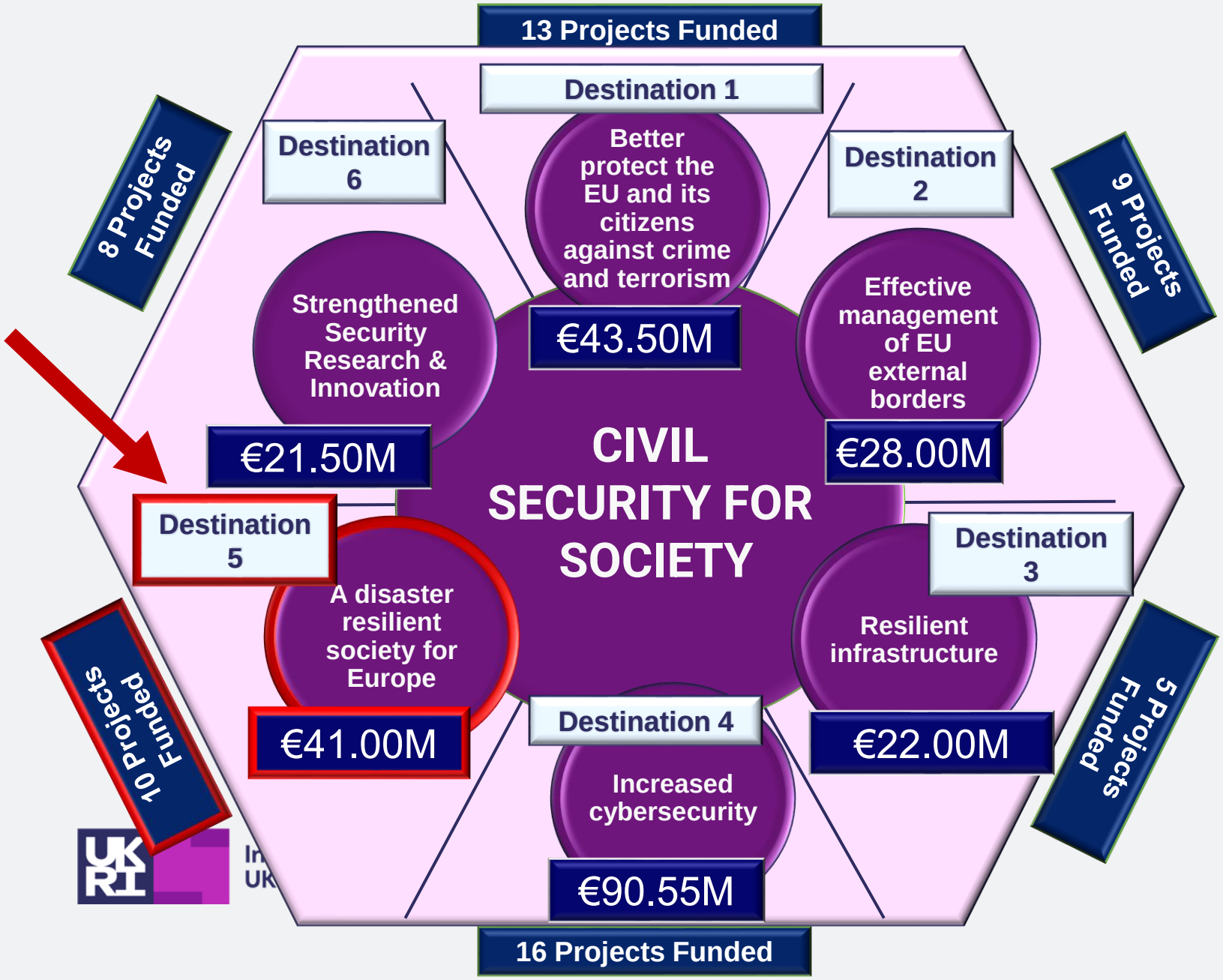
Cluster 3 – Programme on a Page - Work Programme (WP) 2025



€246.55 m in 2025 WP

61 projects funded

Destination 5 WP 2026 -A Disaster Resilient Society

Proposed Number of Projects

9 Projects

Key Priorities

- CBRN
- Health
- Climate

Focus

- End Users
- Deployable Solutions

Proposed Budget

€32.5 m

Proposed Call Topics for 2026

Preparedness Resilience Response

- Designing new ways of risk awareness and **enhanced disaster preparedness**
- Multi-hazard approach and cumulative /cascading impacts
- Development of innovative tools, processes, equipment and technologies through **responses to disasters and emergencies** for search and rescue in hazardous conditions
- Open topic on driving innovation uptake of disaster risk solutions
- Climate security and **civil preparedness** – new ways to develop pre- and post-crisis climate-change related scenarios for a **more resilient Europe**

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Cluster 4 – Digital Industry and Space

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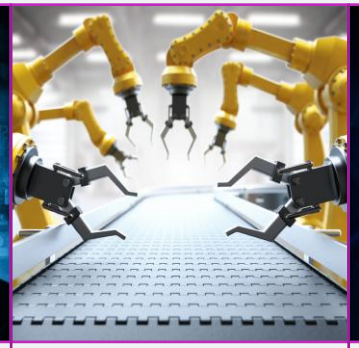
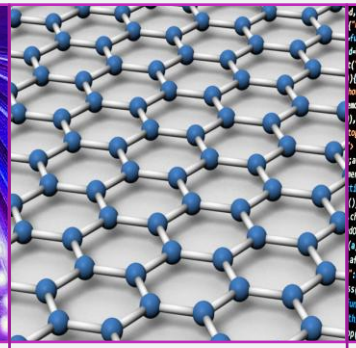
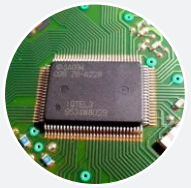
Pillar II

Cluster 4: Digital Topic Areas

						
AI, Data & Computing	Robotics	Photonics & Electronics	Smart Networks & Connectivity	Quantum	Graphene/2D materials	Digital Economy, standards, NGI, XR, Human factors

Plus Separate Joint Undertaking Calls in:

6G Smart Networks and Services



Chips – electronic systems, components, semiconductors (UK joined March 2024)

EuroHPC

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Pillar II

Partnerships types in Cluster 4 Digital topics

The aim of European Partnerships with EU and associated countries, the private sector, foundations and other stakeholders is to deliver on global challenges and modernise industry.

The following are key partnerships in the area of Digital (roadmaps, networking):

Co-programmed:

- Artificial Intelligence, Data and Robotics – https://adr-association.eu
- Photonics - https://www.photonics21.org
- Virtual Worlds (new) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_23_3718

The AI Data Robotics Association

PHOTONICS21

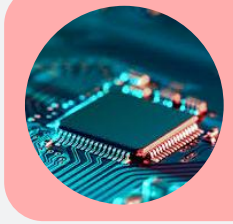
Pillar II

Global Challenges European Industrial Competitiveness Cluster 4 2026 Work Programme

Divided into six 'Destinations' (research themes), each containing a list of call 'Topics' (funding opportunities)

D1: Climate neutral, circular and digitised production

Budget	Topics	Projects
€260m	12	~77



D2: Increased autonomy in key strategic value chains for resilient industry

Budget	Topics	Projects
€94m	5	~14

D3: World leading data and computing technologies

Budget	Topics	Projects
€76m	3	~5

D4: Digital and emerging technologies for competitiveness and fit for the Green Deal

Budget	Topics	Projects
€167m	13	~24

D5: Open strategic autonomy in developing, deploying and using global space-based infrastructures, services, applications and data

Budget	Topics	Projects
€92m	6	~19

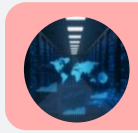
D6: A human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies

Budget	Topics	Projects
€48m	2	~10

From 2026 Draft Work Programme (dated 14 July 2025), excluding Partnerships

Pillar II

Global Challenges European Industrial Competitiveness Cluster 4: Digital 2026-2027 Work Programme



D3: Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies. Selected topics from the Partnership in AI, Data and Robotics

Budget €141m | **Topics** 5 | **Projects** ~9

HORIZON-CL4-…	Topic Title	Type of Action	Overall Budget (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per Project (EUR million)	Expected no. of Projects funded
2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02	Next-Generation AI Agents for Real-World Applications in the Apply AI sectors	RIA	38	19	2
2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-04	Apply AI: Challenge-Driven AI Innovation Booster in Apply AI prioritised sectors	RIA	42	14	3
2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03	Apply AI: Next-Generation Agile and Intelligent Robotics Platforms for Industrial and Service Applications	RIA	25	12-13	2
2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-05	Apply AI: AI-Driven Robotics for Industry: Enabling System Integration and Adoption	IA	18	18	1
2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-08	Apply AI: Robotics for Manufacturing: Advancing Core Skills through Technical Challenges	RIA	18	18	1

Strategic Thread:
Accelerate EU leadership in AI & robotics in strategic sectors (healthcare, advanced manufacturing, autonomous driving) via Apply AI “acceleration pipelines”, common platforms, and next-gen AI agents/robotics systems.

Deadlines: Opening: 15 Jan 2026 Deadline: 15 Apr 2026 Opening: 17 Nov 2026 Deadline: 18 Mar 2027

Cluster 1 – Health

Jo Frost
UK National Contact Point Horizon Europe Health – Cluster 1

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Horizon Europe Health – Cluster 1

National Contact Point (NCP): Jo Frost (ncp-health@iuk.ukri.org) LinkedIn

- Regular ‘Horizon Europe Health – Intro and Overview” webinars
- **Sign up to our UK NCP newsletters** (tick “Cluster 1 - Health” under Pillar II)

Key features for Health Work Programme and Cancer Mission:

- **Challenge driven – must solve the problem posed in the Call Topic**
- **Mainly funds consortium projects** with at least 3 different legal entities from 3 different Member States and/or Associated Countries.
  At least one organisation must be from an EU Member State.
- **Consortium partners often very varied** – you should have the right people for the tasks and from any type of legal entity

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Horizon Europe Health Cluster

Health Work Programme

- DRAFT 2026-27 Work Programmes (final versions expected ~10 Dec 2025)
- Example call topics:
  - **Integrating New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and regulatory testing**
  - **Support to European Research Area (ERA) action on accelerating New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and testing of medicinal products and medical devices**
- **2026 Calls: Online Brokerage Platform (already open) + online brokerage event 26-30 Jan 2026**
- **2026 Calls: Online European Commission Infoday 10 Feb 2026** (will be available online afterwards too)

Missions (including the Cancer Mission)

- **Draft 2026-27 Missions Work Programme** (final version expected ~10 Dec 2025)
  - Example call topic: **Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models for Cancer Research**
- **2026 Calls - online European Commission Infoday 20 Jan 2026 (11am-1pm UK time)** (available online after)
- **2026 Calls - online brokerage system (link should be live soon) & Partnering Event (28-29 Jan 2026)**

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Horizon Europe Healths - Partnerships

- European partnerships **bring together the European Commission and private and/or public partners together** to tackle pressing challenges.

- Most partnerships run calls for proposals
  - **Each partnership has different rules on which countries and types of organisation can be funded**
  - **This can change call by call, so please read the call text to check if you are eligible for funding**
  - **Most partnerships do NOT use standard Horizon Europe eligibility rules!**

- There are ~**50 "Partnerships"** in Pillar II of Horizon Europe (Diagram listing partnerships)
- There are 10 different partnerships in the Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Health Cluster
- And if you have any questions, please ask us.

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Horizon Europe Health Cluster - Partnerships include:

Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)

- Newsletter and Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)
- Call 12 (UK eligible for funding for call topics 1, 2, 3 and 5. UK not eligible for funding for call topic 4) related Infodays (19-20 Jan) and Partnering Event and Online Partnering Platform
  - **Topic 2: Boosting innovation through better integration of fragmented health R&I effort" mentions NAMs.**

Global Health EDCTP3 (European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership)

- Newsletter (signup near bottom of page), 2026 Work Programme and Online Infoday (2 Feb)

European Partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (OH AMR)

- Started June 2025, expect annual calls from Nov 2025 for 6 or 7 years. Newsletter and SRIA
- 2026 call "Treatments and adherence to treatment protocols" and related Infodays and partnering system

Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) Partnership

- Newsletter and Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) + info on 2026 call "Access to Care"

Pandemic Preparedness Partnership (BE READY NOW)

- Starts early 2026. UK organisations are not likely to be eligible for 2026 calls, but may be eligible in future years
- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

Brain Health Partnership

- Starts early 2026. UK organisations are not likely to be eligible for 2026 calls, but may be eligible in future years
- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)

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Bid writers / Consultants

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EIC Board Observations on the use of Consultants

- EIC Board observations on the use of consultants for the EIC applications - European Innovation Council
- Applicants are free to seek consultancy services
- BUT success is possible without them
- Highlights the main support options, such as National Contact Points (NCPs), University TTOs, insights from previous applicants, BAS and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)/ (Innovate UK Business Growth)
- Code of Conduct - ethical standards – verify adherence
- Read the small print

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Working with Consultants/ bid writers

- Read the small print
- Contract considerations – be cautious of exclusivity clauses, IP rights and the nature of consultancy contracts
- Assess their capabilities, compare multiple offers, consider sector specific expertise & ensure compliance with Code of Conduct.
- Be aware of success rates
- Applicants must remain engaged and responsible for applications

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How to prepare for an EIC interview

EIC Interview: pitch your innovation

- **Pitch your innovation** to the EIC Jury Members composed of serial entrepreneurs, innovation specialists and senior investors

- **Answer the questions** from the EIC Jury Members

- If selected, you will **sign** the contract

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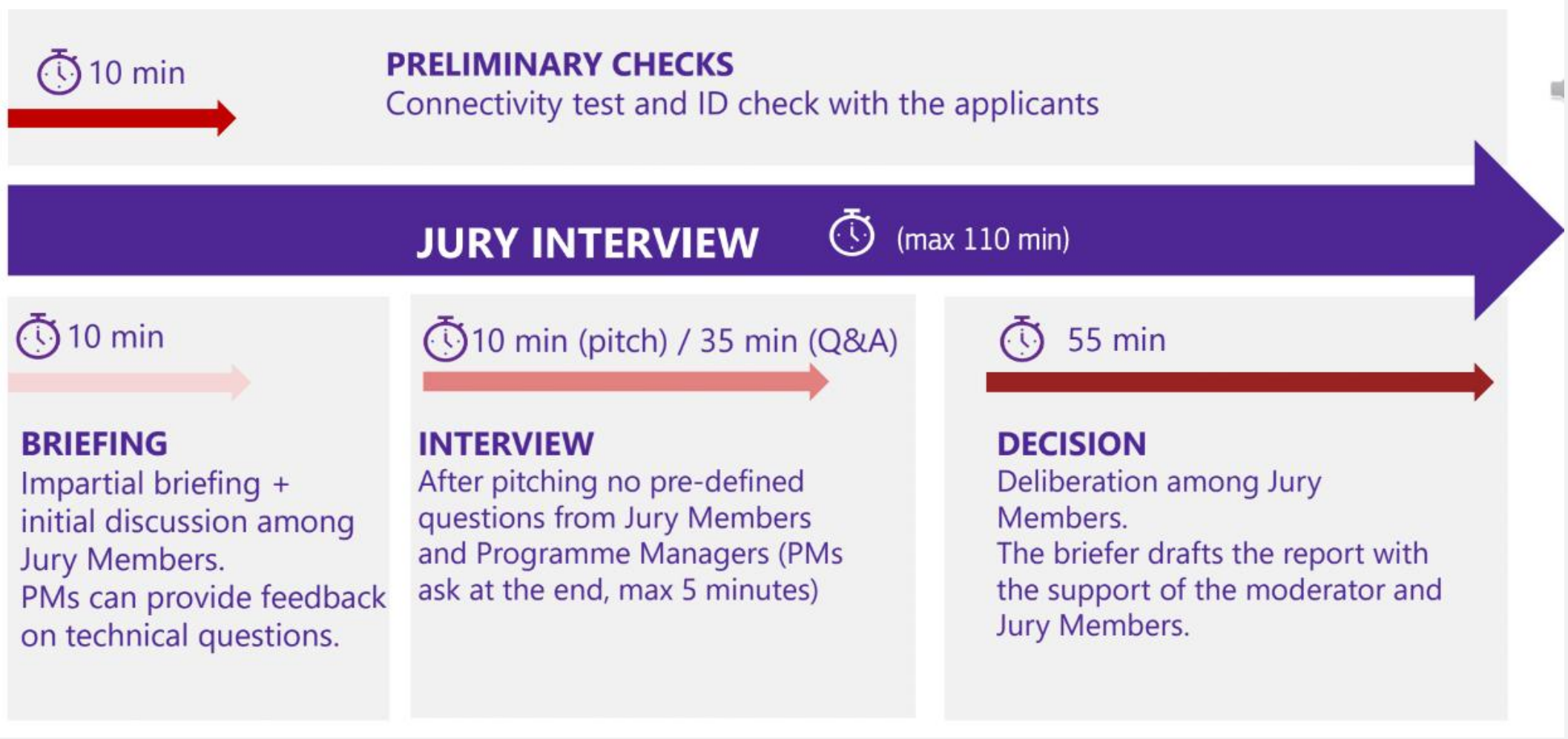
Possible Interview Structure – 2 hours



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EIC Jury Interview – best planning

- Due Diligence
- EIC Jury Members - European Commission (europa.eu)
- The evaluation criteria are usually different for remote and Jury
- Up to five (TBC) team-members in interview – work as a team
- 10 mins for pitch & 35 mins for questions – no pre-defined questions
- Be prepared!
  - Maybe 18-25 questions and observing who you work as a team

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Be well prepared for interview

- Provide clarity on:
  - Technical & business objectives, milestones, KPIs & Risks
    - Credibility, values etc
  - IPR ownership – how will money be made
  - Budget & resource allocation
  - Current & expected TRL
  - Interdependence of WPs and tasks
  - The future exploiting team
- No pre-defined questions

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Feedback from Jury Members

Provide clarity on

- Technical milestones
- IPR ownership
- Budget and allocation of resources
- Technical and business risks
- Current and expected end TRL
- Interdependence of WPs and tasks
- The future exploiting team
- Credibility of the business objectives

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Business Acceleration Services (BAS)

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BAS Aims for EIC

- View is - Financial Support is beginning of journey
- Mechanisms to help bring innovations to the market & grow your business

- Some are compulsory
- All are worth considering

- BAS - European Innovation Council - European Commission

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Thank you!

Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

4 December 2025

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