

SRC4I CALL FOR SMEs

v.1 (28.07.2023)



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Call summary

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Dates	Call opening: 28 th of July 2023 Call closing: 28 th of September 2023, 17:00 PM CET Eligibility & admissibility check: 3 rd of October Evaluation of proposals: 10 th of October Communication of results: 16 th of October Training event: 31 st of October
Scope	This document includes rules and conditions to be applied for the Financial Support to Third Parties, to support companies with travel expenses for attending a physical educational event within the SRC4I project. SRC4I project is funded by EIT Manufacturing and focuses in developing a holistic framework for sustainable transformation that will be implemented in industrial companies. Among its tasks, SRC4I is also developing educational activities to inform manufacturing practitioners about sustainability, circular economy and energy efficiency and support them during their transition to greener practices.
Total budget allocated to this call	24K EUR
Submission process	Via AGORA through an MS Teams form https://forms.office.com/e/8w8BBrTHNj
Evaluation criteria	<i>Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivation to implement sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency practices - Awareness in sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency practices in Industry - Technical excellence in sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency - Impact on Improving the Sustainability Readiness Level of the Industry

1. General conditions

This call is for SMEs that would like to participate to the physical workshop on climate-neutrality strategies at ETA in Darmstadt.

1.1 Eligibility requirements

Any legal entity that applies for financial support needs to be an SME and have a valid VAT and/or Business Registry number. "Legal entity" is defined as any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality. Research and technology development organisations are not eligible, nor SRC4I consortium members.

The applicant must be a legal entity coming from the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) countries (<https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/regional-innovation-scheme-ris/about-us/>). These countries are:

- EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Spain, Italy, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia
- Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine
- Outermost Regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)

Financial support of 1000EUR per company will be given as prize for companies that have successfully completed the questionnaire after external evaluation. The selected applicants will also have to travel to ETA Factory in Darmstadt to attend a workshop on sustainability, energy efficiency and circular economy. Participants will learn about approaches to develop a strategy for climate-neutral production.

2. Call specific conditions

2.1 Call thematic and expected impact

Purpose

To support SMEs from RIS countries to travel to ETA Factory, to attend a workshop on Sustainability, Circular Economy and Energy efficiency.

Topic description

Digital and twin transition, also known as twin transition, is the latest trend in European Manufacturing, aiming to digitalise industry while lowering its carbon emissions, towards a highly competitive and more sustainable European Industry. RIS countries have a low level of digital and green innovations implementation, therefore it is required to support RIS SMEs towards their journey to digitalisation and carbon neutrality. The main topics that should be addressed from the green transition aspect are (1) Sustainability, (2) Circular Economy and (3) Energy Efficiency. These three topics will be described in the training programme and their main applications in industry will be presented, in order to support companies/ participants to develop their own roadmap towards implementing these strategies, and increase their sustainability level.

Expected impact

Participants to this physical workshop will have the opportunity to learn about Sustainability, Circularity and Energy Efficiency. They will learn about approaches to develop a strategy for climate-neutral production. After the workshop participants will be able to develop climate neutrality strategies for production.

Activities

Participants will be provided with the information on the topic and relevance of climate neutrality. In addition, they will gain insights into relevant research results on sustainability, energy efficiency and circularity. The theoretical content finds practical application in interactive exercises in the ETA learning factory as an image of a real production environment. Main aspects of the training programme are the following:

- Development of sustainability strategy processes
- Derivation of measures for sustainable transformation
- Best practice examples from industry
- Transfer of competences into the own company

2.2 Budget and funding

The total maximum funding allocated to this call is 24K EUR. The amounts will be equally allocated to 24 SMEs with the highest-ranking mark, after evaluation from external reviewers (1000EUR per company as a prize).

The awarded funds will be paid in one single instalment in the form of prizes, after the following have been completed:

- Successfully completed the questionnaire after external evaluation
- Attended the physical event
- Published a post about the experience of the event.

2.3 Monitoring and Control Related to the Financial Prize

Before the coordinator awards the prize money, the winning companies must provide their banking and fiscal documentation. Additionally, they must disclose if there are any pending issues with government authorities or agencies under the EU funding rules and Horizon Europe legislation.

3. Proposal preparation and submission

All applications must be submitted in English using the provided online application form. The form must be submitted by the applicants through the submission tool **no later than the call deadline of 28th of September 2023, 17:00 CET**.

Only applications submitted through the online form (as noted above) before the deadline will be accepted and considered. The organisers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline; any extension of the deadline will be communicated to the public via the AGORA platform. Any documentation missing or considered incomplete may be a reason for application rejection.

All applicants may contact SRC4I to ask questions and clarify any points on general or technical procedures and call content by sending an email message to the representative of the SRC4I coordinator, Dr Vasiliki Panagiotopoulou, panagiotopoulou@lms.mech.upatras.gr with the email subject "SRC4I Call for SMEs".

4. Proposal evaluation and selection process

4.1 Eligibility check

A proposal will be eligible if:

1. The submitting company is an SME
2. The SME comes from a RIS country (<https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/regional-innovation-scheme-ris/about-us/>)
3. The online form is completed, and submitted in time via the submission tool, in English with all its mandatory sections.

4.2 Evaluation of Proposals & Challenges

The evaluation of proposals and fit with the defined challenges will be conducted in 3 phases:

1. Screening for admissibility and eligibility
2. Check and score from external evaluators
3. Consensus meeting to finalise the top ranking companies

Each application will be reviewed online by a panel composed of three (3) evaluators, at least two of them external to the consortium and to EIT Manufacturing, with the same weighting of scores.

Each form will provide a self-calculated score for the multiple-choice questions based on weight factors for the four different criteria:

1. Motivation to implement sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency practices
2. Awareness in sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency in industry
3. Technical excellence in sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency
4. Impact on improving the sustainability readiness level of the industry

There are three open questions in the application that each evaluator will have to score based on the previously described four criteria, and be assessed 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 shall be given at the sub criteria level that will be then summed together to come with a final score per criteria. Thresholds apply to individual criteria and the total score. The maximum score for an application is 39.

Motivation to implement sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency practices	Max. scoring 7
	(Threshold: 4/7)
<i>Motivation to implement new technologies and make significant changes in practice</i>	
Awareness in sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency in industry	Max. scoring 6
	(Threshold: 3/6)
<i>Background knowledge on relevant topics</i>	
Technical excellence in sustainability, circularity and energy efficiency in Industry	Max scoring 2
	(Threshold: 1/2)
<i>Infrastructure</i>	
<i>Personnel</i>	
Impact on improving the sustainability readiness level of the industry	Max. scoring 14
	(Threshold: 3/14)
<i>Plan for long-term strategy</i>	
TOTAL	xx/29 POINTS THRESHOLD 11/39

4.3 Communication of results

The results will be communicated to the email of the applicant representative registered at the submission platform. The results will include the final results report/ESR.

Within **5 (five) days** of receiving this communication (**until 21st of October 17:00 CET**), companies whose challenges have been selected may renounce participation in the activities by notifying them by e-mail to panagiotopoulou@lms.mech.upatras.gr. In this case, the Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation (LMS),

on behalf of the SRC4I consortium, will propose participation in the Initiative to the company whose Challenge is in the next position in the ranking.

4.4 Selected applicants and follow-up

The selected applicants will receive the following benefits & awards:

- All selected companies will receive 1000€ in travel award
- All selected companies will attend the physical training event at ETA Factory, TU Darmstadt, 31st of October 2023

The selected companies shall:

- Provide SRC4I consortium with the required banking and fiscal details (applicable to the **Winners only**).
- Sign a Financial Prize agreement (applicable to the **Winners only**).

5. Rules and Regulations

5.1 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 and SRC4I logos (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., 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 the awarding authority. 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 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 for the award ceremony or during the award ceremony. The EIT Manufacturing 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.

5.2 Data protection

The sole purpose of the collection of data is to verify the eligibility of the submitted products or services and to identify the best projects/companies within each category. Participants will provide their name, postal address, email address and telephone number ("personal data") only for the purposes related to the execution of the competition. The Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation (LMS), on behalf of the SRC4I consortium, will process the submitted material according to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Personal data shall be deleted six months after the announcement of the competition winners.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA: By submitting your application you consent that the Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation (LMS), on behalf of the SRC4I consortium, will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

The submissions will be evaluated by independent evaluators that will have signed a NDA and a non-conflict of interest, regarding any conflicts with the companies that would submit their interest to participate in this training event.

5.3 Acceptance of Rules and Regulations

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

The Laboratory for Manufacturing Systems and Automation (LMS), on behalf of the SRC4I consortium, reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Rules and Regulations. Amendments and additions to these Rules and Regulations shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the participants.

Any deviation from these Rules and Regulations can only be made in writing.