

A decorative graphic on the left side of the page, consisting of several overlapping diamond shapes. The diamonds are filled with a dark blue background and contain glowing green and cyan binary code (0s and 1s) and light trails, suggesting a digital or data theme. The diamonds are arranged in a pattern that roughly forms a larger diamond shape.

# CALL FOR PROPOSALS *INNOVATION SCHEMES*

*oc1-2024-TIS-01*

*ENFIELD: EUROPEAN LIGHTHOUSE TO MANIFEST  
TRUSTWORTHY AND GREEN AI*



Co-funded by  
the European Union

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

This is the first out of two open calls for innovation proposals from legal entities under the ENFIELD<sup>1</sup> (European Lighthouse to Manifest Trustworthy and Green AI) project, co-funded by the European Union. Through the ENFIELD Innovation Scheme open calls and the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism, the project aims to attract the research/industry partners to conduct applied research related to specific scientific/technological challenges within the sectors of energy, healthcare, manufacturing, and space, contributing to the creation of ENFIELD network and the adoption of AI technologies to boost overall EU competitiveness.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming every aspect of modern society offering the potential for inclusive economic growth, societal benefits, and innovative solutions to global challenges. Nonetheless, AI tools can be error-prone, giving rise to concerns about legal liability and the preservation of fundamental human rights. Global leaders have discussed the need to address AI challenges and maximize its benefits and as a result, the European Commission launched important initiatives like HUMANE<sup>2</sup>, TAYLOR<sup>3</sup>, and ELISE<sup>4</sup> to ensure AI becomes more human-centric, safe, transparent, and to reinforce Europe's position in AI and Machine Learning (ML). However, there are certain AI perspectives and application areas, which have not been tackled with a sufficient attention by the funded Networks of Excellence despite being of paramount importance to Europe in the present geopolitical and climate change circumstances. Thus, the ENFIELD project is dedicated to developing, maintaining, scaling-up and sustaining a vibrant European network on AI composed of 30 consortium members from 18 countries, including top-level education and research organisations, large scale businesses, SMEs, and public sector representatives jointly addressing critical issues of research and innovation frontiers in this new topic of the European AI Lighthouse.

## 3. OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

### Objectives

ENFIELD aims to create a unique European Centre of Excellence that excels the fundamental research in the areas of **Adaptive, Green, Human-Centric, and Trustworthy AI**. These pillars are strategic and of paramount importance to successful AI development, deployment, and acceptance in Europe and will further advance the research within verticals of **Healthcare, Energy, Manufacturing, and Space**. By attracting the best talents, technologies, and resources from worldclass research and industry players in Europe and by carrying out top-level research activities in synchronisation with industry challenges, ENFIELD project will contribute to reinforce a competitive EU position in AI and create significant socio-economic impact for the benefit of European citizens and businesses.

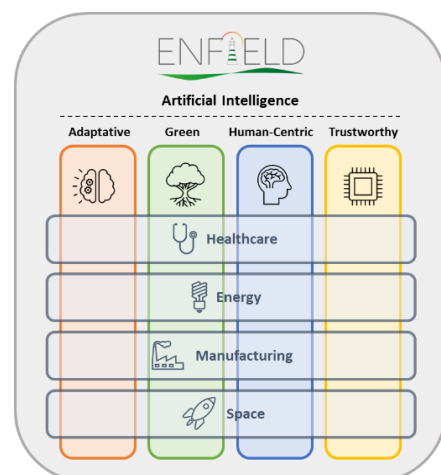


Figure 1 - Conceptual view of ENFIELD.

<sup>1</sup> Grant Agreement n° 101120657, funded by the European Union.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.humane-ai.eu/about-project/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://tailor-network.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.elise-ai.eu/>

## Use Cases

The applicants to be funded under ENFIELD project will need to conduct applied research activities related to specific scientific/technological challenges proposed by industry partners, in at least one of the following sectors: healthcare, energy, space and manufacturing.

## 4. TIMETABLE

The indicative schedule for the different stages of the selection procedure is as follows:

TIMETABLE	
Call opening	1 June 2024
Deadline for submission	31 July 2024 - 17:00 (CET) – Brussels time
Evaluation	1 August - 16 August 2024
Information on evaluation results	19 August 2024
Sub-grant Agreement signature	31 August 2024
Project execution timeframe	1 September 2024 - 31 August 2025

A second ENFIELD Innovation Scheme call for proposals is foreseen for spring 2025.

## 5. AVAILABLE BUDGET

A total budget of 1.100.000 € is allocated by ENFIELD for funding the participation of at least 18 beneficiaries in Innovation Schemes. This first call is expected to select 8 beneficiaries<sup>5</sup>.

Successful applicants will receive a grant that **cannot surpass 60.000€**. The grant will be paid as follows: 50% with grant signature + 50% with expected outcome/deliverable.

When the beneficiaries are **private-for-profit organisations**, once determined the total estimated cost for the proposal, the exact amount of financial support to be granted as a lump sum will be calculated as **70% of the eligible cost**, following the rules of the Horizon Europe programme.

Applicants will have to submit a budget overview for the implementation of their proposal, including the expected costs concerning Staff Costs; Travel Costs; Equipment/Tech Consumables Costs (depreciation) and, whenever required, Subcontracting Costs. Following the standard flat rate applicable in the Horizon Europe programme, a flat rate of 25% for overheads will be applied.

All payments will be subject to tax and other reductions according to the laws of all involved countries. Tax and other reductions are the responsibility of the applicant.

Multiple applications are possible under this call. In these cases, applicants need to submit one application form per project proposal. However, only one proposal can be awarded per applicant.

<sup>5</sup> The consortium reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the open calls planned within the project, depending on the applications received and the results of the evaluation.

## 6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

Proposals must be submitted electronically via <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/oc1-2024-TIS-01> (see section 12. How to submit an application). Paper or email submissions are NOT admissible.

Proposals must be submitted in English using the Application Form provided on the submission page.

Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information in the Application Form.

Additional supporting documents (e.g., bank account validation, etc) will be requested only from selected applicants.

## 7. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, proposals must be presented by one legal entity (or a group of a minimum of 2 legal entities) meeting the following criteria:

- Must be a research center (legal entity) or private-for-profit company (including start-ups, SMEs, and large companies) with no conflicts of interest with any of the ENFIELD partner organizations.
- Must be based in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries.
- Applications need to be submitted by the deadline of the call. Late applications will not be admitted.
- Applications must be submitted in English. Applications submitted in any other language will not be eligible.
- Project duration is limited to a maximum of six (6) months.
- Applicants can submit multiple applications, but only one of them can be funded.

## 8. SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be evaluated according to four criteria:

- **Advanced state of the art:** applicants shall demonstrate to what extent their innovation application is beyond the state-of-the-art and describe the unique approach behind it (e.g., novel concepts and approaches) linked to the industrial use cases in energy, healthcare, manufacturing, or space.
- **Soundness of the technical approach:** applicants must demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed research methodology and working arrangements.
- **Dissemination and communication:** applicants must present a credible plan for dissemination and communication activities which must include methods (publications, presentations, workshops and/or webinars) and the targeted audiences.
- **Technical, creative and business capacities:** competences and skills of the applicant involved in the proposal; capacity to carry out the activities for the proposed innovation scheme. Track-record in scientific publications and similar projects/domain. In case applications submitted by a group, complementarity of partners.

Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5, following the rationale below:

<b>0</b>	<b>Fail</b>	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to incomplete or missing information.
<b>1</b>	<b>Poor</b>	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
<b>2</b>	<b>Fair</b>	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

<b>3</b>	<b>Good</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
<b>4</b>	<b>Very Good</b>	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
<b>5</b>	<b>Excellent</b>	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The following thresholds will be considered as criteria:

- Minimum score per criterion: Proposals scoring less than 3 for any criterion will be considered of insufficient quality and rejected.

Proposals that pass the criterion thresholds will be considered for funding. Other proposals will be rejected.

## 9. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Project Timeframe: Maximum six (6) months duration, varying according to the submitted proposal.

Payment Schedule: 50% payment with sub-grant agreement signature and 50% at the end of the project, with expected outcome/deliverable. The grant cannot surpass 60.000€.

Contract: Sub-grant agreement will be signed between the beneficiary and the ENFIELD consortium, represented by its coordinator (NTNU), the Open Call Manager (INOVA+) and the Host Organization (to be determined according to the selected projects). A model template for the contract can be found here [https://www.enfield-project.eu/open\\_calls](https://www.enfield-project.eu/open_calls).

## 10. VISIBILITY

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all publications or activities. In this respect, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the European Commission on all their publications and activities realised under the co-financed action. Where appropriate, they should also use the ENFIELD emblem and visuals. Guidelines will be provided to the successful applicants.

## 11. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, e-mail, and address). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the consortium.

## 12. HOW TO SUMIT AN APLICATION

Project proposals must be submitted by **31 July 2024 at 17:00 (CET)** by completing the application online, here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/oc1-2024-TIS-01>.

Complete the Application Form and Project Proposal. Applicants can find the template for the Project Proposal [here](#). The template needs to be downloaded, completed, and uploaded in PDF format.

Applicants should submit one Application Form per project proposal. Multiple proposals are allowed but only one project can be awarded per beneficiary.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the submission system, you should immediately file a complaint via [enfield.opencall@inova.business](mailto:enfield.opencall@inova.business), explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

**Queries about applications can be sent by email to [enfield.opencall@inova.business](mailto:enfield.opencall@inova.business) before 25 July 2024.** We cannot guarantee that emails will be answered after this date. A FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section will be posted on the ENFIELD project website and updated regularly.

All applicants will be notified via email of the results of the evaluation process by 19 August 2024 (indicative date). The results will then be published on the information channels of the ENFIELD project.