



INNOVATION SCHEMES OPEN CALL
oc1-2025-TIS-01
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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



Co-funded by
the European Union

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the second out of two open calls, under the ENFIELD¹ (European Lighthouse to Manifest Trustworthy and Green AI) project, co-funded by the European Union, to call for innovation proposals submitted by legal entities. Through the ENFIELD Innovation Scheme open calls and the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism, the project aims to attract research/industry entities to conduct applied research related to specific scientific/technological challenges within the industrial domains 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 HUMANE², TAYLOR³, and ELISE⁴ to ensure AI becomes more human-centric, safe, and 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 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.

¹ Grant Agreement n° 101120657, funded by the European Union.

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

³ <https://tailor-network.eu/>

⁴ <https://www.elise-ai.eu/>

3. OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Objectives

ENFIELD aims to create a unique European Centre of Excellence that excels in 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 the industrial domains of **Healthcare, Energy, Manufacturing, and Space**. By attracting the best talents, technologies, and resources from world-class research and industry players in Europe and by carrying out top-level research activities in synchronisation with industry challenges, the ENFIELD project will contribute to reinforcing a competitive EU position in AI and create a significant socio-economic impact for the benefit of European citizens and businesses.

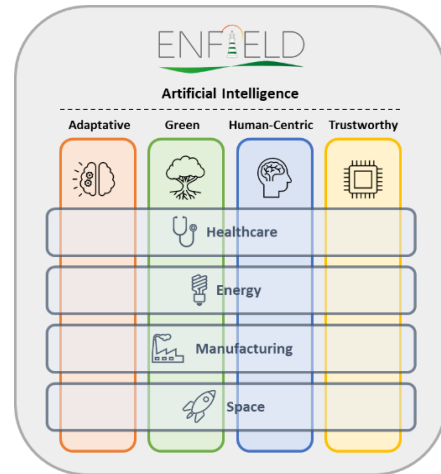


Figure 1 - Conceptual view of ENFIELD.

Use Cases

The applicants to be funded under the ENFIELD Innovation Scheme Open Call will need to conduct applied research activities related to specific scientific/technological challenges proposed by the 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	17 April 2025
Deadline for submission	17 June 2025 - 17:00 (CET) – Brussels Time
Evaluation	18 June - 18 July 2025
Information on evaluation results	23 July 2025
Sub-grant Agreement signature	8 August 2025
Project execution timeframe	18 August 2025 - 30 June 2026

The ENFIELD project reserves the right to adjust the planned timetable, and any change will be announced in the project communication channels.

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 second call is expected to select 10 beneficiaries⁵.

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 the total estimated cost for the proposal is determined, 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), Other Direct Costs, 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 to the Direct Costs.

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.

6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

Proposals must be submitted electronically via <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/oc1-2025-TIS-01> (see section 12. How to submit an application). Proposals must be submitted using the online Application Form provided on this page. Paper or email submissions are NOT admissible.

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

Additional supporting documents (e.g., bank account information, 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 private-for-profit company (including start-ups, SMEs, and large companies) or a research center (legal entity) 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.

⁵ 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.

- 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:** The extent to which the proposal is beyond the state-of-the-art and presents an innovative 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:** Credibility of the proposed methodology for the implementation of the project, i.e., feasibility of the proposed research methodology and working arrangements.
- **Dissemination and communication:** Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results which must include methods (publications, presentations, workshops and/or webinars) and targeted audiences.
- **Technical, creative and business capacities:** Demonstration of competences and skills of the project team and its capacity to carry out the activities of the proposal. Quality and effectiveness of the resources assigned to the proposal. Track record of the team in scientific publications and similar projects/domains. In the case of the applications submitted by a group, the complementarity of partners will be assessed.

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

0	Fail	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to incomplete or missing information.
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
4	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent	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.

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 the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application under the call for proposals will be processed solely for that purpose by the consortium.

12. HOW TO SUMIT AN APPLICATION

Project proposals must be submitted by **17 June 2025 at 17:00 (CET)** by completing the online Application Form, here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/oc1-2025-TIS-01>.

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, 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 before the 10th of June 2025. 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 are expected to be notified via email of the evaluation results by 23 July 2025 (indicative date). The results will then be published on the information channels of the ENFIELD project.