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Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Industry Topics; Deadline Proposal: 23.09.2025

Progress in digital and industrial technologies, including in space, shapes all sectors of the economy and society. These technologies transform the way industry develops, create new products and services, and are central to any sustainable future. Research and innovation to support the green and digital transition, and attain and maintain strategic capacities such as Access to Space or Act in Space, are a key to Europe's competitiveness and open strategic autonomy, to industrial sustainability and to setting human-centred standards.

Resilience and technological sovereignty have become renewed priorities for the EU due to the current geopolitical and economic context that exposed vulnerabilities in critical value chains. In this context it is imperative to contribute to the implementation of the Net-Zero Industry Act (NZIA) and the Critical Raw Materials Act (CRMA); and to reinforce Europe's position in digital technologies, high-performance computing, Artificial Intelligence, robotics, secure communication, virtual worlds, critical Space technologies, advanced and sustainable manufacturing technologies, net-zero industry, sustainable raw and innovative materials, and the circular economy.

Cluster 4, 'Digital, Industry and Space' aims to shape competitive and trusted technologies for EU leadership in these technologies; to enable production and consumption respecting the boundaries of our planet; and to maximise the benefits for all parts of society in the variety of social, economic and territorial contexts in Europe. It will for example boost Europe leadership and competitiveness on Artificial Intelligence innovation (AI), leading the way on making AI safer and more trustworthy, and on tackling the risks stemming from its misuse. Similarly, it will ease the exploitation of untapped data potential while promoting high standards of data protection.

This cluster will serve the goals of the Competitiveness Compass through substantial R&I investments, often complemented by private investments through partnerships, across different technology readiness levels; and by integrating technological, environmental and social objectives into innovation.

This cluster will also support the Clean Industrial Deal, by driving decarbonisation and circularity in the manufacturing, energy-intensive and construction industries; and by providing the advanced materials and advanced manufacturing technologies that are needed for a net-zero economy. It aims to position the European Union as a technology and industrial leader in clean technologies.

Actions under this cluster will support key enabling technologies that are strategically important for Europe's future, and deliver on the following six expected impacts in the Strategic Plan, through matching destinations in this Work Programme.

In addition, several actions are crucial to support our European Economic Security Strategy, notably its 'promote' pillar that focuses on enhancing the Union's competitiveness and industrial base, as well as investing in research and innovation for strategic and dual-use technologies.

Example Topics:

Destination 1: Achieving global leadership in climate-neutral, circular and digitised industrial and digital value chains

- 01-TWIN-TRANSITION-32: Green and resilient flexible production processes (Processes4Planet partnership) (IA)
- 01-TWIN-TRANSITION-34: Smart integration of net zero technologies into Energy Intensive industries (Processes4Planet and Made in Europe partnerships) (IA)
- 01-TWIN-TRANSITION-37: Solving issues in carbon-neutral iron and steel making processes with diverse input materials of varying quality (Clean Steel Partnership) (RIA)

Destination 2: Achieving technological leadership for Europe's open strategic autonomy in raw materials, chemicals and innovative materials

- 01-MATERIALS-61: Technologies for critical raw materials and strategic raw materials from end-of-life products (IA)
- 01-MATERIALS-63: Innovative solutions for the sustainable production for Semiconductor raw materials (IA)
- 01-MATERIALS-44: Innovative Advanced Materials Innovation Procurement (CSA)

Destination 4: Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies

- 01-DIGITAL-61: AI Foundation models in science (GenAI4EU) (RIA)

- 01-DIGITAL-62: Facilitated cooperation for AI in Science (CSA)
- Destination 6: Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation
- 01-HUMAN-61: Standardisation landscape analyses tool (CSA)
 - 01-HUMAN-62: Artificial Intelligence for knowledge valorisation (CSA)
 - 01-HUMAN-64: Pilot initiatives on Technology Infrastructures (CSA)

Submission of Proposal Deadline: 23 September 2025 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?order=DESC&pageNumber=CL4-2025-01>

Erasmus+ Erasmus Charter for Higher Education; Deadline Proposal: 27.01.2026

This is a call for Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) quality certifications under the Erasmus+ Programme. The Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) is an EU quality certificate for higher education institutions (HEIs). It is a prerequisite for all HEIs from Erasmus+ Programme countries and Western Balkans third countries not associated to the Programme to apply for funding under Erasmus+ calls (including calls managed by Erasmus+ National Agencies).

By applying for the ECHE, the HEI confirms that its participation in Erasmus+ is part of its strategy for modernisation and internationalisation. This strategy acknowledges the key contribution of student and staff mobility and of participation in transnational cooperation projects, to the quality of its higher education programmes and student experience. The ECHE aims to reinforce the quality of student and staff mobility, as well as of cooperation projects.

The certification procedure consists in validating the status as a 'higher education institution (HEI)' and certifying compliance with the ECHE quality standards (Erasmus Policy Statement, quality of organisation and management structures and the implementation of ECHE principles).

The ECHE will be valid for the entire duration of the Erasmus+ Programme 2021-2027 (and up until the end of projects funded under that Programme). The award of the ECHE does not automatically imply any direct funding under the Erasmus+ Programme.

ECHE holders will be subject to regular monitoring by the National Agencies.

The award criteria are as follows:

- Relevance of the Erasmus Policy Statement (EPS)
- Quality of organisation and management
- Implementation of the ECHE principles

Each award criterion will be scored as fulfilled or not fulfilled (Yes/No). Only institutions that pass all three criteria will be certified. Other applications will be rejected.

Deadline for proposal submission: 27 January 2026 – 17:00 CET (Brussels) (cut-off date)

Applications must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT-FP?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&type=1&status=31094502&frame>

DIGITAL Strengthening the Cybersecurity Ecosystem; Deadline Proposal: 07.10.2025

This is a call for proposals for EU action grants in the field of Cybersecurity under the Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL). The call is launched in accordance with the 2025-2027 Work Programme and will be managed by the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre (ECCC).

The third Work Programme (WP) on Cybersecurity under the Digital Europe Programme 2025–2027 outlines a series of targeted actions to strengthen the EU's cybersecurity ecosystem and enhance its resilience in line with the EU Cybersecurity Strategy and the ECCC Strategic Agenda. The call covers the following topics:

- **DIGITAL-ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08-PublicPQC** — Transition to post-quantum Public Key Infrastructures (EUR 15.000.000)

As quantum computing continues to evolve, the threat it poses to classical encryption methods becomes more immediate. This action supports the different actors involved in the Public Key Infrastructures (PKI) ecosystems and supply and value chains, who all have a unique set of diverse needs and interdependencies, such as Certificate Authorities (CAs), intermediate CAs, end-users in different domains, and vendors.

The aim of this call is to tackle the challenges of an effective integration of PQC algorithms in Public Key Infrastructures (PKIs), which offers efficient migration strategies and strong business continuity guarantees.

The call targets the different actors involved in the PKI ecosystems and supply and value chains, who all have a unique set of diverse needs and interdependencies, such as Certificate Authorities (CAs), intermediate CAs, researchers, end-users in different domains, and vendors.

- **DIGITAL-ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08-NCC** - Enhancing the NCC Network (EUR 10.000.000)

The NCCs play a pivotal role in supporting the implementation of cybersecurity projects, fostering collaboration between public authorities, industry, and academia. Strengthening the NCC network will reinforce national capacities, facilitate knowledge sharing, and improve coordination at the National and EU level. Actions included in this call document will support the objectives to deploy and support the National Coordination Centres (NCCs).

The National Coordination Centres (NCCs) set up by the Regulation (EU) 2021/887 are designed to work together through a network and to contribute to achieving the objectives of the regulation and to foster the Cybersecurity Competence Community in each Member State, by contributing to the acquisition of the necessary capacity. National Coordination Centres can also support priority areas such as the implementation of EU legislation (Directive (EU) 2022/2555, the proposed Cyber Resilience Act and the Cybersecurity Act).

The objective of this topic is to support the operation of the NCCs and to enable them to support the cybersecurity community, including SMEs, for the uptake and dissemination of state-of-the-art cybersecurity solutions and strengthen cybersecurity capacities. This could also be achieved by using Financial Support for Third Parties (FSTPs). Based on the financing received in previous years and on the different operational start dates in the Member States, this activity aims to continue providing support for NCCs

- **DIGITAL-ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08-CyberHEALTH** – Dedicated action to reinforcing hospitals and healthcare providers (EUR 30.000.000)

The healthcare sector remains one of the most targeted by cyberattacks. This action will aim at strengthening the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers. The goal is to ensure that they can effectively detect, monitor, and respond to cyber threats, particularly ransomware, which pose significant risks, thereby enhancing the resilience of the European healthcare system.

This action aims to strengthen the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers. The goal is to ensure that hospitals and healthcare providers, which are crucial operators in the health sector, can effectively detect, monitor, and respond to cyber threats, particularly ransomware, which pose significant risks, thereby enhancing the resilience of the European healthcare system.

The action will contribute to the EU action plan on cybersecurity in hospitals and healthcare, adopted by the Commission⁶ in January 2025.

Each project application under the call must address only one of these topics. Applicants wishing to apply for more than one topic, must submit a separate proposal under each topic.

These initiatives collectively aim to build a more secure and resilient digital Europe — capable of withstanding future threats while promoting trust, innovation, and the safeguarding of European values in the digital age.

Project duration:

- for topics DIGITAL-ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08-PublicPQC the indicative duration of the action is indicatively 36 months, other durations, that are properly justified, are not excluded.
 - for topics DIGITAL-ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08-NCC the indicative duration of the action is indicatively 36 or 48 months, other durations, that are properly justified, are not excluded.
 - for topics DIGITAL-ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08-CyberHEALTH the indicative duration of the action is indicatively 18 or 24 months, other durations, that are properly justified, are not excluded.
- Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal Electronic Submission System (accessible via the Topic page in the Calls for proposals section) before the call deadline on 07 October 2025 (17:00:00 CET). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/calls-for-proposals?order=DESC&pageNumber=ECCC-2025-DEPLOY-CYBER-08>

BMW 16th Call for Proposals for Joint Industrial Research & Development (R&D) Projects between Germany & Canada; Deadline Proposal: 28.11.2025

Germany and Canada are pleased to announce a Call for proposals for joint industrial R&D projects focusing on developing innovative products, processes, or technology-based services in all technological and application areas, which have strong market potential. The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) will provide access to public funding for joint projects through the BMWK's ZIM program (Central Innovation Program for SMEs) in Germany, and through the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP) in Canada.

Project results have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technical services, which are based on the international state of the art. Projects must comply with the following requirements:

- The consortium has to include at least two independent enterprises (SMEs), one from Canada and one from Germany, which contribute considerably to the project. Participation of research institutes and other companies are welcome as addi-

tional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding regulations.

- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two jurisdictions (e.g. increased innovation capability, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- Project duration should not exceed two (2) years. An extension of one (1) year could be accepted by both countries if sufficiently justified.

Each German project partner submits an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH. Every German SME, in accordance with the relevant EU regulations, as well as medium-sized companies with less than 500 employees (full-time equivalents), which carry out R&D for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services, are eligible to apply. Other medium-sized companies with less than 1,000 employees are eligible to apply for funding if they cooperate with at least one SME (EU definition) whose project is being funded. Research and technology organizations (RTOs) are eligible to apply as cooperation partners of eligible companies.

Note: Every German project partner must file an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH.

- For each German Partner, a completed national ZIM project proposal form must be submitted. See the website www.zim.de for more information or contact us as mentioned below.
- The ZIM application includes several documents listed in the application form. Those are for example a working translation of English documents like the cooperation agreement, a full project description in German language (Anlage 4) and a copy of the current excerpt from the commercial register.

By the Optional German Project Sketch deadline (October 10th, 2025) all interested German applicants may submit a German Project Sketch to ZIM. The deadline for the International Consortium Joint Project Proposal Submission is November 28th, 2025.

Contact Person Germany:

Mr. Georg Nagel, Phone: +49 30 48163-526, Mail: g.nagel@aif-projekt-gmbh.de

Further information:

https://www.zim.de/ZIM/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/International/16-call-canada.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=3

BMFTR Materialforschung & Strukturbiologie mit Neutronen & Synchrotronstrahlung im Rahmen der deutsch-schwedischen Kooperation; Deadline Proposal: 28.10.2025

Das Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfahrt (BMFTR) beabsichtigt, innerhalb des Rahmenprogramms "Erforschung von Universum und Materie – ErUM" Vorhaben zu fördern, die der Zielsetzung des deutsch-schwedischen Röntgen-Ängström-Clusters (<http://www.rontgen-angstrom.eu/>) dienen, insbesondere vor dem Hintergrund des Engagements Deutschlands und Schwedens für die europäischen Forschungsinfrastrukturen European Spallation Source (ESS) in Lund (Schweden) und European XFEL in Schenefeld (Deutschland). Grundlagen für die Fördermaßnahme sind das "Memorandum of Understanding" (MoU) vom 15. Juni 2009 zwischen der deutschen und der schwedischen Regierung sowie die Empfehlungen des begleitenden Lenkungsausschusses des Röntgen-Ängström-Clusters.

Die Fördermaßnahme zielt zuvorderst darauf ab, den norddeutsch-schwedischen Forschungsraum mit seinen herausragenden Forschungsinfrastrukturen kontinuierlich in Bezug auf wissenschaftliche Exzellenz und internationale Sichtbarkeit weiterzuentwickeln. Dadurch soll die Region – und damit Deutschland insgesamt – als attraktiver Standort für Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft gestärkt werden. Gleichzeitig trägt dies zur konkreten Umsetzung der strategischen Forschungspartnerschaft mit Schweden im Handlungsfeld "Vernetzung" des Rahmenprogramms ErUM bei.

Zur Erreichung dieser Zielsetzungen sollen im Themenbereich "Erforschung von Materie" gemeinsame deutsch-schwedische Verbundprojekte gefördert werden. Im Mittelpunkt stehen Vorhaben, welche

- die komplementären Expertisen aus Deutschland und Schweden kombinieren, um neue Forschungsmethoden zu erarbeiten und Instrumente zu entwickeln oder zu verbessern, die geeignet sind, die Leistungsfähigkeit der ausgewählten Großgeräte zu

steigern und Nutzungsmöglichkeiten zu erweitern,

- die binationale Vernetzung, Mobilität und Präsenz insbesondere des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses vertiefen sowie
- Innovationsprozesse durch Transfer von wissenschaftlich-technischen Ergebnissen der Grundlagenforschung in die Wirtschaft oder die Schaffung technischer Voraussetzungen für die Weiterentwicklung der Zugangsmodelle fördern und
- gemeinsame Beiträge zur Beteiligung der großen Forschungsinfrastrukturen an der weltweiten nachhaltigen Entwicklung leisten.

Die Forschungsarbeiten müssen sich mit Materialwissenschaft oder Strukturbiologie befassen und auf die Entwicklung von Instrumenten (experimentelle Infrastruktur) und/oder Methoden (Hardware oder Software) sowie Forschungstechniken an mindestens einer der folgenden Photonen- beziehungsweise Neutronenquellen als Großgerät abzielen:

Photonenquellen:

- BESSY II, Helmholtz-Zentrum für Materialien und Energie, Berlin
- FLASH, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg
- PETRA III, Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron DESY, Hamburg
- European XFEL, Schenefeld
- MAX IV Laboratory, Lund
- European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), Grenoble

Neutronenquellen:

- Forschungs-Neutronenquelle Heinz Maier-Leibnitz (FRM II), Technische Universität München, Garching
- Höchstflussreaktor (HFR), Institut Laue-Langevin, Grenoble
- European Spallation Source (ESS, im Bau), Lund

In besonders begründeten Fällen können Vorhaben auch an anderen Großgeräten gefördert werden, sofern diese im engen inhaltlichen Bezug zu einem der oben genannten Großgeräte stehen

Dem Projektträger sind bis spätestens 28. Oktober 2025 förmliche Förderanträge unter Nutzung des Antragssystems "easy-Online" vorzulegen.

Ansprechpersonen:

Dr. Caroline Toeche-Mittler, Telefon: 040/89 98-50 26, E-Mail: caroline.toeche-mittler@desy.de

Neutronen: Dr. Tinka Spehr-Bechmann, 040/89 98-50 37, tinka.spehr-bechmann@desy.de

Photonen: Dr. Jochen Würges, Telefon: 040/89 98-50 38, E-Mail: jochen.wuerges@desy.de

Administration: Telefon: 040/89 98-32 02, E-Mail: materie.pt@desy.de

Further information:

<https://www.rontgen-angstrom.eu/e14922/e301606/>

DFG-CNPq Brazilian-German Joint Call for Proposals in the Fields of Agricultural Sciences, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; Deadline Proposal: 15.12.2025

Within the scope of their Cooperation Agreement, the Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Científico e Tecnológico (CNPq, Brazilian National Council of Research) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) are pleased to announce a joint call for German-Brazilian research projects in the areas of agricultural sciences, forestry and veterinary medicine. Interdisciplinary projects involving the social sciences and humanities can also be submitted, provided they have an agricultural, forestry or veterinary focus and are therefore within the remit of DFG review board 2.31.

This initiative aims to bring together relevant and competitive researchers from Germany and from Brazil to design and carry out jointly organised research projects of outstanding scientific quality.

Proposals for joint German-Brazilian projects have to be submitted in parallel by the researchers in Germany and in Brazil to their respective funding organisation according to the organisations' respective format and regulations. The DFG and CNPq use their standard programmes for proposals within this initiative.

- DFG: Research Grants Programme ("Sachbeihilfe"). Regarding eligibility, please refer to DFG form 50.01 (<https://www.dfg.de/de/fo/50-01-246700>)
- CNPq: <https://www.gov.br/cnpq/pt-br> ("open for submission")

Researchers may apply for a funding period of up to three years.

Principal investigators (PIs) based in Germany submit their documents to the DFG, PIs based in Brazil to the CNPq. All documents must be written in English. Funding of the joint research projects is contingent upon positive assessment by both funding organisations. Unilateral funding of only one part of a project is not possible.

Please submit your proposal to the DFG by 15 December 2025. Proposals are to be submitted solely via the elan portal in order to ensure proposal-related data is recorded and documents are securely transmitted.

Contact Persons DFG:

Head Office Bonn: Dr. Dietrich Halm, Phone: +49 228 885-2347, Mail: dietrich.halm@dfg.de

Office Latin America: Dr. Christina Peters, Phone +49 228 885-4550, christina.peters@dfg.de

Further information:

<https://www.dfg.de/de/aktuelles/neuigkeiten-themen/info-wissenschaft/2025/ifw-25-69>

EU-Hochschulnetzwerk Informationsveranstaltung zu den ERC Grants; Deadline Registration: 08.10.2025

09.10.2025, 10:00 – 12.00 Uhr: Campus Welcome Center OVGU Magdeburg

Über die Anforderungen an die Bewerbung um einen ERC Grant informiert Herr Dr. Andreas Keil von der ERC Exekutiv Agentur Brüssel. Als Gast steht Herr Professor Dr. Julian Thiele, ERC Starting Grant Inhaber sowie Frau Professor Dr. Inna Lavrik (beide tbc) für Fragen zur Verfügung.

Die Veranstaltung bietet Erfahrungsberichte erfolgreicher Antragstellerinnen und Antragsteller und ermöglicht die Klärung individueller Fragen. Darüber hinaus erhalten die Teilnehmenden einen Überblick über die Förderberatung und Rahmenbedingungen an der OVGU. Abgerundet wird die Veranstaltung durch Networking bei einem Imbiss und Kaffee mit Expertinnen und Experten.

Eine Teilnahme an der Veranstaltung ist kostenlos, die vorherige Anmeldung über den folgenden Link allerdings erforderlich: https://eveeno.com/ovgu_erc

Further information:

https://www.euhochschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/Veranstaltungen/Veranstaltungen+des+EU_Hochschulnetzwerks/HORIZON+Europa-22836.html

Other EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt (nEUTzwerk)

The universities in the state of Saxony-Anhalt founded the "EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt" at the beginning of 2011 in order to support researchers at all universities in the acquisition and use of EU funding for research and innovation by providing information, application advice and project management. By strengthening and networking the administrative

and advisory skills of the universities, the aim is to increase the acquisition of EU funding for research and innovation and technology transfer.

You may contact the EU Academic Network of Saxony-Anhalt via the information provided online:
https://www.euhochschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/eu_hsnetz/en/

Other Contact Research Funding Advisory Service at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

If you have any questions about funding opportunities, specific calls for proposals, help with submitting applications and project support, please contact the Research Funding Advisory Service/EU University Network at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg.

Information about current event, funding structures and contact details online at:
<https://www.ovgu.de/en/ContactResearchFundingAdvice.html>
<https://www.euhochschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/en/>