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BMFTR Halbleiter und KI-basierte Assistenzrobotik; Deadline Proposal: 04.11.2026

Die Republik Korea (Korea) ist ein strategischer Partner Deutschlands, insbesondere im Bereich der wissenschaftlich-technologischen Zusammenarbeit (WTZ). Auf der Grundlage des Abkommens über die WTZ mit Korea aus dem Jahr 1986 soll die Zusammenarbeit in den Bereichen Forschung, Technologie und Innovation weiter intensiviert werden.

Halbleiter und KI-basierte Assistenzrobotik zählen zu den zentralen Schlüsseltechnologien. Während Halbleiter als Grundlage moderner Elektronik innovative Lösungen für Energieeffizienz, digitale Infrastruktur und Industrie 4.0 ermöglichen, eröffnet die KI-basierte Assistenzrobotik neue Perspektiven in der personalisierten Pflege oder in der Therapie. Beide Bereiche ergänzen sich: Fortschritte in der Halbleitertechnik treiben die Leistungsfähigkeit intelligenter Robotersysteme voran – und umgekehrt inspiriert die KI-Forschung die Entwicklung smarterer, energieeffizienter Chips. Gemeinsam tragen sie dazu bei, gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen zu bewältigen und die Lebensqualität nachhaltig zu verbessern.

Ziel der vorliegenden Fördermaßnahme ist

1. die Entwicklung technischer Innovationen beziehungsweise Adaptionen an die Gegebenheiten im Partnerland in den unter Punkt 2 genannten Förderschwerpunkten und eine signifikante Steigerung des Technologiereifegrades, die eine spätere Markteinführung von Produkten, Prozessen, Verfahren oder Dienstleistungen ermöglicht;
2. die Erhöhung der Anzahl deutscher Unternehmen, die auf dem koreanischen Markt aktiv sind beziehungsweise Aktivitäten konkret planen;
3. die Intensivierung der WTZ mit Korea und Stärkung deutsch-koreanischen Partnerschaften und Netzwerke.

Das Ziel der Maßnahme ist erreicht, wenn am Ende der Förderung

1. die geförderten Vorhaben eine signifikante Steigerung des Technologiereifegrades vorweisen und idealerweise bereits marktreife Prototypen oder Demonstratoren entwickelt und die Ergebnisse durch Schutzrechte (zum Beispiel Patente) abgesichert oder in einschlägigen Fachzeitschriften veröffentlicht wurden;
2. die deutschen Industriepartner der FuE-Verbünde auf dem koreanischen Markt aktiv geworden sind beziehungsweise den Einstieg konkret planen oder bestehende Aktivitäten ausgeweitet haben;
3. die Quantität und Qualität von deutsch-koreanischen FuE-Partnerschaften gesteigert wurde und eine Fortführung geplant ist, zum Beispiel durch (Anträge für) Folgeprojekte, neue institutionelle Partnerschaften, gemeinsame Studiengänge und gemeinsame wirtschaftliche Aktivitäten der Industriepartner.

Gefördert werden bilaterale FuE-Vorhaben unter Einbeziehung von Wissenschaft und Wirtschaft (2+2-Modus). Insbesondere durch die Einbindung deutscher KMU soll eine hohe Praxisrelevanz und spätere wirtschaftliche Verwertbarkeit der Forschungsergebnisse gewährleistet werden, um insgesamt einen Beitrag zu einer nachhaltigeren Wirtschaft zu leisten. Die geförderten Vorhaben sollen auch der Vorbereitung von Antragstellungen für Anschlussprojekte zum Beispiel beim BMFTR, der Europäischen Union (EU) oder Förderorganisationen wie der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) dienen.

Die Ergebnisse des geförderten Vorhabens dürfen nur in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland oder dem Europäischen Wirtschaftsraum (EWR) und der Schweiz sowie in Korea genutzt werden.

Das Antragsverfahren ist für deutsche Antragsteller zweistufig angelegt. In der ersten Verfahrensstufe sind dem DLR Projektträger bis spätestens 4. November 2026 zunächst Projektskizzen in schriftlicher und/oder elektronischer Form vorzulegen. Hierzu ist das Skizzenportal von "easy-Online" zu nutzen. Die Projektskizze muss von dem deutschen Antragsteller gemeinsam mit einem Kooperationspartner aus Korea eingereicht werden. Bei Verbundprojekten aus Deutschland sind die Projektskizzen in Abstimmung mit dem/der vorgesehenen Verbundkoordinator/in vorzulegen.

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Further information:

<https://www.bmfr.bund.de/SharedDocs/Bekanntmachungen/DE/2026/08/2026-08-11-bekanntmachung-halbleiter.html>

Digital Europe Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres; Deadline Proposal: 01.10.2026

The Specific Objective 2 of the Digital Europe Programme aims to reinforce the EU's core Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data capacities as a crucial driver for the digital transformation of the public and private sectors.

The vision is to make Europe an AI continent, thriving on the development, integration and adoption of AI, building on the Apply AI Strategy, Data Union Strategy, European Health Data Space, the EU Digital Identity Wallet, the Cyber Solidarity Act and the Cyber Resilience Act, as well as the Interoperable Europe Act. Healthcare is a key area where technologies converge to create advanced applications such as AI-based solutions for medical imaging or diagnosis, screening, and treatment.

AI and Generative AI (GenAI) in medical imaging have the potential to improve healthcare efficiency, enhance patient outcomes, and reduce costs by supporting early disease detection and diagnosis and optimizing resources. However, challenges persist, including insufficient clinical evidence and cost-efficiency concerns, that hinder the widespread adoption. To overcome these challenges, piloting the deployment of European-trained AI systems can be pivotal, supporting medical imaging analysis while ensuring seamless integration with clinical workflows and compliance with EU regulations.

In this call for proposals, the action focuses on the application of AI in the domain of healthcare and supports the implementation of the Apply AI Strategy and 'AI first' policy in the health sector. It will accelerate and strengthen the adoption of AI technologies in Europe, significantly contributing to the deployment of cutting-edge AI applications and AI usage in the health and care sector, building on the world's first comprehensive AI law – the AI Act. To achieve this, European AI-powered advanced screening centres will speed up the introduction of innovative solutions for disease prevention, early detection and diagnosis to foster Europe's fight against cancer and cardiovascular diseases. These centres will facilitate real-world clinical validation and local performance assessment of AI solutions, generating evidence to support adoption at scale across national healthcare systems, including underserved areas. The European AI-powered advanced screening centres will be pioneering healthcare facilities in implementing innovative and scalable AI solutions, while generating evidence of their clinical and organisational impact.

The proposed AI-based solution will have the following clinical impacts:

- Improve the early detection and diagnosis of cancer and cardiovascular diseases.
- Enhance prioritisation of critical cases, enabling faster decision-making.
- Optimize resources in radiology departments, alleviating workload pressures.
- Support underserved regions by enabling remote, high-quality screening without requiring on-site specialists.
- Reduce diagnostic delays through integrated workflows with existing clinical systems (e.g., PACS, RIS, EHR).

Outcomes and deliverables

- One or more proofs-of-concept of replicable, scalable cloud-based AI/GenAI systems for analysis of medical imaging data in a healthcare setting, with demonstration of the role of the clinicians in validating AI/GenAI findings and reports showcasing seamless integration of the system into clinical workflows.
- Evidence-based analysis of (cost-)efficiency of the piloted solutions for healthcare systems for regulatory and HTA purposes.
- Two or more events or workshops organised per year and per project for the European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres. The agenda should include lessons learned from the project activities, as well as other items relevant to the network. Participant satisfaction rates should be measured for the events and workshops.
- Medical centres in the consortium joined the European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres under the Apply AI Strategy.
- A plan for obtaining regulatory approval for application of the AI/GenAI solutions in real life scenarios and clinical settings. This includes the required risk management and compliance activities, as well as clinical evaluation plans and post-market clinical follow-up.
- Detailed data protection and cybersecurity plan, with measures to secure sensitive health data, mitigate cybersecurity risks, and comply with EU legal and ethical frameworks.

- Sustainability plan for the uptake of the systems across the EU.
- Stakeholder engagement and dissemination report with measurable actions (KPIs).

Deadline for submitting proposals: 01 October 2026, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-2026-AI-PILOTING-10-SCREENING>

Horizon Europe Trapped-Ion Platform Technologies; Deadline Proposal: 17.11.2026

Expected Outcome:

This action will advance Europe's leadership in trapped-ion quantum computing by achieving the following key outcomes:

- Establishment of a full-stack ion-trap quantum computer aiming at more than 1.000 qubits, fully integrated into high-performance computing (HPC) systems, and accessible via the cloud.
- Demonstration of quantum advantage for selected real-world applications, validated against benchmarks.
- Strengthened European capabilities to develop modular, interoperable, and scalable quantum computing architectures.
- Implementation and demonstration of advanced error correction and fault-tolerant quantum computing techniques.
- Integration of full-stack hardware-software systems with standardised and certified interfaces.
- Engagement with industry and academia through open access to quantum computing resources and co-design of applications.

The action should support the scale-up of European trapped-ion quantum computing platforms, aiming at technological maturity and usability for industrial and scientific applications. In particular, the action must address at least two major technical roadblocks defined in the Strategic Research and Industry Agenda (SRIA 2030) for trapped-ion quantum computing. These include the limited scalability of ion trap architectures, particularly the need for modular designs and inter-chain coupling, and the integration of photonic components for laser delivery, enabling compact and fault-tolerant systems. The proposal is expected to demonstrate system-level innovation and practical application addressing these and other equally critical challenges.

The proposal should also:

- Develop a full-stack trapped-ion quantum computer with more than 1000 physical qubits, including:
 - o Initialisation, manipulation, and readout fully integrated into the cryogenic setup.
 - o Reduced system footprint via standardised interfaces and integrated waveguides.
- Advance scalable error correction and fault-tolerant computing:
 - o Develop and benchmark error correction codes suitable for trapped-ion architectures.
 - o Demonstrate error mitigation in noisy environments and real-life quantum information tasks.
- Enable real-life application testing:
 - o Select and implement at least two practical use cases (aligned with industrial or scientific challenges).
 - o Demonstrate computational advantage over classical simulations where possible or show progress towards it.
- Develop standards and modular interoperability:
 - o Establish interface specifications for both hardware and software layers, enabling integration across vendors and platforms.
 - o Align with European efforts on standardisation, benchmarking, and certification.
- Integrate with classical computing infrastructures:
 - o Ensure seamless operation alongside HPC resources, with remote access and hybrid quantum-classical workflows.
- Provide access and foster ecosystem participation:
 - o Support researchers and industry (including SMEs) with open, cloud-based access, comprehensive user documentation, and training resources.
- Contribute to a sustainable European supply chain:
 - o Address key technological components such as lasers, ion traps, control electronics, and packaging solutions, aiming for independent and robust sourcing

Deadline for submitting proposals: 17 November 2026, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-EUROHPC-2026-TIPT-09-01>

Horizon Europe Quantum-Testing Infrastructure for Quantum Technologies; Deadline Proposal: 17.11.2026

Expected Outcome:

This action will establish a pan-European open-access testing and experimentation infrastructure for quantum technologies, enabling systematic validation and certification of quantum components and systems. Expected outcomes include:

- Deployment of distributed quantum testing facilities accessible across Europe, including remote access and standardized test protocols.
- Provision of certification services aligned with future standardisation efforts, ensuring trust, quality, and interoperability of quantum technologies.
- Support for SMEs, start-ups, and research institutions in validating quantum components and sub-systems.

Strengthening of Europe's competitiveness by ensuring robust quality assurance mechanisms and accelerating the time-to-market of emerging quantum products.

The proposal should implement the testing-related part of the action plan established under the Framework Partnership Agreement for Qu-Test. The action must include:

- Expansion and interconnection of open-access testing facilities in multiple Member States, covering a range of quantum technologies (e.g., processors, sensors, photonics, control systems).
- Development and deployment of interoperable testing methodologies, benchmarking protocols, and certification procedures.
- Integration of metrological and validation capabilities into existing RTOs and academic infrastructures, focusing on TRL 4–7.
- Creation of a comprehensive digital platform supporting users in test planning, remote execution, and data reporting.
- Engagement with industry, especially start-ups and SMEs, to define user-driven requirements and access models.
- Establishment of feedback loops between testing and design/manufacturing entities to inform improvements and accelerate iterative development.
- Coordination with relevant European and international standardisation initiatives to prepare the ground for widespread adoption of certified quantum components.
- Alignment with SRIA 2030 objectives, focusing on ecosystem-wide support for quality, reliability, and reproducibility in quantum technology development.

Technology Readiness Level - Technology readiness level expected from completed projects

Deadline for submitting proposals: 17 November 2026, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-EUROHPC-2026-QTI-13-01>

Horizon Europe Neutral-Atom Platform Technologies; Deadline Proposal: 17.11.2026

Expected Outcome:

This action aims to establish European leadership in neutral-atom quantum simulation and digital quantum computing by delivering:

- Fully programmable industry-ready quantum simulators based on 10.000 neutral atoms in a scalable architecture, acces-

sible via cloud platforms, and with the possibility of integrating them into high-performance computing environments.

- Fully programmable platform for neutral-atom quantum computing capable of both analogue quantum operations and gate-based computing with 1.000 physical qubits and a clear path to further scalability to 10.000 physical qubits.
- Coherence time of the order of hundreds of interaction times and infidelity of operations below 1%.
- Demonstration of quantum simulation and/or computing operating beyond classical computability, validated through benchmarking with classical methods.
- New real-world applications across science and industry (at least two) (e.g: in the energy and health sectors)
- The software stack for these applications, including enhanced software for verification, algorithm implementation, and user programming interfaces.
- Demonstration of the full quantum stack – including quantum control, electronic control components and verification of quantum processors simulation operating beyond regimes that are classically computable.
- Programming interfaces allowing users (including non-expert ones to the best extent possible), to use these quantum processors to their problem sets.
- Enhanced scalability, stability, and usability of the quantum simulation and computing processors.
- Strengthened European industrial and technological capacity in quantum simulation/computing and associated hardware/software components.
- This action must address at least two of the technical challenges highlighted in the SRIA 2030 for neutral-atom platforms. These include the need for stable atom control during multi-qubit operations, essential for reliable error correction, and the development of Quantum Non-Demolition (QND) measurement and high-fidelity universal gate operations. Proposals should tackle these and comparable bottlenecks with a view to scalable, fault-tolerant systems for simulation and computation.

The proposal should advance the maturity and usability of neutral-atom quantum processors platforms with a focus on practical applications. It should include:

- Development and deployment of scalable quantum processors with individually addressable neutral atoms, supporting analogue simulation operation, hybrid analogue-digital techniques and gate-based quantum computing.
- Demonstration of real-world use cases (minimum two), addressing complex scientific or industrial problems (e.g., materials science, chemistry, optimization) that are intractable for classical simulation/computing. These should include benchmarking and verification strategies to assess quantum advantage.
- Development and integration of a complete software stack including quantum control systems, electronic control components, user programming interfaces, classical simulation support tools, and robust operation protocols.
- Cloud-based access to the quantum processor, ensuring usability by researchers and industrial users across Europe. The system should allow for hybrid quantum-classical workflows with HPC environments and support non-expert users to the extent possible.
- Implementation of robust quantum error mitigation, error correction, error detection and quantification techniques adapted to neutral-atom processors.
- Development of benchmarking and cross-platform validation tools to assess the performance of different simulation/computing approaches and support standardisation efforts.
- Pathways highlighting the use of quantum processors as development platforms for future generations of quantum sensors and for the execution of quantum metrological protocols.
- Enhancement of the EU's supply chain through the development and integration of key quantum components for neutral-atom based computational processors (e.g., trapping and control optics, electronic control components, laser systems, photonic interfaces).
- Coordination of partners activities, including training, documentation, and user engagement activities to foster adoption and ecosystem growth.

The action builds upon the foundations set by the PASQuanS2 FPA and aligns with the goals of the Strategic Research and Industry Agenda (SRIA 2030), the Chips for Europe initiative contributing to Europe's strategic autonomy in neutral atom quantum simulation and digital neutral-atom technologies.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 17 November 2026, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-EUROHPC-2026-NAPT-11-01>

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>