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BMFTR Building Knowledge and Solutions for Resilient Forests and Sustainable Forest-Based Futures; Deadline Project Outline: 02.12.2026

The European Partnership "FOrests, forestry, and the forest-based sector: REsearch and innovation for a Sustainable Transition (FOREST)" aims to mobilise research and innovation to accelerate the transition to a sustainable forest bioeconomy. Serving as the primary instrument for collaboration among stakeholders in EU Member States and Associated Countries, the partnership will facilitate coordinated research and innovation (R&I) actions in order to reduce fragmentation and foster innovation and competitiveness in the forest-based sector, supporting climate-smart and sustainable forest management and its transformation from a resource-intensive to a knowledge-intensive, productive, resource-efficient, and resilient sector.

Forests play a critical role in climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem services, and the bioeconomy, while facing increasing pressures from climate change, disturbances, and competing societal demands. Addressing these challenges requires coordinated and policy relevant research and innovation that strengthens resilience, sustainability, and the multifunctional role of forests.

This joint call supports transnational research and innovation activities across the spectrum from fundamental research to applied research and, where appropriate, demonstration activities. Projects are expected to generate new knowledge, develop practical solutions, and contribute to implementation in policy, management, or industry contexts, while considering diversity of forests and forest-based sector.

The selected topic determines the evaluation panel and corresponding ranking list. Proposals may address multiple topics but will be evaluated and ranked under one primary topic. Evaluation criteria will be applied consistently across all topics.

The topics provide strategic direction and facilitate evaluation. They are not exhaustive and do not restrict the submission of innovative or cross-cutting proposals aligned with the overall objectives of the call. The following topics are included:

- TOPIC 1 – Climate-Resilient Forest Systems
- TOPIC 2 – Adaptive and Multifunctional Forest Management Systems
- TOPIC 3 – Timber and Innovative Wood-Based Products
- TOPIC 4 – Forest Value Chains, Markets and Governance

Proposals should clearly demonstrate their relevance to one or more of the call topics and associated objectives and, where relevant, explain how the proposed activities contribute to broader European policy priorities and practical implementation needs. Projects are also encouraged, where appropriate, to contribute to the science policy interface through tools, methodologies, indicators, or other relevant outputs.

The proposed research project must be consistent with the scope of this Call and address at least one of the topics mentioned before. The thematic priorities of the RFOs involved in the proposal must be respected.

Projects funded under this call shall have a duration of 36 months. Possible start date for projects recommended for funding is December 2027 to April 2028.

The two-stage procedure outlined in the framework funding announcement applies: In the first stage, project outlines must be submitted in English by the coordinator of the European research consortium no later than 2 December 2026, 1:00 p.m. CET, electronically via ESES (Electronic Submission and Evaluation System).

Contact Persons PTJ:

Christian Bodensteiner, Phone: +49 (0) 30 20199-437, Mail: ptj-forest-calls@ptj.de

Stefanie Pietsch, Phone: +49 (0) 30 20199-437, Mail: ptj-forest-calls@ptj.de

Further information:

https://www.ptj.de/projektfoerderung/fona/forest_path

Horizon Europe Advanced manufacturing for key products; Deadline Proposal: 02.02.2027

Expected Outcome:

- Advanced manufacturing technology and machinery becomes available in Europe for the manufacturing of key and high-performance products;
- Where relevant, production becomes increasingly circular through the reuse of secondary raw materials; and/or innovative advanced materials are incorporated in manufactured products, leading to better performance and quality;
- Resource efficiency in terms of materials and energy is increased significantly; and
- Circularity, productivity and competitiveness are increased, and hence resilience of European industry is enhanced.

This topic addresses technologies and machinery for advanced manufacturing, focusing on manufacturing excellence and on increasing circularity, including through the better use of innovative advanced materials and secondary raw materials. The focus is on key manufactured components and products that are competitive and have enhanced performance, and contribute to Europe's technological leadership in manufacturing, but which are at risk of being lost to Europe or rely on raw materials or parts whose supply is mostly coming from outside Europe.

Proposals should develop technologies and machinery to enable the manufacturing of these components with a minimal use of critical raw materials [reference to overall targets] or imported materials. This includes an increased use of secondary raw materials or biobased materials or revalorised components.

Where appropriate to enhance performance and quality, proposals should target the use of innovative advanced materials (such as lightweight, functionalised or self-healing materials). In this case, the development of the advanced materials should not be the main focus of proposals, nevertheless the necessary steps to adapt such innovative advanced materials to the needs of the manufacturing application should be included. These can include digital twins for materials as well as SSbD-design steps.

Examples of advanced manufacturing technologies and machinery include, but are not restricted to:

- Innovative additive manufacturing;
- Hybrid manufacturing (additive, subtractive);
- Photonics;
- Advanced joining technologies;
- Polymer composite manufacturing;
- Advanced technologies for surface treatment and structuring, to tailor surface properties for specific applications;
- Manufacturing of components with lightweight materials; and
- In-line testing.

Proposals should include a business case and exploitation strategy, as outlined in the introduction to this Destination. Applications in the automotive industry may be considered. However, the production of batteries is not within the scope of this topic.

International cooperation is encouraged, especially with Japan or Taiwan.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 02 February 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-02>

Horizon Europe Factory processes and automation for de- and re-manufacturing; Deadline Proposal: 02.02.2027

Expected Outcome:

- A viable industrial ecosystem for circularity in manufacturing industries emerges, enhancing both circularity and resilience;
- De-manufacturing technologies and practices become available, making decisive contributions to a European remanufacturing industry and market;
- Functions of products are retained, reused, upgraded or adapted through de-manufacturing and re-manufacturing; and
- Skills, standards and safety measures relevant to remanufacturing are developed.

Proposals should focus on developing de-manufacturing and re-manufacturing technologies at the factory level, addressing at least three of the following:

- Technologies to efficiently analyse part condition and support predictive maintenance, including for re-manufactured parts or components of lower value, e.g. by combining multimodal sensor data, AI and human inputs;
- AI and robotic-assisted technologies, e.g. innovative end-effectors, to de-manufacture products and components, including handling, sorting and extended logistics;
- Model-based systems, to allow de-manufacturing and re-manufacturing operators to use CAD data and digital twins related to the original parts (and contribute to the development of a digital ecosystem);
- Solutions allowing local (on-site) repair or re-manufacturing of high-added value components (applied to e.g. wind turbines, aircraft and vessels); and
- Solutions to plan the sequence of operations based on the characteristics of the incoming products to be re-manufactured.

Proposals should include a business case and exploitation strategy, as outlined in the introduction to this Destination. Depending on the approaches to be pursued, these should consider the best solutions to enhance adoption, for example coupling manufacturing with de-/re-manufacturing plants, product and component value, risk mitigation for variable de-/re-manufacturing flows.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 02 February 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-03>

Horizon Europe Circular innovative advanced materials: facilitating the transition from design to markets; Deadline Proposal: 02.02.2027

Expected Outcome:

- Innovative advanced materials designed for circularity are adopted in products faster, through accelerated production and technology uptake;
- Business models become available to enhance the use of circular advanced materials in strategic value chains; and
- Resource efficiency (materials and energy) is increased significantly through a focus on circular advanced materials.
- Quality standards, harmonisation and regulatory requirements are addressed facilitating simplified market transition.

The focus of this topic is on enabling circularity and resilient supply networks through R&I in advanced materials, in particular recyclable polymers and composites, magnets and metal (alloys) for additive manufacturing, and on accelerating their pathway to market. Proposals should develop new innovative advanced materials (IAMs) with superior or novel functionalities designed for circularity. The scope includes necessary developments of related processes and technologies to ensure integration in industrial manufacturing facilitating uptake of the developed solutions. Proposals should also develop circular business models considering the cost of changes needed along the life cycle of these new materials to facilitate their uptake.

The scope covers the full innovation cycle from the design for circularity and functional integration (new materials designs), development and scaleup (including scalable recovery, recycling and valorisation at end of life), to demonstration of industrial uptake and integration into products. The transformative potential of the developed solutions is to be showcased by demonstrators and industrial use cases. Projects should also explore possibilities to transfer developed solutions to other

applications or sectors.

The SSbD framework should guide the innovation process towards safer and more sustainable chemicals and advanced materials. Where relevant data generated within the proposal may be shared with the Common Data Platform for Chemicals. The new alternatives to be developed should meet the technical functions required in the specific applications while aligning their innovation process decision making with such framework.

Best use of digital tools and FAIR data, including AI and data-driven approaches throughout the innovation process should support the circular transition for industry and circular product design. This includes sharing FAIR and interoperable data and tools across supply networks and value chains, to foster circularity, including data needed for materials and component development, production and circular product design.

The approach should foster collaboration among stakeholders along the innovation chain and industrial value networks to accelerate the development and adoption of new circular solutions.

Projects should build on, or seek collaboration with, existing projects in EU Member States and Associated Countries and develop synergies with other relevant European, national or regional initiatives, funding programmes and platforms, in particular with the Materials Commons for Europe.

Proposals should support strategic value chains in the fields of energy and construction. The portfolio approach will be used to fund at least one proposal from each of these two. Proposers should declare in their proposal the main application area of their proposal (i.e., energy or construction).

Proposals should include a business case and exploitation strategy, as outlined in the introduction to this Destination.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 02 February 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-06>

Horizon Europe New approaches for HumanAI collaboration for the workforce of the future; Deadline Proposal: 02.02.2027

Expected Outcome:

- Industrial jobs are transformed through AI-based human-machine interactions (and skills linked to them) which enhance flexibility, inclusion, well-being, up-skilling, career evolution and knowledge sharing;
- Increased competitiveness and sustainability of advanced manufacturing industries by means of knowledge formalization and adaptability of the machines to workers and markets based on different cultures.

Innovative AI approaches are poised to revolutionise human-machine collaboration in factories by fostering an environment where technology and human expertise synergistically enhance each other. AI can enhance the value of the companies by capturing and formalising the knowledge which is dispersed and not explicit. This allows companies to really own the knowledge and use it to reduce the onboarding time of new employees and support personnel upskilling to adapt to the evolving technological landscape. AI has a great potential to make task simpler by reducing the complexity offering intuitive interfaces and real-time feedback allowing workforce to be more efficient and effective while facilitating access to more complex tasks including those involving various forms of planning. AI can also adapt the interaction of automation with the worker taking into account particular needs of the human, including adaptation to the different abilities of the workers and facilitating inclusion. Finally, AI can be used to allow easier export of automation produced in EU by facilitating its interaction with workforce having different cultures adapting the interaction of the machines to the different needs.

Proposals should produce dedicated innovative AI approaches for human-machine collaboration in advanced manufacturing

to be applied in at least two of following fields:

- Human-AI Co-Learning and knowledge capture to share competences, capture expert knowledge, provide interactive mentoring to up-skill the workforce, and support re-qualification and continuous training – leading to increased knowledge at factory level and avoiding loss of know-how.
- Human-AI teamwork thanks to innovative natural interaction models (considering the e.g. related hardware interfaces and/or collaborative machine tools), enabling to control complexity in cognitive cooperating production systems, including planning activities at shop floor level.
- Interfaces with automation which automatically adapt to the need of the humans including different abilities and different cultural needs.

Proposals should integrate a gender perspective and avoid any type of discrimination in the design and deployment of AI systems and human-machine interaction models, including addressing differences in user needs, such as needs of persons with disabilities, physical and cognitive ergonomics and training pathways. Proposals are also expected to identify and address other potential biases in AI systems to promote inclusive design that ensures safe and effective use by all workers. Human/AI collaboration requires utmost sensitivity to and consideration of human values and consideration of ethical principles as represented in Digital Humanism, therefore, appropriate consideration must also be given to the contribution of SSH.

This topic is linked to the Apply AI Strategy, therefore proposals should seek collaboration with relevant initiatives.

Proposals should include a business case and exploitation strategy, as outlined in the introduction to Destination 'Leadership in materials and production for Europe'.

Deadline for submitting proposals in Stage 1: 02 February 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Deadline for submitting proposals in Stage 2: 02 September 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage>

Horizon Europe Efficient energy input from renewable sources and energy management in the process industries; Deadline Proposal: 02.02.2027

Expected Outcome:

- A significant decarbonisation of processes (measured by the reduction of GHG emissions from the overall system) with broad applicability and economic viability.
- Facilitation of the transition from fossil-based energy inputs for:
 - o low/medium thermal energy demands by introducing renewable-based alternatives and heat upgrading.
 - o High-temperature processes, by innovative technologies for electrified and hybrid high-temperature processes, high temperature energy storage.
- Clean energy usage is given a boost through innovative advanced materials, system concepts and technologies for energy integration and energy storage, supporting resilience against energy supply variations
- Combination of significant energy savings and integrated management of energy systems and production processes

Most processes in the process industries require significant energy inputs which currently lead to substantial GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions by the process industries. The reduction of the CO2 footprint can be achieved by several measures, e.g. electrification or use of other renewable sources of energy, lowering of the energy demand, increasing energy efficiency, and energy integration. This topic aims to lead to significant steps in reducing the CO2 footprint by technological innovations, at least by 20%.

A key problem in the use of renewable energy sources is their fluctuation over time. Projects should take this into account and develop solutions that aim for energy efficiency and include novel storage technologies of relevance to the process industries. Pure demand-side management by production schedules adapted to the supply of electricity from renewable

sources is not within the scope of the call.

In situations where full electrification is not feasible or competitive in the foreseeable future, sustainable hybrid solutions play a crucial role. These solutions enhance flexibility, allowing industries to manage the variability in the availability of affordable renewable electricity, which is expected to fluctuate significantly in the medium term. E.g., preheating processes can utilize fossil-free energy sources such as solar heat, geothermal heat, heat pumps, resistive or induction heating, and electric boilers. This initial stage can be followed by further heating using fossil based methods initially, and later transitioning to renewable-based combustion processes to achieve the required process temperatures.

To enhance resilience, the capture, storage, and management of energy flows should be tailored to the needs of the process industry. This may include research and innovation in safe and sustainable innovative advanced materials for (latent or sensible) energy storage, e.g. phase change materials and heat storage via chemical energy carriers beyond E-fuels.

Proposals under this topic should address several of the following:

- Advancements in the use of energy from renewable sources in production processes with improved energy efficiency.
- Integrated energy systems with novel storage elements to enable a smooth operation of the plants despite variations in the availability of energy from renewable sources.
- Solutions for low/medium temperature (100 - 500 °C) energy inputs in energy intensive industries including hybrid solutions and a progressive reduction of the use of fossil carriers of energy.
- Solutions for high temperature (>500 °C) energy inputs in energy intensive industries, including high temperature electricity driven processes, and high temperature energy storage.
- Application of high-performance insulation materials and new innovative advanced materials that can improve heat capture, storage, and retrieval, particularly for scalable high-temperature applications. Such materials should minimize the use of critical raw material, enabling effective recycling.

Projects should include demonstrations at pilot scale, preferably in real industrial environments, to validate the proposed technologies and processes under real-world industrial conditions

Proposals related to innovative advanced materials development should address the most relevant gaps to focus on in the frame from materials design to technology deployment and ensure adequate feedback loops between different steps to drive forward innovative solutions which can be easily deployed. Scalability and requirements from application/industry need to be considered early on in the innovation process.

The inclusion of a GHG avoidance methodology is recommended and should provide detailed descriptions of baselines and projected emissions reduction.

Proposals should include a business case and exploitation strategy, as outlined in the introduction to this Destination, underlining how the proposal will serve the purpose to boost industrial decarbonisation technologies supply chain in Europe. As project output an elaborated exploitation plan should be developed, including preliminary plans for scalability, commercialisation and deployment (feasibility study, business plan and financial model) indicating possible private and public funding sources (e.g. Innovation Fund, InvestEU and cohesion policy funds). Societal- and environmental impact as well as implications for the workplace (including skills and organisational change) should be outlined.

Deadline for submitting proposals in Stage 1: 02 February 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Deadline for submitting proposals in Stage 2: 02 September 2027, 17:00 PM Brussels time

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-MAT-PROD-32-two-stage>

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>