



Welcome to the latest edition of the 28DIGITAL newsletter!

We have a new name! [EIT Digital enters its next phase as 28DIGITAL](#). Spinning off from under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology, our mission stays the same with an even bolder vision for Europe! We build what's next. Talent, Tech, and Trust.

As the CEO of 28DIGITAL Federico Menna put it: "At 28DIGITAL, we believe that ecosystem collaboration is Europe's competitive advantage. We've built bridges between knowledge, investments and markets, turning ideas into impact. Together, we've grown into Europe's largest open innovation ecosystem, trusted by corporates, investors, universities, RTOs, startups, and governments to shape the digital future."

In this issue, we'll also explore the transformation shaping the future of European innovation and digital sovereignty. We follow the journey of [icometrix](#), a past 28DIGITAL Champions winner, now preparing to be acquired by GE HealthCare to scale its pioneering neuroimaging AI across global markets.

Our [Grow Digital Insights](#) series turns to the maritime sector, where digitalisation and autonomy are reshaping how goods and data move across oceans. We return to Brussels for the launch of the Makers & Shapers Report on **Digital and Defence Innovation**, where voices from NATO, the European Defence Agency, and leading tech accelerators are helping shape Europe's next steps toward strategic autonomy.

And we close with **a round-up of major open calls, events, and funding opportunities**—from digital health and cybersecurity to social innovation and smart

cities—designed to support the next wave of deep tech solutions across the continent.

As 28DIGITAL, our mission remains clear: to drive innovation that is competitive, collaborative, and grounded in European values.

The future is unfolding—and **we're building it together.**



New Name, Same Mission: EIT Digital Becomes 28DIGITAL

After 15 years of scaling deep tech, talent, and trust across Europe, EIT Digital is entering its next chapter—with a bold new identity: **28DIGITAL**.

Why it matters: **The rebrand** marks full independence from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) while keeping strong ties via a new Memorandum of Collaboration. With 23 offices in Europe and a global hub in Silicon Valley, 28DIGITAL is doubling down on its core pillars: **Talent. Tech. Trust.**

Behind the name: “28” nods to a new, borderless European innovation regime—and it’s also a perfect number (just ask your local mathematician). Think cryptography, quantum computing, and next-gen algorithms.

Big picture: From launching thousands of deep tech ventures to educating tomorrow’s digital leaders, the org formerly known as EIT Digital isn’t slowing down. CEO Federico Menna calls the change “a declaration of intent” aligned with Europe’s Startup and Scaleup Strategy—and designed to fuel a **competitive,**

human-centric, and sovereign digital future.

What's next: Expect sharp focus on green and strategic technologies, cross-border collaboration, and mission-driven innovation at scale.

[Explore the new 28DIGITAL](#)

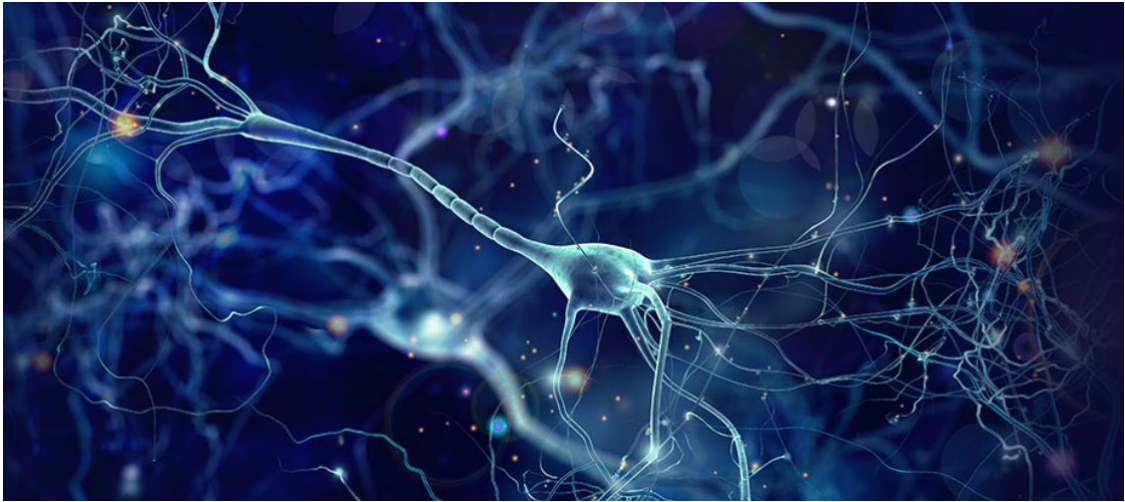


28DIGITAL Enters Dubai Market at GITEX Global

In just 14 days since becoming 28DIGITAL, we've officially entered the Dubai market—[signing two major MoUs](#) with the Dubai Chamber of Digital Economy and the Dubai World Trade Centre during GITEX Global, the world's largest tech and startup event.

At Expand North Star, part of the GITEX ecosystem, [we showcased seven stellar European startups and scaleups](#). Ariadne, Excalibur, IDloop®, Joii, Horsano, finQbit, and FULLVENUE brought deep tech, AI, and sustainability to the global stage—three even reached the Supernova Awards semi-finals. It's a bold start to a new chapter, focused on cross-continental collaboration, business growth, and tech diplomacy.

As CEO Federico Menna put it: "This marks the beginning of a new era in digital innovation for Europe, driven by global collaboration and shared ambition."



28DIGITAL Champions Winner Icometrix Heads to GE HealthCare

Big moves in brain tech: Belgian deep-tech pioneer **icometrix**—a 2020 winner of the 28DIGITAL Champions competition—has just signed an acquisition deal with **GE HealthCare**. The goal? Bring AI-powered neuroimaging to hospitals and research centers worldwide.

Why it matters: icometrix's **icobrain** platform uses AI to quantify brain lesions and atrophy from MRI and CT scans, offering critical insights for neurologists and radiologists. Now, with GE HealthCare's global reach and regulatory muscle, these tools are poised to scale—bringing greater precision, speed, and equity to neuro care.

The backstory: Spun out of the University of Antwerp and KU Leuven in 2011, icometrix turned heads during the pandemic by launching **Icolung**, a free chest-CT analysis tool, in just five weeks.

With over €18M raised from top-tier investors, the startup refined its product, streamlined hospital integration (just 15 minutes to install), and cleared regulatory hurdles—paving the way for this acquisition.

Deep-tech, delivered. Congrats, icometrix.



Smart Ships, Smoother Seas? Europe Navigates Maritime Autonomy

Shipping is sailing into a digital future—and the latest [Grow Digital Insights](#) article by **Dimitris Zissis**, Professor at the University of the Aegean, explores what that really means. From AI-powered route planning to autonomous inspections, the maritime industry is undergoing a sea change. But as vessels get smarter, the risks get sharper: workforce disruption, cybersecurity threats, and growing dependence on non-maritime tech giants.

This new wave of digitalisation is pushing us into an era of **hybrid autonomy**—where human crews collaborate with intelligent systems to boost efficiency and safety. But it's not just about tech: autonomy at sea is a matter of ethics, resilience, and global trust.

To read the full article, [set sail here](#).



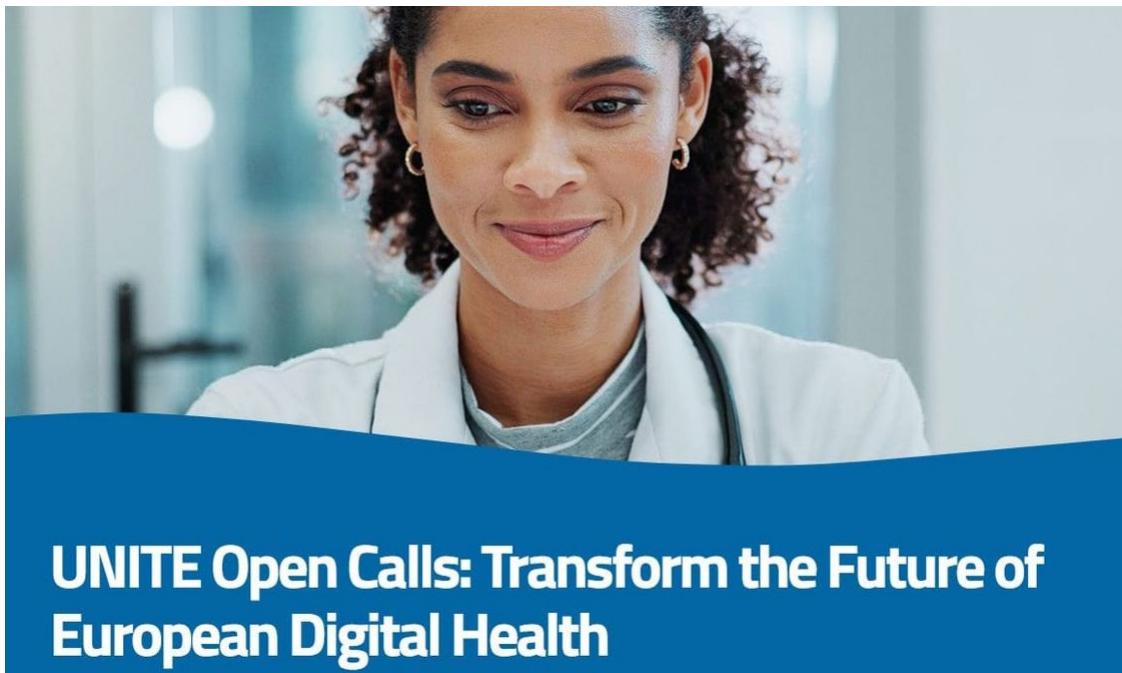
Europe's Digital Shield: Innovation Meets Autonomy in Brussels

How do you build strategic autonomy in an era of rising threats and rapid tech evolution? With dual-use digital innovation and smarter collaboration. That was the message at the Brussels launch of the [new Makers & Shapers Report](#) on **Digital & Defence Innovation for Europe's Strategic Autonomy**, hosted by 28DIGITAL and the Permanent Representation of Estonia to the EU.

With voices from NATO, the European Defence Agency, Hellenic Center for Defence Innovation, Techcelerator, and AI & Robotics Estonia, the event sparked a serious conversation.

Panelists tackled Europe's fragmented defence innovation landscape and called for streamlined governance, regulatory sandboxes, and smarter funding mechanisms. 28DIGITAL's CEO, Federico Menna, summed it up best: *"Innovation is the bridge between Europe's security needs and its technological potential."*

[Read the full report](#) and discover how Europe can lead the next era of secure, responsible tech innovation.



[In Other News: Digital Health, Circular Economy Skills & Scaling for Impact](#)

Heading to **Zero One Hundred Conferences** in Milan (Oct. 27-29)? 28DIGITAL's Chief Innovation & Investment Officer Diva Tommei will be making the rounds on Tuesday—opening panel, LP roundtable with Spex Capital, and a keynote diving

into how pension funds are finally getting serious about European venture and growth. She'll also unveil insights from the latest **European Women in VC report**. [Check the agenda](#).

The **UNITE Open Call** is now live, offering **€4 million** in funding for cross-border digital health projects in seven European regions. If you've got a solution in **remote care** or **health data interoperability**, assemble your consortium and apply by **January 15, 2026**. Get started on the [UNITE Open Call](#) webpage.

ACCEND Scale-Up Accelerator:

Smart city SMEs and startups can apply by **October 31** for support, investor access, and tailored growth paths. [Details here](#)

CONSOLE Cybersecurity Call:

€50K grants for SMEs to test CONSOLE's platform in real-world settings. Apply by **October 31**. [More info](#)

DiGi-SEI Open Call:

Social enterprises and their support orgs can apply for digital scaling support, mentoring, and up to €2,000 in travel costs. Deadline: **November 17**. [More info](#).

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