



Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027

Open call for proposals Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027

Co-creating the next generation of digital ventures

(under KIC Business Plan 2026-2027)

28DIGITAL

Brussels, July 1, 2026

<https://28DIGITAL.eu>



HISTORY OF CHANGES			
Version	Publication Date	Change	Page
1.0	01.07.2026	Initial version	



- ABBREVIATIONS.....4**
- DEFINITIONS.....4**
- 1. INTRODUCTION.....5**
 - 1.1. INFORMATION ON THE EIT5
 - 1.2. INFORMATION ON 28DIGITAL7
 - 1.2.1. *Vision and mission* 7
 - 1.2.2 *Strategic objectives*..... 7
- 2. ABOUT THE CALL9**
- 3. DESCRIPTION OF THE CO-CREATION ACCELERATOR 11**
 - 3.1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES..... 11
 - 3.2. THE CHALLENGES 12
 - 3.3. MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS 13
 - 3.4. MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION 15
 - 3.4.1. *Project duration* 15
 - 3.4.2. *Project implementation*..... 15
 - 3.4.3. *Deliverables* 16
 - 3.4.4. *Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)* 16
 - 3.4.5. *Monitoring and reporting* 18
 - 3.4.6 *Fast-Tracking conditions and requirements*..... 18
- 4. FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CALL 19**
 - 4.1. KIC FUNDING 19
 - 4.2. CO-FUNDING RATE 19
 - 4.3. PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS 19
 - 4.4. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS 20
 - 4.5. COST ELIGIBILITY 20
- 5. CALL CRITERIA 21**
 - 5.1. ADMISSIBILITY 22
 - 5.2 ELIGIBILITY 22
 - 5.2.1 *Entities eligible to participate*..... 22
 - 5.2.2 *Eligibility for funding* 23
 - 5.2.3 *Call specific eligibility criteria* 23
 - 5.3 EU RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPATION 24
 - 5.4 EXCLUSION CRITERIA 25
 - 5.5 SELECTION CRITERIA 26
 - 5.5.1 *Financial capacity criteria* 26
 - 5.5.2 *Operational capacity criteria* 27
 - 5.6 AWARD CRITERIA..... 27
 - 5.6.1 *Award criteria, sub-criteria and maximum scores* 27
 - 5.6.2 *Relative weight of the award criteria* 30



6. EVALUATION PROCEDURE	30
6.1 ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY, EXCLUSION AND SELECTION STAGES	30
6.2 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS	30
6.2.1 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY	32
6.2.2 RESULTS OF THE EVALUATION: AWARD, RESERVE LIST	33
6.3 COMMUNICATION OF EVALUATION RESULTS TO APPLICANTS	33
6.3.1 <i>Communication of evaluation results</i>	33
6.3.2 <i>Requirements for selected proposals</i>	33
6.4 STANDSTILL PERIOD	34
6.5 PUBLICATION OF RECIPIENTS OF FUNDS ANNUALLY	34
6.6 APPEAL PROCESS	34
7. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS	35
7.1 ACCEPTANCE OF THE CALL CONDITIONS	35
7.2 CANCELLATION OF THE CALL	35
7.3 DATA PROTECTION	35
7.4 CONFIDENTIALITY	36
7.5 AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST	37
7.6 ETHICS AND VALUES	37
7.7 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS	37
7.8 WITHDRAWAL OF THE FUNDING – RECOVERY OF UNDUE AMOUNTS	38
7.9 CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS	38
7.10 COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION	38
7.11 APPLICABLE LAW	39
7.12 SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES	40
ANNEX 1 – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR CUT-OFF 1	41
ANNEX 2 – SPECIFIC CONDITIONS FOR CUT-OFF 2	43



Abbreviations

EIT	European Institute of Innovation and Technology
KIC	Knowledge and Innovation Community
EIT SIA	EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda
PA	Partnership Agreement
HE MGA	Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement
KIC SA	KIC Strategic Agenda
BP	Business Plan
EIT KPIs	Key Performance Indicators set by EIT
KAVA	KIC-added value activity
FSTP	Financial support to third parties
MC	28DIGITAL Management Committee
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
CoCA	Co-Creation Accelerator

Definitions

Knowledge Triangle Integration	The EIT is established to complement existing Union and national policies and initiatives by fostering the integration of the knowledge triangle – higher education, research and innovation, and business creation – across the Union.
Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement	The Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (HE MGA) sets out the rights and obligations and the terms and conditions applicable to the implementation of the EIT grant.
Deliverable	Deliverables are tangible or intangible goods or service produced during the project implementation phase. They track the progress made towards a project’s objectives and may take the form of a report, document, software product, course, event or any other building block of a project. The deliverables specified need to fully demonstrate the project’s achievements and the judicious use of public funds.
EIT KPI	Set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) defined by the EIT that reflect the EIT operational objectives for education, entrepreneurship, and innovation. These KPIs are used to measure how effectively a KIC/project meets the objectives of the EIT.



1. Introduction

1.1. Information on the EIT

European Institute of Innovation and Technology

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is a **European Union body** with a legal personality and a wide legal capacity accorded to legal persons under national law. The EIT was created in 2008 by the European Union (EU) to enhance Europe's global competitiveness by fostering collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and higher education organizations.

The EIT is governed by [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#) (EIT Regulation), which aligns the EIT's mission with the EU's priorities and the objectives of Horizon Europe on evolving research, innovation, economic growth, job creation, global competitiveness, sustainable growth, higher education and entrepreneurship, by means of the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), which address specific societal challenges and are established and supported by the EIT.

The [EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda \(SIA\) 2021-2027](#) is aligned with Horizon Europe and lays down the priority fields and the strategy of the EIT for future initiatives, capacity to generate the best innovation added-value, objectives, key actions, mode of operation, expected results, impact, as well as an estimate of the resources needed for the duration of Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe Regulation

The [Horizon Europe Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695](#) foresees that the EIT takes part in the implementation of the Horizon Europe Program in accordance with its strategic objectives for the period 2021 to 2027, as laid down in the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the EIT, and taking into account the strategic planning of Horizon Europe.

EIT and Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) relations

The EIT Regulation defines KICs as large-scale Institutionalised European Partnerships of higher education institutions, research organisations, companies and other stakeholders in the innovation process in the form of a strategic network, regardless of its legal form, based on joint mid- to long-term innovation planning to meet the EIT's challenges and contribute to attaining the objectives established.

According to the EIT Regulation, and without prejudice to the partnership agreements and grant agreements between the EIT and each KIC, the KICs have substantial autonomy to establish their internal organisation and composition, as well as their agenda and working methods, provided that they result in progress towards achieving the objectives of the EIT and the KICs, taking into account the strategic planning of Horizon Europe and the strategic direction of the EIT set out in the SIA and by the Governing Board.

Contractual framework between the EIT and the KICs

KIC 28DIGITAL (formerly EIT Digital) entered into a Partnership Agreement ("PA") with the European Institute of Innovation and Technology ("EIT"), effective as of 1 January 2021 until December 31, 2024,



establishing a long-term cooperation laying down the general terms and conditions under which the KIC 28DIGITAL (formerly KIC EIT Digital) must operate as an institutionalised European partnership under the Horizon Europe Program.

Following the successful completion of the PA, as demonstrated by the positive outcome of the final review of 28DIGITAL (formerly EIT Digital), the EIT and 28DIGITAL have entered into a Memorandum of Cooperation ('MoC') for a period of three years (2025-2027), starting on 1 January 2025 until 31 December 2027, in line with the Horizon Europe Framework Program for Research and Innovation.

The MoC aims to keep the KIC 28DIGITAL as an active member of the EIT Community after the expiry of the Partnership Agreement, and which includes the conditions for access to EIT competitive calls for some specific activities and transnational activities with a high Union added value and establishes the general terms and conditions governing the cooperation between the EIT and the KIC after the expiry of the Partnership Agreement.

As part of the activities supported by the MoC, 28DIGITAL has defined the Business Plan 2026-2027 within which this Co-Creation Accelerator will function and for which the contractual arrangements are being processed, and will be consolidated in an EIT grant for the calendar years 2026 and 2027 ("Relevant Period,"), hereinafter "the EIT Grant", to the 28DIGITAL in accordance with and subject to the terms and conditions of the (M)GA.

The **Grant Agreement** (GA)¹ is the contractual instrument laying down the provisions concerning the implementation of the KIC activities (KIC Business Plan, Cross-KIC activities, etc.) through grants, on an annual or multi-annual basis of up to three years with the KICs. Business plans describe the main objectives and expected results and actions taken by the KICs.

The Grant Agreement 2026-2027 between the EIT and 28DIGITAL enters into force on January 1, 2026 once signed.

Contractual framework between the KIC and the subgrantees

In accordance with the Grant Agreement (Annex 5), the KIC launches calls (i.e. open calls or KIC partnership calls) in order to select projects or award prizes. The KIC awards a "financial support to third parties" (i.e. the so called "subgrants" and "prizes") for the implementation of these projects and signs **subgrant agreements** ("Financial Support Agreements") with the selected entities or consortia.

¹ Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement: [general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf](#)



1.2. Information on 28DIGITAL

1.2.1. Vision and mission

By mobilising a global multi-stakeholder platform, rooted in European values and open to the world, we turn knowledge into innovation, scale startups into global ventures, and build the next generation of digital talent to shape a fair, competitive, and human-centric digital future.

We operate in domains where digital technology and innovation drive societal progress, addressing major global challenges and delivering tangible benefits for people, businesses, and the planet.

Our focus is on areas that reflect Europe's leadership potential, advancing tech sovereignty, enhancing competitiveness, and supporting a more sustainable and resilient future.

Technologies such as AI, cybersecurity, advanced computing, and robotics are not confined to a single sector; they are powerful enablers of societal transformation, defence and dual-use innovation, and sustainability. Their impact depends on how we develop, apply, and scale them across strategic domain.

28DIGITAL was founded upon the initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), a body of the European Union. 28DIGITAL received funding and strategic guidance from the EIT over 15 years as an EIT Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC). Following the successful signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation, the EIT and 28DIGITAL collaborate to further boost innovation in digital transformation across Europe and beyond.

This program is fully aligned with 28DIGITAL's strategy, serving as a key pipeline for high-potential ventures that demonstrate strong innovation capacity, market scalability, and environmental, societal and economic impact. Hence, this initiative also builds on the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy by fostering European competitiveness and innovativeness of the digital ecosystem, ensuring that public support effectively leverages funding with purpose for long-term impact.

1.2.2 Strategic objectives

This activity is aligned with 28DIGITAL's three strategic domains:

1. Deep Tech

Deep Tech covers breakthrough science-driven technologies that redefine what is possible across health, mobility, manufacturing, computing, and advanced digital infrastructures. We are looking for ventures developing novel materials, next-generation computing, AI-powered systems, robotics, sensing, advanced simulation, and enabling technologies backed by strong R&D foundations and significant scalability potential.



Keywords: Deep Tech: advanced computing, AI/ML, robotics, sensors, materials, quantum-inspired, edge/cloud, data systems.

2. Strategic Tech

Strategic Tech includes critical technologies that strengthen Europe's security, autonomy, and geopolitical resilience. This spans cybersecurity, secure digital identity, privacy-preserving data infrastructures, resilient mobility systems, dual-use technologies, trusted AI, edge/cloud sovereign architectures, and solutions supporting national or regional strategic infrastructure.

Keywords: cybersecurity, digital identity, secure data, dual-use tech, mobility systems, situational awareness.

3. Green & Social Tech

Green & Social Tech supports technologies that accelerate Europe's digital-green transition and strengthen societal well-being. This includes sustainable manufacturing, circular economy models, low-carbon mobility, energy-efficient systems, environmental monitoring, and climate-resilient infrastructure, as well as digital solutions that address social challenges, improve inclusion, enhance public-sector innovation, and modernise essential services (GovTech). We are looking for ventures that combine digital excellence with measurable environmental and/or social impact.

Keywords: circularity, decarbonisation, energy efficiency, sustainable production, climate technologies, GovTech, social impact, community resilience, inclusion-driven innovation.



2. About the Call

Call reference number, acronym	Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027 - CoCA 26-27
Call opening and deadline for applications	<p>Call publication / opening: July 1, 2026</p> <p>Deadline for applications: There will be two cut-off dates:</p> <p>Cut-off 1 deadline: 8 September 2026</p> <p>Cut-off 2 deadline: Spring 2027 (exact date to be confirmed at a later stage)</p>
Evaluation and implementation timeline (indicative)	<p><u>Cut-Off 1:</u></p> <p>Deadline for submissions: 8 September 2026</p> <p>Evaluation of proposals: September-October 2026</p> <p>Start of the projects: November 16, 2026</p> <p>End of the projects: February 16, 2027</p> <p><u>Cut-Off 2:</u></p> <p>Deadline for submissions: TBC</p> <p>Evaluation of proposals: TBC</p> <p>Tentative start of the projects: TBC</p> <p>Tentative end of the projects: TBC</p>
Maximum EIT funding allocated to this call	<p>The maximum EIT funding allocated to this Call is up to EUR 3,200,000 distributed in 2026 and 2027. See Annexes for specific funds allocated to each Cut-off.</p> <p>Funding condition: this collaboration is contingent upon receiving funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). If the necessary funding is not secured, 28DIGITAL reserves the right to delay, modify, or cancel any collaboration agreements. Furthermore, 28DIGITAL may adjust agreements based on changes in circumstances or the availability of funding.</p>
List of call documents	<p>Intranet Page with links will all documents/templates and more information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Call Document • Application form as available on the submission platform • Declaration of honour template • Financial Support Agreement template • Internal Agreement for Financial Support template • Share Transfer Agreement
List of reference documents (with links)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EIT Impact Framework (2022-2027) with codes.pdf • Annotated Grant Agreement



<p>Link to the submission portal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: register your organisation in the EU Funding & tender opportunities portal to obtain the nine-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC number). If you do not know if your organisation already has a PIC number, you can verify directly on the EU Portal (click here) whether your organisation is already registered. • Step 2: register all participants organizations as a 28DIGITAL partners (preliminary registration) and the user that will access to the submission system. If you are an existing partner organization: You will be prompted to log in using your partner credentials, and then access the Proposal Submission System section: https://workspaces.28digital.eu/SITE/PRIVATE/GO/default.aspx If you are a non-partner organisation, please use this link to register and gain access to the Promise Suite without becoming an official partner. The registration must be completed by your organisation’s main contact person, the Project Officer: https://28digital.eu/our-community/join-us/registration-form • Step 3: access to the Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027 page to get additional information and access the submission system.
<p>Strategic domains to be addressed</p>	<p>Development or support of early-stage startups in these 28DIGITAL strategic domains:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep Tech • Strategic Technologies for Europe • Green & Social Tech
<p>Contact point Q&A</p>	<p>For questions contact the 28DIGITAL staff The FAQ containing general questions (in an anonymized form) made by the applicants within the submission period can be found here: https://28digital.eu/co-creation-accelerator-2026-2027/faq/</p>
<p>Further information to interested applicants</p>	<p>Additional Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info sessions are planned on July 16, 2026, and Spring 2027 to promote the call and advise interested startups, corporates or SMEs.



3. Description of the Co-Creation Accelerator

3.1. Purpose and scope of activities

We are launching the EIT-funded **Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027** a program, looking for **world-class digital solutions** developed by ventures ranging from early-stage to more mature teams who are looking to validate their digital products and achieve early traction at corporates and/or SMEs as pilot customers or partners. This includes startups that achieved a proof-of-concept or early prototypes, as well as more advanced ventures with validated solutions approaching or already in initial market use. Applicants should demonstrate a clear problem–solution fit or strong validation potential and be ready to leverage the program to address the challenges in collaboration with corporates, SMEs, or cluster organizations.

The Co-Creation Accelerator runs under the umbrella of 28DIGITAL’s curated matching platform connecting high-potential digital startups with the right partners, funding instruments, and ecosystem opportunities across Europe. It offers tailored growth pathways by linking startups to a wide range of opportunities, including access to EU calls and projects, co-creation with corporate partners, facilitated market access, and high-value innovation services. Through this process, startups can reach product-market fit faster, gain the traction necessary to scale up, and build long-term relationships across the ecosystem.

This program is a structured, challenge-driven initiative designed to **facilitate co-creation between startups and corporate partners**. It aims to address strategic and industry-specific challenges by enabling joint solution development, testing, and validation in real market environments, thereby accelerating the uptake of innovative, scalable solutions.

By actively engaging future users throughout the development process, startups can create solutions that precisely address real market needs. This demand-driven approach minimizes the risk of building misaligned products, fosters early customer loyalty, and accelerates time to market.

The Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027 focuses on digital innovation in three 28DIGITAL strategic domains:

- **DeepTech²**: Breakthrough science-based technologies that shape the future of industry and society, transforming what’s possible in health, mobility, manufacturing, and beyond.
- **Strategic Tech**: Critical capabilities for security, autonomy, and geopolitical influence, where innovation supports both civil and dual-use applications.

² Deep technology or DeepTech is a classification of an institution, an organisation or a start-up company, with the expressed objective of providing advanced and emerging technology solutions to deep societal challenges. They present scientific or engineering challenges requiring lengthy research and development, and large capital investment before successful commercialization. Their primary risk is technical risk, while market risk is often significantly lower due to the clear potential value of solution to society. The underlying scientific or engineering problems being solved by DeepTech companies generate valuable intellectual property and are hard to reproduce. Moreover, the solutions provided by deep technology and applications are critical for solving the complex global challenges that humanity faces, including climate change, sustainable energy or health.



- **Green & Social Tech:** Sustainable technologies that enable the twin digital and green transition, accelerating decarbonization, circularity and social impact.

Thanks to 28DIGITAL's support, startups will get access to our European ecosystem of innovators, corporates, Research and Transfer Organisations (RTOs), universities, SMEs, startups and scaleups, and you will receive resources, including financial support, to co-create your solution, further build your venture, package your technology, sign up customers and attract additional investors. Therefore, we ask proposals to demonstrate how the 28DIGITAL ecosystem can support the growth of the venture.

3.2. The Challenges

The call is structured around two complementary categories of corporate challenges to balance strategic focus with openness to emerging innovation.

- a) a set of pre-defined **industry challenges** has been jointly developed in close cooperation with industry partners (Challenge Owner), ensuring alignment with clearly identified market needs and real-world deployment contexts as well as the 28DIGITAL strategic domains. These challenges reflect concrete demand from industry and aim to facilitate the uptake and scaling of innovative solutions (see Annex 1 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 for the Industry Track challenges).
- b) an **open challenge** track is foreseen, allowing for the submission of proposals that do not directly address the predefined challenges described in the industry challenge track. Under this modality, applications must be submitted jointly by a startup and a corporate partner (Challenge Partner), who together define a specific challenge of mutual interest – a clear business need from the corporate and the solution to addresses that challenge from the startup. This challenge must be linked to one of the three strategic domains of 28DIGITAL summarised in previous pages.

This dual approach enhances flexibility, promotes demand-driven innovation, and strengthens collaboration between startups and industry actors across diverse sectors.

Definitions:

- a) Challenge Owner: Corporates, cluster organisations, SMEs or public bodies that provide a pre-defined challenge in the “Industry Challenge Track”. The Challenge Owner actively participates in the Challenge Gate review³ and will act as sparring partner for the venture during the implementation phase.
- b) Challenge Partner: Corporates, cluster organisations, SMEs or public bodies that are teaming up with a startup during the application phase to co-create solutions for a real-world business pain through the “Open Challenge Track”. If selected, the Challenge Partner will act as sparring partner for the venture during the implementation phase.

³ Please see Section 6.2 for a full explanation of the three review gates applied for this call.



3.3. Main requirements for applicants

Applicants can submit their proposals throughout 2026-2027, which will be evaluated in **two pre-defined cut-off dates** for evaluation in September 2026, and spring 2027. Detailed dates can be found in Annexes 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2.

Venture characteristics:

The call is aimed at digital startups eager to collaborate closely with industry partners, co-creating solutions to real-world challenges. Selected ventures will be supported in accelerating growth, generating revenue, and scaling their business within a designated 28DIGITAL focus area.

At the start of the activity, ventures are expected to demonstrate early-stage technological and organizational maturity, consistent with at least TRL 4-5. This implies that the solution has progressed beyond experimental proof of concept and has been validated in a controlled or laboratory environment, with potential initial testing in a relevant or simulated real-world setting. The focus is on further development, prototyping, and validation to advance the solution toward practical application and early deployment with customers.

Applicants are invited to justify their current TRL and explain how the project will contribute to advancing the solution to the next maturity stage.

As a minimum requirement ventures are expected to have an **early-stage prototype /MVP** that demonstrates technology integration into a basic system and an established problem-solution fit with a clear pathway towards market deployment. The solution should be sufficiently developed to enable iterative testing, validation, and refinement during the implementation period of the project.

Applicants should have a clear understanding of the intellectual property related to their solution. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Ownership or access rights to the core technology or software
- Initial IP protection measures (e.g. copyrights, trade secrets, patents, or open-source strategies)
- A clear plan for managing IP as the venture develops

Formal IP registration is not required at the time of application, provided that applicants can demonstrate freedom to operate and a credible IP strategy.

We are looking for startups that **demonstrate strong engagement with potential users and stakeholders**, even if no formal customer relationships or revenue are yet established. This may include letters of intent, pilot interest, or active involvement of prospective users in testing and validating the solution in controlled or relevant environments. Proposals should emphasize close collaboration between startups and industry to co-develop solutions, validate use cases, and reduce technical and market uncertainty. Clear plans for business development, including pathways toward market entry and future revenue generation, should be a key objective.



A proposal should include the following components:

- **Problem / Solution**
 - A solution leveraging technology with the capacity to create or disrupt markets and a work plan that can achieve the stated objectives.
 - Evidence that each partner will contribute to the activity with valuable assets, including but not limited to IP, technology, freedom to operate.
 - Mandatory elevator pitch video (max. 90 seconds), presented by a member of the venture team, typically the Founder or CEO.
- **Challenge**
 - A clear description of how the solution addresses the corporate challenge (including technical, operational and market aspects).
 - Identification of key technical and market uncertainties or risks associated with the challenge, and how the project will work to reduce them.
 - A plan for further validating the solution in controlled or real environments (e.g. lab validation, simulations, pilot setups), including success criteria and expected learnings.
 - Explanation of the potential impact if the challenge is successfully addressed (e.g. efficiency gains, cost reduction, new capabilities, or strategic advantages for the industry partner).
- **Market impact/ engagement with Challenge Owners/Partners**
 - Evidence of (early) market understanding, including at least an established problem–solution fit validation in a controlled environment through interactions with potential users, customers, or stakeholders (e.g. interviews, letters of intent, pilot interest).
 - The work plan should emphasize co-creation with industry partner(s) and relevant stakeholders to validate use cases, refine the solution, and reduce both technical and market risks.
 - Where applicable, involvement of prospective customers or users as associated partners is encouraged to strengthen validation and future adoption pathways.
 - Clear articulation of how insights gained during the project will translate into a pathway toward market entry and future revenue generation (no requirement for existing revenue or paying customers at project start).
- **Venture Team**
 - The team responsible for the success of the venture must be clearly identified in the proposal.
 - Team members must present their roles in the venture, include a short CV, and evidence of their relevant expertise, as well as their long-term commitment to the venture.
- **Resource and financial planning**
 - A sound financial plan is required with a clear description of how all resources needed to execute the proposed activity will be financed.
 - Additional financial resources could be provided, for example, by:
 - Activity partners;
 - External private investors, such as angel investors, VCs, or Corporates;



- The Founders' own financial resources.

For selected proposals:

The selected venture(s) will receive dedicated funding to further develop and implement its solution in close co-creation with the Challenge Owner/Partner, ensuring strong alignment with real industry needs.

In addition, startups will benefit from mentoring and education through structured feedback sessions with the industry partner and two core 28DIGITAL activities: the Mentor Me⁴ program and the Speed Master⁵ executive training for founders and CxOs. Participation in both programs is compulsory and provided free of charge.

Finally, startups will have the opportunity to showcase their progress and present their solutions to key stakeholders at a Demo Day at the end of the program.

3.4. Main requirements for project implementation

3.4.1. Project duration

All proposals must have an execution timeframe of four (4) months (November 2026 – February 2027 for Cut-Off 1). See Annexes 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2 for further details.

3.4.2. Project implementation

Proposals must be submitted to one of the presented industry or open challenge tracks and in line with a specific 28DIGITAL focus domain. Applicants should demonstrate a clear contribution to digital innovation within that domain.

Furthermore, proposals must demonstrate that the venture has:

- A capable team with the necessary technical and business expertise
- A realistic implementation plan and timeline for the four-month period
- Clear milestones and measurable indicators of progress and success

By the end of the implementation phase, projects are expected to:

- Demonstrate product-challenge fit through testing or pilot activities with the Challenge Owner/Partner
- Validate the core technology and key assumptions in relevant environments
- Define a credible pathway toward MVP development/finalisation, market entry, and future scaling

During the four-month period, ventures and their partners may include the following co-creation activities, but are not limited to:

⁴ For more information: <https://28digital.eu/mentor-me/>

⁵ For more information: <https://www.28DIGITAL.eu/speedmaster>



Solution:

- Finalize and iteratively improve the MVP
- Adapt the product or service to meet the needs of Challenge Owners/Partners
- Ensure technical stability, usability and compliance with relevant standards
- Data integration
- Test value propositions, pricing models, and use cases

Business Development:

- Develop and finetune the business model and a clear go-to-market strategy
- Establish the organizational, technical, and commercial basis for scaling the venture
- Identify potential growth pathways, partnerships, and follow-up funding opportunities

All proposals submitted to this call are required to comply with gender equality, diversity and inclusion principles in line with Annex 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement, Specific Rules, Values) and the [EIT Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2025-2027](#).

3.4.3. Deliverables

This table contains the mandatory deliverables. Since they provide a comprehensive view of the project performance and objectives achievement, it is not recommended to add additional ones to the proposal, although it would be possible if it is justified.

Deliverable	Description	KPI the deliverable contributes to
DEL01	Activity management report	General project performance
DEL02	Technical solution/MVP design document	ASQT type KPIs
DEL03	Report on business model, market research, product launch etc.	EITHE02.1 Market Innovation
DEL04	Communication and Dissemination Plan	EITHE02.1 Market Innovation
DEL05	Signed Share Transfer Agreement	28DIGITAL sustainability
DEL06	Approved Implementation Plan (i.e. approval of the pilot deployment from the corporate)	General project performance

3.4.4. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

All proposals must include a clear KPI plan describing how each KPI will be achieved, monitored, and reported. KPIs must be quantifiable and time bound. The KPIs and minimum KPI targets in the table below



are mandatory and must be included in the proposal. Proposals may include other KPIs from the 28DIGITAL catalogue of KPIs or include additional custom KPIs.

KPI Code	KPI description	Minimum target expected per proposal
EITHE03.1	Number of start-ups and scale-ups supported by the KIC for at least 2 months in year N, provided the KIC's services contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). Applicants should justify that the services provided to the start-up/scale-up by the EIT HEI project contribute to the company's growth (including potential growth). Examples of such services are mentoring, consultancy on access to finance and markets, product/service marketing, legal advice, internationalisation and matchmaking. The services should be provided for a total period of at least two months.	1
EITHE06.1	Investment attracted – Total amount of investment raised from public or private sources. From project start until 3 years after the end of the funding period.	500,000 EUR
INTnn	28DIGITAL defined KPIs. The proposer can select some of them, whereas one of the following two is mandatory	To be selected by the proposer within a list of available 28DIGITAL internal KPIs on the submission platform
INT01.1	# Involved B2B paying customers	1
ASQTnn	Activity Specific Quantified Targets are defined in the proposal showing success in its specific domain	To be defined by the proposer aligned with the success of the Innovation Activity
ASQT	Enrolled CxOs in training programs (SpeedMaster & MentorMe)	1

As valuable KPI achievements may also materialise during subsequent years, partners will be asked to support the reporting of KPI results related to their Activity even after its official end. 28DIGITAL follows-up the selected activities up to 5 years after activity completion to track long-term impact and to ensure the achievement of KPIs after the activity ends.



3.4.5. Monitoring and reporting

All activities selected for funding undergo continuous monitoring by 28DIGITAL to ensure effective progress and implementation and to trigger payments according to the achievement of milestones, deliverables and KPIs.

A **final report** covering financials, KPIs, deliverables, and overall activity results will be required upon activity completion for final assessment and payment.

In the case of under-performance, significant delay of implementation, misconduct of the consortium, or any other reason jeopardizing the timely implementation of the activity identified during the monitoring process, 28DIGITAL reserves the right to discontinue or restructure the funding of the activity at any point during its implementation.

3.4.6 Fast-Tracking conditions and requirements

Start-ups selected under this Call that demonstrate exceptional performance and high strategic value may be eligible for additional support from 28DIGITAL's program and service portfolio via the Fast Track mechanism. 28DIGITAL may, at its own discretion and subject to available budget, offer the opportunity of extra financial and non-financial support (i.e. Access to Finance Growth Services) to start-ups/projects in its portfolio to maximize the impact of 28DIGITAL's portfolio and seize time-sensitive opportunities. Successful execution and completion of a project will not guarantee Fast Track funding. Eligibility is strictly reserved for projects or entities that:

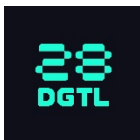
- Meet or Exceed Expectations: Have successfully achieved all planned milestones and be on track to deliver on its Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), if applicable.
- Justify Necessity: Can demonstrate a critical need for continued public funding.
- Strategic Alignment: Align with the specific strategic priorities of 28DIGITAL at the time of the Fast Track decision.

Evaluation process for the Fast Track mechanism

28DIGITAL will contact start-ups that could potentially qualify. To access additional support, existing start-ups in the portfolio will be required to present their case for additional support and submit a workplan and demonstrate the expected impact of the additional support requested.

Fast-tracked proposals will be subject to a specialized, expedited evaluation procedure involving an assessment by 28DIGITAL and independent external experts against standard Horizon Europe criteria (Excellence, Impact, Quality and efficiency of the implementation) and financial sustainability contribution potential.

The new project proposal would be considered and linked to the financial sustainability of the KIC with a renewed or fully new financial sustainability contribution agreement signed. This last step could lead to the need to perform an updated due diligence analysis and validation on those companies engaging in those Agreements.



4. Financial aspects of the call

4.1. KIC funding

The total budget allocated for the financing of proposals under this call is EUR 3,200,000 for the two years (2026-2027). The maximum funding available, as well as the total budget available per Cut-off, is specified in the relevant Annex 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2.

28DIGITAL reserves the right not to award all available funds and/or to redistribute them, subject to the proposals received and the results of the evaluation.

Funding condition: Any collaboration, award decision, or agreement resulting from this Call is strictly conditional upon 28DIGITAL receiving the corresponding funding from the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) under the applicable grant agreement.

In the event that such funding is not awarded, is reduced, suspended, or terminated, 28DIGITAL reserves the right, at its sole discretion and without liability, to withdraw the Call, cancel award decisions, terminate negotiations, amend the scope of activities, reduce funding amounts, or terminate or modify any resulting agreements to the extent required by the funding situation.

No applicant or partner shall be entitled to compensation, damages, or claims of any kind in connection with such withdrawal, modification, or termination resulting from the absence, reduction, suspension, or termination of EIT funding. Submission of a proposal or participation in this Call does not create any right to funding or to the conclusion of a collaboration agreement. If additional budget becomes available and the proposals meet the required quality standards, 28DIGITAL may fund additional proposals.

Scope of activities	Maximum indicative KIC funding	Indicative number of projects to be funded	Indicative max. annual EIT funding per project
Co-Creation Accelerator 26-27	EUR 3,200,000	8-13	Up to EUR 250,000

4.2. Co-funding rate

The program covers 100% of eligible costs. Applicants are not required to provide co-funding.

4.3. Payment arrangements

The financial support offered by 28DIGITAL is structured in the form of **reimbursement of actual costs** declared in the activity proposal budget and will be disbursed in two instalments over the duration of the activity:



- Pre-financing payment:
An initial pre-financing payment (60%) is made at the start of the activity, subject to the fulfilment of all contractual requirements. This payment is intended to support the implementation of the planned activities.
- Final payment:
The balance of the funding (40%) is disbursed upon submission and approval of the final report. This payment is conditional upon the satisfactory completion of the activity, including the achievement of the agreed objectives, key performance indicators, and the quality of the submitted deliverables.

In cases where the implementation of the activity is incomplete, the agreed objectives or key performance indicators are not achieved, or the quality of deliverables is deemed insufficient, the final payment may be reduced accordingly.

4.4 Financial sustainability requirements

Activities are requested to contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of 28DIGITAL through equity in the startup. The equity offer needs to be justified and reflect the venture's current maturity and valuation. The guidance range is stated in Annexes 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2. If the offer does not meet the minimum equity percentage requirement it will be automatically rejected. Specifically, the selected venture must sign a Share Transfer Agreement (STA).

A template of the STA can be found on the [28DIGITAL intranet](#) and can be provided by 28DIGITAL staff upon request. **Please make sure to read this document carefully before submission.**

4.5 Cost eligibility

The financial justification of the activity is detailed in the 28DIGITAL submission system (tab "5. Tasks and Costs", tab "6. Cost justification" and in tab "7. Funding"). The budget information needs to be precise and concrete, considering the requirements from the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement (MGA) and the 28DIGITAL Financial Support Agreement (FSA). These are key documents defining the general framework under which Activities need to operate. These are shared with 28DIGITAL Partners via the 28DIGITAL intranet page. It is highly recommended for activity partners that are not 28DIGITAL Partners yet, to get in contact with 28DIGITAL staff early on to gain access to the intranet, where the Model Grant Agreement (MGA) document, as well as the submission system, can be found.

It is very important that the activity proposal assigns its budget to the correct cost categories, amongst the following:

- A. Personnel costs
- B. Sub-contracting costs
- C. Purchase costs



- D. Other cost categories
- E. Indirect costs. This is a flat rate of 25% calculated on the eligible direct costs (categories A-D, except volunteer's costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

Please note the following about the content in the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and 28DIGITAL submission system:

- The “action” refers to the 28DIGITAL Business Plan including its Annexes.
- Costs need to be allocated to one or more tasks. Tasks define how the work is broken down between partners and how much each part of the work costs. It is possible to model the budget of a Task based on planning assumptions, while the reporting will have to be based on actual costs, which cannot exceed the approved budget.
- Financial Support to Third Parties (or sub-granting) by participants in the proposal is not allowed in this Call.
- Sub-contracting needs to be explicitly defined in the proposal that will be included in the Business Plan and follow all applicable rules, especially regarding the value for money and avoidance of conflict of interest.
- Full Time Equivalents (FTE): We strongly recommend a commitment of at least 0.2 FTEs per partner and Task Leader/Contributor to ensure a meaningful involvement and the allocation of enough capacity to the specific task.

5. Call criteria

Following the deadline for submission, the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria checks will be performed for each proposal in line with the following criteria.

How to apply:

1. Register in the EU Funding & Tender Portal and obtain a valid PIC number. If an organisation has already a PIC number, there is no need to register again.
2. Register in the 28DIGITAL Platform.
 - a. If you are an existing partner organisation: You will be prompted to log in using your partner credentials, and then access the Proposal Submission System section: <https://workspaces.28digital.eu/SITE/PRIVATE/GO/default.aspx>
 - b. If you are a non-partner organisation, please use this link to register and gain access to the Promise Suite without becoming an official partner. The registration must be completed by your organisation’s main contact person, the Project Officer: <https://28digital.eu/our-community/join-us/registration-form>
3. Once you have your credentials, you can enter the 28DIGITAL platform after setting a new password.



4. Find the call for the currently open cut-off date under menu / Call for Proposals / Open Calls.
5. Submit your application within the given deadline.

5.1. Admissibility

Applications:

- must be submitted before the call deadline for each of the Cut-off dates (see Annex 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2).
- must be submitted using the forms provided inside the 28DIGITAL electronic submission system
- must be complete and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents. The structure and presentation must correspond to the instructions given in the forms.
- must be readable, accessible and printable.
- must respect the page limit applicable to the call. If an application exceeds the limits, excess pages will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.
- contain a short pitch video (URL; max. 90 seconds).
- are written in English.
- include a valid Participant Identification Code (PIC) for the applicant organisation at the time of submission.

Any proposals submitted after the deadline will be inadmissible. **Pay attention that submitting in the last hours before the deadline can face technical problems due to system saturation or other cases.** No claims will be accepted due to last moment submission failure. Only proposals satisfying all the admissibility criteria shall pass on to the eligibility criteria assessment stage.

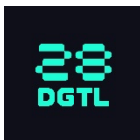
5.2 Eligibility

Following the admissibility check, only proposals complying with the following conditions will be considered eligible for further evaluation:

5.2.1 Entities eligible to participate

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries is **eligible to participate**, provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met (e.g. the entity is not under EU sanction), along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic.

For this call, a 'legal entity' means legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality.



5.2.2 Eligibility for funding

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Work Program 2025⁶, in order to be **eligible for funding**, the **applicant must be established in one of the eligible countries**, i.e.:

- the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;
- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States⁷;
- countries associated to Horizon Europe⁸;
- certain low- and middle-income countries⁹.

Legal entities, which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the EIT.

Affiliated entities — Affiliated entities are eligible for funding if they are established in one of the countries listed above, or in a country identified in the call.

Associated partners — Entities not eligible for funding (and therefore not able to participate as beneficiaries) may participate as associated partners.

5.2.3 Call specific eligibility criteria

Eligibility conditions
The venture has been incorporated max. 5 years before the submission date (see Annex 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2 for further details).
The proposal requests funding as stated in Annex 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2
The equity proposal to 28DIGITAL from the venture is in the cut-off specific range (see Annex 1 to 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1 to 2 for further details).

⁶https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes_horizon-2025_en.pdf

⁷ Entities from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) are eligible for funding under the same conditions as entities from the Member States to which the OCT in question is linked. See the Horizon Europe Program Guide on the portal for a complete list of OCTs.

⁸ Please see the Horizon Europe Program Guide on the Funding and Tenders Portal for up-to-date information on the current list of and the position for Associated Countries:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/program-guide_horizon_en.pdf

⁹ See the Horizon Europe Program Guide on the Funding and Tenders Portal for a complete list of these countries. List of participating countries in Horizon Europe.



Eligibility conditions
The venture has outright ownership of a substantial majority of the product's IP to which the proposal applies.
The selected venture is not a subsidiary of another company and is not controlled by another company other than, if applicable, a non-trading holding company established solely for the assignment of founder shares.
The Technology Readiness Level of the proposed solution is minimum at TRL 4-5.
The venture has a minimum of 2 FTEs.

5.3 EU restrictions on participation

- **EU restrictive measures:** Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)¹⁰ as well as Article 75 TFEU¹¹, are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/0522¹².

- **Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine:** Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this program with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

¹⁰ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#)

¹¹ Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the [EU Sanctions Map](#)

¹² Commission guidelines No [2013/C 205/05](#) on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11)



With specific regard to measures addressed to Russia, following the adoption of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024¹³ (amending Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014) concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine, legal entities established outside Russia but whose proprietary rights are directly or indirectly owned for more than 50% by a legal person, entity or body established in Russia are also not eligible to participate in any capacity.

- **Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary:** Following the [Council Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2022/2506](#), as of 15 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals and can participate without receiving EU funding, as associated partners, if allowed by the call conditions. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.). In case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity in any funded role and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.
- **Restrictions for the protection of European communication networks:** The protection of European communication networks has been identified as an important security interest of the Union and its Member States¹⁴. For further information, please refer to the Horizon Europe, Work Program 2025, General Annexes, B – Eligibility on page 14¹⁵.

Only proposals satisfying all the eligibility criteria mentioned above shall pass on to the selection and evaluation stages.

5.4 Exclusion criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participation in the Call and from the award if they are in one of the situations referred to in Article 138(1) of the EU Financial Regulation. Applicants that are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e. exclusion) or are in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU grants can NOT participate:

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);

¹³ OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 1–11

¹⁴ European Council conclusions of 1 and 2 October 2020 (EUCO 13/20), point 11; Council Conclusions on the significance of 5G to the European Economy and the need to mitigate security risks linked to 5G, 14517/19.

¹⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes_horizon-2025_en.pdf



- they are in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);
- they are guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of fraud, corruption, having links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they have shown significant deficiencies in complying with their main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);
- they are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/9534 (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant); or
- they have created under a different jurisdiction an entity with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).
- have misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or have failed to supply that information; or
- were previously involved in the preparation of documents used in the award procedure where this entails a breach of the principle of equality of treatment, including distortion of competition, that cannot be remedied otherwise.

As evidence, the applicants (i.e. the coordinator and all the proposed partners participating in the applicant consortium) will have to submit a **declaration of honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest**. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

5.5 Selection criteria

5.5.1 Financial capacity criteria

By submitting the proposals, the applicants confirm that they have stable and sufficient financial resources to successfully implement the proposals in which they participate.



If an applicant is participating in several projects, it must have sufficient financial capacity to implement them in parallel.

In case of doubt, further information may be required, and risk mitigation measure(s) may be applied by the KIC.

5.5.2 Operational capacity criteria

Applicants must have the experience, the know-how, qualifications and resources to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share.

By submitting the proposals, the applicants confirm that they have the experience, know-how, qualifications and operational resources (human, technical and other) to successfully implement the proposals.

If an applicant is participating in several projects, it must have sufficient operational capacity to implement them in parallel.

Additional documents may be requested by the KIC to confirm the operational capacity of the applicants.

5.6 Award criteria

5.6.1 Award criteria, sub-criteria and maximum scores

This call follows Horizon Europe criteria and therefore the standard criteria are applied.

In the Review Gate¹⁶, all eligible proposals will be evaluated by at least three independent external reviewers:

a) Excellence: Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state-of-the-art. Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, interdisciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end users where appropriate.

b) Impact: Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work program, and the likely scale and significance of the contributions due to the project. Suitability and quality of the measures to maximize expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.

c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation: Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the venture brings the necessary expertise.

¹⁶ Please see Section 6.2 for a full explanation of the three review gates applied for this call



In the Challenge Gate, proposals over the minimum threshold will be reviewed by Subject Matter Experts coming from the 28DIGITAL pool of experts:

(d) Challenge fit: Covering relevance, applicability and collaboration potential.

During the Management Committee Gate and the Due Diligence Interviews, proposals over the minimum threshold will be reviewed against the following criteria:

(e) KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration

Table 1: Award Criteria for Review Gate (only for proposals that successfully passed the Eligibility Gate)

(a) Excellence	Maximum score 20
Is the activity building an innovative solution with demonstrable economic – societal – environmental impact for Europe?	5
Are the role and level of engagement of the Challenge Owner/Partner clearly defined and credible throughout the project?	5
Is timing right considering market, user, societal and/or technological trends and developments?	5
To what extent does the proposal address gender mainstreaming and integrate a gender dimension throughout its design, implementation and expected outcomes?	5

(b) Impact	Maximum score 20
How does the venture position itself in the competitive landscape? How realistic and sound are the assumptions and estimations?	5
Does the venture have high potential to succeed and scale?	5
Does the venture have assets (IP assets ownership, freedom to operate, resources, etc.) to fuel its growth? How investable is the venture?	5
Are the venture’s financial needs well assessed and realistic? Is there additional financial investment committed to the venture?	5

(c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation	Maximum score 20
How strong is the work plan (milestones, deliverables, way of working)? Are there ambitious intermediate milestones?	5
Is the founder/s’ and CxO’s track record convincing? Are their seniority level, experience, and background appropriate for the venture’s goals?	5



(c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation	Maximum score 20
Do the individual team members have strong commitment to the venture and clear accountability?	5
How realistic and feasible is the implementation plan in terms of resources, timelines, and allocation of responsibilities, given the current maturity level	5

To proceed to the next stage, proposals must achieve an overall minimum score of 42 out of 60.

Table 2: Award Criteria for the Challenge Gate (only for proposals that successfully passed the Review Gate)

(d) Challenge fit	Maximum score 20
How well does the proposed solution address the defined challenge and its key pain points?	5
Does the proposal demonstrate a clear understanding of the underlying operational, technical, and business context?	5
Are the proposed validation and testing activities realistic and appropriate for the current maturity level (TRL 4–5)?	5
How well is the proposal tailored to the specific context and the needs of its relevant stakeholders?	5

To proceed to the next stage, proposals must achieve an overall minimum score of 14 out of 20.

Table 3: Award Criteria for Management Committee Gate (only for proposals that successfully passed the Review Gate and the Challenge Gate)

(e) Strategic fit KIC Portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration	Maximum score 30
Does the venture have the potential to provide value to 28DIGITAL’s long-term financial sustainability?	5
Is the proposed equity transfer suitably aligned with the current maturity of the venture?	5
Does the venture fit into the 28DIGITAL equity portfolio?	5
Is there alignment with the 28DIGITAL Strategic domains (Deep Tech, Strategic Tech for Europe, Green Tech)?	5
Is the solution well rooted in advanced digital tech?	5
Is the proposal strategic for the 28DIGITAL ecosystem?	5



To proceed to the next stage, proposals must achieve an overall minimum score of 77 out of 110 (combined weighted score).

5.6.2 Relative weight of the award criteria

Criterion	Maximum Score	Relative weight
a) Excellence	20	Weight: 20%
b) Impact	20	Weight: 20%
c) Quality, efficiency and implementation	20	Weight: 20%
d) Challenge fit	20	Weight: 20%
e) Strategic fit	30	Weight: 20%
Total points	110	100%

6. Evaluation procedure

6.1 Admissibility and eligibility, exclusion and selection stages

28DIGITAL is a partnership-based organization. Both 28DIGITAL Partner and non-Partner organizations may apply, however partnership is mandatory for selected activities.

Selected startups in the “Industry Challenge Track” or the “Open Challenge Track” must complete the partnership process before the start of the activity. Further details about the partnership model for startups will be shared during the info session. For further questions regarding the partnership model, reach out to the [28DIGITAL staff](#).

For this program, Challenge Owners are either a 28DIGITAL member or engage 28DIGITAL as a service provider for scouting activities. If their proposals are selected, Challenge Partners must either join 28DIGITAL as full members or engage 28DIGITAL as a service provider for scouting activities. It is strongly recommended to contact the 28DIGITAL team well in advance—at least two weeks prior to submission—to ensure a clear understanding of the partnership model, fee structure, and participation requirements.

6.2 Evaluation of proposals

Each activity proposal must go through all selection steps to be considered for 28DIGITAL support as part of the Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027.

First, it must go through an **Eligibility Criteria Check** and the Evaluation Gates: the **Review Gate**, the **Challenge Gate** and the **Management Committee (MC) Gate**. Proposals that pass the Eligibility Criteria Check and the Evaluation Gates will be called for **Due Diligence Interviews**, after which a **Final Consensus Meeting** is held during which a final ranking is established.



Only activity proposals that pass the previous gate will be assessed at the following gate. Scoring details for each Evaluation Gate are defined in section 5.6 of this document.

The selection steps consist of, in order:

1. **Eligibility Criteria Check:** 28DIGITAL experts review the submitted proposals and assess their alignment with the eligibility criteria defined in section 5.2 of this document.
2. **Review Gate:** Each proposal is assessed by **at least three independent external experts**. Each expert evaluates the proposals following the evaluation criteria outlined in Table 1: Award Criteria for Review Gate (page 28). During the Review Gate Meeting, the experts come together to discuss each proposal based on their own individual assessments and assign in consensus a Review Gate Score. If the proposal attains the Review Gate minimum required score, as defined in Section 6.2.1, then it will advance to the next step.
3. **Challenge Gate:** Subject Matter Experts (coming from the 28DIGITAL Pool of Experts) assign a score based on the evaluation criteria outlined in “Table 2: Award Criteria for Challenge Gate” (page 29) covering the challenge fit. If the proposal passes the Challenge Gate minimum required threshold, as defined in Section 6.2.1, then the activity proposal moves on to the MC Gate.
4. **Management Committee Gate:** The Management Committee of 28DIGITAL assigns a MC Gate Score based on the evaluation criteria outlined in “Table 3: Award Criteria for MC Gate” (page 29) including 28DIGITAL financial sustainability objectives and strategic alignment goals. Proposals that pass the MC Gate minimum required threshold (consisting of weighted combined scores of the different Gate scores, as defined in Section 6.2.1), move on to Due Diligence Interviews.

Due Diligence Interviews: Due Diligence Interviews are scheduled shortly after the MC Gate takes place and a timeline is provided in the Cut-off specific document. The founders of the invited venture are expected to attend and present. During these interviews, the teams will be challenged on the information provided in their submission and any concerns which emerge during the previous Gates. The quality of the pitch and the responses provided by the teams will be assessed against the Strategic Fit criteria, as outlined in Table 3 of Section 5.6.1.

Based on the answers provided by the venture, the criteria scored in the MC Gate may be amended. The interviews will last 45 minutes, distributed in 5 min for introductions, 5 min pitch deck presentation and maximum 35 min Q&A by the Management Committee of 28DIGITAL. The pitch deck must be **no more than 10 slides in length**, and it must be presented by the CEO or founder of the venture. Both pitch deck and presentation must be in English. Applicants are expected to ensure their availability for the Due Diligence interviews and to accept the interview date and time assigned if invited. 28DIGITAL will not be able to rearrange interview slots according to the availability of applicants.

5. **Final Consensus Meeting:** The MC and Challenge Owners¹⁷ convene in a final Consensus Meeting. The highest scoring proposals that have passed the relevant thresholds, as defined in Section 6.2.1, will be

¹⁷ Only for proposals in the „Industry Challenge Track“



selected as winners of the Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027 program and will be funded subject to the available budget for that cut-off.

6.2.1 Assessment methodology

For each of the respective evaluation stages, evaluations will be based on the following criteria on a scale from 0 to 5.

- 0 – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to mission or incomplete 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 a number of 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.

To proceed to the next stage, proposals must achieve:

- In the Review Gate: an **overall minimum score of 42 out of 60**
- In the Challenge Gate: an **overall minimum score of 14 out of 20**
- In the MC Gate: an **overall minimum score of 77 out of 110 (combined weighted score)**
- In the Final Consensus Meeting: proposals will be considered eligible for funding if they achieve a **minimum overall score of 77 out of 110 (combined weighted score)**. Among the proposals that meet this threshold, funding will be awarded in order of ranking, starting from the highest-scoring proposal, until the budget available for that cut-off is exhausted

For the final ranking, proposals are ranked based on their **total combined score** (Review Gate 60%, Challenge Gate 20%, and MC Gate 20%). Proposals will be funded in order of ranking, subject to the availability of funds, until the allocated budget is fully committed.

In the event of a tie, ranking priority will be determined according to the following order:

1. Higher average score for the **Impact criteria**;
2. Higher average score for the **Excellence criteria**;
3. Lead partner is based in a RIS country

If proposals remain tied after applying the criteria above, the **Management Committee of 28DIGITAL** will determine the final ranking at its discretion.



6.2.2 Results of the evaluation: award, reserve list

28DIGITAL reserves the right to establish a reserve list for those proposals passing all thresholds that due to budget constraints cannot be funded. The duration of the reserve list is 75 days from the start of the Activity Execution. The validity of the reserve list may be extended by decision of the 28DIGITAL's Management Committee.

If for any reasons the selected partners do not sign the Grant Agreement within 60 days after the start of the Activity Execution, 28DIGITAL may select the next proposal on the reserve list ranking without launching an additional call. In the event of a finally unused budget (e.g. where an accepted proposal is unable to complete the project), funding may be allocated to a proposal on the reserve list, subject to the reserve list remaining valid at the time of allocation or, where applicable, to an explicit decision by the 28DIGITAL Management Committee to extend its validity.

Candidates should note that their inclusion on the reserve list does not imply any entitlement to participate in the Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027 program.

6.3 Communication of evaluation results to applicants

6.3.1 Communication of evaluation results

Following the award decision, all applicants will be informed of the result in writing by email to the Activity Leader who is responsible to share with all other participants. All applicants will receive their assessment, including their score.

In case an applicant requests further clarification regarding the evaluation result, it may contact the KIC by email. Such requests will be replied within 15 days (this deadline may be extended by the KIC with due justification).

Successful proposals will be invited to the financial support agreement preparation stage/onboarding, the other proposals will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

6.3.2 Requirements for selected proposals

If the proposal is selected, the communication on the evaluation results may include a set of recommendations/conditions as a result of the outcome of the evaluation. These requirements may not entail a substantial modification of the proposal.

The communication will establish a clear and non-negotiable deadline for the submission of the adjusted proposals.

Should all conditions be met within the established deadline, 28DIGITAL will initiate the financial support agreement preparation process/onboarding (e.g. legal entity validation, signature of Declaration of honour, if not yet provided, financial capacity check, if relevant).



If the applicant fails to comply with the provided recommendations/conditions or does not respond in the time allocated, the 28DIGITAL reserves the right to withdraw the conditional notification. Should this occur, the next proposal will be contacted following the ranking list.

6.4 Standstill period

A standstill period of 30 days should be applied before signing agreements with the selected recipients, in order to allow the granting authority to verify compliance with the procedural requirements.

The standstill period and information to the granting authority should not delay informing successful and unsuccessful applicants in writing following the final decision (list of selected projects, amounts and names of selected recipients) and about the complaints/redress procedure, according to the timeline laid out in the call.

Exceptionally, upon request and with solid justification, a shorter standstill period may be agreed with the granting authority at the time of the granting authority's approval of the call text.

6.5 Publication of recipients of funds annually

The KIC shall make available (on a dedicated page on its website) information on recipients of funds (only legal persons or entities without a legal personality) financed from the EIT budget, no later than 30 June of the year following the financial year in which the funds were legally committed.

The following information shall be published, having due regard for the requirements of confidentiality and security, in particular the protection of personal data:

- (a) the recipient's full legal name and the country where it is established;
- (b) the amount committed and, in case of a commitment with multiple recipients, the breakdown of this amount per recipient where available;
- (c) subject of grant or contract.

6.6 Appeal process

28DIGITAL will address, in good faith and in a timely manner, any appeal relating to the outcome of the selection process described in this document.

Appeals shall be addressed to the attention of the [Co-Creation Accelerator Team](#), by factually underpinning the alleged errors in the selection process followed by 28DIGITAL within 5 business days date of publication of the results. The 28DIGITAL Team will examine the appeal and, if possible grounds for appeal are found,



then the appeal will be sent for a consideration by the Management Committee. The 28DIGITAL Management Committee will review the appeal and make a final decision.

The grounds for appeal are:

- Process errors
- Technical problems beyond the control of applicants (not related with submission in the last minute)
- Obvious human/mechanical errors made by 28DIGITAL staff.

Please note: External Experts provide independent assessment, and their scoring and feedback cannot be re-evaluated in the appealing process by 28DIGITAL. Therefore, disagreement with the scores or comments of the evaluators does not constitute admissible grounds for a request for review.

7. Other terms and conditions

7.1 Acceptance of the call conditions

28DIGITAL reserves the right to make reasonable amendments and additions to the call conditions. Amendments and additions to the call conditions shall be valid only before the submission deadline, and if made available to all potential applicants at the same time on the top of the call page of the Co-Creation Accelerator 2026-2027.

28DIGITAL may declare the call unsuccessful in case no applications are received, if the applications do not meet the admissibility, eligibility, exclusion and selection criteria, or if none of the applications reach the thresholds laid down in this call text.

By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees to the present call conditions. Applicants agree that they have no legal entitlement to funding.

7.2 Cancellation of the call

28DIGITAL reserves the right to cancel the call at any time before the signature of the Financial Support Agreement(s) without the obligation to compensate applicants, in particular where its objectives can no longer be met, provided that the applicants are informed in a transparent manner in writing as follows:

- if the cancellation takes place before that award: on the call page of the 28DIGITAL website
- if the cancellation takes place following the communication of the results to the applicants, during the standstill period, or anytime before the signature of the Financial Support Agreement: in writing directly to the selected applicants.

7.3 Data protection

28DIGITAL ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural



persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject, you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object, and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer at privacy@28DIGITAL.eu

The collected personal data will be used solely for the evaluation of the applications and the conduct of the call process. The data controller is the [Co-Creation Accelerator Team](#)

Personal data will be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the results of the call in case of unsuccessful applications and 7 years for successful applicants.

By submitting your application to this call, you consent that 28DIGITAL will collect, transfer, process, store, and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

For more information on the processing of your personal data, please consult the privacy statement of 28DIGITAL at <https://28DIGITAL.eu/legal-notice>

7.4 Confidentiality

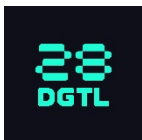
28DIGITAL undertakes to use any confidential information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the evaluation process.

Confidential information shall mean data and/or information (in any form) that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, that is identified as confidential in writing or when disclosed orally.

Confidential information included in the application form must be expressly labelled by the applicant as such in the form. As regards confidential information expressly labelled as such in the call process, 28DIGITAL undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and any form, without the prior written authorization of the applicant; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for participation in the call.

Confidential information may be shared among 28DIGITAL and its subsidiaries (e.g. KIC Co-Location Centres) solely for the purposes of the call process. 28DIGITAL undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the conduct of the call, including as members of the Evaluation Committee, may have access to such confidential data and information.

The applicants agree that data and information regarding the selected projects' implementation (e.g. success stories) not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of 28DIGITAL.



7.5 Avoidance of conflict of interest

28DIGITAL is committed to ensure the avoidance of conflict of interest (regarding all actors) and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management.

Measures to avoid potential Conflict of Interest or unequal treatment of applicants are ensured including through appropriate conflict of interest declaration and assessment process, established written communication channels and independent and fair complaints/redress procedures.

In case an applicant becomes aware of a potential conflict of interest affecting the conduct of the call process, it shall notify the 28DIGITAL of the conflict of interest without any delay.

7.6 Ethics and values

The proposal must comply with:

- ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and
- applicable EU, international and national law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Supplementary Protocols.

No financial support/EIT funding can be granted, within or outside the EU, for activities that are prohibited in all Member States. No financial support/EIT funding can be granted in a Member State for an activity which is forbidden in that Member State.

Please refer to the financial support agreement for further requirements.

7.7 Intellectual property rights

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants confirm that they own or lawfully hold, and have secured or will secure in due time, all rights and permissions necessary to use all elements of the innovative product or service included in their application, or that they will take appropriate measures to secure and protect such rights during the project. Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless 28DIGITAL, the EIT, and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement by the product or service of applicants. Applicants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology. Applicants agree to respect the IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) Rules (Article 16) of the [Model Grant Agreement](#) and Article 10 of the Financial Support Agreement (Common Subgrant Agreement Model).



7.8 Withdrawal of the funding – Recovery of undue amounts

28DIGITAL may withdraw the funding after its award and recover all payments made in line with the provisions of the Financial Support Agreement (Article 7.4.), including in the following cases:

- in case the applicant committed substantial errors, irregularities or fraud;
- in case the applicant committed serious breach of obligations under the Financial Support Agreement or during its award (including non-compliance with the call conditions, submission of false information, failure to provide required information, etc.)
- it is established that the awarded applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded.

7.9 Checks, reviews, audits and investigations

28DIGITAL retains the right to initiate checks, reviews and audit on an applicant that has been awarded funding, in order to verify compliance with the requirements of the call conditions and of the legal and contractual framework referred to above.

28DIGITAL may request any information and data from applicants that have been awarded funding for 5 years after completion for these purposes, as well as in relation to monitoring by the EIT.

In accordance with the Grant Agreement between the EIT and the KIC as well as the Financial Support Agreement, the EIT and/or the Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF), the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) and the Court of Auditors may carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations in relation to the call and the implementation of the projects.

7.10 Communication, Dissemination and Promotion

Dissemination plan including communications and outreach is required for each activity in line with HE Guidance (Art.17 of the MGA). Unless otherwise agreed with 28DIGITAL, the partners of the selected Activities must promote the activity and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public).

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the partners must inform 28DIGITAL.

Visibility: The European Flag and Funding Statement

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the partners must inform 28DIGITAL.

Visibility: Unless otherwise agreed with 28DIGITAL, communication activities of the partners related to the Activity (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by 28DIGITAL **must**



acknowledge the EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages where appropriate). Other allowed layouts/backgrounds can be found in the 28DIGITAL Intranet.



Initiated by the European Institute
of Innovation and Technology (EIT)



The emblem must remain **distinct and separate** and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support. When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. logos of partners), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos. For the purposes of their obligations under this section, the partners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from 28DIGITAL. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

Quality of Information: Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the Activity must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or 28DIGITAL. Neither the European Union nor 28DIGITAL can be held responsible for them.”

If a beneficiary breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced.

7.11 Applicable law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union legal framework (i.e. in particular the [EIT Regulation](#)¹⁸, the [EU Financial Regulation](#)¹⁹, the [Horizon Europe Regulation](#)²⁰), supplemented if necessary by the national law of Belgium.

¹⁸ Regulation (EU) 2021/819

¹⁹ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509

²⁰ Regulation (EU) 2021/695



The applicants agree to observe the obligations outlined in the related agreements signed between the EIT and 28DIGITAL. Applicants agree to comply with the terms of the Model Financial Support Agreement between successful applicants and 28DIGITAL, available at the Intranet.

7.12 Settlement of disputes

All disputes arising out of or in connection with this Agreement, which cannot be solved amicably, shall be finally settled before the courts of Brussels.



Annex 1 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 1

Budget:

The maximum financial support that can be allocated per proposal is **250.000 EUR**. The overall budget available for this cut-off is **1.500.000 EUR**. The 28DIGITAL Management Committee reserves the right to withhold the full allocation of the available budget for this call.

Timeline:

Action	Date
Submission system opens	July 1, 2026
Info session	Info Session: July 15 Q&A Session 1: August 5 Q&A Session 2: September 2
Cut-off 1 closing	September 8, 17:00 CET
Communication to non-eligible activities	September 9
Invitation of pre-selected activities to Due Diligence interviews & Communication to non-selected activities in the previous gates	October 8
Due Diligence interviews (mandatory for the selected proposals)	October 12 & 13
Feedback to selected/rejected activities	October 15
Standstill period	October 15 – November 15
Activities start	November 16

Challenges

a) Industry Challenge Track

We are accepting Industry Track challenges on a rolling basis. These Industry challenges will be published here.



b) Open Challenge Track

Apply with your Challenge Partner and jointly define the challenge you want to address in line with the 28DIGITAL strategic domains. When applying to the Open Challenge Track, applicants need to provide, among other topics, a detailed description of the challenge to be solved as well as proof of the Challenge Partner’s commitment (i.e. signed LOI or other supporting documents).

Conditions:

Conditions for Cut-Off 1
The venture has been incorporated between 01/01/2021 and the submission date.
The proposal requests a maximum of EUR 250,000 of 28DIGITAL funding.
The equity proposal to 28DIGITAL from the venture is between 3.5-7%.
The venture is not a subsidiary of another company and is not controlled by another company other than, if applicable, a non-trading holding company established solely for the assignment of founder shares.
The venture has outright ownership of a substantial majority of the product’s IP to which the proposal applies.
The Technology Readiness Level of the proposed solution is minimum at TRL 4-5.
The venture has a minimum of 2 FTEs.



Annex 2 – Specific conditions for Cut-Off 2

Budget:

The maximum financial support that can be allocated per proposal is **250.000 EUR**. The overall budget available for this cut-off is TBC. The 28DIGITAL Management Committee reserves the right to withhold the full allocation of the available budget for this call.

Timeline:

Action	Date
Submission system opens	TBC
Info session	Info Session: TBC Q&A Session 1: TBC Q&A Session 2: TBC
Cut-off 2 closing	TBC
Communication to all pre-selected and rejected activities	TBC
Invitation of pre-selected activities to Due Diligence interviews	TBC
Due Diligence interviews (mandatory for the selected proposals)	TBC
Feedback to selected/rejected activities	TBC
Appeal window (5 days)	TBC
Proposal adjustments window (5 business days)	TBC
Appeals and adjustments resolution	TBC
Standstill period	TBC
Activities start	TBC

Challenges:

The challenges for cut-off 2 will be published here.



- a) Industry Challenge Track
- b) Open Challenge Track

Apply with your Challenge Partner and jointly define the challenge you want to address in line with the 28DIGITAL strategic domains. When applying to the Open Challenge Track, applicants need to provide, among other topics, a detailed description of the challenge to be solved as well as proof of the Challenge Partner’s commitment (i.e. signed LOI or other supporting documents).

Conditions:

Conditions for Cut-Off 2
The venture has been incorporated between 01/01/2021 and the submission date.
The proposal requests a maximum of €250,000 of 28DIGITAL funding.
The equity proposal to 28DIGITAL from the venture is between 3.5-7%.
The venture is not a subsidiary of another company and is not controlled by another company other than, if applicable, a non-trading holding company established solely for the assignment of founder shares.
The venture has outright ownership of a substantial majority of the product’s IP to which the proposal applies.
The Technology Readiness Level of the proposed solution is minimum at TRL 4-5.
The venture has a minimum of 2 FTEs.