



EIT RawMaterials

Call for KAVA 14 RIS Innovation

Instructions and process description

April 2026

1. Purpose and scope of this document

This document describes the process for preparation, submission, evaluation and selection of Proposals in response to the KAVA 14 call, launched by the EIT RawMaterials (EIT RM) for RIS Innovation KAVA Projects (RIS Innovation KAVA – KIC Added-Value Activity in EIT terminology). All project participants involved in the submission of a Proposal in response to this call should read the following documents carefully:

- The present document (call text) [B]
- *EIT RawMaterials RIS Innovation Proposal Guidance and Template for complementary information* [B]
- *EIT RawMaterials Communication and dissemination guidance* [B]
- *EIT RawMaterials Project Management guidance* [B]
- The *SIGN Group Appendix* that outlines Definition and scope of the Strategic Impact Group Networks.
- *Go-to-market strategy for RIS innovation projects – Process and guidance* [B]
- *The Strategic Agenda 2021-27 of EIT RawMaterials* [I]
- *The EIT RawMaterials General Terms and Conditions of Financial Support to Third Parties (Sub-Granting)* [B]
- FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) that will be posted in the online Proposal submission platform “Seedbook” (<https://seedbook-portal.eitrawmaterials.eu/>), also containing explanations of the terminology used in this document; Project Coordinators should check this section regularly to



ensure that they are fully informed and updated on important matters such as eligibility and evaluation criteria, advice on the compilation of the Proposal, costs and cost allocation. [I]

- *Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement*¹

It is important to note that the documents listed above will be referred to in the Project Agreement and be either binding on the parties or used for interpretation of the parties' obligations defined in the Project Agreement. Documents are marked above with a letter into brackets after the name of the document between binding (B) and for interpretation (I).

Definitions and acronyms can be found in the Annexes. Further inquiries can be sent to info@eitrawmaterials.eu.

2. Project call and selection process

EIT RawMaterials is dedicated to advancing innovation within the raw materials value chain, nurturing groundbreaking ideas and projects that have the potential to make a significant impact. As part of our commitment to sustainable growth, we are also actively developing our financial sustainability strategy, as mandated by the EIT. The RIS Innovation KAVA Projects are to contribute to these goals.

The aim of EIT RawMaterials is to take the optimal pathways to reinforce and expand activities in regions of strategic importance, taking into account synergies with the various raw materials actions that the EU Commission has planned to implement with non-EU partners from 2015 onwards. For the so called **EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS)² activities**, EIT RawMaterials regards the RIS regions as areas where there are opportunities to make an impact in line with our objectives and the overall aim of increasing the innovation level of RIS countries. EIT RawMaterials strategy for delivering maximum impact in the RIS regions is:

- Engage strong key partners from RIS regions or those having focus on and commitment to RIS regions to enable outreach to the local stakeholders. Engage the local stakeholders so that they benefit from being involved in KIC activities. Create long-lasting networks around regional challenges, supported by local and national authorities.
- Transfer the Knowledge Triangle Integration concept into RIS regions to contribute to increasing the innovation capacities of the local ecosystem, via closer interactions between the local Knowledge Triangle

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

² See description of RIS and the **list of RIS eligible countries and territories** at <https://eit.europa.eu/activities/closing-innovation-divide-eit-regional-innovation-scheme-ris>.



innovation actors and also clusters, networks, regional public authorities, Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), research organisations, SMEs) and their activities.

- Grow KIC participation from non-partners (and potential partners) from RIS regions by securing a strong presence in the RIS countries through various KIC activities.
- RIS activities should address a realistic and existing challenge in the raw materials sector, quantify it and potential impact the project activities would create.

EIT RawMaterials intends to focus its RIS activities mostly to those RIS regions where:

1. a smart specialisation strategy supports the raw materials agenda and/or where there is potential for raw materials related activities (and where smart specialisation strategies are not yet developed) and
2. to ⁴RIS regions from which stakeholders are less represented in high numbers in the KIC partnership: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine and the Outermost Regions.

2.1. General rules and guiding principles

- RIS Innovation KAVA Projects are innovation Projects based on validated technologies that need additional step(s) for testing, demonstration, proof of concept and up-scaling prior to commercialization. The purpose of these Projects is to support good technologies, products, and services that are currently under development in RIS countries to reach market entry or cooperation with innovative groups that work on and have developed tools and technologies that can be upscaled in RIS regions with the aim to solve raw materials value chain related challenges in the region. The innovative groups can be one of the following: start-ups (with focus on start-up's supported by EIT RawMaterials), SMEs, RTOs, other industry groups, etc. The solutions can come from both KAVA activities as well as other activities not related to EIT RawMaterials.
- The RIS Innovation KAVA Projects will be **implemented** in 2 phases, but the **consortium applies only once** for both phases.

During the Phase 1 technology, product or service owner will have 1 year to test and pilot their solution with an industrial partner in the Project consortium. During this time the solution needs to be validated. Validation should focus on countries where market research suggests there are the best opportunities for commercialization of the solution. The solution owner and the industrial partner (acting as a validation partner for testing the feasibility of the solution and proof of concept) are key participants in this Project.



After the Phase 1, the Project progress and results will undergo interim evaluation by EIT RawMaterials Management Team. The decision will be made on whether the Project can continue by progressing to Phase 2 and receive further support. The interim evaluation will be based on the following points: a. Execution of Phase 1 including positive results from the validation of the solution; b. Updated plan for Phase 2 implementation based on progress results of Phase 1; c. Clear view on the plan for market entry. **In case of a positive decision by EIT RawMaterials the Project will be provided with further funding in Phase 2 with a maximum duration of 1 year**, and Proposal of shorter duration will be favourably evaluated.

During the **Phase 2** of the Project, the solution needs to be scaled up (i.e. testing the solution at an industrial scale), which could already generate revenues during the Project. At this phase the consortium can, exceptionally, add additional partners into the Project (i.e. off-takers or other commercial partners). In such cases, the consortium must present the proposed partner, the added value they bring to the project, and a corresponding grant re-allocation plan as part of the interim evaluation. The maximum grant amount awarded to the project may not be exceeded. Subject to a positive assessment, the additional partner may be included in the project through a Change Request and formalised via an amendment to the initial project agreement.

- RIS Innovation KAVA Projects must aim for market introduction and/or a commercial use within 2 years (or less) after the end of Phase 2 of the Project, and Proposal of shorter duration for market introduction and/or a commercial use will be favorably evaluated.
- Projects that aim for commercialization within the project duration will be evaluated positively. The Proposal must clearly state who (which partner) will be responsible for commercialization and outlining a plan for market introduction. There can be only 1 commercializing partner. **The Project should outline the Commercialising partners' profile and/or main characteristics and must demonstrate that they have experienced marketing/finance/sales people on the team.**
- All Projects must lead to specific deliverables, outputs, and milestones over a defined timeline (min. 1 deliverable, 1 output and 1 milestone per year).
- Projects will be financed by EIT RawMaterials (the KIC) only for a defined duration.
- Proposals must meet the highest expectations and performance on the creation of impact (please refer to Strategic Agenda 2021-2027 and this call text). This is mainly measured by achieving Core EIT KPIs. **Each project has to deliver minimum target of one for KPI EITHE02.4-EITRIS during the project period.** Targeting additional EIT Core KPIs and/or KPI KICN01.10 (jobs created) to be achieved during the funding period, is optional but may result in additional points under the Impact criterion during proposal evaluation.
A full list of EIT Core and other KPIs are available on SeedBook. Applicants to this RIS Innovation



Call should pay close attention to the RIS-specific sub-KPIs presented in the full list available in Seedbook.

- Only the Proposals that are fully aligned with the EIT RawMaterials 2021-2027 Strategic Agenda and this call text will be considered for funding.
- We invite submissions for innovative project proposals to focus on one of the four thematic areas outlined by our Strategic Impact Group Networks (SIGN). **Proposals that directly address these themes can receive up to 2 additional points in the evaluation process.**
- **RIS Innovation KAVA Projects need to be based on a solid market analysis**, covering important aspects such as the business environment (e.g., technical, regulatory, social, environmental and political aspects, user needs and targeted applications, customer value proposition, target market(s) (e.g., size, structure, growth potential, segmentation), risk assessment, design or market studies, and intellectual property exploration. A preliminary market analysis must be included in the Proposal and will need to be updated throughout the duration of the Project. Projects with higher TRL level will be evaluated positively. The Go-to-market strategy will be updated throughout the duration of the Project and enable go/no-go decisions following quarterly or annual reviews. No-go decisions may result in various consequences, such as suspension or discontinuation of the funding.
- The technology must be at Technology Readiness Level (**TRL³**) of **at least 5** at the beginning of the Project, corresponding to a “technology validated in relevant environment”. Documented evidence must be provided in the application to substantiate in detail how this will be achieved. The Project may be deemed to be ineligible without such evidence. Higher starting TRL will be positively evaluated.
- At the end of the Project, the technology is expected to **have reached a TRL² of at least 8**, corresponding to a “system complete and qualified”. Information must be provided in the Proposal to substantiate in detail how this will be achieved. The Project may be scored very low or even deemed to be ineligible without a detailed and convincing substantiation of this condition.
- Selection of the Proposal application for funding qualifies the Project to Phase 1, but does not automatically mean, that the Project proceeds to Phase 2. It will be subject to interim evaluation after the completion of Phase 1.
- Consortia are encouraged to consider offering our EIT RM Alumni an internship in their Project and/or a site visit. Our Alumni are past or present participants in EIT RM Education, Innovation or Business Development activities and we strongly encourage you to register to the EIT Raw

² Definitions of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 1 to 9 are given in FAQ document.



Materials Alumni community that is open not only to students. Indeed the EIT RM Alumni Association would assist in the logistics involved in an internship or study/project visit.

Proposals claiming to achieve any positive environmental impact, such as resource and energy savings, waste reduction, waste valorization, emissions reduction, etc., must include a Work Package on the assessment of the environmental impacts of the developed products or processes using LCA (Life Cycle Assessment) methodologies.

2.1.1 Financial Sustainability Mechanism and Partner Co-funding

Financial Sustainability Mechanism (FSM)

EIT RawMaterials is committed to supporting high-impact innovation projects across the raw materials value chain while ensuring the long-term financial sustainability of its activities, in line with its mandate from the EIT. Accordingly, EIT RawMaterials expects a return on investment (ROI) in the event of project success. Project success is linked to effective commercialization and value creation and must be clearly defined in the proposal. The final success conditions and participation terms will be negotiated and contractually agreed with EIT RawMaterials following final project approval. If the success conditions are met, EIT RawMaterials will participate in the upside through one of the two following Financial Sustainability Mechanisms (FSM) options, which are mandatory and must be proposed in detailed in the submitted proposal:

Option A: Royalties

EIT RawMaterials might receive a royalty linked to the commercial revenues generated through the successful exploitation of the project results. As a general principle, royalties should be calculated on company gross revenues, as this provides the highest level of transparency and ease of monitoring over time. To avoid ambiguity in the calculation of returns, royalty proposals should not be defined solely as a percentage of sales of a specific product or application unless the expected percentage contribution of that product to the company's overall gross revenues is clearly defined upfront. This approach ensures transparency and avoids differing interpretations over time as to how the royalty base is calculated.

Note: Royalties calculated on margins, operating profit or cash flows are discouraged, as they are inherently less transparent, significantly more complex to monitor over time, and more exposed to accounting policies, cost allocations, and group-level structuring that may materially affect the royalty base.

Regardless of the calculation basis, royalty structures are expected to reflect an equity-like return profile, commensurate with the risk undertaken by EIT RawMaterials.



Option B: Equity

EIT RawMaterials might receive a shareholding in the project company. This option is viewed positively, in particular where the company demonstrates investor readiness, such as having already attracted interest from external investors, being in preparation of a financing round, or having initiated concrete discussions with investors based on a clear investment and growth plan for the next two years.

Equity-based proposals require the definition of:

- company valuation and resulting shareholding for EIT RawMaterials,
- investment terms and governance rights (including, where appropriate, board representation),
- shareholders' agreement and articles of association

Requests for equity participation in companies that are yet to be incorporated or that lack a sufficiently defined legal, organizational, or intellectual property setup (e.g. early-stage university spin-offs) are discouraged.

The option selected for investment must be outlined in the proposal to a sufficient level of detail that will allow a proper assessment of the project's risks and benefits. If the Project is recommended for funding, the details of the investment terms must be fully defined and agreed upon in writing by both parties before the Project starts. Funds will be released only after both parties have finalised and executed documentation.

Co-funding

The co-funding contributed by the Project Consortium should be minimum 30% of the total funding (NOT 30% of the EIT funding). This is the minimum amount set by the EIT for innovation projects. Projects that provide a higher co-funding will be evaluated positively, The co-funding contributed by each partner does not need to be proportional to the funding allocated but shall be primarily contributed by industry partners and in specific cases by other types of partners (if so, to the lowest extent possible).

2.1.2 Budget, funding and costs

EIT funded activities are part of Horizon Europe, general funding and cost eligibility regulations are governed by the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement (AGA).

The exact number of Projects to be funded in the framework of this call will depend on the quality of the received Proposals and the total available funding.



It is expected that the budget for each Project will be in 1st year, up to 500,000 EUR of EIT Funding (Phase 1) and in case of successful interim evaluation and continuation to Phase 2, up to additional 300-500,000 EUR of EIT Funding. The total funding shall not be higher than EUR 1,000,000 for both Phase 1 and Phase 2, with maximum of 2 years duration.

All approved projects must be completed by end of December 2028.

Funding is disbursed on a yearly basis, with a 60% of pre-financing (of the total EIT grant amount for year N) being paid as a lump sum during the course of the year, and the remaining balance payment being paid during the following year on an actual-cost basis. Partners are expected to have at their disposal certain liquidity reserves for the periods between payments. A set of requirements, updated and communicated by EIT RM yearly, must be fulfilled before receiving any funding. All payments are conditional on the project implementation. Balance payments are conditional on fulfilling the cost eligibility rules and may be subject to an audit.

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 any 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.

Eligibility for funding

In accordance with the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025, in order to be eligible for funding, the applicant must be established in one of the eligible countries, i.e.: ⁴

- the Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions;
- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States⁵;

⁴https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2025/wp-14-general-annexes_horizon-2025_en.pdf

⁵ 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 Programme Guide on the portal for a complete list of OCTs.



- countries associated to Horizon Europe;⁶
- certain low- and middle-income countries.⁷

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.

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

Specific tasks may be attributed to subcontractors, as long as the necessity is clearly justified and follows the general Horizon Europe principles (see [Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement](#) for more information). Please note that only a limited part (in budget and scope) of a Project may be subcontracted; depending on the scope of the work to be provided, it may be necessary for the entity to become a partner.

Above and beyond the specific EIT RawMaterials Eligibility criteria, all Projects must comply with Horizon Europe and EIT rules, and with the conditions set in the new EIT RawMaterials Partnership Agreement.

2.1.3 Activity implementation, monitoring and reporting

A detailed work plan must be provided for Phase 1 (1st year) and Phase 2 (2nd year) at the time of Proposal submission. The work plan must contain major milestones to be achieved during each of the year(s) of the funding period, including main deliverables and description of the envisaged Project status.

Deliverables must include a mandatory Final Report and an explanation of whether and how the KAVA Project will be continued by the partners. The Final Report must include a Conclusion.

In case some KPIs are planned outside of the funding period, the Proposal should also include a work-plan for the following period after the Project duration consisting in additional KPIs which

⁶ Please see the Horizon Europe Programme 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/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf

⁷ See the Horizon Europe Programme Guide on the Funding and Tenders Portal for a complete list of these countries. List of participating countries in Horizon Europe.



implementation and compliance should be documented in annual reports (“Post-Project Impact Reporting”), as well as a work-plan for reporting revenues generated thanks to the results of the Project.

All Projects are subject to a structured and proportionate monitoring framework to ensure high-quality implementation, achievement of objectives, and compliance with EIT and Horizon Europe requirements. Monitoring is implemented throughout the project lifecycle and combines performance oversight with financial control.

Performance monitoring is carried out by a cross-functional monitoring team and is based on regular status reporting, s.a desk reviews, and formal review meetings. Progress Review Meetings are held at least once per year for on-track projects and more frequently where funding levels, risks, or critical milestones justify closer supervision. Projects with a market orientation are additionally subject to Go-to-Market reviews, assessing commercial strategy, market readiness, and expected impact.

Milestones achievements, as reported by the Consortium and assessed by KIC, will be scored by KIC based on various criteria such as GTM strategy quality, risk management, project and agile change management, project progress.

By the end of the first year (Phase 1), an interim evaluation of the project’s progress and achieved results will be carried out by an EIT RawMaterials internal evaluation panel and, ultimately, approved by the EIT RawMaterials Management Team. The interim evaluation will be based on the following points: a. Execution of Phase 1 including positive results from the validation of the solution; b. Updated plan for Phase 2 implementation based on progress results of Phase 1; c. Clear view on the plan for market entry. On the basis of this interim evaluation, EIT RawMaterials shall take a go/no-go decision regarding the continuation of the Project into Phase 2 and the granting of further support.

All Projects will be tracked by KIC and their progress will be assessed during the Project duration and up to five years after the end of the funding period. This includes onsite visits on short notice to control effective implementation of tangible milestones. Revenue tracking remains for as long as the FSM agreement is in effect.

Non-compliance with Milestones, or lack of reporting, which might result in impossibility to achieve a commercial use within the period defined in the Project may result in various sanctions which can go up to funding suspension or freezing, or the Consortium’s obligation to repay the funds.

2.1.4 Confidentiality, data protection and ethical considerations

Access to the Proposals will be given to EIT RawMaterials Management Team and to the evaluation panel conducting the evaluations. Everyone with access to the Proposal texts will have signed a non-disclosure and confidentiality agreement before access is granted.



If a Proposal is approved for funding, the full details of the approved Project will be communicated to the EIT as part of an update of the proposed Business Plan 2023-2025, where it will be included in EIT's evaluation of the Business Plan.

The title, scope, summary, name of partners in the consortium, name of coordinator and overall budget of Projects approved for funding will be shared within the EIT RawMaterials community, and therefore will be made publicly available (e.g., on the EIT RawMaterials' website, in presentations at conferences etc.). Public dissemination of the Project's main results and outcomes is a mandatory condition for funding, and will be arranged jointly by the consortium and EIT RawMaterials staff taking into account the consortium's legitimate confidentiality requirements.

All data and information related to the Proposal and its evaluation will be handled and stored in the 'SeedBook' platform according to EIT RawMaterials' customary procedures. The EIT RawMaterials' Code of Conduct will be followed throughout the evaluation process. External evaluators will receive specific instructions on the evaluation process, and access to the Proposals will be granted to each Evaluator only after the upload of her/his 'Evaluator Agreement' with provisions on confidentiality, conflict of interest and code of conduct.

All applicants are obligated to disclose any conflict of interest they might be facing as soon as they identify it, and shall comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination, and sound financial management.

2.2. Proposal preparation, submission, evaluation and selection process

2.2.1. Proposal registration and preparation

Interested parties should follow EIT Rawmaterials' website for information on upcoming Call webinars.

It is mandatory for all Candidates to register in the European Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal and obtain a Participant Identification Code (PIC) number. (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register>)

Proposals must be registered and submitted by

- Wednesday 24th June 2026 at 13.00 CET (Berlin time) for cut-off 1
- Friday 16th October 2026 at 13.00 CET (Berlin time) for cut-off 2

using the SeedBook online platform : <https://seedbook-portal.eitrawmaterials.eu/>.



Any proposals submitted after the deadline will be inadmissible. Only proposals satisfying all the admissibility criteria above shall pass on to the eligibility criteria assessment stage.

The registration form will become available through Seedbook on 24th April 2026.

2.2.2. Proposal submission

The Proposal submission can take place at the aforementioned cut-off dates, with a proposal that must contain sufficient and mandatory information for a comprehensive evaluation.

The attached *RIS Innovation Project proposal: Guidance and Template for complementary information* offers guidance for the content of the proposal.

2.2.3. Proposal evaluation and selection process

The **Proposals** will be evaluated according to three sets of criteria:

Eligibility criteria - mandatory requirements (**Proposals that do not meet all eligibility criteria will not be considered for further evaluation**), as described in section 2.3 below;

Excellence, impact, and quality criteria - against which the collected proposals will be scored and ranked by external evaluators, according to the evaluation grid presented in section 2.4 below. The Quality criteria include the evaluation of the 'Market Analysis' and the 'Communication and Dissemination' WPs (Sections 1-3 and 6 of the Quality Criteria evaluation grid, respectively).

Strategic criteria - against which the collected Proposals will be scored and ranked by the EIT RawMaterials, according to the evaluation grid presented in section 2.5 below.

Eligible Proposals will be selected based on the excellence, impact, quality and strategy criteria ranking. The excellence, impact and quality criteria (external evaluation) account for 55% of final score, whereas Strategic criteria (EIT RM evaluation) account for the 45 % of the final score.

Proposals' Excellence, Impact, and Quality will be evaluated by a panel of external experts appointed by the EIT RawMaterials Management Team. EIT RawMaterials will strive to achieve balance in the Evaluators' gender and geographic provenance.

- All members of the evaluation panel will sign non-disclosure and conflict of interest agreements.
- A minimum of three experts will be assigned to the evaluation of each Proposal.
- In the first step, these assigned experts evaluate each Proposal remotely using the criteria set out in the 2.4 Quality Criteria grid.



- Final evaluation of all Proposals is conducted by the entire panel (with the exclusion of any member with a conflict of interest). The strengths and weaknesses of each Proposal as perceived by the panel will be documented and communicated to the Project Coordinator once the evaluation process is completed.
- EIT RawMaterials staff and management will act as the facilitators of the panel and facilitate the discussion during evaluation panel meetings but will otherwise not take part in the evaluation process.

Proposals' strategy will be evaluated using the criteria set out in the 2.5 Strategy Criteria grid. The evaluation will be carried out by a panel of two internal evaluators – a Business Developer and a Senior Advisor – who shall have previously declared to not be in a conflict-of-interest position.

Both the external evaluation on the proposals' Excellence, Impact and Quality of Implementation and the internal on the proposals' strategy will be carried out in parallel. The evaluation scores for each criteria will determine the total final score based on the weightings described in Sections 2.5 and 2.6 below. Evaluation shall be strictly limited to the Excellence, Impact, Quality of Implementation and Strategy criteria described in said Sections.

The strengths and weaknesses of each Project will be documented and communicated to the Project Coordinator once the evaluation process is completed.

Based on the evaluation, ranking, overall available funding and the mandatory EIT requirement to allocate at least 13% of the total EIT budget to RIS activities, the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board will propose a portfolio of Projects from this call to be funded. Successful and unsuccessful Candidates will be informed via email within five working days following the day of the final decision by the Selection Committee. All Candidates will receive the feedback report from the evaluation panels, including their score per Criteria and total score. If the Proposal is selected, the feedback may include a list of requested changes and/or conditions as a result of the outcome of the evaluation that must be addressed by the Project Coordinator before the Project can be given the final approval. These requirements may not entail a substantial modification of the proposal.

In case a candidate 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).

Once the project is selected, this approval is still subject to, in particular, the following conditions: signing of the "Project Agreement" between EIT RawMaterials and the project consortium; signing of the Financial Sustainability Agreement (entailing FSM) between the parties; and agreeing and acknowledging to implement all mandatory changes, if any, listed and described in the Evaluation Feedback document.



Once the Project is selected, the implementation of the activities will be monitored by the EIT Raw Materials team.

Also following the approval Coordinators of Projects that were not selected for funding will be informed. They will receive evaluation feedback as soon as it is finalized. An appeal and redress procedure will be available, see chapter 2.8.

The mandatory minimum time period between the communication of the results of the evaluation and the signature of the financial support agreements, is 30 days (*“standstill period”*).

2.3 Admissibility criteria

Admissibility will be checked at the time of Proposal submission. The following criteria apply to RIS Innovation Proposals:

- Applications must be submitted before the call deadline (see Section 2.7 below).
- Applications must be submitted in Seedbook, EITRM’s call submission and management platform tool.
- The following Work Packages must be included in the proposal:
 - A ‘Dissemination and Communication Plan’ Work Package, following the communications guidelines included in the document *‘EIT RawMaterials Communication and dissemination guidance’*.
 - A ‘Project Management’ Work Package, following the guidelines included in the document *‘EIT RawMaterials Project Management guidance’*. A one-page CV of the Project Coordinator must be provided.
- The following additional supporting documents must be included in the proposal:
 - A strategy and a tentative plan for the financial sustainability mechanism as outlined in Section 2.1.1.
 - A detailed work plan must be provided for phase 1 (1 year) and phase 2 (1 year) at the time of Proposal submission. The work plan must contain major milestones to be achieved during each of the year(s) of the funding period, including main deliverables and description of the envisaged Project status.



- A Preliminary Market analysis.
- A Go-to-market Strategy as a mandatory Deliverable at the end of Phase 1 of the Project (M12), following the guidelines outlined in the document '*Go-to-market strategy for RIS Innovation Projects – Template and guidance*'.

2.4 Eligibility criteria

Eligibility will be checked at the time of Proposal submission and at the time of signing the Project Agreement, and applied throughout the Project's funding period. In line with Horizon Europe rules, proposals that do not meet all the eligibility criteria at the time of **Proposal** submission will be deemed ineligible and will not be evaluated. Proposals that do not meet all the eligibility criteria at the time of signing the Project Agreement will be deemed ineligible and will not be funded. After the signature of the Project Agreement, EIT RawMaterials will not consider any changes that impact on eligibility criteria, and the Project will be immediately terminated if these are not met.

The following eligibility criteria apply to RIS Innovation Proposals:

- Only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in the actions provided that the consortium includes, Project participants from at least two sides of the knowledge triangle (education, research, industry/business) - as defined in the Partner registration documentation
- The project Consortium must consist of a minimum of two Project participants, coming from a minimum of two different countries eligible for Horizon Europe funding, and a maximum of 5 Project participants.
- It must clearly explain how the Proposal is aligned with the Strategic Agenda 2021-27 of EIT RawMaterials and this call text, ie. Identify to which specific strategic objective the proposal is addressing and aligned with.
- The co-funding contributed by the Project Consortium should be minimum 30% of the total funding (NOT 30% of the EIT funding).
- No more than 80% of the Proposal's total grant can go to one of the partner.
 - Proposals need to comply with the following conditions of Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS):
 - a) The majority of RIS Innovation Proposal's activities are executed in RIS countries;



- b) Activities need to provide benefits for RIS countries;
 - c) Activities need to raise the innovation level of entities in RIS countries;
 - d) Proposal/project must be coordinated by a partner from a RIS eligible country;
 - e) More than 60% of EIT funding requested by the Consortium must be allocated to RIS partners.
 - f) At least 50% of all consortium partners must come from a RIS eligible country.
- The Proposal must target (during the funding period) a minimum of 1 for the KPI EITHE02.4-EITRIS: number of innovations launched on the market with a sales revenue of at least EUR 10.000 documented, in a RIS eligible country.
 - All EIT RawMaterials’ policies, including on diversity and inclusion³, apply. In line with Horizon Europe requirements, consortia partners that are **public bodies, research organisations, or higher education establishments** established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries must have a **Gender Equality Plan (GEP)** in place. For the purpose of this call, compliance with the GEP requirement will be ensured through a **self-declaration**. Applicants must confirm, via a dedicated checkbox in the application form, that their organisation has a GEP in place where applicable. Submission of the GEP document itself is **not required**⁸
 - The Gender Equality Plan (GEP) is a document that sets out an organisation’s gender equality strategy. The requirement does not apply to other types of legal entities (e.g. private for-profit organisations, including SMEs, NGOs, and civil society organisations).

2.5. Excellence, Impact, and Quality of the Implementation criteria

Weight	Description of Criteria
Excellence	<p>General: 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.</p>

⁸ The responsibility for maintaining a valid GEP lies with the organisation. In line with Horizon Europe rules, relevant entities must declare the existence of a GEP in the Horizon Europe Participant Portal (via their PIC registration), and this declaration must remain valid for the duration of the programme.



6	<p>Idea</p> <p>To what extent does the proposed core idea demonstrate strong commercial potential while addressing a relevant innovation need and creating added value for RIS countries and the EIT RawMaterials strategic agenda?</p> <p><i>Expected competitive advantage vs. other solutions (already available in the market or in development). Preliminary business opportunity assessment: value proposition to target customers, market size and expected growth, ability to bring the solution to the target customers, etc. Clear description of the IP management: background IP, ability to generate new IP, ability to protect, and valorize IP among partners and eventually with the support of the KIC.</i></p>
7	<p>Innovation</p> <p>How relevant and feasible are the innovation proposed and its development? To what extent is the solution innovative 1) relative to global markets and 2) in the specific market where it will be introduced. To what extent is it capable of strengthening innovation capacity and market competitiveness in RIS countries ?</p> <p><i>Technical feasibility of the solution based on the technology(ies) currently available to Consortium partners.</i></p>
<p>Impact</p> <p>General: Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme, 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.</p>	
9	<p>Sectoral Impact</p> <p>What is the problem that the project solves and how big is that problem? How large is the impact that the project will generate outside the Consortium, and particularly contribute to strengthening the raw materials sector in RIS countries?</p> <p>Realistic assessment of the expected contribution that the Project will make to the impact of the KIC in terms of its EIT core and impact KPIs (see the Strategic Agenda 2021-27 of EIT RawMaterials) in relation to the requested budget, with focus on added value : number of innovations launched on the market with a sales revenue of at least EUR 10.000 documented – KPIs EITHE02.4-EITRIS, and</p>



	<p>EITHE04.4- start-ups created having a financial transaction of at least EUR 10.000 for a service/product sold to customers) to be achieved during the funding period, and jobs created (KICN01.10), in a RIS eligible country.</p> <p><i>Creation of synergies with other actors in the RIS ecosystem to create an impact beyond the individual project itself.</i></p>
3	<p>Communication and dissemination</p> <p>Soundness and effectiveness of the communication and dissemination strategy relative to the scope of the project across RIS countries and relevant regional innovation ecosystems.</p> <p><i>Compliance with EIT requirements and proactive communication and dissemination plan. Clear dissemination strategy and application (to other countries, on-going initiatives and programmes, links to development in other materials, themes, markets, audiences, partners, etc.).</i></p>
<p>Quality and efficiency of the implementation</p> <p>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 consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.</p>	
5	<p>Project plan</p> <p>To what extent is the project plan clear and feasible – with information about what the TRL levels are as well as how the Project will develop the idea and associated technology(ies) from their current level to TRL8 and beyond?</p> <p><i>Clear definition of Project objective and overall identifiable output. Clear definition of work packages (WP) with concrete objectives, tasks and measurable deliverables (including for non-technical aspects of the project, e.g., marketing, finance, IP, stakeholder management, regulatory, etc.). Clear Project schedule, with well-defined milestones. Risk management: Identification of key risks (with regards to technology, market, regulatory, financial, stakeholders, managerial etc.) and effective mitigation measures. A level of excellence is expected on the content and description of the work packages to generate optimal impact.</i></p>
3	<p>Consortium</p>



	<p>To what extent does the Project Consortium combine the necessary competencies, RIS regional representation, and complementary capacities to implement the project plan, and the commitment and competencies to take the steps that will lead to commercialization of the idea/technology(ies) beyond TRL8?</p> <p>To what extent is the project be managed by a Project Coordinator (PC) with relevant expertise in managing complex projects and s/he should commit to the project with a 15% FTE, to be monitored with timesheets (timesheet approved internally + declaration of honour) during Project reporting.</p> <p><i>Soundness of the Consortium: Quality and relevance of the leading partner, presence of complementary partners covering the key elements of the value chain, diversity of countries and Innovation Hubs represented in the consortium, Involvement of relevant industrial partner(s), presence of one or several SME(s) as active Task partners. Roles and governance: Clear definition of roles corresponding to the specific strengths of each partner, clear definition of project governance structure and of coordination mechanisms among partners.</i></p>
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Total weight =33

The score given for each criterion by the panel will then be multiplied by the weight. Maximum score is 165= 33 (total weight) * 5 (maximum score for each criterion). These quantitative scores will be used as input for the consensus evaluation panel.

2.6. Strategic criteria

Weight	Description of the criteria
8	<p>Relevance of the business case</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> How compelling is the business case?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is the team behind the business case? This includes information on founders, their expertise, engagement, capacity,</p>



	<p>entrepreneurial/business/commercial skills, track records etc. Do their skills guarantee achieving the planned goals?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Technical capacity to implement solution is well demonstrated. Assessment of the prospect for the team to deliver TRL 8-9 at the end of the Project.</p>
8	<p>Strategic importance for the KIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Overall contribution to the KIC's objectives, strategic agenda and to the EU dimension</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Potential to become an investment case for the European Raw Materials Alliance</p>
7	<p>Expected FSM contribution</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Financial Sustainability Mechanism (FSM) proposed by the commercializing partner, contribution to the KIC's financial sustainability strategy (amount and conditions to the KIC)</p>
4	<p>Principles of KTI & EU dimension</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To what extent is the geographical composition of the consortium appropriate and justified in relation to the project's objectives, ensuring meaningful European coverage and/or added value?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> To what extent does the project demonstrate potential for impact at European level, including scalability, replicability, or contribution to EU priorities and strategic autonomy?The project Consortium must include Project participants from at least two sides of the knowledge triangle (education, research, industry/business - as defined in the Partner registration documentation)</p>

^[1] See: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf.

Total weight = 27

The score given for each criterion by the panel will then be multiplied by the weight. Maximum score is 135= 27(total weight) * 5 (maximum score for each criterion). These quantitative scores will be used as input for the consensus evaluation panel.



Evaluation scale: In relation to each of the criterion (above), each project will be scored from 0 to 5 according to the following scale :

0	Non-existent: no relevant information provided in the application file or cannot be judged because out of range
1	Very poor: The criterion is addressed in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory manner
2	Poor: There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
3	Fair: While the proposal addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correction
4	Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are possible
5	Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor only.

Proposals focusing on the RIS countries from which stakeholders are less represented in EIT RawMaterials Partnership will be awarded additional 9 points on top of the final score: Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine and the Outermost Regions.

For additional 10% of co-funding six (6) extra evaluation points will be awarded on top of final score, and 9 points for +20% respectively. Please note that these additional points shall be within the total 135 points corresponding to the Strategy Criteria evaluation and may not go above said total score. Higher Co-funding rate does not replace the financial sustainability mechanism requirement.



2.7. Call timeline

Cut-off 1 (C01)

- 04/24/2026 — Launch of call (KAVA 14). SeedBook platform goes live.
- 06/24/2026, 13:00 CET — Proposal submission deadline (upload to SeedBook).
- Until end of July 2026 — Evaluation by panel of external and internal experts.
- Preparation of list of projects for funding by the KIC (following evaluation).
- By mid-August 2026 — EIT Rawmaterials approves funding list; communication to applicants.
- Mid August- Mid September: 30-day standstill period / EIT approval
- September – October 2026 — Registration of new partners.
- Until end of October 2026 — Response period for requested changes from Selection Panel
- 12th November 2026 (earliest, tentative) — Project start date

Cut-off 2 (C02)

- 10/16/2026, 13:00 CET — Proposal submission deadline (upload to SeedBook).
- Until end of November 2026 — Evaluation by panel of external and internal experts.
- Preparation of list of projects for funding by the KIC (following evaluation).
- By mid-December 2026 — EIT Rawmaterials approves funding list; communication to applicants
- Mid December-mid January: 30-day standstill period / EIT approval
- December 2026–January 2027 — Registration of new partners.
- Until end of January 2027 — Response period for requested changes from Selection Panel
- 8th February 2027 (earliest, tentative) — Project start date

2.8. Registration and proposal submission using SeedBook

Registrations and Proposals can **only** be submitted using the IT-tool SeedBook. Project Coordinators who do not have a SeedBook account are invited to register via this link

<https://seedbook-portal.eitrawmaterials.eu/>

to get access to the tool and commence the Proposal submission process. Innovation Hub staff will assist in using the IT tool.



2.9. Appeal and redress procedure

Upon reception of the feedback, the applicant may wish to lodge a request for redress, if there is a concern that there might have been a shortcoming in the way a Proposal was evaluated, or if the results of the eligibility checks are incorrect. The redress procedure is not meant to call into question the judgement made by the expert-evaluators. It will consider only procedural shortcomings and factual errors.

Requests for redress should be raised within one month of the reception of the evaluation feedback sent by EIT RawMaterials, and should be sent to Compliance@eitrawmaterials.eu. Requests must comply with the following requirements in full. Namely, the request must:

1. be related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks:
2. include a clear description of the grounds for the complaint, and;
3. be received within the time limit specified above.

An initial reply will be sent to complainants no later than two weeks after the deadline for redress requests. This initial reply will indicate whether the request was accepted based on the three requirements listed above, and when a definitive reply will be provided. If the request is not accepted, the reply should clearly indicate the reasons justifying the rejection. Should the complaint be admitted, a redress committee of EIT RawMaterials shall be convened to examine the evaluation process for the case under consideration. The committee's role is to ensure a coherent interpretation of requests, and equal treatment of applicants. The redress committee itself, however, does not re-evaluate the Proposal. Depending on the nature of the complaint, the committee may review the evaluation report, the individual comments and examine the CVs of the evaluation experts. Following its review, the committee will recommend a course of action to the EIT RawMaterials Operational Management Team (OMT). If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could affect the funding decision, it is possible that all or part of the Proposal may be re-evaluated. Unless there is clear evidence of a shortcoming there will be no follow-up or re-evaluation. The Executive Board of EIT RawMaterials will be informed of any redress procedures in due course.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process.
- The committee will not call into question the judgment of the individual expert-evaluators, whose qualifications have been already assessed and validated.



- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that affects the quality assessment of a Proposal. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a Proposal has failed anyway on the other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. It may be lower than the original score.
- Only one request for redress per Proposal will be considered by the committee.
- All requests for redress will be treated confidentially.
 - The outcome of the redress process shall be completed and communicated to the concerned party within a maximum period of 60 days.

3. Other terms and condition

3.1 Acceptance of the call conditions

EIT Rawmaterials 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 call page of the (EIT Rawmaterials s website).

EIT Rawmaterials 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.

3.2 Cancellation of the call

EIT Rawmaterials 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 EIT Rawmaterials' website



- if the cancellation takes place following the communication of the results to the applicants, during the standstill period, or any time before the signature of the Financial Support Agreement: in writing directly to the selected applicants.

3.3 Avoidance of conflict of interest

EIT RawMaterials 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 EIT RawMaterials of the conflict of interest without any delay.

3.4 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.

3.5 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)⁹ as well as Article 75 TFEU¹⁰, 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).

⁹ 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](#)

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](#)



Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/0522¹¹.

- 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 programme 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.

With specific regard to measures addressed to Russia, following the adoption of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024¹² (amending Council Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 of 31 July 2014) concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilizing 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 165 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

¹¹ 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)

¹² OJ L 229, 31.7.2014, p. 1–11



the Union and its Member States¹³. For further information, please refer to the Horizon Europe, Work Programme 2025, General Annexes, B – Eligibility on page 14¹⁴.

3.6 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);
- 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 organization, 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

¹³ 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.

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



– 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.

Successful applicants may go through the legal entity validation process of the Partners Validation Service. The Partners Validation Service will request registration documents and a signed Declaration of Honour from the successful applicant. The validation may also include a check of the successful applicants by the EIT in the Early Detection and Exclusion System (EDES) of the European Commission.

3.7 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 EIT Rawmaterials, 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).

3.8 Withdrawal of the funding – Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Rawmaterials 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.

3.9 Checks, reviews, audits and investigations

EIT Rawmaterials 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.

EIT Rawmaterials 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.

3.10 Applicable law

The present call is governed by the applicable European Union legal framework (i.e. in particular the EIT Regulation¹⁵, the EU Financial Regulation¹⁶, the Horizon Europe Regulation¹⁷), supplemented if necessary by the national law of Germany.

The applicants agree to observe the obligations outlined in the Partnership Agreement and the Grant Agreement signed between the EIT and EIT Rawmaterials Applicants agree to comply with the terms of the Model Financial Support Agreement between successful applicants and EIT Rawmaterials.

3.11 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 Berlin.

¹⁵ Regulation (EU) 2021/819

¹⁶ Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509

¹⁷ Regulation (EU) 2021/695



Annex I: Definitions and Acronyms

DEFINITIONS:

KPI(s): Key performance indicators – quantifiable indicators of the key project results, used for reporting and controlling how successful the project is in producing the desired results.

Milestones: Significant scheduled events in the project lifecycle occurring upon achieving a key planned result.

Project: the future activity described in a Proposal. It comes into existence only once the Proposal is selected and becomes a Selected proposal.

Proposal: a written document describing a future project which a number of participants (the consortium) wish to implement after receiving funding by the KIC.

Proposal submission: the act of officially submitting a Proposal for evaluation by the KIC.

Selected proposal: a Proposal which is officially confirmed to be funded by the KIC.

Upscaling: the activity of bringing a technology to a higher TRL level.

Candidate: a legal entity (LE) working on or having completed a Proposal submission.

Project participant: a legal entity (LE) taking part in a Project; can be a former Candidate, or can enter the Project at a later stage; can be funded by KIC, or participating only through 'co-funding' (own money) or funding from a non-Horizon Europe program (like UK national funding). Must become a KIC Partner by the time the project starts (with the exception of the RIS Task Partners). Sub-contractors are not considered participants, and KIC Partners cannot be sub-contractors in a Project, they must be a participant.

Consortium: all Project participants together form the Consortium. A Project Agreement is not valid unless all Project participants - forming the Consortium have-signed it.

Lead partner: a Project participant responsible to lead and coordinate the Consortium; the Lead partner appoints the Project coordinator.

Commercialising partner(s) - the Project participant(s) responsible for bringing the project results to the market. Depending on the situation, that might be one or more Candidates, a newly entered Project participant, or a newly created startup/joint venture.

Partner (or 'Partner organisation') means a legal entity which is a member of a KIC and may include, in particular, higher education institutions, vocational education and training providers, research organisations, public institutions, public or private companies, financial institutions, regional and local authorities, foundations and not-for-profit organisations.

Member: Legal Entity (LE) (ies) who have applied and been accepted as members of the e.V. KIC LE. Depending on the membership tier, their voting rights and funding thresholds vary.

Linked Third Party (LTP), also called an Affiliated Entity, is a legal entity which has a close relationship with a Member through shared ownership, control, or influence.



They are not a Member but can participate in a Project and then share the benefits and obligations of the Member they are linked to.

Project coordinator: a person appointed by the Lead partner, who acts on behalf of the Consortium and steers the Project activities, 'has overall responsibility for the project; is the first point of contact between EIT RawMaterials and the consortium; is responsible for entering and updating data and information in SeedBook and BlueBook on behalf of the consortium, for submitting the proposal in SeedBook and for coordinating the smooth transition into BlueBook (response to feedback, change requests, project reviews, etc.). The Project Coordinator is also responsible for 1) defining the mechanisms for the generation of the financial sustainability to the KIC and 2) the clear identification of the total amount and the entity/ies that will provide this financial sustainability (taken from the Project Management Guidance).

Project officer: a person assigned by KIC LE to accompany the Consortium throughout the project implementation. The PO is the main contact person for the PC regarding all matters concerning the Project's agreements, reporting, and other implementation topics.

ACRONYMS:

- FSM: Financial sustainability mechanism.
- ROI: Return on investment.
- PIC: Participant Identification Code.
- TRL: Technology readiness level.
- RIS: Regional Innovation Scheme.
- KAVA: KIC added value activity.
- SIGN: Strategic Impact Group Network