



# Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs 2023

16 February 2023

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## DISCLAIMER

These guidelines might be subject to further development and modifications, depending on instructions that will be provided to EIT RawMaterials in the coming months. Applicants are encouraged to regularly check the call pages of the EIT RawMaterials website for the latest version of the guidelines.



## Contents

1. Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs .....	3
1.1. Objectives .....	3
1.2. Topics of interest .....	4
2. FUNDING AMOUNT.....	6
The support scheme will be as follows:.....	6
3. TIMELINE & ADMISSIBILITY.....	8
4. ELIGIBILITY .....	9
4.1. Eligibility Criteria .....	9
4.2. Exclusion Criteria .....	10
5. AWARD CRITERIA .....	11
6. DOCUMENTS .....	13
7. PROCEDURE.....	13
8. OTHER CONDITIONS.....	14
8.1. Payment and arrangements .....	14
8.2. Funding, terms & conditions.....	15
8.3. Reporting .....	15
8.4. Financial Sustainability Scheme .....	16
8.5. Publicity – Visibility of the EU Funding.....	17
Publicity by the selected startups.....	17
Publicity by EIT RawMaterials.....	18
8.6. Dissemination and Exploitation of Results.....	18
8.7. Processing of personal data .....	19
Processing of personal data by EIT RawMaterials .....	19
Processing of personal data by the participants.....	19
8.8. Ethics .....	19
8.9. Security.....	20
8.10. Conflict of Interest .....	20
8.11. Liability for damages .....	20
8.12. Withdrawal of the Grant – Recovery of the undue amounts .....	21
8.13. Administrative sanctions.....	21
8.14. Cancellation of the call .....	21
8.15. Terms and Conditions .....	21
8.16. Appeal and redress procedure .....	22
9. CONTACT .....	23
Innovation Hubs and countries covered.....	23
Other information sources .....	24
10. TRL and CRL .....	25



# 1. Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs

## 1.1. Objectives

Minerals, metals and advanced materials are key enablers to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal. Today, only a fraction of the most relevant raw materials is produced in Europe. This can be changed through a circular economy approach, through innovation in recycling, substitution, processing, mining, and exploration. It is the objective of EIT RawMaterials (EIT RM) to secure a sustainable raw materials supply by driving innovation, education, and entrepreneurship across European industrial ecosystems.

EIT RawMaterials, an Innovation Community within the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), provides a collaborative environment for disruptive and breakthrough innovations by connecting more than 140 core and associate partners and 150+ project partners from business with academia, research, and investment. It also invests in future generation of innovators for the raw materials sector through initiatives ranging from education of school students to higher qualifications for industry professionals.

The company is committed to supporting Europe's transition towards a circular, green, and digital economy whilst strengthening its global competitiveness and securing employment. On this foundation, EIT RawMaterials has been mandated by the European Commission to lead and manage the European Raw Materials Alliance (ERMA).

EIT RawMaterials aims to significantly enhance innovation in the raw materials sector by sharing knowledge, facilitating matchmaking activities, developing innovative technologies and supporting business creation. The implementation of this is supported by the six regional Innovation Hubs (CLCs) in Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden, that represent different regional ecosystems connecting industry, research and education.

The EIT RawMaterials “**Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs**” is one of the EIT RawMaterials business creation funding instruments dedicated to supporting start-ups and SMEs.

The objectives of the **Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs** are to provide established start-ups with support:

- to speed up a technology challenge resulting in a higher TRL, bringing the technology closer to the market.
- to accelerate market introduction by taking key measures to enable solid entry of a target market.



- to facilitate product portfolio diversification, enabling product adaption or new product features to address a concrete market need.

## 1.2. Topics of interest

The “*Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs*” supports new businesses that contribute to the EIT RawMaterials vision to develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe. This includes activities along the whole materials value chain:

1. **Exploration** and raw materials resource assessment
2. **Mining** in challenging environments
3. Increased resource efficiency in **mineral and metallurgical processes**
4. **Recycling** and material chain optimisation for End-of-Life products
5. **Substitution** of critical and toxic materials in products and for optimised performance
6. Design of products and services for the **circular economy**

The supply of a **range of ores, metals and critical minerals** is the main focus of the EIT RawMaterials innovation community. Bio-based and polymer materials will be considered only in view of their substitution potential of critical and toxic materials and for optimised performance or for multi-material product recycling. **Petrochemical raw materials, food/agricultural raw materials and construction materials are excluded.**

Examples are:

1. **Exploration:** Technologies and solutions for improved and new mineral exploration. As an example, solutions could include:
  - a. *New and improved geological models, better exploration model understanding and techniques for going 3D/4D, drones, etc.*
  - b. *New instrumentation, methods and technologies for more reliable, cheaper, faster and safer mineral exploration, including technologies and services for innovative data acquisition, big data analysis/handling and utilising existing/historical data sets for exploration and mining.*
  - c. *Application of new innovations, new geological models and rethinking/re-evaluation of geological settings/prospects to provide new exploration prospects and mining targets.*
2. **Intelligent Mining.** Technologies and solutions for more efficient, safer and sustainable modern mining. As an example, solutions could include:
  - a. *Application of new technologies/services for more efficient production, better safety, better utilisation of equipment and personnel for mining. Autonomous mining equipment, Internet of Things, virtual reality, UAVs/robotics, automation, real-time data that will improve planning, scheduling of operations and delivering*



- better efficiencies and cost savings. Self-aware and safe machines that are capable of ordering their own spare parts and service engineers, and are connected to each other, control centres and back offices far away.*
- b. Innovative services, approaches and products which increase public understanding and awareness of the need for raw materials, exploration and mining, ensure corporate social responsibility and social license to operate as well as added values of mining including remediation.*
3. **Mineral and metallurgical processes:** Technologies and solutions for mineral and metal processing and for improved materials production. As an example, solutions could include:
- a. Optimised extraction and production processes for metals and alloys, improving the efficiency of the process, using less energy and water, reducing cost and the production of waste.*
- b. Technology that address equipment-damage problems such as wall thinning, creep or corrosion.*
4. **Recycling:** Technologies and solutions for materials supply from secondary sources and recycling. As an example, solutions could include:
- a. Solutions for recycling of end-of-life products, extraction from industrial residues, tailings, urban and landfill mining (e.g. WEEE, batteries, magnets, solar cells etc.)*
- b. Cost-efficient and clever collection, dismantling and sorting of waste.*
5. **Substitution of critical and toxic materials and for optimised performance:** New technologies or services that make it possible to substitute or use lower quantities of critical or toxic materials in key industries. For example:
- a. Substitution of critical and toxic metals in specific energy materials, such as platinum in fuel cells, cobalt in lithium ion batteries, or Nd and Dy in Nd-Fe-B permanent magnets.*
- b. Substitution of critical and toxic metals like Co and W in carbides, speciality metals in high strength steels and super alloys, including in design and manufacturing.*
- c. New material systems that contain less or no critical and toxic materials, for instance, for use in batteries, permanent magnets, solar cells, and thermoelectric and magneto caloric applications.*
- d. New or optimised materials for additive manufacturing, e.g. in printable electronics.*
- e. New lightweight composites and designs as substitutes for critical materials containing high strength steels and for optimised performance.*
- f. Solutions that integrate new materials into a circular economy, e.g. technology and business that enables and builds upon the reuse and recycling of newly developed, high performance materials.*
- g. New products, systems and services for optimised raw materials use, particularly with respect to mobility and energy technologies.*



6. **Circular economy:** Solutions and business models implementing circular economy concepts, e.g. *new business models for resource recovery, product life extension (repairing, re-manufacturing, etc.), product as a service, sharing platforms.* <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

In this Booster Call 2023, EIT RawMaterials is particularly seeking companies developing solutions (products and services) supporting the 3 guiding strategic frameworks of our organization, called Lighthouses:

1. The Responsible sourcing Lighthouse ; which aims at boosting the responsible sourcing of critical and strategic raw materials in Europe. Three approaches are at the core of the Lighthouse Responsible Sourcing: i) achieving a more targeted and cost-effective exploration and quicker transition to operation; ii) reducing the environmental footprint of mining and processing; and iii) improving the efficiency of mineral and metallurgical processing.
2. The Sustainable materials Lighthouse, that focusses on the substitution of critical, toxic, and low-performance materials, i.e., at the elemental, materials, and processing levels. Key technological approaches include the modelling of materials and processes, alloy development, microstructure engineering, and resource efficient materials design and processing, including near-net-shape processing, e.g., 3D printing
3. The Circular Cities Lighthouse, that focusses on innovation and education related to industrial symbiosis, design for recycling and life-time extension, end-of-life product recycling, as well as in the chain of custody (traceability, sustainability, transparency).

([eitrawmaterials.eu/lighthouses](http://eitrawmaterials.eu/lighthouses)).

## 2. FUNDING AMOUNT

The support scheme will be as follows:

1. Financial **support at an average of EUR 100,000 and with a maximum amount of EUR 200,000**. We invite applicants to align their budget request with the project expectations and impact, the maturity level, the customer traction and investment attracted record. Indicative 3 categories as examples are provided below, without limiting the applicant:
  - **Up to 60,000 €:** for pre-seed companies, without sales pipeline, customer validation and attracted investment.



- **Up to 100,000 €:** for pre-seed and seed companies, with proven revenue record and/or validated products with pilots and/or raised investment proof.
  - **Up to 200,000 €:** for seed - scaleups and SMEs, with revenues and/or multiple customers and/or raised investment proof
2. As a general principle, the financial support is granted to selected beneficiaries based on a realistic cost estimate, and is paid as **lump sum of up to EUR 60,000** and on the basis of **actual costs** incurred by the ventures for investments **above EUR 60,000 and up to EUR 200,000**.
  3. The maximum amount of EUR 200,000 corresponds to the total cumulative amount that a single beneficiary (start-up or SME) can receive during a calendar year for any activity supported by EIT RawMaterials.
  4. Participants who are partners of EIT RawMaterials will have to respect obligations as per legal statutes of EIT RawMaterials.
  5. Funding will be attributed based on the proposed activities and budget submitted by the startup and checked during the evaluation process, along with the threshold criteria indicated above. The final allocated amount will depend on the convincing justification of the costs and on the available budget and on the Financial Sustainability Scheme proposal (as defined under Section 8.4). The amount allocated might differ from the amount initially requested by the start-up.
  6. Participants established in third countries not associated to HE may only receive a maximum amount of EUR 60,000.<sup>1</sup>

There is no formal minimum requirement of co-funding; however, projects that will show some co-funding and other sources of funding and ask for support for non-recurring costs (not for shareholder or personnel costs) will be positively evaluated, as an indication of the commitment of the company - or possible customers etc. - to the initiative.

All grants payed out will be subject to Horizon Europe cost eligibility rules as detailed in the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)



### 3. TIMELINE & ADMISSIBILITY

The present call is **open throughout 2023**. For the sake of clarity and to ensure a smooth selection and operational progress of the selected start-ups, three cut-off dates for proposal submission will be organised. The **cut-off dates will be 13 March, 5 June and 11 September 2023**. An additional cut-off may be organised subject to budget availability and upon discretion of EIT RawMaterials.

For each cut-off date, the below process will apply (more details on the application documents and selection procedure can be found in sections 6 and 7 below).

					
APPLY	SHORTLIST	ONLINE PITCHING	AGREEMENTS	MID TERM REVIEW*	FINAL REPORT
By cut-off date	At latest 2 weeks after cut-off	At latest 1 month after cut-off	At latest 2 month after decision	At latest 3 months after project start (for 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> cut-offs only)	By 31.12.2023 (exceptions apply on projects with end date in 2024)
Submit an online application form	First screening (by EIT RawMaterials team) for online pitching	Online pitching to EIT RawMaterials staff and external experts – decision whether to award	The signing of the project agreement will unlock the first funding instalment	Checkpoint to assess whether the original plan requires amendments	Submit technical and financial reports to unlock the final payment

Applications must be submitted by the contact person of the company via the registration link:

<https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/647f00de40fbe>





Incomplete applications may be considered ineligible if essential elements are missing.

For more information, please refer to the website for FAQ or directly contact the relevant Innovation Hub staff using the details shown in the “Contact” section at the end of this document.

## 4. ELIGIBILITY

All EIT RawMaterials activities are governed by the rules set out in the contract between EIT and EIT RawMaterials, governing the general terms and conditions of support. This is made concrete by the GA under Horizon Europe Regulation.

### 4.1. Eligibility Criteria

The “*Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs*” is open to the following participants who have an operative branch in one of the EU member countries or Countries Associated to HorizonEurope<sup>2</sup>:

1. Raw materials relevant **start-up or spin-off** companies at least registered at the time of application (registration certificate to be provided at the grant signature);
2. Raw materials innovation- and technology-related **SMEs** (according to European Commission’s definitions<sup>3</sup>) willing to boost their business through the introduction of new and innovative products and/or services.

The Projects supported by the “*Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs*” could have one of the following targets:

1. Increasing the TRL<sup>4</sup> (from at least TRL 4);
2. Building or **expanding the Intellectual Property (IP)** portfolio;
3. Carrying out **customer validation or pilot testing**. The programme also supports initiatives to find potential customers among EIT RawMaterials partners.
4. **Expanding the market and reaching global scale.**

The **maximum duration of projects** is set to **12 months**. The milestones to be achieved within the project duration should be clearly indicated and preferably spread over the calendar year 2023.

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<sup>2</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:EN:PDF>

<sup>4</sup> TRL and CRL



Should the project require extension to the next calendar year for completion of the milestones, specific agreements need to be discussed with the local Innovation Hub.

**NB:** EIT RawMaterials offers several programmes targeting entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs at various stages of maturity.

- We encourage projects at idea/concept stage, without a registered company, to consider applying for the “Jumpstarter”.
- Start-ups looking for specific support in accelerating market uptake may consider our three-phases “Accelerator programme”.
- SMEs with more advanced product(s)/service(s) are recommended to contact us, to find out about opportunities to join consortium projects with our partners (upscaling projects).

## 4.2. Exclusion Criteria

Consulting service companies without a tangible product will be excluded, including one-person companies.

Participants will be excluded if they, or any one of them:

- is subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion)
- is in one of the following situations:
  - bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures under national law (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
  - declared in breach of social security or tax obligations by a final judgment or decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
  - found guilty of grave professional misconduct by a final judgment or decision (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
  - convicted of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
  - shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
  - found guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EC Regulation No. 2988/95 (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)



- has misrepresented information required for participating in the call or fails to submit such information
- was involved in the preparation of the grant documents and this entails a distortion of competition.

## 5. AWARD CRITERIA

Each application will be scored on the criteria listed in the following table, and the scoring in relation to each criterion will be based on the guidelines shown:

CRITERIA	EXPLANATIONS
1. EXCELLENCE	<p><i>Product / service, Innovation, technology excellence and feasibility, Technology Readiness Level (TRL), IP Status.</i></p> <p>The innovation should be relevant to the topics mentioned in section 1.2. Strong IP protection/potential protection and freedom to operate will be positively evaluated as well as the stage of technology development.</p>
2. MARKET & FINANCE	<p><i>Market size, business model, business relevance, growth potential, value proposition, customer and offtakers, Customer Readiness Level (CRL), financials (revenue vs. costs), time to market.</i></p> <p>A large market size and customers' willingness to buy are positively evaluated (e.g. initial discussion with potential customer(s)).</p>
3. TEAM	<p><i>Founders, expertise, engagement, cap, entrepreneurial/business skills.</i></p> <p>Team capability is of the utmost importance since execution is key. Team members should demonstrate relevant expertise and track records.</p>



<p><b>4. IMPACT</b></p>	<p><i>EIT RawMaterials relevant impact, project plan, budget, output, KPIs.</i></p> <p>Since the source of the funding is public, impact metrics will be reported. A clear roadmap with careful planning of tasks and milestones and the existence of a sound budget will be considered carefully, since they will become a contractual commitment laid out in the project agreement. Impact for the EIT RawMaterials value chain and Strategic Agenda</p>
<p><b>5. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY SCHEME</b></p>	<p><i>Equity participation (or other contribution to the EIT RawMaterials Financial Sustainability scheme as referred to under section 8.4 below),</i></p> <p>As part of our mandate by the European Institute of Technology to foster technological research and development on a long-term, financially sustainable basis, we are interested to hear how you are willing to contribute to the EIT RawMaterials and its community's Financial Sustainability scheme in order to re-fuel the start-up, SME and other EIT RawMaterials support programmes, (more information on the FS Scheme can be found in section 8.4).</p>

Various impact factors relevant to EIT RawMaterials and the HorizonEurope programme will be considered during the evaluation, such as:

- New products or services introduced to market within 3 years;
- New jobs created in the raw materials sector;
- Private investment and other funding to be attracted;
- Women in the staff and/or management team;
- Number of employees from developing countries.

**Selected beneficiaries must avoid any conflict of interest and comply with the principles of transparency, non-discrimination and sound financial management.**



## 6. DOCUMENTS

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application form, downloadable from the website: <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call/>

Participants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for example, legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour on exclusion grounds).

## 7. PROCEDURE

The application procedure is as follows:

1. **Online application:** Applicants must present by one of the cut-off dates (**13 March, 5 June and 11 September 2023**) an online application form in which they should illustrate: technology, customer needs, market and competition, business model, revenue projections, team composition and expertise, workplan for the booster project, budget required for the booster project, and potential benefits for EIT RawMaterials in return for the support provided.
2. **Eligibility evaluation:** first screening phase is performed by the local Innovation Hub staff to assess the degree of alignment of the application to the underlying objectives of EIT RawMaterials, the requested budget threshold criteria and the eligibility criteria.
3. **Online pitching session:** The eligible and best applications passing the eligibility evaluation will be invited to pitch their idea in a jury of EIT RawMaterials staff and external evaluators in an online session.
4. **Application and pitch evaluation:** The jury of EIT RawMaterials staff and external experts will evaluate the applications and pitch according to the evaluation criteria described in next section. A list of pre-selected projects to receive support along with the proposed feedback and mandatory changes (e.g. budget reduction) will be communicated to EIT RawMaterials Managing Board.
5. **Managing Board approval:** Based on the evaluation and the overall available funding, the EIT RawMaterials Managing Board will propose a portfolio of projects to be funded in each cut off.
6. **Selected informed and signed:** The selected applicants will be informed and enter into negotiations on Equity participation of EIT RawMaterials as described in Section 8.4 and



will sign a Project Agreement (PA) with the Innovation Hub legal entity and a Network Partnership with GmbH legal entity to initiate their project and unlock the first payment.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may also participate in the pre-selection panel. The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the **five award criteria** and score them as follows (half marks are possible; decimals are not):

**0: Non-existent, 1: Very poor, 2: Poor, 3: Fair, 4: Good, 5: Excellent.**

The average of the evaluators' scores will be used to produce the ranking.

CRITERIA	THRESHOLD	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. EXCELLENCE	2.5	5
2. MARKET & FINANCE	2.5	5
3. TEAM	2.5	5
4. IMPACT	2.5	5
5. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY SCHEME	2.5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>25</b>

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury, EIT RawMaterials will decide on the award of the grant. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to offer selected candidates lower amounts than initially requested when, for example, the initial project submission appears over-optimistic, or the total allowable budget is too low to satisfy all the selected candidates/projects.

## 8. OTHER CONDITIONS

### 8.1. Payment and arrangements

The amount of funding (up to EUR 200,000 per year) will be paid to the selected applicants in two instalments by bank transfer, provided all requested documents including prove of actual costs incurred have been submitted.

1. Advance payment of the first instalment (75% of total approved amount) within 2 months of the date of signature of the Project Agreement;
2. Payment of 25% balance on approval of the final report or on achievement of milestones.



Participants established in third countries not associated to HE may only receive a maximum amount of EUR 60,000.<sup>5</sup>

## 8.2. Funding, terms & conditions

An outline of the budget should be submitted together with the application, taking into account the below categories and clearly demonstrating that the requested grant is necessary for the successful implementation of the Booster activity.

1. Personnel costs are eligible. The weight and relevance given to personnel costs in the overall proposed budget will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the nature of the start-up, its stage of development and business activities.
2. Travel costs for dissemination are eligible, e.g. participating in events to recruit piloting customers or getting market feedback; demonstration activities.
3. Equipment and depreciation costs such as computers and phones are not supported. However, equipment rent or lease fees can be eligible during the usage period of the project.
4. Subcontracting for services can be eligible (e.g. technical support, access to infrastructures, market/IP studies, business acceleration services, internationalisation support, soft landing).
5. Other goods & services (please specify), e.g. consumables/components for the implementation of prototypes or running a pilot test.

EIT RawMaterials, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the grant.

## 8.3. Reporting

Participants must adhere to the following reporting requirements:

1. Mid-term reporting of the ongoing activities and milestones achieved, as well as summary of costs incurred.

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<sup>5</sup> See [https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation\\_horizon-euratom\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf)



2. A comprehensive final report on the project activities and actual costs will be requested at the latest one month from the end of the project; in any case it must be provided before 20 December 2023. **This report is a requirement to receive the final balance payment.**
3. All projects will be tracked and their progress will be assessed for 5 years after the end of the funding period.
4. Participants in the selected Booster projects shall allow and support any checks, reviews, audits and investigations by EIT RawMaterials, the EIT and/or any other competent EU body deemed necessary.

All applications, pitching and reporting shall be done in English.

## 8.4. Financial Sustainability Scheme

EIT RawMaterials is committed to supporting the best ideas and the projects with the highest potential to generate an impact in the raw materials value chain, as well as to developing its financial sustainability strategy, as mandated by the EIT.

As a result, selected participants in Booster 2023 will be required to contribute to the financial sustainability strategy of EIT RawMaterials and its community with the two following:

1. **EIT RawMaterials Equity participation<sup>6</sup>:** EIT RawMaterials shall be entitled to acquire a minority interest in the equity of the venture (“Equity Participation”). The price of the Equity Participation shares to be issued to EIT RawMaterials shall be either determined on a fixed price/percentage basis or depending on the valuation of the venture at its next investment round (“SAFE”). In either case, the valuation of the venture shall be made on a pre-money basis with the grant(s) issued under the Booster programme to constitute the EIT RawMaterials capital contribution.
2. **Network Partners:** Selected applicants will need to become part of EIT RawMaterials community by applying to the “Network Partnership” level for 1 -2 or 3 years connected to the requested and received amount. Applicants receiving funding support up to 60,000 € will need to become Network Partners for 2023, applicants receiving between 60,000 € - 100,000 € will need to become Network Partners for 2023-2024 and applicants receiving funding support between 100,000 € - 200,000 € will need to become Network Partners for 2023-2024-2025.

The EIT RawMaterials Financial Sustainability scheme (“FS-Scheme” or “Financial Sustainability Scheme”) shall reasonably take into account the amount of the funding allocated, the impact generated or to be generated by it and, if applicable, additional opportunities and services provided by EIT RawMaterials such as successful access to investors and customers. Details of the Financial

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<sup>6</sup> EIT RawMaterials reserves the right in exceptional cases to apply the revenue sharing backflow model





Sustainability Scheme shall be agreed upon as part of the Project Agreement (PA). Nevertheless, we encourage applicants to indicate their proposals for key elements of their FS Scheme when applying under this Call.

## 8.5. Publicity – Visibility of the EU Funding

### Publicity by the selected startups

The selected companies must promote the EIT RawMaterials Booster Call grant and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. A communications package including guidelines will be provided to all selected companies.

Unless EIT RawMaterials requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- a) display ‘Supported by’ text and the EIT RawMaterials logo with the EU emblem (equal width for the EIT RawMaterials brandmark and the EU flag),
- b) which includes the following text: *“Co-funded by the European Union”*

When displayed together with another logo, the EIT RawMaterials logo and EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of their obligations, the selected companies may use the EIT RawMaterials logo and the EU emblem without first obtaining separate approval from EIT RawMaterials.

This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, they may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, or seek any other intellectual property rights in relation thereto, whether by registration or by any other means. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to revoke the above right of use at any time in its sole and unfettered discretion.



### Publicity by EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents (notably summaries) for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic format).

EIT RawMaterials will publish the names of the funded companies, their origin, the amount of the grant and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening their security and safety or harms their commercial interests).

Photos and videos taken by EIT RawMaterials during EIT RawMaterials events where the selected companies will feature are the sole property of EIT RawMaterials.

## 8.6. Dissemination and Exploitation of Results

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants warrant that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service and that the provided materials and information do not infringe any intellectual or other property rights, including patents, of any other persons, companies or other entities. Elements of the submission that are based on rights held by others, such as patents, shall be marked as such in the submission.

EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives in the programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the projects presented and developed throughout the Booster projects. By submitting their application to the programme, applicants consent that EIT RawMaterials and its Innovation Hubs (CLCs) will collect, transfer, process, store and delete their data under the above-mentioned conditions.

The selected companies agree that their data, the receipt of grants, and non-confidential information about their project, may be used by EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives for promotion of their activities, without compensation. Non-confidential information related to the project will be only provided after authorisation of the applicants or the one marked with “public summary”.

By submitting the application for the EIT RawMaterials Booster Programme, applicants agree to the EIT RawMaterials Privacy Policy.

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.

## 8.7. Processing of personal data

### Processing of personal data by EIT RawMaterials

Any personal data will be processed by EIT RawMaterials in accordance with the EIT RawMaterials privacy policy<sup>7</sup>.

All selected applicants consent that EIT RawMaterials publishes, in whatever form or medium, the following information:

- Company Name
- Member country of origin (address or NUTS 2 region)
- Their activities in relation to the award of the Grant (via the summary for publication they provided)
- Grant amount

### Processing of personal data by the participants

The participants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any); see the GDPR<sup>8</sup> guidelines.

## 8.8. Ethics

The recipient company's activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity), and
- b) applicable international, EU and national law.

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<sup>7</sup> <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/privacy-policy/>

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection_en)



No funding will be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all member countries.

Participants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>9</sup>.

## 8.9. Security

The activities must be carried out in compliance with Commission Decision 2015/444, i.e. security-sensitive information must be EU-classified, if its unauthorised disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or of one (or more) of its member countries. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a grant.

## 8.10. Conflict of Interest

The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the grant is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interest').

They must inform EIT RawMaterials without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest, and immediately take all necessary steps to rectify this situation.

EIT RawMaterials may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

## 8.11. Liability for damages

EIT RawMaterials cannot be held liable for any damages caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the grant, including for gross negligence.

EIT RawMaterials cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the funding received.

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<sup>9</sup> European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017 <https://www.allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ALLEA-European-Code-of-Conduct-for-Research-Integrity-2017.pdf>.



## 8.12. Withdrawal of the Grant – Recovery of the undue amounts

EIT RawMaterials may withdraw the grant after its award and recover all payments made, if it discovers that:

- a. false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it, or
- b. a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded, or
- c. a winner is in serious breach of its obligations under these Terms & Conditions.

## 8.13. Administrative sanctions

If a participant has committed irregularities or fraud or has made false declarations, EIT RawMaterials may also:

- a. exclude the participant from all future contracts, grants and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for a maximum of five years (or ten years in case of repetition), and/or
- b. impose a financial penalty of between 2% and 10% of the value of the grant (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

## 8.14. Cancellation of the call

EIT RawMaterials may cancel the contest or decide not to award the grant, without any obligation to compensate participants, if:

- a. no applications are received
- b. the jury does not find a winner
- c. the winner is not eligible or must be excluded (cf. sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this call)
- d. the objective of the contest has already been achieved

## 8.15. Terms and Conditions

By submitting their application form, applicants agree to the Terms and Conditions, which form part of their submission. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Terms and Conditions. Amendments and additions to these Terms and Conditions shall be valid if communicated in writing on the EIT RawMaterials website or otherwise made available to the applicants.



These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Germany. Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with these Terms and Conditions which cannot be settled amicably will be brought before the courts of Berlin, Germany.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, under no circumstances and under no legal theory whether in tort (including negligence) contract or otherwise shall EIT RawMaterials and the CLC legal entities be liable for any special indirect, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of profit.

You may withdraw your application at any time by informing us by email or by withdrawing your registration at any time.

Beneficiaries might the subject to a formal ex-post impact assessment within at least five years after the end of the activity. This is to determine the impact of the activities outputs.

## 8.16. Appeal and redress procedure

Upon receipt 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 receipt of the evaluation feedback sent by EIT RawMaterials, and should be sent to [compliance@eitrawmaterials.eu](mailto:compliance@eitrawmaterials.eu). Requests must:

- be related to the evaluation process, or eligibility checks;
- include a clear description of the grounds for the complaint;
- 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 when a definitive reply will be provided. A redress committee of EIT RawMaterials may 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 and 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 OMT. If there is clear evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the funding decision, 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 already been 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 any other criterion.
- 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.

## 9. CONTACT

The “*Booster Call for Start-ups and SMEs*” is organised by EIT RawMaterials and its regional Innovation Hubs (CLCs), which act as managing partners in coordinating the collection, evaluation, award and follow-up process at regional level.

### Innovation Hubs and countries covered

Check the nearest Innovation Hub to you, and find their contact details at:

<https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/>

The list of Innovation Hubs and countries covered by each are:

- **Innovation Hub Baltic Sea:** Finland, Southern Sweden, Norway and the Baltic States  
Catherine Bounsaythip, [catherine.bounsaythip@eitrawmaterials.eu](mailto:catherine.bounsaythip@eitrawmaterials.eu)  
Mikko Korhonen, [mikko.korhonen@eitrawmaterials.eu](mailto:mikko.korhonen@eitrawmaterials.eu)  
Hanna Juntilla, [hanna.juntilla@eitrawmaterials.eu](mailto:hanna.juntilla@eitrawmaterials.eu)
- **Innovation Hub Central & West:** Belgium, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, North-Western Germany, France, Southern Germany, Switzerland and Portugal



Maria Encina Lopez Arias, marien.lopez-arias@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Carolin Hendrys, carolin.hendrys@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Nora Groth, nora.groth@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Nicolas Menou, nicolas.menou@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Steffen Robert, steffen.robert@eitrawmaterials.eu

- **Innovation Hub East:** Poland, Eastern Germany, Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Greece, Romania, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, Serbia, Republic North Macedonia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania.  
 Antonis Politis, antonis.politis@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Danuta Tuchorska, danuta.tuchorska@eitrawmaterials.eu
- **Innovation Hub North:** Northern Sweden, Denmark, Ireland and Norway  
 Ulf Orrebrink, ulf.orrebrink@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Theo Berthet, theo.berthet@eitrawmaterials.eu
- **Innovation Hub South:** Spain, Italy, Israel  
 Lorena Jurado, lorena.jurado@eitrawmaterials.eu  
 Fabio Pegorin, fabio.pegorin@eitrawmaterials.eu

Applicants belonging to countries not listed should contact the nearest Innovation Hub.

### Other information sources

Call web page:	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call/</a>
Online Application link:	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/647f00de40fbe">https://eitrawmaterials.mantisbi.io/call/647f00de40fbe</a>
Partners of EIT RawMaterials:	<a href="https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/partners/">https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/partners/</a>
EIT RawMaterials Alumni:	<a href="https://alumni.eitrawmaterials.eu">https://alumni.eitrawmaterials.eu</a>





## 10. TRL and CRL

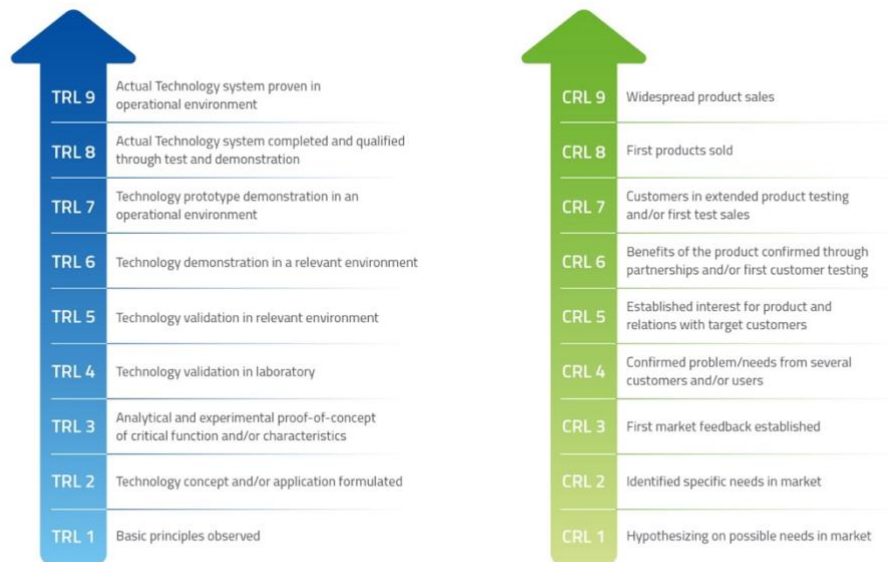


Figure 1. Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and Customer Readiness Level (CRL)