

Call for the selection of entities or consortia of entities to establish AI Factory Antennas linked to selected AI Factories

(Ref. HORIZON-EUROHPC-JU-2025-AIFA-01)

Summary of questions

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question	Answer
1.	11/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>Could you help with the following queries regarding the antenna call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I note that the call is not open to countries currently engaged in an AI Factory. Are you please able to confirm whether hosting an antenna would prevent a Participating State from being eligible to be part of AI Factory consortia in future? - We are working on the assumption that the grant agreement will take roughly a year so any payments will not take place until the next financial year. Grateful if you could confirm whether that assumption is correct or if you expect the timelines for this call to look different. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An application to have an AIF Antenna would prevent the Participating State from applying to be part of an AIF. Indeed, the purpose of the Antenna is to give a chance to a Participating State who was not able to join an AI consortium directly. - The estimated signature of the AIF Antenna grant agreements is October 2025
2.	11/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p><i>Applications should include the provision of appropriate supporting documentation proving the commitment of the Participating State and to cover the share of the total cost of the participation in the established AI Factory that is not covered by the Union</i></p>	<p>Participating States should provide a commitment letter confirming that they commit, on behalf of national funding bodies or other, to contribute to their share of the project. The JU needs this 'guarantee' in order evaluate the project and to</p>

			<p><i>contribution or by the hosting member state where the established AI factory is located as set out in Article 5 of the Regulation or any other Union contribution as set out in Article 6 of the Regulation. Such commitment documentation should be provided by an authorised representative of the Participating State. A commitment letter template will be provided for applicants (to be added later).</i></p> <p>Is the Participating State required to provide some/all of the (non-EU) match funding contribution, or is it possible that this could be provided entirely by the applicant organisation?</p>	<p>finalise the grant agreements. The actual payment will come from whoever is designated by the Participating State to pay it. So, it could be a funding agency or the applicant who has received funding from national or other sources for this purpose.</p>
3.	16/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>We are not currently in any discussions around joining an AI Factory for the next cut off, but want to ensure that we fully consider potential trade-offs in being involved in AI Factory antennas. I understand that the AI Factory call remains open until the end of the year, but please do let me know if that is not correct. Do you expect there to also be further calls for antenna proposals?</p>	<p>In accordance with the time table of the Calls EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 and EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 , the last cut-off date of the Calls is 31st December 2025. However, please be aware that both Calls are within the budget limits set out in section 3 of the Calls and are subject to budget availability.</p> <p>Regarding the Antenna call, the deadline for submission of proposals is 9 July 2025, 17:00 (CEST).</p>
4.	22/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>Am I right in thinking that a Participating State can only put forward/endorse one proposal for an antenna?</p>	<p>Yes, the 'eligibility criteria state that the call is open to 'a single entity' or 'a consortium of entities from one EuroHPC Participating State'. In addition, 'participation in more than one AI Factory is not permitted.'</p>

5.	09/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>In the light of the today's announcement, which includes the AIFA call, will there be any Q and A options for this call, like it was for the initial AIF call? I believe that members have many open questions (we at least have 4 or 5, some that we already asked, but pending answer). It might be a good idea to establish a Q and A document similar to the one that usually accompanies a call.</p> <p>What will be the procedure to ask these questions?</p>	<p>We will soon be opening the F&T portal on this call and there will be an opportunity to table questions there – in the usual way. Please refer to the Q&A section of the F&T portal.</p>
6.	22/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>'Applicants must provide a Letter(s) of Support proving the commitment of the Participating State to the AI Factory Antenna proposal and the commitment of this Participating State to cover the expenses of the proposal not covered by the EU contribution. Such commitment letter should be provided by an authorised representative of the Participating State.'</p> <p>When the letter will be provided by state saying generally covering the costs, would it be still possible to provide national co-fund from the individual beneficiaries as well?</p> <p>If the government has not directly (full) funding for the AIFA, can, e.g., the University of Iceland provide some national co-funds as well?</p> <p>Similar like it is done in EuroCC2 wherein the University of Iceland provides the national co-funds, not the ministry.</p>	<p>Please note that in accordance with the Call specific conditions, the financial contribution to an AI Factory Antenna that is not covered by the EU contribution shall be covered by the Participating State. In case the co-financing of the Participating State is coming from different governmental bodies (i.e., different ministries and/or regional ministries), separate commitment letters shall be provided.</p> <p>The competent authorities shall confirm in the commitment letter that remaining financial contribution will be covered by the Participating State; however, in practical terms such contributions could be covered by different entities at national level. Any support or co-funding from private partners or individual entities cannot substitute nor replace the commitment(s) made by the Participating State or its designated competent national/regional authorities.</p> <p>The JU does not intervene in the internal distribution of the remaining parts of the Participating States' financial contribution.</p>

			Can the national co-fund also be provided by non-state organizations, e.g. associations of industry and academics, etc.?	Please be informed that the commitment letter template will be provided for applicants once the Call will be launched on the F&T portal.
7.	22/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>‘Where relevant, an AI Factory Antenna may under this call also acquire and provide (small scale) AI compute resources for the fine tuning, testing and validation of AI applications, complementing the AI-optimised computing resources provided by its linked AI Factory’</p> <p>Would this also possible for Iceland as EEA state?</p> <p>Or will this be the same problem with the EU regulation of not being able to be a EuroHPC hosting site (the same problem Iceland not being an EU member state to create an AI Factory?)</p>	<p>Please note that in accordance with the Specific conditions set out in the AI Antenna call, the Call is open to a single entity or a consortium of entities from one EuroHPC Participating State. As mentioned in the Call text, to be eligible under this call, proposals by EuroHPC Participating State for establishing an AI Factory Antenna must fulfil the following two conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Participating State has not yet been selected to host an AI Factory or be already partner of a selected AI Factory; - The proposal must include a (pre- agreed) association with an established AI Factory.
8.	22/04/2025	14/05/2025	<p>Timelines of review</p> <p>The deadline is in July. Could you perhaps outline roughly how long you expect the review process and what would be an anticipated start date to discuss with an existing AI Factory for linking?</p> <p>In other words, what would be a realistic start time of the AIFA?</p>	As set out in the overview of the Call (p. 1), the deadline for the submission of proposals is 9 th July 2025. The estimated start day of the AI Antennas is 1 st October 2025.
9.	12/05/2025	14/05/2025	It seems that the AIFA call is still not opened at the F&T portal, and the deadline is in less than 2 months. This jeopardizes the applications from the interested parties. There are many open questions that we cannot ask anywhere, and without those answers, it would be	1. Please be informed that as set out in the section “Specific Conditions”, the duration of the contribution to the Antennas could be up to 3 years but in any case, should be aligned with the duration of the established AI Factory.

			<p>impossible to write quality proposal in the initial deadline.</p> <p>1. The call text mentions alignment of the duration of the AIFA projects with the associated AIF. What does it mean? For example if we want to join the Pharos AIF, which formally already started, will it mean that our AIFA can only last for example 2 year or 2 years and several months, depending on the evaluation and Grant signing time (of course in case we have a successful proposal)? Is there a way to mitigate this so the AIFAs will have the same opportunity as the AIFs to run for 3years?</p> <p>2. The call text mentions “Where relevant, an AI Factory Antenna may under this call also acquire and provide (small scale) AI compute resources for the fine tuning, testing and validation of AI applications, complementing the AI-optimised computing resources provided by its linked AI Factory,”. Is there a envisaged percentage of the whole budget that an AIFA can spend on computing resources? What model will be allowed to be used: buying equipment, renting, depreciation?</p> <p>3. The call text mentions “However, if selected, the partners of AI factory Antenna consortium as well as the Hosting Entity of the AI Factory are jointly responsible for implementing the action(s) resulting from the awarded grant agreement.” This is quite unclear from the point of view of the Hosting Entity. How can the hosting entity be responsible for implementing some actions from a grant agreement that does not include them?</p>	<p>2. The hardware will be claimed as equipment. All cost will be covered by the grant. There is no percentage set but the amount should be reasonable in order to allow the rest of the envisaged Antenna activities to be implemented. The acquisition should be done following national public procurement laws. The process will be checked as part of the project monitoring.</p> <p>3. Each entity/grant is implementing their own part. The Letter of Intent will detail the collaboration between AIF and AIFA and their expected contributions to the set of common goals.</p>
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10	14/05/2025	14/05/2025	<p>We want to clarify the requirements for entities to be registered as a legal entity and have legal personality (criteria (c) and (d) on page 4 of the attached and see below).</p> <p>c) <i>The applicant entity that represents the ‘AI Factory Antenna’ has to be registered as a legal entity in one of EuroHPC’s Participating States.</i></p> <p>d) <i>The applicant entity or entities that are identified in the application as being part of the ‘AI Factory Antenna’ must have a legal personality on the date of the deadline for submission of applications and must be able to demonstrate their existence as a legal person. In case the application is submitted by several different legal entities from the same Participating State, this criterion (c) applies to all entities.</i></p> <p>The computing centres interested in applying for the call may be public sector entities, and not all public sector entities will be constituted as registered legal entities, for example, they could be statutory bodies. The computing centres would however be incorporated and have legal personality, so would align with criterion (b).</p> <p>Please can you clarify if there is a solution? We understand that having legal personality is consistent with the Commission’s guidance referred to elsewhere in the call</p>	<p>The requirement of a legal personality refers to the capacity of an entity to have legal rights and obligations, enabling it to act in its own name, such as entering into contracts, owning property, and being subject to legal proceedings. Please be informed that requests for Public Law Bodies must be accompanied by the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the identification form duly completed plus date, signature and stamp; • any official document attesting the establishment of the entity by National authorities, e.g. a copy of the resolution, law, decree or decision establishing the entity; • if a VAT or registration number is applicable, an additional document confirming this reference number must also be provided.
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11	20/05/2025	20/05/2025	<p>What percentage of the total budget constitutes “a reasonable amount for infrastructure investments”? Right now, we are operating with approximately 10% of the total budget to be allocated to infrastructure development as part of Antenna in Latvia, and then further budget to be allocated for the Factory that we will be an Antenna for.</p>	<p>As explained in the call text under the section “General conditions relating to the call”, where relevant, an AI Factory Antenna may acquire and provide (small scale) AI compute resources for the fine tuning, testing and validation of AI applications, complementing the AI-optimised computing resources provided by its linked AI Factory. Depending on the individual setup, a percentage of 10%-20% of the total budget should be sufficient for such a small system with GPUs for the fine tuning, testing and validation of AI applications.</p>
12	20/05/2025	20/05/2025	<p>Since the Antenna call falls under the Horizon Europe umbrella, when looking into indirect costs, we are talking about 25% rather than 7% as it is under the Digital Europe umbrella?</p>	<p>Indirect costs will be reimbursed at a flat-rate of 25% of the eligible direct costs (categories A-D in the Model Grant Agreement, except volunteers’ costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any).</p>