

THE EUROPEAN HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING JOINT UNDERTAKING



AI Factories Antennas

Call information

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EuroHPC
Joint Undertaking

Webinar
20 May 2025

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

Status	OPEN
Reference	HORIZON-EUROHPC-JU-2025-AIFA-01
Publication date	22 May 2025
Opening date	22 May 2025
Deadline model	Single-stage
Deadline date	9 July 2025, 17:00 (CEST)
Funding programme	Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021/2027)

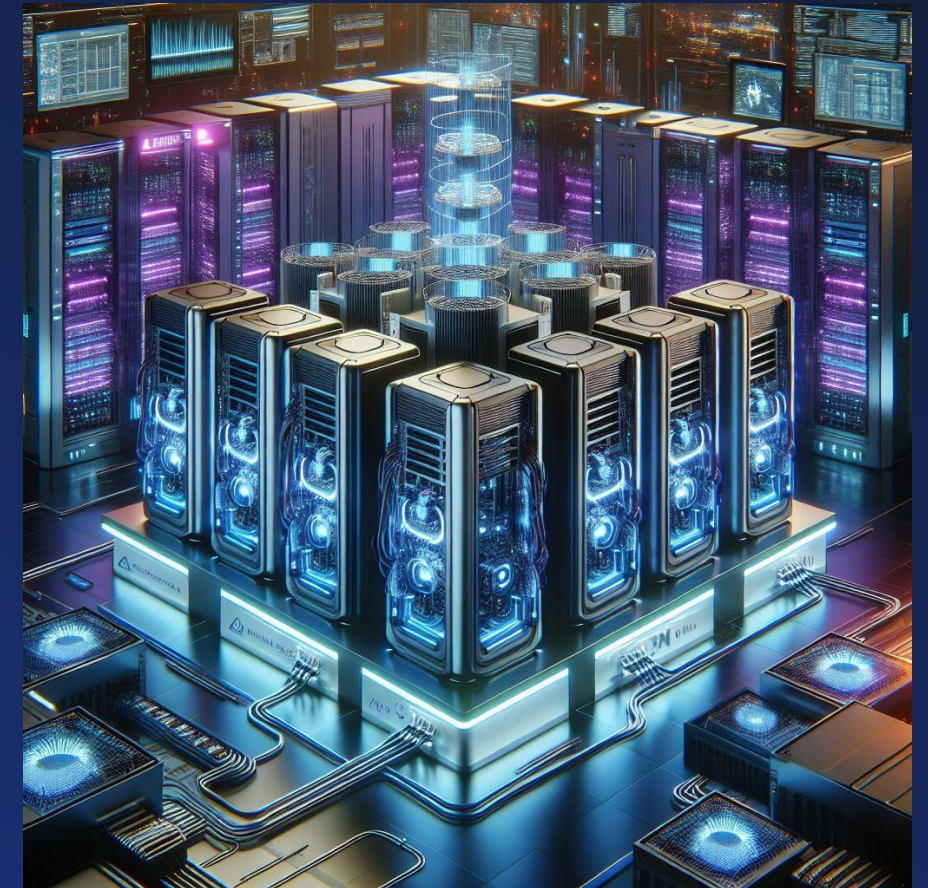
The Aim of the call

The aim of an AI Factory Antenna is to provide national AI ecosystems of a Participating State of the EuroHPC JU with relevant

1. support services,
2. algorithmic support,
3. training activities
4. access to talent.

The AI Factory Antenna will also have to ensure access to supercomputing resources from an established AI Factory.

(Optional) AI Factory Antenna may under this call also acquire and provide (small scale) AI compute resources.



AI generated image

Eligibility

The proposals must fulfil the following two conditions:

1. The Participating State has not yet been selected to host an AI Factory or be already partner of a selected AI Factory;
2. The proposal must include a (pre- agreed) association with an established AI Factory.

The current Call is open to a single entity or a consortium of entities from **one** EuroHPC Participating State.

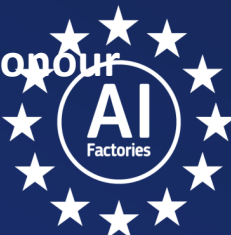
Entities established in countries with which association to Horizon Europe negotiations are being finalised and/or pending ratification, and which have committed to join the EuroHPC JU in the year when the call is launched (2025), are eligible to participate.



Budget and documents

The total indicative budget for the AI Factory Antenna call is up to EUR 70 million. The maximum amount of the EU contribution (up to 50 % of the total eligible costs) that may be allocated to an AI Factory Antenna is up to EUR 5 million and is subject to EU budget availability.

1. 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.
2. Applicants representing an AI Factory Antenna must provide a **Letter of Intent co-signed with the consortium leader of an established AI Factory** agreeing to their association, setting out how it will be linked with this established AI Factory.
3. The 'Letter of Intent' should also include an **Annex** providing a short overview of the main association conditions agreed between the respective parties and should **include the financial conditions** of such an association
4. The **legal entity identification form** duly completed and signed by the person authorised
5. If applied as consortium, then the consortium members will submit a **signed declaration** based on the model Consortium Agreement/Power of Attorney, appointing a consortium leader and giving a mandate to him.
6. Each applicant in an AI Factory Antenna consortium must fill-in and provide the duly signed **Declaration of Honour** in the follow up of the procedure.
7. **The Application Form (Part B)**



Application form (Part B)

- 1) A description of the national AI ecosystem(s) their AI Factories Antenna aims to target
- 2) A description of the features the AI Factories Antenna will have in terms of activities and service offering.
- 3) A description of how the AI Factory Antenna will cooperate and synergise with the established AI Factory it will be linked with, extending/enhancing/complementing the services and activities it provides currently or in the future.
- 4) Implementation plan and impact (incl. Budget, KPIs, Gantt etc.)
- 5) Quality assurance (incl. risks and mitigations)



AI generated image



A description of the national AI ecosystem(s) their AI Factories Antenna aims to target.

- Overall vision and the roadmap to reach it
- Clearly list the industrial sectors as well as applications your will be supporting
- Reason why these sectors/applications, what are the obstacles currently and how you will be solving it
- Describe the whole chain from start to inference, including cloud solutions both external and internal
- A clear plan on how these sectors will be attracted and estimation of success
- Describe clearly the link to the national AI strategy, national data and access policy as well as compute resources access policy.
- Clearly outline an indicative financial contribution plan, specifying how the AI Factory Antenna will support the established AI Factory in terms of, for example, in kind or in cash contribution [for example, participation in the capital expenditure (Capex) or operational expenditure (Opex) of the AI optimised supercomputer of the established AI Factory] for access to the AI-optimised supercomputing resources and to any of the respective services of the established AI Factory.



A description of the features the AI Factories Antenna will have in terms of activities and service offering.

- A clear list of user services (i.e HPC support, training, fine-tuning of the AI models, inference services etc.) as well as option of the resources required to support the established AI Factory in providing a well-functioning user support.
- Description of Computing, Software and application development environments
- Data facilities, access to data, confidentiality and integrity of data (available data repositories, access agreements etc.)
- Trustworthy AI: description of the plans the Applicants have for developing of robust guidelines and standards for AI
- List and description of facilities (where applicable) incl. co-working spaces, training facilities, AI students hosting facilities, access to human capita etc.



AI Factory Antenna cooperate and synergise with the established AI Factory and further networking

- Detailed plans for networking the AI Factory Antenna with existing European and national initiatives and with other EuroHPC AI Factories and AI Factory Antennas.
- Detailed plan of activities and budget of collaborations with AI Factories
- Details on collaborations and networking with TEFs, NCCs, EDIHs, ALT-EDIC etc.



Q/A received: part

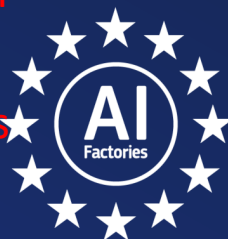
https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/document/download/1e086fc9-4b5d-4d65-acec-bf887fa4518c_en?filename=FAQ-AIF%20Antenna%20Call%2012.06.2025.pdf

1. **Would it be possible to confirm that a proposal with an association with more than one AI Factory will be admissible under the conditions of the AI Factory Antenna call text.** In justified cases, an AIFA can be connected to 2 AIFs. However, this should not impact the operations of the Antenna and add any unnecessary degree of complexity/ misunderstanding for users. Both linked AIFs should agree to this, with supporting documentation. **To be clarified**
2. **Is there a mechanism for an association between AI Factories, like the association between an AI Factory Antenna and AI Factories?** The idea is that the AIF and AIFA establish a cooperative framework, primarily on the compute/infrastructure aspects. However, should the AIFA also profit from the support offered by the AIF, this could also be factored in. But it is rather for both the AIF and AIFA to agree on the terms of their cooperation. **To be clarified**
3. **If in-kind contribution from our side is 5M then we can request 5M matching funding is that correct?** Please note that according to Article 2(38) of Regulation 2024/2509 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) 'in-kind contribution' means non-financial resources made available free of charge by third parties to a beneficiary. **To be clarified**
4. **Is the submission of the proposal electronically or in paper format?** The submission of proposals for AI Antennas is done exclusively electronically via the Funding & Tenders Portal.



Q/A received: part2

1. Is it justified for the Antenna to contribute to the operating costs (e.g. energy) of the partner AIF supercomputer in proportion to the use of the resource, is this cost or part of it eligible for the AIFA project, either as part of the grant or as part of the national co-financing? Can AIFA cash contribute to CAPEX and/or OPEX for access to use from AIF system and if yes is there an amount limit? **To be clarified**
2. If we want to join an AIF, which formally already started, will it mean that our AIFA can only last for example 2 years and several months? **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. To be further clarified**
3. We have just registered our proposal on the Funding&Tenders portal and, under the menu where partners can be added, a warning appears stating: *“The call requires at least three participants from three different EU Member states or associated countries.”* While submitting the project proposal you may encounter a warning related to the number of participants of the project. Please ignore the warning and continue with the submission.
4. Will hosting an antenna prevent a Participating State from being eligible to be part of AI Factory consortia in future? **An application to have an AIF Antenna would prevent the Participating State from applying to be part of an AIF.**
5. What is the timeline of GA signature? **The estimated signature of the AIF Antenna grant agreements is October 2025**



Q/A received: part3

1. **Can Participating State put forward/endorse multiple proposal for an antenna?** The eligibility criteria state that the call is open to 'a single entity' or 'a consortium of entities' from one EuroHPC Participating State.
2. **Is there a envisaged percentage of the whole budget that an AIFA can spend on (small scale) computing resources? What model will be allowed to be used: buying equipment, renting, depreciation?** 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 (i.e. 10-20%) 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.
3. **A consortium from a Member State is planning to join an existing AI Factory as an Antenna and I wondered if you could help us with a question about the memorandum of understanding. Does it have to be signed between the countries, between the leading partners of the consortia or between every partner of the respective consortia?** At this stage, the memorandum of understanding shall be signed in a form of a Letter of Intent (cf. Annex: Letter of Intent). It shall be signed by the leader of Antenna consortium on behalf of such consortium and the Hosting Entity of an existing AI Factory on behalf of the AI Factory Hosting Consortium.
4. **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?** 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 actual payment will come from whoever is designated by the Participating State to pay it.

THANK YOU

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