



EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING
DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EuroHPC JOINT
UNDERTAKING
No 51/2024

approving the launch of a call for expression of interest for the selection of Hosting Entities for the acquisition of an AI-optimised supercomputer or the upgrade of an existing EuroHPC supercomputer with AI capabilities, an advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (optional), and the establishment of an AI Factory (EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02)

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 of 13 July 2021 on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking and repealing Regulation (EU) 2018/1488¹, (hereinafter, "the JU Regulation"), and in particular Articles 9, 10 and 12a thereof,

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1732 of 17 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 as regards a EuroHPC initiative for start-ups in order to boost European leadership in trustworthy artificial intelligence²,

Having regard to the Statutes of the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking annexed to the JU Regulation (thereinafter "JU Statutes"), in particular to Articles 1(d), 6(4), 7(4)(c), and 9(5)(d) thereof,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013,

¹ OJ L 256, 19.7.2021, p. 3.

² OJ L, 19.6.2024, p.1-5.

(EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012,

Having regard to the Governing Board Decision no 50/2024 of 10 September 2024, amending the Joint Undertaking's Work Programme and Budget for the year 2024 (Amendment No 4),

WHEREAS

- (1) The Joint Undertaking shall acquire AI-optimised supercomputers and shall own them. For such AI-optimised supercomputers, the Hosting Entity shall create a one-stop shop for users, including startups, small and medium-sized enterprises and scientific users, to facilitate access to its support services.
- (2) The Joint Undertaking shall acquire, jointly with the contracting authorities of the Participating State where the selected hosting entity is established or with the contracting authorities of the Participating States in the selected hosting consortium, the upgrade of the supercomputer and shall own it under the same conditions of ownership of the original EuroHPC supercomputer.
- (3) Following a call for expression of interest, the Hosting Entities referred to in Recital (1) and (2) and the corresponding Participating State where the hosting entity is established or the corresponding hosting consortium shall be selected by the Governing Board through a fair and transparent process based, inter alia, on the criteria provided in Article 9(5) of the Regulation.
- (4) In accordance with the amended JU Regulation, a Hosting Entity referred to in Recital (1) and (2) shall establish an AI Factory in the meaning of Article 2(3b) of the JU Regulation. Furthermore, Hosting Entities selected to acquire an advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (optional), and the establishment of an AI Factory will be identified in line with Article 195(f) of the EU Financial Regulation.
- (5) The fourth amendment of the annual Work Programme and Budget of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking for the year 2024 has been adopted by the Governing Board by means of Decision No 50/2024 of 10 September 2024. The fourth amendment includes the need of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking to organise and manage calls for expression of interest for the selection of Hosting Entities for the acquisition of an AI-optimised supercomputer or the upgrade of an existing EuroHPC supercomputer with AI capabilities, as well as an advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (optional), and the establishment of an AI Factory.
- (6) The Governing Board shall approve the launch of the this call for expression of interest for the selection of hosting entities, in accordance with Joint Undertaking's Work Programme and Budget for the year 2024.

(7) The Executive Director of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking shall manage the calls for expression of interest as provided for in the Work Programme and Budget and 2024.and in accordance with the Regulation.

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Governing Board hereby approves the launch of the call for expression of interest for the selection of Hosting Entities for the acquisition of an AI-optimised supercomputer or the upgrade of an existing EuroHPC supercomputer with AI capabilities, an advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (optional), and the establishment of an AI Factory.

The launch of the call in approved in accordance with the amended Work Programme and Budget for the year 2024 (Amendment No 4) and within the available budget.

The Governing Board invites the Executive Director to take all necessary actions in this regard.

Article 2

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Luxembourg, on 10 September 2024.

For the Governing Board

Rafal Duczmal

The Chair