



**EuroHPC JOINT UNDERTAKING**  
**DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EuroHPC JOINT**  
**UNDERTAKING No 31/2023**

**Endorsing the selection of Artificial Intelligence projects as initiative**  
**receiving access time to EuroHPC supercomputers for being strategic for**  
**the Union**

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) 2018/1488<sup>1</sup>, in particular to Article 17(8) thereof,

Having regard to the Statutes of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking annexed to the Regulation (hereinafter "Statutes") and in particular to Articles 1(i) thereof,

Having regard to Governing Board Decision No 02/2022, of 14 June 2022, approving the definition of specific rules to grant access time for initiatives considered as strategic for the Union,

WHEREAS

- (1) Pursuant to Article 1 of Decision No 02/2022, of 14 June 2022, any initiative considered as strategic for the Union in the meaning of the Regulation shall be granted access time for the use of EuroHPC systems free of charge, where appropriate, and without a call for expression of interest.
- (2) Following Recital(14) of the Regulation "*the Union should provide an opportunity for its supply industry to leverage on such investments, leading to their uptake in large-scale and emerging application fields such as personalised medicine, climate change, connected and automated driving or other lead markets that are underpinned by artificial intelligence, blockchain technologies, edge computing or more broadly by the digitalisation of the European industry*".
- (3) Further to the President von der Leyen's 2023 State of the Union letter of intent, in which Europe should lead global efforts on artificial intelligence, guiding innovation,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 256, 19.7.2021, p. 3–51

setting guardrails and developing global governance, and accordingly will launch, inter alia, the EU AI Start-Up Initiative.

- (4) The AI Start-Up Initiative aims to develop, train and finetune large foundation models and/or generative AI models by the most advanced and promising European AI Start-ups, which require access to substantial amounts of computing power which can be facilitated and enabled by the EuroHPC's infrastructure. Through this it will help European AI bring down the training time for their newest AI models and compete at a global scale.
- (5) The AI Start-Up initiative will include the AI Grand Challenge, a European competition designed to foster innovation and excellence in large-scale AI models. The AI Grand Challenge will aim to put in competition European start-ups that develop foundation models that will meet or exceed the current state-of-the-art in specific capabilities. The development of these models will require the use of supercomputers, in particular, the allocation of GPU hours on LUMI and Leonardo supercomputers, or any other AI-friendly EuroHPC supercomputers is foreseen for this purpose.
- (6) The Commission has informed EuroHPC JU of their wish to assign Union special access time for a strategic EU initiative on artificial intelligence to be formally announced by the Commission in Autumn 2023.
- (7) On the basis on the conditions for special access to EuroHPC systems, the Executive Director requests, via written procedure, for the Governing Board endorsement.
- (8) Following the Executive Director assessment, the Governing Board

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

*Article 1*

The Governing Board endorsed the Commission proposal to assign Union special access time on EuroHPC supercomputers for strategic EU initiatives on artificial intelligence under the following bases:

- a) EuroHPC Joint Undertaking shall commit and assign available Union special access of the total resources for strategic initiatives allowed by the Regulation to the proposals selected by the AI Grand Challenge, in particular to the LUMI, and Leonardo supercomputers, but eventually any other EuroHPC JU supercomputers upon request.
- b) This commitment will be valid from 30 October 2023 onwards until 31 December 2024. In case the AI Grand Challenge is reconducted the special access might be extended.
- c) The selected proposals by the AI Grand Challenge receiving computing time from the EuroHPC systems should commit to ensure that the following wording is added to all project dissemination activities: *“We acknowledge the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking for awarding this project access to the EuroHPC supercomputer XXXX, hosted by XXXX in XXXXX through a EuroHPC JU Special Access call.”*

*Article 2*

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

Done at Luxembourg, on 25 October 2023.

For the Governing Board

[signed]

Rafal Duczmal

The Chair