

**Horizon Europe Programme**

**Specific Application Form**

**HORIZON-JU-EUROHPC-2025-AIFA-01**

Instructions, please remove

**Project proposal – Technical description (Part B)**

**Version 1.0**

**14 May 2025**

**Structure of the Proposal**

The proposal contains two parts:

• **Part A** of the proposal **is generated by the IT system. It is based on the information entered by the participants through the submission system in the Funding & Tenders Portal.** The participants can update the information in the submission system at any time before final submission.

• **Part B** of the proposal is the narrative part that includes three sections that each correspond to an evaluation criterion. Part B needs to be uploaded as a PDF document following the templates downloaded by the applicants in the submission system for the specific call or topic. The templates for a specific call may slightly differ from the example provided in this document.

The electronic submission system is an online wizard that guides you step-by-step through the preparation of your proposal. The submission process consists of 6 steps:

- Step 1: Logging in the Portal

- Step 2: Select the call, topic and type of action in the Portal

- Step 3: Create a draft proposal: Title, acronym, summary, main organisation and contact details

- Step 4: Manage your parties and contact details: add your partner organisations and contact details.

- Step 5: Edit and complete web forms for proposal part A and upload proposal part B

- Step 6: Submit the proposal

**NOTE: While submitting the project proposal you may encounter a warning related to the number of beneficiaries of the project. Please ignore the warning and continue with the submission.**

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| **HISTORY OF CHANGES** | | |
| **Version** | **Publication date** | **Changes** |
| 1.0 | 14.05.2025 | * Initial version |

# **Proposal template Part B: technical description**

***(for full proposals: single stage submission procedure and 2nd stage of a two-stage submission procedure)***

This template is to be used in a single-stage submission procedure or at the 2nd stage of a two-stage submission procedure.

The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. It has been designed to ensure that the important aspects of your planned work are presented in a way that will enable the experts to make an effective assessment against the evaluation criteria.

Please be aware that proposals will be evaluated as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. This means that only proposals that successfully address all the required aspects will have a chance of being funded. There will be no possibility for significant changes to content, budget and consortium composition during grant preparation.

 **Page limit**: The title, list of participants and sections, together, should not be longer than 70 pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit. The number of pages included in each section of this template is only **indicative**.

The page limit will be applied automatically.

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If you attempt to upload a proposal longer than the specified limit before the deadline, you will receive an automatic warning and will be advised to shorten and re-upload the proposal. After the deadline, excess pages (in over-long proposals/applications) will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the experts. The proposal is a self-contained document. Experts will be instructed to ignore hyperlinks to information that is specifically designed to expand the proposal, thus circumventing the page limit.

Please, do not consider the page limit as a target! It is in your interest to keep your text as concise as possible, since experts rarely view unnecessarily long proposals in a positive light.

 The following formatting conditions apply.

The reference font for the body text of proposals is Times New Roman (Windows platforms), Times/Times New Roman (Apple platforms) or Nimbus Roman No. 9 L (Linux distributions).

The use of a different font for the body text is not advised and is subject to the cumulative conditions that the font is legible and that its use does not significantly shorten the representation of the proposal in number of pages compared to using the reference font (for example with a view to bypass the page limit).

The minimum font size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing is to be used. This applies to the body text, including text in tables.

Text elements other than the body text, such as headers, foot/end notes, captions, formula's, may deviate, but must be legible.

The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 15 mm (not including any footers or headers).

This document is tagged. Be careful not to delete the tags; they are needed for processing.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DEFINITIONS** | |
| **Critical risk** | A critical risk is a plausible event or issue that could have a high adverse impact on the ability of the project to achieve its objectives.  Level of likelihood to occur (Low/medium/high): The likelihood is the estimated probability that the risk will materialise even after taking account of the mitigating measures put in place.  Level of severity (Low/medium/high): The relative seriousness of the risk and the significance of its effect. |
| **Deliverable** | A report that is sent to the Commission or Agency providing information to ensure effective monitoring of the project. There are different types of deliverables (e.g. a report on specific activities or results, data management plans, ethics or security requirements). |
| **Impacts** | Wider long term effects on society (including the environment), the economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments (long term). It refers to the specific contribution of the project to the work programme expected impacts described in the destination. Impacts generally occur some time after the end of the project.  Example: *The deployment of the advanced forecasting system enables each airport to increase maximum passenger capacity by 15% and passenger average throughput by 10%, leading to a 28% reduction in infrastructure expansion costs.* |
| **Milestone** | Control points in the project that help to chart progress. Milestones may correspond to the achievement of a key result, allowing the next phase of the work to begin. They may also be needed at intermediary points so that, if problems have arisen, corrective measures can be taken. A milestone may be a critical decision point in the project where, for example, the consortium must decide which of several technologies to adopt for further development. The achievement of a milestone should be verifiable. |
| **Objectives**  Instructions, please remove | The goals of the work performed within the project, in terms of its research and innovation content. This will be translated into the project’s results. These may range from tackling specific research questions, demonstrating the feasibility of an innovation, sharing knowledge among stakeholders on specific issues. The nature of the objectives will depend on the type of action, and the scope of the topic. |
| **Outcomes** | The expected effects, over the medium term, of projects supported under a given topic. The results of a project should contribute to these outcomes, fostered in particular by the dissemination and exploitation measures. This may include the uptake, diffusion, deployment, and/or use of the project’s results by direct target groups. Outcomes generally occur during or shortly after the end of the project.  Example: *9 European airports adopt the advanced forecasting system demonstrated during the project.* |
| **Pathway to impact** | Logical steps towards the achievement of the expected impacts of the project over time, in particular beyond the duration of a project. A pathway begins with the projects’ results, to their dissemination, exploitation and communication, contributing to the expected outcomes in the work programme topic, and ultimately to the wider scientific, economic and societal impacts of the work programme destination. |
| **Research output** | Results generated by the action to which access can be given in the form of scientific publications, data or other engineered outcomes and processes such as software, algorithms, protocols and electronic notebooks. |
| **Results** | What is generated during the project implementation. This may include, for example, know-how, innovative solutions, algorithms, proof of feasibility, new business models, policy recommendations, guidelines, prototypes, demonstrators, databases and datasets, trained researchers, new infrastructures, networks, etc. Most project results (inventions, scientific works, etc.) are ‘Intellectual Property’, which may, if appropriate, be protected by formal ‘Intellectual Property Rights’.  Example: *Successful large-scale demonstrator: trial with 3 airports of an advanced forecasting system for proactive airport passenger flow management.* |
| **Technology Readiness Level** | See Work Programme General Annexes B |

 *Fill in the title of your proposal below.*

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**Title of the Proposal**

 *The consortium members are listed in part A of the proposal (application forms). A summary list should also be provided in the table below.*

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**List of participants** *[e.g. 2 page]*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Participant No. \*** | **Participant organisation name** | **Country** |
| 1 (Coordinator) |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |

\* Please use the same participant numbering and name as that used in the administrative proposal forms.

**1. Concept of the AI Factory Antenna** #@REL-EVA-RE@#

**1.1 Targeted key Industrial sectors and Applications and targeted Stakeholders and their needs:** #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@# *[e.g. 6 pages]*

* Description of the key industrial/application sectors as well as of the key obstacles to overcome to further develop the AI innovation ecosystem in these sectors.
* Presentation of a convincing plan for attracting key AI stakeholders from these sectors.
* Description of any plans the Applicants to include internal or external cloud solutions to bridge the needs towards an end-to-end computing continuum.

**1.2 Links to a national AI strategy, and national data and access policies to computing and data:** #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@# *[e.g. 6 pages]*

* Description of how the AI Factory Antenna proposal is linked to the national AI Strategy / Strategies or equivalent of the Applicant(s).
* Description of how the AI Factory Antenna is linked to a current National Data Policy of the hosting entity or the hosting consortium, enabling access to large datasets. If this does not exist, description of a plan to make available large data sets to the AI Factory Antenna ecosystem.
* Where relevant, description of an AI user-friendly access policy of the AI Factory Antenna to the national share of computing time of the associated EuroHPC supercomputer and how it will contribute to the development of the national AI Ecosystem.
* Description of the links of the AI Factory Antenna to the respective national AI Strategy, national data and access policies to computing and data, and to a national strategy for investing in startups/SMEs.

**1.3 Outline of an indicative financial contribution plan for linking to established AI factory (if applicable)** #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@# *[e.g. 3 pages]*

**1.4 Overall plan for networking the AI Factory Antenna with the other EuroHPC AI Factories and Antennas.** #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@# *[e.g. 3 pages]*

**1.5 Overall plan for linking the AI Factory Antenna to a national strategy for startups/SMEs** #@PRJ-OBJ-PO@# *[e.g. 3 pages]*

* Description of the plans the Applicants have for linking the AI Factory Antenna ecosystem with relevant national/regional investment measures targeted at startups and SMEs.

**1.6 Contribution, clarity and pertinence of an AI Factory Antenna being linked to an established AI Factory**

* Description of vision, rationale, objectives, development roadmap, targeted key industry sectors and stakeholders, internal or external cloud solutions planned to bridge the needs towards an end-to-end computing continuum and networking with other initiatives
* Description of contribution, clarity and pertinence of an AI Factory Antenna being linked to an established AI Factory data facility, access to data, confidentiality and integrity of data.
  1. **Plans to invest in physical and virtual infrastructure**
* Description of the plans to invest in physical and virtual infrastructure, including in (small scale) AI computing resources, required for the AI Factory Antenna.

**2. Detailed description of the AI Factory Antenna data facilities and services and its networking with other AI Factories and AI Factories Antennas**

* 1. **AI Factory Antenna tools and services**
* Description of the range of services that the AI Factory Antenna will provide to the AI ecosystem (e.g., guidance for using the HPC environment, adapting the computational tasks associated to the training and fine-tuning of the AI models and related inference activities to the HPC environment, etc.).
* Description of a plan for servicing private and public national users as well as users from other EuroHPC Participating States.
* Description of the foreseen professional user support plan, describing the range of user support activities (i.e., how the AI Factory Antenna plans to engage with and serve the broader AI community – from startups, SMEs and large industry to academia and research institutions – and how will these professional services be provided).
* Description of the resources required to support the established AI Factory in providing a well-functioning user support service.
* Description of any (small scale) AI computing resources available or to be acquired by and become available under the AI Factory antenna, as well as the software environment the AI Factory Antenna will support the AI Factory in delivering, including ready-to-use set of AI-oriented tools containerized workloads and workflows, etc.
  1. **Data facilities, access to data, confidentiality and integrity of data**
* Description of the data repositories and data assets that the AI Factory Antenna plans to make available to the AI ecosystem.
* Description of the Access to Common European Data Spaces, including preliminary agreements on the principles of an access and use, establishing relevant data repositories (e.g., Hugging Face).
* Description of the plans for establishing secure and trusted environments, for guaranteeing the confidentiality and integrity of sensitive data and for ensuring the integrity of computational processes.
  1. **Trustworthy AI**
* Description of the plans the Applicants have for developing of robust guidelines and standards for AI algorithmic development aligned with the principles and requirements of the AI Act.
  1. **AI Factory Antenna Hub facilities (where relevant)**
* Description of the plans the Applicants have for making available co-working space physical facilities, possibly complemented also by virtual working spaces.
* Description of the Applicants Plans for making available a physical campus hosting AI students located nearby or associated to the established AI Factory.
  1. **AI Factory Antenna training facilities**
* Description of the AI Factory Antenna Skills Plan outlining the skills needed for the targeted AI stakeholders, including a description of a diverse range of training courses, complementary training facilities and activities and timelines tailored to the varying needs of potential users.
* Description of in house and external direct access to the necessary human capital and talent to provide the necessary education/training activities planned. This includes plans for collaboration and engagement with universities to train and equip students at all levels with the necessary in-demand AI skills.
  1. **Networking the AI Factory Antenna with existing European and national initiatives and with other EuroHPC AI Factories and AI Factory Antennas.**
* Description of the plans for interaction and cooperation of the AI Factory Antenna with the established AI Factory, other established AI Factories, and other AI Factory Antennas with EuroHPC Competence Centres and EuroHPC Centres of Excellence, and with relevant Artificial Intelligence activities such as the hubs of Artificial Intelligence start-ups, the Artificial Intelligence and data ecosystems, the Artificial Intelligence Testing and Experimentation Facilities, the European central Artificial Intelligence platform, the Artificial Intelligence-oriented Digital Innovation Hubs and other related initiatives.
* Clear description the networking activities of the AI Factory Antenna with established European and national initiatives and with other EuroHPC AI Factories.
* Clear description how the activities of the AI Factory Antenna are complimentary with the established AI Factory and not overlapping with established or future National Competence Centres (NCCs). As a reminder, the NCCs should establish and maintain a network of national HPC users, promote HPC use and uptake in the private and public sector and reach out to new potential users. This includes awareness raising and outreach activities to communicate the benefits of HPC to potential users with a specific focus on SMEs. The NCCs should foster the development of the necessary expertise, especially for HPC applications, of the local communities and relevant national stakeholders in collaboration with other NCCs and European initiatives. Furthermore, the role of NCCs is limited to providing HPC expertise, training, advisory and consultancy services rather than engaging directly in operational activities of clients and stakeholders.
* Detailed plans for linking the AI Factory Antenna with European and national AI and HPC initiatives such as TEFs, EDIH, National HPC Competence Centres, ALT-EDIC, or others, and to engage with them while avoiding duplication of efforts.
* Description of detailed plans for linking the AI Factory Antenna with other established AI Factories and AI Factory Antennas once they become operational in order to network, exchange best practice, share experiences, and avoid duplication of efforts.
  1. **Existing capabilities and future plans of the AI Factory Antenna to contribute to the development of the talent pool**
* Description of the existing capabilities and future plans of the hosting entity to contribute to the development of the talent pool.
* Description of the training facilities and training programmes highlighting relevant courses, activities, and learning pathways tailored to meet the diverse needs of potential users.
* Description of the strategy to foster collaboration and engagement with universities, research centres and other training providers to train and equip students at all levels with the necessary in-demand AI skills.

**3 AI Factory Antenna Implementation Plan** *[e.g. 22 pages]*

* Description and explanation of the overall methodology, including the concepts, models and assumptions that underpin your work. Explain how this will enable you to deliver your project’s objectives. Refer to any important challenges you may have identified in the chosen methodology and how you intend to overcome them. [e.g. 15 pages]

**3.1 Quality and pertinence of experience and know-how available from the applicant entity that would provide Artificial Intelligence-oriented supercomputing service environment**

* Description of the quality and efficiency of the Implementation Roadmap, including its deliverables and milestones, the risk management approach and the Key performance Indicators.
* Description of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and expected impacts.
* Indicate the quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts.
* Description of the experience and know-how available from the applicant entity that will support the established Artificial Intelligence-oriented supercomputing service environment. Provide the quality assurance measurements.
* Description of the AI Factory Antenna user support services, including the quality and efficiency of the plan for offering professional services.
* Description of the AI Factory Antenna tools and software and application development environments and their quality assurance plan.
* *This section should be presented as a narrative. The detailed tasks and work packages are described below under ‘Implementation’.*

**3.1 Implementation plan and risk management**

* Provision of an indicative implementation plan, an organisational structure and roles for the management of the AI Factory Antenna, and a project timeline with phases for the establishment of the AI Factory Antenna.
* Also inclusion of a risk management approach by identifying potential risks and mitigation strategies. Applicants should also indicate a timeline for the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding with the established AI Factory to take place if selected. This Memorandum of Understanding should set out agreed activities and milestones to deliver these activities.
* Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall
* Capacity and role of each participant, and extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

**3.2 Key performance indicators (KPIs)**

* Description of a set of KPIs and metrics that the Applicant(s) will use to measure the contributions to the success of the activities of the AI Factory Antenna and associated AI ecosystem. (see European Commission Concept Paper found in the Annex 1 of this Call for Proposals for more information)

**3.3 Budget estimate of the proposal**

* Provision of an estimated budget the establishment of the AI Factory Antenna, including development, implementation and expected operational costs. Clarify in detail the AI Factory Antenna’s budget

**4. Expected Impacts of the AI Factory Antenna:**

*The results of your project should make a contribution to the expected outcomes set out for the work programme topic over the medium term, and to the wider expected impacts set out in the ‘destination’ over the longer term.*

*In this section you should show how your project could contribute to the outcomes and impacts described in the work programme, the likely scale and significance of this contribution, and the measures to maximise these impacts.*

**4.1 Project’s pathways towards impact** *[e.g. 6 pages]*

* Provide a **narrative** explaining how the project’s results are expected to make a difference in terms of impact, beyond the immediate scope and duration of the project. The narrative should include the components below, tailored to your project.

1. Describe the unique contribution your project results would make towards (1) the **outcomes** specified in this topic, and (2) the **wider impacts**, in the longer term, specified in the respective destinations in the work programme.

* *Be specific, referring to the effects of your project*
* *State the target groups that would benefit. Even if target groups are mentioned in general terms in the work programme, you should be specific here, breaking target groups into particular interest groups or segments of society relevant to this project.*
* *The outcomes and impacts of your project may:*
  + - * + *Economic/technological, e.g. bringing new products, services, business processes to the market, increasing efficiency, decreasing costs, increasing profits, contributing to standards’ setting, etc.*
        + *Societal , e.g. decreasing CO2 emissions, decreasing avoidable mortality, improving policies and decision making, raising consumer awareness.*

*Only include such outcomes and impacts where your project would make a significant and direct contribution. Avoid describing very tenuous links to wider impacts.* *However, include any potential negative environmental outcome or impact of the project including when expected results are brought at scale (such as at commercial level). Where relevant, explain how the potential harm can be managed.*

1. Give an indication of the scale and significance of the project’s contribution to the expected outcomes and impacts, should the project be successful. Provide quantified estimates where possible and meaningful.

* ‘*Scale’ refers to how widespread the outcomes and impacts are likely to be. For example, in terms of the size of the target group, or the proportion of that group, that should benefit over time; ‘Significance’ refers to the importance, or value, of those benefits. For example, number of additional healthy life years; efficiency savings in energy supply.*
* *Explain your baselines, benchmarks and assumptions used for those estimates. Wherever possible, quantify your estimation of the effects that you expect from your project. Explain assumptions that you make, referring for example to any relevant studies or statistics. Where appropriate, try to use only one methodology for calculating your estimates: not different methodologies for each partner, region or country (the extrapolation should preferably be prepared by one partner).*
* *Your estimate must relate to this project only - the effect of other initiatives should not be taken into account.*

1. Describe any requirements and potential barriers - arising from factors beyond the scope and duration of the project - that may determine whether the desired outcomes and impacts are achieved. These may include, for example, other R&I work within and beyond Horizon Europe; regulatory environment; targeted markets; user behaviour. Indicate if these factors might evolve over time. Describe any mitigating measures you propose, within or beyond your project, that could be needed should your assumptions prove to be wrong, or to address identified barriers.

* *Note that this does not include the critical risks inherent to the management of the project itself , which should be described below under ‘Implementation’.*

**4.2 Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication** #@COM-DIS-VIS-CDV@# *[e.g. 8 pages, including section 2.3]*

* Describe the planned measures to maximise the impact of your project by providing a first version of your ‘plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities’. Describe the dissemination, exploitation and communication measures that are planned, and the target group(s) addressed (e.g. scientific community, end users, financial actors, public at large).
* *Please remember that this plan is an admissibility condition, unless the work programme topic explicitly states otherwise. In case your proposal is selected for funding, a more detailed ‘plan for dissemination and exploitation including communication activities’ will need to be provided as a mandatory project deliverable within 6 months after signature date. This plan shall be periodically updated in alignment with the project’s progress.*
* *Communication[[1]](#footnote-2) measures should promote the project throughout the full lifespan of the project. The aim is to inform and reach out to society and show the activities performed, and the use and the benefits the project will have for citizens. Activities must be strategically planned, with clear objectives, start at the outset and continue through the lifetime of the project. The description of the communication activities needs to state the main messages as well as the tools and channels that will be used to reach out to each of the chosen target groups.*
* *All measures should be proportionate to the scale of the project, and should contain concrete actions to be implemented both during and after the end of the project, e.g. standardisation activities. Your plan should give due consideration to the possible follow-up of your project, once it is finished. In the justification, explain why each measure chosen is best suited to reach the target group addressed. Where relevant, and for innovation actions, in particular, describe the measures for a plausible path to commercialise the innovations.*
* *If exploitation is expected primarily in non-associated third countries, justify by explaining how that exploitation is still in the Union’s interest.*
* *Describe possible feedback to policy measures generated by the project that will contribute to designing, monitoring, reviewing and rectifying (if necessary) existing policy and programmatic measures or shaping and supporting the implementation of new policy initiatives and decisions.*
* Outline your strategy for the management of intellectual property, foreseen protection measures, such as patents, design rights, copyright, trade secrets, etc., and how these would be used to support exploitation.
* *If your project is selected, you will need an appropriate consortium agreement to manage (amongst other things) the ownership and access to key knowledge (IPR, research data etc.). Where relevant, these will allow you, collectively and individually, to pursue market opportunities arising from the project.*
* *If your project is selected, you must indicate the owner(s) of the results (results ownership list) in the final periodic report.*

**ANNEXES TO PROPOSAL PART B**

Some calls may ask to upload annexes to proposal part B. The annexes must be uploaded as separate documents in the submission system. You can find the call specific templates on the EuroHPC website as supporting document for the call: [Call for the selection of entities or consortia of entities to establish AI Factory Antennas linked to selected AI Factories - EuroHPC JU](https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/call-selection-entities-or-consortia-entities-establish-ai-factory-antennas-linked-selected-ai_en).

* MANDATORY FOR AI ANTENNA CALL:

- **Implementation details annex:** information on workpackages, milestones and practical implementation aspects.

- **Letter(s) of Support proving the commitment of the Participating State**

**- Letter of Intent co-signed with the consortium leader of an established AI Factory**

1. For further guidance on communicating EU research and innovation for project participants, please refer to the [Online Manual](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/om_en.pdf) on the Funding & Tenders Portal [↑](#footnote-ref-2)