

Annex 1

# to 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

APPLICATION FORM

**Call REF: EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02**

Application Ref: [***ACRONYM***]

*[ACRONYM]*

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| *Applicants must use the application form template for their applications (designed to highlight important aspects and facilitate the assessment against the evaluation criteria).**The application form is structured in two main sections.**In the first section, “Information on the applicants”, the application must provide administrative details about the applicants and the consortium, including contact details and legal representatives.**The second section “Information on the Action” is divided in six subsections:** *In the first subsection “****overall description of the application****”, the Applicants should provide an overall description of their proposal for developing an AI Factory and its different constituent parts.*
* *In the second subsection “****Description of the General system specifications****”, the Applicants should spell out how the general system specifications will be met, for both the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer and the site, including the associated data centre. This subsection is further including the following:*
	+ *“****Description of the Total Cost of Ownership****”,*
	+ *“****Description of the Experience of the hosting entity in installing and operating similar systems****”.*
	+ *“****Description of the quality of the hosting facility’s physical and IT infrastructure, its security and its connectivity with the rest of the Union****”*
	+ *“****Description of the Quality of service to the users, namely capability to comply with the service level agreement****”,*
* *In the third subsection “****Description of the “advanced experimental AI-optimised platform****” (optional).*
* *Finally, in the fourth and last subsection “****Description of the AI Factory****”, the Applicants should present a comprehensive overview of the AI ecosystem they would serve and enhance through the AI Factory and the detailed of services they would offer to this ecosystem.*

*All the above are further detailed in the following subsections.**Should an applicant apply for an advanced AI-optimised experimental platform, they should fill in Section II, 3 of this Application form.**The application form includes a guide on how to fill it for all sections. Character and page limits:** *page limit: 200 pages*
* *minimum font size — Arial 8 points*
* *page size: A4*
* *margins (top, bottom, left and right): at least 15 mm (not including headers & footers).*

*pagination instructions: each document from the application must be individually numbered in the bottom right corner.* *Paragraphs in italics or boxes with paragraphs in italics are intended as an explanatory guidance for the applicant and shall be deleted before applying.* *Don’t forget to delete this page and all the explanatory text in italics.* |

*[ACRONYM]*

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| **EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02** |
| **REFERENCE NUMBER OF THE CALL** |
| 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 |
| **SUMMARY OF THE APPLICATION** |
| Title: |
| Identity of the Coordinator/Applicant: |
| Consortium: [*YES]/[NO]* |
| Coordinator:*Partner1*: | Contribution Coordinator: [XXX] *Euro*Contribution *partner1*: [XXX] *Euro* |
| Summary of the Application:(*in EN, max 1000 words)*[insert] |
| Would the hosting consortium be ready to include additional participants if selected? [*YES]/[NO]*If YES, please include the indicative amounts of the contribution of the additional participants: |

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# INFORMATION ON THE APPLICANTS

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| **1 REFERENCES OF THE APPLICANTS** |

* 1. (*Option 1: Applicant No1 — or Option 2: Coordinator; please indicate what is applicable*):

|  |
| --- |
| **1.1.1 IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT** |
| Official name in full: |
| Acronym:(if applicable) |
| Official legal form: |
| Legal personality[1](#_bookmark1): |
| Place of establishment or registration:(Address and country) |
| Entity registration number:(Not applicable if the applicant is a public-sector body.) |
| VAT number (if applicable): |

### The legal details are attached in the Legal Entity Form[2](#_bookmark2) to be provided as annex. Any changes in the legal entity form must be notified in writing to the Executive Director of the EuroHPC JU.

|  |
| --- |
| **1.1.2 CONTACT DETAILS** |
| Street address: |
| Postcode: |
| City: |
| Region (if applicable): |
| Country: |
| Telephone: Mobile: |
| Fax: |
| E-mail address: |
| Website: |

Any change in the addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers or e-mail, must be notified in writing to the Executive Director of the EuroHPC JU. The Executive Director of the EuroHPC JU will not be held responsible in the event that he cannot contact an applicant**.**

1 Legal personality is understood as applicant’s capacity to sign contracts and constitute a party in court proceedings under the applicable national legislation.

2 <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal-entities_en.cfm>

*[ACRONYM]*

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| **1.1.3 CONTACT PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXPRESSION OF INTEREST** |
| Family name: First Name: |
| Position/Function: |
| Telephone: Mobile: |
| Fax: |
| E-mail address: |
| **1.1.4 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE (PERSON AUTHORISED TO SIGN THE HOSTING AGREEMENT)** |
| Family name: First Name: |
| Position/Function/Mandate: |
| Telephone: Mobile: |
| Fax: |
| E-mail address: |

* 1. Applicant No 2 (If applicable, repeat this part as often as is required to include all applicants)*.*

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| --- |
| **1.2.1 IDENTITY OF THE APPLICANT** |
| Official name in full: |
| Acronym:(if applicable) |
| Official legal form: |
| Legal personality[3](#_bookmark3): |
| Place of establishment or registration:(Address and country) |
| Entity registration number:(Not applicable if the applicant is a public-sector body.) |
| VAT number (if applicable): |

### The legal details are attached in the Legal Entity Form[4](#_bookmark4) to be provided as an annex. Any changes in the legal entity form must be notified in writing to the Executive Director of the EuroHPC JU.

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| **1.2.2 CONTACT DETAILS** |

3 Legal personality is understood as applicant’s capacity to sign contracts and constitute a party in court proceedings under the applicable national legislation.

4 <http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal-entities_en.cfm>

*[ACRONYM]*

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| --- |
| Street address: |
| Postcode: |
| City: |
| Region (if applicable): |
| Country: |
| Telephone: Mobile: |
| Fax: |
| E-mail address: |
| Website: |

Any change in the addresses, phone numbers, fax numbers or e-mail, must be notified in writing to the Executive Director of the EuroHPC JU. The Executive Director of the EuroHPC JU will not be held responsible in the event that it cannot contact an applicant**.**

|  |
| --- |
| **1.2.3 CONTACT PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPLICATION** |
| Family name: First Name: |
| Position/Function: |
| Telephone: Mobile: |
| Fax: |
| E-mail address: |

# TECHNICAL PROPOSAL

## Overall description of the application

In this section of their application, the Applicants should provide a comprehensive overall description of their proposal and its constituent parts. The application should demonstrate how the AI Factory will advance AI capabilities in Europe, support innovation and deliver significant value to AI stakeholders, while respecting ethical and regulatory standards.

The following are expected to be described with the required level of detail – please also refer to Annex 3 of this Call for Expression of Interest, “AI Factories” concept paper:

a. A comprehensive description of the concept of the proposal and the needs for an AI Factory

1. Concept of the AI Factory
2. Vision, Rationale and Objectives of the proposed AI Factory.
3. A roadmap for developing the national AI ecosystem(s) and how that would be served, justifying the need for setting up the AI Factory.
4. Targeted key Industrial sectors and Applications and targeted Stakeholders and their needs:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | 1. 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.
2. description of a convincing plan for attracting such key AI stakeholders from these sectors.
3. Description of any plans the Applicants may have to include internal or external cloud solutions to bridge the needs towards an end-to-end computing continuum.
 |
| 1. Overall plan for investing in a new or an upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer and in physical and virtual infrastructure required for the AI factory, including an overall description of the computing, networking and data resources as well as investments in human capital that will be required to address the needs of the AI ecosystem.
2. Links to a national AI strategy, and national data and access policies to computing and data:
 |
|  | 1. description of how the AI Factory proposal is linked to the national AI Strategy / Strategies or equivalent[5](#_bookmark7)

of the Applicant(s).1. Description of how the AI Factory 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 ecosystem.
2. Description of an AI user-friendly access policy of the AI Factory to the national share of computing time of the EuroHPC supercomputer and how it will contribute to the development of the national AI Ecosystem.
 |
| 5) Overall plan for networking the AI Factory with existing European and national AI initiatives and with other EuroHPC AI Factories. |
| 6) Overall plan for linking the AI Factory to a national strategy for startups/SMEs: description of the plans the Applicants have for linking the AI Factory ecosystem with relevant national/regional investment measures targeted at startups and SMEs. |

5 In the absence of a formal national AI strategy, the Applicants will need to describe the strategic national (or Consortium) character of their AI Factory approach.

## General System specifications

The application should provide detailed architectural description of the targeted system, analysing the rationale behind the system design. This concerns both the new and the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer. The analysis should include the expected aggregated performance of the proposed system, describing the benchmarks to be used for its evaluation, providing justification for their selection.

The proposed architecture is expected to rely on mature technology solutions which are either already available in the market **or foreseen for public availability within a timeframe of 6 months from the day of application submission**.

The application should also analyse the security and confidentiality requirements of the application domain and incorporate in the system architecture the technology solutions, coupled with the necessary procedures and policies, that together will ensure that these security requirements are met.

The hosting site should comply with at least the following requirements:

* Power capacity and power quality appropriate for the operation of the proposed supercomputing system. UPS power available to cover the critical systems including storage and access to data of the proposed system.
* Adequate capacity of air or liquid cooling for hosting the proposed system.
* 100 Gbit/s connectivity towards the rest of the GEANT Network (link capacity).
* Co-location or high-speed connectivity to at least one associated data facility.
* Hosting physical security.
* Hosting fire mitigation equipment/procedures.
* Hosting IT access security.
* On call service support teams for IT issues.
* Dedicated on-call service team for facilities issues.
* Regularly measure the satisfaction of the users with the service via a user survey.

 A detailed description of the proposed system and hosting site, covering features such as:

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| * Detailed description of the site hosting the system.
* Description of the main features of the targeted supercomputer system, including, e.g.:
 |
|  | * Number of partitions.
* Main processing elements (CPU, GPUs, IPUs, FPGAs, etc).
* AI-optimised architecture and features.
* Type of nodes and their configuration (e.g., accelerated, CPU-only, High memory, etc.).
* Memory and storage capacities and architecture (e.g., high-capacity storage, high-speed storage, etc.).
* Ratio of different node types within the system (accelerator/CPU, memory size, etc.).
* Network capacities and architecture (e.g., interconnect, external connectivity, etc.).
 |
| * Expected sustained performance per partition and aggregated (AI-oriented benchmark and/or other performance indicators).
* Acceptance tests and benchmarks to be used for the acceptance of the supercomputer.
* Description of how management of specific needs of users for their owned software licenses, for example hosting a dedicated license server, license transfer or channelling of already in-use software licenses will be addressed.
* Other related software/services (containers, virtualisation, support of workflows, workflow management…), in particular:
 |
|  | * frameworks to allow the automation of AI model training lifecycle.
* resource provisioning mechanisms to provide multi-tenancy environments.
 |

## Total Cost of Ownership (TCO)

The applicant should include an estimation of the cost of the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer that the applicant has in mind to host and that has been described in the previous section “general system specifications”.

The estimation of the TCO will be based on an estimation of the acquisition costs of a potential system that complies with the general system specifications and on an estimation of its operating costs. The costs related to the construction of the hosting site per se (i.e., the costs related to the building infrastructure that will host the supercomputer, etc.) shall not be covered by the EuroHPC JU. The costs of the preparation and adaptation of the hosting site incurred by the hosting entity that can be directly accounted to the supercomputer may be considered as part of the TCO.

Applicants must provide their intention with regards to the duration of the operations of the supercomputer in the hosting entity. This should include not only their proposal for the duration of the operations, but their preference for the ownership of the supercomputer once the operations are finished (e.g. buy it, decommissioning it …).

* + - 1. **Site Preparation**

The hosting entity must be able to meet the baseline requirements set out herein in time for the anticipated timeline for the delivery of the supercomputer. The applicant must provide a plan of how and in what timeline the applicant intends to realise the construction of a new or the upgrade of an existing site, including costs of each action (indicating the ones that will be considered as in-kind contribution) and the definitive date at which the site will be ready for the installation of the EuroHPC system.

## Acquisition Costs

Applicants must detail the estimation for the cost of the acquisition of the supercomputer. Applicants must indicate clearly what costs will be included in this category, how they will calculate them and who will pay for those.

## Operating Costs

Applicants must provide an auditable methodology to calculate and to verify the operating costs of the supercomputer for the duration of the action. Applicants must describe the model that will be used for calculating the costs of the Operational expenditures (OPEX), detailing the cost elements included in the model and providing estimates for each cost.

The hosting entity should be in position to provide an accurate estimate and to verify the operating costs of the supercomputer, by ensuring, for example, the functional separation, and to the extent possible, the physical separation of the supercomputers and any national or regional supercomputing systems it operates. The applicants must explain the way the supercomputer shares its IT environment and storage.

The method should be used in the grant to calculate the operating costs and the amount that will be covered by Union’s contribution. Applicants can use the indicative list of cost elements provided in Annex 2 to consider in the calculation of the operating costs.

Applications must include at least the following information and/or estimations:

1. Average power usage effectiveness (PUE) for the current data centre over the last 12 months[6](#_bookmark10). And, in the case that the applicant would be upgrading the site to host the supercomputer, what is the planned (design specification) PUE for your upgraded data centre[7](#_bookmark11).
2. Depreciation time for the building, technical building infrastructure and IT investments and method used for the depreciation of the assets (e.g. linear).
3. Average cost of IT on-call service (internal or outsourced) over the last 12 months.

6 The calculation of the PUE provided must be based on the method defined by ASHRAE Technical Committee 9.9 as set out in their publication “PUE: A Comprehensive Examination of the Metric”. PUE = Total Facility Energy / IT Equipment Energy (Note: JU reserves the right to check this value).

7 The estimated of the PUE provided must be based on the method defined by ASHRAE Technical Committee 9.9 as set out in their publication “PUE: A Comprehensive Examination of the Metric”. PUE = Total Facility Energy / IT Equipment Energy.

1. Current electricity price in EUR/kWh (all taxes included) and if available, electricity price in EUR/kWh (all taxes included) at the expected installation time of the supercomputer.
2. Number of system administrators (FTE) expected to dedicate to the running of the supercomputer service (including critical auxiliary services such as storage, scheduling system, etc.), including average Person Month cost.
3. Number of user support staff (FTE) expected to dedicate to the running of the users of the supercomputer and application support including average Person Month cost.
4. Number of technical support staff (FTE) expected to dedicate for an Application Support Team including average Person Month cost.
5. IT environment including storage (disks, tapes ...) architecture, capacities and their ability to be extended to serve the supercomputer.

## Experience of the hosting entity in installing and operating similar systems

Applicants must provide information of their experience in installing and operating supercomputers and dedicated high performance storage facilities, including at least:

1. Previous experience with installing and operating supercomputers. Provide information in case the applicant’s site has experience in hosting very early releases of new systems. If relevant, applicants must provide documentation of their experience in having installed systems in the last 5 years (especially systems that ranked in the top 50 positions of the Top500 at the time of their first listing).
2. In the case of installing and operating a supercomputer for a 3rd party (the supercomputer is owned by a 3rd party and operated for them as agreed in the relevant Service Level Agreement, SLA) or operating a supercomputing service or equivalent major infrastructure for a 3rd party (3rd party pays for a service based on a SLA, the supercomputer is owned by the hosting entity); applicants must provide a description of the service provided as well as at least one contact person from the 3rd party from whom the JU may request a reference for this service.
3. Description of the current organizational structure and the teams of people responsible for the supercomputer operation and management (including user support and specialist support of the HPC systems). If available, include current procedures and tools for system management, help desk project management, configuration management, training and education put in place.
4. Description of the current procedures adopted by the supercomputing operation and management team to monitor HPC systems. Please indicate which of these are these are in-house and which are 3rd party solutions; how they have been integrated and customized. List any current Quality Control certifications your organization has obtained for system management, help desk project management, configuration management, training and education.
5. Description of the current procedures adopted by the supercomputing operation and management team to trace and resolve issues and communicate them to users and other stakeholders. Include description of current procedures adopted by the supercomputing operation and management team to ensure that service level agreements are met.
6. Description of any current continuity procedures the operations team or the Network Operations Centre (NOC) has in place and description of current workload management software and methodology (bonus/malus; backfill; etc.) in place.
7. Description of previous experience in providing supercomputer access and other related services to users from other Member States or pan European environments.

## Quality of the hosting facility’s physical and IT infrastructure, its security and its connectivity with the rest of the Union

Applicants must provide information of the hosting physical and IT infrastructure, including security and connectivity that the site can provide for the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer. JP/JC

Applicants must also provide a detailed plan of how and in what timeline they intend to realise the upgrade of the site, including the planned date at which the site will be ready for the installation of the supercomputer.

This may include, but is not limited to Gantt charts, contractual timelines, construction permits and work contracts status.

For the preparation of the hosting site and the launch of the procurement and delivery of the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer, the hosting entity must be able to meet the baseline requirements set out herein in time for an accelerated delivery of the new or the upgraded AI supercomputer that will be used for the AI Factory. For this, the procurement of the new or the upgraded AI supercomputer shall be launched at the latest within three months after the date of notification of the selection decision by the JU to the hosting entity or hosting Consortium under this call and begin installation of the procured system at the latest six months after its procurement date, and swiftly start operations of the full procured system.

Applicants should include (at least) the following information related to the current and proposed capacities of the hosting facility and how to achieve them:

1. Description of the intended hosting entity site and facility, including cooling methods and experience on cooling systems, power measurement facilities, accessibility, possibility to accommodate visitors, courses, possible extendibility of the site (m² and KW) and description of physical security concept, including access control, CCTV, etc.
2. Power measurement facilities in place at infrastructure level and where (device type, location of measurement at rack, PDU, centre) and maximum levels of energy measurement according to the EE HPC Power Measurement Methodology. If available, reference to any memberships of energy efficiency interest groups or codes of conduct (e.g. EE HPC WG, EU Code of Conduct, EMAS, or other); certifications for energy efficiency and sustainability (e.g. ISO / IEC 13273).
3. Information about the connection to the power grid, including maximum capacity of connection to the power grid and other characteristics such as redundant connection to the power grid. Information about power grid quality (number of outages from supplier in last 48 months,) and energy procurement method (e.g., long-term contracts, annual market-based purchases, other).
4. Information about availability of the data centre: expressed as a minimum percentage of uptime or in maximum number of hour’s downtime that the hosting entity deem are acceptable per year. Average availability of data centre infrastructure (cooling, power, etc.) (over the last 24 months for current)[8](#_bookmark15).
5. Information about connectivity towards the rest of the GEANT Network (link capacity) and the Network Operating Centre (NOC) and its reachability (e.g. 24/7).
6. Facility managers (in-house or outsourced) involved in ensuring the operation of the data centre, and their specialization.
7. Total memory and storage capacities of the centre, defining what part would be dedicated to the supercomputer.

## Quality of service to the users, namely capability to comply with the service level agreement

The applicant should specify the benchmarks or deliverables which the applicant intends to employ to achieve the expected results and targets and how they will be used. These should include at least the SLAs in the Hosting Agreement and information related to:

1. Access time accounting model that will be used to control the allocation time of the supercomputer. Provide historic system uptake and usage for recent HPC systems.
2. Availability of main HPC systems over last 12 months if the system has been operational for at least 18 months. If the system has been operational for less, please provide availability numbers based on the duration for which the system has been in full production. This should include hours of scheduled maintenance and hours of unscheduled maintenance.

8 Facility is deemed available when no facility issues are affecting the running of the supercomputing service. Availability = total hours – (scheduled + unscheduled downtime).

1. Availability of helpdesk; number of active projects currently supported. Description of services provided by user support (e.g. 1st level, 2nd level, application support) and of policy regarding response times for level 1, 2 and 3 tickets[9](#_bookmark18).
2. Description of how the on-call service for the supercomputing service and infrastructure facilities are set up and work. Include, if available, results from the user satisfaction surveys for your site for the last 5 years.
3. Fraction of time for which the current supercomputing service (supercomputer + all necessary auxiliary services like storage, network, login nodes, etc. + main software services like scheduler, access to file systems, etc.) has been available over the last 12 months[10](#_bookmark19).
4. Do you perform regular regression tests to assess the stability of performance of your current supercomputer service? If yes, please provide a description of the regression test used and the frequency at which it is run.
5. Does your site provide any additional services that may not be critical to running the supercomputing service but may provide an additional benefit to the end user? If yes, please provide a description of these services.

Applicants must provide details on how these tasks are currently done and how they propose to achieve them for the hosting of the supercomputer. Applicants must indicate subcontracted action tasks (if any) and explain the reasons why (as opposed to direct implementation).

## Advanced experimental AI-optimised platform (optional – remove if not applicable)

One of the targets of EuroHPC JU is also promoting the further development of European technologies and thus contributing to developing a competitive European technology supply industry. As part of this objective, it is proposed that interested hosting entities may also include in their application an optional system/partition targeting the development of an advanced experimental AI -optimised supercomputing platform.

The goal of such a platform shall be to operate an exploratory supercomputing infrastructure for the development, integration, testing, and co-design of a wide range of European technologies suitable to be part of the supercomputer.

In case the hosting entity decides to include such optional part in its application, the hosting entity should include:

1. A description of the advanced experimental AI-optimised platform
2. How it complements the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer
3. The development targets (milestones)
4. The time plan as well as a detailed work plan
5. The cost breakdown (such as direct personnel costs, direct costs of subcontracting, other direct costs and indirect costs)
6. Measures to maximise impact - Dissemination, exploitation and communication
7. A list of critical risks, relating to project implementation, that the stated project's objectives may not be achieved. Detail any risk mitigation measures. You will be able to update the list of critical risks and mitigation measures as the project progresses

The potential of the advanced experimental AI-optimised platform, as well as its duration, should be duly justified in the application and will be evaluated on its own merits for receiving or not financial support. This evaluation shall not affect the overall evaluation of the other aspects of the application.

## Description of the AI Factory

In this section the Applicants should provide a detailed description of the AI Factory and the services it will offer, complementing the general description of their proposal as presented in Section 12.2 of this Call.

Applicants should at least address the following – for more detailed information, Applicants should refer to the Concept Paper found in Annex 3 of this Call for Expression of Interest:

9 Level 1 => simple request, can be solved in 1 day; Level 2 => more complex request, requires some research, can take up to 5 working days to resolve, Level 3 => request that requires vendor response to resolve, may take longer than 5 working days.

10 Available = fully up and running and reachable by the users and at least 98% of compute nodes available.

## AI Factory data facilities and services, and networking with other AI Factories

* + - 1. **AI Factory tools and services**
* *Overview of the user support services*: This includes: (i) Description of the range of services that the AI Factory 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.). (ii) Description of a plan for servicing private and public national users as well as users from other EuroHPC Participating States, which do not host an AI Factory. (iii) Description of the foreseen professional user support plan, describing the range of user support activities (i.e., how the AI Factory 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). (iv) Description of the resources required for the AI Factory to provide a well-functioning user support service.
* *Software and application development environments*: description of the software environment that the AI Factory will deliver, 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**
* *Data facilities:* Description of the data repositories and data assets that the AI Factory plans to make available to the AI ecosystem.
* *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).
* *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 Hub facilities**
* *co-working space facilities:* description of the plans the Applicants have for making available co- working space physical facilities, possibly complemented also by virtual working spaces.
* *hosting facilities for AI students*: and description of the Applicants Plans for making available a physical campus hosting AI students located nearby or associated to the foreseen AI Factory.
	+ - 1. **AI Factory training facilities**
* *Skills plan*: Description of the AI Factory 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.
* *Access to human capital*: 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. **Detailed plans for networking the AI Factory with existing European and national initiatives and with other EuroHPC AI Factories.**
* *Networking with other existing European and national AI & HPC initiatives:* Detailed plans for linking the AI Factory 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.

* *Networking with other AI Factories*: Detailed plans for linking the AI Factory with other EuroHPC AI factories once they become operational in order to network, exchange best practice, share experiences, and avoid duplication of efforts.

## AI Factory Implementation Plan

* + - 1. **Implementation Plan and risk management**

Applicants should provide an indicative implementation plan, an organisational structure and roles for the development, deployment and management of the AI Factory. They should also describe how the AI Factory will be developed, deployed, tested and running, with regards to the acquisition and deployment phases of the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer. Applicants should also include a risk management approach by identifying potential risks and mitigation strategies.

## 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 their AI Factory and associated AI ecosystem.

## Budget estimate of the proposal

Applicants should provide an estimated budget the establishment of the AI Factory, including development, implementation and expected operational costs.

## Expected Impacts of the AI Factory

Applicants should describe the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and expected impacts and the measures they will take for maximising these expected outcomes and impacts.

By submitting an application, the applicant accepts that in case of award certain data like the name, locality and amount (amongst others) will be published.

By submitting an application, the applicant and participants of the hosting consortium accept the terms and conditions set out in the call for expression of interest and the model hosting agreement to be found in Annex 2 of the call for expression of interest.

I declare that all information provided in this application form and its annexes is correct.

Date:

Signature of the legal representative of the coordinator organisation

## CHECKLIST FOR APPLICANTS

*Please use this checklist to ensure that you attach all of the necessary documents*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Document and content** | **Coordinator** | **Partner** |
| All sections of the application form have been filled in, where appropriate, in accordance with the Call for Expression of Interest or any other document provided as guidance related to the programme concerned. |  | N/A |
| Provision of an appropriate supporting document proving the commitment of the Member State where the hosting entity is established or of the competent authorities of the Participating States of the hosting consortium to cover the share of the total cost ofownership of the industrial supercomputer that is not covered by the Union contribution (see template in Annex 1c). |  |  |
| The declaration(s) on honour has (have) been signed and attached in original (see template in Annex 1a) |  |  |
| Legal details have been included in the Legal Entity Form annexed.[http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts\_grants/info\_contracts/legal\_entities/legal-](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal-entities_en.cfm) [entities\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/budget/contracts_grants/info_contracts/legal_entities/legal-entities_en.cfm) |  | N/A |
| Mandate letters have been signed and attached in original (if applicable; see template in Annex 1b) | N/A |  |