

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the selection of existing Hosting Entities of EuroHPC supercomputers to acquire an advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (optional) and to establish an AI Factory**

**(Ref. EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01)**

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the selection of Hosting Entities for acquiring or upgrading EuroHPC supercomputers with AI capabilities, an Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform (optional) and AI Factory.**

**(Ref. EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02)**

Summary of questions

#	Submission date	Publication date	Question	Answer
1	23/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Is a company which is not registered as EuroHPC data center but fulfills the technical conditions expressed in the Call and is part of ETP4HPC eligible?</b>	<p>Please note that the eligibility criteria differ depending on the role of such company in the consortium. Please see below possible scenarios and their effect on the eligibility of such company.</p> <p>(1) Company in question applies as a coordinating applicant (Hosting Entity)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• For the call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 (Upgrade to AI-ready EuroHPC supercomputer and AI Factory track), the applicant hosting entity shall be a Hosting Entity to a EuroHPC supercomputer (Cf. Section 6(a) of the Call). Thus, the company in question is not eligible.</li><li>• For the call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 (AI-Supercomputer and AI Factories), such company is eligible if it represents one Participating State that is a Member</li></ul>

				<p>State of the EU or a hosting consortium of Participating States in terms provided for in Section 6(a) of the Call and if it cumulatively fulfils other eligibility conditions specified in Section 6 thereof.</p> <p>(2) Company in question applies as a member of consortium other than a coordinating hosting entity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under both tracks, the applicants may form consortia consisting of entities from the Participating States to the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking that have agreed to contribute to setting up AI Factories and/or acquisition a new AI supercomputer or upgrade of an EuroHPC supercomputer (please consult the full list of Participating States here <a href="https://governance-eurohpc.eu">Governance - EuroHPC JU (europa.eu)</a>). The members of consortia shall also fulfil the criteria described in Sections 6(c)-(d) of the respective calls.</li> </ul>
2	24/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>For the commitment letter of the Member States, is it correct that the template provided as Annex 1c has to be used and not free-format letter is necessary?</b>	<p>We confirm the correctness of the interpretation. Differently to previous calls where no template was provided, in the Call for Expression of Interest - Ref. EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02, we kindly request the use of the proposed form under Annex 1c with no need to prepare a different format. A free form cover</p>

				letter can also be included but only the fully completed form will be considered.
3	25/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>In addition to the documents listed in Annex 1 of the call and the Checklist for Applicants, is there a partnership agreement that the consortium should sign before submitting the proposal?</b>	<p>Pursuant to <i>Article 9, paragraph 2 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2021/1173, and Section 6 “Eligibility Criteria”, let a) of the Call for Expression of Interest (Ref. EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02)</i> “(..) <u>The applicant hosting entity and the competent authorities of the Participating State or Participating States in a hosting consortium shall enter into an agreement to this effect</u>”.</p> <p>Please be informed that evidence of this partnership agreement is not required and therefore it is not necessary to be provided when submitting the proposal.</p>
4	25/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Do the National Agencies co-financing the action also have to sign the declaration of honour? (p10 of the call: "Each applicant and each Participating State in a hosting consortium must complete and submit the duly signed Declaration of Honour (attached as Annex 1a)")?</b>	<p>Please note that the applicants shall be strictly understood as legal entities registered in one of the Participating State that is a Member State of the EU (for entities applying as coordinating applicant – Hosting Entity), or in one of the Participating States (members of consortia). The National Agencies co-financing the action are not considered as applicants, thus <u>they are not requested to provide a Declaration on Honour</u>.</p>
5	25/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Is there a template available for the Member State commitment (2nd document in the Applicant Checklist)?</b>	<p>Please be aware that a Model Commitment Letter has been provided as Annex 1c of the Call documents. In the checklist provided at the end of the application form (Annex 1), by mistake the template is mentioned as Annex 3. We</p>

				apologise for the clerical error which will be corrected. Also see answer to question 2
6	25/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Is the legal entity form to be submitted for the coordinator only or for all partners (In the checklist it appears only for the coordinator, in the application form it also appears for applicant No 2)?</b>	In accordance with Section 6(c) of the Call, the applicants must have a legal personality on the date of the deadline for submission of applications and <u>must be able to demonstrate their existence as a legal person</u> . In case of consortia, the criterion applies to <u>all entities involved</u> . Thus, all members of consortia, including the coordinating applicants, shall provide their individual Legal Entity Forms, as well as supporting documents proving their existence as legal persons.
7	25/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Who should sign the Letter of Commitment (Template 1.c)? It appears in the Checklist for Applicants but is not mentioned in the Call text or in the application form.</b>	The commitment letter of the Member State where the hosting entity is established and, in the case of a hosting consortium, of the competent authorities of the Participating States of the hosting consortium shall be signed by a Ministry designated by its Government. Also see answer to question 2 and question 5
8	26/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Can a Hosting Entity apply for the Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 at the first round (4 Nov 2024, 17:00) proposing “the acquisition or upgrade of a EuroHPC supercomputer with AI capabilities” and to establish an AI Factory” without proposing the “(optional) Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform” and then apply at the EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 in one of the following rounds (1 Feb 2025, 17:00 / 2 May 2025, 17:00 / 1 Aug 2025, 17:00 / 3 Nov 2025, 17:00 / 31 Dec 2025, 17:00 (CET) proposing only the Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform?</b>	Please note that the application for Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform shall be understood as <u>an additional option</u> to the application for the acquisition or upgrade of a EuroHPC supercomputer with AI capabilities and AI Factory. Each submitted proposal shall be regarded and evaluated separately, thus, the applicants cannot submit a proposal only for the Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform, irrespective of their previous submissions.

9	27/09/2024	03/10/2024	<p><b>Are partners from CH and UK eligible to participate to the Horizon Europe funded components (AI Factory and the AI Experimental Platform) of the proposal?</b></p> <p><b>Our considerations relate to the fact that both are EuroHPC JU members, and while the UK is already an HE associated country, CH aims to fully activate the transitional agreement in 2025 allowing participation as beneficiaries in HE and Euratom calls for proposals in the 2025 programme year.</b></p>	<p>Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 is open to applicant hosting entities which already host an AI-ready EuroHPC supercomputer suitable for setting up an 'AI factory' in a Participating State to the EuroHPC JU that is a Member State of the EU. The applicant hosting entity shall represent one Participating State that is a Member State or a hosting consortium of Participating States that have agreed to contribute to setting up an AI factory.</p> <p>Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 is open to applicant hosting entities that have the facilities to host and operate a new or an upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer and to set up an 'AI factory' in a Participating State to the EuroHPC JU that is a Member State of the EU. The applicant hosting entity shall represent one Participating State that is a Member State or a hosting consortium of Participating States that have agreed to contribute to the acquisition or the upgrade and to the operation of the supercomputer, and to set up an 'AI Factory'.</p> <p>The actions covering the funding of the "Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform" and the action covering the funding of the "AI Factory" will be implemented by way of grants which will be awarded on the basis of Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046. Eligible for these actions are only Hosting</p>
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				<p>Entities or hosting consortia identified in both Calls.</p> <p>According to Article 2(21) of the Regulation 2021/1173 establishing the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking, Participating State means a country that is a member of the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking Members of the Joint Undertaking can become Member States of the EU and third countries that are associated to Horizon Europe or the Digital Europe Programme.</p> <p>Regarding the two mentioned countries, Switzerland is in transition and not yet associated to either Horizon Europe or Digital Europe Programme and thus, not eligible. The UK is associated to Horizon Europe and therefore would be eligible to become Participating State in a hosting consortium and by this, being eligible to participate in the actions funded by Horizon Europe.</p>
10	27/09/2024	03/10/2024	<p><b>Are the letters of commitment acceptable in formats other than the template Annex 1C - Model Commitment Letter? Considering the short proposal preparation period, requiring consortium country ministries to provide their commitment in the annex model format is challenging in terms of time.</b></p>	<p>No, we strongly encourage the applicants to use a template commitment letter provided with the call documents. See answer to questions 2, 5 and 7 on this point.</p>
11	27/09/2024	03/10/2024	<p><b>Can one country / organisation participate to more than one AI Factory if the systems underpinning the factories are different?</b></p>	<p>Please note that participation in more than one AI Factory is possible but should be duly justified in the respective applications to avoid overlapping of activities and double funding.</p>

12	27/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>There can be only one AI system in a member country?</b>	Please note that the Call in section 3 of the Call text states that there will be a unitary EU contribution <u>per a new or per an upgraded</u> AI EuroHPC supercomputer.
13	27/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Who owns the AI system, bought with two different financial sources?</b>	Article 12a of Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1732 sets out that EuroHPC Joint Undertaking shall acquire AI optimised supercomputers and shall own them. The Unions financial contribution to these systems shall cover up to 50 % of the acquisition costs and up to 50 % of the operating costs.
14	30/09/2024	03/10/2024	<b>Is the delivery address different if the courier services are used by the applicants? (i.e., DHL)</b>	For deliveries by courier services, including DHL, please use the address with the following postal code: <i>European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking</i> <i>Drosbach Building (DRB) - Wing E – 1st floor</i> <i>12E rue Guillaume Kroll</i> <u><i>L-1882 Luxembourg</i></u> All other deliveries shall be addressed to the address indicated in Section 11 of the Call.
15	3/10/2024	3/10/2024	<b>Does the commitment letters need to include the amount of the financial contributions.</b>	The financial contribution should be set out in the commitment letters. A corrected version of the respective template Annex 1C - Model Commitment Letter has been published.
16	3/10/2024	4/10/2024	<b>Should all documents have a handwritten signature, or electronic signatures with a digital certificate will also be accepted (in which case the originally signed PDFs would be submitted on the USB stick)?</b>	We accept the documents signed electronically (by electronic certified digital signature). Please note that a qualified electronic signature is an electronic signature that is compliant with EU

				Regulation No 910/2014 (eIDAS Regulation) for electronic transactions within the internal European market. For details, check: <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/wikis/display/CEFDIGITAL/eSignature+-+Get+started#eSignatureGetstarted-Citizens">https://ec.europa.eu/digital-building-blocks/wikis/display/CEFDIGITAL/eSignature+-+Get+started#eSignatureGetstarted-Citizens</a>
17	3/10/2024	4/10/2024	<b>With regard to the call REF: EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 "AI-optimized Supercomputer", Annex 2, please clarify the sentence before the table "In-kind contributions are marked with coloured fields". Should we consider all the coloured rows as not eligible for JU funding or are they coloured as examples?</b>	Please note that as indicated in Section 13 - Annex 2, certain categories of the costs (marked in colour) can be covered only by the Hosting Entity, and thus, are not eligible for JU funding. The applicants are asked to provide an auditable methodology to calculate and verify the operating costs as described in Section 12.3.1 of the Call.
17a		7/10/2024	<b>Corrigendum</b> <b>With regard to the call REF: EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 "AI-optimized Supercomputer", Annex 2, please clarify the sentence before the table "In-kind contributions are marked with coloured fields". Should we consider all the coloured rows as not eligible for JU funding or are they coloured as examples?</b>	<b>The reply below corrects the answer provided in Question 17</b> The categories of costs indicated in Section 13 - Annex 2 marked in colour can be considered as in-kind contribution from the side of the Hosting Entity/Hosting consortium. Irrespective of this, such cost could be also subject to co-financing from the JU if calculated in accordance with description provided in Section 12.3.1 of the Call.
18	3/10/2024	4/10/2024	<b>Could you indicate when we can expect the hosting agreement (HA) model to be published?</b>	We will publish the model Hosting Agreement as soon as it is available.
19	3/10/2024	4/10/2024	<b>In Article 17, the Digital Europe (DEP) GA notes that a detailed communication and dissemination plan must be provided "The beneficiary must provide a detailed communication and dissemination plan, setting out the objectives, key messaging, target audiences, communication channels, social media plan, planned budget and relevant indicators for monitoring and</b>	Please note that DEP Grant Agreement will be signed by the applicants to cover the operating costs related to the acquisition of a new AI supercomputer. The AI Factory and the experimental platform (optional) will be covered by Horizon Europe Grant Agreement.

			<b>evaluation". Should the EoI include communication and dissemination activities focused exclusively on the supercomputer, to be budgeted under the TCO? If so, are the costs eligible, as currently these are not listed in Annex 2 of the Call detailing the cost elements to consider in the calculation of the operating costs.</b>	Regarding the description of the TCO, including the methodology to calculate the operating costs, please refer to Section 12.3.1 of the Call and indicative list described in Section 13 - Annex 2 thereof and Annex 2a of the DEP Model Grant Agreement (Annex 4c of the Call).
20	3/10/2024	4/10/2024	<b>Although it references a consortium, the Horizon Europe (HE) GA is marked as mono beneficiary, is there another version that we should consider in case of a consortium behind the AI Factory?</b>	<p>Please note that it is expected that in case of consortia, grants will be signed by the coordinating Hosting Entity on behalf of consortium.</p> <p>Please also note that the grants for AI Factories will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of Regulation (EU) 2024/2509 of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (Article 195(f) of the previous EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046). After the award of a grant under afore-referred Article, it is not possible to change the Hosting Entity or the composition of a Hosting Consortium anymore, further entities will not be able to join the Hosting Entity or Hosting Consortium throughout the implementation of the grant.</p>
21	3/10/2024	4/10/2024	<b>What is the envisioned procedure for the experimental platform? Should it be similar to the acquisition of a new systems? Will it include the signature of a HA and a procurement process?</b>	In accordance with call conditions, following the successful application for the experimental platform, the applicants will be awarded a grant (please refer Annex 4d General Model Grant Agreement for Horizon Europe). There will be no separate Hosting Agreement for the experimental platform, nor is there a procurement foreseen.

				<p>Please also note that the grants for the experimental platform will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of Regulation (EU) 2024/2509 of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (Article 195(f) of the previous EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046). After the award of a grant under afore-referred Article, it is not possible to change the Hosting Entity or the composition of a Hosting Consortium anymore, further entities will not be able to join the Hosting Entity or Hosting Consortium throughout the implementation of the grant.</p>
22	4/10/2024	7/10/2024	<p><b>The maximum EU contribution in the call is generally set at 50% of the eligible project costs. If there is a partner who is not able to co-finance the costs from their own or other resources, is it possible in this case to set the maximum EU contribution in the proposal at 100% of the eligible costs, while the coordinator would get a significantly lower maximum EU contribution so that in total the maximum EU contribution will not exceed 50% of the eligible costs of the project?</b></p> <p><b>If this would be possible in the proposal, we assume that the different maximum EU contribution limits would also be stated in the Grant Agreement. Would it then also be technically possible to set different limits for the maximum EU contribution for each beneficiary in the F&amp;T portal where eligible costs are reported?</b></p>	<p>As set out in Section 3 of the Call text, the Union financial contribution to the EuroHPC JU shall cover up to 50 % of the acquisition costs, plus up to 50 % of the operating costs of the new AI EuroHPC supercomputer or AI upgrade, up to 50 % of the development and operation costs of an Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform, and up to 50 % of the costs associated with the setting up and operation of the “AI Factories”. The remaining total cost of ownership of the AI-optimised or AI upgraded supercomputer and those cost related to the Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform and to the “AI Factories” shall be covered by the Participating State that is a Member State where the hosting entity is established or by the Participating States in the hosting consortium.</p>

				As explained in Section 6 of the Call text, the applicant hosting entity shall represent one Participating State that is a Member State or a hosting consortium of Participating States that have agreed to contribute to the acquisition of the new AI EuroHPC supercomputer or the AI upgrade, the operation of the supercomputer, and to set up an 'AI Factory'. To implement the actions, the applicant hosting entity and the competent authorities of the Participating State or Participating States in a hosting consortium shall enter into an agreement and make appropriate internal arrangements. The EuroHPC JU will not enter into these arrangements.
23	10/10/2024	11/10/2024	<b>The mandate letter (Annex 1b) contains a reference to "title and no". If this refers to the Hosting Agreement, which is not yet available, could you please announce the title and no of the aforementioned? If "title and no" refers to something else, could you please explain what is needed here?</b>	Please note that this box does not specifically refer to the Title and No of the future Hosting Agreement. For the mandate letters, the EuroHPC JU uses a standard template in its calls for expression of interest. Thus, you can fill the box with the reference to the specific call for which you are submitting an application (call ID).
24	07/10/2024	11/10/2024	<b>Are the costs of leasing an interim system for the period until the space and infrastructure for a larger installation of the AI Factory supercomputer is completed eligible for funding?</b>	As set out in Section 3 of the Call, for newly acquired AI EuroHPC supercomputers, grants will be established to cover the operating costs of the supercomputer and for existing to be upgraded EuroHPC supercomputers, existing grants will be amended to cover the additional operating costs of the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputers. A list of cost categories including an indicative lists of cost elements to be considered is attached as Annex 2. Leasing

				costs for an interim system are not covered by the operating grant.
25	14/10/2024	15/10/2024	<b>Under Section 2.1.3 (Operating Costs), one is expected to provide the number and estimated average costs for staff. We assume that costs for system administrators are included as infrastructure costs. Should the costs for user support and technical support staff be included under infrastructure costs, too, or are they considered part of the AI Factory services?</b>	<p>Please be aware that it has to be distinguished if the costs occur within the context of the infrastructure or the AI factory.</p> <p>For the infrastructure part, please refer to Annex 4c of the Call (Unit Digital Europe Programme (DEP) Grant Agreement). Annex 2a of the DEP Model Grant Agreement provides the methodology to calculate the unit costs. It also provides the cost categories and an indicative list of actions for each cost category. Regarding the system administrator, the user support and the technical support, these costs fall under the cost category "Personnel Costs". Regarding the costs that occur in the context of the AI factory, the rules of the Horizon Europe General Model Grant Agreement apply (provided as Annex 4d of the Call).</p>
26	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Could you please confirm the maximum EU financial contribution for the acquisition of one new AI EuroHPC supercomputer?</b>	<p>As explained in Section 3 of the Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02, a unitary EU contribution per a new or per an upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer of around EUR 200 million is considered appropriate. Please note that nonetheless, this does not preclude the submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts. The unitary EU contribution for this new or upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer will then be adapted (increased or decreased) to the requested EU contribution amount of the application, by also considering the number of already submitted</p>

				and approved applications, and the remaining Union's funds.
27	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>How many EuroHPC supercomputers are expected to be funded under this call?</b>	The contracting authority cannot make any speculations in this regard and will the number of applications on the respective cut-off dates.
28	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Is there a differentiated budget slot allocated for new hosting entities versus existing ones?</b>	As set out in Section 3 of the Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02, the Union's financial contribution both for the acquisition of new or upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputers is estimated at EUR 400 million depending on budget availability in the EuroHPC JU Programme 2024. The overall Union's financial contribution to the EuroHPC JU for the acquisition of new or upgraded AI-EuroHPC supercomputers is estimated at EUR 800 million depending on the final budget availability (DEP funds). Please note that there are no differentiated budget slots for new versus upgraded AI-EuroHPC supercomputers.
29	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Regarding the evaluation criterion "<i>b) Proximity with an established data centre, or connection to it via very high-speed networks (0-10 points)</i>," in which section of the application form should this be reflected to facilitate the evaluators' task?</b>	Please follow the structure of application form available in Annex 1. As this is a requirement related to the Hosting Entity's infrastructure, we encourage you to insert the relevant information under the Section 2.3. "Quality of the hosting facility's physical and IT infrastructure, its security and its connectivity with the rest of the Union". Please note, however, that the experts are evaluating the full proposal irrespective where the information was inserted, thus, all information provided will be evaluated by the experts.

30	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Which evaluation criterion does section 4.1.3. Trustworthy AI of the application form correspond to?</b>	Please note that the soundness of the plans for developing Trustworthy AI is a part of evaluation criteria for the AI Factory, described under Section 8.3 point c of the Call text. The applicants shall include in their application a description of the plans they have for developing of robust guidelines and standards for AI algorithmic development aligned with the principles and requirements of the AI Act (Cf. Section 12.5 of the call).
31	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Could you confirm if new hosting entities (that are not yet part of EuroHPC) can only participate through the acquisition track (Appendix I, 3. New AI Optimised Supercomputer Track)?</b>	We confirm that track number 3 “New AI Optimised Supercomputer” is the only track foreseen for new hosting entities. Number 1 “AI Factories Track” and 2 “Upgraded AI Optimised Supercomputer Track” require an already existing EuroHPC supercomputer that is AI ready (no 1) or will be upgrade with AI capabilities (no 2).
32	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>While the maximum EU contribution for establishing and running each AI Factory is set at EUR 15 million for a maximum period of 3 years, could you please clarify the maximum EU contribution and duration for which the operating costs of the new AI EuroHPC supercomputer will be covered?</b>	As stated in Art. 12 a) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 on establishing the European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1732, in the case of <b>new AI-optimised EuroHPC supercomputers</b> , the Union financial contribution shall cover up to 50% of the operating costs for a period of five years (Art. 12 a) (7), after which the ownership of the AI-optimised supercomputer may be transferred to the hosting entity or the AI-optimised supercomputer may be sold to another entity or decommissioned upon decision of the Governing Board and in accordance with the hosting agreement.

33	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Could you please confirm the maximum budget allocation for the development of the advanced experimental AI-optimised platform, if this option is included in the application and deemed valuable?</b>	The total budget foreseen for the development and deployment of Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platforms (“Platforms”) is up to EUR 60 million, depending on the budget availability. As indicated in the Call conditions (Cf. Section 3), however, the final budget combination is subject to changes based on the received submissions, for instance, with increased share of budget allocated to the AI Factories. Please also note that the Union’s contribution to the Platform cannot exceed 50% of total costs. The remaining total cost related to the Platform shall be covered by the Participating State where the hosting entity is established or by the Participating States in the hosting consortium.
34	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Additionally, could you please clarify the duration of operation that will be covered by the funding [<i>with regard to the Advanced Experimental Platform</i>]?</b>	Please note that in accordance with the Call conditions (Cf. Section 12.3 of the Call), the applicants shall indicate in the application the proposed duration of Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (“Platform”). Such duration shall be duly justified and will be evaluated on its own merits.
35	19/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>While adhering to the provided application form template, is it possible to include additional sections to facilitate the review of the content, such as an executive summary or annexes to provide any relevant documentation?</b>	In order to facilitate the assessment against the evaluation criteria, we kindly ask you to complete the form and its sections strictly following the instructions provided in Annex 1 without modify its structure. Additional information/details might be provided in separate supporting documents if necessary.
36	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>We wanted to double check on the Hosting Agreement model when is it expected to be published. It is</b>	The model Hosting Agreement will be published with other Call documents once it is available.

			particularly important in order to properly address requirements for section 2.4. Quality of service to the users, namely capability to comply with the SLA. Additionally, since submission of the EoI equates with acceptance of the HA terms and conditions, we would appreciate the possibility to review and ask for clarifications if any of conditions would raise concerns.	
37	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	Are the Annexes listed in the Application checklist (referenced in section 4.4 Application form) to be considered in the 200 page limit. Does the Application need to include the compiled check list table? Similarly, how are potential letters of support to be considered in reference to the 200 page limit (part of or outside that account)?	Please be informed that the limit of 200 pages applies only to the form itself. Supporting letters or documents should not be included in the page limit calculation. The checklist table is provided to ensure that all the required documents are attached.
38	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	The call text note that the application must be submitted in 3 (three) copies - <i>one original clearly identified as such</i> - should this be done using an original respectively copy stamp on each page part of the submission including annexes?	Please note that it is not necessary to stamp each individual page. It is sufficient to clearly separate the original, e.g. by means of a separate folder, and to label it clearly.
39	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	The call text notes that the application <i>must be signed by the person authorised to enter into legally binding commitments on behalf of the applicant organisation</i> - is a final electronic signature sufficient or should all pages of the application be signed by the authorised person?	A valid electronic signature is sufficient in this case. For more details regarding the valid electronic signature, please refer to Q16.
40	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	What is the level of detail / format expected for the AI Factory budget estimate that should be included in the Application? Similar question for the experimental platform cost breakdown. Is there a reference template to be used.	Please note that with reference to the budget estimation for the AI factories and the experimental platform, a template is available in Annex 4d of the General Model Grant Agreement attached to both Calls.
41	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	In reference to your answer to question 21 and footnote 10 / page 8 of Call text, what is intended / should be understood by (after the) "award of the grant"? Is that the signature of the Grant Agreement or award decision?	Generally, award means the decision taken by the responsible Authorising Officer, not the signature of the Grant Agreement. However, please note that regarding the participation in

			<p><b>Can additional partners be included between the award decision and the actual signature of the GA? Question raised for both types of GAs that is DEP and HE.</b></p>	<p>the different action financed from DEP and HE has to be distinguished. The Grant financed from DEP is a contractual arrangement between the EuroHPC JU and the hosting entity to cover the funding of the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer's operating costs. It will be a mono-beneficiary grant signed with the hosting entity only.</p> <p>The Grant for the Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of Regulation (EU) 2024/2509 of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) (Article 195(f) of the previous EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046) to Hosting Entities of EuroHPC AI oriented or AI upgraded supercomputers. As this action can only be implemented alongside with the procurement for the acquisition and the operation activities of a new or upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer by the awarded Hosting Entities identified in Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02) ), or the awarded Hosting Entity of an existing EuroHPC supercomputer evaluated as AI ready in Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 (please see footnote 10), the participation in this action is limited to the hosting entity, or in case of a hosting consortium, to the members of the hosting consortium. No other partners be included between the award decision and the signature of the Grant Agreement.</p>
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42	20/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Is the new / upgraded system envisioned to serve a certain quota to the AI Factory? What is the distribution / reference quotas to consider, if any?</b>	Unfortunately, it is not clear what quotas are meant, could you please reformulate the question.
43	21/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>We would like to invite partners from Western Balkan countries to participate in AI Factory: Montenegro, North Macedonia and (if eligible) Bosnia and Herzegovina. They would contribute effort in AI Factory. Is this in-line with your expectations? If I am not mistaken, member states are allowed to join.</b>	In accordance with Section 6 “Eligibility Criteria” let. d) of the call, <i>“the applicant hosting entity shall represent one Participating State that is a Member State or a hosting consortium of Participating States that have agreed to contribute to the acquisition or the upgrade and to the operation of the supercomputer, and to set up an ‘AI Factory’, (which may include several different legal entities from the same Participating State and/or from different Participating States).”</i> With respect to the countries mentioned in the question, please be informed that only Montenegro and North Macedonia are Participating States. Therefore, Bosnia and Herzegovina is not allowed to join the partnership.
44	21/10/2024	22/10/2024	<b>Is a private company entitled to apply for “Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform” if member of the consortium?</b>	Please note that the application on Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platform (“Platform”) is an option to the main application and as such cannot be submitted as a separate application (cf. Q 8). For this reason, eligibility criteria for the Platform are the same as for the main application. The private companies which are legal entities are eligible if they fulfil all eligibility criteria provided for in Section 6 of the respective calls.
45	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<b>In our previous question "Is the new / upgraded system envisioned to serve a certain quota to the AI Factory? What is the distribution / reference quotas to consider,</b>	Please be informed that according to Articles 12a (2) and 17 (1) of Regulation (EU) 2021/1173 on establishing the European High Performance

			<p>if any?" We were referencing here the different shares of CPU-core-hours, GPU-hours and storage-hours, so a specific share dedicated to the AI factory and their users regardless other country of provenance. Is the allocation model (allocated shares) expected to be a mirroring of the proportions of the monetary contributions?</p>	<p>Computing Joint Undertaking, as amended by Regulation (EU) 2024/1732 the Union's share of access time to the AI optimised supercomputer is directly proportionate to the Union's financial contribution and shall not exceed 50% of the total access time. As for the AI upgrades, Article 15 (5) of the mentioned Regulation provides that that the percentage of the Union's financial contribution for the acquisition costs of the grade shall be the same as the percentage of the Union's contribution to the original EuroHPC supercomputer.</p> <p>As set out in Annex 3 of the Call text, the access policy concerning the EU access time will be defined and agreed by the EuroHPC Governing Board in due time.</p>
46	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p>Can the AI factory consortium have different / additional partners that are not part of the supercomputer hosting consortium? We would like to engage additional partners exclusively for the activities of the AI Factory.</p>	<p>Please note that as indicated in the Call conditions (cf. footnote 7), the grants for the AI Factories will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of the <a href="#">EU Financial Regulation</a>. Such grants will be only awarded to the Hosting Entities of EuroHPC AI-oriented or AI-upgraded supercomputers, therefore the applicants for AI Factories shall not include any new partners in their consortia, other than these already participating in the initial consortia for EuroHPC AI-oriented/AI-upgraded supercomputers.</p> <p>However, please also note that as indicated in Section 8.3 of the Call (cf. footnote 11), the provision of the AI factories services may be implemented in a distributed manner by different partners from the selected hosting entity/consortium of Participating States.</p>

47	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p><b>If partners only participate to the AI Factory, can they come with their own 50% funding so not requesting national co-funding? Would that constitute an impediment? And would they still require their country MS approval/letter of commitment to be eligible?</b></p>	<p>Please note that in accordance with the Call conditions (cf. Section 3), the financial contribution to an AI Factory that is not covered by the Union shall be covered by the Participating State where the hosting entity is established or by the Participating States in the hosting consortium. For this reason, the commitment letter from the Participating State or Participating States in case of a Hosting Consortium is necessary requirement of the application.</p>
48	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p><b>Are recruitment costs eligible? As the Factory will require considerable resources to be put into place in short interval, we would like to know if engaging recruitment consultants would be an eligible cost?</b></p>	<p>Please note that the grants for the AI Factories will be awarded on the basis of Horizon Europe Grant Agreement (Cf. Annex 4d of the Call). Therefore, to be deemed eligible, the claimed costs shall fulfil the general and specific eligibility conditions.</p> <p>Concerning the general conditions, the costs to be eligible shall fulfil the criteria listed in Article 6.1 of the model Grant Agreement (i.e., incurred during the action; necessary for the action; incurred in connection with the action). For the specific eligibility criteria, please consult Article 6.2 of the model Horizon Europe Grant Agreement since the eligibility of such costs may differ depending, for instance, on type of employment or the nature of the work, etc. For instance, certain staff-related costs are not eligible under personnel costs (Article 6.2.A), however such costs may be considered eligible under other budget categories as subcontracting (Article 6.2.B) or costs for other good, works, services (Article 6.2.C).</p>

49	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p><b>Is the organisational and operational model of the competence centres appropriate to be considered also as a model for the set up and operations of the AI Factory?</b></p>	<p>In principle there are similarities between the concept of CCs and AI Factories, therefore such approach could be applicable. However, please note that Annex 3 of the Call text (Section 14) explains what to understand under an AI factory. Further, Annex 1 of the Call text (Section 12) details the content of the application, including for the AI factories. The criteria against which the proposal for the AI factory will be assessed are set out in Section 8.3 of the Call text.</p>
50	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p><b>We would like to request clarification on how to structure personnel costs in the proposal. Based on the guidelines, we understand the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Infrastructure personnel costs should follow the rules of the <u>Digital Europe Programme (Annex 4c of the call, aligned with the template in Annex 2a), which include categories such:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>System administration</i></li> <li>○ <i>Application enablement, user support and training</i></li> <li>○ <i>Facility team</i></li> <li>○ <i>Installation team.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>AI Factory and AI experimental platform personnel costs are subject to the <u>Horizon Europe</u> rules (Annex 4d of the call, aligned with the template in Annex 2), which should include the following minimum requirements as indicated in the application form template:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Number of system administrators (FTE) expected to dedicate to the running of the supercomputer service</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Please be informed that for the operating costs for the AI optimised or upgraded EuroHPC supercomputer will be funded by a mono-beneficiary grant that follows the unit cost methodology, supported by the Digital Europe Programme. Annex 2a of the Unit Digital Europe Programme (DEP) Grant Agreement (Annex 4c of the Call) provides information on how to calculate the unit costs, including the unit costs for personnel. In this context, please be aware that the flat rate of 7% for indirect costs applies only to the personnel cost category, not to all direct cost categories defined by the Digital Europe Programme.</p> <p>We confirm that by contrast the personnel costs in the context of the AI factory and the AI experimental platform follow the rules defined by the Horizon Europe Programme and will be implemented through separate grants distinct from the grant covering the operating costs for the AI optimised or upgraded EuroHPC supercomputer.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Number of user support staff (FTE) expected to dedicate to the running of the users of the supercomputer and application support</li> <li>○ Number of technical support staff (FTE) expected to dedicate for an Application Support Team</li> </ul> <p>We would appreciate it if you could confirm whether this distinction between infrastructure and AI Factory/experimental platform personnel costs is correct.</p>	
51	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p><b>Could you clarify if all these personnel costs should be included under Operating Costs along with the examples provided, or if there is room to create an <u>additional category for personnel costs</u>?</b></p>	<p>Please be informed that the cost categories set out in Annex 2a of the Unit Digital Europe Programme (DEP) Grant Agreement (Annex 4c of the Call), i.e. the categories “site preparation cost”, “personnel costs” and “operations and maintenance”, are concluding. However, as explained in Annex 2a, the list of actions under each cost category is non-exhaustive for the operating costs. If the applicants provide well-justified additional items under a category, they can be accepted in accordance with the Unit cost methodology described in Annex 2a.</p>
52	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p><b>We noticed that Annex 2 of the HE MGA (Annex 4d of the call) is not displaying correctly and is missing some relevant footnotes. Could you kindly provide a clearer version of the template or a link to an alternative document?</b></p>	<p>Please note that the template of <b>Annex 4d</b> of our call reflects the exact content of Annex 2 of the HE MGA also available at the following link: <a href="#">Horizon Europe – Grants &amp; reporting - European Commission</a> No other version of the annex is available.</p>

53	22/10/2024	23/10/2024	<p>Regarding one of the previous questions, could you kindly confirm the maximum budget allocation foreseen for <u>each</u> advanced experimental AI-optimised platform?</p>	<p>Unfortunately, at this stage, it is not possible to provide a maximum budget for each advanced experimental AI-optimised platform.</p> <p>As indicated in the footnote no 6 of Section 3 of the Call (p.5), the <b>total budget</b> foreseen for the development and deployment of Advanced Experimental AI-optimised Supercomputing Platforms (“Platforms”) is up to EUR 60 million. The final budget is subject to changes based on the received submissions, for instance, with increased share of budget allocated to the AI Factories. Please also refer to Q33.</p>
54	16/10/2024	24/10/2024	<p>I would like to ask some clarifications on the Declaration on Honor required evidence:  When all “situations of exclusion” criteria sections A-I,II,III,IV are all marked as “NO” we assume that no further evidence is required (since there are no tender specifications in the case of AI factories call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01). Thus, apart from the DoH itself, we do not plan to include further documents in the proposal, at the submission stage. Is this correct?</p>	<p>As specified in the EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 text, under Section 7.4, <b>applicants</b> and <b>affiliated</b> entities must provide a Declaration on Honour certifying that they are not in any exclusion situation. In addition to the DoH form duly filled in and signed, it is required that the DoH is supported by appropriate evidence to prove they are not in any such situation.</p> <p>Please refer to Section VI (Evidence on Exclusion Criteria, p.5) of the DoH where the documentary evidence required is listed.</p> <p>The submission of the evidence is not required in case the applicant has already provided them for another procedure of EuroHPC JU and the situation has not changed (the documents must have been issued no more than one year before the date of their request by the contracting authority and must still be valid at that date); and when evidence can be accessed on a national database free of charge.</p>

55	16/10/2024	24/10/2024	<p><b>I would like to ask some clarifications on the type of consortium members we are able to include in our proposal:</b></p> <p><b>Apart from beneficiaries, we can see in the Model Grant Agreement of the EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 call that there are also the categories of Affiliated entities, Third parties giving in-kind contribution, subcontractors and recipients of financial support to third parties.</b></p> <p><b>Are all the above categories of partners eligible in our case?</b></p> <p><b>We are wondering since in the call description there is no extensive description apart from: “The same exclusion criteria apply to affiliated entities.”</b></p>	<p>Please be reminded that a grant for an AI Factory will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of the EU Financial Rules only to the existing EuroHPC Hosting Entities (cf. Q46 for more details). Therefore, the composition of consortium applying for an AI Factory (consortium members) shall reflect the composition of an initial consortium of a EuroHPC AI-oriented/AI-upgraded supercomputer, for instance, no new members can be added.</p> <p>Please also note that the grant signed after the selection will be a mono-beneficiary Horizon Europe Grant Agreement, signed with the coordinating Hosting Entity on behalf of the applying consortium. For subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contribution to the action, and recipients of financial support to third parties, standard rules of the Horizon Europe Grant Agreement will apply.</p>
56	16/10/2024	24/10/2024	<p><b>I would like to ask what is the planned starting date of an AI factory project in case it is submitted and approved in the first cut-off date?</b></p> <p><b>Is there a specific date? Will we be able to choose a later date within 2025?</b></p>	<p>There is not a specific date. The starting date of an AI Factory project will be established in the grant agreement (Annex 4d - General Model Grant Agreement, Data Sheet Point 1). The options are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- first day of the month following the entry into force date; or</li> <li>- fixed date.</li> </ul>
57	16/10/2024	24/10/2024	<p><b>I would like to ask some clarifications on the amendment made for other Participating States being able to join a hosting consortium:</b></p>	<p>Generally, in accordance with Article 9 of the Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1732 of 17 June 2024 after the selection of the hosting entity,</p>

			<p><b>In case some eligible countries declare their intention to join a consortium, but due to time restrictions, they are not able to commit on specific funding from their side, is there a way to fully join the consortium at another stage? E.g. Could they provide to a proposal a letter of Intent/Support and as soon as they secure their national funding, to make an amendment or resubmission/extension at the next cut-off deadline of the same call? Is there any other way for them to be included in the proposal?</b></p>	<p>the Participating State where the selected hosting entity is established or the corresponding hosting consortium may decide to invite, subject to the prior agreement of the Commission, additional Participating States, or a consortium of private partners, to join the hosting consortium.</p> <p>However, please be reminded that the grant for an AI Factory will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of the EU Financial Rules only to the existing EuroHPC Hosting Entities (in case of Call Ref. EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01). Therefore, the composition of consortium applying for an AI Factory (consortium members) shall reflect the composition of the initial consortium of the EuroHPC AI-oriented/AI-upgraded supercomputer, for instance, no new members can be added after signature of the Grant Agreement (cf. Q46 for more details). Partners must fulfil the eligibility criteria described in the Call and shall submit all requested supporting documents. An inclusion of new partners shall neither be considered as a “re-submission” nor an amendment during a next cut-off and would only be possible until the signature of the Grant Agreement.</p>
58	24/10/2024	24/10/2024	<p><b>The deadline for the first cut-off is on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November (Monday). However, the 1<sup>st</sup> of November (Friday) is a bank holiday in some of the countries. Are the JU offices open on this date to collect a delivery?</b></p>	<p>Please note that the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking office is closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024, therefore, you should take this into consideration when organising your delivery.</p>

59	25/10/2024	25/10/2024	<p><b>In your answer to Q 54 you clarified that all applicants and affiliated entities must provide, in addition to the DoH, appropriate evidence to prove that they are not in any exclusion situation. Does this also apply to evidence on selection criteria? According to the DoH it is set out in the tender specifications what evidence, when, and by which involved entity needs to be provided. Since this call is not a call for tender but a call for expression of interest these details are not given in the call text. Can you please clarify if and what kind of evidence you expect here?</b></p>	<p>Please note that the applicants are requested to submit the supporting documents listed in Section A.VI of the Declaration on Honour. No further supporting documents are requested at this stage.</p> <p>Please also note that the EuroHPC JU is using a standard template for the Declaration on Honour, therefore all references to procurement and/or tenders shall be understood as references to call and/or applications.</p>
60	25/10/2024	25/10/2024	<p><b>We plan to submit an application to the EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 call, within which we would like to propose an upgrade of the existing petascale system. Within the proposal, we plan to install a new computing partition aimed for AI calculations together with a new data storage and control servers, into the existing petascale system. Installing a new partition will extend the life of an existing petascale system. However, due to technical reasons, we plan to operate the original components of the petascale system only for the period specified in the original/current Hosting Agreement. After this date, the new components ("AI upgrade") will completely replace the original ones.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Is the approach described above possible given the constraints of the EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 call?</b></li> <li><b>2. Is it possible to agree with EuroHPC JU on a HA amendment to extend the life of the original petascale system in such a way that this life extension takes into account the fact that after the original system will not be in operation anymore, EuroHPC JU will not be provided with the 35% of the capacities of the original petascale</b></li> </ol>	<p>Please be informed that in accordance with the <a href="#">Council Regulation 2024/1732 of 17 June 2024</a>, the upgrade of the EuroHPC supercomputer shall be owned by the EuroHPC JU under the same conditions of ownership as the original EuroHPC supercomputer. In accordance with Article 15(5) thereof and explained in Sections 1 and 3 of the Call text, the percentage of the Union's financial contribution for the acquisition costs of the upgrade shall be the same as the percentage of the Union's financial contribution for the original EuroHPC supercomputer, <i>depreciated over the expected remaining lifetime of the original supercomputer.</i></p> <p>For this reason, the lifetime of the upgrade shall be aligned with lifetime of the original supercomputer (i.e., by submitting a proposal that would align with the lifetime of an original</p>

			system, but only 35% of the capacities of the "AI upgrade" part.	<p>machine or by extension of the lifetime of the original machine).</p> <p>To summarise on your questions the replies thus would be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This approach is not possible.</li> <li>2. The lifetime of the upgrade needs to conclude with the lifetime of the original system.</li> </ol>
61	25/10/2024	28/10/2024	<b>Should documentary evidence be provided for the DoH at this point in time? Similarly, is the access to databases/identification data related to such evidence (as referenced on page 6 of the DoH form) needed at the time of the submission of the EoI?</b>	Please note that the applicants are requested to submit the supporting documents listed in Section A.VI of the Declaration on Honour with the submission. This applies also to evidence if it accessible on a national database free of charge.
62	28/10/2024	28/10/2024	<b>When the hosting entity applies for an AI factory based on the existing supercomputer, are all the members of the initial consortium automatically considered members of the AI factory consortium even if they do not contribute with extra budget?</b>	Please note that Call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01 is opened only for existing Hosting Entities, the applying consortia shall reflect the composition of the initial hosting consortia. This means that no new additional members shall be added (cf. Q46). However, it is not automatically assumed that all members of an initial consortium are also members of a new consortium. It is an internal decision of the consortia with regard to the final composition within the limits indicated in the Call conditions (i.e., not including all members of initial consortia).
63	28/10/2024	28/10/2024	<b>What are the minimum requirements for them to be considered part of the AI factory consortium? Can they be included as affiliated entities or even beneficiaries with zero budget or is there some other scheme for other countries to participate in the consortium?</b>	In terms of eligibility requirements, as explained in previous questions (cf. Q46, Q62), the composition of consortia applying for the AI Factories Call (Ref. EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-01) shall reflect the composition of the initial hosting consortia. The members of the

				<p>consortia shall fulfil the eligibility requirements indicated in Section 6 of the Call. Apart from the financial contributions, a member of a consortium could also contribute with in-kind contributions (i.e., providing an FTE or equivalent).</p> <p>Please also note that the Grant Agreement resulting from the award of an AI Factory will be a standard mono-beneficiary Horizon Europe Grant Agreement, therefore standard rules of Horizon Europe are applicable to different types of participants (cf. Q55).</p>
64	28/10/2024	28/10/2024	<p><b>If they are able to participate in the consortium at this stage with zero budget, in case they secure national funding (&lt;5M€), can we have an amendment on the GA?</b></p>	<p>Please be informed that the GA cannot be amended. The grant for an AI Factory will be awarded on the basis of Article 198(f) of the EU Financial Rules. The financial contribution should be set out in the commitment letters (please also refer to Q46, 55, 57).</p>
65	23/10/2024	28/10/2024	<p><b>Could you please confirm if a Member State is allowed to submit more than one hosting entity application in the same call, meaning more than one hosting entity from the same Member State?</b></p> <p><b>For example, would it be possible for a Member State to apply for:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Upgrading a current EuroHPC supercomputer towards an AI Factory (Track 2) by an existing EuroHPC hosting entity , and</b></li> <li><b>2. The acquisition of a new AI Factory optimised Supercomputer (Track 3) by a new hosting entity?</b></li> </ol>	<p>Please note that there is no formal restriction to submit only one application per Member State, in particular if the two applications are submitted by different Hosting Entities/member of Hosting consortia. However, in both cases an applying Hosting Entity/a member of a Hosting Consortium shall submit an individual commitment letter from the Participating State for the respective applications. However, please note that the participation in more than one AI Factory should be duly justified in the respective</p>

				applications to avoid overlapping of activities and double funding.
66	23/10/2024	28/10/2024	<p>I am writing you to ask a question regarding the commitment letter of participating states for the call EUROHPC-2024-CEI-AI-02 . Our question is:</p> <p><b>We have 3 national agencies in our country that will be co-funding this action (2 ministries and 1 regional government) Could you please confirm if it is correct to provide the Annex 1c (model commitment letter participating states) for each of them as a confirmation of the governmental support for the funding?</b></p>	Please be informed that in case the co-financing of the Participating State is coming from different governmental bodies (i.e., different ministries and/or regional ministries), please provide separate commitment letters.
67	21/10/2024	28/10/2024	<p><b>Is it eligible to host the Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform on a different location than the AI EuroHPC supercomputer in case both locations are in the same Member State? And is it eligible in case of hosting in two different Member States?</b></p>	Please note that an application for an Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform (“Platform”) is an option for the Hosting Entities with the goal of such Platform to provide an exploratory supercomputing infrastructure for the development, integration, testing, and co-design of a wide range of European technologies <u>suitable to be part of the new or the upgraded AI EuroHPC supercomputer.</u> Please also note that the application submitted for the Platform is not a separate application but an integral part of the main application and cannot be granted without awarding the main application (cf. Q44). For these reasons, it is not eligible to have two hosting sites, one hosting an EuroHPC AI-oriented supercomputer and another one hosting the Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform.
68	21/10/2024	28/10/2024	<p><b>For the Advanced Experimental AI-Optimised Supercomputing Platform is foreseen to be some state-</b></p>	As mentioned in the call text “The goal of such a platform shall be to develop an exploratory supercomputing infrastructure for the

			<b>of-the-art platform. Is it eligible to use HW components that are currently available on the market?</b>	development, integration, testing, and co-design of a wide range of European technologies suitable to be part of a newly acquired or upgraded EuroHPC supercomputer". Therefore, key components of the platform are expected to derive from European R&D activities.
69	21/10/2024	28/10/2024	<b>How should we prove a high degree of technical competence and specialisation in developing exploratory supercomputing infrastructure for the development, integration, testing and co-design of a wide range of European technologies being part of the AI supercomputer infrastructure?</b>	Candidates need to provide such evidence of competencies through the three evaluation criteria foreseen by the call, namely: Excellence, Impact and Quality and efficiency of implementation. In particular, as part of the latter criterion, candidates will need to describe the "capacity and expertise of the consortium"