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European Institute of Innovation and Technology

Invitation to request the amendment of the proposal for the Critical Raw Material Value Chains Facility (CRM Facility)

HORIZON-EIT-2025-CRM-IBA

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Contents

1. Introduction 4
2. Scope of the amendment 5
3. Available budget for the amendment 5
4. Timetable and deadlines 6
5. Admissibility 6
6. Amended activities of the CRM-F proposal 7
6.1 General activities 7
6.2 Geographic windows 13
7. Submission of request for amendment 19
8. Award criteria 20
9. Legal and financial provisions 21
9.1 Starting date and project duration 21
9.2 Milestones and deliverables 21
9.3 Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount 22
9.4 Financial support to third parties 22
9.5 Reporting and payment arrangements 22

1. Introduction

This is an **invitation ("amendment invitation") addressed to the consortium of the KIC Legal Entities of EIT Raw Materials and EIT InnoEnergy to request the amendment of the Grant Agreement** signed following the *Invitation to submit a proposal for the Critical Raw Material Value Chains Facility (CRM Facility)* ("original invitation")[1] in the field of critical raw materials for an EU action grant financed from the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI-GE) programme. This Grant Agreement is managed by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) under the Horizon Europe legal framework.

This amendment invitation has the purpose and scope of inviting the consortium to submit an updated proposal in light of the foreseen additional activities and related funding to establish and run the CRM Facility (to develop and integrate sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and selected natural resource-rich partner countries to secure a reliable supply of critical and strategic raw materials to the EU, while supporting partner countries in extracting value locally from their natural resources).

The main conditions for the above-mentioned Grant Agreement are defined in the original invitation and its annexes. These conditions continue to apply unless otherwise indicated herein. Further requirements concerning the amendment and the requirements for the additional funding allocation are laid down in this document.

Legal framework

The regulatory framework for the CRM Facility is set out in:

- **Contribution Agreement between the European Commission (DG INTPA) and the EIT**, signed on 5 September 2024[2] and amended on 23 December 2025[3], which is foreseen to be amended for the second time in 2026;
- **Regulation 2024/2509** (EU Financial Regulation)[4];
- **EIT legal framework**: EIT Regulation (recast)[5] and EIT Strategic Innovation Agenda 2021-2027[6] and the EIT's 2026 Work Programme[7];

[1] Ares(2024)6624680
[2] Ares(2024)6301625
[3] Ares(2026)6155987
[4] Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast) ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.9.2024).
[5] Regulation (EU) 2021/819 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (recast) (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 61)
[6] Decision (EU) 2021/820 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2021 on the Strategic Innovation Agenda of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) 2021-2027: Boosting the Innovation Talent and Capacity of Europe and repealing decision No 1312/2013/EU (OJ L 189, 28.5.2021, p. 91)
[7] Decision 21/2026 of the EIT Governing Board on the amendment of the Final Single Programming Document (2026–2028) of the EIT (Ares(2026)7050201)

- The implementation of the grant will follow the **Horizon Europe legal framework** (Horizon Europe Regulation[8]);
- The operational aspects of the action shall take into account the **NDICI Regulation**[9] 2021/947[10].

Disclaimer: This amendment invitation is launched in anticipation of the second amendment of the Contribution Agreement between the European Commission and the EIT, which is foreseen to be signed before the end of 2026.

The signature of Amendment No 2 of the Contribution Agreement is a precondition for the award of the additional grant under this invitation.

Following the signature of Amendment No 2 of the Contribution Agreement, if necessary, the EIT may update this amendment invitation, in order to ensure the amendment invitation's full alignment with the final terms and conditions of the amended Contribution Agreement.

2. Scope of the amendment

The main themes and priorities (scope) are as listed in the original invitation.

The details of the themes and priorities (scope), including the additional ones specific for the amendment are included in Section 6 of this document.

3. Available budget for the amendment (per geographic window)

3.1 Available budget for the amendment

The additional grant of maximum **MEUR 16.7** part of this amendment is added to the initial grant of 5.8 MEUR, for a total of maximum **MEUR 22.5**. Therefore, the proposal budget shall reflect the total grant and its related activities. The additional grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

Indicative specific budget information per geographic windows can be found in the table below:

	Geographic windows	Indicative budget per geographic window (MEUR)
A	Global scope	9,313,726
B	LAC Window	2,941,176

[8] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013

[9] Regulation (EU) 2021/947 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 June 2021 establishing the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe, amending and repealing Decision No 466/2014/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council and repealing Regulation (EU) 2017/1601 of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 480/2009 (OJ L 209, 14.6.2021, p. 1–78)

C	CA Window	1,960,784
D	*OCTs Window*	*3,431,373 **
E	*SSA Window*	*4,901,961 **
	Total budget	**22,549,020**

*In accordance with the disclaimer above, the availability and award of the additional funding for the *Overseas Countries and Territories top-up – (OCTs)* and for the *Africa top up – Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)* geographic windows is subject to the signature of Amendment No 2 to the Contribution Agreement between DG INTPA and the EIT.

It shall be ensured that there is no double funding of KIC activities by the additional grant.

3.2 Geographic division for the amendment

Funds under **A. Global Scope** can be used to cover costs of activities taking place in any region, i.e. irrespectively of the geography where activities are implemented. These will be mainly staff costs of the two beneficiary organisations, EIT RawMaterials and InnoEnergy.

Funds under the respective geographic windows **(B. LAC Window, C. CA Window, D. OCTs Window, E. SSA Window)** can only be used to implement activities taking place in the respective region. These will be mainly costs of subcontracting and logistics (budget lines 2 and 3 in the revised budget as per Addendum 1 and Addendum 2), unless otherwise justified.

Funds under the **D. OCTs Window** and **E. SSA Window** include a budget for specifically targeted financial support in the form of grants to selected promising projects with high potential for the EU industry.

The beneficiary organisations will perform reporting and accounting in line with the above geographical division based on a template provided at reporting stage.

In line with the geographical division outlined above, the beneficiary is required to implement and report on the WP tasks already defined in the current Grant Agreement, structured according to the respective regions. The beneficiary must also include, in the amended proposal, a detailed budget table in Part B presenting the planned costs per work package, per year and per geographical window. This **budget breakdown must correspond to the references provided in the work package descriptions both for the overall work package budget and for each regional segment.** For further guidance, please refer to the original Invitation to submit a proposal, Section 7, page 11, "Mandatory annexes and supporting documents").

4. Timetable and deadlines

The indicative timeline of the amendment procedure for CRM Facility Grant Agreement is as follows:

Key dates	Date and time or indicative period
Amendment invitation sent to the coordinator	14 August 2026
Deadline to submit the request for amendment	15 September 2026

Evaluation of the submitted proposal	16 – 22 September 2026
Requirement letter sent to coordinator	23 September2026
Revised proposal submitted	29 September 2026
Signed GA	October 2026

5. Admissibility

The request for amendment must be submitted by the coordinator of the Grant Agreement no later than the deadline indicated in the table in Section 4, via the amendment functionality of the eGrants tool ("consortium initiated amendment").

The submission shall comply with the respective guidelines and templates[11]. Unless otherwise indicated in this invitation, failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the rejection of the proposed amendment.

The request for amendment must be drafted in English.

6. Amended activities of the amended proposal

The overall and specific objectives of the activities listed in the original invitation remain valid.

Additional themes, priorities and indicative activities specific for the implementation are outlined in this chapter, together with the ones listed in the original invitation. The amended proposal shall align with the following integrated description.

6.1 General activities

A. GLOBAL SCOPE

Objectives

The overall objective of this Facility is to develop integrated sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and selected natural resource-rich partner countries to secure a reliable supply of critical and strategic raw materials to the EU, while supporting partner countries in extracting value locally from their natural resources.

To achieve this objective, it is crucial to:

- Increase cooperation of all relevant stakeholders along the value chain (governments, private sector actors, financial institutions, civil society);
- Pool all available resources and de-risking tools at European level and work in a Team Europe approach (with EU member states, EU private sector, EU financial institutions).

[11] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/amendment-guide_en.pdf

The CRM Facility shall be structured along three main components with the following activities:

- The **first component** covers activities related to data gathering, trainings, knowledge management and capacity building with the aim to increase the knowledge of EU staff (in HQ and EU Delegations) as well as other relevant internal (Member States, DFIs, ECAs, etc) and external (partner Governments, industry, academia, civil society) stakeholders about the CRM sector and the EU's strategic approach and interest to it;

- The **second component** focuses on business facilitation through the organisation of events, business missions and B2B/G2B/G2G matchmaking activities;

- The **third component** provides technical expertise to build up a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and partner countries. This may go from pre-due diligence type of work to targeted strategic advisory services or financial support to conduct due diligence analysis or accompany promising projects towards bankability. The Facility shall identify and evaluate concrete raw materials investment projects in countries outside of the EU and will connect them with EU industrial actors, EU development finance institutions (DFIs), commercial banks and other financial institutions (including export credit agencies (ECAs)) to support access to finance and de-risking for these projects. In clearly defined and well justified cases, this may take the form of small grants to promising raw materials projects in non-EU countries, for activities aimed at confirming the technical and financial feasibility/viability of targeted projects, including pre-feasibility, environmental and social assessments, bankable and definitive feasibility studies or related fields.

The table below illustrates the correspondence between the Components as described above and the Work Packages (WP) as per the current Grant Agreement.

	WP 1 Project Management, Communication & Dissemination
Component 1:	WP2 Local Intelligence & Strategic Studies
	WP3 Capacity Building and Trainings
Component 2:	WP4 Business Facilitation & Matchmaking Events
Component 3:	WP5 Projects Pipeline creation and consolidation

It is expected that the CRM Facility will contribute to both feeding the pipeline of Strategic Projects as described in the CRM Act and in enabling their operationalization and financing.

Where necessary, the Facility is expected to hire external long or short-term specialised expertise.

Scope

The activities under the Facility shall focus on the EU list of critical and strategic raw materials as set out in annex II of the Critical Raw Materials Act and cover the entire raw materials value chain (exploration, extraction, processing, refining, recycling) as well as the surrounding enabling environment (skills, training, infrastructure, transport, energy etc.).

The Facility has a global scope and shall cover countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, as well as the EU neighbourhood. The geographic scope of the actions shall address the following "windows":

- Latin America and Caribbean Top-up - LAC window
- Central Asia top-up – Central Asia (CA) window
- Overseas Countries and Territories top-up – OCTs window
- Africa top up – Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) window

Costs related to activities incurred in other countries/regions may also be eligible, as long as they are considered necessary to contribute to the overall objective outlined above.

Indicative Activities

Component 1: Data gathering, capacity building and knowledge management

1. Development of local intelligence and business networks

The Facility shall help further identify relevant EU, international (from like-minded countries) and local stakeholders (private sector, financial institutions, civil society) active in relevant countries as listed above. It shall facilitate contacts between these and the EU staff, both in HQ and EU delegations, in cooperation with EU Member States. This activity shall create and expand business networks and increase the presence and visibility of the EU / Team Europe as a credible actor in the sector.

2. Studies to identify or assess investment opportunities in partner countries, value-chain or mineral sector studies, including knowledge management of existing studies

The Facility shall conduct studies and analysis to increase the knowledge of relevant EU staff in HQ and EU Delegations and their capacity to approach the sector strategically. The objective is to help EU staff identify and assess opportunities for strategic investments in sustainable raw materials value chains in selected third countries.

Studies shall include among others the mining potential of selected third countries, the structure of relevant value chains, mapping of relevant EU actors active along these value chains, market intelligence and assessment of business/investment opportunities of EU interest, analysis of research and innovation activities, potential legal and investment framework and barriers/enablers towards investment, assessments of specific risks affecting the EU interest, strategies to minimize these risks etc. The Facility shall also extract and assess relevant knowledge from existing studies and provide a selected number of EU staff with access to external knowledge data bases where relevant. These assignments should be on demand from EU delegations and HQ.

In clearly defined cases, the CRM Facility may also support partner countries and OCTs in carrying out studies which would contribute to strengthening the integration of raw materials value chains between them and the EU, including by providing targeted technical assistance (advice, terms of reference, ex-ante evaluations, etc.).

3. Design and deliver short training modules to relevant EU staff as well as other relevant internal and external stakeholders to increase their knowledge of the sector and of the EU's strategic approach and interest to it.

The Facility shall design short learning modules adapted to the needs of EU staff and deliver these in short interactive training and peer-to-peer exchanges (in-person and/or online as appropriate). Trainings may also be carried out as part of a field visit to CRM projects or CRM research institutions where appropriate. The trainings may be recorded for further internal dissemination and future use. The trainings will build upon the intelligence gathered through activities 1 and 2 above. They may also be oriented to the knowledge needs of other relevant internal and external stakeholders, such as EU Member States, financial institutions, industry representatives, partner Governments and other relevant organizations. Specific focus of the trainings shall be defined in close consultation with the EU and other relevant beneficiaries. Synergies shall also be explored with existing data and tools such as the Raw Materials Information System (RMIS - Raw Materials Information System (europa.eu) of the JRC (Joint Research Center of the EU) and similar activities carried out by other EU-funded projects to avoid duplication of efforts. The trainings for EU Delegations may be country/region specific and contribute to exchange of experiences across colleagues around the implementation of the strategic partnerships on raw materials value chains as well as the programming and designing of relevant cooperation actions.

Component 2: Technical assistance to support business facilitation through the organisation of EU business missions and match-making activities including ensuring EU participation in major international mining events

1. Organisation and conceptual expertise for EU Business Missions to EU priority countries

The Facility shall assist the EU in the organization of business missions to priority countries with whom the EU has already concluded a strategic partnership or is strengthening its cooperation on raw materials, or where potential investment projects of European interest could be developed.

The Facility shall support in the preparatory stage of the business mission, in the identification and selection of locations to be covered by the visit, in conducting a thorough analysis of the relevant business and investment opportunities, as well as in the identification of and engagement with relevant EU stakeholders (primarily EU private sector and financial institutions) who would have an interest to join the mission. The Facility may also play a role during the business mission, with relevant experts taking part in it as appropriate, playing an active role in expanding the network and scouting new business opportunities.

The Facility budget shall cover logistical arrangements and related costs of the business mission, in case no other funding source is available. Related logistical arrangements may be delegated by the Facility to a specialised entity in this field, either as a subcontractor or as a member of the consortium.

2. Reinforce Business-to-Business ties between EU, local and like-minded international companies along the value chains including identification of potential off-take agreements

The Facility shall support B2B/G2B/G2G matchmaking activities at local and international level. This includes the organisation of stand-alone investment promotion events or dedicated B2B sessions within events organised by third parties. The Facility shall also facilitate the organization of EU Business Fora that have a CRM/mining focus by disseminating information among its networks and identifying interested companies and potential speakers to take part in them. The matchmaking activities shall focus on building business ties between the EU and local companies to support local value addition in third countries as well as facilitating offtake agreements for the European industry.

The events may either take place in the EU (mostly Brussels) or as appropriate in partner countries, often back-to-back with an existing EU Business Forum or a large mining conference such as Mining Indaba or DRC Mining Week. The Facility budget shall cover logistical arrangements and related costs of the matchmaking events, in case no other funding source is available. Related logistical arrangements may be delegated by the Facility to a specialised entity in this field, either as a subcontractor or as a member of the consortium.

Where relevant, synergies may be explored with other existing business and networking events such as the EU-Africa Business Forum (EABF) and negotiations rounds or implementation committees such as FTA/SIFA negotiations.

3. Promote EU participation and EU visibility in sectoral conferences and events. These may include Mining Indaba, DRC Mining Week, PDAC and others.

The Facility shall enable and promote the participation and visibility of the EU and Team Europe in third-party mining conferences and events. This includes supporting the EU in developing the concept and the format of its participation (setting up of an EU booth, designing an EU panel discussion, setting up an agenda of bilateral meetings, etc.), with the objective of promoting the positioning of the EU in the sector, advancing the strategic partnerships agenda and proposing Team Europe as a partner of reference. The Facility budget shall cover logistical arrangements and other costs related to the EU participation in said mining events, in case no other funding source is available. Related logistical arrangement may be delegated by the facility to a specialised entity in this field, either as a subcontractor or as a member of the consortium.

An important example of this is **Mining Indaba** (Cape Town, South Africa). Every year, DG INTPA leads the negotiations with the exclusive organisers of the event (Hyve Group) about the setting up of a large Team Europe pavilion. As required by the Commission, the beneficiaries of the Facility are expected to act as contracting party to Hyve Group (in case no other funding source is available) and secure a smooth organization of the Team Europe pavilion and of other engagement opportunities within the main programme of Mining Indaba. Unforeseen additional costs related to logistical, visibility or communication arrangements may need to be covered, in case no other funding source is available. The same may apply, upon specific request of DG INTPA, for similar events in other geographies.

Component 3: Technical assistance to build and consolidate a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation

1. Identify and advise on a pipeline of potential business investment projects along the raw materials value chains that can be jointly developed with the EU private sector

The Facility shall support in the identification and assessment of concrete business/investment opportunities in raw materials value chains in third countries, with a preference (but not limited) to countries with a strategic partnership. A key aspect for the assessment of projects is to evaluate their technical and financial maturity.

Projects should have a clear EU interest in connection with the objectives and the benchmarks set by the CRM Act. The Facility shall:

- proactively contribute to the identification of new investment opportunities;
- provide advice to EU staff (both in HQ and in Delegation) on investment opportunities they may come across through different channels, building on existing efforts (previous work done internally in DG INTPA and GROW, pipeline of projects identified by AfricaMaval etc.).

Whenever relevant, the Facility shall assist the EU staff by taking part in relevant bilateral meetings and supporting the assessment of said projects, against criteria such as:

- the importance of the material for the EU industry (as per Annex I and II of the CRM Act)
- the potential involvement of the EU industry in the project,
- financing needs and possibilities,
- opportunity to create local value and contribute to socioeconomic development (job creation, access to water/energy),
- legal and investment framework,
- ESG and reputational risks.

This work shall also contribute to the identification of projects of potential EU interest that may qualify for the label of Strategic Projects, as defined under the Critical Raw Materials Act. In such cases, and in agreement with the relevant Commission services, the Facility may provide targeted advice to the project promoters through the Strategic Projects application process.

2. Facilitate investments through de-risking in cooperation with the EU, (EU and non-EU) private sector and financial institutions (Export Credit Agencies, Development Finance Institutions, commercial banks, equity investors, funds, etc.)

Based on the list of the most promising investment/business opportunities of EU interest, the Facility shall identify and link other relevant EU actors along the value chain. As the EU lacks industry presence

in the upstream part of the value chain, this might include the convening of a "critical mass" of EU companies willing to work together and/or the identification of potential EU off-takers and/or the involvement of industry operators from like-minded countries.

Through the development of strong links with DFIs, commercial banks and financial actors, the Facility shall provide strategic advice and facilitate access to finance and de-risking for relevant projects by identifying and bringing in relevant financial actors (development finance institutions, commercial banks, export credit agencies, equity funds etc.).

The available tools from European financial institutions shall also be explored for this purpose.

The Facility shall explore and implement innovative ways of de-risking, including risk-sharing mechanisms between several actors, relying on the potential guarantees made available under the EFSD+ (European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus), InvestEU, Member States own strategic projects guarantees, and other tools.

This may include, in clearly identified and well-justified cases:

- targeted financial support to provide strategic advisory services or to perform due diligence or other types of analysis / reports (including ex-ante evaluations), when these may catalyse the interest of additional public and private co-investors in selected promising projects;

- targeted financial support in the form of grants to selected promising projects with high potential for the EU industry, to help them move from pre-feasibility to feasibility stage. Such financial support may be disbursed through calls for proposals or through direct award in duly justified and exceptional cases. Grants would cover activities related to confirming the technical and financial feasibility / viability of targeted projects, including pre-feasibility, environmental and social assessments, bankable and definitive feasibility studies and related activities (such as lab and pilot work, drilling, bulk-sampling, metallurgical testing, pilot testing, etc.).

This work shall also contribute to the financing and de-risking of Strategic Projects that will be selected through call for proposals under the Critical Raw Materials Act.

3. Support in the identification of concrete actions for the roadmap

For the implementation of strategic partnerships on raw materials value chains, a roadmap of concrete actions is jointly developed between the EU and the partner country. The Facility shall advise and support on the identification of concrete actions for the different roadmaps, along the pre-defined areas of cooperation and especially in the following two areas:

- Business engagement to promote investment and integration of CRM value chains;

- Cooperation on research and innovation along the raw materials value chain;

The actions identified by the Facility shall mainly focus on the first area of cooperation of business integration and investment promotion in complementarity to the activities 3.1 and 3.2. Where

relevant, the facility may also provide expertise on other areas of cooperation. The Facility may also support in monitoring the implementation of activities identified.

6.2 Geographic windows

B. Latin America and Caribbean Top-up - LAC window

1. Background

LAC is a region with vast opportunities to develop sustainable raw materials value chains with partner countries and work on concrete industrial projects that benefit LAC and our industry in the EU. The reality is that the sector is highly competitive, with fierce competition from Chinese, Canadian, American and Australian companies. Furthermore, EU financing and de-risking instruments for projects along the CRM value chain are lacking and/or difficult to mobilise, in particular at the development/exploration phase. This may lead companies to seek backing elsewhere, with consequences for offtake. DFIs have been reluctant to engage due to long rates of return on investment, high capital costs, ESG and reputational risks, political instability, and a lack of technical expertise.

With the South America CRM Coalition of the Willing, DG INTPA has been rallying stakeholders from the private, public, finance sector around concrete investment opportunities. This process has proven to be invaluable in developing a single Team Europe conversation on CRM in LAC, but has also shown that there is a need for technical assistance to further the agenda and work with dedicated expertise on the development of a pipeline of sustainable raw material value chain projects that support our partner countries but at the same time meet objectives stipulated in the Critical Raw Materials Act.

2. Objectives

In line with the overall objective of the overarching CRM facility, the objective of the LAC window is to develop and integrate sustainable raw material value chains between the EU and resource-rich partner countries in LAC to secure a reliable supply of critical and strategic raw materials to the EU, while supporting partner countries in extracting local value added from the natural resources.

The specific objective is to **provide technical assistance to build and concretize a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and LAC partner countries with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation**.

3. Scope

In line with the overarching CRM Facility, the LAC window shall primarily focus on:

- countries with whom the EU has already signed a strategic partnership (Chile, Argentina);
- countries of interest for a future partnership or other forms of closer cooperation (Brazil, Bolivia, etc.);

– countries identified by EU services as especially strategic due to evolving EU geopolitical and industrial interest or in connection with the Call for Strategic Projects under the CRM Act.

4. Indicative Activities

The LAC Window shall focus on all the 3 Components and activities along which the overarching CRM Facility is structured under A. GLOBAL WINDOW, with a specific focus on Component 3 (WP5), as follows:

Component 3: Technical assistance to build and concretize a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and partner countries with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation

1. **Provision of external expertise to help with the identification and delivery of technical and financial advice on a pipeline of potential business investment projects along the raw materials value chains that can be jointly developed with the EU private sector.**

Same description as under A. GLOBAL WINDOW, Component 3, point 1.

Additionally:

To conduct these activities, technical expertise will be recruited (indicatively 0,5 FTE for the duration of up to 36 months or equivalent). These expert(s) will support the selection and funneling process towards a targeted list of priority projects, assist the EU in conversations with project promoters/offtakers and, where needed, assist project developers, financing partners and offtakers in negotiations and discussions around partnerships, industrial projects or offtake models[12].

2. **Provision of external expertise to support with the structuring of financing for investments through de-risking in cooperation with the EU, (EU and non-EU) private sector and financial institutions (Export Credit Agencies, Development Finance Institutions, commercial banks, equity investors, funds etc.)**

Same description as under A. GLOBAL WINDOW, Component 3, point 2.

Additionally:

To conduct these activities, financial expertise (indicatively 1 FTE for the duration of up to 36 months or equivalent) will be recruited. These expert(s) will support the structuring of financing for projects, will support project promoters, where needed, in securing financing for new CRM projects , will play an advisory role to EU, DFIs and local multilaterals regarding financing instruments needed to offer direct or indirect investments[12].

C. Central Asia top-up – Central Asia (CA) window

1. Background

[12] He/she may be at least partially based "in-house" within DG INTPA and will work in close coordination with the beneficiary organizations, the technical expert and the project manager at EIT, subject to further agreement between the consortium and DG INTPA.

Central Asia (CA) is a region with vast opportunities to develop sustainable raw materials value chains with partner countries and work on concrete industrial projects that benefit CA and the EU industry. EU financing and de-risking instruments for projects along the CRM value chain are lacking and/or difficult to mobilise, in particular at the development/exploration phase. This may lead companies to seek backing elsewhere, with consequences for EU offtake. DFIs have been reluctant to engage due to long rates of return on investment, high capital costs, ESG and reputational risks, political instability, and a lack of technical expertise. In Central Asia, the EU has already signed two strategic partnerships with Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. At the occasion of the EU-CA summit in April 2025, the EU and CA countries also endorsed a declaration of intent for closer cooperation with all five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Turkmenistan).

Through the Prosperity Programme (EUR 16 million in total under the CRM component) DG INTPA has been mobilising funds to increase cooperation on CRMs between the EU and CA to identify and realise concrete investments while contributing to accountability, transparency, and good governance in the mining sector. At the same time, there is a need for technical assistance to further develop the agenda and work with dedicated expertise on the development of a pipeline of sustainable raw material value chain projects that support our partner countries in CA and also meet the objectives stipulated in the Critical Raw Materials Act. The CA window of the CRM facility should closely coordinate with the other actions that will be developed under the prosperity programme, notably the already signed contract with the EBRD.

2. Objectives

In line with the overall objective of the overarching CRM Facility, the objective of the CA window is to develop and integrate sustainable raw material value chains between the EU and resource-rich partner countries in CA to secure a reliable supply of critical and strategic raw materials to the EU, while supporting partner countries in extracting local value added from the natural resources.

The specific objective is to provide technical assistance to build a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and CA partner countries with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation.

3. Scope

In line with the overarching CRM Facility, the CA window will primarily focus on:

- countries with whom the EU has already signed a strategic partnership in Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan);
- countries of interest for a future partnership or other forms of closer cooperation in Central Asia (Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan).

4. Indicative Activities

The CA Window will focus on all the 3 Components and activities along which the overarching CRM Facility is structured under A. GLOBAL WINDOW.

SUSPENSIVE CONDITION

As indicated in Section 3 above, the implementation and funding of the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) top-up and for the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) top up geographic windows are subject to the signature of Amendment No 2 to the Contribution Agreement between DG INTPA and the EIT.

D. Overseas Countries and Territories top-up – OCTs WINDOW

1. Background

When it comes to OCTs, both Greenland and New Caledonia are seen as potential key partners for the supply of CRM to the EU.

Greenland holds 25 of the 34 critical raw materials identified by the Commission as strategically important for Europe's industry and the green transition. Yet only two mines are currently under operation in Greenland, due to the unique geographic and economic conditions which pose significant barriers to attracting private and institutional investment. Its vast territory, remote location, sparse population, harsh climate and limited critical infrastructure create high upfront costs and heightened financial risks for the development of new projects. Furthermore, EU financing and de-risking instruments for projects along the CRM value chain are lacking and/or difficult to mobilise, in particular at the development/extraction phase. DFIs have been reluctant to engage due to long rates of return on investment, high capital costs, ESG and reputational risks, and a lack of technical expertise.

A Green Growth Programme supporting the creation of an enabling ecosystem for CRM was launched in 2024. The first-ever EU-Greenland Business mission has been organized in October 2024, rallying stakeholders from the private, public, finance sector around concrete investment opportunities. This process has proven to be invaluable in developing a pipeline of potential projects in Greenland but has also revealed the need for technical assistance to further the bilateral agenda.

New Caledonia, home to approximately 11% of the world's nickel reserves, has long been a strategic supplier of nickel to the EU. Nickel extraction is a cornerstone of the local economy, accounting for 85% of its exports and up to 10% of GDP. However, the sector is currently undergoing a severe industrial crisis, driven by high energy and labour costs, declining global nickel prices, and increased competition from Indonesia's heavily subsidised and vertically integrated nickel industry. In this evolving context, the EU remains committed to working closely with both the French Government and the Government of New Caledonia to explore a sustainable path forward for the sector. New Caledonia continues to be seen as a key partner for the EU in diversifying critical raw material supply chains, with strong potential to position itself as a reference for sustainable and ethical "green nickel", aligned with the Critical Raw Materials Act.

The EU is supporting this ambition through budget support under the Decision on the Overseas Association, including Greenland (DOAG), and stands ready to deepen its engagement, particularly to help structure investment-ready projects and reinforce linkages with EU industry.

2. Objectives

In line with the overall objective of the overarching CRM Facility, the objective of the OCTs Window is to develop and integrate sustainable raw material value chains between the EU and OCTs to secure a reliable supply of sustainable raw materials to the EU, while supporting Greenland and New Caledonia in extracting local value added from the natural resources.

Among the specific objectives of this OCTs Window, one is to provide technical assistance to build and concretize a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and Greenland/New Caledonia with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation. Another specific objective is to support both Greenland and New Caledonia in their efforts to ensure the sustainability of their respective raw materials sectors and facilitate their compliance with relevant ESG requirements, which are key conditions to attract EU investors and companies.

The OCT Window of the CRM Facility also aims at facilitating the access of promising raw materials projects to finance, including EU funds.

3. Scope

The OCT Window shall focus primarily on Greenland and New Caledonia but would also consider projects in other countries if there is a strong case to be made as to how these projects connect with Greenland and New Caledonia (e.g. off-takers, suppliers, etc. of Greenlandic/New Caledonian raw materials) and can demonstrably help to achieve the targets of the CRMA. This can for example include integrated projects with mining activities taking place in a specific OCT, and processing activities carried out in another territory/country (or vice-versa).

From a mineral perspective, it shall not only focus on the EU list of critical and strategic raw materials as set out in Annex II of the CRM Act, but also other relevant materials (e.g. molybdenum and anorthosite).

4. Activities

The OCTs Window shall focus on all the 3 Components and activities along which the overarching CRM Facility is structured under A. GLOBAL WINDOW, with a specific focus on Component 3 (WP5).

This support includes identifying promising raw materials investment opportunities in Greenland and New Caledonia, and in third countries where potential synergies with projects in these two OCTs exist and/or can be developed. This also encompasses the facilitation of the access of promising projects to finance, including through the completion of due diligence and/or other types of reports (including ex-ante evaluations) when the European Commission is strongly considering unlocking funds for raw materials value chains in OCTs.

The OCT Window of the CRM Facility can also be used to experiment targeted financial support in the form of grants to promising projects with high potential for the EU industry to help them move from pre-feasibility to feasibility stage. This support would aim at supporting promising projects to reach financial and technical maturity, and therefore at attracting additional public and private funding.

Other examples of activities which can be supported by the CRM Facility's OCTs Window include those aiming at assessing and strengthening the sustainability of raw materials value chains in Greenland and New Caledonia and at facilitating their compliance with high ESG standards (terms of reference, comparative studies, technical analyses, modelling, etc.).

E. Africa top up – Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Window

1. Background

The EU is actively collaborating with African countries to secure a sustainable and diversified supply of CRMs, essential for Europe's green and digital transitions. These efforts encompass strategic partnerships, investment initiatives, and collaborative projects aimed at responsible sourcing and mutual economic development.

Since 2022, the EU has signed 5 strategic partnerships with African countries (DRC, Namibia, Zambia, Rwanda, South Africa). These agreements focus on integrating raw material value chains, promoting sustainable production, and enhancing local capacities through investment and training. Under the Global Gateway strategy, the EU plans to mobilise up to €150 billion between 2021 and 2027 for sustainable infrastructure projects in Africa to support the development of CRM value chains by investing in infrastructure, technology and sustainability, aiming to create mutually beneficial partnerships that promote innovation and economic growth in partner countries. Additionally, the PanAfGeo programme is INTPA flagship initiative that enhances geoscientific capacities across Africa. The programme focuses on areas such as geological mapping, mineral resource assessment, artisanal and small-scale mining, and geoscientific information management, and promote economic partnerships in the CRM value chains, aligning with initiatives like AfricaMaVal. Regional support to the CRM Sector (ESG4Minerals) in SSA is under preparation.

Despite these initiatives, the EU still faces challenges in its CRM engagements in Africa and highlights the need for careful implementation and continuous dialogue to ensure ethical and mutually advantageous outcomes which align with the EU's evolving geopolitical and industrial interests, particularly in response to the already signed strategic partnerships and projects of EU interest.

2. Objectives

In line with the overall objective of the overarching CRM Facility, the objective of the SSA Window is to develop and integrate sustainable raw material value chains between the EU and Africa to secure a reliable supply of sustainable raw materials to the EU, while supporting African countries in extracting local value added from the natural resources.

The specific objective is to provide technical assistance to build a pipeline of projects for the integration of value chains between the EU and African countries with the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a strong focus on local value creation.

3. Scope

In line with the overarching CRM Facility, the SSA window shall primarily focus on:

- countries with whom the EU has already signed a strategic partnership (Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Rwanda, Zambia);
- countries of interest for a future partnership or other forms of closer cooperation (South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, countries in the West African regions, etc.);
- countries identified by EU services as especially strategic due to evolving EU geopolitical and industrial interest or in connection with the Call for Strategic Projects under the CRM Act.

4. Activities

The SSA Window shall focus on all the 3 Components and activities along which the overarching CRM Facility is structured under A. GLOBAL WINDOW.

The SSA Window can also be used to experiment targeted financial support in the form of grants to promising projects with high potential for the EU industry to help them move from pre-feasibility to feasibility stage. This support would aim at supporting promising projects to reach financial and technical maturity, and therefore at attracting additional public and private funding.

6.3 Milestones and deliverables

The same provisions of the original invitation remain valid.

The updated table of mandatory milestones and deliverables is included in Annex 1 of this invitation.

The milestones and the deliverables shall be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

7. Submission of request for amendment

The request for amendment of the Grant Agreement must be submitted electronically using either the F&T Portal submission system or the "consortium initiated amendment" functionality of the eGrants tool via the EU Funding and Tenders Portal[13].

The amendment initiated by the consortium shall follow specific arrangements[14]. The amendment shall not call into question the original award of the grant.

The page limit should be kept to a maximum of **80 pages** (Grant Agreement Annex 1 - Part B. All tables, figures, references and any other element shall be consistent with Grant Agreement Annex 1 – Part A.

The consortium may be asked for further clarification during the amendment process, if it is considered necessary by the EIT to complete the assessment (for example, on deliverables definitions, KPIs targets, cost-related information, etc).

[13]https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/spaces/IT/pages/7504121/How+to+launch+an+amendment

[14] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/funding-tenders-opportunities/spaces/OM/pages/1867965/Amendments

8. Award criteria

The award criteria to assess the amended proposal under the amendment invitation are as follows:

	Criteria	Maximum score
1. Excellence	- Adequacy, clarity and consistency of the proposal; - General objectives and the extent to which they address the objectives of the Invitation and the EIT; - Needs analysis and specific objectives; - Complementarity with other actions and innovation, synergies with other EU and Member States programmes, European added value	20 (4 x 5 points)
2. Quality and efficiency of implementation	**Project design and implementation:** - technical quality of the proposal; - methodology for implementing the project (concept and methodology; project management, quality assurance and monitoring and evaluation; risk management); - feasibility of the project within the proposed time frame; cost effectiveness and financial management (value for money) - Quality of the work plan, work packages	20 (4 x 5 points)
	Project team, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements: - quality of the project team; - quality of the outside resources; - appropriate procedures and problem-solving mechanisms	30 (3 x 5 points) x2
3. Impact	- Ambition and expected long-term impact of results; - Impact for EU Member States and non-EU countries; - Appropriate communication and dissemination strategy for ensuring visibility, sustainability and long-term impact after EIT funding ends;	30 (3 x 5 points) x2
Total		**100**

The following indicative scale will be used for the assessment:

- 0: Fail - Proposal does not comply with the objectives and is inadequate
- 1: Poor – Proposal properly implements some of the Invitation requirements, but there are inherent weaknesses requiring its full redesign
- 2: Fair – Proposal properly implements most of the Invitation requirements, but there are significant weaknesses that need to be addressed prior to granting the award

- 3: Good – Proposal properly implements all the Invitation requirements with several minor weaknesses which are not critical for the implementation.
- 4: Very good – Proposal addresses all relevant aspects very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
- 5: Excellent – Proposal properly implements all the Invitation requirements with no weaknesses identified

Each question of the award criteria can score maximum 5 points, with the exception of the *Quality and efficiency of implementation: project team, staff and experts and cooperation arrangements* and *Impact*, whose total score shall be doubled.

9. Legal and financial provisions

9.1 Starting date and project duration

The requirements regarding the starting date and eligibility period are defined in the original invitation and were clearly defined in the Data Sheet of the Grant Agreements.

The starting date of the action as per the current Grant Agreement is 22 October 2024.

Project duration: The project duration shall be extended to 60 months upon condition that the additional grant is awarded by the EIT.

Extensions are possible, if duly justified and through an amendment.

9.2 Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The funding requirements and the funding rates are defined in the original invitation.

9.3 Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules described in the original invitation remain valid. They are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3, Article 6 and Annex 2)*.

9.4 Financial support to third parties

Rules related to financial support to third parties are defined in the original invitation.

The availability of funding for financial support to third parties under the OCTs and SSA Windows is subject to the condition set out in Section 9.3.

9.5 No double funding

As stated in the original invitation there is a strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. In accordance with Article 191 of the EU Financial Regulation concerning the principle of non-cumulative award and prohibition of double funding, each action may give rise to the award of only one grant from the EU budget to any one beneficiary. In no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the EU budget.

9.6 Reporting and payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the Grant Agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and Article 21 and 22)*.

The milestones and the deliverables will be managed through the Portal Grant Management System and will be reflected in Annex 1 of the Grant Agreement.

Further to the initial pre-financing and the first additional pre-financing instalments, **a second additional pre-financing instalment** will be paid to the coordinator. The aim of the 3rd prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float. The prefinancing remains the property of the EU until the payment of the balance.

The following payment and reporting scheme is foreseen following the amendment:

	When	Requirements	Reporting period
Initial prefinancing	Within 30 days from entry into force	Contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism was retained from the initial prefinancing payment.	
First additional prefinancing report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period	The **first additional pre-financing report** shall include a technical part only and a declaration on the consumption of the previous pre-financing.	1-12 months
First additional prefinancing payment	Within 60 days from receiving the report.	Contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism was retained from the initial prefinancing payment.	
Second additional pre-financing report/ interim report*	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period	The **second additional pre-financing report/ interim report*** shall include a technical part only and a declaration on the consumption of the previous pre-financing.	13-24 months
Second additional pre-financing payment topping-up to approximately 40 % of the total grant / interim report *	Within 60 days from receiving the report.	Contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the prefinancing payment.	
First Interim Report*	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period	The **First Interim Report*** shall include a technical part and a financial part (i.e. individual and consolidated financial statements, explanation on the use of resources, certificates on the financial statements (CFS) if required, etc) covering expenditure of the first two years.	13-24 months

First Interim Payment	Within 90 days from receiving the report.	Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financings and the interim payment together cannot be more than 90%	
Progress report	Every 6 months of implementation	This report shall include a technical part only reporting on the activities progress and calculations on the budget absorbed up to this moment.	25-30 months
Second Interim Report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period	Interim report shall include a technical part and a financial part (i.e. individual and consolidated financial statements, explanation on the use of resources, certificates on the financial statements (CFS) if required, etc) covering expenditure of the third year of the project.	25-36 months
Second interim payment	Within 90 days from receiving the report.	Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financings and the interim payments together cannot be more than 90%	
Progress report	Every 6 months of implementation	This report shall include a technical part only reporting on the activities progress and calculations on the budget absorbed up to this moment	37-42 months
Third Interim Report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period	Interim report shall include a technical part and a financial part (i.e. individual and consolidated financial statements, explanation on the use of resources, certificates on the financial statements (CFS) if required, etc) covering expenditure of the fourth year of the project.	37-48 months
Third interim payment	Within 90 days from receiving the report.	Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financings and the interim payments together cannot be more than 90%	
Progress report	Every 6 months of implementation	This report shall include a technical part only reporting on the activities progress and calculations on the budget absorbed up to this moment	49-54 months
Final report	Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period	The Final Report shall include a technical part and a financial part (i.e. individual and consolidated financial statements, explanation on the use of resources, certificates on the financial statements (CFS) if required, etc) covering expenditure of the fifth year of the project.	49-60 months

Final payment	Within 90 days from receiving the final report.	The EIT will calculate the final EIT grant amount. If the total amount of earlier payments exceeds the final grant amount, the difference will be recovered in accordance with recovery provisions set out in the Grant Agreement.	

**In case the Portal functionality allows a second pre-financing payment with no additional pre-financing report, then this reporting period will not be required and the reporting periods will be adjusted accordingly.*

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

⚠ Please be aware that payments will be automatically lowered if one of the consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset — in line with the conditions set out in the Grant Agreement *(see art 22)*.

Please also note that the coordinator is responsible for keeping records on all the work done and the costs declared.

Annex 1: Milestones and deliverables

Component	Activity nr.		A. Global	B. LAC Window	C. CA Window	D. OCT Window	E. SSA Window	Total
1	1	Development of local intelligence and business networks -> Number of meetings facilitated between EU and local companies	100					100
	2	Studies to identify potential or assess alternative investment opportunities -> Number of studies conducted	25	4	4		8	41
	3	Design and delivery of training modules on each CRM and their value chain -> Number of trainings modules developed and training events delivered	24					24
2	1	Organisation of EU Business Missions to EU priority countries -> Number of business missions to strategic partnership countries	16	6	6	3	8	39
	2	Reinforce B2B ties between EU, local and international companies -> Number of matchmaking events with new business ties created	29	6	6	3	8	52
	3	Promote EU participation and EU visibility in mining conferences and events -> Number of international mining events with EU presence	23	6	6	3	8	46
3	1	Identify and advise on raw materials value chains investment opportunities	55	20	8	6	25	114

		-> Number of investment opportunities assessed						
	2	Facilitate investments in raw materials value chains projects -> Number of investment opportunities concluded with the Facility's support	24	6	2	2	6	40
	3	Support in the identification of concrete actions for the Roadmaps -> Number of Roadmaps developed with the Facility's input	6					6

Annex 2 – Logical Framework Matrix[15]

	Intervention Logic	Indicators (with baseline)	Means of Verification	Assumptions
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	To develop and integrate sustainable raw materials value chains between the EU and selected natural resource-rich partner countries to secure a reliable supply of critical and strategic raw materials to the EU, while supporting partner countries in extracting value locally from their natural resources			
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	To increase cooperation of all relevant stakeholders along the critical raw materials value chain (governments, private sector actors, financial institutions, civil society), while pooling all available resources and de-risking tools at European level and work in a Team Europe approach (with EU member states, EU private sector, EU financial institutions).			
OUTPUTS	1. Enhanced data gathering, capacity building and knowledge management			
	2.Business-to-Business ties between EU, local and like-minded international companies along the value chains including design and identification of potential off-take agreements reinforced			
	3. Business facilitation supported through technical assistance provided and the organisation of EU business missions and			

[15] Please update the LFM annexed to your current grant agreement based on the workplan developed in your proposal for amendment.

	match-making activities including ensuring EU participation in major international mining events			
ACTIVITIES	1.1 Development of local intelligence and business networks	Facilitation of 20 (in Y1) , 20 (in Y2), and 10 (in Y3) meetings between EU and local companies . In total, facilitation of 50 meetings between EU and local companies by M36.		
	1.2 Studies to identify potential or assess alternative investment opportunities	Conducting of 5 (in Y1), 6 (in Y2), and 4 (in Y3) studies. In total, conducting of 15 studies by M36.		
	1.3 Design and delivery of training modules on each CRM and their value chain	Delivering 5 (in Y1),5 (in Y2) ,2 (in Y3) training events delivered. In total, delivering 12 training events by M36.		
	2.1 Organisation of EU Business Missions to EU priority countries	Conducting 4 (in Y1) ,6 (in Y2),6 (in Y3) business missions to strategic partnership countries. In total, conducting 16 business missions to strategic countries by M36.		
	2.2 Reinforce B2B ties between EU, local and international companies	Conducting 6 (in Y1) ,6 (in Y2) ,5 (in Y3) matchmaking events with new business ties created.		
	2.3 Promote EU participation and EU visibility in mining conferences and events	Ensuring EU presence in 4 (in Y1) ,5 (in Y2) ,6 (in Y3) international mining event. In total, EU		

		presented in 15 international mining event by M36		
	3.1 Identify and advise on raw materials value chains investment opportunities	Assessing 15 (in Y1) ,20 (in Y2),20 (in Y3) investment opportunities. In total, 55 investment opportunities assessed by M36.		
	3.2 Facilitate investments in raw materials value chains projects	Facilitation of 6 (in Y1) ,8 (in Y2),10 (in Y3) investment opportunities with involvement of EU industry. In total, 24 investment opportunities with involvement of EU industry facilitated by M36		
TASKS (INPUTS)				
