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European Institute of Innovation & Technology

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# European Institute of Innovation and Technology

# Update Amendment to the Invitation 2026-2027 for KICs under Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to submit proposals to support the manufacturing sector

(Call HORIZON-EIT-2025-MOC-IBA)

Version 1.1
17 September 2026

| HISTORY OF CHANGES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Version | Publication Date | Change | Page |
| 1.0 | 09.07.2026 | Amendment to the Invitation 2026-2027 for KICs under Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to submit proposals to support the manufacturing sector | |
| 1.1 | 17.09.2026 | Clarification about use and ringfencing of grant allocated<br><br>DEL on manufacturing activities introduced<br><br>Reporting periods specific to Climate-KIC introduced<br><br>Confirm the maximum staff costs % | 5<br><br>7<br><br>8-9<br><br>9 |
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# Table of Contents

1. Introduction ..... 4
2. Available budget ..... 5
3. Timetable and deadlines ..... 5
4. Admissibility and documents ..... 5
5. Eligibility criteria ..... 6
6. Additional MoC activities 2026-2028 ..... 6
6.1 Description of the additional MoC activities ..... 6
6.2 Award criteria ..... 7
7 Legal and financial provisions ..... 7
7.1 Starting date, eligibility period ..... 7
7.2 Reporting and payment arrangements and deliverables ..... 7
Annex 1 Declaration for MoC KICs ..... 9

# 1. Introduction

This is an invitation addressed to the **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) who signed the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with it, namely Climate-KIC, 28Digital and InnoEnergy**, to submit a proposal as laid down in this invitation.

In accordance with Article 39 of the Grant Agreement, the coordinators of the MoC Grant Agreements will submit:

- either a request for amendment directly in the Portal Amendment tool in eGrants (InnoEnergy, 28Digital),
- or a new proposal in eGrants (Climate-KIC),

(hereafter referred to as "proposals") in order to implement activities supporting the **manufacturing sector**.

**The main conditions for the above-mentioned Grant Agreements are defined in *Invitation to submit proposals for KICs under Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) to submit proposals for MoC activities in 2026-2027 ("*original invitation") and linked documents. 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.**

This invitation is launched and the EIT financial contribution to the KICs will be determined based on the criteria and processes, in line with the following decisions of the EIT Governing Board:

- Decision 21/2021 of the EIT Governing Board on the authorisation of the EIT Director to prepare, negotiate and conclude partnership agreements and grant agreements[1];
- Decision 24/2024 of the EIT Governing Board on the conclusion of the Memorandum of Cooperation with EIT Climate-KIC, EIT Digital and EIT InnoEnergy[2];
- Decision 17/2026 of the EIT Governing Board on the principles for the determination of the EIT financial allocation for 2027 to the Knowledge and Innovation Communities' (KICs') Business Plans, and the Higher Education Initiative[3];
- Decision of the EIT Governing Board on the adoption of the amended Final Single Programming Document (2026-2028), Annex XI on Grants (EIT Work Programme 2026)[4];
- EIT Budget 2027[5]

[1] Ares(2021)3798804
[2] Ares(2024)4696453
[3] Ares(2026)6226486
[4] Currently under adoption in the written procedure by the EIT Governing Board.
[5] To be adopted in December 2026.

**KICs shall submit their proposals in accordance with the conditions laid down in the original invitation and should be aligned with the Horizon Europe and EIT Guidelines.** The invitation takes precedence over the guidelines.

# 2. Available budget

**The total estimated budget under this invitation for the 2027 additional funding allocation equals to EUR 20 000 000**.

Submitted proposals are expected not to exceed the EUR 10 000 000 budget.

KICs' proposals that do not meet the quality threshold (Chapter 6) will not be funded.

Grant awarded under this allocation shall be ringfenced for the objectives described in chapter 6.

Any unspent funds belonging to this invitation will be either reallocated to the Amendment invitation for Business Plan and HEI activities or returned to the EU budget.

# 3. Timetable and deadlines

The indicative timeline of the submission and evaluation procedure is as follows:

| Key dates | Date and time or indicative period |
|---|---|
| **Deadline for submission** | **1 October 2026** |
| Assessment of submitted proposals<br>Requests for additional information and clarifications from the EIT | 30 October 2026 |
| **(Additional) award decisions by the EIT Director**<br>Letters sent to the KICs, including strategic recommendations | **End November 2026**<br>Beginning December 2026 |
| KICs to submit the<br>- final requests for amendment (InnoEnergy, 28 Digital)<br>- final proposal (Climate-KIC) | January 2027 |
| **Signature of the amendments of the Grant Agreements (28 Digital InnoEnergy)**<br>**Signature of the Grant Agreement (Climate-KIC)** | **February 2027** |

# 4. Admissibility and documents

Proposals must be submitted no later than the deadline for submission indicated in Chapter 3.

The amended proposals (28Digital, InnoEnergy) must be submitted by the KICs within the above deadline, via the amendment functionality of the **eGrants tool**.

In case of a new proposal (Climate-KIC), it must be submitted electronically via the Funding & Tenders portal through a dedicated link provided by EIT.

The submission shall comply with the respective Guidelines and the templates and standards available on the Portal. Failure to comply with this requirement may lead to the rejection of the proposal.

The proposals must be drafted in English.

# 5. Eligibility criteria

This invitation for proposals is addressed to the following KICs: **InnoEnergy, 28Digital and Climate-KIC**.

This invitation changes the original invitation's provisions of the eligibility of KICs under Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). MoC KICs might **extend the implementation of their MoC activities to 2028, provided that:**

- **they commit to abide by the rules and provisions of their signed MoC in 2028 as well,**
- **and they sign and submit a declaration as a deliverable under the MoC Grant Agreements (see the declaration template in the Annex).**

# 6. Additional MoC activities 2026-2028

## 6.1 Description of the additional MoC activities

Additionally to the general and specific requirements outlined in the original invitation, interested KICs are invited to submit an amendment or submit a new proposal to design **activities specifically calibrated to the manufacturing sector's needs**, but connected to the KIC's own societal challenge.

Only the following mainstream activities are included in this amendment:

- Addressing the knowledge and skills gap in the manufacturing sector;
- Support to manufacturing startups through acceleration, mentorship, and access to KIC networks.

These activities will need to be clearly identified through a separated Task inside the relevant WP, to be added to the existing ones. The specific budget of the manufacturing-related tasks shall be included in the proposal.

Among the specific activities, the following constitute a non-exhaustive list:

1. **Replacing EIT Manufacturing in the coordination of its current EIT-labelled Masters** by performing due diligence on all active enrolments, scholarship commitments, summer schools and university agreements; re-confirmation of all EIT Label certifications with a two-year quality assurance plan, if possible; launch of the 2027/28 intake campaign targeting at least 25 new students.

   Furthermore, a gradual integration of these courses in the KIC's regular education programme would ensure the continuity.

2. **Creation of new EIT-labelled Master courses** with a specific link to the manufacturing sector and aligned with the KICs fields of expertise. The engagement of the manufacturing related actors shall be included as part of the KIC ecosystem when implementing this activity.
3. **Manufacturing upskilling and/or reskilling courses** addressing the KIC sector through the involvement of the industry, held in hybrid formats and aiming at upskilling at least 500+ students per course in two years (2027-2028).
4. **Entrepreneurship support** to manufacturing start-ups through incubator and/or accelerator services, as well as direct (through FSTP) and indirect (through different access to finance actions) financial support. Specific consideration to start-ups from the RIS regions is strongly recommended.

## 6.2 Award criteria

The award criteria and evidence are aligned with the Horizon Europe legal framework and are detailed in the original invitation.

However, the following threshold has been added: an MoC proposal will only receive a funding allocation if its total score reaches **at least 60%** of the maximum score for the quality of proposal. For each KIC above the threshold, the score received will be converted to funding, based on the available budget, in proportion of the KICs' relative scores.

# 7 Legal and financial provisions

## 7.1 Starting date, eligibility period

Eligibility period:

- InnoEnergy, 28Digital: This amendment extends the duration of the action until 31 December 2028, therefore the eligibility period will be 1 January 2026 – 31 December 2028.

- Climate-KIC: The eligibility period will be from the proposal submission date – 31 December 2028.

## 7.2 Reporting and payment arrangements and deliverables

The reporting and payment arrangements will be fixed in the grant agreement (Data Sheet, point 4 and Article 21 and 22). Mandatory deliverables set in the annotated templates (i.e. EIT Guidelines) and Horizon Europe Guidelines are expected to be submitted during the implementation years, while majority of deliverables are to be submitted together with the interim and/or final reports, as result of the implementation. Considering the specific nature of this invitation, deliverable(s) specific to the manufacturing activities must be added during the amendment of the grant agreement.

At the end of the grant agreement's implementation, each KIC shall submit a report and EIT will calculate the final EIT grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, EIT will ask the KIC LE to pay back the difference (recovery).

The engagement of staff costs (in terms of percentage) planned for the implementation of the overall activities shall not differ from the one approved in the signed grant agreement.

All payments will be made to the coordinator.

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

As regards **InnoEnergy and 28Digital**, the payment of the grant will be made in **one prefinancing instalment, two interim payments** and a **final payment (the balance)**. The aim of the prefinancing is to provide the beneficiaries with a float. The prefinancing remains the property of the EU until they are cleared against eligible costs or contributions accepted by the granting authority (normally at final payment).

As regards **Climate-KIC,** there will be only one prefinancing payment and one interim payment considering the shorter duration of the grant agreement.

The following indicative payment and reporting scheme is foreseen for **InnoEnergy, 28Digital** :

| | When | Requirements | Reporting period |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pre-financing payment *(approximately 55% of overall grant)* | Within 30 days following the signature of the grant agreement. | 5% as a contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the prefinancing payment. | |
| 1st Interim Report | Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period. | The 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). | 1-12 months |
| 1st Interim payment | Within 90 days from receiving the Interim Report. | Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financing and the interim payments together cannot be more than 90% | |
| 2nd Interim Report | Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period. | The 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). | 13-24 months |
| 2nd Interim payment | Within 90 days from receiving the Interim Report. | Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financing and the interim payments together cannot be more than 90% | |
| 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). | 25-36 months |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Final payment** | Within 90 days from receiving the Final Report. | The EIT will calculate the final EIT grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, EIT will ask the beneficiary/ies to pay back the difference (recovery). | |

The following indicative payment and reporting scheme is foreseen for **Climate-KIC**:

| | When | Requirements | Reporting period |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Pre-financing payment** *(up to 60% of overall grant)* | Within 30 days following the signature of the grant agreement. | 5% as a contribution to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism will be retained from the prefinancing payment. | |
| **1st Interim Report** | Within 60 days following the end of the reporting period. | The 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). | 1-12 months |
| **1st Interim payment** | Within 90 days from receiving the Interim Report. | Based on the declared actual costs, with a ceiling that pre-financing and the interim payment together cannot be more than 90% | |
| **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). | 13-24 months |
| **Final payment** | Within 90 days from receiving the Final Report. | The EIT will calculate the final EIT grant amount. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, EIT will ask the beneficiary/ies to pay back the difference (recovery). | |

The engagement of staff costs (in terms of percentage) planned for the implementation of the overall activities shall not differ from the one approved in the signed grant agreement.

# Annex 1 Declaration for MoC KICs

## DECLARATION[6]

### On the abidance by the rules and provisions of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in 2028

Name of MoC KIC: [28 Digital / InnoEnergy / Climate-KIC]

MoC Grant Agreement reference: [Grant Agreement EIT Digital 2026-27][7]
[Grant Agreement EIT InnoEnergy 2627][8]
[Grant Agreement Climate-KIC 2026-28][9]

The undersigned [Name of KIC CEO], representing the MoC KIC, hereby confirms that the **KIC will continue implementing MoC activities in 2028** in accordance with the applicable MoC Grant Agreement and all related EIT legal and operational requirements, and **agrees to abide by the rules and provisions of the signed Memorandum of Cooperation until 31 December 2028**.

The undersigned declares that it is duly authorised to sign this declaration on behalf of the MoC KIC.

[Name of KIC CEO]
Chief Executive Officer

[6] To be signed and submitted as a deliverable under the MoC Grant Agreement of the KIC.
[7] The acronym of the Grant Agreement cannot be changed, while the duration will be extended until 31 December 2028.
[8] The signature of the MoC Grant Agreement is foreseen to be completed in July. The acronym of the Grant Agreement cannot be changed, while the duration will be extended until 31 December 2028.
[9] A acronym of the new MoC Grant Agreement will be determined by Climate-KIC in the application.



Electronically signed on 21/09/2026 19:00 (UTC+02) in accordance with Article 11 of Commission Decision (EU) 2021/2121