

BUDGET	DEADLINES FOR FULL APPLICATIONS
Open EUR 612 million for 2023 Challenges EUR 534 million for 2023	11 January 2023 at 17.00.00 (Open) 22 March 2023 at 17.00.00 (Open + Challenges) 7 June 2023 at 17.00.00 (Open + Challenges) 4 October 2023 at 17.00.00 (Open + Challenges)
DURATION	FUNDING
12-24 months	Grant (+optional blended finance)
GOAL	
<p><b>The EIC Accelerator supports high-risk, high-potential deep-tech companies (principally start-ups and SMEs) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones.</b></p> <p>The EIC Accelerator Open is open to innovations in any field of technology or application and supports the later stages of technology development as well as scale-up. The technology component of your innovation must therefore have been tested and validated in a laboratory or other relevant environment (e.g., at least Technology Readiness Level 5/6 or higher).</p> <p>In addition, the, EIC Accelerator Challenges fund innovations in identified areas where breakthrough technologies or game-changing innovations developed by start-ups or SMEs can have a major impact on EU objectives. In 2023, the identified challenges are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Novel biomarker-based assays to guide personalized cancer treatment.</li> <li>• Aerosol and surface decontamination for pandemic management</li> <li>• Energy storage</li> <li>• New European Bauhaus and Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalization for decarbonization</li> <li>• Emerging semiconductor or quantum technology components</li> <li>• Novel technologies for resilient agriculture</li> <li>• Customer-driven, innovative space technologies and services</li> </ul>	
APPLICANTS	
<p>You must meet one of the following eligibility conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A single company classified as a <b>SME</b>;</li> <li>• A single company classified as a '<b>Small mid-cap</b>' (up to 500 employees), but your application can only be for rapid scale-up purposes (TRL 9) and only for the investment component;</li> <li>• One or more natural persons (including individual entrepreneurs) or legal entities <b>intending to establish an SME of small mid-cap in an EU Member State or Associated Country</b> by the time of signing the Accelerator contract or, in the case blended finance is awarded, at the latest when agreeing on its investment component.</li> </ul> <p>Companies and natural persons that apply must be established in an <b>EU Member State or Associated Country</b>. However, if you are an individual entrepreneur from a non-associated third country and you are ready to establish an SME (including start-ups) or to relocate an existing SME to an EU Member State or associated country, then you must have done so by the time of submitting a full application.</p>	

You can also apply through your existing project under the Fast Track if you are currently a participant in one of the following:

- The EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition projects (including under EIC pilot) managed by the Agency.
- Relevant schemes managed by the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) as identified as relevant by each KIC.
- Funding schemes for SMEs supported under the Eurostars-2 Joint Programme and the Partnership on Innovative SMEs managed by the Eureka secretariat and relevant national bodies;
- Companies supported by the WomenTech.EU programme managed by the Agency;
- Companies awarded a grant under Horizon 2020 under the EIC pilot Accelerator managed by the Agency.

### AMOUNT OF FUNDING AND OTHER SERVICES

The EIC is designed to fill the funding gap for high-risk innovations to a stage where they can be co-financed or financed under InvestEU or by private investors. **The EIC provides blended finance which is composed of investment component and grant component.**

- **Grant-only** (Innovation and Market Deployment Action): in the indicative range of **€500,000 – €2.5 million** (covering up to 70% of eligible costs). A Technology Readiness Level (**TRL**) of **5/6-8** is envisaged for projects requesting grants only. You may request a grant component only or grant first (and without requesting an investment component for TRL 9) if you have not previously received EIC Accelerator grant-only support.

The innovation activities to be supported should normally be completed within 24 months but may be longer in exceptional and well justified cases.

- **Equity (blended finance):** The minimum investment component is **€500,000 up to €15 million** for an individual innovation project. In the case of equity, investments will not exceed 25% of the voting shares of the company (exceptions). **Activities above TRL 8 will be financed only through blended finance.**

#### Business acceleration Services

In order to further leverage EIC investments, as EIC funded researcher, innovator or entrepreneur you will be provided with access to a range of tailor-made EIC Business Acceleration Services (BAS) at any stage of development of your activities and of EIC research and innovation cycle. Some of the services will also be made available to EIC Accelerator applicants (invited to prepare a full application) or to companies receiving the Seal of Excellence.

The EIC BAS are structured around three main pillars: access to coaches, mentors, expertise and training, access to global partners (leading corporates, investors, procurers, distributors, clients) and access to innovation ecosystem and peers.

### APPLICATION PROCESS

The application process consists of a number of steps:

- **Short applications** which may be submitted at any time, and which will be evaluated on a first come, first served basis.

- **Full applications** If successful, you will be invited to prepare a full application, where you will have access to support through the EIC artificial intelligence-based IT platform and from EIC business coaches. Full applications will first be assessed remotely by EIC expert evaluators.
- **Face to face interview** with an EIC jury as the final step in the selection process. It will be organised approximately 8-9 weeks after the cut-off date. You will be informed about the result of the interview within [2-3] weeks.

### SHORT APPLICATIONS

Submission at any time via the European Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal. Within approximately 4-6 weeks, you will receive the result of your short application. The short application consists of:

- A 5-page form where you must summarise your proposal and respond to a set of questions on your innovation, your potential market and your team;
- A pitch-deck of up to 10 slides following no set format;
- A video pitch of up to 3 minutes where the core members of your team provide the motivation for your application.

Within approximately 4 weeks you will receive the outcome of the evaluation. If successful, you will be invited to prepare a full proposal.

### FULL APPLICATIONS

It can be submitted to one of the cut-off dates within the next 12 months from the date of the response to your short application.

The full application consists of that full business plan and full information on you company's finances and structure. You will also need to propose a set of milestones to be used as a basis for the EIC to manage the funding for your innovation.

As in kind support for the development of your full application, you will also receive coaching from one of the business coaches from the EIC Business Acceleration Services. **You can only receive this in kind support for a first application and it will not be provided for resubmissions.**

Within 5-6 weeks you will be informed about the result of the remote evaluation and will receive feedback. If successful, you will be invited to attend a face-to-face interview with an EIC jury.

### FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW

The face-to-face interviews will be organized approximately 8-9 weeks after the cut-off date. The pitch-deck from the full proposal will be the one used during this interview. You will have 10 minutes to present it followed by 35 minutes of questions and answers to clarify aspects of the proposal. There will be no pre-set questions.

You will be informed about the result of the interviews approximately 3 weeks after your interview.

### LIMITATIONS ON RESUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS TO THE EIC ACCELERATOR IN 2022

Short applications	
If rejected one time	You may resubmit to the short application stage directly at any time.
If rejected second time	No new submission will be allowed for 12 months, at which point you may only submit a new or significantly improved proposal.
Remote evaluation of the full proposal	
If rejected one time	You may resubmit directly to the remote evaluation at a subsequent cut-off within 12 months (you must skip the next following cut-off)
If rejected a second time	You will not be allowed to submit another application for 12 months, at which point you may only submit a new or significantly improved proposal to the short application stage.
Face to face interviews with EIC Juries	
If rejected one time but the jury decides your proposal is a potential GO if specific targeted improvements are made	You may be invited to resubmit a revised application directly to one of the next two face to face interviews. Such a resubmission will only be permitted once.
If rejected one time (including if awarded a Seal of Excellence)	You may resubmit directly to the remote evaluation at a subsequent cut-off within 12 months (you must skip the next following cut-off)
If rejected a second time	No new submission will be allowed for 12 months, at which point you may only submit a new or significantly improved proposal to the short application stage.

### ELEGIBLE COSTS

All costs directly related to activities such as testing, prototyping, validation, demonstration and testing under real conditions (TRL6-TRL8).

The budget categories include, in addition to expenditure on staff, travel, consumables, depreciation of equipment, contracting of services, indirect costs (calculated as 25% of the remaining costs, except subcontracting). The non-refundable aid intensity will be 70% of the approved and justified budget.

The costs arising from market access activities (TRL9) will be covered through Private Investment.