EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

An initiative of the European Union

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

Technologies of the Future:

AI, Quantum and Beyond

3 December 2025

08:30-9:45 CET

Online

Agenda

1. News from the European Cluster Collaboration Platform

   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

2. Apply AI Strategy

   Gaspard Demur*, Deputy Head of Unit 'AI Innovation and Policy Coordination', EU AI Office, European Commission*

3. Panel debate

   Aitor Moreno*, Head of Quantum Technologies and Systems, LKS Next*

   Katja Eichinger, *Project Manager, AIR Artificial Intelligence Regensburg*

   Juha-Pekka Alanen, *AI Expert, Robocoast EDIH*

   Mathias Schumacher, *Project Manager Technology & Innovation, EIN.Quantum.NRW*

   Merete Nørby, *International Senior Consultant, MADE – Manufacturing Academy of Denmark*

   Thomas Roeblreiter, *Co-Chair Sector Group Digital, Enterprise Europe Network*

4. Funding opportunities

   Nina Hoppmann, *Team Member European Cluster Collaboration Platform*

Housekeeping rules

Jennifer Baker, presenter

- We will use **slido** to launch a poll. Please scan the QR code to answer.
- Please use the **Zoom Q&A function to ask questions,** and the **chat function** to comment or share links.
- If you want to speak: Please **raise your hand** and we will give you the floor.
- Please note that the session is being **recorded** and that the recording will be **published** on the European Cluster Collaboration Platform.

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM

Help Shape the Future EU for Business Network

The European Commission is inviting stakeholders to contribute to **the design of a future "EU for Business Network",** a new initiative proposed under the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) for the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028–2034).

The initiative aims to strengthen support for SMEs, startups, scaleups and small mid-caps across the Single Market by **streamlining and integrating advisory and partnering services** currently offered through European initiatives such as the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the European Cluster Collaboration Platform (ECCP) and others.

To ensure the new network responds to real needs on the ground, the Commission is launching **an informal consultation.**

🗓️ Deadline to contribute: 30 January 2026

👉 Take the survey:
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EU4BInformalConsultation

EU consultation on public procurement

You are invited to give feedback for the revision of the public procurement directives. This revision will:

- enable **preference to be given to European products** in public procurement, helping to ensure EU added value and secure the supply of vital technologies, products and services
- also **modernise and simplify procurement rules**, while making public procurement a tool for strategic investment.

Complete the survey here.

This call for evidence is open for feedback until **26 January 2026**.

In preparation

Call for evidence

Public consultation

Feedback and consultation period

03 November 2025 - 26 January 2026

Feedback: Open

Upcoming

Commission adoption

Planned for

Second quarter 2026

Feedback: Upcoming

Call for evidence and public consultation for the Advanced Materials Act

The Commission is looking for your insights on how to **excel in advanced materials** in the EU by helping shape the future Advanced Materials Act, a key technology for today's and tomorrow's innovations.

By establishing a strategic framework for advanced materials, the Act will **speed up production processes** and the journey from discovery to market. It will also promote a sustainable and circular economy and boost EU competitiveness.

Advanced materials are capable of significantly improving the properties of components used in products, from wearable electronic devices to electric vehicles.

Your voice matters and can drive meaningful change for this technology!

🗓️ 'Have Your Say' by **12 January 2026** in the portal

EU opens registration for craft and industrial product names, under new geographical indication protection

Whether you produce ceramics, textiles, jewellery, woodwork, or other locally rooted goods, you can now **apply for EU-wide protection**.

From 1 December 2025, Europe's glassblowers, potters, cutlers, jewellers and other makers will be able to register their product names under the **EU's new geographical indication (GI) scheme for craft and industrial goods.** This marks the first time GI protection, long used for food and drink, will cover non-agricultural products, completing the Single Market for GIs.

Producers may apply through a recognised association or individually.

More info in the EC's press release.

AI Continent Action Plan & Apply AI Strategy

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

TOWARDS THE CREATION OF THE AI CONTINENT

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE: FROM AI FACTORIES TO AI GIGAFACTORIES

AI Factories

- Dynamic innovation ecosystems, connecting **supercomputing centres**, universities, start-ups, industry and financial stakeholders
- Promoting AI adoption in **strategic sectors**
- **AI innovators** and selected EU-funded research projects will be **prioritised**
- **19 AI Factories** are being set up throughout the EU
- Investments: **EUR 10 billion** over the 2021-2027 period

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE: FROM AI FACTORIES TO AI GIGAFACTORIES

AI Gigafactories

- Large-scale facilities **developing** and **training complex AI models at an unprecedented scale**
- Integrating massive computing power (over **100,000 advanced AI processors**)
- Up to **five Gigafactories,** funded through the **InvestAI Facility**, mobilising **EUR 20 billion**
- A **call for expression of interest** for consortia interested in setting up AI Gigafactories launched together with this Action Plan.

AI GIGAFACTORIES: RESULTS OF THE CALL FOR EOIS (20 JUNE 2025)

Overwhelming response as 76 respondents express interest in the European AI Gigafactories initiative | Shaping Europe's digital future

Home | Policies | Activities | News | Library | Funding | Calendar | Consultations | AI Office

Home > News & Views > Overwhelming response as 76 respondents express interest in the European AI Gigafactories initiative

DIGIBYTE | Publication 30 June 2025

Overwhelming response as 76 respondents express interest in the European AI Gigafactories initiative

A total of 76 expressions of interest proposing to set up AI Gigafactories in 16 Member States across 60 different sites have been submitted in response to the Call for Expression of Interest in AI Gigafactories, which closed on 20 June.

The high number of proposals received went well beyond the Commission expectations. It is a clear testament to the very high momentum and interest in AI across Europe, and especially in AI Gigafactories . This wave of interest underscores Europe's opportunity to position itself as a global powerhouse in artificial intelligence, fully aligned with the bold vision set out in the AI Continent Action Plan.

The purpose of this call for expression of interest was to gather early insights from respondents comprising European industry leaders, private and public investors (from Europe and beyond), and the Member States, interested in shaping the future of AI infrastructure in Europe. While these submissions are not formal applications, they will play a crucial role in helping the European Commission and Member States identify and map out a dynamic, non-binding roster of potential candidates ready to establish world-class AI Gigafactory facilities across the EU, ahead of the official call for proposals planned for the end of 2025.

The respondents include major European companies representing data centre operators, telecoms, power suppliers, as well as both European and global technology partners and financial investors. In their expressions of interest, the respondents foresee the acquisition of at least three million latest generation specialised processors (GPUs) in total.

The European Commission will not disclose further information about the identity of the Respondents given the confidential business information provided in their expressions of interest. At

GettyImages © Andrey Suslov

Related topics

Advanced Digital Technologies | High Performance Computing - HPC | Artificial intelligence | Digital Europe Programme | Funding for Digital | Horizon Europe

- 60 AI Gigafactory locations proposed in different sites across 16 Member States
- **MS concerned: AT, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EL,ES, FI, FR, IT, LV, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE**
- €230 bn of proposed investments with more than 3,000,000 AI GPUs
- Many serious offers, proposed by:
  - Leading European tech companies (network providers, telecoms, software providers, system integrators, cloud providers, data centre operators, etc.)
  - US chips providers (NVIDIA/AMD)
  - Power companies
  - Leading Investors (EU and International)

An impressive line-up showing that Europe is the right place to invest in AI

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

COMPUTING INFRASTRUCTURE:
BOOST EU CLOUD AND DATA CENTRE CAPACITY

Cloud and AI Development Act

- **Incentivise large investments** in cloud and edge capacity, notably by **simplifying the permitting process** for building data centres
- At least **triple the EU data centre capacity within the next 5 to 7 years**
- Preserve our **technological sovereignty** by relying on highly secure EU-based cloud capacity

THE DATA UNION STRATEGY

I. DATA FOR AI

Scale-up Europe's Data Infrastructure

Data Labs, Common European Data Spaces & Simpl, Cloud & AI Development Act, Standards

Expand Data Availability

Scientific Data, Public Libraries, Alliance of Public-Service Broadcasters, Public sector HVDs

Data Pooling, Crowd-sourcing, Synthetic data

II. SIMPLIFICATION

Guidance and Tools for Businesses

Digital Simplification Omnibus

Future-proof ePrivacy framework

III. INTERNATIONAL DATA FLOWS

Reciprocity in international digital trade

Protection of EU sensitive data

Boosting Europe's voice in global data governance

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

THE APPLY AI STRATEGY

4 main objectives covering both **competitiveness** and **sovereignty angles**

- **increase AI adoption, especially among SMEs**
- **facilitate AI integration in strategic sectors**
- **unlock AI's wider societal benefits**
- **develop EU's own AI excellence**

Building from

3 sections

Introducing sectorial flagships

- **Sectorial actions** based on sectorial analyses, structured dialogues (17) and public consultation

Addressing cross-cutting challenges

- **Transversal actions** covering procurement, skills, frontier AI, regulatory compliance, investments

Establishing a single governance mechanism

- Continue dialogue with stakeholders and include new sectors

ALIGNMENT OF STRATEGIES

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

SKILLS: FURTHER DEVELOP EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Enlarging the EU's pool of AI specialists

- Educating and training the next generation of AI experts based in the EU, including through the **AI Skills Academy**
- Incentivising European AI talent to stay and to return to the EU, including through **AI fellowships**
- Attracting and retaining skilled AI talent from non-EU countries, **including researchers via the MSCA 'Choose Europe' scheme**

Upskilling and reskilling the EU workforce and population

- Capitalise on the network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (**EDIHs**), which will increase their **skills and training services**
- Promote **AI literacy** for all

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

REGULATORY SIMPLIFICATION: TOWARDS A SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AI ACT

Completing the EU ecosystem of support for AI Act compliance

Central EU support

- **In-depth** guidance, standards, code of practice
- Engaging with AI Office through **AI Pact**
- **Free advice from AI Act Service Desk**

Local support

- **European Digital Innovation Hubs** as local contacts
- Engaging with authorities in **AI regulatory sandboxes**

EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE

Do not edit
How to change the design

Join at slido.com
#ClustersAI

ⓘ The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

slido

Do not edit
How to change the design

Where are you / your member companies on the AI adoption journey?

The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

slido

Do not edit
How to change the design

How familiar are you with quantum technologies?

The Slido app must be installed on every computer you're presenting from

slido

Panel debate

Aitor Moreno, Head of Quantum Technologies and Systems, LKS Next

Katja Eichinger, Project Manager, AIR Artificial Intelligence Regensburg

Juha-Pekka Alanen, AI Expert, Robocoast EDIH

Mathias Schumacher, Project Manager Technology & Innovation, EIN.Quantum.NRW

Merete Nørby, International Senior Consultant, MADE – Manufacturing Academy of Denmark

Thomas Roeblreiter, Co-Chair Sector Group Digital, Enterprise Europe Network

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)

- The focus of this call is the **consolidation of the network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs)** aiming to cover all regions of the European Union and Associated Countries.
- Each EDIH will provide services based on a specific focus and expertise, which will support the local private and public sector with their digital transformation with particular focus on support to development, training deployment and uptake of European AI.
- This Call reinforces the continuation of EDIH services **started either as an EDIH cofunded by the Programme or as an EDIH with a Seal of Excellence**. Proposals will clearly describe how the proposal builds on previous achievements and learns from past experience to ensure an efficient implementation and even greater impact.
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-2026-EDIH-EU-EEA-09-CONSOLIDATION-STEP
- Deadline: 3 March 2026
- Published on EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Data Space for Manufacturing

- This action aims to support the continued **uptake and further expansion of the data space for manufacturing**. The primary objective is to **develop legal, technical and business solutions** to pool sufficient data and enable authorized AI developers to have direct or indirect data access to train generative AI models specifically for the manufacturing sector.
- The awarded proposals are expected to deliver:
  - Solutions that allow the **collection** of large, high-quality data from real industrial environments, from different manufacturing systems/sectors.
  - Solutions that allow **access to these large datasets to train Generative AI models** that respond to real-world industrial needs and challenges, preferably relying on trusted third parties hosting data and training compute on behalf of authorized AI developers.
  - **Agreements with specific AI factories** providing information on the data sets available and the conditions for using them for training AI models.
  - **Interoperability and governance framework of manufacturing data spaces** including from national industrial data spaces to ensure that mechanisms to aggregate data for training AI could be taken up at EU level.
- Topic ID: DIGITAL-2026-DSM-AI-09-DS-MANUFACTUR-STEP
- Deadline: 3 March 2026
- Published on [EU Funding & Tenders Portal]

Scaling up deep tech ecosystems

- The call seeks to **strengthen inclusive, interconnected, and efficient innovation ecosystems** across the EU by linking diverse actors, regions, and resources. It **promotes collaboration** between innovation leaders and less advanced territories to boost competitiveness, sustainability, and cohesion, while supporting the green, digital, and social transitions.
- The call underpins a **sustainable and inclusive European innovation model**, enabling companies to thrive with access to new markets, talent, and resources, while addressing **Europe's "burning challenges"**:
    - Reducing reliance on fossil fuels
    - Increasing global food security
    - Mastering digital transformation (incl. cybersecurity)
    - Improving healthcare
    - Achieving circularity
- Topic ID: HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-03
- Deadline: 20 January 2026
- Published on EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Save the date for the next Talk

14 January

Joint Cluster Initiatives: Presenting the new Euroclusters in Strand 2

Continue the discussion

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9503062/

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

Visit our website and follow us social media

www.clustercollaboration.eu

@Clusters_EU

European Cluster Collaboration Platform

European Cluster Collaboration Platform - ECCP

#EUClustersTalks **#ECCP**

THANK YOU

EUCLUSTERS TALKS

EUROPEAN CLUSTER COLLABORATION PLATFORM