

BACKING *VISIONARY* ENTREPRENEURS



What makes *EIC UNIQUE*?

- **€10 billion budget** under Horizon Europe to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations ;
- **One-stop-shop for all TRLs**: early-stage research ideas to tech transfer/commercialisation to scaling finance for startups and SMEs
- **Bottom up (open) and top downs (challenges)** funding approach;
- Strategy steered by independent **EIC Board** involving entrepreneurs, investors, researchers etc.
- Portfolio overseen by Programme Managers to identify new and emerging opportunities and **pro-active management of portfolios**;
- **Partnerships** to enhance the European innovation ecosystem (Business Acceleration Services, Plug in from national programmes, from EIT, ERC, Seal of Excellence, etc.)
- **Dedicated EIC Fund** to invest in EIC selected companies, and syndicate and crowd in private VC

EIC IMPACT (2025)

INVESTING IN DEEP TECH STARTUPS

- €2.5bn of investment mobilised with a leverage effect of €3 of additional investment for every € of EIC investment
- Invested alongside over 600 VCs, corporates and strategic investors, including the 25 largest VCs in Europe
- €1.2bn of total investment into EIC supported companies since 2018

ADDRESSING STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

- €850m for quantum and semiconductors
- €725m for developing or applying AI;
- €700m for energy generation and storage solutions;
- €625m for biotechnology and biomanufacturing
- €500m for advanced materials

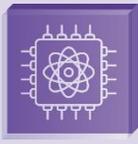
SCALING START-UPS & SMEs ACROSS EUROPE

- EIC companies averaging 50% employment growth and 55% revenue growth
- EIC supported startups and SMEs in 30 countries
- 70 'centaur' valuations including six above €500 m
- 30% women led companies supported in 2024 (female CEO/CTO/CSO).

A PIPELINE OF BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES AND COMPANIES

- 680 research projects
- ~50% of Transition projects from ERC PoC and ~ 45% from Pathfinder.
- 1350 unique innovations with >75% market creating or targeting emerging markets
- >100 startups





NEW EIC ADVANCED INNOVATION CHALLENGE

- Single entity 1st stage; small consortia 2nd stage
- To benchmark & validate solutions (TRL 4-6/7)
- 2-stage funding: 1st: grants up to €300k; 2nd: grants up to €2.5 million



EIC PRIZES

- Women innovators
- Capital of innovation

EIC ACCELERATOR

- For single companies
- Grants up to €2.5 million
- Equity up to €10 million
- To enter the market & scale-up (TRL 6-9)



EIC PROGRAMME MANAGERS

- In-house leading experts
- Identifying potential challenges in emerging deep tech areas
- Pro-actively managing EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator portfolios



EIC PRE-ACCELERATOR

- For companies from widening countries
- Grants between €500k - €1 million
- To boost deep-tech startup readiness



EIC PATHFINDER

- For consortia
- Grants up to €4 million
- To research technology breakthroughs (TRL 1-4)



EIC BUSINESS ACCELERATION SERVICES

- Mentors, coaches
- Global partners
- Innovation ecosystems
- EIC Community Platform



SEAL OF EXCELLENCE
Fast track to other funding

EIC STEP Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform

- Co-investments up to €30 million
- Digital, deep tech, biotech, clean tech



EIC TRANSITION

- For consortia & single companies
- Grants up to €2.5 million
- To develop business cases (TRL 4-6)



EIC Pre-accelerator call in 2027 under WIDERA Work Programme

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Overall goal: **Support to early-stage deep tech startups in widening countries** to develop the technology, business and investment readiness **from TRL 4 to TRL 6**.

Call opening / closing: **5 May 2027 / 18 November 2027**

Budget: **EUR 40 million**

Indicative number of projects: **60**

Funding targeted at:

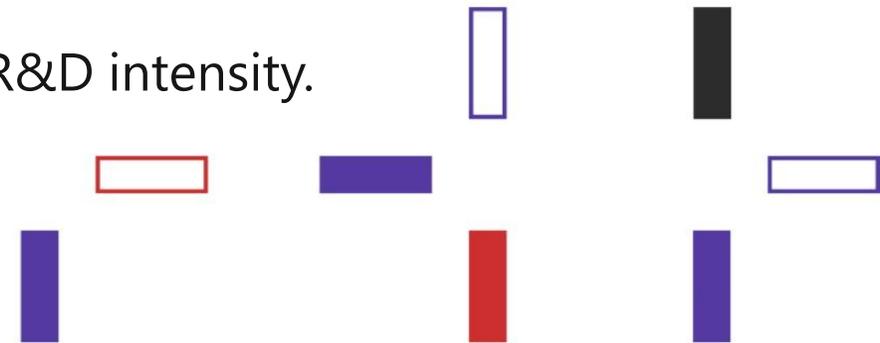
- actions addressing the **investor and market readiness** towards commercialization and deployment;
- next step: Fast-track to the EIC Accelerator & attracting private investors.



Deep tech is technology that is:

- based on cutting-edge **scientific advances and discoveries**,
- characterised by the need to stay at the **technological forefront** by constant interaction with new ideas and results from the lab,
- having the potential to deliver **transformative solutions**,
- rooted in **cutting-edge science, technology, and engineering**, including innovation that combines advances in the physical, biological and digital spheres.

Deep-tech is distinct from 'high-tech' which tends to refer only to R&D intensity.

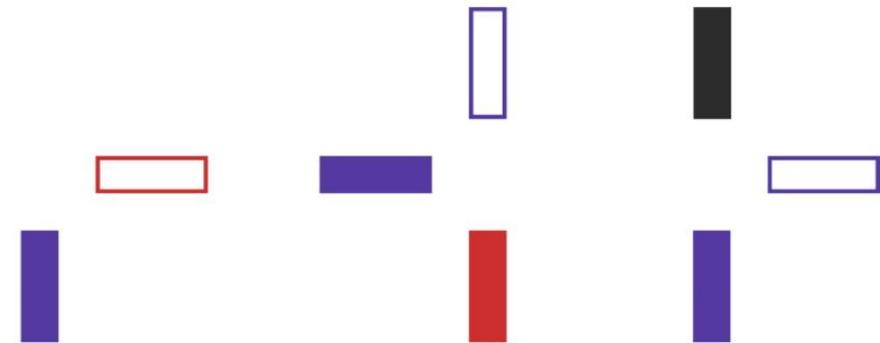




Scope:

Early-stage deep tech startups which:

- have high-impact innovation that could create **new markets or disrupt existing ones** (technology validated in the lab – at least TRL 4);
- possess the necessary Intellectual Property Rights to ensure **freedom to operate** and adequate protection of the idea;
- have a clear vision on the intended **pathway to market** (milestones together with concrete and verifiable KPIs to assess progress towards the market);
- have the ambition and commitments **to scale up**.



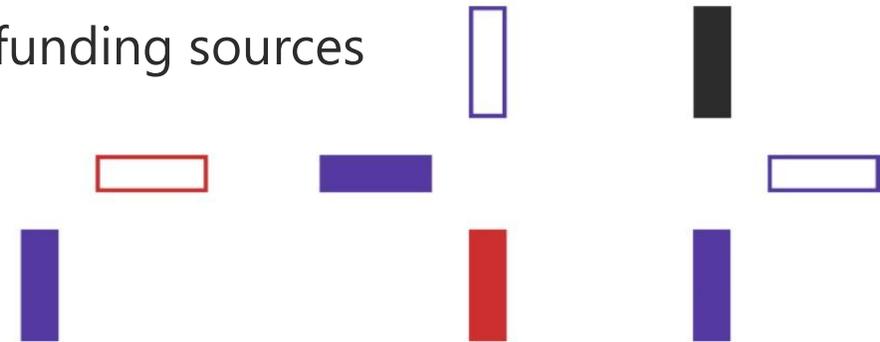
EIC Pre-accelerator – expected outcomes



Boost the innovation potential of early-stage deep-tech startups in widening countries by enhancing their business, investor, and technology readiness to secure funding from the EIC Accelerator or other sources.

Increased business, investor, and technology readiness (at least all aspects of TRL 5 completed) **of high potential deep-tech startups** in widening countries to a level where they will:

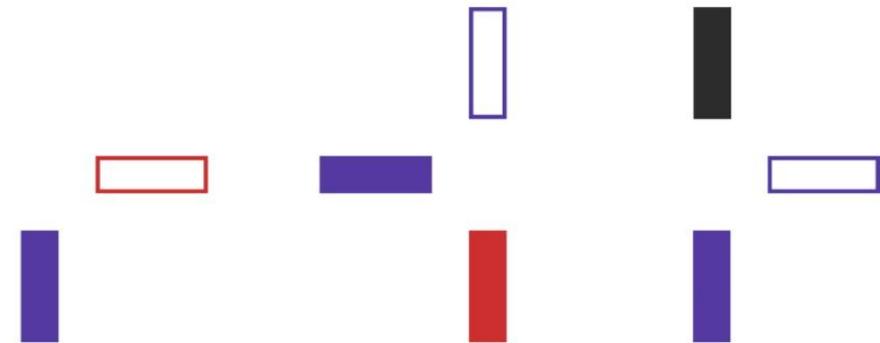
- be successful in applying and attracting the **EIC Accelerator** funding and/or;
- manage to secure other **private investment** and/or;
- attract successfully **national or regional funding** as alternative funding sources (e.g. through Seal of Excellence programmes).



EIC Pre-accelerator – specific conditions



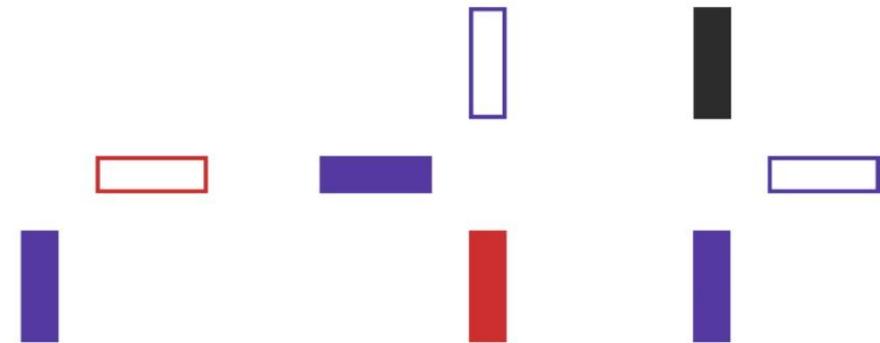
- Eligibility: **mono-beneficiary projects** with legal entities as **SMEs** established in the widening countries.
- Proposal template: **Coordination and Support Action adapted to the Pre-Accelerator** evaluation criteria
- Evaluation: single stage, based on the EIC Transition open criteria (first step) – included in the Pre-Accelerator call text
- Form of support: - grant for **max 2 years**
 - **70%** reimbursement (**lump-sum**)
 - between **500K-1M EUR**





In addition:

- Free access to tailored **EIC Business Acceleration Services** to improve investor readiness
- **Fast Track** to the EIC Accelerator;
- **Seals of Excellence** to be awarded, accompanied by free access to BAS.



Support in the EIC participation



EIC website with guidance documents, recordings from Info Days and FAQ: <https://eic.ec.europa.eu>

Additional support:

- **Access2EIC:** <https://access2eic.eu/>
- **EEN2EIC:** <https://een2eic.eu/>

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Thank you

<https://eic.ec.europa.eu>

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