

# Business Plan 2023 – 2025

## Call for proposals Evolution of RIS Innovations (EVO-R)

EIT MANUFACTURING



## Version history

Date	Comments
13 September 2023	Paragraph 5.2. Evaluation of applications modified to specify evaluation criteria on start-up creation.

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# 1. Call summary

**Disclaimer:** this document provides the applicants with detailed information on the Evolution of RIS Innovations (EVO-R) call for proposals the EIT Manufacturing Business Plan 2023-2025. The information given is subject to revision, according to new potential rules or requirements provided by EIT and/or by the EC.

Call main features	
Dates	<p><b>Call opening:</b> 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023</p> <p><b>Call closing:</b> 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023</p> <p><b>Eligibility and admissibility check:</b> until 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023</p> <p><b>Evaluation of applications:</b> 25<sup>th</sup> September-16<sup>th</sup> October 2023</p> <p><b>Communication of results:</b> 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023</p> <p><b>Start of activities:</b> 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023</p>
Introduction	<p>EVO-R supports activities undertaking innovative small-scale manufacturing solutions from the demonstration stage (TRL 7) through to market uptake (TRL 8-9). The grant is awarded to activities and/or individuals that have already selected and concluded under the regional or national funding programmes in the RIS countries that aim to scale up into European and global markets.</p>
Duration of the project	10 months
Total budget allocated to this call	750.000 EUR
Link to the submission portal	The Submittable platform will be available as of 12.00 CET

<p><b>Documents to be submitted</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application form available on the Submittable platform</li> <li>• Financial plan and revenue forecast annex to be attached to the application form</li> </ul>
<p><b>Documents to take into consideration</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement</li> <li>• EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda</li> <li>• Appeal procedure</li> <li>• Eligibility of expenditures</li> <li>• Declaration of Honour</li> <li>• Financial Support Agreement</li> <li>• Commercialization Agreement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Evaluation criteria</b></p>	<p><i>Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellence, novelty, and innovation.</li> <li>• Impact,</li> <li>• Quality and efficiency of the implementation, including sound financial management.</li> <li>• Strategic fit.</li> </ul>

## 2. General conditions

Manufacturing innovation promise to impact every aspect of the manufacturing businesses, from design, research and development, production, supply chain and logistics management through to sales, marketing and even end of life management<sup>1</sup>. These innovations create highly intelligent, information-driven factories and distributed business models that can respond rapidly to change and deliver entirely new customised smart products and services.

Manufacturing purpose is to support innovation, bringing knowledge from universities and institutes to real use in industry. EIT Manufacturing supports innovation activities for launching and industrialising demonstrated breakthrough solutions with high business growth potential. EIT Manufacturing believes that supporting innovative solutions developed by individuals and start-ups can contribute to achieving the objective of a more sustainable manufacturing sector.

EIT Manufacturing acknowledges the importance of providing targeted support to innovations coming from EIT RIS-eligible countries, enabling them to enter European and global markets. By supporting these innovations in their international market entry, EIT Manufacturing strengthens the national and regional innovation ecosystems and enhances the European economy's resilience in the face of future challenges, and contributes to a more innovative, competitive, and sustainable Europe.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.imcrc.org/manufacturing-innovation/>

## 3. Call specific conditions

### 3.1. Call thematic and expected results

#### Purpose

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme constitutes an integral part of EIT Manufacturing's strategy and is designed as a long-term initiative to strengthen the national and regional innovation ecosystems of countries that are moderate and modest innovators by transferring good practices and know-how to boost innovation<sup>2</sup>.

EVO-R supports activities undertaking innovative small-scale manufacturing solutions from the demonstration stage (TRL 7) through to market uptake (TRL 8-9). The grant is awarded to activities and/or individuals that have already selected and concluded under the regional or national funding programmes in the RIS countries that aim to scale up into European and global markets.

#### Topic Description

The solution shall be fitting at least one of the EIT Manufacturing Flagships areas:

- **Flexible Production Systems for Competitive Manufacturing**  
Emerging technologies enable almost limitless flexibility in product design and production, allowing full customization.
- **Low Environmental Footprint Systems & Circular Economy for Green Manufacturing**  
Using new technology to minimize the use of resources, energy, and material in production systems enables new circular business models.
- **Digital & Collaborative Solutions for Innovative Manufacturing Ecosystems**  
Collaboration and business on digital platforms and value networks enable companies to create new and highly efficient value chains.
- **Human-machine co-working for socially sustainable manufacturing**  
Smart use of automation and robots enables great workplaces, flexible production, and sustainable human work.

In the applications you shall:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/what-we-do/regional-innovation-scheme-ris/about-us/>

- Present how you will further develop research results into commercially available small-scale products or services. The applicants should have a prototype at the TRL 7 with the intention to bring the TRL up to 8-9
- Pay particular attention to IP protection and ownership and to the possibility of commercial exploitation (often known as 'freedom to operate').
- Refer to and incorporate a business plan clearly describing the market potential, business opportunities, measures to enhance the probability of eventual commercial take-up, and a credible commercialisation strategy that identifies next steps and specifies other actors to be involved.
- Specify the expected impact in terms of competitiveness and growth measured in terms of turnover and job creation.
- Clearly describe the expected impact in both qualitative and quantitative terms, with factors such as time sensitivity and international competitiveness considered in the light of the technology field, innovation area and industry sectors concerned.

#### Applicants profile

##### Applicant shall:

- Have participated in activities selected and concluded under regional or national funding programmes;
- Be registered or have citizenship of in one of the following RIS eligible countries:
  - EU Member States: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Hungary<sup>3</sup>, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain.
  - Horizon Europe Associated Countries: Montenegro, Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine.
  - EU Outermost Regions: Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte, and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)
- For applicants who are individuals, they should launch a start-up/ SME in order to commercialise services or products by the end of the EVO-R programme.

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<sup>3</sup> Based on the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506) on measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary, effective as of 16th December 2022, *no legal commitments shall be entered into with any public interest trust established on the basis of the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity maintained by such a public interest trust.* Please check also the related list of Frequently Asked Questions. It is progressively updated as soon as further guidance is available. You can find an indicative – non-exhaustive – list of affected entities (i.e. public interest trusts and entities maintained by them) under this link.



- With regards to legal entities, any type of legal entity is eligible to apply. These legal entities should be able to commercialize services and products. Hence, only those entities, for example, universities, research and technology organizations (RTO), and university-owned foundations that can generate revenue from the commercialization of products and services are eligible to participate in the EVO-R call and receive funding if selected.

Please note that joint applications by a group of applicants are admitted. The geographical coverage of the consortium will be taken into consideration by the evaluators and, in case of pan-European consortia, positively evaluated. In this case, you must appoint a lead applicant to submit the application and represent you. All applicants will be jointly responsible and must all fulfil and respect the conditions set out in these Guidelines.

#### Expected outcomes & impacts

EVO-R contributes to the knowledge triangle integration by combining business creation aspects, with the start-ups support and creation, with innovation ones, thanks to the development of services and products. EVO-R will also contribute:

- to accelerate the market uptake of innovations by providing funding that nurtures ideas from the RIS countries.
- To the emergence of new ideas that can be easily translate into socio-economic value, shaping new markets and laying the foundations of a stronger manufacturing base for Europe.
- To the development of the EIT Manufacturing networks. Successful participants in the programme will be kept informed about other activities of EIT Manufacturing, events and especially the Call for Proposal, potentially leading to new activity partners and members of EIT Manufacturing.

### 3.2. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) Contribution

The applicants that are selected for the RIS Evolution of RIS Innovations (EVO-R) have to contribute to the following mandatory KPIs:

KPI	Short title	Minimum Target
EITHE02.1	Number of all innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or within 3 years after completion. Innovations include new or significantly improved products (goods or services) sold.	8

EITHE02.2 -EITRIS	EIT RIS Marketed Innovations	8
EITHE02.4	Number of innovations introduced on the market during the KAVA duration or within 6 months after completion with a sales revenue of at least 10 000 EUR documented.	1
EITHE04.1	Start-ups created	2
EITHE04.2 -EITRIS	Number of start-ups registered in EIT RIS country in year N and established as a result/ based on the output(s) of Innovation/ Research related KAVA(s), or created for the purpose of an innovation project to organise and support the development of an asset	2

### 3.3. Budget and funding

The total maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is up to 750.000 EUR. The maximum EIT funding per applicant is 30.000 EUR. The funding takes the form of a lump sum contribution.

There is no co-funding requirement, but co-funding from any applicant will be considered positively.

All applicants must provide in the Financial Plan and revenue forecast annex a detailed cost estimation, which must be an approximation of the actual costs. The estimation provided must be:

- subject to the same eligibility rules as in actual costs grants, i.e., cost estimations can be included only if the same cost item/type of cost would be eligible in an actual cost grant;
- detailed in terms of tasks: applicants must identify the budget assigned to each task and the expected ending date of the task;
- must be in line with normal practices;
- must be reasonable/not excessive; and
- must be in line with, and the necessary activities proposed.

For information on the eligibility of costs of your project's budget, please refer to the document Eligibility of Expenditure published on the Call webpage.

The lump sum grant will be transferred to the selected applicants in three (3) instalments:

- 40% of the funding to be received will be paid at the beginning of the project upon acceptance by the EIT Manufacturing of the Kick-off package presented in paragraph 3.4.
- 40% of the funding to be received will be paid upon acceptance by the EIT Manufacturing of the Interim performance report presented in paragraph 3.4.
- 20% of the funding to be received will be paid after the official closing of the project. The remaining 20% of the funding will be paid upon acceptance by EIT Manufacturing of the Final performance report presented in paragraph 3.4.

The non-completion of the mandatory deliverables might affect the balance payment and might imply the application of the performance rate methodology to the balance payment and eventual payment recovery of the first payment.

In case the applicants are subject to EU administrative sanctions<sup>4</sup> or fall into any of the exclusion situations listed in the “Declaration of Honour” that prohibits them from receiving European funding, **EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to withdraw the funding at any step.**

### 3.4. Mandatory deliverables

Deliverables	Value assigned to deliverables regarding the total funding to be received	Approximate time of payment
DEL 1: Kick-off package. This package includes copy of the signed Financial Support Agreement and Declaration of Honour.	40% of the funding	December 2023
DEL 2: Interim performance report. This report includes copy of the commercialization strategy.	40% of the funding	May 2024
DEL 3: Final performance report. The report will contain: proof of addressing the branding requirements and success stories.	20% of the funding	September 2024

The templates for the deliverables are provided by EIT Manufacturing.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018R1046-20221214>

### 3.5. Reporting

Reporting periods and technical reporting follow to the rules and procedures established in the EIT Manufacturing Monitoring guide with the focus on successful completion and approval of the mandatory deliverables.

If a mandatory deliverable is declared incomplete or needs to be improved, it will be rejected by the EIT Manufacturing, and the lump sum amount concerned will be not paid at that point in time. The entity will have to complete/improve the mandatory deliverable later and resubmit it for its approval and subsequent payment.

If the rejection of the mandatory deliverable is confirmed, the total project budget (or the percentage) linked to it is not paid/recovered.

Furthermore, EIT Manufacturing will monitor all activities up to 5 years after activity completion to track long-term impact and the status of commercialisation and to ensure the achievement of KPIs after the activity end.

### 3.6. Financial sustainability

To enable EIT Manufacturing to gradually become financially independent from EIT funding, a Financial Sustainability (FS) Strategy has been defined.

Applicants should also indicate how their contribution towards achieving EIT Manufacturing's financial sustainability could be made.

For this call, the suitable Financial Sustainability Mechanism that the applicants can select is the **Product and Service revenue shares**.

The selected project shall lead to the commercialization of the proposed product/process (such as hardware and software products) and/or service (such as consulting and maintenance). EIT Manufacturing shall be remunerated by a portion of the revenues generated. The expected revenue share for EIT Manufacturing is 1%-5%. Applicants must calculate their projects' financial contribution to EIT Manufacturing's financial sustainability based on their five-year revenue forecast. The duration of payment is aligned with the duration of revenues, starting from the first year of sales and lasting for a maximum of five (5) years.

The initial proposed financial sustainability contribution will be revised prior to the project start and during the project implementation. Activities will receive support from EIT Manufacturing to help them achieve their objectives. This support acts as a

counterpart for the revenue shared with EITM, ensuring that the activities have the necessary resources, guidance, and assistance to maximize their chances of success.

It is mandatory for all applicants to sign a Commercial Agreement with EIT Manufacturing before the interim performance report of the project. The Commercial Agreement will be monitored for a minimum of five years after the end of the project.

## 4. Application preparation and submission

An **online info session** will be organised on the **9<sup>th</sup> of August** by the organizers to present the objective of the activity and answer any questions from prospective applicants.

All applications and supporting documents and material must be submitted in English using the application forms linked on the competition website (<https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu/calls/evo-r-open-call/>) – no paper submissions will be considered.

The following documentation must be submitted by the applicants through the submission tool **no later than the call deadline**.

- EVO-R Application form
- Financial plan and revenue forecast

**NB:** Only applications submitted through the online link (as noted above) before the deadline will be accepted and considered. The organisers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline; any extension of the deadline will be communicated to the public on the competition website.

Any documentation missing or considered incomplete, may be a reason for application rejection.

### Call Contact email

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing to ask questions and clarify any points on general or technical procedures and call content by sending an email message to [ris@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto:ris@eitmanufacturing.eu).

# 5. Application evaluation and selection process

## 5.1. Eligibility and admissibility check

A submission will be considered admissible if:

<b>Completeness</b>	The submitted application is completed, submitted in time via the submission tool, in English with all its mandatory sections and compulsory documents included.
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Admissible submissions will be considered eligible if:

<b>Applicant profile</b>	The applicant's profile is in line with the requirements presented under point 3.1 "Applicants profile".
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Applications containing one or more ineligible elements will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the eligibility check and explaining why the application failed to meet the criteria.

The applicant deemed ineligible who disputes the ineligibility decision may appeal. This appeal must be made within 5 working days from the official EIT Manufacturing notification of ineligibility (see paragraph 5.6 and the document Appeal procedure linked to the call).

## 5.2. Evaluation of applications

The evaluation of applications will be conducted in one step.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel composed by minimum 3 external expert evaluators with same weighting of scores.

Each evaluator will have to score each application based on four standardised criteria: Excellence, Impact, Implementation, and Strategic fit.

External evaluators will assess each evaluation sub-criteria will be assessed according to the following scores on a scale **from 1 to 5**.

Score	Description
1	<i>Extremely poor or None</i> The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific call provisions.
2	<i>Bad</i> The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific call provisions.
3	<i>Average</i> The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific call provisions.
4	<i>Good</i> The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific call provisions.
5	<i>Excellent</i> The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity, and coherence, compared to the specific call provisions.

The scores shall be given at criteria level and are then summed together to come with a final score per criteria.

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and to the total score. The maximum score for an application is 20. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3 and therefore the default overall threshold is 12.

Evaluation criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation	Strategic fit	TOTAL
	The applicant will be able to bring the Technology Readiness Level of the solution to at least 8 by the end of the activity and the proof of the starting TRL is provided.	The innovation impact potential is high, with a convincing and realistic commercialization plan. In addition, a convincing IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) strategy is in place.	The application has the potential to scale and be replicated, be it at European level.	The applicant addresses the concept of Knowledge Triangle Integration and provides a reasonable revenue share % for contributing to the EITM financial sustainability and the overall FS projection is substantial, considering the risk of implementation and commercialization.	20



Score	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	
Thresholds	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	12/20

The evaluators will assess each application by use of the evaluation tool included in the Submission Management Platform “Submittable” (each application is evaluated 3 times). The tool will automatically create an average score per application based on the individual scorings of the evaluators.

An external rapporteur will prepare a Summary Evaluation Report for each application, based on the evaluations of the (3) evaluators provided in the Individual Evaluation Reports. Only in case of notable divergencies between their evaluations, the evaluators will meet in a consensus meeting to discuss and build an agreement. In this case, an external rapporteur will address any notable divergences between their evaluations and will develop the final Evaluation Summary Reports of the evaluation of applications.

A total of 25 proposals will be selected to enter in the programme following the evaluation criteria. Out of the 25 available slots, minimum 5 of them are reserved for proposals including the creation of a start-ups/ SMEs (i.e., registering a company) in order to commercialize their services or products by the end of the programme via this new start-up/SME. In case the 5 reserved slots seats are not filled, the slots will be filled with the following higher ranked proposals as described in the evaluation criteria.<sup>5</sup>

### 5.3. Communication of results

Evaluation of applications: results will be communicated to the email of the applicant representative registered at the submission platform (**Note:** Please, check your spam folder). Results will be communicated with a rejection letter or email to non-qualified applicants. Results will include the evaluations (Evaluation Summary Reports).

The applicants might receive 3 types of evaluation feedback:

1. The application is accepted for funding. The application has got a high evaluation score and is selected for funding based on available budget assumptions.
2. The application is rejected. The application has failed to reach the threshold of an individual evaluation criterion or the overall threshold and is therefore not considered for funding.

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<sup>5</sup>The application will achieve the KPI EITHE04.1 and KPI EITHE04.2.

3. The application is retained in the reserve list: the proposal has passed all thresholds but due to budget constraints it cannot be funded. In case of finally unused budget, the application might become eligible for funding, e.g. in case a proposal accepted is unable to complete the project. The duration of the reserve list is up to end of June 2024<sup>6</sup>.

#### 5.4. Procedure for complaints and appeal

The applicant (the representative of the legal entity) of a rejected application who disagree with the decision may request an evaluation review. **Only procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review**, for example process errors or technical problems. The evaluation of the merits of an application shall not be the subject of an evaluation review. In this case, the applicant will have 5 working days after receipt of the final evaluation results to submit an appeal to the Evaluation (see document Appeal procedure)

#### 5.5. Selected applicants and follow-up

Selected applicants will have to diligently collaborate to complete the following document before the kick-off of the project:

- Financial Support Agreement
- Declaration of Honour

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<sup>6</sup> The validity of reserve lists may be prolonged according to the needs of EIT Manufacturing. Being on a reserve list, however, does not guarantee access to funding. A decision on the extension of the validity of a reserve list will usually be taken a few weeks before the list expires and will be communicated via email. If no such decision is taken, the list expires as foreseen.

## 6. Other terms and Conditions

### 6.1. Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of funding

Applicants that are awarded funding (financial support to third parties) must promote the funding and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) strategically and effectively. Communication activities related to the funding (including media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), must acknowledge EU support and display the EIT Manufacturing logo (emblem) and text. The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands, or text. Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EIT Manufacturing support. When displayed in association with other logos (e.g., sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the applicants that have been awarded funding may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from EIT Manufacturing. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means. Any communication or dissemination activity related to the funding must use factually accurate information.

The EIT Manufacturing may use, for their communication and publicising activities, information relating to the funding, as well as photos or audio-visual material that they receive from the applicants (including in electronic form), and photos and videos taken either in preparation for the dedicated EIT Manufacturing event or during the dedicated EIT Manufacturing event. The EIT Manufacturing will publish the name of both the shortlisted/s and the selected applicants, their origin, the amount of the funding, and their nature and purpose.

### 6.2. Intellectual Property Rights

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service.

Applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Manufacturing and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights

infringement by the product or service of applicants. Applicants shall have the right to further develop, use and license their intellectual property rights for creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology. Applicants agree to respect the IPR Rules (Article 16) of the Model Grant Agreement. Applicants also agree to respect the EIT Manufacturing IP Policy.

### **6.3. Right to activate audits**

EIT Manufacturing retains the right to activate an audit on EVO-R applicants that have been awarded funding, in case of alerts and/or to confirm governance and proper usage of the financial support.

EIT Manufacturing keeps the right to request any data related to the EVO-R applicants that have been awarded funding for 5 years after completion to ensure transparency and allow monitoring from EIT.

### **6.4. Withdrawal of the funding — Recovery of undue amounts**

EIT Manufacturing may withdraw the funding after its allocation and recover all payments made, if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it
- the awarded applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded or – the awarded applicants are in serious breach of their obligations under the Guidelines reported in this document.

### **6.5. Data protection**

EIT Manufacturing ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject, you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object, and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing. If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our Data Protection Officer at [dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu](mailto:dpo@eitmanufacturing.eu). In the case of complaints, you can address them to the French regulator CNIL.

The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the applications and the management, completion, organisation, dissemination of information, and publicity of the Call. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing and/or its subsidiaries.

Personal data shall be deleted 5 years after the announcement of the call awarded to applicants.

Applicants have the possibility to indicate that EIT Manufacturing may grant access to parts of their submission to trusted investors and partners.

The application submission and evaluation process will be done via Submittable (<http://www.submittable.com>), an online submission management tool by Submittable Holdings, Inc.

**YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF SUBMITTABLE AS SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION TOOL:** By submitting your application within this challenge you implicitly state your consent to the Terms and Conditions as well as the Privacy policy of Submittable, available under <http://www.submittable.com/terms> and <http://www.submittable.com/privacy>.

**YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA:** By submitting your application within this call you consent that EIT Manufacturing will collect, transfer, process, store, and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

## **6.6. Acceptance of the Guidelines**

By submitting the application form, the applicant agrees to these Guidelines and their Annexes, which form part of the submission. Applicants agree that they have no legal entitlement to funding.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Guidelines. Amendments and additions to these Guidelines shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the applicants on the call page of the EIT Manufacturing website.

EIT Manufacturing also reserves the right to cancel or declare the Call unsuccessful provided all applicants are informed and sufficient justification is given (for example no applications received, or all applications do not pass the default thresholds).

## 6.7. Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the applicants solely for EVO-R call. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

Applicants agree that EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing or establish reports or other necessary documents for EIT.

The applicants agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Manufacturing.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, EIT Manufacturing also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and any form, without the prior written authorization of the company concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for participation in the EVO-R call.

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing and its subsidiaries (e.g., CLCs) solely for the EVO-R call activity. EIT Manufacturing undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on Rapporteurs and independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the call for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

## 6.8. Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call if they are in any of the situations of exclusion defined in Article 136 of the EU Financial Regulation. Applicants shall sign a Declaration of Honour to confirm that they respect the above-mentioned criteria at the application stage. All selected applicants that have been awarded funding may be requested to provide relevant recent documentation substantiating the Declaration of Honour. Failure to provide adequate documentation may result in the exclusion of the applicants concerned.

## 6.9. Applicable Law

The present guidelines are governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e., the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation, and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and are complemented, where necessary, by the law of France. The applicants agree to observe the obligations outlined in the (Model) Grant Agreement signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in the contracts to be signed if the application is successful.