Teaching Factories

Deep Tech

2023 Competition

EIT Manufacturing

TEACHING FACTORIES ON DEEP TECH

Call for Universities/ VETs

Last Update: 29.11.2023

Business Plan 2023 – 2025

Changes History

Date	Comment
20.11.2023	Deadline has been extended; timeline is updated according to the call extension.
24.10.2023	University/VETs registration certificate is no longer mandatory. However selected applicants may be required to provide additional documentation concerning their legal and financial status.
29.11.2023	Info webinar day has been updated. It is scheduled for 19 December 2023, 13:00 CET.

Table of Contents

1.Call summary

Disclaimer: This document serves to provide applicants with information regarding **EIT Manufacturing's Teaching Factories Competition 2023 on Deep Tech - Call for Universities/VETs of the Business Plan 2023-2025**. Please note that the information provided is subject to potential revisions based on new rules or requirements introduced by the EIT and/or the EC.

Call for Proposals Main Features	
Dates	**1st phase** ▪ **Call opening:** 20 September 2023, 09:00 CET ▪ **Call closing (extended):** 22 January 2024, 17:00 CET ▪ **Eligibility & admissibility check:** 23 January 2024 ▪ **Evaluation of proposals:** 30 January 2024 ▪ **Communication of results:** 30 January 2024 ▪ **Feedback time (acceptance/rejection):** 5 February 2024 **2nd phase** ▪ **Implementation phase:** 5 February- 20 April 2024 ▪ **Kick-off event:** 9 February 2024 ▪ **Submission of summary reports (Universities/VETs):** 10 April 2024 ▪ **Submission by the Solver Teams:** 10 April 2024 ▪ **Results submission:** 10 April 2024 ▪ **Evaluation of results (materials):** 10- 16 April 2024 ▪ **Pitching sessions:** 16-19 April 2024 ▪ **Communication of results:** 22 April 2024 ▪ *Awarding ceremony: April/May 2024 (tbc)*
Introduction	**The Teaching Factories Competition (TFC)** is dedicated to promoting the Teaching Factories educational methodology, a collaborative approach that brings together industry and academia through challenging projects. By fostering academia-business partnerships, the TFC aims to drive authentic innovation in the manufacturing sector. In this regard, EIT Manufacturing is proud to announce the **"Teaching Factories on Deep Tech, 2023 - Call for Universities & VETs."** This initiative invites **universities and vocational education and training institutions (VETs)** to participate by forming **Solver Teams** to tackle selected **Deep Tech business challenges** within the framework of the **"Teaching Factories competition 2023 on Deep Tech."**

	Eligibility: Any public or private Universities & VETs[1] are eligible to apply.
	Application Submission: Interested institutions should submit applications that showcase their expertise, experience, and commitment to developing students' skills in the manufacturing industry. Emphasis should be placed on the willingness to collaborate with industry partners and embrace the Teaching Factories educational methodology.
	Shortlisting: up to 20 Solver Teams will be shortlisted for the competition based on the quality of the applications received. (The final number of solver teams depend on the number of submitted applications, their scores, and the selected numbers of challenges.) These teams will receive mentorship and support from both their respective universities/VETs and the partnering companies (Challenge Owners) throughout a two-month period.
	Team Assignment: Challenges presented by the Challenge Owners will be assigned to up to three Solver Teams. (The number of solver teams may vary based on the quality of the applications received. *EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to redistribute successful applicants as needed to ensure balanced team assignments.*)
	Competition process: **Duration:** The competition will span approximately two-month period. **Evaluation**: At the conclusion of the competition, an independent jury will evaluate the performance of the Solver Teams. The evaluation will consider various factors, including the teams' ability to address the Deep Tech business challenges, their level of innovation, and their overall performance.
The total budget allocated to this call	10 000 EUR. The prizes for the top-three Solver Teams and a Special Award are as follows: • First-ranked team: 5 000 EUR • Second-ranked team: 3 000 EUR • Third-ranked team: 1 000 EUR • Special award for women empowerment: 1 000 EUR Additionally, Solver Teams will receive intensive training and coaching in innovation and entrepreneurship field valued at 30 000 EUR. Thus, the total amount assigned to this call is 40 000 EUR.
Link to the submission portal	The submission platform will be available from **20 September 2023, 09:00 CET, until 22 January 2024, 17:00 CET (extended deadline)**.

---

[1] The definition and additional information on VETs can be found on the following link:
https://education.ec.europa.eu/education-levels/vocational-education-and-training/about-vocational-education-and-training

List of documents to be submitted	• Application Form available on the submission platform, • University logo in high-quality graphic format.
List of documents to take into consideration	• NDA Template. • Declaration of Honour. • Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. • EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda. • Appeal procedure.
Evaluation criteria	*Evaluation criteria assessed by the independent experts*: • Excellence, novelty, and innovation. • Impact. • Quality and efficiency of the implementation. • Strategic fit.

2. General conditions

In an era of rapid technological advancements, fostering innovation and equipping students with cutting-edge skills has become a top priority for educational institutions worldwide. To encourage **universities and VET schools** to tackle real-world business challenges, EIT Manufacturing launches a call on the exciting realm of deep technology, commonly known as **Deep Tech**.

Deep Tech, as a term, encompasses technologies rooted in scientific advancements and engineering innovations. These technologies have the potential to reshape industries and revolutionize the way we live, work, and interact with the world. Recognizing the importance of Deep Tech, universities and VET schools have an opportunity to engage their students in solving business challenges within this domain.

This call is launched in the framework of the EIT Manufacturing's flagship initiative, the **Teaching Factories Competition 2023/2024** which is managed by EIT Manufacturing's Education Pillar, **this competition aims to foster collaboration between industry practitioners and students/faculties, creating a dynamic exchange of knowledge and experience.**

To incentivize participation and recognize excellence, financial support in the form of prizes is available for the **winning Solver Teams**. The total budget allocated by EIT Manufacturing for this call is up to 10 000 EUR. In addition, EITM organises intensive training and coaching courses for the solver teams valued at 30 000 EUR.

3. Call specific conditions

3.1 Call thematic and expected results

3.1.1. Purpose

The Teaching Factories Competition on Deep Tech in the Manufacturing Industry offers universities and VET schools a unique platform to engage in collaborative learning and problem-solving.

The initiative aims at:

- allowing **companies** to learn and experience the advantages of utilizing advanced knowledge and methods taught in universities/VETs.
- allowing **university and VET students** to test and enhance their competencies by tackling real industrial problems and challenges through Challenge-Based Learning (CBL).
- offering a collaborative environment allowing **teachers and industrial mentors** to support students in generating innovative solutions.

3.1.2. Topic description

The main topic of the **Teaching Factories competition 2023/2024 is Deep Tech** which (among others) includes[2]:

- advanced materials and manufacturing.
- aerospace, including drones.
- artificial intelligence and machine learning.
- biotechnology.
- blockchain.
- Web 3.0.
- electronics.
- photonics.
- quantum computing.
- robotics.
- semiconductors (microchips).

---

[2] These Deep Tech sectors, sub-sectors, applications, and definitions may change as technologies and markets change over time. What unites them is that they hold the key to the solution of complex societal challenges through innovation.

- sustainable green energy and clean technologies

To enhance the chances of a successful application, potential applicants are advised to consider the following factors:

- **Understand the selected Challenges on which the Solver Teams will work**: Familiarize with the business challenges published on EIT Manufacturing's website together with the call information and documents. These challenges have been selected by external experts. Thoroughly review the challenges to gain a clear understanding of their objectives, constraints, and potential impact.
- **Formulate Your Vision:** Based on your understanding of the challenges, develop a compelling vision for the proposed solutions. Your vision should showcase your innovative approach and how you plan to address the specific challenges. Consider the feasibility, practicality, and potential impact of your proposed solutions. It is important to emphasize the unique strengths and capabilities of your university or VET school.
- **Mobilize Solver Teams**: Identify and mobilize student teams who will work collaboratively on providing solutions to the selected challenges. Ensure that the teams are composed of students from relevant disciplines and possess a diverse range of skills necessary to tackle the deep tech challenges effectively.

To facilitate effective communication and collaboration, all participants will have access to AGORA, EIT Manufacturing's dedicated online community platform. AGORA will serve as the main communication platform for companies, universities/VET schools and Solver Teams, providing a centralized space for exchanging ideas, sharing progress updates, and fostering interactions throughout the competition.

3.1.3. Applicants profile

To be eligible for applying, applicants:

- Must be a **public or private higher education institution i.e., university or a VET school**[3] AND
- Must be a registered "legal entity": any legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality, and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality.
- Must register in the **EU Participant Register** before submitting their application, to obtain a **participant identification code (PIC)**[4].

---

[3] All EIT Manufacturing partners are eligible to apply for funding, nevertheless, an entity does not need to be an EIT Manufacturing partner to apply for funding.

[4] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/participant-register

- Must be established in one of the following countries:
  - the Member States of the European Union: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.
  - European Union member states' outermost regions (ORs).
  - the countries associated with Horizon Europe and the low- and middle-income countries[5];
- Applicants may submit **up to two proposals presenting two different solver teams**.
- Must present a Solver team composed by students with the following **eligibility requirements[6]**:
  - **Current Enrolment:** The student must be currently enrolled at the University/VET institution as a student.
  - **University Requirements:** university students should be enrolled in at least the 3rd year of their course.
  - **VET School Requirements:** VET students should be enrolled in at least the 2nd year of their course.
  - **Degree Status:** The student should not have obtained their final degree at the time of the call closing.

3.1.4. Expected impact

The solutions will contribute to:

- Share know-how and innovative approaches leading to innovative, green, and sustainable solutions in the Deep Tech field for the manufacturing industry.
- Allow students to gain valuable skills by tackling real-world manufacturing challenges within an authentic industry setting.
- Improve companies access to new methodologies, and interdisciplinary approaches offered by universities & VETs.
- The call will contribute to the EIT KPI: **EITHE08.1** number of participants in non-degree programmes, target value- 70.

---

[5] See the Horizon Europe List of Participating Countries on the Portal for an up-to-date list of these countries

[6] These requirements are put in place to ensure that students who participate in the Teaching Factories Competition have reached a specific level of academic progress and are actively engaged in their studies during their involvement. By adhering to these requirements, we aim to ensure that students are in a position to fully commit their time, knowledge, and skills to the competition, thereby maximizing their learning experience and contributions to the deep tech challenges. These eligibility criteria guarantee that participating students are dedicated learners who can effectively collaborate with their peers and bring valuable perspectives to the Solver teams.

3.1.5. Activities

Before awarding the financial prizes, the following activity will be carried out: teams of students from Universities and VET Schools (hereinafter, "**Solver Teams**") competent in **Deep Tech** will analyse and propose solutions to **challenges** presented by companies. ("Challenges" mean corporate objectives related to the enhancement of specific industrial processes to improve business performance.) For **approximately 8 weeks**, the Solver Teams will be supported by professional mentors from the companies & universities.

Universities and VETs interested in participating in the Teaching Factories Competition should adhere to the following commitments:

- **Appoint internal representative(s)** as a mentor for the Solver Teams and act as the point of contact with EIT Manufacturing. The appointed representative will also participate in two **training workshops** tailored for mentors and tutors, aimed at enhancing their roles in supporting the solver teams.
- **Select students and form up to two Solver Teams**, consisting of **five students** and **one mentor** per team. Encourage institutional support and motivate students to actively engage in the competition.
- **Provide tutoring** to student teams during the eight-week solving phase, integrating it into university/VET's regular courses and aligning with relevant industrial processes.
- **Actively participate in TFC coordination meetings** with EIT Manufacturing and provide feedback on the experience in the competition. Feedback can be shared through **a brief report (one page),** or a questionnaire provided by EIT Manufacturing at the end of the competition. The meetings will be scheduled mutually for seamless coordination.
- **Attend the Kick-off event and Award ceremony** as an institution representative, delivering a short presentation about the institution's activities and the team's involvement (if possible). Templates and guidance will be provided by EIT Manufacturing.

To ensure a successful participation in the Teaching Factories Competition on deep tech, Universities should make sure that the **selected Solver Teams** comply with the following commitments:

- **Kick-off Meeting** Students must attend the online kick-off meeting, where they will receive important information about the competition, including guidelines, timelines, and expectations. Tentative date: February 9.
- **Mandatory Innovation and Entrepreneurship Seminars**: Students are expected to participate in online innovation and entrepreneurship seminars. These seminars provide valuable insights and knowledge in relevant areas, equipping them with essential skills and a broader understanding of innovation and entrepreneurship in the context of deep tech. 5 Seminars x 1h. Tentative dates: Feb 13, 20, 27; Mar 5, 19, 2024| 17:00 CET.

- **Online Digital Learning Paths**: Students are required to complete automated online Digital Learning Paths at their own pace. These learning paths are designed to enhance their knowledge and understanding of key concepts related to deep tech. <u>Tentative date: Feb 9 – Apr 9, 2024.</u>

- **Mandatory Innovation & Entrepreneurship Coaching Sessions:** Each Solver Team must attend three online coaching sessions over the 8-week period. These sessions are mandatory and aim to provide personalized guidance and support. <u>Tentative date: Feb 9, - Apr 9, 2024.</u>

- **Team Collaboration and Challenge Solving:** Students will work collaboratively in teams to tackle the challenges presented by participating companies. Active engagement within the teams is essential, as it allows students to leverage their collective skills and knowledge to develop effective solutions that address the given challenges. <u>Tentative date: Feb 9, - Apr 9, 2024.</u>

- **Providing feedback through an online survey**: Students are required to submit an online survey provided by EIT Manufacturing, offering feedback on their overall competition experience. <u>Tentative date: Apr 10, 2024.</u>

- **Delivery of Results:** Students are expected to provide their solutions in Word/PDF and PPT formats. <u>Tentative date: Apr 10, 2024.</u>

- **Online Pitching Sessions:** Students are required to pitch online in front of a jury. This allows students to present their findings, share insights, and demonstrate the value of their solutions. A jury will evaluate their performance and select Solver Teams for the Final Pitching Session. <u>Tentative date: Apr 16-19, 2024.</u>

- **Individual Feedback:** Each Solver Teams are expected to receive 35 minutes of individual feedback by the experts after pitching sessions. <u>Tentative date: Apr 16-19, 2024.</u>

- **Final Pitching:** The top Solver Teams are required to present their solutions and pitch online in front of a jury in the final round to reveal the winners. <u>Tentative date: Apr 19, 2024.</u>

- **Award Ceremony:** Winning students are expected to participate in the award ceremony, where outstanding contributions and achievements will be recognized and celebrated. It is a moment to showcase their accomplishments and the impact of their work in the competition. <u>Tentative date: Apr/May 2024.</u>

3.2 Budget and funding

The total maximum EIT funding allocated to this call is 10 000 EUR, plus extensive training opportunities for the students with calculated value of 30 000 EUR.

Applicants compete for the following:

- Up to 20 shortlisted universities/VETs will enjoy **networking, visibility, and international publicity** through EIT Manufacturing's communication channels.
- Up to 20 shortlisted universities/VETs' representatives (mentors) will receive the **Training workshop**.
- All selected Solver Teams will receive the **high-quality training in Innovation & Entrepreneurship** provided by EIT Manufacturing.
- The top 3 Solver Teams winners, will receive **financial prizes** as the following:

  - o 1st place: 5 000 EUR
  - o 2nd place: 3 000 EUR
  - o 3rd place: 1 000 EUR
  - o Special award for women empowerment: 1 000 EUR

The awarded funds will be paid in one single instalment in the form of prizes for the first, second and third-ranked Solver Teams. An additional Special Award of 1 000 EUR will be awarded to Solver Teams promoting women empowerment in the manufacturing industry.

While a substantial amount of 10 000 EUR is dedicated solely to awards, incentivizing, and recognizing outstanding achievements among the students, the true value lies in the extensive training in the field of Innovation & Entrepreneurship, coaching & support that all student participants receive from experts, as planned education activities outlined by EITM in the call guideline. These invaluable educational opportunities come at an additional cost (30 000 EUR), leading to a total amount (40 000 EUR) spent on the students. Therefore, the direct financial prize for students is 10 000 EUR, in addition students receive professional training and support – valued at 30 000 EUR.

3.3 Monitoring & Control Related to the "TFC on Deep Tech" Financial Prizes

CONTROL / COMPLIANCE BEFORE PAYING OUT THE FINANCIAL PRIZE

Before EIT Manufacturing awards the financial prizes, the **Winning Solver Teams** must provide their banking and fiscal documentation. For the purpose of the payments, the prize-winners will be asked to provide the necessary administrative documents (e.g. copy of ID Card, bank account details…) in due time.

Shortlisted applicants (1st phase) must sign a "Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA)" and "Declaration of Honour" available at the EIT Manufacturing Teaching Factory website. NDA is a legally binding contract that establishes a confidential relationship between TFC participant Companies, on one hand, and students/Universities/VETs and EIT Manufacturing on the other. The parties signing the agreement agree that sensitive information they may obtain during a competition will not be made available to others. If an issue is identified, EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to withdraw the award of the TFC on Deep Tech prize.

3.4 Reporting

Prize Winners must report 1 (one) month after receiving support from EIT Manufacturing confirming a receipt of "TFC on Deep Tech" prize.

4. Proposal preparation and submission

To ensure efficient processing and evaluation, please note the following guidelines for submitting your application to the Teaching Factories Competition:

Language and Submission: All applications must be submitted in **English** using the designated application forms available on the competition website at https://eitmanufacturing.submittable.com/. Please be informed that paper submissions will not be considered.

Account Registration: Applicants must register and validate their accounts if it is their first time accessing the platform. If the applicant has already created an account, they can proceed to log in. Once logged in, they can initiate a new application. Ensure that all compulsory fields are completed during the application process.

Official Language: English is the official language of the competition. Therefore, all required documentation must be submitted in English, and all communication with the organisers must be conducted in English.

Required Documentation: Applicants must submit the following documentation through the submission tool no later than the call deadline of **January 22, 2024, 17:00 CET**:

- Online Application Form.
- University/VET logo in a high-quality graphic format.

Note: Only applications submitted through SUBMITTABLE before the deadline, as specified above, will be accepted, and considered. The organizers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline, and any extensions will be communicated on the competition website. Incomplete or missing documentation may result in application rejection.

Selected applicants may be required to provide additional documentation regarding their legal and financial status.

Information Session: Interested universities/VETs are invited to participate in an Information Session on 19 December at 13:00-14:00 CET. The event will be conducted online on AGORA. For further information, please contact tfcompetition@eitmanufacturing.eu.

Call Contact points

For any questions or clarifications regarding general or technical procedures, as well as the content of the call, applicants are encouraged to reach out to EIT Manufacturing. To initiate contact, please send an email to **tfcompetition@eitmanufacturing.eu** with the email subject line "TFC on Deep Tech". Our team will promptly assist you with the information you require.

5. Proposal evaluation & selection process

5.1 Eligibility and admissibility check

A proposal will be admissible if it shows:

Completeness	The submitted proposal is completed, and submitted in time via the submission tool, in English with all its mandatory sections and annexes (including university/VET logo).

A proposal will be eligible if it shows:

Applicant profile	The applicant's profile is in line with the requirements presented under Chapter 3 "Applicants profile".

Proposals containing one or more ineligible elements will receive official communication from EIT Manufacturing setting out the outcome of the eligibility check and explaining why the proposal failed to meet the criteria.

The applicant deemed ineligible who disputes the ineligibility decision may appeal. This appeal must be made within 5 (five) 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 Proposals & Challenges

The evaluation process for proposals and alignment with the defined challenges will consist of two phases, as outlined below:

5.2.1 1st Phase: Shortlisting of Solver Teams

During the first phase, a panel of 3 independent external experts will review the submitted applications. Based on their assessment, up to 20 promising Solver Teams will be shortlisted. The number of selected Solver Teams depends on the quality of the applications.

Each evaluator will assign scores to the applications based on four standardized criteria: Excellence, Impact, Implementation, and Strategic fit.

The evaluation criteria will be assessed using a scoring scale ranging from 1 to 5. Each criterion will have equal weight during the evaluation process.

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

The scores will be assigned to each criterion and then aggregated to calculate a final score. Thresholds are applied to the criteria and the total score levels. The maximum score for a proposal is 20.

At the criteria level, a default threshold of 3 out of 5 is set. This means that a minimum score of 3 must be achieved for each criterion to meet the threshold, and therefore proceed with the process.

Furthermore, an overall threshold of 12 out of 20 is set as the default requirement. This implies that the total score of the proposal must be equal to or greater than 12 to meet the overall threshold and be considered for further evaluation.

Excellence	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)
The university/VET application showcases an innovative approach to addressing challenges in the Deep Tech Field, aiming to advance existing technologies and promote progress in the manufacturing industry. The university/VET's capability to effectively execute the proposed solutions within the specified timelines.	
Impact	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)
The application presents an assessment of the potential business and environmental impact of the proposed solutions. It highlights a clear understanding of the identified business challenges and demonstrates how the solutions address specific needs and opportunities, benefiting relevant stakeholders. Additionally, the application showcases a commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship.	
	Max scoring 5
Implementation	(Threshold: 3/5)
Capacity, competence, adaptability, readiness, and engagement of the applicants and their Solver Team: The applicants possess the essential resources, qualifications, and experience to effectively support and collaborate with the Solver Team, which, in turn, possesses the necessary skills and knowledge aligned with the specific challenges. The applicants showcase their motivation, commitment, and experience in challenge-based learning, demonstrating preparedness to actively participate in the project's activities.	
Strategic fit	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)

Deep Tech Alignment and Business Relevance: The application demonstrates an alignment with the chosen Deep Tech field. It effectively showcases how Deep Tech can be utilized to address specific challenges. The application emphasizes the economic and/or business relevance of the proposed solution.	
TOTAL	*20 POINTS* *THRESHOLD 12/20*

Using the Submission Management System, SUBMITTABLE, an average score per application is generated based on the individual evaluators' ratings. This process results in the creation of an Individual Evaluation Report (IER) for each application.

In cases where there are significant discrepancies in comments and scores, a consensus meeting is arranged, chaired by an internal rapporteur. The purpose of this meeting is to facilitate discussions among the evaluators and reach an agreement on the final score.

The rapporteur plays a vital role in addressing notable disagreements between the evaluations. They work towards developing the final Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for the first phase, which involves the evaluation of proposals.

Based on the evaluation results, up to 20 top ranked applications will qualify to participate in the activities outlined in section 3.1.

5.2.2. 2nd Phase: Selection of Top Three Solver Teams and Special Prize

In the second phase, the Solver Teams will submit the solutions in the form of PowerPoint, word or PDF, the expert-trainers will evaluate these submissions and provide summary comments which then will be taken into consideration by the jury during pitching sessions. The solver teams will pitch their solutions online in front of a jury consisting of three external experts and a representative from the respective Challenge Owner (to validate the presented solution). The jury will then select the top-performing Solver Teams for the Final Pitching Sessions (online), where the three best-performing Solver Teams will be revealed.

In addition to the top three teams, a special prize will be awarded to the Solver Team that actively promotes women's empowerment in the manufacturing industry. This prize aims to recognize and encourage diversity and inclusivity within the competition.

The independent jury will evaluate the Solver Teams during the pitching sessions based on the following criteria:

Excellence	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)
Innovation, Creativity, and Technical Proficiency: The Solver Team generates innovative ideas and creatively addresses the challenge, resulting in substantial improvements aligned with the selected problem. They demonstrate technical skills in advanced technologies relevant to the manufacturing industry, effectively applying these skills to present a feasible and technically sound solution. This evaluation recognizes the team's capability to deliver effective solutions that foster progress and advancements in the field.	
Impact	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)
Short-term effectiveness and long-term potential: The solution demonstrates immediate impact by leveraging Deep Tech technologies to achieve notable improvements in efficiency, cost savings, productivity, and product quality. It exhibits scalability, replicability, and adaptability, showing the potential for long-term transformation and positive changes in the manufacturing industry.	
Implementation	Max scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)
The Solver Team's solution demonstrates functional completeness by fully addressing the preselected challenge and meeting the company's specific requirements. The solution is accompanied by clear and comprehensive documentation, showcasing a high level of quality, attention to detail, organization, and clarity.	
Strategic fit	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)

Impact & relevance to the manufacturing industry: The presented solution effectively aligns with and utilizes Deep Tech technologies, incorporating the latest advancements within the domain. It strategically supports EIT Manufacturing's objectives and priorities, contributing to the industry's innovative development. The solution is highly relevant to market needs, addressing current challenges in the manufacturing sector, and demonstrates potential for scalability and compatibility with existing systems and processes.	
TOTAL	*20 POINTS* *THRESHOLD 12/20*

Criteria for Special Award	Max. scoring 5
	(Threshold: 3/5)
The proposed solution shows a clear commitment to promoting equal opportunities for women's involvement in manufacturing.	
TOTAL	*5 POINTS* *THRESHOLD 3/5*

The scoring process will be conducted at the criteria level, and the scores will be combined to calculate a final score for each criterion. Thresholds are set for both individual criteria and the total score. The maximum score for a proposal is 20. The default threshold for each individual criterion is set at 3 out of 5, while the default threshold for the overall score is set at 12 out of 20. The special award scoring is calculated based on one criterion where the threshold is 3 out of 5 and the maximum score is 5.

5.3   Communication of results

1st Phase:

After the evaluation process, the results will be communicated via email to the applicant representative who is registered on the submission platform. The communication will include the ESR (Evaluation Summary Report).

Within five (5) days of receiving this communication, Universities/VETs whose applications have been selected have the option to decline participation in the activities. They can do so by notifying EIT Manufacturing via email at **tfcompetition@eitmanufacturing.eu.** In such cases, EIT Manufacturing will extend an invitation to participate in the initiative to the University/VET whose team is in the next position in the ranking.

2nd Phase:

The independent jury will evaluate the Solver Teams at the first pitching session and recommend top Solver Teams for the final pitching session. The same jury will reveal the winning three Solver Teams and a special award winner after the final pitching session.

The results of the evaluation will be communicated via email to the Solver Teams and the applicant representative registered on the submission platform. This communication will include the results report.

Individual scores and comments provided by the jury will remain confidential to ensure the integrity of the evaluation process.

The Solver Teams that emerge as winners will receive an invitation to the award ceremony, scheduled to take place in April/May 2024 (TBC). During this ceremony, the winners will have the opportunity of additional visibility to showcase their solutions.

5.4   Procedure for Complaints and Appeal

The applicant of a rejected proposal who disagrees 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 a proposal shall not be the subject of an evaluation review. In this case, the company will have **5 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

Shortlisted applicants will have to diligently collaborate to

– Sign a Declaration of Honour and an NDA document which can be downloaded from the Competition website.
– Ensuring winning Solver Teams provide the required banking and fiscal details (applicable to the **Winner Teams only**).

6. Rules and Regulations

6.1 Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of Funding

Prize winners must promote the prize and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. Communication activities related to the prize (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., of winners or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, the winners may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the awarding authority. 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 prize must use factually accurate information.

The EIT Manufacturing may use, for their communication and publicising activities, information relating to the prize, 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 award ceremony or during the award ceremony. The EIT Manufacturing will publish the name of both the finalist/s and the selected applicants their origin, the amount of the prize and its nature and purpose.

6.2 IPR — Rights of use

The intellectual property rights in the Results of the Challenges will be property of the participating companies in the respective Challenges, without prejudice to the moral rights of the Solver Teams to be recognized as authors, creators, or inventors. Nothing in this Notice shall operate to assign or transfer any other Intellectual Property Rights from the companies to the Solver teams or the Universities/VET or vice-versa. For the avoidance of any doubt, all patents, trade secrets, information, know-how, inventions, technology, data, and other intellectual property rights owned by the participants prior to the participation in the Teaching Factories competition shall remain the sole property of the respective participant.

Participants (Universities/VET or Solver teams) agree to respect the IPR Rules (Article 16) of the Model Grant Agreement[7].

Participants 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 the "Teaching Factories Competition on Deep Tech, 2023" prize winners, in case of alerts and/or to confirm governance and proper usage of the financial prize.

EIT Manufacturing keeps the right to request any data related to the "Teaching Factories Competition on Deep Tech- 2023" prize Winners for five (5) years after completion to ensure transparency and allow monitoring from EIT.

6.4 Withdrawal of the prize — Recovery of undue amounts

The awarding authority may withdraw the prize after its award and recover all payments made if it finds out that:

- false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it,
- prize winners were not eligible or should have been excluded or prize winners are in serious breach of their obligations under these Rules of the Contest.

---

[7] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

6.5 Data protection

The sole purpose of the collection of data is to verify the eligibility of the submitted products or services and to identify the best projects/companies within each category. Participants will provide their name, postal address, email address and telephone number ("personal data") only for the purposes related to the execution of the competition. EIT Manufacturing will process the submitted material according to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Personal data shall be deleted six months after the announcement of the competition winners.

Participants 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 competition you consent that EIT Manufacturing will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

6.6 Acceptance of Rules and Regulations

By submitting the application form, the participant agrees to the Rules and Regulations, which form part of the submission. Participants agree that they have no legal entitlement to a prize.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Rules and Regulations. Amendments and additions to these Rules and Regulations shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the participants.

Any deviation from these Rules and Regulations can only be made in writing and signed by an authorized representative of EIT Manufacturing and the participant.

6.7 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 set forth 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 an action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in the contracts to be signed if the application is successful.