

Request for Proposal

SUPERNOVAS Data Base

December 2025

1. Context

EIT Manufacturing, is a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), and the leading pan-European community focused on fostering innovation in manufacturing through our unique active ecosystem. Among Europe it exists 9 other KICs with the one we can participate to lead the action and create services across Europe and improve the competitiveness of European companies.

In Europe, only 30% of the startups are led by women and this percentage even decreases in sectors such as deep-tech. On the other hand, only 10% of European VCs have a gender-mixed General Partnership team, 21% considering all investment professionals while only 22% have a women investment professional in corporate venture capital funds. In contrast 74% of human resources, marketing and communication staff in VCs are women. On top of this, female angel investors are in the minority in Europe — at just 14% of the angel community in the UK, 9% in Spain and 5% in France — and that is meant to have a negative impact on the number of female founders raising early-stage funding. In the same line, there is strong evidence that increasing diversity will lead to better returns and reduced bias.

In 2026, EIT Manufacturing, EIT Food and EIT Urban Mobility will launch the third edition of the EIT Community SUPERNOVAS, that aims at increasing the number of women in the entrepreneurship ecosystem and the investment industry at the European level.

SUPERNOVAS has been carefully designed to tackle the existent gender-gap and reaching a balance amongst the key pieces of the ecosystem. To do so, we have built a set of activities to unleash the female potential by identifying groups of women of different ages, backgrounds and aspirations, and supporting them with specific initiatives to enter and scale positions in the ecosystem.

- SUPERNOVAS Women Investors Community: to train women in the investment industry (as business angels or as venture capital professionals), connect them with other women facing similar challenges and offer them investment opportunities, that ultimately will contribute to increase the funding opportunities of female-led startups.
- Rocket-up: to support entrepreneurs to entry a new European market with a solid strategy and local validation of the product and service. The goal is to have more women entrepreneurs growing and getting funded.
- Women2Invest: to train a group of women with STEAM studies in venture investment and connect them to firms active in this space (both venture capital and corporate venture capital/venturing) so that they get an internship or job with them.

- Data Base: to collect data of innovative European female led startups (in different sectors), that can be sold to interested parties, displayed to potential investors, or used to prepare reports.

EIT SUPERNOVAS wants to lead a game changing initiative to bring more women into the entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem. To support EIT in this pursuit, this request seeks a Supplier to support EIT SUPERNOVAS in building and maintaining a data base of all the women-led or women founded startups that have been supported by the EIT (by any KIC or programme).

2. Activity description and involvement of the potential subcontractor.

In 2023, a new activity was launched within the SUPERNOVAS project framework. A Data Base that collects and analyses data and delivers updated situation reports on EIT progress in supporting and developing women entrepreneurship. The Data Base also serves as a showcase of the female led EIT supported startups to investors and corporates.

The responsibility of the Supplier chosen through this request is to support EIT SUPERNOVAS Community in the implementation of the Data Base for a year and six months since 1 January 2026. In general terms, it will be responsible of the platform setup, maintenance and updating, the data curation and the partner's access until the 30 June 2027.

More specifically, the selected provider is expected to deliver the following actions:

Related to the platform:

- Creation and implementation.
- Branding and personalization according to the SUPERNOVAS and EIT image: logo, colours, favicon, home page and image.
- Domain.
- Embedment in the SUPERNOVAS website.

User-driven improvements:

- Continuous implementation of platform enhancements based on feedback from key user groups.
- Iterative UX/UI improvements to ensure a more intuitive, accessible and efficient user experience, especially for investors seeking female-led deal flow.
- Introduction of new features, filters, dashboards or navigation functionalities in response to evolving user needs.

Related to data:

- Maintenance and continuous update for the duration of the contract.
- Sprint to enhance coverage and import of data shared.
- Data ownership with full export rights for the EIT SUPERNOVAS Community during the project duration and at the end of the contract.

Related to support:

- Dedicated account manager for new partnership opportunities, community building, founder outreach, support, and monthly reporting to the EIT SUPERNOVAS Community.
- Live support to visitors of the platform via its chat box.
- Training the EIT SUPERNOVAS Community team on how to curate data and promote the platform.
- Develop reports on gender and investment trends from the data base to showcase and promote the platform.
- Provide on-line sessions and workshops to the SUPERNOVAS Community members on how to use the platform, latest gender and investment trends and reports.
- At least, three moderator accounts for the EIT SUPERNOVAS Community team, to edit the platform data.
- At least three premium access licence to the platform.

Related to the platform promotion:

- Media coverage to support the launch of the platform: newsletter, blog and social media.
- Personalised and co-branded sign-up email workflow to guide every new signed up user on the ecosystem platform.
- Additional media coverage in the supplier network along the year and related to noteworthy events, funding news or growth.

Related to financial sustainability and joint revenue-generating activities:

The supplier is expected to collaborate with the EIT SUPERNOVAS Community on initiatives that contribute to the long-term financial sustainability of the Data Base. This may include:

- Co-developing and implementing joint revenue-generating activities some potential examples include premium visibility packages, curated reports, sponsored content, or data-driven insights products.

Deliverables and timeline

Activity	Responsible	Date
RFP opening	EIT Manufacturing	28 November 2025
Offer submission	Supplier	8 December 2025
Evaluation and notification of award	EIT Manufacturing	Mid- December 2025
Standstill Period to receive complaints	Suppliers	Mid- December 2025 (up to 3 days after notification)
Contract signature	EIT Manufacturing & selected supplier	Mid-December 2025
Project start (Kick off meeting)	EIT Manufacturing & selected supplier	1 January 2026

1 st follow-up meeting	Selected supplier and EIT Manufacturing	1 March 2026
2 nd follow up meeting	Selected supplier and EIT Manufacturing	1 June 2026
SUPERNOVAS Data Base launching	Selected supplier	1 January 2026
Submission of learnings and summary report and Media Coverage Report	Selected supplier	1 June 2026
Submission of learnings and summary report and Media Coverage Report	Selected supplier	31 December 2026
Submission of learnings and summary report and Media Coverage Report	Selected supplier	1 June 2027

3. Eligibility criteria and selection process

To ensure the correct implementation of this activity, EIT Community would like to partner with a European organisation to support its delivery.

Eligibility requirements

- Legal persons (such as companies, incubators or accelerators, higher education institutes, research institutes, non-governmental organisations) located in Europe.
- With proved expertise in setting up, maintaining, and managing start-ups data platforms.
- Previous experience in collaboration on KICs developing start-ups data platforms is considered as an asset.
- Experience with women entrepreneurship activities is considered as an asset.

Proposal preparation

To demonstrate their interest and capabilities to the EIT SUPERNOVAS Community, the subcontractor is asked to submit a proposal (in word, pdf or power point format) that reflects:

1. Interest, expertise, and experience (naming some examples of projects developed, its duration and the partners involved) in performing the tasks specified in 'Eligibility requirements' and more specifically in the 'Activity description and involvement of the potential subcontractor' section.
2. A detailed budget representing value for money.

Evaluation of proposals

The quality of each proposal will be evaluated in accordance with the below mentioned award criteria. The award criteria will be examined in accordance with the document with the technical response to the activities requested.

Award criteria:

1. Project experience and competences (maximum: 20 points) This includes experience relevant to the scope of work, familiarity with similar platforms or data environments, and demonstrated ability to deliver comparable services. Previous experience working with EIT-related initiatives may be considered as an asset, insofar as it demonstrates understanding of the project's specific context, workflows and objectives.
2. Methodological approach of the project and proposed project implementation (maximum: 20 points)
3. Best Value for Money (maximum: 20 points)

The results of the award procedure will be communicated in writing (via e-mail) both to the successful and unsuccessful suppliers.

Price and proposal process

Proposals are requested to be emailed in English to the following address:

Contact name: Paula Sevillano

E-mail:

paula.sevillano@eitmanufacturing.eu

The maximum budget is EUR 15.000 (including VAT) for the period comprised between the contract signature and the 30 June 2027.

To select a supplier, the proposal shall contain:

- the technical response to the services requested.
- the financial offer (the price for the services expressed in euros, with VAT indicated separately) for a maximum of 15.000 euros (including VAT).

We will receive proposal until 08.12.2025 23:59 CET with the aim of signing the contract by End December. Late applications will not be considered.

4. SUPERNOVAS brand, identity, logo and products use and intellectual property.

- All above listed actions will be designed, planned, and implemented in close communication with the EIT Community SUPERNOVAS project managers. If needed, they will also be reviewed and adapted accordingly to the indications of the EIT Community SUPERNOVAS PM. All actions will require the specific approval of the EIT Community SUPERNOVAS PM prior to their implementation.
- SUPERNOVAS, all its audio-visual materials, website, related contents, activities (including the Women Investors Community) and the EIT Community SUPERNOVAS logo are property of the EIT

Community. This must be clearly stated in every document, material, or communication (oral and written) produced by the subcontractor within the activity framework; before, during and after the activity implementation and must be done through the correct use of the SUPERNOVAS EIT Community branding and through the correct mention (in the case of oral presentations) of the EIT Community.

- The use of the SUPERNOVAS EIT Community logo must follow the EIT Community branding guidelines.
- By means of the mentioned before, no intellectual or industrial property rights over EIT Community SUPERNOVAS project, activities, contents (creative materials, communications, website, videos, creations, texts...etc), products and brand are transferred to the subcontractor.
- It is expressly forbidden for the subcontractor the appropriation, reproduction, transformation, distribution, public communication, making available, extraction, reuse, forwarding or use of any nature, by any means or process, of the EIT Community SUPERNOVAS project, activities, contents, products, and brand; except in the cases where it is legally permitted or authorized by the EIT Community.

5. Complaint procedure

Tenderers believing that they have been harmed by an error or irregularity during the award process may file a complaint. Appeals shall be addressed to EIT Manufacturing only via the following email address: procurement@eitmanufacturing.eu

The tenderers have 3 days to file their complaints from the date of receipt of notification of the results.

In your application to EIT Manufacturing the complainant shall explain what procedural aspects they consider having been violated along with any recommendations or remarks. Such claims need to be supported with data and facts and relevant documentation. An appeal whose sole purpose is to obtain a second evaluation for no reason other than that the complainant disagrees with the final award decision is to be rejected.

6. Negotiations and clarifications

Negotiations can be held in the following cases:

- if it is identified that the scope of services issued by EIT Manufacturing is not detailed enough, incomplete or some areas are lacking crucial information to complete the procedure for direct awards.
- if EIT Manufacturing has the intention to reduce the offered prices to find the best value for money.
- if all submitted prices are above the planned budget and it is everyone's interest to finish the procedure with success – in that case, price negotiation can take place. During a price negotiation, all tenderers are called to lower their prices by the same deadline in a written form.

EIT Manufacturing can organize as many rounds of negotiation as it is needed during the procedure to reach the highest quality of proposals and the best price.

Whenever possible, the negotiations should be carried out in writing, however, in special cases, video conference or even live negotiation can be organized. EIT Manufacturing also reserves the right to invite the tenderers to an individual meeting before the final award of contract to clarify details and ambiguities.

In case of obvious or perceived errors or omissions in the RFP, tenderers can request additional information or clarifications by the deadline provided in the above timeframe through email at paula.sevillano@eitmanufacturing.eu

Upon receipt of the bids, they will be reviewed, and additional details will be requested from the tenderers as needed. The requests as well as the answers are to be submitted written by e-mail. Where information or documentation to be submitted by tenderers is incomplete or erroneous or where specific documents are missing, EIT Manufacturing staff may request the party concerned to submit, supplement, clarify or complete the relevant information or documentation within 3 days.

Bid preparation costs are not reimbursable and must be borne by the tenderers.

EIT Manufacturing owns all bids received in this RFP. Proprietary information of vendors in the bids will be kept strictly confidential. The offers as well as the contract may be submitted for audits.

7. Contract

The final award does not yet constitute the contract. The contract will be concluded at the time of signature by the supplier and EIT Manufacturing. The winning supplier will be sent the contract to be signed (indicating the deadline by which the signed contract should be returned to EIT Manufacturing).

The invoicing will be based on a mutually agreed schedule; it will be detailed in the contract.

The first contract will have duration from the signature date until the 30 June 2027. Then it might be renewed until December 2028 depending on the service supplier performance.

The awarded supplier will be requested to sign Standard Contractual Clauses (SCC) if no other GDPR compliant safeguards exist, and the supplier is in a country for which the EU commission has not issued an adequacy decision.

8. Cancellation of the proposal procedure

In the event of cancellation of the proposal procedure, EIT Manufacturing will notify tenderers of the cancellation. In no event shall EIT Manufacturing be liable for any damages whatsoever including, without limitation, damages for loss of profits, in any way connected with the cancellation of a proposal procedure, even if EIT Manufacturing has been advised of the possibility of damages.

The tenderer shall take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the contract is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). S/he should inform the EIT Manufacturing team immediately if there is any change in the above circumstances at any stage during the implementation of the tasks.

The supplier cannot be a EIT Manufacturing Partner or Activity Partner. Any bid from such an economic operator will be rejected.

Tenderers will be excluded if:

- a) they are being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations; they have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata.
- b) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the EIT Manufacturing can justify.
- c) they have not fulfilled obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or any other country of the EU.
- d) they have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization or any other illegal activity detrimental to the EU' financial interests.
- e) following a procurement procedure or grant award procedure financed by the EU budget, they have been declared in serious breach of contract for failure to comply with their contractual obligations.

The tenderers must not be in a situation of a conflict of interest, and they have sufficient economic and financial capacity, technical and professional capacity, and legal and regulatory capacity to perform the requested services. A declaration of honour regarding the above shall be signed by the tenderer. Additional evidence or declarations might be requested by the contracting authority.

EIT Manufacturing reserves the right to suspend or cancel the procedure, where the award procedure proves to have been subject to substantial errors, irregularities, conflict of interest or fraud. If substantial errors, irregularities, conflict of interest or fraud are discovered after the award of the Contract, EIT Manufacturing may refrain from concluding the contract.