

AID4SME Launches €1.95 Million Open Call to Drive Green and Digital Transition for European SMEs

August 2025

The AID4SME project, a Horizon Europe initiative, has launched its first open call, committing up to €1.95 million to support SMEs and start-ups. The project will fund the development of innovative AI and data-driven solutions for large scale resource optimisation challenges on industries that have significant impact on the objectives of the Green Deal.

The open call, which runs from June 30, 2025, to September 11, 2025, will select up to 13 innovative projects. Each selected project will receive a grant of up to €150,000 to develop, test, and scale its solution.

This initiative is designed to help SMEs develop a product/service by providing financial aid, facilitating the access to early customers and overcoming market barriers as well as benefit from the knowledge of the experts involved. The call targets innovators who can leverage AI and data to create solutions that will target one of the challenges proposed.

The challenges

The call is divided in 4 main categories that hold several challenges within the topic:

1. Combined AI and Data solutions for DATA COLLECTION

- 1.1 - Augmented sensing solution
- 1.2 - 2D/3D image analysis for large Energy Infrastructure predictive maintenance

2. Combined AI and Data solutions for creation of INSIGHTS

- 2.1 - Product-production Digital Twins
- 2.2 - Digital Twin based lifespan analysis tool
- 2.3 - Energy system Digital Twin decision support tool

3. Combined AI and Data solutions for DECISION SUPPORT

- 3.1 – Digital Twin-Enabled Smart Production Process Planning Tool

4. Combined AI and Data solutions for AUTOMATION

- 4.1 - Automated energy management for parts production
- 4.2 - Automated energy management for battery production
- 4.3 - Semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling
- 4.4 - Co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions

Selected applicants will receive more than just financial support. They will enter in the AID4SME programme that will run for 14-month and is composed by 4 stages (Plan, Development, Testing & Validation, Solution Assessment & Business Development):

- **Plan:** Participants will submit a complete plan of activities for the next 14 months, including the milestones, implementation plan, and expected outcomes in each programme stage.
- **Development:** Participants will develop the solution and proceed with integrations according to each solution proposed.
- **Testing & Validation:** Participants will test, validate, and demonstrate the solution.
- **Solution Assessment & Business Plan:** Participants will assess the solution and develop a business plan and roadmap to exploitation.

The call is open to individual SMEs and start-ups, or consortia of two entities. Applications must be submitted via the F6S platform by **September 11, 2025, 17:00 CET**.

About AID4SME:

Combined AI & data technologies are a synergistic duo and key drivers of future economic development. However, they have been facing a low adoption in Europe and most likely running behind other parts of the world. Funded by the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA), AID4SME project is active until November 2027, and aims to resolve this current scenario and expand the AI and data solutions great potential for the European economy and societal benefits by approaching three pillars: Small and Medium Enterprise; AID4SME Community of Practice (COP); Low-TRL and High TRL playgrounds.

Press contact and social media

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