



Open Call 2 For AI and Data-driven solutions

Deadline: 15 July 2026 - 17:00 CEST

Apply now



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Up to €200k in equity-free funding available for SMEs to build green AI solutions

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM — May 20, 2026 — The EU-funded [AID4SME project](#) has officially launched its [second Open Call](#), offering up to **€200,000 per project for SMEs and start-ups** to build advanced, data-driven AI solutions that tackle real-world industrial and Green Deal challenges. Applications are open **from May 15 until July 15, 2026**, providing selected innovators with funding alongside **14 months of tailored mentoring, training, and technical coaching**.

A total of **12 projects will be selected** to bridge the gap between cutting-edge AI development and practical industrial application. To support potential applicants, AID4SME is hosting two deep-dive webinars: an [Info Webinar on May 27 at 11:00 CEST](#) covering the application process, and a [live Q&A Session on June 25 at 11:00 CEST](#), which will provide direct support to potential applicants.

Core industrial innovation challenges

To apply, applicants must choose a challenge from one of the four categories below, all designed to accelerate digital transformation and sustainability across manufacturing and energy sectors:

1. **Data Collection:** Augmented sensing solutions.
2. **Insights:** Product-production Digital Twins, automated hygiene inspection for refurbishment, and energy system Digital Twin decision support tools.
3. **Decision Support:** Automated machine selection for parts production, battery production digital work instructions, and automated warehouse/internal logistics management.
4. **Automation:** Smart energy management of unplanned machine downtime, semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling, and co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions.

How to apply

Eligible European SMEs and start-ups can access full submission guidelines and apply directly online before the July 15 deadline.

- **Official guidelines & information:** [AID4SME Open Call 2](#)
- **Application portal:** [Apply via F6S Platform](#)

About AID4SME

AID4SME is an EU-funded project which enables SMEs to develop AI and DATA solutions through the support of a Community of Practice and low-TRL and high-TRL playgrounds.

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. AID4SME project aims to resolve this current scenario and expand the AI and data solutions great potential for the European economy and societal benefits.

Press contact and social media

For more information, please contact the AID4SME team: info@aid4sme.eu

Website: <https://aid4sme.eu/>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/aid4sme>

X: <https://x.com/AID4SME>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@AID4SME>