



D2.3 OPEN CALL DOCUMENTS KIT & THIRD-PARTY FINANCING RULES FOR OC1

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D2.3 Open call documents KIT & third-party financing rules for OC1

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ABBREVIATIONS & ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
BAU	Business As Usual
COP	Community Of Practice
D	Deliverable
DMP	Data Management Plan
DoA	Description Of Action
DOE	Design Of Experiments
DT	Digital Twin
D&C	Dissemination And Communication
GA	Grant Agreement
HW	Hardware
KER	Key Exploitable Result
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
L	Lead
LCA	Life Cycle Assessment
LCC	Life Cycle Costing
M	Month
ML	Machine Learning
MS	Milestone
O	Objective
OC	Open Call
P	Participant
RP	Reporting Period
SME	Small And Medium Enterprise
SO	Specific Outcome
SW	Software
T	Task
TRL	Technology Readiness Level

UC	Use Case
WP	Work Package
w.r.t	With Respect To

Executive Summary

This deliverable comprises all the information needed by applicants to submit applications to the AID4SME Call 1 which includes the required information to apply to the call and for the European Commission to validate the documents and publish the announcement in the Funding & Tenders Portal. It contains open call kit documents comprised of 6 annexes (Annex1 – Guide for Applicants, Annex 2 – Technical Proposal Template, Annex 3 – Open Call Application Form, Annex 4 – Declaration of Honour Template, Annex 5 – SME Declaration Template, Annex 6 - Sub-Grantee Agreement Template as described in the following sections.

1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to compile all the documents that formalize the Open Call 1 that includes the application documents and the third-party financing rules.

The documents are provided to third-party applicants through the open call page of AID4SME website. In total 6 documents were developed to address this end:

- **Annex 1 - Guideline for Applicants**, which provides the scope, rules, and objectives of the open call.
- **Annex 2 – Technical Proposal Template**, which was filled out by applicants as part of the application process of the call. Applicants detailed in this document their proposals solutions from technical and business perspectives.
- **Annex 3 – Open Call Application Form**, which inform the content of the online application form, available at F6S platform, which was filled out by applicants as part of the application process of the call.
- **Annex 4 - Declaration of Honour**, which declares that all Open Call rules and process are accepted by the third-party company legal representative and ensure that no conflict of interest will be involved in the open call process and cascade funding rules. This document will be signed by the selected applicants during the contracting phase.
- **Annex 5 – SME Declaration**, which evaluates the status of the SMEs participating in the open call. This document will be signed by the selected applicants during the contracting phase, according to the European Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC.
- **Annex 6 - Sub-Grantee Agreement Template**, which provides a template of the sub-grant agreement that the successful applicants will be invited to sign.

The full documents (Annexes) are presented in the following sections.

2 Open Call Kit Documents

2.1 Annex 1 – Guide for Applicants

2.1.1 Introduction

AID4SME is a European Project under the Horizon Europe Programme (HORIZON-CL4-2024-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01) – Grant Agreement no. 101189562. The 36-month project kicked-off in December 2024 and counts 16 partners from multiple sectors and European countries.

AID4SME aims to facilitate SMEs in developing combined AI and data solutions for large scale resource optimisation challenges for industries that have significant impact on the objectives of the Green Deal. Minimum 20 SMEs, selected through 2 open calls, will receive FSTP (Financial Support for Third Parties) to develop these solutions with the support of a Community of Practice (COP). The ambition is to create a COP that will continue after the project lifetime. AID4SME brings together 9 technology blocks and low-TRL playgrounds from 4 scientific partners, to educate and support the SMEs. Additionally, 4 large industry partners (from automotive, whitegoods, battery cells manufacturing and energy sector) provide real-life large scale resource optimization challenges that require combined AI and data solutions, and high-TRL playgrounds to integrate and demonstrate the solutions. AID4SME offers an open platform that is flexible to bring in challenges from outside the consortium. AID4SME provides the infrastructure and learning environment that enables the SMEs to solve the challenges, demonstrate solutions and grow into impactful enterprises. The technology blocks cover a wide area of AI & data technologies for the full cycle of data collection, creation of insights, decision support and automation. These technologies have the potential to have significant impact on the Green Transition and boost EU competitiveness for industries. AID4SME will collaborate with the AI-on-Demand platform to enrich its repository with the AID4SME tools and framework, while it is open to deploy the tools/frameworks already available on the AI-on-Demand platform for new use cases. AID4SME will assess the impact of the developed technologies on Green Deal objectives and on social and human aspects. AID4SME brings along partners who are experienced in re-skilling and up-skilling of SMEs and applying standardization as enabler for exploitation. The wide geographical coverage, with partners and DIHs (Digital Innovation Hubs) from across Europe, ensures maximum impact.

This document presents the Open Call 1 rules that covers the open call scope, eligibility rules, evaluation process, timeline, funding and expected outcomes.

2.1.1.1 Open Call Overview

The AID4SME project provides SMEs and Start-ups a Community of Practice, one-stop hub for developing combined AI solutions data for large scale industrial resource challenges and bringing them to the market. In line with the call text, the project will organize competitive calls to select and contract SMEs and Start-ups and their solutions to address AI and data challenges. Those solutions will solve large resource optimization challenges of industries that have high impact on the Green Deal objectives. The goal is to achieve a widespread deployment of the solutions developed by the SMEs and Start-ups, to increase the industry competitiveness, and environmental and resources sustainability.

These projects should demonstrate the potential for significant impact in areas such as:

- Impact on Green Deal: Developing solutions that reduce energy consumption and enhance efficiency in industrial processes; creating solutions that minimize waste and promote sustainable manufacturing practices; as well as innovating ways to reduce carbon footprints and mitigate environmental damage.
- Impact on social benefits: Developing solutions that have a profound social impact by fostering inclusive growth and improving quality of life. It aims to create job opportunities, enhance workforce skills, and promote social equity. By addressing key societal challenges, the project contributes to building resilient communities and supports the overall well-being of the population.
- Impact on resource optimization: Developing solutions that maximize the efficient use of resources across various industries. This includes optimizing supply chains, reducing material waste, and improving resource allocation.

Overall, AID4SME will fund (grant) the development, integration and validation of technology providers solutions (third parties):

- Open Call 1 aiming to fund 13 projects; 14-months duration. The maximum funding is 150,000€.
- Open Call 2 aiming to fund ≥ 10 projects; 14-months duration.
- Funding rate of 70% of the costs.

The open call will follow a specific framework that ensure a fair and transparent process that encompasses the proposal submission, evaluation, sub-grantee agreement signature and project deployment. The open call stages are detailed in Figure 1.



FIGURE 1: OPEN CALL FRAMEWORK

This document specifically relates to the first call “Open Call 1” Stages and respective rules are outlined in the following sections.

2.1.2 Proposal Submission

All proposals should be submitted via the online application form before the deadline. The project will receive proposals from June 15th 2025 at 12:00 PM CEST until September 11th 2025 at 5:00 PM CET. All proposals will undergo an eligibility check. Projects that do not meet the eligibility criteria (outlined below) will be deemed ineligible and excluded from consideration. Throughout the entire evaluation process, the eligibility of each proposal will be assessed based on the information provided in the application.

2.1.2.1 Eligibility Criteria

- **Who can apply?**

The open call will be open to different types of organisations. However, only SMEs and Start-Ups will receive the financial support to third parties. SMEs/Start-Up’s will be the lead partner if applying as a single entity or in a consortium.

The following organisations may apply, either on an individual basis (single entity) or in a consortium of 2 entities:

- Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises working on related technologies (SMEs)
- Start-Ups

The following organisations may apply as the second partner in a consortium:

- Integrators / engineering services providers that support the SMEs / Start-Ups in integration of the solutions.
- Research institutions, research infrastructures, non-profit organisations and charitable (scientific) foundations and public research centres.

Applicants may be legal entities (organisations) or natural persons (integrators or engineering services providers).

- **SME and Start-Up Definition**

AID4SME will fund SMEs and Start-Ups applying as lead applicant to the Open Call 1 with an individual application (single entity) or in consortia of 2 entities.

All entities must be registered and have a valid VAT by the contracting phase.

- **SME Definition**

An SME will be considered eligible only if it complies with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC (https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/smes/sme-fundamentals/sme-definition_en).

- **Start-Up Definition**

In the context of Horizon Europe the term startup does not have a specific, universally-defined meaning that differs from its general understanding. Instead, Horizon Europe often refers to start-ups within broader categories such as SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises).

Start-ups typically fall under the SME category if they meet certain criteria, such as having fewer than 250 employees and either an annual turnover of less than €50 million or a balance sheet total of less than €43 million.

For the purpose of this Open Call, a start-up should be understood as an SME in the early stage of its life cycle, including those that are created as spin-offs from university research activities, which aims to find innovative solutions and scalable business models, and which is autonomous within the meaning of Article 3 of the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC (9). During the contracting phase, the organisation documents will be double-checked.

- **Eligible Countries**

Only applicants legally established (organisations) and legal residents (natural persons) in any of the following countries (hereafter collectively identified as the “Eligible Countries”) are eligible. The eligible countries and the countries eligible under specific conditions are listed in the following links:

- [Member States \(MS\) of the European Union \(EU\), including their outermost region](#)
- [Horizon Europe Associated countries as defined in Horizon Europe rules for participation](#)

- Language

English is the official language of Open Call 1. Submissions done in any other language will be disregarded and not evaluated. English is also the only official language during the whole execution of the AID4SME sub-project. This means any requested submission of reports will be made in English to be eligible.

- Other Eligibility Rules

Single applicants, consortium members and organisations will be considered eligible for AID4SME Open Call if they comply with ALL the following rules:

- This call is competitive, and applicants should focus on one specific challenge. Therefore, only one proposal per applicant/per organisation per challenge may be submitted to this call. If more than one proposal is identified, it will be automatically discarded.
- An application that targets more than 1 challenge will be automatically discarded.
- The legal entity is not under liquidation or is not an enterprise under difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18.
- The participating organisations should not have been declared bankrupt or have initiated bankruptcy procedures.
- Have not been convicted for fraudulent behaviours, other financial irregularities, unethical or illegal business practices.
- Its project is based on the original works and going forward, any foreseen developments are free from third-party rights, or they are clearly stated.
- People and organisations related to the AID4SME project (members of the consortium) are not eligible to participate in the open call. Applicants must not be directly or indirectly involved in AID4SME.
- If selected, the company should be incorporated/registered and have a valid VAT by the time of the Sub-Grantee Agreement signature stage.
- The proposal submitted is described in the Technical Proposal document (according to the template provided – [the appropriate link to the document on the project website will be added here by the time of open call launch].
- Documents sent by email will not be evaluated and the proposal will be automatically discarded.

- Conflict of Interest

Applicants shall not have any actual or/and potential conflict of interest with AID4SME project during the selection process and the whole programme. All cases of conflict of interest will be assessed case by case. If any conflict of interest is identified at any phase of the call, the application will be immediately discarded. In particular, applicants cannot be AID4SME consortium partners or affiliated entities nor their employees or co-operators under a contractual agreement. Example: Suppose a conflict of interest is identified and

confirmed at any stage of the open call stages indicated in Figure 1. In that case, the proposal will be considered non-eligible to enter the programme and be discarded.

• Preparing your Proposal

- The applicants will describe the solution using the following template [the appropriate link to the document on the project website will be added here by the time of open call launch].
- The proposals should be aligned with the project objectives, open call scope and address one of the challenges described in the following section (2.1.7.1).
- Fill in the form on the F6S platform [the appropriate link to the document on the project website will be added here by the time of open call launch]. and upload the Technical Proposal document.
- Proposals must be submitted before September 11th 2025 at 5:00 PM CEST. To avoid missing the deadline, you are encouraged to submit your proposal as soon as possible.

• Challenges

The open call challenges essentially focus on efficiently addressing climate change by improving resource efficiency and fostering social cohesion, crucial to promote the European transition to a more sustainable and digital economy. As such, through the open call, European organizations will have the opportunity to provide innovative solution for these challenges.

13 challenges are grouped into 4 domains as described in Table 1:

Domain	Challenge
1) Combined AI and Data solutions for DATA COLLECTION	1.1- Augmented sensing solution for polyurethane mold adjustment 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 for extruder processes 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 - Automated machine selection for parts production 3.2 - Battery production digital work instructions & skill capturing 3.3 - Digital Twin enabled smart production process planning tool 3.4 - Automated warehouse and internal logistics management.
4) Combined AI and Data solutions for AUTOMATION	4.1- Automated energy management for parts production 4.2 - Management for parts production 4.3 - Semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling 4.4 - Co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions

TABLE 1: CHALLENGES

The Challenges are detailed and described in Annex I.

- **Complaint due to a technical error of the AID4SME Online Submission Service**

If you experience any problem with the application submission system before the open call deadline due to a technical error on the side of the AID4SME Online Submission Service (F6S Platform), you may lodge a complaint by email through support@f6s.com cc'ing the AID4SME OC Management Team (aid4sme.opencall@f6s.com) and explain your situation.

For the complaint to be admissible, it must be filed within 3 working days following the day of the call closure. You should secure any proof of the alleged failure (e.g., screenshots). Later in the procedure, you may be requested by the F6S IT Helpdesk to provide these items.

For your complaint to be upheld, the F6S Support team will audit trail. The application log files and access log files of AID4SME Online Submission Service must show that there was indeed a technical problem on the platform side that prevented you from submitting your proposal using the electronic submission system.

Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their complaint. If a complaint is upheld, the secured files (provided to the IT helpdesk) for which the investigation has demonstrated that technical problems at the project prevented submission will be used as a reference for accepting the proposal for evaluation. Only proposals submitted before the deadline will be accepted. After the call closure, no additions or changes to received proposals will be considered.

2.1.3 What will happen after the proposal is submitted?

Any information regarding the applied proposal will be treated in a strictly confidential manner.

Immediately after the submission deadline is over, the evaluation process begins (as described in detail in Section 2.1.3.1 of this Guide). Experts will evaluate proposals and score them adequately according to the quality of the content presented.

2.1.3.1 Evaluation Process

- **Eligibility Filter**

An initial eligibility check will be performed to filter and discard non-eligible proposals.

The eligibility criteria will verify:

- Applicants registered (for organisations) or legal resident (for individuals) in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe Associated country [Yes/No].

- Submission has been made only through the F6S platform and by the defined deadline [Yes/No].
- The applicant submitted only one proposal, which is fully completed, including all required sections and attachments [Yes/No].
- Application to one of the proposed challenges [Yes/No].
- The lead applicant is an SME or Startup established in one of the EU Member States or a Horizon Europe-associated country as defined in Horizon Europe rules for participation [Yes/No].
- The proposal is written entirely in English [Yes/No].
- The applicant attached the proposal template document duly filled to the application form [Yes/No]. [the appropriate link to the document on the project website will be added here by the time of open call launch].

Eligible proposals will be shortlisted for the next step of the evaluation process.

Applicants whose proposals are deemed non-eligible will be notified via email of the results of the eligibility check. The eligibility check is final and not subject to appeal.

• Evaluation of Proposals

After the final shortlists for evaluation will be created, the proposals will be given to the external expert evaluators that will perform the evaluation of the proposal.

The evaluation results of the external expert evaluators will be checked and validated by the COPs. Every proposal will be evaluated by 2 different experts. The criteria for evaluation will be:

1. Novelty/innovation, adequateness and quality of the proposed use-case solution
2. Impact of the proposed solution on green alignment, social and environmental sustainability and competitiveness of the use-case and its owner
3. Project planning and value for money
4. Expertise and excellence of the proposed team

• Scores

1. Novelty/innovation, adequateness and quality of the proposed use-case solution [score between 1-5; with threshold > 3; weight 30%]
2. Impact of the proposed solution on green alignment, social and environmental sustainability and competitiveness of the use-case and its owner [score between 1-5; with threshold > 3; weight 30%]
3. Project planning and value for money [score between 1-5; with threshold > 3; weight 20%]
4. Expertise and excellence of the proposed team [score between 1-5; with threshold > 3; weight 20%]
5. Final Score - The final score is calculated based on the average of the scores provided by the evaluators [score between 1-5].

Score	Result	Description
1	Fail	The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information
2	Poor	The criterion is addressed in an unsatisfactory manner. There are serious inherent weaknesses
3	Good	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correction
4	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible
5	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

TABLE 2: EVALUATION - SCORING DESCRIPTION

Proposals must meet ALL the eligibility criteria described in Section 2. Proposals that do not meet one or more of the criteria will be deemed non-eligible and discarded.

Each criterion will be scored between 0 and 5. Half-point scores are not given. The final score (including for each criterion) is calculated based on the average of the scores provided by the evaluators. Therefore, final scores may be decimals. The threshold for each criterion is three (3), therefore any criterion with a score less than three will disqualify the application.

Applications submitted for AID4SME Open Call shall be unique and tailored to one of the challenges. Evaluators will flag up applications with duplicate content. These applications cannot be considered for AID4SME Open Call 1 and will be rejected in the evaluation process under criterion one (Novelty/innovation).

At the end of the evaluation process, all eligible applications will be ranked per issued challenge.

Rule 1: The applications will be ranked based on their final score

Rule 2: If there is a tie between applications, these will be ranked according to the following order:

- I. Best score on Novelty/innovation (Criterion 1)
- II. Best score on Impact (Criterion 2);
- III. Best score on Expertise and excellence of the proposed team (Criterion 3);
- IV. Best score on Project planning and value for money (Criterion 4)

Rule 3: In case following Rule 3 there are still proposals in a funding borderline position, the panel evaluation will be asked to read the specific proposals and break the tie by re-evaluating them.

- **Final Selection**

Following the individual evaluations, a consensus meeting of the panel of evaluation experts will be organised. During this meeting, a ranking of the proposals per challenge will be agreed and where necessary an additional review of projects for which there was a lack of consensus in terms of scoring by individual evaluators or for which additional clarifications are required will be undertaken. The outcome of this ranking and the evaluation process will be checked and validated by the COPs. The consortium will then formally approve a list of projects within the limits of the available funding. When there is a small budget left in Open Call 1, which is not enough to fund a project, then this budget portion will be added to the budget for Open Call 2.

The list of selected projects (indicating clearly for each project, the third-party grantee's identity, the amount of funding requested and the topic) will be submitted to the European Commission for final approval.

- **Results Announcement**

At the end of the evaluation process all proposals will be ranked based on their scores:

- **Number of Selected Projects**

AID4SME will select 13 projects to enter the programme, addressing different challenges (one per challenge).

If Open Call 1 does not receive quality projects to address one specific challenge, the project consortium may decide to fund more than 1 project per other challenges (the consortium will decide which challenge could be in this position based on an impact analysis). The consortium may also opt to issue the challenge in Open Call 2.

- **Notification of Results**

All applicants will be notified of the results of the evaluation by email and will receive an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR).

- **Reserve list**

AID4SME will keep a reasonable number of applications in a reserve list, in case an applicant decides to withdraw or is not able to fulfil the contract requirements.

- **Appeal Procedure**

If at the end of the evaluation process, the applicant considers that a mistake has been made or that the evaluators have acted unfairly or have failed to comply with the rules of this Open Call 1, and that her/his interests have been prejudiced as a result, the following appeal procedures are available.

A complaint should be drawn up in English and submitted by email to aid4sme.opencall@f6s.com. Any complaint made should include:

- Contact details.
- The subject of the complaint.
- Information and evidence regarding the alleged breach.

Anonymous complaints or those not providing the mentioned information will not be considered.

Complaints should also be made within 3 working days since the announcement of the evaluation results to the applicants (applicants receive the evaluation summary report).

As a general rule, the project team will investigate the complaints to arrive at a decision to issue a formal notice or close the case within no more than 30 days from the date of reception of the complaint, provided that all the required information has been submitted by the complainant. Whenever this time limit is exceeded, the AID4SME Open Call management team will inform the complainant by email of the reasons for the unforeseen delay and the subsequent step.

2.1.4 Sub-Grantee Agreement

All the legal issues are accurately covered by the planned contracts with the sub-granted beneficiaries. A written sub-grantee agreement will be signed with successful applicants. It will foresee, among other things, the special clauses derived from Horizon Europe in cascading granting, the payment schedule and conditions (milestones), general legal text issues of rights and obligations by the AID4SME consortium, and each sub-grantee, including IPR and audit procedures.

The sub-grantee agreement will also have a set of annexes like the technical description of the project (form submitted), a declaration of honour to be signed, a declaration of SME existence, guidelines of the call, and any other document required by AID4SME to assure the correct execution of the sub-grantee projects. A sample of this document is attached here [the appropriate link to the document on the project website will be added here by the time of open call launch].

Each winning applicant will sign a sub-grantee agreement (contract) with the project consortium.

A legal entity that does not provide the requested data and documents in due time will not enter the AID4SME Programme.

2.1.5 Scientific Misconduct and Research Integrity

Issues of scientific misconduct and research integrity are taken very seriously. In line with the Horizon Europe Rules for Participation, appropriate action such as termination of the Sub-Grantee Agreement, the implementation of liquidated damages and financial penalties, suspension of payments, recoveries will be taken against any applicants/beneficiaries found to have misrepresented, fabricated or plagiarised any part of their proposal.

2.1.6 Deployment

The Programme duration is 14 months. It means that the selected participants will implement and demonstrate the solutions during this period. The sub-projects will start after the sub-grantee agreement signature (See Figure 1). The full timeline, including the open call stages deadlines and programme timeline is detailed in Table 10.

The third parties will be supported and monitored by AID4SME team of experts to generate the expected outcomes. The AID4SME project provides SMEs and Start-ups a Community of Practice (CoP) led, one-stop hub for developing combined AI solutions data for large scale industrial resource challenges and bringing them to the market.

This CoP will support the SMEs and Start-ups in the form of:

- Technical support with expertise in the technologies, engineering integration, testing and validation, and by access to public reusable results
- Technical support with access to the independent testing and validation facilities, so-called low-TRL playgrounds, of the project's scientific partners with specialisations in AI & data technologies for data collection, creation of insights, decision support, and automation.
- Technical and business support from large industry partners that will provide real-life use-cases and will open up their experimental facilities and/or production facilities, so-called high-TRL playgrounds, for testing and validation of the solutions at TRL 6/7. The industry partners cover the automotive, whitegoods, battery cells manufacturing and energy sector.
- An open platform that is flexible to bring in challenges from industries outside the consortium.
- Business support and mentoring to develop business plans and a roadmap to exploitation of the SME.

The programme will be divided into 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 the expected outcomes in each programme stage.
- **Development:** Participants will develop the solution and proceed with the 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 third parties (SMEs and Start-ups) will have the following assets at completion of the third-party projects:

- The SMEs and Start-ups have demonstrated TRL 6/7 combined AI & Data solutions for large industrial resource optimization challenges, enabling an increase of the EU industry competitiveness, and the environmental and resources sustainability.
- The SMEs and Start-ups have a roadmap and business model to bring their solutions to the market
- The SMEs and Start-ups will have direct access to relevant DIH networks and communities. And their solutions are used to enrich the AI-on-Demand platform.
- The SMEs and Start-ups will have direct access to Industry networks and associations from several manufacturing sectors to create business opportunities for the SMEs / Start-ups and their solutions.
- The industry partners inside AID4SME, but also industries that are brought in under the “bring your own use-case” challenges, have direct access to TRL 6/7 solutions tailored to the challenges they face in making their processes more competitive, and environmental and resource sustainable.
- The academic partners have strengthened their position in the relevant knowledge, application and DIH networks as enabling knowledge providers for combined AI and Data technologies for data collection, creation of insights, decision support, and automation.
- The expected outcomes of each challenge are described in Section 2.1.7.1.

- **Reporting**

Selected applicants participating in the Open Call will be responsible for the following duties:

- **Third-Party Projects Implementation**

The programme will start in December 2025 and conclude with the implementation phase by January 2027.

- **Submission of Reports**

During and after the end of each stage, the third parties will submit reports containing the work deployed and the milestones achieved. The report content and delivery dates will be informed in the beginning of the programme.

These reports will be reviewed and approved/rejected by the AID4SME partners. The payment will be done against the reports' approval.

- **Funding Distribution**

Each project funded will receive up to maximum €150,000 under a lump sum scheme, based on the approval of different milestones or KPIs and along the funnel approach presented below. The third parties that will receive financial support, will receive 70% funding of their eligible costs.

- **Types of activity that qualify for financial support**

Beside the value-added services and support / guidance from consortium the third-party beneficiaries will have access to a grant as mentioned in the above table below:

Call	Total Budget	Grant per Project	No of Projects	Duration
1	€2M	Up to €150,000	13 (1 project per challenge)	14-months

TABLE 3: FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

Funding rate of 70% of the costs.

The payments are done against the approval of the following process:

1. Reception of the relevant deliverable(s)/report (s) (see outline below).
2. A favourable resolution by the reviewer responsible for assessing the subproject execution.
3. Reception of the Request for Payment electronically.

4. The Subgrantee's Bank Account matches the Instructions for payment issued by the bank of the Subgrantee.
5. Finally, the payments to the Subgrantee will be made by the Treasurer.
6. Payments will be released no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the notification by the Coordinator to the Sub-Grantee that the work and deliverable associated to a particular stage has been approved.

The payment will be done in instalments according to the following schema:

Stage	Stage Duration	Amount	When ?
Plan	1 Month	30%	M2*
Development	7 Months	40%	20% at mid-stage*; 20% end-stage*
Testing & Validation	2 Months	10%	End-Stage*
Solution Assessment & Business Plan	4 Months	20%	End-stage*

TABLE 4: FUNDING SCHEMA

* All the payments will be made after the deliverable review and approval.

The activities that qualify for the financial support to third parties are:

- Internal personnel costs resulting of the development and management activities of the third-party projects.
- Purchase costs necessary to carry out the activities e.g. hardware purchases.
- Travel and subsistence to attend meetings and events.
- All the funds disbursed will be based on concrete results (reports and demonstrations) and not administrative justifications.

2.1.7 Origin of Funds

Any selected proposer will sign a dedicated Sub-Grantee Agreement with AID4SME project consortium. The funds attached to the Sub-Grantee Funding Agreement come directly from the European Project AID4SME funds. AID4SME project consortium is managing the funds according to

the Grant Agreement No 101189562 signed with the European Commission.

As will be indicated in the Sub-Grantee Agreement, the relation between the sub-grants and the European Commission through the AID4SME project carries a set of obligations to the sub-grants with the European Commission. It is the task of the sub-grants to accomplish them and of the AID4SME consortium partners to inform about them.

2.1.8 Intellectual Property Rights

The ownership of all IPR created by the Open Call Sub-Grantee, via the AID4SME funding, will remain with the Open Call Sub-Grantee. Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

Nevertheless, many specific IPR cases that will need a concrete solution from the bases previously fixed, may exist. In these conflict situations are identified, the project consortium will be responsible to analyse the case and arbitrate a solution.

2.1.9 Data Protection

To process and evaluate applications, the AID4SME consortium will need to collect Personal and Industrial Data. F6S Network Ireland Limited, as the Open Call Manager of the project, will act as Data Controller for data submitted through the F6S platform. Please see the privacy policy [here](#). F6S Tech, as the AID4SME FSTP Treasurer, will also have access to this information. A Data Protection Officer (DPO) has been appointed by F6S to ensure compliance with data protection regulations, such as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and that personal data is collected, processed, and stored in a secure manner. The F6S platform's system design and operational procedures ensure that data is managed in compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Each applicant will accept the F6S terms to ensure coverage. Apart from the F6S platform, data will also be stored in the F6S SharePoint, and the project repository on SharePoint, managed by KU Leuven - the AID4SME Project Coordinator. The project consortium must retain generated data until five years after the balance of the AID4SME project is paid or longer if there are ongoing procedures (such as audits, investigations or litigations). In this case, the data must be kept until the end of the deployment of such procedures.

2.1.10 Open Call Timeline

Open Call Submission Period	June 15 th 2025 at 12:00 PM CEST - September 11 th 2025 at 5:00 PM CET
Proposals Evaluation (Selection of 13 projects)	September-October 2025
Results Announcement	Late October 2025
Sub-Grantee Agreement Signature	November 2025
Deployment Phase	December 2025 – January 2027

TABLE 5: OPEN CALL 1 TIMELINE

2.1.11 Open Call Material – KIT Application

The AID4SME Open Call 1 support material is the following:

- **Annex 1 - Guide for Applicants:** The present document. This document provides in detail the information to help apply to Open Call 1 containing a description of the open call rules, the modalities for application, the evaluation process, the scheme of the funding support, and how to submit a proposal.
- **Annex 2 - Technical Proposal Template:** Mandatory document for applicants to prepare and submit.
- **Annex 3 - Online Application Form (for consultation):** The online application form, available on the F6S platform (for consultation).
- **Annex 4 - Declaration of Honour (for consultation):** which declares that all conditions/rules of the open call are accepted by an applicant. This document will be filled out by the selected company in the contracting phase.
- **Annex 5 - SME Declaration (for consultation):** which evaluates the status of the SMEs participating in the call. This document will be filled out by the selected company in the contracting phase.
- **Annex 6 - Sub-Grantee Agreement Template (for consultation):** which provides a template of the sub-grantee agreement that the successful applicants will be requested to sign.

2.1.12 Points of Contact

The project consortium will also provide information to the applicants via the F6S blog so that the information (question and answer) will be visible to all participants. No binding information will be provided via any other means (e.g., telephone, or video calls).

- More info at: <https://aid4sme.eu/open-call-1/>
- Apply via: <https://www.f6s.com/aid4sme-oc-1/apply>
- F6S support team contact: support@f6s.com
- Online Q&A: <https://www.f6s.com/aid4sme-oc-1/discuss>
- Individual emails (Q&A): aid4sme.opencall@f6s.com

ANNEX I: Challenges Descriptions

1 Combined AI and Data solutions for DATA COLLECTION

1.1 Augmented sensing solution for polyurethane mold adjustment

Challenge and Context: In engineering, forces, stresses, torques, and power are direct indicators of a system's well-being. However, these quantities are typically expensive, difficult, and intrusive to measure. Augmented sensing approaches within AID4SME can help alleviate these hurdles for use case owners inside and outside the consortium. A project partner requires an augmented sensing solution for its refrigerator production facility, which undergoes approximately 120 plastic mold changes per month. Each change necessitates manual, iterative adjustments, causing 60 tons of polyurethane waste and 60 minutes of facility downtime per mold change, resulting in approximately 100 million euros in annual costs due to a 5% production capacity loss.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Digital twins offer a paradigm shift where computational models of various complexities are merged in a coherent framework and linked to online measurement data available on a physical system. This paradigm allows for a hyper-realistic representation of process behavior, enabling novel engineering applications and process improvements, such as Virtual or Augmented Sensors. The consortium partner has technology blocks available at TRL 4 and a playground for augmented sensing of dynamic quantities in mechanical/mechatronic systems and model-based augmented sensing in electro/thermo-mechanical applications in the manufacturing industry.

Specifications for Use Case: Augmented Sensing uses cheap, readily available, non-intrusive, and robust physical sensors to collect data from the real asset component in a digital twin. These measurements are combined intelligently via specific dynamic estimators with heterogeneous, reduced-order models of the system. The desired, yet unknown, quantities are estimated, resulting in a real-time/online virtual sensor fed with real measurement data enriched with physical insights. Three consortium partners will support SMEs in developing an augmented sensing solution to optimize the mold adjustment phase, targeting difficult-to-measure quantities and ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the manufacturing process. The data will be fed to an AI-based digital twin decision support tool, enabling first-time-right adjustment of the mold by the operator. The solution, demonstrated at TRL 7, will reduce facility downtime by 15% and decrease annual waste by 30 tons. For use cases outside the consortium, the results will be applications of virtual sensors in mechanical and mechatronic systems for first time-right manufacturing, demonstrated at TRL 6/7.

Key Performance Indicators:

- First-time-right adjustment of the mold
- Reduce facility downtime by 15%
- Decrease annual waste by 30 tons.
- % reduction in energy consumption per mold change

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

1.2 2D/3D image analysis for large Energy Infrastructure predictive maintenance

Challenge and Context: Timely scheduling of maintenance or decommissioning of large energy infrastructures is challenging. Incorrect End-of-Life (EoL) predictions can lead to unexpected failures, unwanted downtime, and high costs. Grid operators aim to avoid these risks, but often maintenance and decommissioning occur too early, causing high waste and unnecessary costs. AI-supported 2D/3D vision analysis technologies can better predict the maintenance needs and EoL of energy infrastructures. A consortium partner seeks solutions to collect information for predictive maintenance of power lines and transformers and to improve decommissioning planning.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Red, Green, and Blue (RGB), thermographic, and multispectral vision can be used for early identification of weaknesses and failures in energy assets. Different types of failures, such as defects, poor contact, insulation deterioration, or magnetic circuit faults, often manifest as temperature rises. Infrared thermography (IRT) is particularly suitable for fault diagnosis, while RGB is used to quantify surface integrity and detect external discontinuities. Studies have shown the effectiveness of photogrammetric inspection, presented as 3D profiles reconstructed from UAV-captured images. Multispectral images provide more information than RGB alone, identifying issues like material degradation and biofouling. Currently, the partner has technology bricks available for fusing these images with installed sensor data and historical O&M data at TRL 4.

Specifications for Use Case: the consortium partners will guide and mentor SMEs to develop a combined AI and data-based predictive model using image analysis. A dedicated combination of photonic and sensor technologies will be used to determine the asset's health conditions. These partners will assist SMEs in selecting the appropriate cameras and collecting the necessary 2D and 3D image data for AI-supported vision-based diagnosis. They will also support the AI-supported analysis of images, looking for early indicators of malfunctioning assets, corrosion, etc. The analysis information, combined with data from installed sensors, O&M activities, and historical images, will be used to develop an AI-supported predictive model. In addition, one of the partners will support SMEs during the development, evaluation, and validation of the model. Based on the collected data, a set of assets will be identified for model validation, with at least one asset monitored during O&M actions to decide on continuity or decommissioning.

The TRL 7 image analysis solution will enable predictive planning for the maintenance and decommissioning of part of partner infrastructures leading to better predictions of asset useful life and resulting in environmental and cost benefits. Once demonstrated, the technology can be further developed and deployed for other infrastructures beyond the project lifetime. For use cases outside the consortium, the results will lead to the development of predictive maintenance and decommissioning planning support tools, based on AI-supported 2D/3D image analysis and data fusion, demonstrated at TRL 7 for large energy infrastructure.

The use cases can include:

1. **Vegetation Recognition in Transmission Line Corridors:** Utilizing multispectral cameras, it is possible to recognize vegetation types from imagery. This is important because different types of vegetation grow at different rates, making it easier to predict when intervention will be necessary.
2. **Assessing Vegetation Health:** With multispectral cameras, it is possible to assess the health of vegetation from imagery. This is crucial because healthy vegetation poses significantly less risk to infrastructure compared to diseased or damaged specimens.
3. **Assessing Infrastructure Condition:** Using hyperspectral imagery, it is possible to determine the condition of infrastructure. Discussions indicate that it is possible to detect the amount of biofilm and dirt on insulation, identify corrosion, detect overheating, and more.
4. **Other Use Cases:** Additional applications may also be considered.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Prediction accuracy of AI models in identifying maintenance needs and failure risks, Reduction in false positives and false negatives in anomaly detection, Improvement in defect detection and classification compared to traditional methods, reduction in manual intervention required for maintenance planning, improvement in decision-making speed for decommissioning strategies (% accuracy of predictive maintenance model).
- reduction in infrastructure failures leading to environmental hazards, compliance with safety regulations and decommissioning best practices, decrease in CO₂ emissions by reducing unnecessary maintenance trips (% reduction in maintenance-related CO₂ emissions)
- number of prevented accidents due to early failure detection, number of workers trained in AI, data fusion, and predictive maintenance tools (Number of early fault detections validated).

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

2 Combined AI and Data solutions for creation of INSIGHTS

2.1 Product-production Digital Twins for extruder processes

Challenge and Context: Manufacturers are striving to reduce their ecological footprints by minimizing energy consumption, material use, and waste. Traditional design cycle paradigms have been optimized to their limits, and further gains are expected from cross-stage optimization through combined AI and Data solutions. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. Inside the consortium, a partner operates extruder processes to blend virgin plastic material with plastic scrap. Quality operators examine both plastic sources in separate labs without a structured integrated inspection process. Flaws in the mixing rate can lead to discoloration and cracking, generally caused by high ratios of recycled material, resulting in scrap of produced parts. This partner seeks a product-production Digital Twin solution to optimize material mixing ratios based on real-time measurement of visual and mechanical properties of the different plastic source materials. This aims to increase the ratio of recycled plastic, enhancing sustainability while maintaining quality and reducing scrap. Additionally, the partner's consumer electronics refurbishing factory, which refurbishes over 50,000 products annually, seeks a solution combining augmented sensing and a product-production Digital Twin to optimize End-of-Life Product Refurbishment processes by assessing the health and predicting the remaining lifespan of components.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Leveraging the concept of Digital Twins supported by combined AI and Data technologies, the manufacturing industry is on the verge of fully exploiting Industry 4.0's digitalization potential. Digital information is becoming available in large amounts during different stages of product design, manufacturing, useful life, and recycling. Digital Twins enable the collection and comprehensive management of all digital information linked to a unique product asset, exploiting it for added value creation within the same stage the data was collected. Within the low-TRL playground, the Digital Twin Experience Centre (DTEC) of another partner demonstrates basic technology blocks for developing such twins on a polymer processing pilot lab (injection molding) at TRL 4, which can be used as a starting point for the partner's solutions. More product-production Digital Twin technology blocks are available at TRL 4, inviting SMEs to bring their own industrial challenge providers and high-TRL playgrounds.

The expected solution enables the partner to optimize the blending of virgin and recycled plastic materials and increase quality.

Specifications for Use Case: Digital Twins add value by digitally connecting the product design, manufacturing, useful life, and recycling stages in a closed loop. This increases the amount of available information and knowledge, enabling optimized and effective decisions. Such a straight-through

digitalization (STD) approach promotes sustainability beyond zero manufacturing towards truly closing the loop. The consortium partners will guide and mentor SMEs to deploy STD in the challenges. For this challenge, a product-production digital twin for their extruder processes for blending virgin and recycled plastic materials will be developed and demonstrated at TRL 6 at the high-TRL playground of the partner. This will result in a 5% increase (1200 tons) in recycled plastic content in ARC refrigerator products, while resolving 95% of quality control issues and optimizing energy efficiency.

Key Performance Indicators:

- 5% increase (1200 tons) in recycled plastic content in ARC refrigerator products
- Resolving 95% of quality control issues
- % reduction in virgin material usage

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

2.2 Digital Twin based lifespan analysis tool

Challenge and Context: Manufacturers are striving to reduce their ecological footprints by minimizing energy consumption, material use, and waste. Traditional design cycle paradigms have been optimized to their limits, and further gains are expected from cross-stage optimization through combined AI and Data solutions. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. Inside the consortium, the partner operates extruder processes to blend virgin plastic material with plastic scrap. Quality operators examine both plastic sources in separate labs without a structured integrated inspection process. Flaws in the mixing rate can lead to discoloration and cracking, generally caused by high ratios of recycled material, resulting in scrap of produced parts. The partner seeks a product-production Digital Twin solution to optimize material mixing ratios based on real-time measurement of visual and mechanical properties of the different plastic source materials. This aims to increase the ratio of recycled plastic, enhancing sustainability while maintaining quality and reducing scrap. Additionally, the partner's consumer electronics refurbishing factory, which refurbishes over 50,000 products annually, seeks a solution combining augmented sensing (technology A1a) and a product-production Digital Twin to optimize End-of-Life Product Refurbishment processes by assessing the health and predicting the remaining lifespan of components.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Leveraging the concept of Digital Twins supported by combined AI and Data technologies, the manufacturing industry is on the verge of fully exploiting Industry 4.0's digitalization potential. Digital information is becoming available in large amounts during different stages of product design, manufacturing, useful life, and recycling. Digital Twins enable the collection and comprehensive management of all digital information linked to a unique product asset, exploiting it for added value creation within the same stage the data was collected. Within the low-TRL playground, the Digital Twin Experience Centre (DTEC) demonstrates basic technology blocks for developing such twins on a polymer processing pilot lab (injection molding) at TRL 4, which can be used as a starting point for the partner's solutions. More product-production Digital Twin technology blocks are available at TRL 4 within the DTEC for other challenges, inviting SMEs to bring their own industrial challenge providers and high-TRL playgrounds.

The tool enables the partner to determine the remaining life of parts and optimize their refurbishment processes. This will increase the repurposing of parts from discarded products as spare parts, adjust warranty periods and pricing for resold products and parts, and enhance overall sustainability of the refurbishment process by minimizing waste and facilitating responsible and resourceful management of end-of-life products.

Specifications for Use Case: Digital Twins add value by digitally connecting the product design, manufacturing, useful life, and recycling stages in a closed loop. This increases the amount of available information and knowledge, enabling optimized and effective decisions. Such a straight-through digitalization (STD) approach promotes sustainability beyond zero manufacturing towards truly closing the loop. Consortium partners will guide and mentor SMEs to deploy STD in the challenges. For this challenge, a Digital Twin-based lifespan analysis tool will be demonstrated at TRL 6. This tool will determine the remaining life of products and parts, enabling the partner to increase the repurposing of parts from discarded products as spare parts, adjust warranty periods and pricing for resold products and parts, and enhance the overall sustainability of the refurbishment process by minimizing waste and facilitating responsible and resourceful management of end-of-life products.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Reduction in waste generated during refurbishment due to optimized part reuse (% reduction in waste from discarded parts, % increase in reused components)
- Reduction in warranty-related costs due to data-driven lifespan predictions
- Improved sustainability metrics for refurbished products (% improvement in refurbishment throughput)

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

2.3 Energy system Digital Twin decision support tool

Challenge and Context: Grid operators for transmission and distribution increasingly face grid balancing challenges due to growing energy demand and decentralized renewable energy production. To balance power generation and demand, various energy storage technologies can be used. However, energy conversion and storage equipment incur capital and operational expenditures that affect the final price of electric energy. Optimal sizing of local renewable sources and energy storage is crucial for achieving an economically optimized energy system. Due to numerous variables, such as time profiles of energy consumption, energy generation, and dynamic pricing, and their nonlinear relationships, optimal solutions cannot be obtained analytically. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. Inside the consortium, the partner seeks AI and Data solutions for a Digital Twin-based decision support tool to optimally size and control smaller parts (microgrids) of the energy system.

Use Case and Expected Solution: A Digital Twin (simulation model) structure for local energy systems is available at the partner facility. Various prototype tools for manual and automated optimization have been developed and tested at TRL 4. The Digital Twin structure will serve as the low-TRL playground for SMEs. This includes modules for energy consumption, generation (including local renewable sources), prices of electric energy from the grid, and energy storage systems (battery, electrolyser, fuel cell, hydrogen, pumped hydro). The Digital Twin enables simulation of the energy balance over a desired time period (typically an entire year) and observing economic results as a function of equipment sizes and prices. The partner grid operator will provide a challenge and high-TRL playground for this technology. The solution enables this partner to cost-optimize microgrid sizing and operation. This will result in reduced costs for energy production, optimized sizing of energy storage systems, and minimized wastage of renewable energy, contributing to a more efficient and sustainable energy system.

Specifications for Use Case: The TRL 4 Digital Twin environment and low-TRL playground of a partner will be used by an SME to develop a Digital Twin-based decision support tool for a production plant and electric energy system using the corresponding model-based automatic optimization algorithm. The consortium

partners will support the SME during development. The solutions will be demonstrated at the high-TRL playground of a partner (grid operator), which will enable testing and demonstration of the tool on real-world data. This support tool will enable the grid operator to determine the most optimal local energy system (microgrids) sizing and its mode of operation, achieving reduced costs for energy production, energy storage system CAPEX, and wastage of renewable energy. For use cases outside the consortium, the results will also be a tailored Digital Twin-based decision support tool for energy system/grid sizing and operation.

Key Performance Indicators:

Improved scaling of the energy storage components for the selected microgrid setup is envisioned to:

- Decrease CAPEX of energy storage systems (% reduction in CAPEX for energy storage),
- Improve local consumption of renewable energy (% increase in renewable energy self-consumption),
- Increase number of integrated EV charging stations while not affecting grid stability (% improvement in grid stability metrics).

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

3 Combined AI and Data solutions for DECISION SUPPORT

3.1 Automated machine selection for parts production

Challenge and Context: Many complex production processes are still partially controlled by operators with highly specialized knowledge and skills, which are difficult to formalize and document as they exist only in the operators' minds. If this knowledge is lost, the product quality or even the entire production process is at risk. Digitalizing this knowledge is crucial for the long-term strategic growth of industries. Additionally, real-time adaptation of digital work instructions (DWI) to the operational context (e.g., operator experience level, needs, assembly line conditions, QA/QC) can facilitate complex manual safety-critical manipulations, increasing production speed, quality, and compliance, boosting overall equipment efficiency, and reducing production costs. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. For example, operators can choose the best machine to cast or process a certain part from many identical machines that behave differently.

Use Case and Expected Solution: The challenge underscores the critical need to formalize and digitalize the valuable knowledge held by experienced operators. The inherent difficulties in capturing and representing this knowledge require a more complex approach that combines effective knowledge capture methodologies with advanced technological solutions. The potential of machine learning and artificial intelligence to analyze historical production data and operator decisions offers a promising avenue for developing intelligent systems capable of predicting optimal machine selection. Integrating real-time production data from machines and production processes further enhances the adaptability and responsiveness of such systems to dynamic operational conditions. A partner has IP blocks (MOVE platform) at TRL 4, including knowledge graphs for DWI, learning models for assembly operators, automated operator experiences level classification, data fusion and analytics, including AI needed to handle expert knowledge and IoT data, with proper attention to differences in representation, accuracy, and error margins. In the scope of another project, a partner has developed basic concepts at TRL 4 to capture, formalize, and digitize operator knowledge and skills. Machine learning methods are applied to extract the relationship between operator actions and process conditions through digital observation of operator actions and collecting sufficient relevant digital information from the process.

The solution will enable another partner to increase productivity and reduce downtime, scrap, and risk. This will result in more efficient production processes, better utilization of machinery, and enhanced overall operational efficiency.

Specifications for Use Case: The consortium partners will support SMEs in further developing solutions for challenges related to operator skill capturing and DWI technology, adapting them to the environment and relevant processes. Various machine learning approaches will be tested for operator skill capturing and formalization. A partner will support SMEs in using their data analytics platform, which can integrate basic DWI knowledge and Internet of Things data streams. This is linked to a specific lab (low-TRL playground) and can be used to explore with SMEs the potential added value of adaptive work instructions, mimicking the challenge context. Additionally, a simulated pilot process will be developed to test and demonstrate the technology on the low-TRL playground. The solution to solve the partner's problem will be integrated and demonstrated with their smart planning tool and shop floor (high-TRL playground) at TRL 7. This solution will enable to increase productivity, reduce downtime, and mitigate risk by automating the selection of the right machines for producing certain parts.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Machine utilization rate: Improved machine selection should lead to higher utilization rates (% increase in machine utilization).
- Peak energy demand: Optimal machine selection could lead to a reduction in peak energy consumption (% reduction in energy consumption per part).
- Scrap rate: Optimized machine selection should contribute to a reduction in scrap rates due to improved quality (% reduction in scrap rate).
- Production Throughput: Automated machine selection aims to increase the overall production rate.
- Cycle time per part: Optimizing machine selection could lead to reduced cycle times (% reduction in cycle time).
- Reduction in Time spent on machine selection due to a more automated process (% reduction in operator decision time).
- Waste reduction rate: Percentage decrease in the total amount of waste generated during the production process.

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

3.2 Battery production digital work instructions & skill capturing

Challenge and Context: Many complex production processes are still partially controlled by operators with highly specialized knowledge and skills, which are difficult to formalize and document as they exist only in the operators' minds. If this knowledge is lost, the product quality or even the entire production process is at risk. Digitalizing this knowledge is crucial for the long-term strategic growth of industries. Additionally, real-time adaptation of digital work instructions (DWI) to the operational context (e.g., operator experience level, needs, assembly line conditions, QA/QC) can facilitate complex manual safety-critical manipulations, increasing production speed, quality, and compliance, boosting overall equipment efficiency, and reducing production costs. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. For example, a partner seeks a solution to digitally capture operator production line adjustment skills to dynamic production conditions.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Battery manufacturing is a complex, highly sensitive process in which small variations can greatly affect product quality, safety, and reliability. DWIs and skill-capturing technologies can effectively address aspects such as production ramp-up, quality control, process

optimization, and managing variability in battery design. A partner has IP blocks (MOVE platform) at TRL 4, including knowledge graphs for DWI, learning models for assembly operators, automated operator experiences level classification, and data fusion and analytics, including AI needed to handle expert knowledge and IoT data, with proper attention to differences in representation, accuracy, and error margins. In the scope of another project, a partner has developed basic concepts at TRL 4 to capture, formalize, and digitize operator knowledge and skills. Machine learning methods are applied to extract the relationship between operator actions and process conditions through digital observation of operator actions and collection of sufficient relevant digital information from the process.

The solution enables another partner to upscale production capacity and automate new battery production lines. This will result in more efficient production processes, better utilization of machinery, and enhanced overall operational efficiency.

Specifications for Use Case: Consortium partners will support SMEs in further developing solutions for challenges related to operator skill capturing and DWI technology, adapting them to the environment and relevant processes. Various machine learning approaches will be tested for operator skill capturing and formalization. A partner will support SMEs in using their data analytics platform, which can integrate basic DWI knowledge and Internet of Things data streams. This is linked to a specific lab (low-TRL playground) and can be used to explore with SMEs the potential added value of adaptive work instructions, mimicking the challenge context. The solution to solve the partner's problem will be integrated into their pilot production line at TRL 7, enabling them to upscale their production capacity and automate new battery production lines. For use cases outside the consortium, solutions will be tested and demonstrated at TRL 7.

Key Performance Indicators:

- **Energy Consumption per Unit:** Improved efficiency through optimized processes guided by DWIs and operator knowledge should lead to a decrease (% reduction in energy consumption per unit).
- **Scrap rate:** Effective DWIs and operator skill application should reduce errors and thus scrap (% reduction in scrap during battery assembly).
- **Production Throughput:** Higher throughput indicates more efficient use of production resources (workers) (% improvement in production throughput).
- **Cycle Time per Unit:** Reducing the time to produce each battery unit implies improved operational efficiency (% reduction in cycle time).
- **Changeover Time:** Reducing the time when switching between different product types by increasing the flexibility and efficiency of production resources (% reduction in changeover time).
- **Waste reduction rate:** Percentage decrease in the total amount of waste generated during the production process

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

3.3 Digital Twin enabled smart production process planning tool

Challenge and Context: Digital Twin-based processes and control frameworks in metal part production have the potential to improve production process resilience with respect to the raw materials used (e.g., recycled materials), reduce process operator effort, and minimize scrap due to out-of-specification parts. These frameworks can leverage state-of-the-art technologies in system-level management of decision processes. However, several challenges need to be addressed, including appropriate Digital Twin decision process architecture setup and smooth decision process integration. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. Inside the consortium, a

partner aims to implement a Digital Twin of the production process within their aluminum casting plant to develop an AI-enabled smart production process planning tool.

Use Case and Expected Solution: The implementation of a Digital Twin in aluminum casting enhances efficiency by reducing operator effort, minimizing scrap, optimizing energy use, and improving machine utilization. It provides real-time recommendations for process parameters, decreasing manual adjustments, while predictive analytics help detect deviations early. The system also analyzes energy consumption, predicts equipment issues, and streamlines scheduling, leading to lower energy costs and improved sustainability. By identifying bottlenecks and maximizing machine uptime, the Digital Twin supports faster, more reliable, and cost-effective production. A partner has IP blocks at TRL 4 related to their platform, where advanced IoT-driven architectures have been successfully implemented, along with associated decision recommender systems built on sampled machine learning surrogate models of decision processes. These systems are integrated into decision support recommender-based systems. Two consortium partners will support SMEs in defining the Digital Twin for metal part production and digitized toolchains system-level management of decision processes. This will advance Digital Twin decision support developments. Building on existing results from another project, where a decision recommender is shaped on top of sampled machine learning surrogate models of decision processes, the solution will address the complexity of integrating multiple decision processes into one model.

The solution enables the partner to reduce operator effort, scrap from production, and increase overall energy efficiency. This will result in more efficient production processes, better utilization of machinery, and enhanced overall operational efficiency.

Specifications for Use Case: One solution developed will be a Digital Twin-enabled smart production process planning tool, demonstrated at TRL 6. This tool will enable the partner to reduce operator effort, minimize scrap from production, and increase overall energy efficiency. For use cases outside the consortium, the results will be tested and demonstrated at TRL 7.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Reduction in the overall production cycle time for casting a part or batch (% reduction in production cycle time).
- Increase in machine uptime and reduction in production delays (% increase in machine uptime).
- Reduction in emissions per unit of product manufactured, through reduced energy consumption and material waste (% reduction in emissions per unit).
- Increase in the effective recycling rate of internal scrap by optimizing the process to minimize contamination or make recycling more feasible (% increase in internal scrap recycling rate).
- Number of new positions created related to the development, deployment, maintenance, and data analysis of the Digital Twin system.

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

3.4 Automated warehouse and internal logistics management

Challenge and Context: Digital Twin-based processes and control frameworks in metal part production have the potential to improve production process resilience with respect to the raw materials used (e.g., recycled materials), reduce process operator effort, and minimize scrap due to out-of-specification parts. These frameworks can leverage state-of-the-art technologies in system-level management of decision processes. However, several challenges need to be addressed, including the appropriate Digital Twin decision process architecture setup and smooth decision process integration. AID4SME is flexible in overcoming these challenges for use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. Inside the consortium, a partner seeks to develop a smart planning tool for their automated buffer warehouse and internal logistics system to optimize internal workflows for transporting around 200 pallets on the shop floor.

Use Case and Expected Solution: The increasing complexity of manufacturing processes, particularly in specialized sectors like die casting and battery production, requires highly efficient, resilient, and adaptable internal logistics and warehouse management. Traditional automation systems often lack the intelligence and flexibility to dynamically respond to variations. Implementing a Digital Twin that integrates real-time data from internal logistics and production equipment will accurately model system behavior and enable intelligent decision-making. A partner has IP blocks at TRL 4 related to their platform, where advanced IoT-driven architectures have been successfully implemented, along with associated decision recommender systems built on sampled machine learning surrogate models of decision processes. These systems are integrated into decision support recommender-based systems. Two consortium partners will support SMEs in defining the Digital Twin for metal part production and digitized toolchains system-level management of decision processes. This will advance Digital Twin decision support developments. Building on existing results from another project, where a decision recommender is shaped on top of sampled machine learning surrogate models of decision processes, the solution will address the complexity of integrating multiple decision processes into one model.

The solution enables the partner to reduce logistics energy consumption, production stops, and optimize efficiency. This will result in more efficient production processes, better utilization of machinery, and enhanced overall operational efficiency.

Specifications for Use Case: The smart planning tool for an automated buffer warehouse and internal logistics management will be demonstrated at TRL 6. This tool will reduce energy consumption in internal logistics by optimizing the driven distances of automated forklifts and improving production efficiency by reducing stops. For use cases outside the consortium, the results will be tested and demonstrated at TRL 7.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Reduction of operators' efforts: The number of manual interventions (automation level) and time saved due to automation and decision support (% reduction in manual interventions).
- Reduction in the energy consumption of internal logistics (% reduction in logistics energy consumption).
- Decrease in production stops caused by logistics delays (% reduction in production delays due to logistics).
- Reduction in emissions per unit of product manufactured (through reduced energy consumption due to optimal internal logistics).
- Warehouse space utilization efficiency (% improvement in warehouse space utilization).

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

4 Combined AI and Data solutions for AUTOMATION

4.1 Automated energy management for parts production

Challenge and Context: Automated prediction and optimization of electric energy consumption in energy-intensive production processes can have a significant positive impact. On the one hand, based on factory daily production plans, the electric energy consumption time profile can be predicted. Subsequently, the time distribution of production steps can be optimized to keep the electric energy time profile within limits determined by the electric grid operator. This helps industries and grid operators balance their grids and maximally exploit the potential of renewable energy sources. On the other hand, energy predictability can help to better monitor and manage production machines and operations. A consortium partner is currently

enabling energy monitoring of all key infrastructure equipment for aluminum casting and automotive parts production. As a next step, this partner aims to implement an automated energy management tool for the plant's infrastructure.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Energy consumption prediction models for production processes exist and are used in practice, but they are manually developed and tailored for specific production processes, considering particular energy consumers. Manual design of such models requires expert knowledge of process and energy modeling, is time-consuming and expensive, and limits transferability between different processes and reusability. A partner has technology blocks available at TRL 4 and a low-TRL playground for automatic determination of the relationship between energy consumption time profile and production plans, based on AI and machine learning methods using historical data about production plans and related energy consumption profiles. This automatic learning capability enables wide usage of the method across different production processes. The data-based approach also allows modeling the effects of external conditions (temperature, weather, season, etc.). Currently, there is no centralized monitoring and management over the machines and consequently it happens that particular machines stay switched-on and consume electric energy in periods when production is not running, which can be during night periods or pause periods. This leads to electric energy waste, increased costs and increased pollution due to excess electric energy consumption. The idea is to automatically monitor and manage machines states according to the central production time plan. This includes automatic startup and automatic shutdown or entering various standby modes.

The solution will enable the partner to automate control over energy intensive operation machines. Optimized control over operation states of the machines (e.g., pre-heat, standby, off-mode) should be in accordance with the actual production plan, while minimizing the overall energy consumption.

Specifications for Use Case: The consortium partner will guide and mentor SMEs to use existing building blocks for automated energy management of production processes and further develop and implement these technologies in real production environments of use-case owners. For the a partner use case, automated energy management of their production plant demonstrated at TRL 7 will enable to automate control over high energy consumption assets according to the production, leading to minimization of energy related costs, while not affecting the execution of the planned production activities.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Accuracy of predicted energy consumption for the observed production operation (% accuracy of energy consumption forecasts).
- Reduction of daily energy consumption per produced part, for the controlled machine/operation (% reduction in energy consumption per part).
- Production schedule adherence, indicating how closely production adheres to the planned schedule for the controlled production operation (operation delay time).

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

4.2 Management for parts production

Challenge and Context: Automated prediction and optimization of electric energy consumption in energy-intensive production processes can have a significant positive impact. Based on factory daily production plans, the electric energy consumption time profile can be predicted. Subsequently, the time distribution of production steps can be optimized to keep the electric energy time profile within limits determined by the electric grid operator. This helps industries and grid operators balance their grids and maximally exploit the potential of renewable energy sources. AID4SME is flexible in implementing such automated energy

management for different industrial use case owners both inside and outside the consortium. A partner is monitoring their energy-intensive battery production processes and attempts to model the consumption. Optimization remains a challenge, and this partner seeks an automated energy management solution on top of their energy and production models.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Energy consumption prediction models for production processes exist and are used in practice, but they are manually developed and tailored for specific production processes, considering particular energy consumers. Manual design of such models requires expert knowledge of process and energy modeling, is time-consuming and expensive, and limits transferability between different processes and reusability. A partner has technology blocks available at TRL 4 and a low-TRL playground for automatic determination of the relationship between energy consumption time profile and production plans, based on AI and machine learning methods using historical data about production plans and related energy consumption profiles. This automatic learning capability enables wide usage of the method across different production processes. The data-based approach also allows modeling the effects of external conditions (temperature, weather, season, etc.).

The solution enables to balance energy consumption and optimize renewable energy consumption. This will result in more efficient energy management, reduced operational costs, and enhanced overall sustainability.

Specifications for Use Case: The consortium partners will guide and mentor SMEs to use existing building blocks for automated energy management of production processes and further develop and implement these technologies in real production environments of use-case owners. The partner use case and use cases outside the consortium, automated energy management and optimization demonstrated at TRL 7) will enable the partner and other use-case owners to balance their energy consumption.

Key Performance Indicators:

- % increase in renewable energy integration
- % reduction in energy cost per unit
- % reduction in peak energy demand

4.3 Semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling

Challenge and Context: EV batteries across manufacturers and cars vary significantly, with each battery type having its own cables, bus bars, modules, and different types of cells inside. This variability makes the automation of battery dismantling for recycling purposes challenging. Additionally, current EV batteries subject to recycling are mainly Li-ion based, posing hazard risks for recycling processes. Automating each process for each battery type is time-consuming and costly. Battery recycling companies face these challenges, which AID4SME can overcome for use-case owners both inside and outside the consortium. Inside the consortium, a partner aims to implement semi-automatic dismantling of batteries cells and modules. As the dismantling would be implemented on not-good batteries coming out of the production line, automation could be envisioned since battery cells and modules design would be known and controlled. This would enable the creation of an in-house circular input stream for the resources needed for their battery production.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Currently, different battery recycling developments are ongoing, using collaborative robots. However, these activities mainly focus on automating the dismantling of one type of battery, with limited applicability to other types of batteries with different geometries and internal distributions. Another partner has a laboratory for battery dismantling with an industrial robot at TRL 4, specifically focusing on developing a flexible battery dismantling process. This partner has several technology blocks at TRL 4, using computer vision and AI technologies from other areas, supporting the development of dismantling operations on different batteries without specific robot programming for each.

The solution enables to upscale the circular input stream for battery production and reduce hazard risks. This will result in more efficient battery recycling processes, better utilization of resources, and enhanced overall sustainability.

Specifications for Use Case: The consortium partner will guide and mentor SMEs to develop a robot cell for semi-automatic battery dismantling of various EV battery types, extending to overall mechatronic system demanufacturing approaches. In this solution, a human operator manually performs tasks the robot cannot, while the robot handles repetitive and dangerous operations such as opening the battery pack while charged or picking up heavy components. For operations that cannot be automated, the user can control the robot using teleoperation, moving the robot and indicating the position using a VR device. Solutions will be demonstrated for the partner's use case at TRL 6. This will enable to implement an EV battery type-agnostic, semi-automated dismantling process, upscaling the circular input stream of resources needed for their battery production while maintaining low hazard and safety risks for operators.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Percentage of dismantling operations performed autonomously by the robot, reduction in manual intervention compared to traditional dismantling methods, value of battery dismantled in a week, percentage of weight battery recovery, accuracy of robotic operations, scalability potential (% of dismantling steps automated, % reduction in dismantling time per battery).
- increase in the number of reusable/recyclable materials recovered, reduction in waste and environmental impact from battery dismantling (% of materials recovered for reuse, % increase in recyclable material yield)
- demonstrate progress in labour conditions, improvement in ergonomic conditions for workers, adoption rate of teleoperation, gender diversity (% reduction in manual labor exposure to hazards).

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

4.4 Co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions

Challenge and Context: The development of new automation technologies for the manufacturing industry directly contributes to efficiency, safety, and human factors. Modular, reconfigurable, energy-efficient, and collaborative robots can enable industries to optimize their operations, reduce waste, lower their environmental impact, and improve human operator job attractiveness. The whitegoods factory of a partner is one area where collaborative robots can make a significant difference. This partner will provide a use case for their refrigerator production line, where refrigerator gaskets of different shapes and sizes are installed on refrigerator doors. Manual installation of the refrigerator gaskets poses ergonomic challenges, resulting in inefficiencies and potential product rejections. Partial (co-bot) automation of gasket installation, particularly flexible elastomer gaskets, presents unique challenges that require the integration of collaborative robotics and AI to optimize the installation process. This ensures precision, safety, and adaptability to the deformable nature of elastomers, as the co-bot must apply the right force on the flexible material without causing deformation. The partner seeks a co-bot solution to overcome these challenges while aligning with the Green Deal's focus on promoting worker well-being and safety.

Use Case and Expected Solution: Another partner has a catalogue of developed technologies validated in the lab (TRL 4), building on results from previously funded EU projects related to collaborative assembly and riveting for automotive assembly. These technologies will be combined with 2D/3D video analysis technology blocks. The partner has several low-TRL playgrounds based on these technologies.

The solution enables to improve efficiency, operator ergonomics, and inclusiveness, and reduce waste. This will result in more efficient production processes, better utilization of machinery, and enhanced overall operational efficiency.

Specifications for Use Case: The consortium partner will guide and mentor SMEs to further develop the technology bricks using their low-TRL playground and adapt these technologies for deployment in other industry sectors. For the “bring your own use-case” challenges, co-bot solutions will be demonstrated at TRL 7. The AID4SME solutions will foster a sustainable and inclusive digital transition that benefits both manufacturing companies and society at large. Specifically for the ARC use case, a co-bot refrigerator door assembly solution will be demonstrated in the partner's factory at TRL 7. This will enable to improve efficiency, operator ergonomics, and inclusiveness, decrease waste, and increase the longevity of refrigerator doors through enhanced stability of gasket installation quality.

Key Performance Indicators:

- Demonstrate effective and flexible autonomous processes (% increase in assembly precision).
- Ensure safety of workers in the vicinity.
- Improved efficiency: reduce the number of workers required at the production line (% increase in production line efficiency).
- Operator ergonomics: reduce operator/worker effort, as they will be able to focus on other tasks.
- Increase quality: robotized processes can more easily detect errors in production during the process itself (% reduction in installation errors).
- % reduction in waste due to assembly defects

To be noted, the list of KPIs provided in this section is not exhaustive but rather indicative. Additional KPIs will be studied and can be integrated to ensure quality outcomes.

2.2 Annex 2 - Technical Proposal Template

PROPOSAL TITLE:

INDICATE THE CHALLENGE YOU INTEND TO ADDRESS:

Domain	Challenge
Combined AI and Data solutions for DATA COLLECTION	1.1- Augmented sensing solution for polyurethane mold adjustment 1.2 - 2D/3D image analysis for large Energy Infrastructure predictive maintenance
Combined AI and Data solutions for creation of INSIGHTS	2.1 - Product-production Digital Twins for extruder processes 2.2 - Digital Twin based lifespan analysis tool 2.3- Energy system Digital Twin decision support tool
Combined AI and Data solutions for DECISION SUPPORT	3.1 - Automated machine selection for parts production 3.2 - Battery production digital work instructions & skill capturing 3.3 - Digital Twin enabled smart production process planning tool 3.4 - Automated warehouse and internal logistics management.
Combined AI and Data solutions for AUTOMATION	4.1- Automated energy management for parts production 4.2 - Management for parts production 4.3 - Semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling 4.4 - Co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions

TABLE 6: REFERENCE TABLE - CHALLENGES

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D. KPI.....	47
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PROJECT PLANNING AND VALUE FOR MONEY [MAX. 2 PAGES]	48
A. PROJECT PLANNING	48
B. HIGH LEVEL BUDGET (VALUE FOR MONEY).....	49
EXPERTISE AND EXCELLENCE OF THE PROPOSED TEAM [MAX. 2 PAGES]	50
APPENDIX - ADDITIONAL FIGURES AND TABLES [MAX. 2 PAGES]	50

Instructions

Please use this template to prepare your proposal description. It has been organised to ensure that the important aspects of your proposal are clearly measurable with respect to the evaluation criteria.

- The structure of this template must be followed when preparing your proposal. The questions will help you to be cohesive and objective. Applicants using other kinds of template/document structures will be automatically ineligible.
- The page limit for the full proposal is 12 pages (Not including cover page, Table of Content, Instructions Page, References and Appendix). Please respect the limits (No. of pages) indicated in each section.
- All tables and eventual figures/schemas must be included within this limit. The allowed font type is “Arial” and the font size is 11 points. The page size is A4, and all margins (top, bottom, left, right) should be at least 20 mm.
- Adding Annexes/Appendix to this document are allowed. (2 pages maximum).

Introduction (Max. 1 page)

- Give a general overview of the proposed solution, describe the main scope and the main objectives.
- How would it fit within the AID4SME Project?

Novelty/Innovation, adequateness and quality of the proposed use-case solution [Max. 3 pages]

- Describe the technology concept behind the proposed solution.

A. Methodology

- Describe the methodology applied to the development of the proposed solution.

B. Technical Description of the Solution

- Describe the capabilities and the requirements of the proposed solution:
 - Capabilities: what can the solution do? What problem does it solve? What formal language/planning features it supports? Any limitation (e.g. is the solution domain specific? Or does it make any particular assumption on the input problem)?
 - TRL: what is the current TRL of the proposed solution? Has the solution been used in some projects/applications already? If so, which ones?
 - Are there any publications related to the solution?
 - Technical requirements (e.g. operating system, external libraries or tools, programming language).

C. Licensing and IPR

- Describe/report the license and the availability of the proposed solution.

Does the solution have a license already? In case, which one?

Who is the owner?

Under which terms the AID4SME consortium will be able to use/integrate the solution?

D. KPI

List 3 to 4 KPIs relevant to your proposal's alignment with the Green Deal

KPI	Name	Description	Unit

Example:

KPI	Name	Description	Unit
1	Decrease annual waste	Tracks the reduction of total waste generated annually by the organization	tons

Impacts [Max. 1 Pages]

- What are your ambitions and expectations concerning the proposed solution? (from the scalability potential perspective)
- What are the main solution contributions to the industry?
- What are the main solution impacts in industry?
- What are the impacts of the proposed solution on green alignment, social and environmental sustainability.

Project Planning and Value for Money [Max. 2 Pages]

A. Project Planning

Your project within AID4SME is expected to be carried out in 14 months and four stages with specific durations. The stages are:

TABLE 7: PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION STAGES

Stage	Stage Duration
Plan	1 Month
Development	7 Months
Testing & Validation	2 Months
Solution Assessment & Business Plan	4 Months

Briefly explain how the work will be organized based on the programme stages. Provide an idea of what output one can expect at the end of each stage and what deliverables are foreseen as tangible output of the project.

B. High Level Budget (Value for Money)

COSTS	TOTAL	JUSTIFICATION
TOTAL NUMBER OF PM (PERSON MONTH) ¹		
COST PER PM ²		
OVERALL PERSONAL COSTS ³		
EQUIPMENT COST ⁴		
OTHER GOODS/SERVICES		
TOTAL COST		

¹ Total number of the person month (PM) involved in the project.

² Average cost of person month (PM) of the project team members.

³ Total cost of the personnel (PM) realizing the project (Total nr PM x Cost per PM)

⁴ Include the overall cost of equipment required to implement the solution (hardware, software, etc.)

Expertise and Excellence of the Proposed Team [Max. 2 Pages]

- Summarise the competencies of the team involved in the proposal in the table below:

NAME OF THE PERSON	ROLE IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT	LINK TO LINKEDIN OR SIMILAR (IF AVAILABLE)	WORK EXPERIENCE
*ADD LINES AS REQUIRED			

- Briefly describe the organisation involved in the proposal (if you are applying as a consortium, please describe both organisations involved in the proposal).
- Answer the question below only if you are applying as a consortium:
 - Briefly describe the role of each organisation in the project deployment.

Appendix - Additional Figures and Tables [Max. 2 Pages]

While the rest of the document should be self-sustainable, additional space can be provided here for optional context, state of the art, market etc. Adding information to this section is optional. The analysis of this section is not mandatory to evaluators.

2.3 Annex 3 – Open Call Application Form

Section 1 – Proposal Summary

Applicants will fill the online form at <https://www.f6s.com/aid4sme-oc-1/apply>

*mandatory

Are you applying as*:

Single Entity
Consortium

Challenge *

Mark the challenge you are applying (one per proposal)

1. Combined AI and Data solutions for DATA COLLECTION
 - 1.1 Augmented sensing solution for polyurethane mold adjustment
 - 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 for extruder processes
 - 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 Automated machine selection for parts production
 - 3.2 Battery production digital work instructions & skill capturing
 - 3.3 Digital Twin enabled smart production process planning tool
 - 3.4 Automated warehouse and internal logistics management.
4. Combined AI and Data solutions for AUTOMATION
 - 4.1 Automated energy management for parts production
 - 4.2 Management for parts production
 - 4.3 Semi-automated EV battery disassembly for recycling
 - 4.4 Co-bot refrigerator door assembly solutions

Proposal Title*

100 chars including spaces

Proposal Summary*

Please write a brief summary of your proposal.

300 chars including spaces

Please upload the document with your proposal description according to the correspondent template *

[add the link to templates]

How did you hear about AID4SME?*

Event

EC Portal (fund to third-parties page)

Friend/Colleague/Reference

AID4SME website

AID4SME partner recommendation

Social Media

F6S page

Other

Section 2 – Applicants Information

Applicant 1

Contact Person Name*

Country of residence/work*

E-mail (main contact)*

This contact email will be used to announce the open call result. Therefore, be sure that the email box is frequently visualized and accessed.

Entity legal name*

Your Organisation is *

SME

Start-Up

Country *

VAT number *

The company has been funded by the European Commission through H2020/Horizon Europe before?
(Grant or subgrant)

Yes

No

If yes, please indicate which one and indicate the overlaps and differences with the current proposal
200 chars including spaces

Applicant 2 (fill this part only if you are applying as Consortium – Organisation or Natural Person)

Contact Person Name

Country of residence/work

E-mail (main contact)

This contact email will be used to announce the open call result. Therefore, be sure that the email box is frequently visualized and accessed.

Entity legal name

Country

VAT number

The company has been funded by the European Commission through H2020/Horizon Europe before? (Grant or subgrant)

Yes
No

If yes, please indicate which one and indicate the overlaps and differences with the current proposal
200 chars including spaces

Section 3: Acceptance - Open Call Rules

Acceptance of the open call rules*

Tick box that the applicant accepts the open call rules (link to the guide for applicants)

Declaration of Honour: I confirm that I accept all conditions in the Annex 4 - Declaration of Honour and information contained therein and that it will be provided signed should this proposal be accepted for funding. [\[link to the document\]](#)

Tick box that the applicant has read and accept the declaration of honour.

SME Declaration: I confirm that the lead applicant is a valid SME/Startup, following established EU rules, which validity will be proved by a signed declaration to be provided should this proposal be accepted for funding. [\[link to the document\]](#)

Tick box that the applicant has read and accept GDPR rules.

I declare that I have no conflict of interest with AID4SME Project nor the consortium partners*

Tick box that the applicant declares the absence of conflict of interest.

Section 4: Privacy and Security

Agree on GDPR*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32016R0679>

Tick box that the applicant has read and accept GDPR rules.

I accept that the information provided and submitted in this proposal can be shared by F6S with the AID4SME consortium and the external evaluators for the purpose of evaluation and managing the programme.

Tick box that the applicant declares the acceptance to share the proposal for evaluation and project implementation purposes (if selected to enter the programme)

2.4 Annex 4 – Declaration of Honour

Project title:

Project acronym:

On behalf of [Company/ organisation name]
 established in , [Official address], VAT number
, represented for the purposes of signing and submitting the proposal and
 present Declaration of Honour by [Name of legal
 representative].

By signing this document, I declare that:

1. I have the power of legally binding the above-mentioned organisation upon submitting this proposal.
2. Neither the above-mentioned company/ organisation nor any linked company/ organisation or any individual member of the proposal team has submitted any other proposal under AID4SME Project – GA No.101189562
3. In case the above-mentioned company/ organisation or any individual member of the team has submitted more than one proposal to this open call, all associated proposals will be automatically excluded from the evaluation process.
4. I and the above company/ organisation that I legally represent are fully aware and duly accept all AID4SME rules and conditions as expressed in the respective open call documents and Annexes and will respect any evaluation decision and proposal selection.
5. The information included in the Annex 5: SME Declaration document is true and legally binding (applicable to SMEs).
6. All provided information in this declaration is true and legally binding.
7. I give the consent and permission to the AID4SME coordinator to use the attached information to contact me for any issue associated with the associated proposal.

Company/ organisation contact information:

Title (Mr., Ms., Dr.)	
Name	
Surname	
Full address	
Country	
E-mail address	
Telephone/ Mobile phone	
Signature/ Date	

Declaration of Honour on exclusion criteria and absence of conflict of interest

By signing this declaration of honour, I declare that all provided information below is true and legally binding both for me and for the company/ organisation that I legally represent:

1. I declare that the mentioned company/ organisation is not in one of the following situations:

a. Is bankrupt or being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered an arrangement with creditors, has suspended business activities, is the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or is in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations.

b. It or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment which has the force of res judicata.

c. Has been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the contracting authority can justify including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organizations.

d. Is not in compliance with its 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 it is established or with those of the country of the contracting authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed, to be proved by the deliverance of official documents issued by the local authorities, according to the local applicable rules.

e. It or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over it 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, where such illegal activity is detrimental to the Union's financial interests.

f. Is subject to an administrative penalty for being guilty of misrepresenting the information required by the contracting authority as a condition of participation in a grant award procedure or another procurement procedure or failing to supply this information or having been declared to be in serious breach of its obligations under contracts or grants covered by the Union's budget.

2. I declare that the natural persons with power of representation, decision-making or control over the above-mentioned company/ organisation are not in the situations referred to in (a) to (f) above.

3. I declare that:

a. Neither any person nor I that I know is subject to an AID4SMEproject conflict of interest.

8. Neither any person or I that I know participates, controls, submits, or is associated in any way with more than one proposal to the AID4SME Project – GA No.101189562.

b. I have not made false declarations in supplying the information required by participation in the open calls of the AID4SMEproject or does not fail to supply this information.

c. I am not in one of the situations of exclusion, referred to in the abovementioned points (a) to (f).

d. I am aware and fully accept all AID4SME conditions and rules as expressed in the open call documents and Annex 1, Annex 2, Annex 5, Annex 6.

4. I certify that the company/ organisation that I represent:

- d. Is committed to participate in the abovementioned project.
- d. Has stable and sufficient sources of funding to maintain its activity throughout its participation in the above-mentioned project and to provide any counterpart funding necessary.
- d. Has or will have the necessary resources as and when needed to carry out its involvement in the above-mentioned project.

Full name: 	Signature and stamp (if applicable)
Done at (place) , on the (day) (month) (year)	

2.5 Annex 5 – SME Declaration

DECLARATION ON INFORMATION ON SME QUALIFICATION

Specific identification of the applicant enterprise:

Name or Business Name	
Address (or Registered office)	
Registration/ VAT number	
Names and titles of principal directors	

Type of enterprise (see explanatory note)

Select to indicate which case(s) applies to the applicant enterprise:

- ☐ Autonomous enterprise In this case the data filled in the box below result from the accounts of the applicant enterprise only. Fill in the declaration only, without annex.
- ☐ Partner enterprise Fill in and attach the annex (and any additional sheets), then complete the declaration by copying the results of the calculations into the box below.
- ☐ Linked enterprise

Data used to determine the category of enterprise

Calculated according to Article 6 of the Annex to the Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC on the SME definition.

Reference period (*)		
Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (**)	Balance sheet total (**)

(*) All data must be related to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of newly established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made over the financial year.

(**) EUR 1 000.

Important:

Compared to the previous accounting period, there is a change regarding the data, which could result in a change of category of the applicant enterprise (micro, small, medium-sized, or big enterprise).

☐ No

☐ Yes (in this case fill in and attach a declaration regarding the previous accounting period).

Signature

Name and position of the signatory, being authorised to represent the enterprise:

--

I declare on my honour the accuracy of this declaration and of any annexes thereto.

Done at: (place) on (day) (month) (year)

Signature:

EXPLANATORY NOTE ON THE TYPES OF ENTERPRISES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR CALCULATING THE HEADCOUNT AND THE FINANCIAL AMOUNTS

I. TYPES OF ENTERPRISES

The definition of an SME⁵ distinguishes three types of enterprise, according to their relationship with other enterprises in terms of holdings of capital or voting rights or the right to exercise a dominant influence⁶.

Type 1: Autonomous Enterprise

This is by far the most common type of enterprise. It applies to all enterprises which are not one of the two other types of enterprise (partner or linked). An applicant enterprise is autonomous if it:

- Does not have a holding of 25%⁷ or more in any other enterprise,
- And is not 25%⁷ or more owned by any enterprise or public body or jointly by several linked enterprises or public bodies, apart from some exceptions⁸,
- And does not draw up consolidated accounts and is not included in the accounts of an enterprise which draws up consolidated accounts and is thus not a linked enterprise⁹.

Type 2: Partner Enterprise

This type represents the situation of enterprises which establish major financial partnerships with other enterprises, without the one exercising effective direct or indirect control over the other. Partners are enterprises which are not autonomous, but which are not linked to one another.

The applicant enterprise is a partner of another enterprise if:

- It has a holding or voting rights equal to or greater than 25% in the other enterprise, or the other enterprise has a holding or voting rights equal to or greater than 25% in the applicant enterprise.

⁵ Henceforth, the term "Definition" refers to the Annex to Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC on the definition of SMEs.

⁶ Definition, Article 3

⁷ In terms of the share of the capital or voting rights, whichever is higher is applied. To this percentage should be added the holding in that same enterprise of each enterprise that is linked to the holding company (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 2)

⁸ An enterprise may continue being considered as autonomous when this 25% threshold is reached or exceeded, if that percentage is held by the following categories of investors (provided that those are not linked with the applicant enterprise):

- a) public investment corporations, venture capital companies, individuals or groups of individuals with a regular venture capital investment activity who invest equity capital in unquoted businesses ("business angels"), provided the total investment of those business angels in the same enterprise is less than EUR 1 250 000,
- b) universities or non-profit research centres,
- c) institutional investors, including regional development funds,
- d) autonomous local authorities with an annual budget of less than EUR 10 million and less than 5000 inhabitants.

(Definition, Article 3 paragraph 2, second sub-paragraph)

⁹ - If the registered office of the enterprise is situated in a Member State which has provided for an exception to the requirement to draw up such accounts pursuant to the Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983, the enterprise should nevertheless check specifically whether it does not meet one or other of the conditions laid down in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition.

- There are also some very rare cases in which an enterprise may be considered linked to another enterprise through a person or a group of natural persons acting jointly (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 3).

- Conversely, there are very few cases of enterprises drawing up consolidated accounts voluntarily, without being required to do so under the Seventh Directive. In that case, the enterprise is not necessarily linked and can consider itself only a partner.

To determine whether the enterprise is linked or not, in each of the three situations it should be checked whether or not the enterprise meets one or other of the conditions laid down in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition, where applicable through a natural person or group of natural persons acting jointly.

- The enterprises are not linked enterprises within the meaning defined below, which means, among other things, that the voting rights of one in the other do not exceed 50%.
- And the applicant enterprise does not draw up consolidated accounts which include the other enterprise by consolidation and is not included by consolidation in the accounts of the other enterprise or of an enterprise linked to it⁹.

Type 3: Linked Enterprise

This type corresponds to the economic situation of enterprises which form a group through the direct or indirect control of most of the voting rights (including through agreements or, in certain cases, through natural persons as shareholders), or through the ability to exercise a dominant influence on an enterprise. Such cases are thus less frequent than the two preceding types.

To avoid difficulties of interpretation for enterprises, the EC has defined this type of enterprise by taking over – wherever they are suitable for the purposes of the Definition – the conditions set out in Article 1 of Council Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts¹⁰, which has been applied for many years.

An enterprise thus generally knows immediately that it is linked, since it is already required under that Directive to draw up consolidated accounts or is included by consolidation in the accounts of an enterprise which is required to draw up such consolidated accounts.

The only two cases, which are however not very frequent, in which an enterprise can be considered linked although it is not already required to draw up consolidated accounts, are described in the first two indents of endnote 5 of this explanatory note. In those cases, the enterprise should check whether it meets one or other of the conditions set out in Article 3 paragraph 3 of the Definition.

II. THE HEADCOUNT AND THE ANNUAL WORK UNITS¹¹

The headcount of an enterprise corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU).

Who is included in the headcount?

- The employees of the applicant enterprise
- persons working for the enterprise being subordinate to it and considered to be employees under national law
- owner-managers
- partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise.

Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not considered in the headcount.

How is the headcount calculated?

One AWU corresponds to one person who worked full-time in the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year. The headcount is expressed in AWUs.

The work of persons, who did not work the entire year, or who worked part-time - regardless of its duration - and seasonal work is counted as fractions of AWU.

The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted.

¹⁰ Seventh Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983, based on Article 54(3)(g) of the Treaty and concerning consolidated accounts (OJ L 193 of 18.7.1983, p. 1), as last amended by Directive 2001/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 283 of 27.10.2001, p. 28).

¹¹ Definition, Article 5.

ANNEX TO THE DECLARATION CALCULATION FOR THE PARTNER OR LINKED TYPE OF ENTREPRISE

Annexes to be enclosed if necessary

- **Annex A** if the applicant enterprise has at least one partner enterprise (and any additional sheets)
- **Annex B** if the applicant enterprise has at least one linked enterprise (and any additional sheets)

Calculation for the partner or linked type of enterprise¹² (see explanatory note)

Reference period ¹³ :			
	Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (*)	Balance sheet total (*)
1. Data ¹³ of the applicant enterprise or consolidated accounts (copy data from box B(1) in annex B ¹⁴)			
2. Proportionally aggregated data ¹³ of all partner enterprises (if any) (copy data from box A in annex A)			
3. Added up data ¹³ of all linked enterprises (if any) – if not included by consolidation in line 1 (copy data from box B(2) in annex B)			
Total			

(*) EUR 1 000.

NOTE: The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in the box "Data used to determine the category of enterprise" in the declaration.

¹² Definition, Article 6 paragraphs 2 and 3

¹³ All data must be relating to the last approved accounting period and calculated on an annual basis. In the case of newly-established enterprises whose accounts have not yet been approved, the data to apply shall be derived from a reliable estimate made in the course of the financial year (Definition, Article 4).

¹⁴ The data of the enterprise, including the headcount, are determined on the basis of the accounts and other data of the enterprise or, where they exist, the consolidated accounts of the enterprise, or the consolidated accounts in which the enterprise is included through consolidation.

ANNEX A

Partner enterprises

For each enterprise for which a 'partnership sheet' has been completed (one sheet for each partner enterprise of the applicant enterprise and for any partner enterprises of any linked enterprise, of which the data is not yet included in the consolidated accounts of that linked enterprise), the data in the 'partnership box' in question should be entered in the summary table below:

BOX A

Partner enterprise (name / identification)	Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (*)	Balance sheet total (*)
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
Total			

(*) EUR 1 000.

(attach sheets or expand the present table, if necessary)

Reminder:

This data is the result of a proportional calculation done on the 'partnership sheet' for each direct or indirect partner enterprise.

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 2 (regarding partner enterprises) of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

PARTNERSHIP SHEET

1. Specific identification of the applicant enterprise

Name or Business Name	
Address (or Registered office)	
Registration/ VAT number ¹⁵	
Names and titles of principal directors ¹⁶	

2. Raw data regarding that partner enterprise

Reference period			
	Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (*)	Balance sheet total (*)
Raw data			
(*) EUR 1 000.			

Reminder: These raw data are derived from the accounts and other data of the partner enterprise, consolidated if they exist. To those are added 100% of the data of enterprises which are linked to this partner enterprise, unless the accounts data of those linked enterprises are already included through consolidation in the accounts of the partner enterprise¹⁷. If necessary, add “linkage sheets” for the enterprises which are not yet included through consolidation.

3. Proportional calculation

- a) Precisely indicate the holding¹⁸ of the enterprise drawing up the declaration (or of the linked enterprise via which the relation to the partner enterprise is established) in the partner enterprise to which this sheet relates:

Also indicate the holding of the partner enterprise to which this sheet relates in the enterprise drawing up the declaration (or in the linked enterprise):

- b) The higher of these two holding percentages should be applied to the raw data entered in the previous box. The results of this proportional calculation should be given in the following table:

‘Partnership box’

¹⁵ To be determined by the Member State according to its needs

¹⁶ Chairman (CEO), Director-General or equivalent.

¹⁷ Definition, Article 6 paragraph 3, first sub-paragraph

¹⁸ In terms of the share of the capital or voting rights, whichever is higher. To this holding should be added the holding of each linked enterprise in the same enterprise (Definition, Article 3 paragraph 2 first sub-paragraph).

Percentage:	Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (*)	Balance sheet total (*)
Proportional results			
(*) EUR 1 000.			

These data should be entered in Box A in Annex A.

ANNEX B

Linked enterprises

DETERMINE THE CASE APPLICABLE TO THE APPLICANT ENTERPRISE:

☐ **Case 1:** The applicant enterprise draws up consolidated accounts or is included by consolidation in the consolidated accounts of another enterprise. (Box B(1))

☐ **Case 2:** The applicant enterprise or one or more of the linked enterprises do not establish consolidated accounts or are not included in the consolidated accounts. (Box B(2)).

Please note: The data of the enterprises, which are linked to the applicant enterprise, are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To them are aggregated proportionally the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included through consolidation¹⁹.

CALCULATION METHODS FOR EACH CASE:

In case 1: The consolidated accounts serve as the basis for the calculation. Fill in Box B(1) below.

Box B(1)			
	Headcount (*)	Annual turnover (**)	Balance sheet total (**)
Total			

(*) Where in the consolidated accounts no headcount data appears, the calculation of it is done by adding the data from the enterprises to which the enterprise in question is linked.

(**) EUR 1 000.

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 1 of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

Identification of the enterprises included through consolidation			
Linked enterprise (name / identification)	Address (of office) registered	Registration / VAT number (*)	Names and titles of the principal director(s) (**)
1.			
2.			

¹⁹ Definition, Article 6 paragraph 3, second sub-paragraph

Identification of the enterprises included through consolidation

Linked enterprise (name / identification)	Address (of registered office)	Registration / VAT number (*)	Names and titles of the principal director(s) (**)
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
Total			

(*) To be determined by the Member State according to its needs

(**) Chairman (CEO), Director-General or equivalent.

Important: Partner enterprises of such a linked enterprise, which are not yet included through consolidation, are treated like direct partners of the applicant enterprise. Their data and a 'partnership sheet' should therefore be added in Annex A.

In case 2: For each linked enterprise (including links via other linked enterprises), complete a "linkage sheet" and simply add together the accounts of all the linked enterprises by filling in Box B(2) below.

Box B(2)

Enterprise No.:	Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (**)	Balance sheet total (**)
1. (*)			
2. (*)			
3. (*)			
Total			

(*) attach one "linkage sheet" per enterprise

(**) EUR 1 000.

The data entered in the "Total" row of the above table should be entered in line 3 (regarding linked enterprises) of the table in the Annex to the declaration.

LINKAGE SHEET**(only for linked enterprises not included by consolidation in Box B)****1. Precise identification of the applicant enterprise**

Name or Business Name	
Address (or Registered office)	
Registration/ VAT number²⁰	
Names and titles of principal directors²¹	

2. Data on enterprise

Reference period			
	Headcount (AWU)	Annual turnover (*)	Balance sheet total (*)
Total			
(*) EUR 1 000.			

These data should be entered in Box B(2) in Annex B.

Important: The data of the enterprises, which are linked to the applicant enterprise, are derived from their accounts and their other data, consolidated if they exist. To them are aggregated proportionally the data of any possible partner enterprise of that linked enterprise, situated immediately upstream or downstream from it, unless it has already been included through consolidation²².

Such partner enterprises are treated like direct partner enterprises of the applicant enterprise. Their data and a 'partnership sheet' have therefore to be added in Annex A.

²⁰ To be determined by the Member State according to its needs

²¹ Chairman (CEO), Director-General or equivalent.

²² If the data of an enterprise are included in the consolidated accounts to a lesser proportion than the one determined under Article 6 paragraph 2, the percentage rate according to that article should be applied (Definition, Article 6 paragraph 3, second sub-paragraph).

2.6 Annex 6 – Sub-Grantee Agreement

Contracting parties

This **Agreement** ('the Agreement') is **between** the following parties:

On the one part,

_____ [Organisation name/ Individual name]
 established in _____, [Official address], VAT number
 _____, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by
 _____ [Name of legal representative],
 _____ [Position in the organisation], acting as Coordinator of the
 AID4SME Project consortium.

Hereinafter referred to as the “Coordinator”,

_____ [Organisation name/ Individual name]
 established in _____, [Official address], VAT number
 _____, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by
 _____ [Name of legal representative],
 _____ [Position in the organisation], acting as Treasurer of the FSTP
 funds of the AID4SME Project consortium AID4SMEconsortium. [IF RELEVANT]

Hereinafter referred to as the “Treasurer”,

And, on the other part,

_____ [Organisation name/ Individual name]
 established in _____, [Official address], VAT number
 _____, represented for the purposes of signing the Agreement by
 _____ [Name of legal representative],

Hereinafter referred to as the “Sub-Grantee”.

Hereinafter, all parties above are collectively referred to as the “Contracting Parties”

The Contracting Parties **HAVE AGREED** to the following terms and conditions including those in the following Annexes, which form an integral part of this Sub-Grant Agreement (hereinafter referred as the “Contract”).

General Provisions

The European Commission (hereinafter referred as the “EC”) and the Coordinator, as partner and representative of the AID4SME consortium, have signed the Grant Agreement no. 101189562 for the implementation of the AID4SME project – enabling SMEs to develop AI and DATA solutions through support of a Community of Practice and low-TRL and high-TRL playgrounds – within the framework of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

The AID4SME project is implemented by the Coordinator, as coordinator of the AID4SMEproject, in collaboration with the other AID4SMEpartners. The AID4SMEconsortium partners have among themselves entered into a written agreement detailing their respective rights and obligations towards each other for carrying out the AID4SMEproject and exploiting the results thereof (“the Consortium Agreement” or “CA”). The objective of AID4SMEis to provide the infrastructure and learning environment that enable the SMEs to solve the challenges, demonstrate solutions and grow into impactful enterprises. The technology blocks cover a wide area of AI & data technologies for the full cycle of data collection, creation of insights, decision support and automation.

The Sub-Grantee has been selected for funding under the Open Call 1 AID4SME Programme based on the positive evaluation of external evaluators.

This Contract aims at defining the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties with respect to the Sub-Grantee’s participation in the Open Call 1 AID4SME Programme.

The funding to be received by the Sub-Grantee is property of the EC. The Coordinator and Treasurer are mere holders and managers of the funds.

Article 1 - Entry into force and termination of the contract

Entry into force

This Contract will enter into force on the day of its signature by the last Contracting Party. The Coordinator and Treasurer will sign this contract only after all the following documents have been received from the Sub-Grantee:

- The original signed Declaration(s) of Honour
- SMEs Declaration form
- KYC (Know Your Customer) Form ([link](#))

Organisations:

- Copy of ID-card or Passport of legal representative(s) of the organization(s)
- Copy of the original Extract of organisation registration
- Proof of VAT registration

Natural Persons:

- Copy of ID-card or Passport of legal representative(s) of the organisation
- Proof of Address

The Sub-Grantee is requested to send all requested documents in a single e-mail and with adequate identification (e-mail subject): Open Call 1 AID4SME Programme– [Sub-project Acronym] documentation.

After receipt and validation of the documentation, the Sub-Grantee will receive a sub-grant agreement (contract) for signature. The sub-grantee agreement is non-negotiable.

The Sub-Grantee is solely responsible for the accuracy of all data provided.

The contact details of the Sub-Grantee for notices and communication under this contract are:

Name of contact person	
Address	
E-mail	
Telephone/ mobile phone	

Contract termination

This Contract will automatically terminate at the end of December 2026, which will happen when the Sub-Grantee has fulfilled all obligations in Article 2, except for those obligations that according to their content are intended to remain in effect, which keep their full force and effect (e.g., reporting on exploitation activities).

The Coordinator shall be entitled to terminate this Contract by written notice with immediate effect if the Sub-Grantee does not fulfil its obligations (see Article 3 - Breach of Contractual obligations).

Irrespective of the automatic termination of this Contract under present Article 1.2 or any early termination under Article 4, all obligations that according to their content are intended to be in effect for longer shall remain in effect.

Article 2 - Obligations and Responsibilities of the Sub-Grantee

The obligations and responsibilities are defined in detail in Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants.

Additionally, the Sub-Grantee shall take every necessary precaution to avoid any risk of conflict of interest relating to economic interests, political or national affinities, personal or any other interests liable to influence the impartial and objective performance of the sub-project. In case the Sub-Grantee is involved in a conflict of interest or in a risk of a conflict of interest, the Sub-Grantee must formally notify this situation to the Coordinator without delay and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

Furthermore, the Sub-Grantee shall provide true and accurate documentation and declarations as defined in Article 1.1.

Article 3 - Breach of contractual obligations

In the event of a breach of the contractual obligation's representations or warranties by the Sub-Grantee under this Contract, the Coordinator, in coordination with the AID4SME Consortium, reserves the right to terminate the Contract by written notice with immediate effect, even if such non-fulfilment is due to Force Majeure.

In the event of the breach of the contractual obligations by the Sub-Grantee, the Treasurer with the agreement of the Coordinator reserves the right of not fulfilling the respective payment to the Sub-Grantee. The Coordinator also reserves the right to claim a refund of any already paid funds, both in case of breach of contract and/or in case the work/costs are not approved by the EC.

The Coordinator will give written notice requiring that such breach to be remedied within 30 days.

In case the Sub-Grantee has not brought remedies from the notice, the Coordinator may decide to terminate the contract unilaterally.

Article 4 – Financial contribution and financial provisions

4.1 Maximum financial contribution

The maximum financial contribution to be granted to the Sub-Grantee shall not exceed the amount of **150,000 Euros**.

4.2 Distribution of the financial contribution

The financial contribution to be granted to the Sub-Grantee will be calculated and distributed in accordance with the provisions set in Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants.

The financial grant to be paid will always be subject to:

- Provision of a report and a favourable review by the AID4SME internal evaluation team responsible for assessing the sub-project in each of the stages.
- The payment will be made in 6 installments.

Stage	Amount
Plan	30%
Development	40%
Testing & Validation	10%
Solution Assessment & Business Plan	20%

TABLE 8: PAYMENT SCHEMA

Note: A non-favourable review of the work carried out at the end of any stage may lead to the early termination of the contract and suspension of payments.

- The prior notice to the Sub-Grantee of the date and amount to be transferred to its bank account providing the relevant references.
- Payments to the Sub-Grantee will be made by the Treasurer. In particular:
 - The Treasurer, with the agreement of the Coordinator, reserves the right to withhold the payments in case the Sub-Grantee does not fulfil its obligations and tasks as per Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants.
 - Banking and transaction costs related to the handling of any financial resources made available to the Sub-Grantee will be covered by the Sub-Grantee.
 - Payments will be released no later than thirty (30) calendar days after the notification by the Coordinator to the Sub-Grantee that the work and deliverable associated to a particular stage has been approved.

The Sub-Grantee is responsible for complying with any tax and legal obligations that might be attached to this Contract.

4.3 Payments schedule

The payment schedule is directly linked to the relevant stages of the sub-project according to Annex 1 - Guidelines for Applicants. The payment in each stage will be disbursed once all work related to a specific stage has received positive assessment, supported on the report submitted to the AID4SME team.

The financial contribution will be made to the Sub-Grantee by the Treasurer. During the contractual procedure, the Sub-Grantee will be asked to provide the respective bank account information to which the payments will be made.

The payment schedule (Table 2) is linked to the successful completion of specified milestones and KPIs established by the Sub-Grantee in its project proposal, which will be evaluated through a report (deliverable) submitted to AID4SME at the end of each stage as identified in Annex 1 – Guidelines for Applicants.

Checking the consistency between the estimated costs and resources and the expected work of the project will also be included in the evaluation process. If requested, the Sub-Grantee will have to present any documentation (financial and non-financial) for the costs claimed.

Stage	Amount	When ?
Plan	30%	M2*
Development	40%	20% at mid-stage*; 20% end-stage*
Testing & Validation	10%	end-stage*
Solution Assessment & Business Plan	20%	end-stage*

TABLE 9: PAYMENT SCHEDULE

* All the payments will be made after the deliverable review and approval.

The Sub-Grantee should submit to AID4SME the deliverable corresponding to each stage no later than ten (10) calendar days after the end of the respective stage, providing sufficient time for the AID4SME

consortium to review it. A review will be held between fifteen (15) to thirty (30) calendar days after the end of the stage so that the Contracting Parties can present their work and provide answers to questions from the AID4SME consortium partners.

The payments will be made to the Sub-Grantee subject to the receipt of an invoice or a filled out Financial Identification Form (FIF).²³ If the Sub-Grantee chooses to send an invoice, the invoice must include the following information:

Project xxx – Grant no. xxx

%PROGRAMME_NAME_NUMBER%

The Stage to which the payment is associated

Sub-Grantee information (e.g. sub-project acronym and Sub-Grantee name)

The invoice or the FIF is to be sent to the e-mail address informed by the treasurer in the early stages of the programme. Payments will only be initiated once the work has been approved. Payments will be made no later than thirty (30) calendar days after receipt of the invoice or FIF to the bank account of the Sub-Grantee. All payments will be made in Euros.

NOTE: If at any of the payment stages the AID4SME team considers that the quality of work demonstrated and/or reported does not correspond to what has been agreed, the two parties may agree to a resubmission of a deliverable and respective reassessment. If significant improvements are not delivered after the reassessment and the sub-project is therefore considered to be in breach of their contractual obligations, AID4SME reserves the right to terminate the contract as outlined in *Article 3 – Breach of contractual obligations*.

Article 5 – Liability

5.1 Liability of the Sub-Grantee

The Sub-Grantee shall fully and exclusively bear the risks in connection with the fulfilment of its tasks and obligations under this Contract. Except in case of force majeure (Article 8), the Sub-Grantee must compensate the Coordinator, the Treasurer and the EC for any damage they sustain because of the implementation of the obligations of the Sub-Grantee under this Contract or because the tasks and obligations of the Sub-Grantee were not implemented in full compliance with this Contract. This compensation is limited to the maximum funding limit (150,000€).

Accordingly, neither AID4SME consortium nor the EC can be held liable for any damage caused to the Sub-Grantee or to third parties because of implementing this Contract, including for gross negligence. At the same time, neither AID4SME consortium nor the EC can be held liable for any damage caused by the Sub-Grantee or third parties, because of implementing this Contract.

The Sub-Grantee shall bear sole responsibility for ensuring that its acts within the framework of this Contract do not infringe third parties' rights. There is no joint liability between the Contracting Parties. For this purpose, the Sub-Grantee shall indemnify and hold the Coordinator, the Treasurer and the EC harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs, charges, claims or damages which the Coordinator, the Treasurer or the EC as a result thereof would incur or suffer or must pay to the EC or any third parties. In addition, should the EC have a right of recovery against AID4SME consortium regarding any or all the

²³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/about_the_european_commission/eu_budget/fich_sign_ba_gb_en_0.pdf

financial support granted under this Contract, the Sub-Grantee shall repay the sums in question in the terms and on the date specified by the Coordinator.

5.2 Exclusions of liability

To the extent acceptable under applicable law, in no event shall the Coordinator or other AID4SMEconsortium partners be liable to the Sub-Grantee for loss or damage caused by the Coordinator or the AID4SMEconsortium partners, their employees, agents and subcontractors in connection with this Contract for any of the following, however caused or arising, on any theory of liability, and even if the Coordinator and/or any other AID4SMEconsortium partner were informed or aware of the possibility thereof:

- Loss of profits, revenue, income, interest, savings, shelf-space, production, and business.
- Opportunities; lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings.
- Loss of or damage to reputation or to data.
- Costs of recall of products.
- Any type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special, or consequential loss or damage.

In respect of any information or materials from the AID4SME consortium made available to the Sub-Grantee under this Contract, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given, or implied as to the sufficiency, error-free performance, or fitness for purpose, nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties. Therefore, in particular, but without limiting the foregoing:

- The Sub-Grantee shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials, and the consequences of such use, and
- Neither the Coordinator, the EC nor the other AID4SMEconsortium partners shall be liable vis-à-vis the Sub-Grantee in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from the Sub-Grantee's use of the information and material.

The exclusions and limitations stated in this Article and any other clause of this Contract that has as its object or effect the exclusion or limitation of liability, shall not apply in respect of any: fraud; death, injury to natural persons or damage to real or immovable property caused by the negligence or wilful act, wilful misconduct, wilful breach; or otherwise in so far as mandatory applicable law overrides such exclusions and limitations.

Article 6 - Confidentiality

6.1 Principles

Regarding all information of whatever nature or form as is disclosed between the Contracting Parties in connection with the Sub-project and identified in writing as confidential, the terms of this Article shall apply.

6.2 Obligations

All information, in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Contracting Party (the “Disclosing Party”) to the other Contracting Party (the “Recipient”) in connection with the implementation of the Open Call 1 AID4SME Programme and which has been explicitly marked as “confidential” at the time of disclosure, or, when disclosed orally, has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within 15 calendar days from oral disclosure (at the latest) as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is “Confidential Information”.

The Recipient hereby accepts, in addition and without prejudice to any commitment on nondisclosure towards the EC, for a period of 5 (five) years after the end of the Sub-Grantee Agreement:

- Not to use Confidential Information other than for the purpose for which it was disclosed.
- Not to disclose Confidential Information without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party.
- To ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis.
- To return to the Disclosing Party, or destroy, on demand, all Confidential Information that has been disclosed to the Recipient, including all copies and to delete all information stored in a machine-readable form to the extent practically possible. The Recipient may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive, or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable laws and regulations or for the proof of on-going obligations provided that the Recipient complies with the confidentiality obligations herein contained with respect to such copy for as long as the copy is retained.

The Recipient shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of their employees, or third parties involved in the implementation of Open Call 1 AID4SME Programme and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end hereof and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party. The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care regarding the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the project as with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care. Each Contracting Party shall promptly advise the other Contracting Party in writing of any unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorised disclosure, misappropriation, or misuse.

6.3 Exceptions to the obligation of confidentiality

The information above (Article 6.2) shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- The Confidential Information has become or becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations.
- The Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential.
- The Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidentiality by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party.
- The disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement.
- The Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party.
- The Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure.
- Disclosure of the Confidential Information follows mandatory applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order.

6.4 Authorised disclosure(s)

If any Party becomes aware that it will be required, or is likely to be required, to disclose Confidential Information to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it will, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so under the laws and legislation applicable to said Party, prior to any such disclosure:

- Notify the Disclosing Party, and
- Comply with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information.

The AID4SMECoordinator's disclosure of Confidential Information to the EC and/or the other AID4SMEconsortium partners shall be governed exclusively by the terms of the Grant Agreement and/or the Consortium Agreement.

Accordingly, nothing in this Contract shall prevent the AID4SMECoordinator from complying with its obligations, including its reporting obligations, towards the EC and the other AID4SMEconsortium partners, and any such disclosures shall be subject to the terms of the Grant Agreement or Consortium Agreement.

Likewise, the Sub-Grantee agrees and acknowledges that the EC shall be entitled to disclose Confidential Information to its staff, other EU institutions and bodies or third parties, if:

- This is necessary to implement the Grant Agreement or safeguard the EU's financial interests.
- The recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

Article 7 – Intellectual property rights

The Sub-Grantee acknowledges that all tools, modules and similar of the AID4SME partners are proprietary and owned by the respective AID4SME partner or applicable third party.

Nothing in this Contract shall transfer to the Sub-Grantee or other partners it represents any license or other rights for the use of the tools, modules and similar that are property of an AID4SME partner, unless a specific agreement is established.

The results developed during the sub-project shall be exclusively the property of the Sub-Grantee and/or Partner. This does not exclude the possibility for specific agreements to be made between the Sub-Grantee and one or more of the partners of AID4SME Project

Article 8 – Force Majeure

“Force Majeure” means any unforeseeable exceptional situation or event beyond the Contracting Parties control, which prevents either of them from fulfilling any of their obligations under the Agreement, which was not attributable to error or negligence on their part, and which proves to be inevitable despite the exercising of all due diligence.

Any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of Force Majeure, as well as labour disputes, strikes or financial difficulties cannot be invoked as Force Majeure.

The Contracting Parties shall take the necessary measures to limit any damage due to Force Majeure. They shall do their best to resume the implementation of the action as soon as possible.

No Contracting Party shall be in breach of its obligations and tasks if such a breach is caused by Force Majeure. A Contracting Party will notify the other Contracting Party of any Force Majeure as soon as possible. In case the Sub-Grantee is not able to overcome the consequences of Force Majeure within thirty calendar (30) days after such notification, the AID4SME Coordinator will decide accordingly, including the termination of the Contract.

Article 9 - Information and communication

9.1 Information and communication towards the EC

The Sub-Grantee shall, throughout the duration of the sub-project, take appropriate measures to engage with the public and the media about the sub-project and **to highlight the financial support of the EC and the AID4SME project.**

Unless the EC requests otherwise, any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment, and major results must:

- Specify that the sub-project has received funding from the EC through the AID4SME project.
- Display the European emblem along with the AID4SME logo. When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Sub-Grantee is exempt from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem.

- Specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC and the AID4SME Consortium is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. The following text should be used:

"The [sub-project acronym] has indirectly received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe programme, via the Open Call 1 AID4SME Programme issued and executed under the AID4SME project (Grant Agreement no. 101189562)."

The Coordinator, the AID4SME consortium, and/or the EC shall be authorised to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- The name of the Sub-Grantee.
- Contact address of the Sub-Grantee.
- The general purpose of the sub-project (publishable summary, etc.)
- The amount of the financial contribution of the EC foreseen for the sub-project. after the final payment, the amount and rate of the financial contribution of the EC accepted by the EC.
- The estimated amount and rate of the financial contribution of the EC foreseen for the Sub-Grantee in the table of the estimated breakdown of budget.
- The geographic location of the activities carried out.
- The list of dissemination activities and/or of patent (applications) relating to foreground.
- The publishable reports submitted (technical reports are excluded, since they are confidential).
- Any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC in the framework of the Sub-project.

The Sub-Grantee shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the AID4SME Coordinator, the AID4SME consortium partners, or EC does not infringe any rights of third parties.

Upon a duly supported request by the Coordinator on behalf of the Sub-Grantee, the EC may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the Sub-Grantee's security, academic or commercial interests.

9.2 Information and communication among the Contracting Parties

Any notice to be given under this Contract shall be in writing to the addresses and recipients listed above. Any change of persons or contact details shall be notified immediately to the AID4SME Coordinator. The address list shall be made accessible to all parties concerned.

Article 10 - Checks and reviews

The EC may, at any time during the implementation of the sub-project and up to five years after the end of the sub-project, arrange for a check and review to be carried out, by external auditors, or by the EC services themselves, including the European Anti-Fraud office (OLAF). The procedure shall be deemed to be initiated on the date of receipt of the relevant letter sent by the EC.

There will be no financial checks, reviews, or audits to check costs, since beneficiaries have no obligation to document the costs incurred for the action. Checks, reviews, and audits will focus on the technical implementation of the action.

The Sub-Grantee shall make available directly to the EC (through the coordinator) all information and data that may be requested by the EC or any representative authorised by it, in view of verifying that the Grant Agreement is properly managed and performed in accordance with its provisions.

The Sub-Grantee shall keep the originals or, in exceptional cases, duly authenticated copies (including electronic copies) of all documents related to the Grant Agreement for up to five years from the end of the sub-project. These shall be made available to the EC when requested during any check under the Grant Agreement.

To carry out these checks, the Sub-Grantee shall ensure that the EC's services and any external body(ies) authorised by it have on-the-spot access at all reasonable times, notably to the Sub-Grantee's offices, to its computer data, and to all the information needed to carry out those checks. They shall ensure that the information is readily available on the spot during an audit and, if so requested, that data be handed over in an appropriate form.

Based on the findings made during the check, a provisional report shall be drawn up. It shall be sent by the EC or its authorised representative to the Sub-Grantee concerned, which may make observations thereon within one month of receiving it. The EC may decide not to take into account observations conveyed or documents sent after that deadline. The final report shall be sent to the Sub-Grantee concerned within two months of expiry of the aforesaid deadline.

Based on the conclusions of the check, the EC shall take all appropriate measures which it considers necessary, including the issuing of recovery orders regarding all or part of the payments made by it and the application of any applicable sanction.

The European Court of Auditors shall have the same rights as the EC, notably right of access, for the purpose of checks and audits, without prejudice to its own rules.

In addition, the EC may carry out on-the-spot checks and inspections in accordance with Council Regulation (Euratom, EC) No 2185/96 of 11 November 1996 concerning on-the-spot checks and inspections carried out by the EC to protect the European Communities' financial interests against fraud and other irregularities.

Article 11 – Data protection

The Contracting Parties have the obligation to abide by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

Each Contracting Party shall each be considered a separate and independent data controller, as defined in the GDPR, to every other Contracting Party. The processing of personal data shall be carried out lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner, collected for specific purposes and adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which it is processed. Where it might be designated by a relevant Supervisory Authority or through agreement between Contracting Parties that the AID4SMECoordinator and any other AID4SMEconsortium partners are appointed as data processors, parties shall enter into appropriate data processing agreements as required by the GDPR.

The Sub-Grantee acknowledges that the AID4SMECoordinator and any other AID4SMEconsortium partners, if appointed as data processors, are not responsible for the Sub-Grantee's compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to the Sub-Grantee. Each of the Contracting Parties, in their respective roles as data controllers, will be responsible for their own compliance with any data protection or privacy law applicable to them as data controller.

Article 12 - Obligations imposed by the Grant Agreement to the Sub-Grantee

The Sub-Grantee receives funding from the European Commission for carrying out the sub-project [sub-project acronym]. Under the Grant Agreement or the Consortium Agreement, some of the obligations must be imposed on the Sub-Grantee. Those obligations are reflected in this Agreement. The specific obligations that the Sub-Grantee must ensure are described in the Multi-Sub-Grantee General Model Grant Agreement²⁴²⁵ in articles 12, 13, 17, 25 and 33. These articles are included in this Contract and are fully applicable to the Sub-Grantee.

The Sub-Grantee acknowledges and agrees that these obligations comprised in this Agreement and the above-mentioned obligations of the Multi-Sub-Grantee General Model are fully applicable to it.

Article 13 - Miscellaneous

Should any provision of this Contract be or become invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, it shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Contract. In such a case, the Contracting Parties shall be entitled to request that a valid, legal, enforceable, and practicable replacement provision be negotiated which fulfils the purpose of the original provision.

²⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

²⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/agr-contr/general-mga_horizon-euratom_en.pdf

The Sub-Grantee shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Coordinator or any other AID4SME consortium partner, and nothing in this Contract shall be deemed to constitute a joint venture, agency, partnership, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Contracting Parties or between the Sub-Grantee and any AID4SME consortium partner.

No rights or obligations of the Sub-Grantee arising from this Contract may be assigned or transferred, in whole or in part, and no obligations of the Sub-Grantee may be sub-contracted, without the Coordinator's prior formal written approval; and such approval shall not exempt the Sub-Grantee from any of its obligations hereunder.

Although (with exception to the Coordinator and the Treasurer) the AID4SME consortium partners and their affiliated entities are not Contracting Parties to this Contract, they are intended by the Contracting Parties to be third party beneficiaries under this Contract and accordingly shall be entitled to enforce the terms of this Contract against the Sub-Grantee and (without limitation) shall be entitled to the benefit of, and to enforce any exclusion or limitation of liability of the AID4SME consortium partners contained in this Contract and any indemnity in favour of the AID4SME consortium partners contained in this Contract.

Amendments and modifications to the text of this Agreement require a separate written agreement to be signed between all Parties. Although this Contract refers to the provisions of the CA and GA, the Sub-Grantee is not a party to the CA or GA but only bound towards the Coordinator by the CA and GA provisions as referred or reproduced in this Contract.

This Contract is drawn up in English language which shall govern all documents, notices, meetings, and processes relative thereto.

Article 14 - Applicable Law

This Contract shall be construed in accordance with and governed by the laws of Belgium

Article 15 - Settlement of disputes

If the Contracting Parties are unable to resolve a dispute amicably, such dispute will be finally settled under the Rules of Arbitration of the International Chamber of Commerce by three (3) arbitrators in Belgium.

Each of the Contracting Parties to the dispute shall appoint one (1) arbitrator and the two (2) arbitrators so appointed shall elect the presiding arbitrator. Should a Party to the dispute which should appoint an arbitrator fails to do so within fourteen (14) days of the delivery of the written notice to do so from the other Party to the dispute or should the appointed arbitrators fail to reach agreement on the presiding arbitrator within fourteen (14) days after their appointment, such arbitrator shall be appointed in accordance with the Rules upon request of any of the Parties to the dispute.

The seat of arbitration shall be Belgium.

The Contracting Parties agree that the language of the arbitration, including oral hearings, written evidence, and correspondence shall be English.

A duly rendered arbitration award shall be final and binding on the Contracting Parties to the dispute. Each Contracting Party to the arbitration conducted in accordance with this section hereof shall bear its own expenses incurred in connection with such arbitration, including fees of its legal counsels. All other costs and expenses shall be apportioned between the Contracting Parties to the arbitration in accordance with the decision of the arbitrators.

Nothing in this Contract shall limit the Contracting Parties right to seek injunctive relief or to enforce an arbitration award in any applicable competent court of law.

Article 16 – No double funding

By signing this Agreement, the Sub-Grantee declares to be aware of the fundamental principle underpinning the rules for public expenditure in the EU that no costs for the same activity be funded twice from the EU budget, as defined in the Article 111 of Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No. 1605/2002 of 25 June 2002 on the Financial Regulation, and confirms that all the work performed under AID4SME (Grant Agreement no. 101189562) will be done exclusively in the scope of this programme, not being supported or funded by any other European Commission programme.

AS WITNESS:

The Contracting Parties have caused this Contract to be duly signed by the undersigned authorised representatives in three copies the day and year first above written:

For XXX (AID4SME Consortium Representative) Mr/Ms [NAME SURNAME] [POSITION IN ORGANISATION] Signature	For XXXX (Treasurer) Mr/Ms [NAME SURNAME] [POSITION IN COMPANY] Signature
Done at [] on DD/MM/202Y	Done at [] on DD/MM/202Y
For [] [organisation/ individual name] (the Sub-Grantee) Mr/Ms [NAME SURNAME] [POSITION IN ORGANISATION] Signature	
Done at [] on DD/MM/202Y	

3 Conclusions

The Open Call 1 will be carried out in June 2025 until September 2025 to select 13 projects. The open call will follow a general framework (Figure 1) that involves Publishing & Promotion, Evaluation, Contracting and Deployment. This deliverable contains the documents (open call kit) that support the application. The open call kit documents is comprised of 6 annexes.

The complete outcomes of the open call will be reported in **D2.5** Open call reports for OC1 and **D2.7** Analytics on the submitted proposals for OC1. Both deliverables will be submitted in M10.