EIC

Ad hoc grants &

Fast Track scheme
Projects funded through EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition, including projects funded under the EIC pilot, are eligible (under certain conditions):

- To receive additional Ad hoc grants
- To submit an Accelerator proposal via the Fast Track scheme.
Why?

Ad hoc grants:
- ILP and phase1 instrument not existing anymore in Horizon Europe
- Opportunities or needs may appear throughout the project life cycle
- Portfolio activities not always easy or possible to determine ex ante.

Fast Track scheme
- Existing projects passed already an evaluation and
- their results were reviewed by independent experts (including IR)
EIC
Ad hoc grants
(Annex 6 of the EIC WP)
Ad hoc grants: What is it?

• An additional opportunity available according to EIC Work Programme

• It offers the possibility for the EIC to proactively support as needed:

1. the assessment of innovation potentially and/or commercial feasibility of promising project results.

2. reinforce the coordination and management of a Portfolio via portfolio activities.
Can you apply? Who is eligible for an ad hoc grant?

The **grant holders** of projects funded under the following calls are eligible to apply for ad hoc grants:

- EIC Pathfinder calls
- Eligible EIC pilot Pathfinder (FET-Open and FET-Proactive) calls*
- EIC Transition calls

EIC grant holders, after discussion with a Programme Manager or following a project review, can apply for such an ad hoc grant (not subject to any call)

* See EIC Work Programme, Section II.1
What support is provided under the ad hoc grant?

An ad hoc grant consists of a fixed amount of **up to EUR 50 000**.

- **Pathfinder projects**: a maximum of **three ad hoc grants** can be awarded (more in exceptional and duly justified cases)
- **Transition projects**: a maximum of **one ad hoc grant** can be awarded

Any such ad hoc grant can be awarded to an individual grant holder or a group of grant holders.

The funding rate of this grant is **100% of the eligible costs**.
What support is the ad hoc grant for?

- Activities to explore potential pathways to commercialization:
  - definition of a commercialisation process;
  - market and competitiveness analysis;
  - technology assessment;
  - verification of innovation potential;
  - consolidation of IP rights;
  - business case development;
  - exploratory / preparatory work for creating start-ups or spin-offs

- Portfolio activities could include, but are not limited to:
  - defining common objectives and activities;
  - building synergies within the portfolio and with any outside relevant partners;
  - engaging strategic partners to overcome common challenges;
  - (co)-organising events;
  - maximising data sharing;
  - raising visibility of the portfolio’s community and the EIC.
How the request for an ad hoc grant is assessed (1/2)?

Each application will be assessed taking into account the following considerations:

• For activities to explore potential pathways to commercialization:
  - Timeliness and pertinence of the activities proposed (Excellence)
  - Potential of the proposed deep-tech innovation to create new market or to solve pressing societal needs / problems (Impact)
  - Expertise, capabilities and motivation of the applicants to take this innovation forward to the market (Quality and efficiency of implementation)
How the request for an ad hoc grant is assessed (2/2)?

• For portfolio activities:
  - Contribution of the activity to the objectives of the portfolio (Excellence)
  - Timeliness of the activity proposed to maximize its impact (Impact)
  - Engagement of portfolio’s projects and relevant external partners (Quality and efficiency of implementation).

• The final decision will be motivated and communicated to the grant holders and the Programme Committee

• Grant preparation might take into account adjustments proposed by the EIC Programme Manager.
# Ad hoc grants - Summary table

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<tr>
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<th><strong>Ad hoc grant</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Total budget</strong></td>
<td>Max. 1% of the Pathfinder and Transition call budget</td>
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| **Proposals (indicative)** | Up to €50 000  
- For Pathfinder projects: max. 3 ad hoc grants  
(>3 in exceptional and duly justified cases)  
- For Transition projects: max. 1 ad hoc grant                                                                                           |
| **Funding rate**       | 100% of eligible costs                                                                                                                        |
| **Opening**            | -                                                                                                                                              |
| **Deadline**           | Not applicable                                                                                                                               |
| **Length of proposal** | Not applicable                                                                                                                               |
| **Applicants**         | No specific requirement: either an individual grant holder or a group of grant holders.                                                        |
EIC

Fast Track scheme
(Annex 4 of the EIC WP)
The **Fast Track scheme to apply for EIC Accelerator** provides for a specific treatment of applications that result from existing Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020 projects and projects from some other programmes.

It is:

- a **novelty** under Horizon Europe
- a **specific process** to apply for the EIC Accelerator
To whom the Fast Track scheme applies?

The following funding bodies and schemes are eligible for the Fast Track:

- The EIC Pathfinder and Transition projects (including under EIC pilot)*
- The ERC Executive Agency for Proof of Concept
- The Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)
- The Eureka secretariat for SMEs supported under the Eurostars-2 Joint Programme and the Partnership on Innovative SMEs.

* See EIC Work Programme, Section II.1
How does the Fast Track scheme work?

Under this scheme, applicants do not apply directly to the EIC Accelerator call.

Instead:

• a project review is carried out by the responsible funding body to assess the innovation or market deployment potential of an existing project in order to decide whether the project is suitable for support under the EIC Accelerator.

• if the project review concludes that required conditions are met, the responsible funding body can submit the outcome of the project review to the EIC Accelerator.

• the applicant prepares a full application for the EIC Accelerator within 12 months from the review (cut-off dates to be respected).

• the full application is then assessed, as all other full applications, according to the Accelerator rules.
How the project review is conducted?

The first step of the Fast Track scheme is the project review, implemented by the funding body responsible for the programme. The project review must be conducted using:

- equivalent award criteria as set out for the short application stage of the EIC Accelerator
- equivalent evaluation processes guaranteeing an independent assessment of proposals
What conditions the project shall meet?

In order to submit a full application via the Fast Track scheme, the project review concludes that:

• the proposal meets the two first criteria of the EIC Accelerator (excellence and impact),
• there is no duplication of funding of activities to be supported under the EIC Accelerator with the existing grant
• the applicant meets the eligibility criteria for the EIC Accelerator.
Thank you!

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Evaluation criteria for short application: Excellence

• **Breakthrough and market creating nature**: Does the innovation have a high degree of novelty – compared to existing products, services and business models – with the potential to create or significantly disrupt markets?

• **Timing**: Is the timing right for this innovation in terms of market, user, societal or scientific technological trends and developments?
Evaluation criteria for short application: Impact

• **Scale-up potential**: Does the innovation have scale up potential, including the potential to develop new markets and impact on the growth of the company? Are the associated financial needs well assessed and realistic?

• **Broader impact**: Will the innovation, if successfully commercialized, achieve broader societal, economic, environmental or climate impacts?
Art. 43(3) to (5) of the Rules for Participation

- Par3): Proposals shall be evaluated on their individual merit by external independent experts and selected in the context of a continuously open call with cut-off dates, based on Articles 24 to 26, subject to paragraph 4.
- Par4): Award criteria shall be: (a) excellence; (b) impact; (c) the level of risk of the action that would prevent investments, the quality and efficiency of the implementation, and the need for Union support.
- Par5): With the agreement of applicants concerned, the Commission or funding bodies implementing Horizon Europe (including EIT's KICs) may directly submit for evaluation under the last award criterion a proposal for an innovation and market deployment action which already fulfils the first two criteria, subject to the following cumulative conditions:
Art. 43(3) to (5) of the Rules for Participation

• .....the first two criteria, subject to the following cumulative conditions:

• (a) the proposal shall stem from any other action funded by Horizon 2020, from this Programme; or, subject to a pilot in the first Horizon Europe work programme, from national and/or regional programmes, starting with the mapping of the demand for such a scheme. Detailed provisions shall be laid down in the Specific Programme.

• (b) be based on a previous project review not longer than 2 years ago assessing the excellence and the impact of the proposal and subject to conditions and processes further detailed in the work programme.