



InnoMatch

Powered by EIC Innovation Procurement Programme

For immediate release

InnoMatch Launches Open Call for EIC Awardees to Pilot Innovative Solutions with Public or Private Buyers

Lisbon, 16 January 2025

InnoMatch, a key project of the European Innovation Council (EIC) Innovation Procurement Programme, announces the launch of its first open call, **the OCI EIC Awardee + Buyer**, to support the pilot testing or proof-of-concept of innovative solutions developed by EIC Awardees with public and private procurement customers (Buyers).

Committed to helping innovators deploy their solutions and buyers to solve their current unmet needs, this open call will offer **up to €60,000 in funding**, per pilot, for up to 20 pilots or proof-of-concepts. Selected applicants will participate in the 12-month InnoMatch Programme, receiving support to implement their solutions and maximize their impact.

To ensure pilot success, the **InnoMatch Programme** incorporates a three-stage process:

- Prepare phase (up to 2 months): Sub-Grant Agreement (SGA) and an Action Plan preparation. The Action Plan to be developed together with the committed Buyer.
- Deploy phase (up to 6 months): Official start of the pilot implementation: pilots to be conducted within the services or premises of the Buyer, and with the support from a dedicated team on the Buyer's side.
- Assess phase (up to 4 months): Preparation of a Validation Report: evaluation of the success of each pilot, the KPI fulfillment. With the involvement of the Buyer.

The program aims to produce validated, market-ready innovative solutions with potential to be successfully commercialized and adopted

By participating in the InnoMatch program, EIC Awardees gain access to early-stage customers and receive valuable support to navigate market entry challenges and accelerate their growth. Simultaneously, Buyers have the unique opportunity to evaluate cutting-edge solutions tailored to their specific innovation needs at no cost. This collaborative approach fosters efficient innovation adoption while mitigating procurement risks for both parties.



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The OC1 EIC Awardee + Buyer is sector agnostic, applicants can apply with solutions from any sector, including: Agriculture, Food, and Beverage; Construction, Infrastructure, and Manufacturing; Digital Transformation; Energy, Water Environment, Sustainability, and Mobility; Health and Life Sciences; Security, Safety, and Dual Industries.

Submissions can be made by the EIC Awardee, in the name of the pair (EIC Awardee + Buyer), **until 17 April 2025 by 17:00 CET.**

About InnoMatch:

InnoMatch is powered by the EIC Innovation Procurement Programme, an initiative of the European Innovation Council (EIC), that aims to facilitate access to procurement markets in Europe and at the global level, ensuring increased market opportunities for innovative SMEs and start-ups and contributing, at the same time, to their scaling up.

Finding first customers is one of the main barriers that is hampering access to market and commercialisation of innovative solutions developed by innovative SMEs. To facilitate the uptake of innovation procurement, InnoMatch will support the pilot testing of innovative solutions provided by the EIC Awardees for public and private procurement customers (Buyers). In total, €2.28M will be offered in the context of the InnoMatch to support at least 38 pilots, covering up to €60,000 per pilot.

Contact:

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