

**For immediate release**

## **InnoMatch Launches Open Call for Public and Private Buyers**

Lisbon, 7 February 2025

InnoMatch, a key project of the European Innovation Council (EIC) Innovation Procurement Programme, announces the launch of its second open call, **the Open Call for Public and Private Buyers**, dedicated to support the buyers address their unmet needs by providing access to top-notch suppliers with innovative solutions to solve the buyer's challenges.

With the goal to support the challengers, this open call will grant buyers the opportunity to test innovation free of charge by providing **up to €60,000** in funding to the supplier to test their solution alongside the buyer.

Selected applicants will feed their challenges in a future upcoming call dedicated to EIC Awardees.

After a solver is identified, the selected applicants, from the Open Call for Public and Private Buyers, will participate in the InnoMatch Programme: Prepare, Deploy and Assess Programme. This will allow guidance and monitorization of pilot projects between selected buyers and EIC Awardees.

The **InnoMatch Programme** incorporates a three-stage process:

- Prepare phase: each pilot team works with an assigned mentor to create a joint Action Plan outlining objectives, KPIs, milestones, and deployment timelines.
- Deploy phase: pilots are executed at the Lead Buyer's site with bi-monthly check-ins and progress reporting to ensure KPIs are met and challenges addressed.
- Assess phase: evaluates pilot outcomes and produces reports and sustainability plans for long-term success. The InnoMatch consortium provides ongoing support for solution adoption and customer engagement, ensuring effective collaboration.

By participating in the InnoMatch program, buyers can address, free of charge, a relevant challenge in collaboration with a top-notch supplier. Additionally, they can access innovation procurement resources, test before investing innovative solutions, count with expert support to identify your needs and maximise impact & growth.

The Open Call for Public and Private Buyers This open call is dedicated to the five thematic areas of the EIC BAS Innovation Procurement Programme:

- Agriculture, Food & Beverages
- Construction, Infrastructure, Manufacturing
- Digital Transformation and AI
- Energy, Environment, Sustainability
- Health and Life Sciences

Submissions can be made by the buyer individually or as a group of buyers **until 8 May 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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