# EIC WORK PROGRAMME 2026

European Innovation Council

## What's in it for companies?

### EASY APPLICATION PROCESS

- *Submit short application anytime via the funding portal for feedback in 4-6 weeks.*
- *6 batch dates for full applications.*
- *Best full proposals are invited to pitch to a live expert jury*

### EIC BUSINESS ACCELERATION SERVICES

*Boost your growth with:*

- ***Contracts**: customers and investors*
- ***Contacts**: community and access to experts*
- ***Skills**: mentoring and educational programme*

### EIC ACCELERATOR

*Funding for commercialisation and scale-up*

| | million |
|---|---|
| | €634 |
| OPEN | €414 |
| CHALLENGES | €220 |
| GRANTS PER COMPANY | max €2.5 |
| EQUITY INVESTMENT PER COMPANY | max €10 |

**Batches**
7.01.2026 | 4.03.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 8.07.2026 | 2.09.2026 | 4.11.2026

**FROM TRL 6 TO TRL9**

### STEP SCALE-UP

*Equity investments to catalyse larger investments rounds of €50 million or above to companies with pre-commitments from investors*

| | million |
|---|---|
| | €300 |
| INVESTMENT | max €30 |

**Open: batches**
11.02.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 9.09.2026 | 25.11.2026

NEW SCHEME

### EIC ADVANCED INNOVATION CHALLENGES

*To support high-risk, demand-driven deep tech innovation with transformative potential especially in areas where there is extensive research but lack of commercial uptake.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2026 | €6m | 26.02.2026 |
| 2027 | €25m | 18.06.2027 |

- First stage grants up to €0.3m
- Follow-up grant up to €2.5m

# EIC ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES

EIC Accelerator Challenges target the following specific technologies and innovations of strategic interest for the Union:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems** | ▶ For start-ups/SMEs to design, scale up, and produce advanced materials improving performance (and sustainability) for renewable energy generation, harvesting and storage systems. | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€50 m** |
| 2 | **Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants** | ▶ Supporting SMEs/startups innovating in fusion energy technologies: components, materials, alternative reactor designs, lasers, etc., to move toward commercially viable fusion power. | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€20 m** |
| 3 | **Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils** | ▶ Deep-tech biotech to restore soil health: bioremediation, soil microbiome, renewable fertilizers, etc., to enhance soils' fertility and sustainability across agriculture. | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€50 m** |
| 4 | **Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain** | ▶ Enhancing Europe's capacity to explore, extract, process, recycle, or utilise critical / strategic raw materials sustainably, to reduce dependence and improve circularity. | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€50 m** |
| 5 | **Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation** | ▶ Scaling up deep-tech innovations (nature-based, engineering, digital, AI etc.) to help Europe adapt to climate risks: extreme heat, water scarcity, floods, etc. | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€50 m** |

# EIC ADVANCED INNOVATION CHALLENGES

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Accelerating Physical AI:** Embodied Intelligence for the Next Frontier of AI-Powered Robotics | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€3 m** |
| 2 | **Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into Practice** | INDICATIVE BUDGET **€3 m** |

APPLY NOW
eic.ec.europa.eu

Publications Office of the European Union

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