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Call for proposals Evolution of RIS Innovation

Slovak edition (EVO-R Slovakia)

EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X – Fund

EIT MANUFACTURING EAST



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1. Call summary

This document provides the applicants with detailed information on the Evolution of RIS Innovation – Slovak edition (EVO-R Slovakia) call for proposals that is one of the activities under the EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X Fund, a joint initiative of EIT Manufacturing East GmbH and the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatization of the Slovak Republic.

Main Features of the Call for Proposals:	
Dates	Call opening: 10 March 2025 Deadline for applications: 7 May 2025 Eligibility and admissibility check: 14 May 2025 Evaluation of applications: 21 May 2025 Communication of results: 21 May 2025 Implementation period: 1 June – 31 December 2025
Introduction	EVO-R Slovakia supports activities undertaking innovative small-scale manufacturing solutions from the demonstration stage (TRL 7) through to market uptake (TRL 8-9). The grant is awarded to activities and/or individuals in Slovakia that aim to scale up into European and global markets.
Duration of the project	7 months
Total budget allocated to this call	80.000 EUR
Link to the submission portal	The Submittable platform will be available as of 12.00 CET
Documents to be submitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application form available on the Submittable platform• Financial Plan annex to be attached to the application form
Documents to take into consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda• Eligibility of expenditures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Declaration of Honour• Financial Support Agreement
Evaluation criteria	<p><i>Evaluation criteria assessed by the expert evaluators:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Excellence, novelty, and innovation.• Impact.• Quality and efficiency of the implementation, including sound financial management.• Strategic fit.

2. General conditions

Manufacturing innovations promise to transform every aspect of manufacturing businesses — from design, research and development, and production to supply chain and logistics management, sales, marketing, and even end-of-life management. These innovations enable highly intelligent, information-driven factories and distributed business models that can rapidly adapt to change and deliver entirely new, customized smart products and services.

EIT Manufacturing's mission is to support innovation by bridging the gap between knowledge generated at universities and research institutes and its practical application in industry. We champion innovation activities focused on launching and scaling demonstrated breakthrough solutions with significant business growth potential. EIT Manufacturing is committed to fostering innovative solutions from individuals and start-ups to advance a more sustainable manufacturing sector.

The EIT Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) is a key component of EIT Manufacturing's strategy. It is designed as a long-term initiative to strengthen national and regional innovation ecosystems in countries classified as moderate and modest innovators. By transferring best practices and expertise, the scheme aims to enhance their innovation capacity and foster sustainable growth.

EIT Manufacturing recognizes the importance of supporting innovations originating in RIS countries such as Slovakia and enabling them to succeed in European and global markets. By facilitating international market entry for these innovations, EIT Manufacturing bolsters national and regional innovation ecosystems, strengthens the resilience of the European economy against future challenges, and contributes to a more innovative, competitive, and sustainable Europe.

This call is made possible through the support of the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatization of the Slovak Republic, in collaboration with EIT Manufacturing East GmbH under the joint program, **EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X Fund**. This initiative focuses on financing activities that advance digital transformation processes in Slovakia, aligning with the Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Slovak Republic 2021–2027.

3. Call specific conditions

3.1. Call thematic and expected results

Purpose

EVO-R Slovakia supports initiatives aimed at advancing innovative small-scale manufacturing solutions from the demonstration stage (TRL 7) to market adoption (TRL 8–9). The grant targets activities and individuals in Slovakia who aspire to scale their solutions to European and global markets.

Through programs like the **EIT Manufacturing – Slovakia – X Fund**, the initiative facilitates the transfer of best practices and expertise to support digital transformation and drive innovation. By aligning with the **Research and Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization of the Slovak Republic 2021–2027**, this program empowers Slovak innovations to compete internationally, contributing to a more innovative, competitive, and sustainable manufacturing sector.

Topic Description

The proposed solution should align with at least one of the EIT Manufacturing Flagship areas:

- **Flexible Production Systems for Competitive Manufacturing**

Emerging technologies enable nearly limitless flexibility in product design and production, facilitating full customization.

- **Low Environmental Footprint Systems & Circular Economy for Green Manufacturing**

New technologies reducing resource, energy, and material consumption in production systems, enabling innovative circular business models.

- **Digital & Collaborative Solutions for Innovative Manufacturing Ecosystems**

Collaboration and business on digital platforms and value networks empower companies to create new, highly efficient value chains.

- **Human-Machine Co-Working for Socially Sustainable Manufacturing**

Smart integration of automation and robotics enhances workplaces, supports flexible production, and promotes sustainable human work.

In your applications, please ensure the following:

- **Approach for Advancing Research Results:** Present a clear plan for developing research outcomes into commercially viable small-scale products or services. Applicants must have a prototype at TRL 7 and demonstrate a concrete strategy for advancing it to TRL 8–9.
- **Intellectual Property Management:** Highlight your approach to intellectual property

protection and ownership, ensuring effective management of intellectual property rights and addressing the potential for commercial exploitation, commonly referred to as "freedom to operate."

- **Business Plan:** Provide a detailed business plan outlining the market potential, business opportunities, and specific measures to maximize the chances of commercial success.
- **Impact on Competitiveness and Growth:** Specify the expected impact on competitiveness and growth, including metrics such as projected turnover and job creation.
- **Comprehensive Impact Analysis:** Offer a thorough description of the anticipated impact, both qualitative and quantitative. Consider factors such as time sensitivity, international competitiveness, and relevance to the technology field, innovation area, and industry sectors.

Applicants profile

Eligibility Requirements for Applicants:

- **Registration in Slovakia:** Applicants must be registered in Slovakia.
- **For Individual Applicants:** Individuals must establish a company by the conclusion of the EVO-R Slovakia program.

Legal Entities:

- All types of legal entities are eligible to apply, provided they have the capacity to commercialize products and services.
- Eligible entities include companies, universities, research and technology organizations (RTOs), and university-owned foundations.

Joint Applications:

- Joint applications from groups of applicants are allowed. In such cases, a lead applicant must be designated to submit the application and represent the group.
- All group members will be jointly responsible and must comply with the conditions outlined in these guidelines.

Expected outcomes & impacts

EVO-R Slovakia aims to:

- **Accelerate Market Uptake:** Facilitate the adoption of innovative ideas originating in Slovakia by providing funding to nurture and advance them.
- **Foster Socio-Economic Impact:** Promote the development of new ideas that can be seamlessly transformed into socio-economic value, shaping emerging markets and strengthening Europe's manufacturing base.

- **Expand the EIT Manufacturing Network:** Support the growth of the EIT Manufacturing ecosystem by keeping successful participants informed about related activities, including events and Calls for Proposals. This engagement could lead to new partnerships and membership opportunities within EIT Manufacturing.

3.2. Budget and funding

The total funding available for this call is up to **€80,000**, with a maximum of **€20,000 per application**. Funding will be provided as a lump sum contribution, disbursed in two installments.

While there is no co-funding requirement, any co-funding contributed by applicants will be viewed favorably during the evaluation process.

Cost Estimation Requirements

All applicants must submit a detailed cost estimation as part of the **Financial Plan Annex**. This estimation should approximate the actual costs and must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Eligibility Rules:** Cost estimations must comply with the same eligibility rules as actual cost grants. Only costs that would be eligible in an actual cost grant may be included.
- **Task-Level Detailing:** Applicants must clearly outline the budget assigned to each task, along with the expected completion date for each task.
- **Alignment with Practices:** The cost estimation should be consistent with usual accounting and operational practices.
- **Reasonable Costs:** All proposed costs must be reasonable, necessary, and not excessive.
- **Activity Relevance:** The budget must align with the activities proposed in the application.

For further details on eligible costs, please refer to the document "**Eligibility of Expenditure**" available on the Call webpage.

Grant Disbursement Process

The lump sum grant will be disbursed to selected applicants in two installments:

- **90% Initial Payment:** This amount will be paid at the beginning of the project upon EIT Manufacturing East's approval of the **Kick-off Package**, as outlined in paragraph 3.3.
- **10% Final Payment:** This amount will be paid after the official project closure, contingent upon EIT Manufacturing East's acceptance of the **Final Performance Report**, as detailed in paragraph 3.3.

Conditions for Payment

Failure to complete the mandatory deliverables may affect the final balance payment. This could result in the application of the **performance rate methodology** to the balance payment and may also lead to the repayment of the initial payment.

Exclusion Criteria

Applicants found to be subject to EU administrative sanctions or in any of the exclusion situations specified in the "**Declaration of Honour**", which prohibit them from receiving European funding, may have their funding withdrawn at any stage.

3.3. Mandatory deliverables

Deliverables	Value Assigned to Deliverables Regarding the Total Funding to Be Received	Approximate Time of Payment
DEL 1: Kick-off Package. This package includes a copy of the signed Financial Support Agreement and Declaration of Honour.	90% of the funding	April 2025
DEL 2: Final Performance Report. The report will contain proof of addressing the branding requirements and success stories.	10% of the funding	January 2026

The templates for the deliverables are provided by EIT Manufacturing East.

3.4. Reporting

Reporting periods and technical reporting must adhere to the rules and procedures outlined in the **EIT Manufacturing Monitoring Guide**, with an emphasis on the successful completion and approval of mandatory deliverables.

If a mandatory deliverable is deemed incomplete or requiring improvement, EIT Manufacturing East will reject it, and the corresponding lump sum payment will be withheld. The entity will be required to revise and resubmit the deliverable for approval before any payment is made.

If the rejection of a mandatory deliverable is upheld, the portion of the project budget associated with that deliverable (or the relevant percentage) will either not be paid or will be repaid.

EIT Manufacturing East will monitor all project activities for up to three years after project completion to assess long-term impact.

If a mandatory deliverable is declared incomplete or needs improvement, it will be rejected by EIT Manufacturing East, and the corresponding lump sum amount will not be paid at that time. The entity will be required to complete or improve the mandatory deliverable and resubmit it for approval and subsequent payment.

If the rejection of the mandatory deliverable is confirmed, the total project budget (or the relevant percentage) linked to it will not be paid or will be recovered.

4. Application preparation and submission

All applications, supporting documents, and materials must be submitted in English using the application forms available on the **EIT Manufacturing website**. Paper submissions will not be accepted.

Applicants must submit the following documents through the submission tool by the call deadline:

- **EVO-R Slovakia Application Form**
- **Financial Plan**

Important Note: Only applications submitted via the online link (as indicated above) before the deadline will be accepted and considered. The organizers reserve the right to extend the submission deadline; any such extension will be communicated publicly on the competition website.

Incomplete or missing documentation may result in the rejection of the application.

Call Contact email

All applicants may contact EIT Manufacturing East to ask questions and clarify any points regarding general or technical procedures and call content by sending an email to lubica.sebenova@eitmanufacturing.eu.

5. Application evaluation and selection process

5.1. Eligibility and admissibility check

A submission will be considered admissible if:

Completeness	The submitted application is complete, submitted on time via the submission tool, in English with all mandatory sections and required documents included.
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Admissible submissions will be considered eligible if:

Applicant profile	The applicant's profile meets the requirements outlined in point 3.1, "Applicant Profile."
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Applications containing one or more ineligible elements will receive an official communication from EIT Manufacturing East, outlining the outcome of the eligibility check and explaining why the application did not meet the criteria.

5.2. Evaluation of applications

The evaluation of applications will be conducted in one step.

Applications will be reviewed by a panel composed of at least 2 external expert evaluators and one EIT Manufacturing East evaluator, with equal weighting of scores.

Each evaluator will score each application based on four standardized criteria: Excellence, Impact, Implementation, and Strategic fit.

Evaluators will assess each sub-criterion according to the following scores on a scale from 1 to 5.

Score	Description
1	<i>Extremely poor or None</i> The information provided is considered irrelevant or inadequate compared to the specific call provisions.
2	<i>Bad</i> The information provided lacks relevant quality and contains significant weaknesses, compared to the specific call provisions.
3	<i>Average</i> The overall information provided is adequate, however, some aspects are unclearly or insufficiently detailed, compared to the specific call provisions.
4	<i>Good</i> The information provided is adequate with sufficiently outlined details, compared to the specific call provisions.
5	<i>Excellent</i> The information provided is outstanding in its details, clarity, and coherence, compared to the specific call provisions.

The scores shall be given at the criteria level and are then summed to calculate a final score per criterion.

Thresholds apply to individual criteria and the total score. The maximum score for an application is 20. The default threshold for individual criteria is 3, and the default overall threshold is 12.

Evaluation criteria	Excellence	Impact	Implementation	Strategic fit	TOTAL
	The applicant will be able to bring the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the solution to at least 8 by the end of the activity, and proof of the starting TRL is provided.	The innovation impact potential is high, with a convincing and realistic commercialization plan. In addition, a convincing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) strategy is in place.	The application has the potential to scale and be replicated, potentially at the European level.	The application aligns with the EIT Manufacturing Strategic Agenda and addresses at least one of EIT Manufacturing's designated focus areas.	20

Score	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	1 to 5	
Threshold	3/5	3/5	3/5	3/5	12/20

The evaluators will assess each application using the evaluation tool provided in the Submission Management Platform, “Submittable” (each application will be evaluated 3 times). The tool will automatically calculate an average score for each application based on the individual scores provided by the evaluators.

A rapporteur will prepare a Summary Evaluation Report for each application, based on the evaluations from the 3 evaluators, as outlined in the Individual Evaluation Reports. In the event of notable discrepancies between the evaluations, the evaluators will meet in a consensus meeting to discuss and reach an agreement. In this case, the rapporteur will address any significant differences in their evaluations and will prepare the final Evaluation Summary Report for the applications.

A maximum of 4 proposals will be selected to enter the programme, based on the evaluation criteria.

5.3. Communication of results

Evaluation of applications: The results will be communicated to the email address of the applicant representative registered on the submission platform. Results will be sent with a rejection letter or email to non-qualified applicants.

The applicants might receive one of the 2 types of evaluation feedback:

1. **The application is accepted for funding.** The application has received a high evaluation score and is selected for funding based on the available budget assumptions.
2. **The application is rejected.** The application has failed to meet the threshold for an individual evaluation criterion or the overall threshold and is therefore not considered for funding.

5.4. Selected Applicants and Follow-up

Selected applicants will need to diligently collaborate to complete the following document before the project kick-off:

- Financial Support Agreement
- Declaration of Honour

6. Other terms and Conditions

6.1. Communication, Dissemination, Visibility of the Funding

Applicants awarded funding (financial support to third parties) must promote the funding and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. Communication activities related to the funding (such as media interviews, press statements, presentations, etc., in electronic form, or via traditional or social media), must acknowledge EU support and display the logo (emblem) and text of EIT Manufacturing and the Ministry of Investment, Regional Development, and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic logo. The emblems must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands, or text. Apart from the emblems, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EIT Manufacturing and Ministry's support. When displayed alongside other logos (e.g., sponsors), the emblems must be at least as prominent and visible as the other logos.

For the purposes of these obligations, applicants awarded funding may use the emblems without first obtaining approval from EIT Manufacturing. However, this does not grant them exclusive rights to the emblems. Furthermore, applicants may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or any other means. Any communication or dissemination activity related to the funding must use factually accurate information.

EIT Manufacturing may use information relating to the funding, as well as photos or audiovisual material received from the applicants (including in electronic form), and photos or videos taken in preparation for or during dedicated EIT Manufacturing events, for their communication and publicity activities. EIT Manufacturing will publish the names of both shortlisted and selected applicants, the amount of funding, and the nature and purpose of the funding.

6.2. Intellectual Property Rights

Selected applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property (IP) rights. By submitting their application, participants affirm that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of their research, data, or other intellectual property related to the research project conducted within the research mobility. Selected applicants agree to indemnify and hold harmless EIT Manufacturing ASBL, EIT Manufacturing East GmbH, and/or any assignee or affiliate from any third-party allegations or claims of intellectual property rights infringement related to their research activities or outcomes during the research mobility period.

Participants shall have the right to further develop, use, and license their intellectual property rights for academic, research, or commercial purposes, including creating, making, marketing, and distributing products, services, and technology derived from their research work.

Participants also agree to respect the [EIT Manufacturing IP Policy](#).

6.3. Right to conduct audits

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH retains the right to conduct an audit on EVO-R Slovakia applicants that have been awarded funding, in the event of alerts and/or to confirm proper governance and usage of the financial support.

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH also retains the right to request any data related to EVO-R Slovakia applicants that have been awarded funding for 3 years after project completion to ensure transparency and enable ongoing monitoring by EIT.

6.4. Withdrawal of the funding — Recovery of undue amounts

EIT Manufacturing may withdraw the funding after its allocation and recover any payments made, if it determined that:

- False information, fraud, or corruption was used to obtain the funding,
- The awarded applicants were not eligible or should have been excluded,
- The awarded applicants are in serious breach of their obligations under the Guidelines outlined in this document.

6.5. Data protection

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH, being a subsidiary of EIT Manufacturing ASBL headquartered in Paris, ensures that any processing of personal data shall be performed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation). As a data subject you have the right of access, the right to rectification, the right to erasure, the right to restrict processing, the right to data portability, the right to object and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing.

The collected personal data will be used solely for the procedure and assessment of the applications and the management, completion, organization, dissemination of information and publicity of the EVO-R Slovakia programme. The data controller is EIT Manufacturing East GmbH and/or EIT Manufacturing ASBL.

Personal data shall be deleted 3 years after the announcement of the EVO-R Slovakia Grant receivers.

Applicants have the possibility to indicate that EIT Manufacturing East GmbH may grant access to

parts of their submission to trusted investors and partners.

The application submission and evaluation process will be done via [SUBMITTABLE](#), an online Submission Management System by “Submittable Holdings Inc”.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF SUBMITTABLE AS SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION TOOL: By submitting your application within this challenge you implicitly state your consent to the [Terms and Conditions](#) as well as the [Privacy policy](#) of the Submission Management System SUBMITTABLE.

YOUR CONSENT TO THE USE OF PERSONAL DATA: By submitting your application within this competition you consent that EIT Manufacturing East GmbH will collect, transfer, process, store and delete your data in accordance with the aforementioned conditions.

If you have a question about personal data processing or want to exercise your data subject rights, you can contact our external Data Protection Officer at clever data GmbH: kurt.berthold@cleverdata.at.

For further information, please refer to the [GDPR policy of EIT Manufacturing East](#).

6.6. Acceptance of the Guidelines

By sending the application form, the applicant agrees to these Guidelines and its Annexes, which form part of the submission. Participants agree that they have no legal entitlement to a grant.

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Guidelines. Amendments and additions to these Guidelines shall be valid only if communicated in writing or otherwise made available to the participants on the call page of the EIT Manufacturing website.

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH also reserves the right to cancel or declare the Call unsuccessful provided all applicants are informed and sufficient justification is given (for example no applications received, or all applications do not pass the default thresholds).

6.7. Confidentiality

EIT Manufacturing East GmbH has a data sharing agreement with EIT Manufacturing ASBL. EIT Manufacturing East GmbH undertakes to use any Confidential Information shared by the applicants solely for the purposes of the EVO-R Slovakia call. Additionally, EIT Manufacturing East will share this information with EIT Manufacturing ASBL as part of the collaboration within the scope of the call. Confidential information shall mean data and/or information that is proprietary to, or possessed by, the applicants and not generally known to the public, or that has not yet been revealed whether in tangible or intangible form, whenever and however disclosed and might also be included in the application form. Confidential information must be expressly labelled as such in the application form.

Applicants agree that EIT Manufacturing East GmbH, EIT Manufacturing ASBL and its subsidiaries (impact centres) can disseminate, publish, and make use of non-confidential information regarding the call, to promote the activities of EIT Manufacturing or establish reports or other necessary documents for EIT.

The applicants agree that data and information in the application form not labelled as confidential may be disclosed in connection with the activities of EIT Manufacturing East GmbH., EIT Manufacturing ASBL, and its subsidiaries.

Considering the confidential nature of the data and information referred to above, EIT Manufacturing East GmbH also undertakes to (i) not disclose them in any way and in any form, without prior written authorization of the company concerned; and (ii) not to use them for purposes other than those strictly necessary for the Research mobility call.

Confidential Information may be shared among EIT Manufacturing ASBL and its subsidiaries (e.g. ICs) solely for the purposes of the EVO-R Slovakia programme. EIT Manufacturing East GmbH undertakes to impose this confidentiality obligation on its employees and the employees of its subsidiaries and its collaborators, as well as on Rapporteurs and independent experts and all subjects who, by virtue of participating in the call for proposal as members of the Selection Committees or Jury, will take knowledge of or may have access to such confidential data and information.

6.8. Exclusion Criteria

Applicants will be excluded from participating in the call if they fall under any of the exclusion criteria outlined in Article 136 of the [EU Financial Regulation](#). Selected applicants must sign a Declaration of Honour at the application stage to confirm compliance with these criteria.

All selected applicants awarded funding may be required to provide recent and relevant documentation to substantiate their Declaration of Honour. Failure to provide adequate

documentation may result in the exclusion of the concerned applicants.

6.9. Applicable Law

These guidelines are governed by the applicable European Union laws (i.e. the EIT Regulation, the EU Financial Regulation and the Horizon Europe Regulation) and is complemented, where necessary, by the law of Austria. The applicants agree to observe the obligations set forth in the (Model) Grant Agreement signed between the EIT and EIT Manufacturing and particularly Articles 12 (conflict of interest), 13 (confidentiality and security), 14 (ethics), 17.2 (visibility), 18 (specific rules for carrying out action), 19 (information) and 20 (record-keeping). These obligations will also be mentioned in contracts to be signed if the application is successful.

