DIH-WORLD WIDENING DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS

Horizon 2020 EU Grant Agreement N° 952176

OPEN CALL FOR EXPERIMENTS 1 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

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1. INTRODUCTION

The present document provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and answers related to the DIH-World Open Call 1. The list of questions is preliminary and the document will be continuously updated in the course of the process.

More information on the Call for Proposals can be found in the Guide for Applicants available on the DIH-World webpage (<u>https://dihworld.eu/</u>).

2. GENERAL QUESTIONS

2.1 What is DIH-World?

DIH-World is a European project, precisely an Innovation Action, supported by the European Commission through the ICT Innovation for Manufacturing SMEs (I4MS) initiative. DIH-World aims to accelerate the uptake of advanced digital technologies by European manufacturing SMEs in all sectors by supporting them in building sustainable competitive advantages and reaching global markets.

Through two open calls, the project will support a total of 45 innovative experiments. The open call for experiments 1 will support up to 35 innovative experiments.

3. QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE CALL

3.3 What is the call for proposals/experiments?

DIH-World is launching a Call for proposals to select innovative experiment carried out by a consortium made of an SME and a DIH to integrate digital technologies in the processes, products or services of the manufacturing SMEs.

3.4 Who can apply?

The DIH-World open calls target consortia of one SME from any Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Country together with one Digital Innovation Hub (DIHs).

<u>SMEs:</u> as defined in the European Commission recommendation 2003/361/EC¹, as published in the Official Journal of the European Union L 124, p. 36 of 20 May 2003.

"The category of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is made up of enterprises which employ fewer than 250 persons and which have an annual turnover not exceeding EUR 50 million, and/or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding EUR 43 million." Extract of Article 2 of the annex to Recommendation 2003/361/EC.

¹ Source: <u>https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32003H0361</u>



DIHS: following the description by the European Commission website: "DIHs are one-stop shops that help companies become more competitive with regard to their business/production processes, products or services using digital technologies. DIHs provide access to technical expertise and experimentation, so that companies can "test before invest". They also provide innovation services, such as financing advice, training and skills development that are needed for a successful digital transformation"².

3.5 What is an innovative experiment?

Innovative experiments are projects to be implemented by a consortium made of an SME and a Digital Innovation Hub. DIH-World is looking for innovative experiments that integrates digital technologies in the processes, products or services of manufacturing SMEs.

3.6 How to apply?

Consortia are invited to apply by submitting a complete Proposal following the proposal template on the submission platform: <u>https://dihworld.ems-carsa.com/</u> The template for proposal is available on the submission platform, as well as on the <u>DIH-World website</u>.

3.7 When is the deadline?

The call's deadline is on 15/07/2021 at 13h00 (CET),

The key dates of the open call are as follows:

Activity	Dates
Launch of the call	03/05/2021
Deadline to submit proposals	15/07/2021 at 13h00 (CET)
Evaluation and selection	16/07/2021 – 15/09/2021
Contract's signature	16/09/2021 – 15/10/2021
Experiment starting month	October 2021

² Source : <u>https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-innovation-hubs-dihs-europe</u>

– Consortium

Core partners



SMEs involved in the pilot experiments

