



DIH-WORLD

WIDENING DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS

Horizon 2020 EU Grant Agreement N° 952176

OPEN CALL FOR EXPERIMENTS 1 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

June 2021 (v2)



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VERSION HISTORY

| No. | Date | Author (Organisation) | Description |
|-----|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1.0 | 29/03/2021 | CARSA | FAQ version 1 completed |
| 2.0 | 10/06//2021 | CARSA | New questions added : Q.3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11 New section added « Questions related to the financial support” with questions Q4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4 |



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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 (<https://dihworld.eu/>).

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

3.1. 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.

3.2. 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)**.

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

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.

3.3. 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.

3.4. How to apply?

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

3.5. When is the deadline?

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

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 (CEST) |
| Evaluation and selection | 16/07/2021 – 15/09/2021 |
| Contract's signature | 16/09/2021 – 15/10/2021 |
| Experiment starting month | October 2021 |

3.6. Can an EDIH apply to the call for proposal?

Yes, any DIH, including EDIHs, based in an EU 27 Member State or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries can apply to DIH-World open call.

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

3.7. Does the DIH have to be registered in the EC Digital Innovation Hubs catalogue³?

The DIH does not have to be registered in the Digital Innovation Hubs catalogue from the European Commission. Being registered in the catalogue is not an eligibility criterion.

3.8. Does the DIH participating in the innovative experiment has to belong to DIH-World consortium?

No, the DIHs applying to DIH-World open call have be chosen outside the DIH-World network.

3.9. As an SME, how to get in touch with DIHs to participate in the open call?

In order to find the right partner for your experiment, you can have a look at the Digital Innovation Hub catalogue: <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool> or directly contact your regional DIH.

You can find the contact information in the catalogue. Once you identify the potential DIH to collaborate with, you must work together in the design of the experiment and the definition of the roles and activities in order to submit the proposal.

3.10. Our DIH/EDIH is made of a consortium of various partners and has no legal entity. Can a partner of the consortium represent the DIH?

Yes, the DIH/EDIH can be represented by one of the consortium partners. If this is the case, it should be indicated in the proposal template.

3.11. What is the support provided by the DIH in the experiment?

In the experiments, the DIHs support SMEs in integrating digital technologies. While supporting the SMEs' development, DIHs access to the DIH-World DIHs network and Academy and will receive support to develop and/or scale up their DIH to provide enhanced services to European SMEs, mid-caps and other DIHs.

Therefore, in parallel of the experiment implementation, DIH-World provides DIHs with training and support.

³ EC DIH catalogue : <https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/digital-innovation-hubs-tool>

4. QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

4.1. Does the “de minimis” rule apply to the funding received for the innovative experiment?

No, the ‘de minimis’ rule does not apply in the innovative experiment from DIH-World open call. However, as per European Commission’s rules, financial support will not be awarded to individual legal entities that have already received more than EUR 100,000 via open calls from H2020 I4MS (<https://i4ms.eu/>) and SAE (<https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/>) projects.

4.2. The organisation I am employed at has participated in several open calls of different EU projects within Horizon 2020 programme. Do I have to consider any specific regulations?

Yes. Financial support will not be awarded to individual legal entities that have already received more than 100.000€ via open calls (Financial Support to Third Parties = cascading funding) from H2020 I4MS (<https://i4ms.eu/>) and SAE (<https://smartanythingeverywhere.eu/>) projects. For clarification, please contact the relevant department in your organisation.

4.3. Should the DIH costs be included as “Personnel costs” or as “sub-contracting”?

The DIH-World open call targets consortia of one SME together with one Digital Innovation Hub, as such, the DIH can present its own budget in the proposal, including personnel costs and subcontracting, if relevant.

4.4. Are the costs corresponding to the purchase of the necessary equipment to implement the experiment considered eligible costs?

No, the costs corresponding to the purchase of equipment to implement the experiment are not eligible. As presented in section 4.5 of the Guide for Applicants, only direct personnel costs, direct costs of subcontracting and indirect costs are eligible.

Consortium

Core partners



DIHs



SMEs involved in the pilot experiments

