



Deadline	Weds 18 October 2023 17:00 Brussels time (IOCB deadline Weds 11 Oct 2023)
Call name	EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2023
www	https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder_en Funding and Tender Portal Call links to follow
Focused on	Building on new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities by realising innovative technological solutions grounded in high-risk/high-gain research and development. With each specific Challenge, the EIC will establish a portfolio of projects that explore different perspectives, competing approaches or complementary aspects of the Challenge. Calls in 2023 under the following challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean and efficient cooling https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/clean-and-efficient-cooling_en • Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for a novel triad of design, fabrication, and materials https://eic.ec.europa.eu/calls-tenders/architecture-engineering-and-construction-digitalisation-novel-triad-design-fabrication-and_en • Precision nutrition https://eic.ec.europa.eu/calls-tenders/eic-pathfinder-challenge-precision-nutrition_en • Responsible electronics https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/calls-proposals/eic-challenge-responsible-electronics_en • In-space solar energy harvesting for innovative space applications https://eic.ec.europa.eu/calls-tenders/eic-challenge-space-solar-energy-harvesting-innovative-space-applications_en
PI	Researchers of any nationality conducting their research in any EU member state or associated country
Eligible organisation	Universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners established in an EU member state or an associated country.
Target group	The EIC Pathfinder Challenges support collaborative research and innovation from consortia or proposals from single legal entities established in a Member State or an Associated Country (unless stated otherwise in the specific challenge chapter).
Expected outputs	Open Access (J) reviewed specialist articles; movement of new technology up the TRL scale towards technology development
Call opens	20 Jun 2023
IOCB deadline	Weds 11 Oct 2023
Final deadline	Weds 18 Oct 2023 17:00 Brussels time
Evaluation results	Mar 2024
Signature of agreement	Jun 2024 (indicative)
Earliest date of implementation	Jun/Jul 2024
Latest date of implementation	-
Sustainability	None
Reporting	one report every 18 months
Project duration (min-max)	Unspecified (usually 36-48 months; 3-4 years)
Allocation for the call	163.5 M EUR (40 projects)
Project budget (min-max)	Up to 4 M EUR & additional EIC Booster grants of 50 000 EUR to undertake complementary activities to explore potential pathways to commercialisation or for portfolio activities
Success rate	10.1 % (2022), 9.7 % (2021)
Eligible costs	Direct costs: personnel costs, travel expenses, equipment, goods & services, outsourcing (subcontracting); indirect costs: overheads max 25% of the total eligible direct costs
Reimbursement	100 %
Mode of funding	Ex-ante
Language of application	English
Provider	European Innovation Council, https://eic.ec.europa.eu/

	Frequently asked questions (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-frequently-asked-questions_en#eic-inpage-321) NCP: Technology Centre CAS, www.tc.cz ; Michaela Vlková: vlkovam@tc.cz , tel. 234 006 262
Call identifier	EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023
Call info	EIC Pathfinder Challenges grants are top-down grants designed to support the exploration of bold ideas for radically new technologies. It welcomes the high-risk / high gain and interdisciplinary cutting-edge science collaborations that underpin technological breakthroughs that fit thematically into one of the predefined Challenge programmes.
Conditions / Restrictions	<p>Proposal must be submitted by the coordinator, on behalf of a consortium that includes at least three independent legal entities, each one established in a different Member State or Associated Country and with at least one of them established in a Member State. The legal entities may for example be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.</p> <p>Sections 1 to 3 of the part B of your proposal, corresponding respectively to the evaluation criteria Excellence, Impact, and Quality and Efficiency of the Implementation, must consist of a maximum of 25 A4 pages. Excess pages will be automatically made invisible, and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.</p> <p>A rebuttal procedure after the remote phase will provide you with the opportunity to reply with a strict page limit (maximum two A4 pages) to the evaluators' comments, which you will receive about 1.5-2.5 months after the call deadline via the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal. The deadline for sending your replies will be eight calendar days (at 17h00 Brussels local time) after you have received the evaluators' comments. Your replies cannot be used to alter or add to the content of the proposals, but must strictly focus on responding to potential misunderstandings or errors by the evaluators. Your replies will be made available to the evaluation committee.</p>
Proposal consists of	<p>On-line application on the Funding&Tenders Portal: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/cas/login</p> <p>1) Administrative form (Part A, on-line on the Funding&Tenders Portal): (i) General information: Abstract, Declarations; (ii) Administrative data of participating organisations: Organisation data, Department, Main contact person, Researchers involved in proposal and their career stages, Role of participating organisation, up to 5 publications relevant for call content, up to 5 previous projects, significant infrastructure relevant to proposal, GEP yes/no tickbox,; (iii) Budget – budget table; (iv) Ethics and security issues tables; (v) Other questions (applicant & Project Office)</p> <p>2) Research proposal (Part B, use template, max 25 A4 pages): (a) Excellence; (b) Impact; (c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation</p> <p>3) Other documentation (annexes) needed on ethics and security issues, on clinical trials or financial support to third parties, if relevant (Project Office & applicant)</p>
Evaluation criteria	<p>Remote scoring by EIC expert evaluators according to the criteria below. A rebuttal procedure after the remote phase with opportunity to reply with a strict page limit (maximum two A4 pages) to the evaluators' comments, about 1.5-2.5 months after the call deadline. Not to alter or add to the content of the proposals, must strictly focus on responding to potential misunderstandings or errors by the evaluators. Evaluation committee will make a final decision based on the remote evaluators' reports.</p> <p>Excellence (Threshold: 4/5, weight 60%) <u>Long-term vision:</u> How convincing is the vision of a radically new technology towards which the project would contribute in the long term? <u>Science-towards-technology breakthrough:</u> How concrete, novel and ambitious is the proposed science-towards-technology breakthrough with respect to the state-of-the-art? What advancement does it provide towards realising the envisioned technology? <u>Objectives:</u> How concrete and plausible are the proposed objectives? To what extent is the high-risk/high-gain research approach appropriate for achieving them? How sound is the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices? <u>Interdisciplinarity:</u> How relevant is the interdisciplinary approach from traditionally distant disciplines for achieving the proposed breakthrough?</p> <p>Impact (Threshold: 3.5/5, weight 20%) <u>Long-term impact:</u> How significant are the potential transformative positive effects that the envisioned new technology would have to our economy, environment and society? <u>Innovation potential:</u> How adequate are the proposed measures for protection of results and any other exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations? How suitable are the proposed measures for involving and empowering key</p>

	<p>actors that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations in the future?</p> <p>Communication and Dissemination: How suitable are the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, including communication activities, for raising awareness about the project results' potential to establish new markets and/or address global challenges?</p> <p>Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Threshold 3/5, weight 20%)</p> <p>Quality of the consortium: To what extent do the consortium members have all the necessary high quality expertise for performing the project tasks?</p> <p>Work plan: How coherent and effective are the work plan (work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, timeline, etc.) and risk mitigation measures in order to achieve the project objectives?</p> <p>Allocation of resources: How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (person-months and equipment) to tasks and consortium members?</p>
Research areas	Any
Call workshop	<p>European Innovation Council online info day 13 Dec 2022, online recording (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/european-innovation-council-online-info-day-work-programme-2023-13-december-2022-2022-12-13_en)</p> <p>EIC Pathfinder Challenge Architecture, engineering and construction digitalisation information day 2 Feb 2023, online recording (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/eic-pathfinder-challenge-responsible-electronics-information-day-2023-02-09_en)</p> <p>EIC Pathfinder Challenge Precision Nutrition information day 31 Jan 2023, online recording (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/eic-pathfinder-challenge-responsible-electronics-information-day-2023-02-09_en)</p> <p>EIC Pathfinder Challenge Responsible Electronics information day 9 Feb 2023, online recording (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/eic-pathfinder-challenge-responsible-electronics-information-day-2023-02-09_en)</p> <p>EIC Pathfinder Challenge In-space solar energy harvesting for innovative space applications information day 26 Jan 2023, online recording (https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/eic-pathfinder-challenge-space-solar-energy-harvesting-innovative-space-applications-information-day-2023-01-26_en)</p>
IOCB contact	<p>Please inform the IOCB Project Office about your intention to apply. Do not hesitate to contact us anytime for consulting, discussion or help.</p> <p>Jitka Šilerová, jitka.silerova@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 229</p> <p>Veronika Palečková, veronika.paleckova@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 266</p> <p>Blanka Collis, blanka.collis@uochb.cas.cz, +420 220 183 527</p>
Download documents	<p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 summary</p> <p>EIC 2023 Work programme (pages 26-45 and annexes)</p> <p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 application form template to follow 20 Jun 2023</p> <p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 Challenge guide: Clean and efficient cooling</p> <p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 Challenge guide: Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for a novel triad of design, fabrication and materials</p> <p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 Challenge guide: Precision nutrition</p> <p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 Challenge guide: Responsible electronics</p> <p>EIC-PathfinderChallenges-2023 Challenge guide: In-space solar energy harvesting for innovative space applications</p>