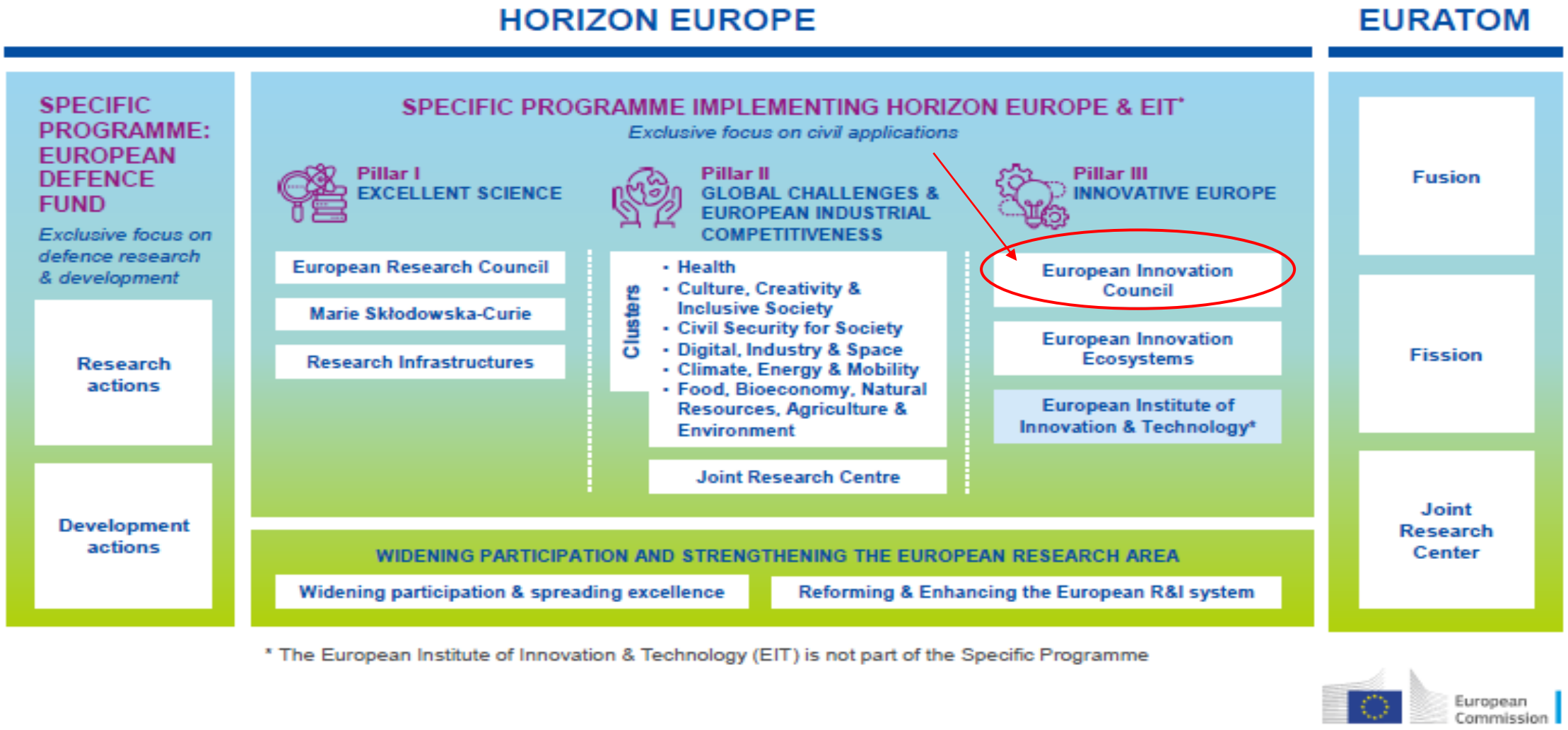
APRE
Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea

European Innovation Council
EIC Accelerator

Valentina Fioroni – EIC/EIE National Contact Point


HORIZON EUROPE
EURATOM
SPECIFIC PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND
Exclusive focus on defence research & development
Research actions
Development actions
SPECIFIC PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTING HORIZON EUROPE & EIT*
Exclusive focus on civil applications
Pillar I
EXCELLENT SCIENCE
European Research Council
Marie Skłodowska-Curie
Research Infrastructures
Pillar II
GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS
Clusters
Health
Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
Civil Security for Society
Digital, Industry & Space
Climate, Energy & Mobility
Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment
Joint Research Centre
Pillar III
INNOVATIVE EUROPE
European Innovation Council
European Innovation Ecosystems
European Institute of Innovation & Technology*
WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA
Widening participation & spreading excellence
Reforming & Enhancing the European R&I system
Fusion
Fission
Joint Research Center
* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme
European Commission

EIC – FROM RESEARCH TO MARKET

EIC: Integrated, agile support across the full innovation spectrum from the early-stage research to start-up and scale-up

European Innovation Council

EIC main instruments and characteristics

Pathfinder (TRL1-4)
- **For consortia**
- Early stage research on breakthrough technologies
- **Grants up to €3/4 million**

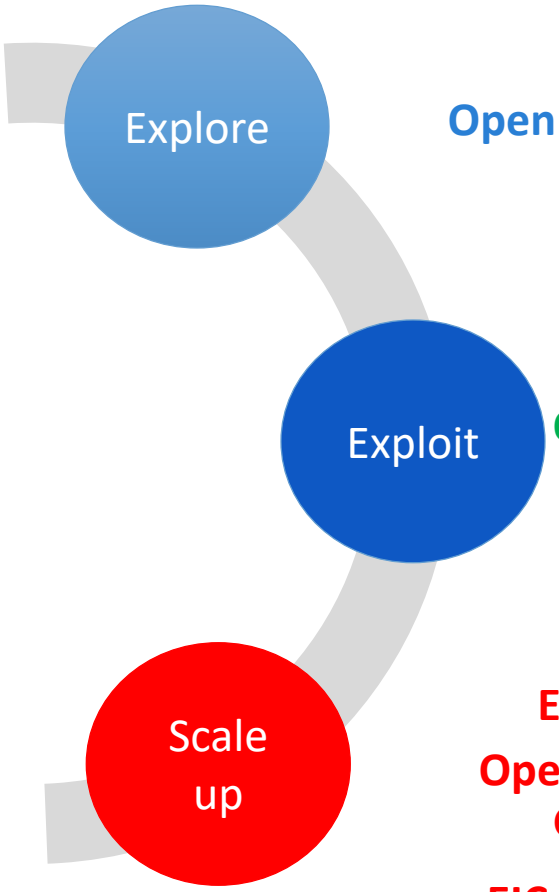
Transition (TRL 4-6)
- **For consortia and single entities**
- Technology maturation from proof of concept to validation
- Business & market readiness
- **Grants up to €2.5 million**

Accelerator (TRL 6-9)
- **For individual SMEs**
- Development & scale up of deep-tech/ disruptive innovations by startups/ SMEs
- Blended finance (**grants up to €2.5 million; equity investment up to €15 million or above**)

- Focus on **breakthrough, market-creating, deep-tech**
- **Mainly bottom up** complemented by targeted funding on strategic technologies/ challenges
- Steered by **EIC Board** of leading innovators (entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, ecosystem)
- **Business Acceleration Services** (coaches/ mentors, corporates, investors, ecosystem)
- **Pro-active management** (roadmaps, reviews, re-orientations, etc) with EIC Programme Managers
- **Fast track access** to Accelerator for results from EIT, EIC Pathfinder,

1. Basic principle observed
2. Technology concept formulated
3. Experimental proof of concept
4. Technology validated in lab
5. Technology validated in relevant environment
6. Technology demonstrated in relevant environment
7. System prototype demonstration in operational env
8. System complete and qualified
9. Actual system proven in operational environment

Market uptake, deployment



EIC Pathfinder
Open and Challenges TRL 1- 4

EIC Transition
Open and Challenges TRL 4 -6

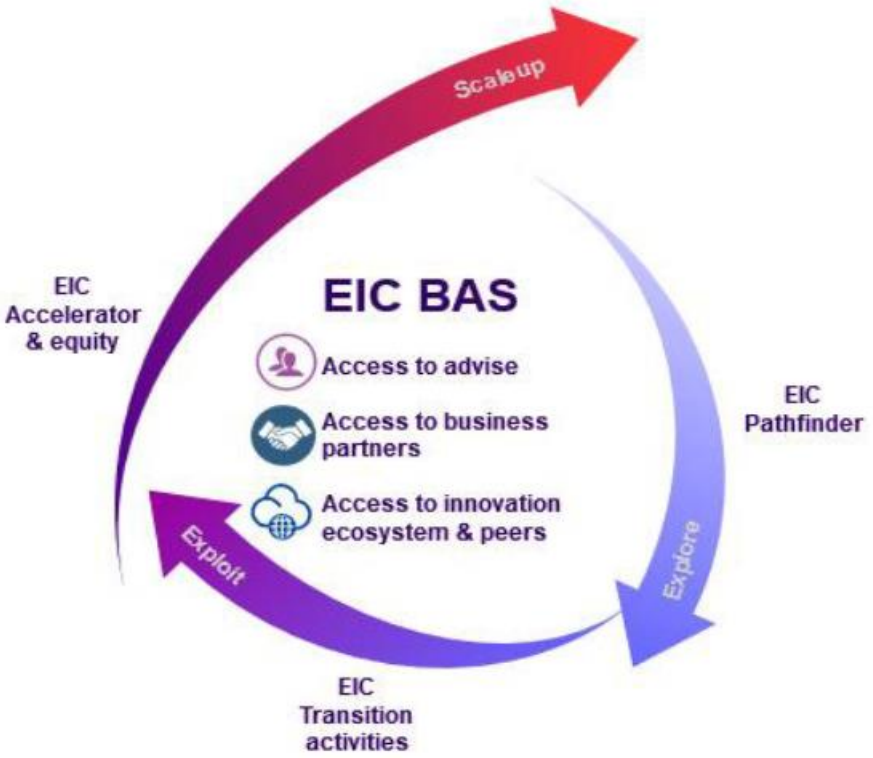
EIC Accelerator
Open and Challenges Grant TRL 6-9

EIC Accelerator (Equity)

The EIC Instruments and the TRL

EIC BUSINESS ACCELERATION SERVICES – EIC BAS

- Accelerate EIC innovations and growth of EIC companies
- Tailor-made service to meet needs of out clients
- All EIC beneficiaries: Accelerator, Pathfinder, Seal of excellence, applicants
- Activate partners all around Europe



What are we looking for?

European Innovation Council

Start-ups and SMEs seeking to **scale-up** high impact innovations with the **potential to create new markets** or disrupt exisiting one

Innovation building on **scientific discovery** or technological breakthroughs **(„deep tech“)**

Innovations where **significant funding** is needed over a **long timeframe** and are **too risky** for private investors alone

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Grant component

- maximum of less than **€ 2.5 million**
- eligible costs are reimbursed up to a maximum of **70%**
- small mid-caps are not eligible for a grant only

+

Investment component

- € 0.5 million and **maximum € 15 million**
- usually in the form of direct **equity** or quasi-equity
- **minority ownership** (maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company)
- **"patient capital" principle** (7-10 years perspective on average, max 15 years)

Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Grant first

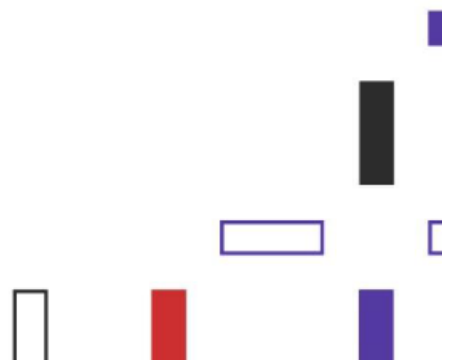
If your innovation still requires significant work to validate and demonstrate in relevant environments to assess its commercial potential

Grant & investment

If you need support for development (TRL 5/6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Investment only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant



Funding schemes

EIC Accelerator Open → to support projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities ('bottom-up')

EIC Accelerator Challenges → to support projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge

EIC Accelerator - Calls

European Innovation Council

Accelerator Challenges	
Novel biomarker-based assays to guide personalised cancer treatment	€ 65 million
Aerosol and surface decontamination for pandemic management	€ 65 million
Energy storage	€ 100 million
New European Bauhaus and Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for decarbonisation	€ 65 million
1) Emerging semiconductor & 2) Quantum technology components	€ 100 million
Novel technologies for resilient agriculture	€ 65 million
Customer-driven, innovative space technologies and services	€ 65 milion
Indicative call budget	€ 523.5 million

EIC Accelerator Challenges **individual workshops** will be organised by PM early next year

EIC Accelerator Open
Indicative budget
€ 611.7 million

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EIC Accelerator: cut-off dates

European Innovation Council

Short proposal evaluation

Submit any time during the year
Feedback within 4 weeks

Full proposal -cut off

date when a round of evaluations of **full proposals** start

Full proposal evaluation

Cut-off	Interview weeks (tentative)
~~*11 January 2023~~	~~February 27 – March 10~~
~~22 March 2023~~	~~May 22 – June 2~~
~~7 June 2023~~	~~September 11 – 22~~
4 October 2023	November 27 – December 8

**Only Open*

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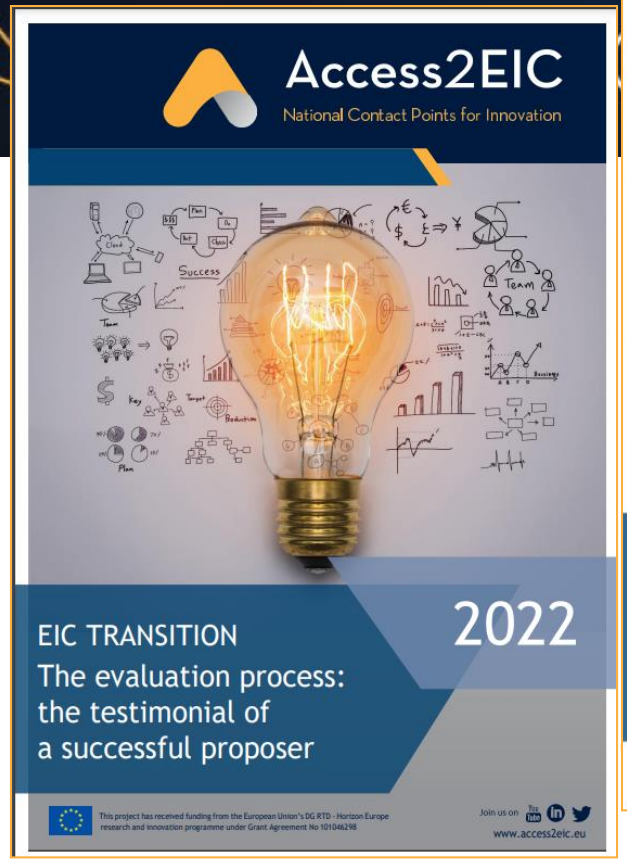
Access2EIC

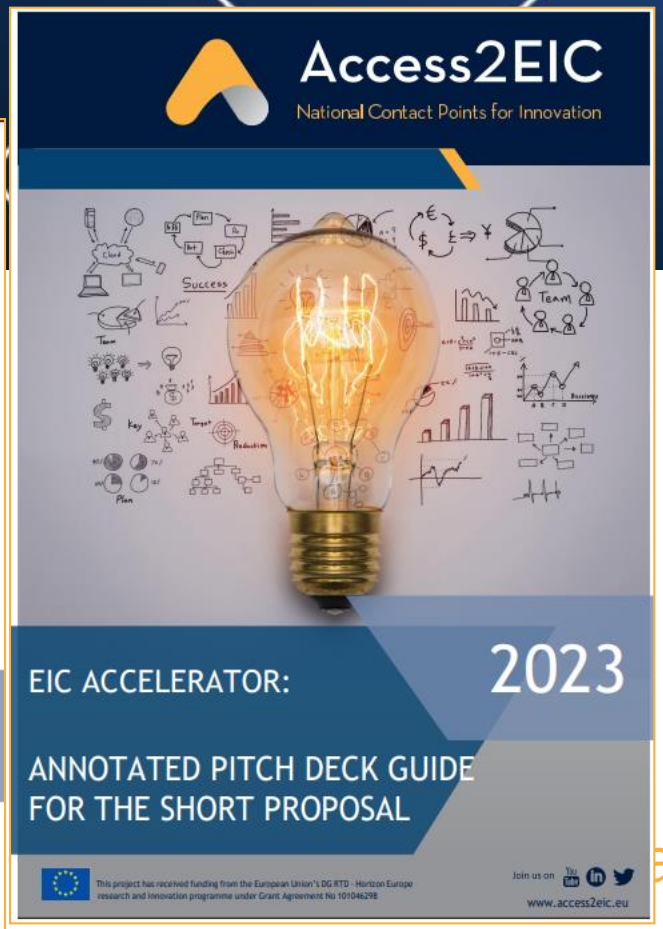
ACCESS2EIC is the network of 16 partners who share the common purpose to work as a network of EIC NCPs supporting national applicants and raising the quality of applications submitted under the EIC 2021-2027.

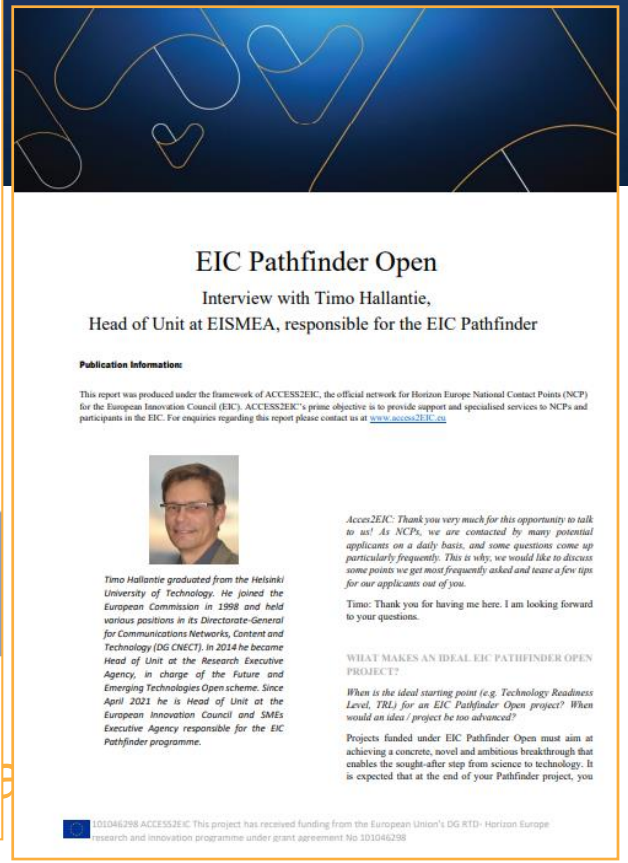
It aims to:

- **Improve professionalisation and skills of NCPs** across Europe to simplify access to Horizon Europe calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raise the average quality of proposals submitted.
- **Identify and share good practices, promote trans-national cooperation and raise the general standard of support to programme applicants.**

Access2EIC
National Contact Points for Innovation







EIC Pathfinder Open

Interview with Timo Hallantie,
Head of Unit at EISMEA, responsible for the EIC Pathfinder

Publication Information:

This report was produced under the framework of ACCESS2EIC, the official network for Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCP) for the European Innovation Council (EIC). ACCESS2EIC's prime objective is to provide support and specialised services to NCPs and participants in the EIC. For enquiries regarding this report please contact us at www.access2EIC.eu

Timo Hallantie graduated from the Helsinki University of Technology. He joined the European Commission in 1998 and held various positions in its Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT). In 2014 he became Head of Unit at the Research Executive Agency, in charge of the Future and Emerging Technologies Open scheme. Since April 2021 he is Head of Unit at the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency responsible for the EIC Pathfinder programme.

Acces2EIC: Thank you very much for this opportunity to talk to us! As NCPs, we are contacted by many potential applicants on a daily basis, and some questions come up particularly frequently. This is why, we would like to discuss some points we get most frequently asked and leave a few tips for our applicants out of you.

Timo: Thank you for having me here. I am looking forward to your questions.

WHAT MAKES AN IDEAL EIC PATHFINDER OPEN PROJECT?

When is the ideal starting point (e.g. Technology Readiness Level, TRL) for an EIC Pathfinder Open project? When would an idea / project be too advanced?

Projects funded under EIC Pathfinder Open must aim at achieving a concrete, novel and ambitious breakthrough that enables the sought-after step from science to technology. It is expected that at the end of your Pathfinder project, you

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Access2EIC
National Contact Points for Innovation

Thank you for your attention!!!

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