

Call for Expressions of Interest to run business-oriented pilots as part of the H2020 EINFRA-12 (a) project proposal

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Overview

EGI¹, EUDAT² and INDIGO-DataCloud³ are seeking to **establish and fund an initial set of pilots based on concrete business use cases** as part of a joint project proposal to be submitted within the EC H2020 funding programme under EINFRA-12-2017 *“Data & Distributed Computing e-Infrastructures for Open Science”*. Further details regarding the project proposal are provided at the end of this document.

- *EGI*: A publicly federated e-Infrastructure comprising over 300 data centres and cloud providers spread across Europe and worldwide offering a range of compute, storage, data and support services.
- *EUDAT*: A collaborative data infrastructure offering heterogeneous research data management services and storage resources to ensure data is shared and preserved across borders and disciplines.
- *INDIGO-DataCloud*: A project developing open source data and computing platform software that is deployable on multiple hardware and provisioned over hybrid, private or public e-Infrastructures.

Goal

Pilots are designed to foster innovation between e-Infrastructures and the private sector through building an ecosystem of SMEs, large industries, startups, researchers, accelerators, and investors to become active business partners of e-Infrastructures as customers and/or service providers. These initial pilots will serve as early demonstrators of the project's Joint Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) ⁴.

Target

Private organizations (e.g. SMEs, large industries) looking for new opportunities to innovate with or using compute, storage and data management products or services. Other organization types are welcome however strong evidence of commercial impact must be demonstrated.

Pilot facilities and support

Pilots will be supported by e-Infrastructure providers with a dynamic environment based specified and agreed requirements in which to collaborate and develop the proposed use case along with dedicated support services:

- e-infrastructure and platforms: computing and storage capacity to test workflows, models, and applications.
- Pool of experts on distributed computing systems to support the deployment of technological solutions; co-develop new products and services; support in

¹ www.egi.eu

² www.eudat.eu

³ www.indigo-datacloud.eu

⁴ <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/digital-innovation-hubs>

selecting open data sets, tools and applications to assist in building added-value services.

- Promotion/marketing of services: benefit from a wide international network, events, and publications.

Business Use Case Pilots

Proposals should meet the following requirements:

- Real world business value and conditions to develop it further as a commercial organization (use case).
- Technical feasibility of the use case and the requirement for integrated data and compute services ready for testing (pilot).
- Potential for establishing a long-term business relationship with EGI, EUDAT and relevant technology providers like INDIGO-DataCloud beyond the duration of project participation (exploitation).

Expected Outputs

Pilots will need to contribute to one or more of the following outputs:

- New active commercial users of e-Infrastructures.
- Integration with e-Infrastructure products or services.
- Adoption or development of innovative technical solutions made available through or with e-Infrastructure products or services.
- Evidence that employed services once coupled have the potential to create business benefits for SMEs/Industry.

Funding

Organisations involved in the accepted pilots will be:

- Added as consortium members (beneficiaries) for the duration of the pilot (maximum 18 months).
- Allocated person month effort funded at 100%, not exceeding €60.000 per organisation and €180.000 per pilot.
- Requested to match activities to estimated effort (see template). Other support costs (e.g. travel) will be determined prior to the overall project proposal submission.

All funding is subject to the successful evaluation of the project proposal by the European Commission and all related project costs accepted.

Evaluation Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Criteria	Weight
Soundness of the value proposition of the business case	40%
Technical feasibility of the proposed pilot	35%
Demonstration of long-term business opportunities	25%

How to apply and deadlines

Please prepare your expression of interest by completing the accompanying template and send to:

editorial-board@mailman.egi.eu by **Thursday 16 February 2017, 24:00 CET**

All submissions will receive an acknowledgement of receipt and will be notified of the evaluation result by 23 February 2017.

For more information please contact:

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Further Information

Project

The vision of the project is to offer innovators from all sectors/disciplines seamless, open access to the advanced digital capabilities, resources and expertise they need to collaborate and to carry out data- and computing-intensive science in a secure and trustworthy way, managing and preserving resources for everyone's benefit including industry. To this end, the project will establish a unified, open set of production services realized via cross-infrastructure integration, procurement, delivery, innovation and training, involving multiple providers and benefitting research collaborations of pan-European and international relevance. These activities, altogether, will enable the delivery of the European Open Science Cloud infrastructure⁵.

Engagement with both research communities and industry is crucial for realizing this vision, and the project intends to support the involvement and contribution of these groups at all stages, throughout the course of the project.

Funding Programme

EC H2020 funding programme under EINFRA-12-2017 *"Data & Distributed Computing e-Infrastructures for Open Science" subtopic a) Secure and agile data and distributed computing e-infrastructures*⁶ to integrate, at European level, geographically and disciplinary dispersed resources in order to address the "fragmentation of the data and computing e-Infrastructure landscape to provide the best data and computing capacity and services to the research and education communities".

In order to address the EINFRA-12 (A) expected impact (a):

⁵ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/openscience/index.cfm?pg=open-science-cloud>

⁶ <http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/opportunities/h2020/topics/einfra-12-2017.html>

“Establish partnerships with industrial and private partners” and to connect with the EC goal of “creating a Pan-European network of Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs)”

Joint Digital Innovation Hub Activities

The Joint Digital Innovation Hub will carry out a number of activities aiming at enabling early pilots to develop long-term business agreements, which comprises.

- *Advice and requirements gathering:* service requirements, success criteria from the technical and business point of views, test environments with the technical support from experts so that suitable technical solutions and gaps can be identified.
- *Validation:* technical evaluation of the proof of concept and pilot setups according to pre-defined success criteria and with the help of selected users.
- *Preparation of the production environment:* bring successful pilots into production by enabling service configurations that provide the needed functionality at the required scale. This includes the effort of federating service providers relevant to the use case. This activity includes the alignment with policies and operational procedures, the support to meet the project technical requirements, and the definition of business agreements.