

PUBLIC CALL FOR PROPOSALS

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS FOR ENEA PROJECTS FUNDED BY ENEA'S PROOF OF CONCEPT PROGRAMME – POC ENEA 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

ENEA has created a fund to finance proof of concept projects (hereinafter “PoC Programme” or simply “Programme”), to support the development of technologies with a low TRL (Technology Readiness Level) generated within its laboratories.

In particular, the short-term funds provided for by the Programme are targeted to the implementation of development projects with potential to demonstrate the feasibility of a technology or product concept with the aim to promote its transfer to industry.

The funds will be provided through an ENEA internal order specifically intended for the implementation of the projects.

There is no funding planned for industrial partners.

The Programme may fund project activities that involve;

- construction or improvement of a prototype for commercialization;
- commercial feasibility or scale-up testing;
- demonstration of risk mitigation for a potential investor/industry or licensee, in the case of a patent;
- addressing and overcoming a specific gap identified by the industry that hinders its attractiveness for investors

2. SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The Call does not constitute a public offer under Article 1336 of the Italian Civil Code and is not binding on the subjects who have expressed their interest.

In addition, the Administration does not assume any obligation towards the participating subjects, who will have no claims whatsoever against ENEA.

ENEA reserves the right to modify, suspend, or revoke this Notice, in whole or in part, without participants being entitled to any compensation.

The purpose of this public notice is to identify industrial partners interested in co-financing and developing, in collaboration with ENEA, Proof of Concept projects based on the technological proposals listed in **Annex A**, divided into two Calls:

- **ENEA PoC 2025 – Open** to any field of science, technology, or applications without predefined thematic priorities;
- **ENEA PoC 2025 – Challenges** in Strategic Thematic Areas:
 - a) Aerospace;
 - b) Agri-Food;
 - c) Advanced Materials.

All PoC projects must have a maximum duration of 18 months, with the possibility of a single extension to be granted only in cases of proven exceptional circumstances and, in any case, limited to a maximum of an additional 6 months.

Each of the projects included in the **ENEA PoC 2025 – Open** call may receive funding from the Agency of up to €60,000.00 to which will be added the partner's co-financing share, in the form of a financial contribution to be paid to ENEA, covering at least 10% of the project's “out-of-pocket costs”.



Each of the projects included in the **ENEA PoC 2025 – Challenges** call may receive funding from the Agency of up to €250,000.00 to which will be added the partner's co-financing share, in the form of a financial contribution to be paid to ENEA, covering at least 30% of the project's "out-of-pocket costs".

Contributions of existing personnel, equipment, and facilities, which do not generate cash outlay, are provided by the Parties to the project in kind.

ENEA funding and co-funding from the partner will be allocated in ENEA's internal accounting, specifically earmarked for the implementation of the single Proof of Concept Project.

The project partner's co-financing will be paid to ENEA in accordance with the terms established in the collaborative research agreement that the Parties will enter into for the implementation of the project.

In addition to co-financing the total eligible costs, each Party shall contribute to the project, within its sphere of competence and as provided for in the specific collaborative research agreement, with a contribution in kind relating to the provision of existing staff, equipment, and infrastructure.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS

Companies or institutional investors that are duly incorporated with legal personality may submit their Expression of Interest as potential industrial partners.

Potential partners must meet economic and financial reliability requirements. ENEA will verify any outstanding financial obligations (extrajudicial and/or judicial) against them, the presence of prejudicial acts, and the economic situation of potential industrial partners by requesting a Chamber of Commerce certificate or other instruments.

Expressions of interest from parties that do not meet the above requirements will not be considered.

4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTING AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The Expression of Interest must be submitted using the form attached to this notice (**Annex B**), or in accordance with it, duly completed and signed by the legal representative or person with valid power of attorney.

The above Expression of Interest must be received no later than **12:00 noon** on **07th April 2026** by certified email, if available, to enea@cert.enea.it or by ordinary mail to proofofconcept@enea.it indicating "**ENEA PoC 2025 – Expression of Interest**" in the subject line.

ENEA reserves the right to verify the accuracy of the information provided by conducting random checks.

5. EVALUATION OF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Once the economic and financial reliability requirements have been verified, the choice of partner with whom to collaborate will be made by ENEA at its sole discretion, through a special evaluation committee, based on a series of criteria relating, in particular, to the prospects for exploiting the technology to be developed as set out in the expression of interest and the amount of co-financing proposed.

6. COMMUNICATION OF EVALUATION RESULTS



The outcome of the evaluation will be communicated to participants via certified, if available, or by ordinary email.

7. DEFINITION AND SUBMISSION OF THE PROOF OF CONCEPT PROJECTS

Following acceptance of the Expression of Interest, the selected partners will participate in the development and presentation of the PoC Project, subject to signing a Non-Disclosure Agreement.

During the project development phase, the activities and roles of the partners will be defined, with particular reference to the value of the contribution made available within the collaboration, both in financial terms (co-financing declared in the Expression of Interest) and in-kind.

8. EVALUATION AND FUNDING OF PROJECTS

The PoC Project proposals submitted will be evaluated by a special Commission on the basis of predefined criteria, including, in particular:

- the innovative potential of the Project, particularly in terms of achievable TRL levels, which will be measured at the end of the project on the basis of a questionnaire-based self-assessment;
- market potential, intellectual property, and expected commercial results, with particular attention to the prospects for exploiting the results of the project, i.e., the strategy for creating value from the expected results of the PoC;
- the quality and efficiency of the proposed Proof of Concept Project implementation plan in terms of consistency of objectives, budget, and timelines;
- the usefulness of PoC Funding as a tool to increase the value and attractiveness of the technology for industrialization (only in qualitative terms: yes/no). the market potential and innovative potential of the Project, with the establishment of a ranking.
- aspects of compatibility/consistency with ENEA's strategy and Three-Year Activity Plan ("Piano Triennale di Attività" - PTA);
- economic aspects, with reference also to the absolute and percentage amounts of co-financing by the industrial partner.

Funding for PoC Projects will be guaranteed, until the available funds are exhausted, according to the final ranking approved by the Director General of ENEA. Any resources reserved for one of the two [ENEA PoC 2025 Calls](#), which may remain after financing the projects ranked in the list and considered eligible for financing, may be allocated to cover projects from the other [ENEA PoC 2025 Call](#) eligible for financing, for which resources were insufficient, in order to use all available resources.

Before the start of each funded PoC Project, a collaborative research agreement will be signed between ENEA and the industrial partner.

9. OWNERSHIP OF RESULTS

The results obtained during the project will be the property of ENEA. The industrial partner acquires an option right, to be exercised within six months of the conclusion of the project activities, to obtain an exclusive paid license for any patents or other intellectual property rights filed by ENEA to protect the results of the Project (Foreground) and/or any ENEA Background that may be necessary for the use of the Foreground.



This license will be granted under conditions that take into account the financial and in-kind contribution made by the industrial partner to the project.

10. PUBLICATION

This call shall be effective from the date of its publication on the ENEA institutional website.

11. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The processing of personal data sent by interested parties will be carried out in accordance with the measures and obligations imposed by European Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and Italian Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003, "Personal Data Protection Code" and subsequent amendments and additions, for purposes related to the procedure in question, both for the examination of expressions of interest received and for the possible development of an ENEA Proof of Concept project, pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) and (e) of the aforementioned Regulation.

The data controller is ENEA – National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, with registered office in Rome. The Data Protection Officer (DPO) can be contacted at dpo@enea.it

Personal data will be stored for a period of time not exceeding the achievement of the aforementioned purposes.