

# EIC PATHFINDER



European  
Innovation  
Council



The EIC Pathfinder programme supports visionary science and research breakthroughs with the potential to lead to radically new technologies. It funds high-risk/high-gain, early-stage research and development (starting at TRL 1-2 and reaching TRL 3-4), which can lay the foundations for transformative innovations of the future. It is the perfect launchpad for entrepreneurial researchers from universities and ambitious tech-driven innovators from deep-tech start-ups or SMEs – seeking to explore disruptive ideas and interdisciplinary approaches.

## Who Can Apply

**Open:** Interdisciplinary **consortia** (at least 3 legal entities from 3 different EU or Associated Countries) which may be composed by universities, research institutes, start-ups, SMEs and industrial partners.

**Challenges:** Legal entities can apply as **single beneficiaries**, as well as forming **small** (2 independent entities from 2 EU or Associated Countries) or **large consortia** (3+ entities from 3 EU or Associated Countries) based

## Open & Challenges

Pathfinder provides both “Open” and “Challenges” funding. “Open” supports technologies and

innovations in any field. The “Challenges” target specific technologies and innovations of strategic interest for the Union, which may change from year to year. Projects funded under each “Challenges” call are expected to interact among them in portfolio strategic plans, under the guidance of an EIC Programme Manager.

## Challenges 2025

1. Biotech for Climate Resilient Crops and Plant Based Biomanufacturing
2. Generative-AI based Agents to Revolutionize Medical Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer
3. Towards autonomous robot collectives delivering collaborative tasks in dynamic unstructured construction environments
4. Waste-to-value devices – circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals and materials.

## Funding Rate

100% of eligible costs, regardless of the type of organisation.

## Duration

No limitation (the recommendation is 3 to 4 years).

## Grant Amount

**EUR 3 million** (Open), **EUR 4 million** (Challenges) – larger amounts possible, if duly justified. For 2025, Challenges calls follow a lump-sum funding scheme.

## Deadlines and Application Process



# Technology Requirements

The result of an EIC Pathfinder project should be the “proof-of-principle” validation of a groundbreaking new technology. The background of an ideal EIC Pathfinder project are early experimental discoveries and concepts (TRL 1-2) which are elevated to TRL 3-4 by the end of the project, by means of laboratory testing and validation. A strong emphasis is placed on the novelty, ambition and long-term disruptive potential of the envisioned technology. Incremental innovations (i.e. simple reframing or combination of known technologies) will not be funded by EIC Pathfinder.

## Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)

- TRL 1 – Basic principles observed
- TRL 2 – Technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 – Technology validated in a lab



Our Swedish client, Amniotics AB, who got acquired in 2024 by the Magle Group, secured a €3.8 million grant for their HyperTargIPS-NK EIC Pathfinder project.

The Magle Group leads a 36-month research project in collaboration with Lund University, Medizinische Hochschule Hannover, and the University of Copenhagen.

The goal is to further develop AMNI-NK003 – a scalable, off-the-shelf Natural Killer (NK) cell therapy targeting both hematological and solid cancers. The project also aims to reduce costs, improve access, and deliver consistent, high-quality cancer immunotherapy.

*“We are proud to be awarded the EIC Pathfinder grant, which will support our AMNI-NK003 project in a substantive way and validates our approach and empowers us to take our technology to the next level. Also, a big thanks to the consultants at Nordic Innovators for giving us invaluable support us throughout the whole proposal process”.* **Vanessa Hall, Project Manager**

