

Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis

15 May 2020

As part of the EIT's Crisis Response Initiative <https://eit.europa.eu/our-activities/covid-19-response>, this activity directly contributes to the European Union's response to the COVID-19 pandemic



The banner features the EIT RawMaterials logo in the top left corner. The main text, 'BOOSTER CALL FOR START-UPS, SCALE-UPS AND SMEs IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS', is displayed in large, bold, light green letters. Below this, a small European Union flag icon is accompanied by the text 'EIT RawMaterials is supported by the EIT, a body of the European Union'. The background is a dark blue circle with a network of colorful lines and icons representing various industries and technologies, including a microscope, a smartphone, a gear, and a person.

Internal reference: **15099 - S-SME-B. Start-up - SME Booster**

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1. Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis

1.1. Objectives

EIT RawMaterials, initiated and funded by the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology), a body of the European Union, is the largest consortium in the raw materials sector worldwide. Its vision is to develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe. Its mission is to enable sustainable competitiveness of the European minerals, metals and materials sector along the value chain by driving innovation, education and entrepreneurship.

EIT RawMaterials unites more than 120 core and associate partners and 180+ project partners from leading industry, universities and research institutions from more than 20 EU countries. Partners of EIT RawMaterials are active across the entire raw materials value chain; from exploration, mining and mineral processing to substitution, recycling and circular economy. They collaborate on finding new, innovative solutions to secure the supplies and improve the raw materials sector in Europe.

There are six regional Innovation Hubs in Belgium, Finland, France, Italy, Poland and Sweden, called Co-Location Centres (CLCs) that represent different regional ecosystems connecting industry, research and education.

EIT RawMaterials aims to significantly enhance innovation in the raw materials sector by sharing knowledge, facilitating matchmaking activities, developing innovative technologies and supporting business creation.

The EIT RawMaterials “**Start-up & SME Booster Programme**” is one of the EIT RawMaterials business creation funding instruments dedicated to supporting start-ups and SMEs.

The objectives of the **Start-up & SME Booster Programme** are to provide established start-ups & SMEs with support:

- to speed up a technology challenge resulting in a higher TRL, bringing the technology closer to the market.
- to accelerate market penetration by dedicating financial resources for a specific segment or target market.
- to facilitate product portfolio diversification, enabling product adaptation or new product features to address a concrete market need.

Due to the exceptional circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the global economy, EIT RawMaterials has decided to open an exceptional **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis**, to help them maintain their activities and avoid that entrepreneurial and innovative initiatives built over the past years are wiped out due to economic and social consequences of the crisis. The call seeks to provide targeted support to

high impact and growth potential start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs during the crisis and adapt/accelerate to post crisis economic reality (this exceptional objective is of major importance in the Second half of 2020).

1.2. Topics of interest

The **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis** supports new businesses that contribute to the EIT RawMaterials vision to develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe. This includes activities along the whole materials value chain:

1. **Exploration** and raw materials resource assessment
2. **Mining** in challenging environments
3. Increased resource efficiency in **mineral and metallurgical processes**
4. **Recycling** and material chain optimisation for End-of-Life products
5. **Substitution** of critical and toxic materials in products and for optimised performance
6. Design of products and services for the **circular economy**

The supply of a **range of ores, metals and critical minerals** is the main focus of the EIT RawMaterials innovation community. For the present call, advanced materials solutions to address issues and challenges posed by the pandemics are also welcome. Bio-based and polymer materials will be considered only in view of their substitution potential of critical and toxic materials and for optimised performance or for multi-material product recycling. **Petrochemical raw materials, food/agricultural raw materials and construction materials are excluded.**

Examples are:

1. **Exploration:** Technologies and solutions for improved and new mineral exploration. As an example, solutions could include:
 - a. *New and improved geological models, better exploration model understanding and techniques for going 3D/4D, drones, etc.*
 - b. *New instrumentation, methods and technologies for more reliable, cheaper, faster and safer mineral exploration, including technologies and services for innovative data acquisition, big data analysis/handling and utilising existing/historical data sets for exploration and mining.*
 - c. *Application of new innovations, new geological models and rethinking/re-evaluation of geological settings/prospects to provide new exploration prospects and mining targets.*
2. **Intelligent Mining.** Technologies and solutions for more efficient, safer and sustainable modern mining. As an example, solutions could include:
 - a. *Application of new technologies/services for more efficient production, better safety, better utilisation of equipment and personnel for mining. Autonomous mining equipment, Internet of Things, virtual reality, UAVs/robotics, automation, real-time data that will improve planning, scheduling of operations and delivering*

- better efficiencies and cost savings. Self-aware and safe machines that are capable of ordering their own spare parts and service engineers, and are connected to each other, control centres and back offices far away.*
- b. Innovative services, approaches and products which increase public understanding and awareness of the need for raw materials, exploration and mining, ensure corporate social responsibility and social license to operate as well as added values of mining including remediation.*
3. **Mineral and metallurgical processes:** Technologies and solutions for mineral and metal processing and for improved materials production. As an example, solutions could include:
- a. Optimised extraction and production processes for metals and alloys, improving the efficiency of the process, using less energy and water, reducing cost and the production of waste.*
- b. Technology addressing equipment-damage issues (e.g wall thinning, corrosion etc.)*
4. **Recycling:** Technologies and solutions for materials supply from secondary sources and recycling. As an example, solutions could include:
- a. Solutions for recycling of end-of-life products, extraction from industrial residues, tailings, urban and landfill mining (e.g. WEEE, batteries, magnets, solar cells etc.)*
- b. Cost-efficient and clever collection, dismantling and sorting of waste.*
5. **Substitution of critical and toxic materials and for optimised performance:** New technologies or services that make it possible to substitute or use lower quantities of critical or toxic materials in key industries. For example:
- a. Substitution of critical and toxic metals in specific energy materials, such as platinum in fuel cells, cobalt in lithium ion batteries, or Nd and Dy in Nd-Fe-B permanent magnets.*
- b. Substitution of critical and toxic metals like Co and W in carbides, speciality metals in high strength steels and super alloys, including in design and manufacturing.*
- c. New material systems that contain less or no critical and toxic materials, for instance, for use in batteries, permanent magnets, solar cells, and thermoelectric and magneto caloric applications.*
- d. New or optimised materials for additive manufacturing, e.g. printable electronics.*
- e. New lightweight composites and designs as substitutes for critical materials containing high strength steels and for optimised performance.*
- f. Solutions that integrate new materials into a circular economy, e.g. technology and business that enables and builds upon the reuse and recycling of newly developed, high performance materials.*
- g. New products, systems and services for optimised raw materials use, particularly with respect to mobility and energy technologies.*
6. **Design of products and services for the Circular economy:** Solutions and business models implementing circular concepts, e.g. *new business models for resource recovery, product life extension (repairing, re-manufacturing, etc.), product as a service, sharing platforms.*

2. GRANT AMOUNT

The support scheme will be as follows:

1. Financial **support of up to a maximum amount of EUR 200,000.**
2. As a general principle, the financial support is granted to selected beneficiaries based on a realistic cost estimate (beneficiaries can request up to EUR 200,000), and is paid as a **lump sum.**
3. Start-ups and SMEs who are partners of EIT RawMaterials will have to report actual costs.
4. Funding will be attributed based on the proposed activities and budget (project plan) submitted by the startup/SME and checked during the evaluation process. The final allocated amount will depend on the convincing justification of the costs and on the available budget at the cut-off date. The amount allocated might differ from the amount initially requested by the entity.

3. TIMELINE & ADMISSIBILITY

The Booster call is open throughout 2020. A specific cut-off date is introduced on **June 12th** to allow Startups & SMEs (affected by the economical consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic) to submit proposals aiming at supporting them during this critical period and prepare their business for post-crisis economic reality.

For this specific cut-off date, the below process will apply (more details on the application documents and selection procedure can be found in sections 6 and 7 below).

					
APPLY	SHORTLIST	ONLINE PITCHING	AGREEMENT	MID TERM REVIEW*	FINAL REPORT
By cut-off date 12 June 2020	At latest 1 week after cut-off	At latest 3 weeks after cut-off	At latest 2 weeks after decision	First week October 2020	First week January 2021
Submit an online application form + 5-page plan	First screening (by EIT RawMaterials staff) for online pitching	Online pitching to EIT RawMaterials staff and external experts – decision whether to award	The signing of the project agreement will unlock the first funding instalment	Checkpoint to assess performance and costs occurred up to that time	Submit activities results and financial reports to unlock the final payment

Applications must be submitted by the contact person of the company via the registration link:

<https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Covid19-Booster>

Incomplete applications may be considered ineligible if essential elements are missing. For more information, please contact the relevant Innovation Hub staff using the details shown in the “Contact” section at the end of this document.

4. ELIGIBILITY

All EIT RawMaterials activities are governed by the rules set out in the Framework Partnership Agreement (see Model FPA) as well as the yearly Specific Grant Agreement (see Model SGA) with the EIT, under the Horizon2020 Annotated Grant Model¹.

4.1. Eligibility Criteria

The **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis** is open to the following participants who have an operative branch in one of the EU member countries or Countries Associated to Horizon 2020²:

1. Raw materials relevant **start-up or spin-off** companies at least registered at the time of application (registration certificate to be provided at the grant signature);
2. Raw materials innovation- and technology-related **SMEs** (according to European Commission’s definitions²), willing to boost their business through the introduction of new and innovative products and/or services.

In this specific **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis**, Startups and SMEs will need to demonstrate how their business is affected by the economical consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. If relevant, SMEs and start-ups will also have to explain how the proposed project is capable to directly or indirectly contribute to mitigate technological, market and/or value chain challenges connected to the COVID-19 global emergency.

The Projects supported by the “**Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis**” could have one of the following targets:

1. Increasing the TRL³ (from at least TRL 4);
2. Building or **expanding the Intellectual Property (IP)** portfolio;
3. Carrying out **customer validation or pilot testing**. The programme also supports initiatives to find potential customers among EIT RawMaterials partners.
4. **Expanding the market and reaching global scale.**
5. **Preparing Post-crisis** economic reality (explore new market opportunities; anticipate new commercial opportunities; maintain employment and innovation capacity; etc.)

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2003:124:0036:0041:EN:PDF>

³ <https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/desktop/en/support/faqs/faq-2890.html>

The funding can cover the costs described in the project plan for any activities starting from 1st April 2020 and ending before 31st December 2020.

NB: EIT RawMaterials offers several programmes targeting entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs at various stages of maturity.

- We encourage projects at idea/concept stage, without a registered company, to consider applying for the “Jumpstarter”.
- Start-ups looking for specific support in accelerating market uptake may consider our three-stage “Accelerator programme”.
- SMEs with more advanced product(s)/service(s) are recommended to contact us, to find out about opportunities to join consortium projects with our partners (upscaling projects) or to apply to a specific SME call.

4.2. Exclusion Criteria

Consulting service companies without a tangible product will be excluded, including one-person companies.

Participants will be excluded if they, or any one of them:

- is subject to an administrative sanction (i.e. exclusion)
- is in one of the following situations:
 - bankrupt, being wound up, having their affairs administered by the courts, entered into an arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or subject to any other similar proceedings or procedures under national law (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
 - declared in breach of social security or tax obligations by a final judgment or decision (including persons with unlimited liability for the participant's debts)
 - found guilty of grave professional misconduct by a final judgment or decision (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
 - convicted of fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
 - shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under a procurement contract, grant agreement or grant decision financed by the EU or Euratom budget (including persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control)
 - found guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of EC Regulation No. 2988/95 (incl. persons with powers of representation, decision-making or control)
- has misrepresented information required for participating in the call or fails to submit such information
- was involved in the preparation of the grant documents and this entails a distortion of competition.

5. AWARD CRITERIA

Each application will be scored on the criteria listed in the following table, and the scoring in relation to each criterion will be based on the guidelines shown:

CRITERIA	EXPLANATIONS
1. TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE, TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL) AND IP STATUS	The products or services offered by the Startup/SME should be relevant to the topics mentioned in section 1.2. Strong IP protection/potential protection will be positively evaluated as well as the stage of technology development.
2. BUSINESS RELEVANCE, POTENTIAL AND CUSTOMER READINESS LEVEL (CRL)	A large market size and customers' willingness to buy are positively evaluated (e.g. initial discussion with potential customer(s)).
3. QUALITY OF THE TEAM	Team capability is of the utmost importance since execution is key. Team members should demonstrate relevant expertise, track records and commitment to the venture.
4. QUALITY OF THE PROJECT PLAN, BUDGET & OUTPUT	A clear roadmap with careful planning of tasks and milestones and the existence of a sound budget will be considered carefully, since they will become a contractual commitment laid out in the project agreement. The project plan must clearly assess how the activities undertaken support the startup/SME in preparing for the post-crisis economic reality.
5. QUALITY OF THE KPIs and BACKFLOW	Since the source of the funding is public, impact metrics will be reported. Also, in the case of success of the company, we are interested to hear how you are willing to contribute back to EIT RawMaterials and its community (more information about backflow can be found in section 8.4).

Various impact factors relevant to EIT RawMaterials and the Horizon2020 programme will be considered during the evaluation, such as:

- New products or services introduced to market within 3 years;
- New jobs created (or safeguarded) in the raw materials sector;
- Private investment and other funding to be attracted;
- Women in the staff and/or management team;
- Number of employees from developing countries.

6. DOCUMENTS

The mandatory supporting documents are set out in the application form (downloadable from the registration website: <https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Covid19-Booster>).

Participants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for example, legal entity validation, bank account validation, ethics review, declaration of honour on exclusion grounds).

7. PROCEDURE

The application procedure is as follows:

1. **Online application:** Applicants must present by 12th June an online application form and a seven-page business plan in which they should illustrate: technology, impact of the COVID-crisis on their activities; customer needs, market and competition, business model, revenue projections, team composition and expertise, workplan for the booster project, budget required for the booster project, and potential benefits for EIT RawMaterials in return for the support provided.
2. **The first screening phase is performed by the local Innovation Hub** staff to assess the degree of alignment of the application to the underlying objectives of EIT RawMaterials. The best applications passing this screening will be invited to pitch their idea to a jury.
3. **Online pitching session and evaluation:** a jury of EIT RawMaterials staff and external experts will evaluate the applications according to the evaluation criteria described in next section.
4. The list of best evaluated projects will be presented to EIT RawMaterials Operation Management Team (OMT) for **final selection** of the projects to be granted support.

The selected applicants will sign a project agreement with the Innovation Hub legal entity to unlock the first payment.

The pre-selection panel and jury usually have a different composition, but jury members may also participate in the pre-selection panel.

The jury evaluation is planned to take place at the latest one month after each application cut-off date.

The pre-selection panel/jury will evaluate each application against the **five award criteria** and score them as follows (half marks are possible; decimals are not):

0: Non-existent, 1: Very poor, 2: Poor, 3: Fair, 4: Good, 5: Excellent.

The average of the evaluators' scores will be used to produce the ranking. The jury's decisions are final and unappealable, and no discussion will be entered into over the results of this process.

CRITERIA	THRESHOLD	MAXIMUM POINTS
1. TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE, TECHNOLOGY READINESS LEVEL (TRL) AND IP STATUS	3	5
2. BUSINESS RELEVANCE, POTENTIAL AND CUSTOMER READINESS LEVEL (CRL)	3	5
3. QUALITY OF THE TEAM	3	5
4. QUALITY OF THE PROJECT PLAN, BUDGET & OUTPUT	3	5
5. QUALITY OF THE KPIs and BACKFLOW	3	5
TOTAL	15	25

Where multiple applications are awarded equal overall scores, the pre-selection panel/jury will determine a priority order according to the following approach:

On the basis of the evaluation by the jury, EIT RawMaterials will decide on the award of the grant. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to offer selected candidates lower amounts than initially requested when, for example, the initial project submission appears over-optimistic, or the total allowable budget is too low to satisfy all the selected candidates/projects.

8. OTHER CONDITIONS

8.1. Payment and arrangements

The amount of funding (up to EUR 200,000) will be paid to the selected applicants in three instalments by bank transfer, provided all requested documents have been submitted.

1. Advance payment of the first instalment (50% of the total requested funding amount) within 30 days of the date of signature of the Project Agreement;
2. 2nd instalment (30% of the total requested funding amount) upon approval of the mid-term performance (planned for the first week in October 2020).
3. Payment of 20% balance, on approval of the final report or on achievement of milestones (planned for first week in January 2021).

8.2. Funding, terms & conditions

An outline of the budget should be submitted together with the application, taking into account the below categories and clearly demonstrating that the requested grant is necessary for the successful implementation of the Booster activity.

1. Personnel costs are eligible. The weight and relevance given to personnel costs in the overall proposed budget will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the nature of the start-up/SME, its stage of development, business activities and impact on the ability of the venture to adapt/accelerate to post crisis economic reality. Time sheets following the H2020 approved format for personnel costs may be required.
2. Travel costs for dissemination are eligible, e.g. participating in events to recruit piloting customers or getting market feedback; demonstration activities.
3. Equipment and depreciation costs such as computers and phones are not supported. However, equipment rent or lease fees can be eligible during the usage period of the project.
4. Subcontracting for services can be eligible (e.g. technical support, access to infrastructures, market/IP studies, business acceleration services, internationalisation support, soft landing).
5. Other goods & services (please specify), e.g. consumables/components for the implementation of prototypes or running a pilot test.

It must be underlined that the SMEs and startups participating to the programme, when acquiring goods and services must award the contracts ensuring best value for money and avoiding any conflict of interests, following the provisions of the Horizon2020 programme.

EIT RawMaterials, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors may carry out checks, audits and investigations in relation to the grant.

8.3. Reporting

Participants must adhere to the following reporting requirements:

1. Mid-term reporting of the ongoing activities and milestones achieved, as well as summary of costs incurred for general monitoring purposes.
2. A comprehensive final report on the project activities will be requested together with an accumulated cost report to be provided before the first week in January 2021.
3. Participants in the selected Booster projects shall allow and support any checks, reviews, audits and investigations by EIT RawMaterials, the EIT and/or any other competent EU body deemed necessary.

All applications, pitching and reporting shall be done in English.

8.4. Backflow to EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials is committed to supporting the best ideas and the projects with the highest potential to generate an impact in the raw materials value chain, as well as to developing its financial sustainability strategy, as mandated by the EIT.

With regards to the **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis**, and similar to its regular Booster programme, EIT RawMaterials requests a return (“backflow”) in the case of the success of the company receiving Booster support. The definition of success is agreed upon together with EIT RawMaterials.

In the framework of the **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis**, EIT RawMaterials will consider backflow schemes based on revenue sharing. In such a revenue sharing scheme EIT RawMaterials receives a certain percentage in the revenue generated from the Project (when successful).

The Backflow scheme shall reasonably take into account the amount of the grant allocated, the impact generated by it and, if applicable, additional opportunities provided by EIT RawMaterials such as successful access to investors and customers. Details of the backflow will be agreed upon

as part of the Project Agreement (PA) negotiation. Nevertheless, we encourage applicants to propose a backflow scheme when applying to this call.

8.5. Publicity – Visibility of the EU Funding

Publicity by the selected startups

The selected companies must promote the EIT RawMaterials **Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis** grant and its results, by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner. A communications package including guidelines will be provided to all selected companies.

The selected companies will include in its final reporting documentation an article explaining how EIT Raw Materials helped to overcome the COVID crisis and/or prepare to adapt their business to the post-covid reality.

Unless EIT RawMaterials requests or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.) must:

- a) display the **EIT RawMaterials logo with the EU emblem** and
- b) include the following text:

“This activity was funded by the Start-up & SME Booster Program from the EIT RawMaterials, funded by the EIT, a body of the European Union supported under the Horizon 2020 research and innovation program”.

When displayed together with another logo, the EIT RawMaterials logo and EU emblem must have appropriate prominence.

For the purposes of their obligations, the selected companies may use the EIT RawMaterials logo and the EU emblem without first obtaining separate approval from EIT RawMaterials.

This does not, however, give the entities the right to exclusive use.

Moreover, entities may not appropriate the EU emblem or any similar trademark or logo, or seek any other intellectual property rights in relation thereto, whether by registration or by any other means. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to revoke the above right of use at any time in its sole and unfettered discretion.

Publicity by EIT RawMaterials

EIT RawMaterials may use, for its communication and publicising activities, information relating to the action, documents (notably summaries) for publication as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material that it receives from the participants (including in electronic format).

EIT RawMaterials will publish the names of the funded companies, their origin, the amount of the grant and its nature and purpose — unless they have requested to waive this publication (because disclosure risks threatening their security and safety or harms their commercial interests).

Photos and videos taken by EIT RawMaterials during EIT RawMaterials events where the selected companies will feature are the sole property of EIT RawMaterials.

8.6. Dissemination and Exploitation of Results

Applicants retain full and exclusive ownership of their prior information and intellectual property rights. By submitting their application, applicants warrant that they hold ownership or have legally secured the right to use all elements of the innovative product or service and that the provided materials and information do not infringe any intellectual or other property rights, including patents, of any other persons, companies or other entities. Elements of the submission that are based on rights held by others, such as patents, shall be marked as such in the submission.

EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives in the programme undertake to ensure the confidentiality of the projects presented and developed throughout the Booster projects. By submitting their application to the programme, applicants consent that EIT RawMaterials and its Innovation Hubs (CLCs) will collect, transfer, process, store and delete their data under the above-mentioned conditions.

The selected companies agree that their data, the receipt of grants, and non-confidential information about their project, may be used by EIT RawMaterials and their authorised representatives for promotion of their activities, without compensation. Non-confidential information related to the project will be only provided after authorisation of the applicants or the one marked with “public summary”.

8.7. Processing of personal data

Processing of personal data by EIT RawMaterials

Any personal data will be processed by EIT RawMaterials in accordance with the EIT RawMaterials privacy policy⁴.

All selected applicants consent that EIT RawMaterials publishes, in whatever form or medium, the following information:

- Company Name
- Member country of origin (address or NUTS 2 region)
- Their activities in relation to the award of the Grant (via the summary for publication they provided)
- Grant amount

Processing of personal data by the participants

The participants must process personal data in compliance with applicable EU and national law on data protection (including authorisations or notification requirements, if any); see the GDPR⁵ guidelines.

8.8. Ethics

The recipient company's activities must be carried out in compliance with:

- a) ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity), and
- b) applicable international, EU and national law.

No funding will be awarded for activities carried out outside the EU, if they are prohibited in all member countries.

Participants must ensure that the activities have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

⁴ <https://eitrawmaterials.eu/privacy-policy/>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection_en

The participants must respect the highest standards of research integrity — as set out, for instance, in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity⁶.

8.9. Security

The activities must be carried out in compliance with Commission Decision 2015/444, i.e. security-sensitive information must be EU-classified, if its unauthorised disclosure could adversely impact the interests of the EU or of one (or more) of its member countries. Applications that are too security-sensitive cannot be awarded a grant.

8.10. Conflict of Interest

The participants must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the grant is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interest').

They must inform EIT RawMaterials without delay of any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest, and immediately take all necessary steps to rectify this situation.

EIT RawMaterials may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

8.11. Liability for damages

EIT RawMaterials cannot be held liable for any damages caused to the participants or to third parties as a consequence of the grant, including for gross negligence.

EIT RawMaterials cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the participants in the context of the grant.

⁶ European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity of ALLEA (All European Academies) and ESF (European Science Foundation) of March 2017 <https://www.allea.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/ALLEA-European-Code-of-Conduct-for-Research-Integrity-2017.pdf>.

8.12. Withdrawal of the Grant – Recovery of the undue amounts

EIT RawMaterials may withdraw the grant after its award and recover all payments made, if it discovers that:

- a. false information, fraud or corruption was used to obtain it, or
- b. a winner was not eligible or should have been excluded, or
- c. a winner is in serious breach of its obligations under these Terms & Conditions.

8.13. Administrative sanctions

If a participant has committed irregularities or fraud or has made false declarations, EIT RawMaterials may also:

- a. exclude the participant from all future contracts, grants and contests financed from the EU or Euratom budget for a maximum of five years (or ten years in case of repetition), and/or
- b. impose a financial penalty of between 2% and 10% of the value of the grant (or between 4% and 20% in case of repetition).

8.14. Cancellation of the call

EIT RawMaterials may cancel the contest or decide not to award the grant, without any obligation to compensate participants, if:

- a. no applications are received
- b. the jury does not find a winner
- c. the winner is not eligible or must be excluded (cf. sections 4.1 and 4.2 of this call)
- d. the objective of the contest has already been achieved

8.15. Terms and Conditions

By submitting their application form, applicants agree to the Terms and Conditions, which form part of their submission. EIT RawMaterials reserves the right to make reasonable amendments to these Terms and Conditions. Amendments and additions to these Terms and Conditions shall be valid if communicated in writing on the EIT RawMaterials website or otherwise made available to the applicants.

These Terms and Conditions are governed by the laws of Germany. Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with these Terms and Conditions which cannot be settled amicably will be brought before the courts of Berlin, Germany.

To the maximum extent permitted by law, under no circumstances and under no legal theory whether in tort (including negligence) contract or otherwise shall EIT RawMaterials and the CLC legal entities be liable for any special indirect, punitive, incidental or consequential damages, including loss of profit.

You may withdraw your application at any time by informing us by email or by withdrawing your registration at any time.

9. CONTACT

The “**Booster Call for start-ups, scale-ups and SMEs in response to the COVID-19 crisis**” is organised by EIT RawMaterials and its regional Innovation Hubs (CLCs), which act as managing partners in coordinating the collection, evaluation, award and follow-up process at regional level.

Innovation Hubs and countries covered

Check the nearest Innovation Hub to you, and find their contact details at:

<https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/>

The list of Innovation Hubs and countries covered by each are:

- **Innovation Hub Baltic Sea:** Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Southern Sweden
- **Innovation Hub North:** Denmark, Ireland, Northern Sweden, Norway
- **Innovation Hub Central:** France, Portugal, Southern Germany, Switzerland
- **Innovation Hub East:** Austria, Croatia, Greece, Hungary, Northern Germany, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia
- **Innovation Hub West:** Belgium, North-Western Germany, The Netherlands, United Kingdom
- **Innovation Hub South:** Italy, Spain, Hungary

Applicants belonging to countries not listed should contact the nearest Innovation Hub.

Other information sources

Call web page:	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/booster-call-for-start-ups-scale-ups-and-smes-in-response-to-the-covid-19-crisis/
Online Application link:	https://www.lyyti.fi/reg/Covid19-Booster .
Partners of EIT RawMaterials:	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/about-us/partners/
EIT RawMaterials Alumni:	https://eitrawmaterials.eu/eit-rm-academy/alumni/

10. TRL and CRL

