



# Public funding opportunities RobotUnion

for 2<sup>nd</sup> Batch companies



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# 1. List of relevant funding opportunities for Robotics

According to the information presented in this document this section includes different ways of financing the company from the public funding opportunities together with summaries of the open calls that fit to the RobotUnion Startups profile.

The general definitions of different type of the calls opened under H2020 and upcoming Horizon Europe (2021-2027) that you can apply individually or in collaboration with another institution are listed below:

- **Cascade funding.** This instrument is specifically designed for European Startups and SMEs. The most appropriate upcoming options for robotics technology are listed in this report. You will be able to access most of these open calls from [FundingBox.com](https://fundingbox.com).
- **The EIC Accelerator:** the previous SME Instrument
- **Other regional and private opportunities** from RobotUnion Supporting partners

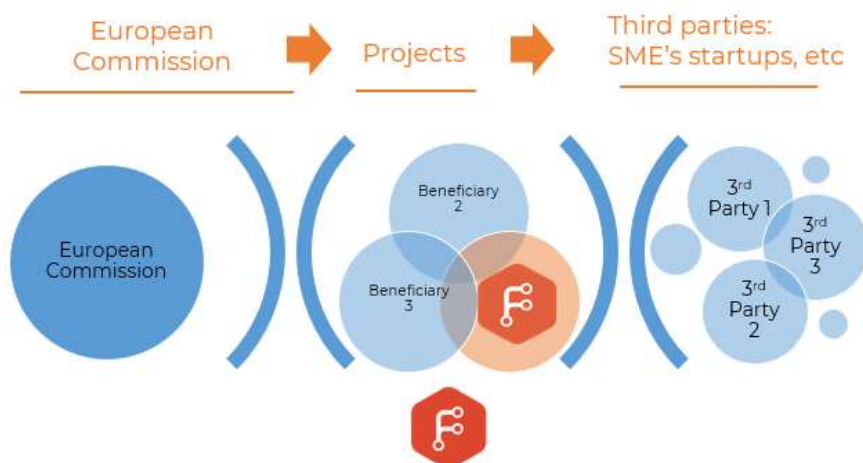
**Note: The Horizon 2020 program will finish at the end of this year and it's continuation research and innovation programme for 2021-2027 is called Horizon Europe.** At the moment of creating this guide many actions and grants are still not officially confirmed.

For more funding opportunities we invite you to join and follow our Funding Opportunities group on the FBOX platform, where all the opportunities are published every day: <https://spaces.fundingbox.com/spaces/fundingbox-community-tap-into-our-funding-opportunities>

## 1.1. Cascade funding

Cascade funding is a funding scheme proposed by the European Commission in which consortia are in charge of distributing money to SMEs in different prioritized topics.

The general scheme is that European Commission delivers money to a consortium and the consortium is responsible to redistribute the financing among selected SMEs. This means that the consortium is liable towards the European Commission for the startups to which it provides financial support. This is the scheme in which RobotUnion project works.



This funding method aims at simplifying the administrative procedures, creating a light, SME-friendly application scheme, since each consortium has specific goals and the applicants are able to focus on those which are closer to their needs.

These processes are structured in what is known as Open Calls whose goals are:

- Select tech Startups, or Scaleups for acceleration or incubation;
- Support pilots, demonstrations or experiments undertaken by Startups or SMEs on specific innovative technology or frameworks;
- Support extensions of the existing experimentation support capacity of the project adding new platforms or partners to extend its scope or to address specific tasks.

Each consortium can decide how to organize their open calls, and this means some of them can offer direct funding and vouchers for support services or free access and support to use their testing facilities. In any case, this support usually ranges between 50.000 and 250.000 €.

In short, the basic information of this funding opportunity can be summarized as follows:

- Startup/SME participation: As FSTP beneficiary.
- How to apply: Directly through each of the projects' website
- More info: [Funding and tender opportunities portal](#)

Among the various projects that are a part of the Cascade funding initiative, we recommend the following Robotics related open calls published by the projects:

<b>Call and topic</b>	H2020-DT-2018-1
<b>Project acronym</b>	<a href="#">DIH2</a>
<b>Open Calls website:</b>	<a href="http://dih-squared.eu/open-call">http://dih-squared.eu/open-call</a>
<b>Project title</b>	A Pan-European Network of Robotics DIHs for Agile Production
<b>Project reference</b>	824964
<b>Objective</b>	<p>The DIH<sup>2</sup> vision is to build a sustainable pan-European network to facilitate and accelerate the knowledge and technology exchange among robotics Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs). The DIHs will facilitate the uptake of the latest robotic technologies across the European Union in the field of agile production</p> <p>The ambition of the DIH<sup>2</sup> project is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the cost effectiveness of advanced robotics solutions.</li> <li>• Drive growth of the robotics market.</li> <li>• Generate innovation that maximises productivity and optimises agility in over 300,000 manufacturing Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Mid</li> <li>• Caps across the European Union.</li> <li>• DIH<sup>2</sup> is a network of 26 European Digital Innovation Hubs. Our objective is to grow this network to over 170 DIHs by 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>Call information</b>	<b>Open Call starts: beginning 2021</b>
	<b>Who can participate? Consortia</b>
	Manufacturing SMEs or Mid-Caps. SME status is calculated in accordance with the rules defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361. Status of the "Mid-Cap" will be assessed accordingly. Mid-Caps are defined as organisations with a staff headcount below 500 employees and a turnover below €100M.

	Technology Providers. Any type of organisation specialized in technology transfer or system integration to end-users, such as System Integrators, Research and Technology Organisations, Digital Innovation Hubs Centres, startups, SMEs, etc.
	<b>Funding:</b> up to €248,000
	Applications must be submitted by a consortium of 2-3 members. In total 26 consortia at EU level will be selected to participate in the Jury Day and will receive mini-grant in the amount of €3,500. During the Jury Day, 13 beneficiaries will be selected out of these 26 as final beneficiaries of the program and they will get up to €248,000 extra funding and premium technology transfer services. More info: <a href="http://dih-squared.eu/about-us">http://dih-squared.eu/about-us</a>

<b>Call and topic</b>	H2020-DT-2018-1DT-ICT-02-2018 - Robotics - Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH)
<b>Project acronym</b>	<a href="#">RIMA</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Robotics for Infrastructure Inspection and Maintenance
<b>Open Calls website</b>	<a href="https://rima-network.fundingbox.com/">https://rima-network.fundingbox.com/</a>
<b>Project reference</b>	824990
<b>Objective</b>	RIMA will support the development and deployment of robotics I&M applications with grants for two types of eligible actions: Technology Transfer Experiments (TTEs) and Technology Demonstrators (TD).
	<b>Technology Transfer Experiments (TTE)</b> consist of developing, testing and validating the technical and economic viability of a robotic-based representative model or prototype system to be applied in 'Target Use Domain' operational environment.
	<b>Technology Demonstrators (TD)</b> consist of validating the technical and economic viability of a new or improved Robotic-based technology, product, process, service or solution in an 'Target Use Domain' operational environment, whether industrial or otherwise, involving where appropriate a larger scale prototype or demonstrator.
<b>Call information</b>	<b>Next Open Call starts:</b> December 2020
	<b>Who can participate?</b> Beneficiaries of The Technology Transfer Experiments (TTEs) and Technology Demonstrators (TD) will be SMEs or slightly bigger companies. Micro-consortium must be composed of the following types of applicants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Service or product provider' related to one of the RIMA's Target Use Domains listed above,</li> <li>• Robotic-based 'Technology supplier', which usually is an equipment manufacturer or System integrator</li> </ul>
	<b>Funding:</b> up to € 300.000
	RIMA supports financially and technically 50 cross-border experiments involving European Small and Medium-sized enterprises through 2 Open Call rounds (2019 / 2020) with a total amount of 8.1M€. <p>Successful candidates will receive equity-free funding for Technology transfer and development in I&amp;M robotic applications. The maximum amount of financial support to be granted to each micro-consortium selected in the first Open Call will be up to € 300.000 in the case of Technology Transfer Experiments and up to € 100.000 in the case of Technical Demonstrators.</p> More info: <a href="https://rimanetwork.eu/">https://rimanetwork.eu/</a>

<b>Call and topic</b>	H2020-EU.2.1.1. - INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP - Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Topic: ICT-26-2018-2020 - Artificial Intelligence
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	Call for Solutions
<b>Project acronym</b>	<a href="#">AI4EU</a>
<b>Open Calls website</b>	<a href="https://ai4eu-challenges.fundingbox.com/">https://ai4eu-challenges.fundingbox.com/</a>
<b>Project title</b>	A European AI On Demand Platform and Ecosystem
<b>Project reference</b>	825619
<b>Objective</b>	<p>Artificial Intelligence is a disruptive technology of our times with expected impacts rivaling those of electricity or printing. Resources for innovation are currently dominated by giant tech companies in North America and China. To ensure European independence and leadership, we must invest wisely by bundling, connecting and opening our AI resources. AI4EU will efficiently build a comprehensive European AI-on-demand platform to lower barriers to innovation, to boost technology transfer and catalyse the growth of start-ups and SMEs in all sectors through Open calls and other actions. The platform will act as a broker, developer and one-stop shop providing and showcasing services, expertise, algorithms, software frameworks, development tools, components, modules, data, computing resources, prototyping functions and access to funding. Training will enable different user communities (engineers, civic leaders, etc.) to obtain skills and certifications. The AI4EU Platform will establish a world reference, built upon and interoperable with existing AI and data components (e.g. the Acumos open-source framework, QWT search engine.) and platforms. It will mobilize the whole European AI ecosystem and already unites 80 partners in 21 countries including researchers, innovators and related talents. Eight industry-driven AI pilots will demonstrate the value of the platform as an innovation tool. In order to enhance the platform, research on five key interconnected AI scientific areas will be carried out using platform technologies and results will be implemented. The pilots and research will showcase how AI4EU can stimulate scientific discovery and technological innovation. The AI4EU Ethical Observatory will be established to ensure the respect of human centred AI values and European regulations. Sustainability will be ensured via the creation of the AI4EU Foundation. The results will feed a new and comprehensive Strategic Research Innovation Agenda for Europe.</p>
<b>Call information</b>	<p><b>Open:</b> November 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 <b>Submission deadline:</b> February 11<sup>th</sup> 2021</p> <p><b>Who can participate?</b> Technology providers: startups, SMEs, Mid-Caps, large companies and research organizations.</p> <p><b>Funding: up to €70 000</b></p> <p>Type of activities: Developing, testing and validating the technical solutions that address the specific challenges by exploiting the existing AI resources included on the AI4EU Platform or developing new components. AI4EU will implement a Challenge Based Open Call approach. The principle of the Challenge Based Open Call Model is to identify challenges with an industrial, business or societal impact and develop AI-based solutions using the components available from the AI4EU platform repository or creating new components. The challenges will be sourced from the European Industry or AI4EU consortium partners that will receive support from AI4EU to detail and present them to the developers' community. Challenges will be continuously sourced, assessed and published in the AI4EU platform. When a challenge is published, solution providers can apply to solve this challenge. The best proposals will be supported for 6 months and will receive funding under the FSTP rules.</p> <p>Applicants together with submitting the proposal should publish the prototype on the AI4EU Platform. The received proposals will be assessed by the AI4EU consortium for each challenge and, at least, the 2 most promising concepts</p>



	<p>per challenge will be selected and developed as solutions under the Technology Transfer Program as FSTP beneficiaries Both Challenge Owner and solution provider will participate in a 6 months support program to develop the solution to the given challenge.</p> <p>Beneficiaries that graduate from the Program will be showcased as new resources on the AI4EU Platform. The Challenge Owners and Solutions providers will become Ambassadors of the AI4EU Platform for one year participating in events, online dissemination campaigns, content creation (posts, videos) among others.</p> <p>More info here: <a href="https://www.ai4eu.eu/funding-ai">https://www.ai4eu.eu/funding-ai</a></p>
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<b>Call and topic</b>	H2020-EU.2.3.2.2. - Enhancing the innovation capacity of SMEs Digital Enterprise Innovations for Bioimaging, Biosensing and Biobanking Industries DIGI-B-CUBE Customised Solution Innovation Vouchers
<b>Project acronym</b>	DIGI-B-CUBE
<b>Open Calls website</b>	<a href="https://digibcube.eu/open-calls/">https://digibcube.eu/open-calls/</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Digital Enterprise Innovations for Bioimaging, Biosensing and Biobanking Industries
<b>Project reference</b>	824920
<b>Objective</b>	<p>DIGI-B-CUBE project aims to unlock the cross-sectoral collaborative potential of SMEs by combining Artificial Intelligence (AI), Cognitive Computing Digital Technologies (CCDT) with the Bioimaging-Biosensing-Biobanking (B-CUBE) and related industries to deliver market sensitive disruptive technologies and generating innovative solutions that enhance patient-centred diagnostic work-flows, delivered through the improved algorithms for Medical Diagnostics' efficiency and accuracy. DIGI-B-CUBE will study the characteristics in market dynamics &amp; specificities for innovations created by merging AI, CCDT &amp; B-CUBE and related industries. By providing a framework for a more structured cross-sectoral and cross-border collaboration, that manages all the complex work-flows within the process, DIGI-B-CUBE instantiates the mechanisms to ensure the long-term sustainability of the action through collaborations of the participating clusters with hospitals, academia, industry, investors, business angels, managing authorities of the national innovation agencies and the European Commission support measures (such as EIT, ESIF). The main objective of this project is to provide key digital solutions for the reconfiguration of the Medical Diagnostics and related value chains towards a Health Economy 4.0 with a special focus on Biobanking, Bioimaging and Biosensing and related industries. Activities financed by the ESIF in the participating regions as part of the Smart Specialisation Strategies will be bundled in cooperation with the responsible managing authorities in addition to the innovation voucher scheme for SMEs. By integrating innovations in IT into Bioimaging, Biosensing and Biobanking and related industries, this project will accelerate the goal of personalised medicine that can eventually offer patients with fast and efficient diagnosis-treatment-healthcare system.</p>
<b>Call information</b>	<b>Open:</b> April 22 <sup>nd</sup> 2020 <b>Submission deadline:</b> 3 February 2021
	<b>Who can participate?</b> SMEs (Consortium consisting of minimum 2 SMEs; from at least 2 different sectors (Example: An SME from healthcare/medicine/biotech/biopharma + An SME from IT and related sectors)
	<b>Funding:</b> <b>Max funding per SME per voucher type: €50 000</b> <b>Max funding per project: €150 000</b>

	<p>Small and Medium Enterprises (including new start-ups) operating in the health, medicine, biotech, biopharma, IT or related sectors (robotics, automation, electronics, nanotech etc.) can apply for equity-free funding up to €60,000 through the DIGI-B-CUBE voucher scheme.</p> <p>Target Group: SMEs from the following sectors are eligible to apply for DIGI-B-CUBE vouchers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>healthcare / medicine / biotech / biopharma</li> <li>IT and related sectors (robotics, automation, electronics, nanotech etc.)</li> </ul> <p>The DIGI-B-CUBE vouchers will support the projects in the reconfiguration of Medical Diagnostics and related value chains (for more information, please visit <a href="https://digibcube.eu/open-calls/">https://digibcube.eu/open-calls/</a>)</p>
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<b>Call and topic</b>	H2020-EU.2.1.1. - INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP - Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies - Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)
<b>Project acronym</b>	<a href="#">Smart4all</a>
<b>Open Calls website</b>	<a href="https://smart4all.fundingbox.com/">https://smart4all.fundingbox.com/</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Selfsustained cross border customized cyberphysical system experiments for capacity building among European stakeholders
<b>Project reference</b>	872614
<b>Objective</b>	<p>SMART4ALL builds capacity amongst European stakeholders via the development of selfsustained, cross-border experiments that transfer knowledge and technology between academia and industry. It targets CLEC CPS and the IoT and combines a set of unique characteristics that join together under a common vision different cultures, different policies, different geographical areas and different application domains. SMART4ALL brings a new paradigm for revealing “hidden innovation treasures” from SEE and helping them to find the path to market via new, innovative commercial products. As part of its strategy, the project will develop and maintain an active network of DIHs across SEE for supporting academics, start-ups, SMEs, and mid-caps entering the digitization era. The mechanisms for achieving this are the design and implementation of 88 cross-border PAEs that will be executed by the consortia members and by 3rd party consortia (academics, companies and mid-caps). The latter will be supported via well-defined regular open calls and will have a day-by-day coaching by SMART4ALL consortium for boosting the research ideas to successful products. PAEs will be actively supported by SMART4ALL DIH cluster throughout and after their execution. The targeted application areas are domains that are not adequately represented in current SAE projects and include digitized environment, digitized agriculture, digitized anything and digitized transport. SMART4ALL introduces also the concept of marketplace-as-a-service (MaaS) that acts as one-stop-smart-stop of SMART4ALL DIH cluster for offering tools, services, platforms based mainly on open sources technologies as well as technology suppliers-adopter matchmaking capabilities customized to the four thematic pillars of the project. Finally, SMART4ALL plans horizontal activities that will support the Digital Skills Agenda of EC and the support of sensitive social groups via ideas and products that have significant impact on their lives.</p>
<b>Call information</b>	<p><b>Submission deadlines:</b>            Knowledge Transfer Experiments (KTE): May 2021            Focused Technology Transfer Experiments (FTTE): August 2021            Cross Domain Technology Transfer Experiments (CTTE): November 2021</p>
	<p><b>Who can participate?</b>            Universities and other Academic Institutions, SME and Slightly Bigger Companies and System Integrators and/or Technology Providers.</p>



	<p><b>Funding:</b>  <b>Knowledge Transfer Experiments (KTE):</b> lump sum of up to EUR 8,000  <b>Focused Technology Transfer Experiments (FTTE):</b> up to EUR 80,000  <b>Cross Domain Technology Transfer Experiments (CTTE):</b> up to EUR 80,000</p>
	<p>Knowledge Transfer Experiments (KTE): KTEs are a short-term (3 months) internship projects between two different entities from two different Countries (see eligible countries below): one Academic/Industrial partner who act as Sending Organization and one Academic/Industrial partner who act as Host Organization.</p> <p>Focused Technology Transfer Experiments (FTTE): FTTEs are short-term (6-9 months) cross-border experiments between two different entities (industrial or academic) from two different eligible countries. The projects will focus on one of the four following defined verticals and will give the opportunity to form synergies, accelerate product orient projects and offer guidance towards successful commercialisation.</p> <p>Cross Domain Technology Transfer Experiments (CTTE): The Cross-Domain Technology Transfer Experiments (CTTE) funding instrument, focusing on one of the four defined verticals (Digitized Transport, Digitized Agriculture, Digitized Environment and Digitized Anything), will give the opportunity to form synergies, accelerate product orient projects and offer guidance towards successful commercialisation. It will be of short-term duration (6-9 months) and will consist of cross-border Pathfinder Application Experiments (PAEs) between 3 different entities from at least two different eligible countries.</p> <p><b>MORE INFO:</b> <a href="https://smart4all.fundingbox.com/pages/CTTE">https://smart4all.fundingbox.com/pages/CTTE</a></p>

<b>Call and topic</b>	DT-ICT-03-2020: Digitising and transforming European industry and services: digital innovation hubs and platforms (H2020-DT-2018-2020)
<b>Project acronym</b>	<a href="#">PULSATE</a>
<b>Open Calls website:</b>	<a href="https://pulsate-opencalls.fundingbox.com/">https://pulsate-opencalls.fundingbox.com/</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Fostering the PAN-European infrastructure for empowering SMEs digital competences in laser-based advance and additive manufacturing
<b>Project reference</b>	951998
	<p>PULSATE is the new PAN-European Network designed to boost the adoption of laser-based advanced and additive manufacturing technology to empower SME's and Slightly Bigger companies' digital competences.</p> <p>PULSATE project will launch 4 Open Calls in two modalities in order to distribute 4.07 M€ among 62 bottom-up projects to mobilize companies (SMEs and slightly bigger companies) around Europe for taking advantage of the knowledge and services offered by the PULSATE in all areas of Laser-Based Manufacturing: micro/nano-processing, laser-based Additive Manufacturing, High Power Laser-based Manufacturing, and LBAAM Digitisation.</p> <p>PULSATE will operate under 4 action areas: Business, Technology, Competence &amp; Awareness, addressing the following technology domains: Nano/Micro Fabrication, AM, High Power Laser Manufacturing and Digitisation, and implementing 4 Open Calls and a catalogue of services</p> <p>For more information visit PULSATE Open Calls website: <a href="https://pulsate-opencalls.fundingbox.com/">https://pulsate-opencalls.fundingbox.com/</a></p>
<b>Call information</b>	<p><b>1st Technology Transfer Experiments Open Call:</b>  <b>Open:</b> February 8<sup>th</sup> 2021  <b>Submission deadline:</b> April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021</p>

	<p>1st Adopter Use Cases Open Call: Q1 2022 2nd Technology Transfer Experiments Open Call: Q2 2022 2nd Adopter Use Cases Open Call: Q3 2023</p>
	<p><b>Who can participate?</b> <b>Technology Transfer Experiments:</b> Consortia, minimum 2 SME or slightly bigger (tech providers and end users) <b>Adopters use cases:</b> 1SME or slightly bigger</p>
	<p><b>Funding:</b> <b>Technology Transfer Experiments:</b> up to 150.000€ <b>Adopters use cases:</b> up to 25.000€</p>
	<p>PULSATE project will launch 4 Open Calls in order to distribute 4.07 M€ among 62 bottom-up projects in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To mobilize companies (SMEs and slightly bigger companies) around Europe for taking advantage of the knowledge and services offered by the PULSATE in all areas of Laser-Based Manufacturing: micro/nano-processing, laser-based Additive Manufacturing, High Power Laser-based Manufacturing, and LBAAM Digitisation</li> <li>• To Foster the SMEs' potential through the development and implementation of technologies, skills, and digital capabilities.</li> <li>• <b>MORE INFO:</b> <a href="https://pulsate-opencalls.fundingbox.com/">https://pulsate-opencalls.fundingbox.com/</a></li> </ul>

<b>Call and topic</b>	DT-NMBP-20-2018 A digital 'plug and produce' online equipment platform for manufacturing (IA)
<b>Project acronym</b>	<a href="#">WeldGalaxy</a>
<b>Open Calls website</b>	<a href="https://weldgalaxy-opencall.fundingbox.com/">https://weldgalaxy-opencall.fundingbox.com/</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Digital Dynamic Knowledge Platform for Welding in Manufacturing Industries.
<b>Project reference</b>	822106
	<p>Digital Dynamic Knowledge Platform for Welding in Manufacturing Industries.</p> <p>WeldGalaxy is a knowledge-based B2B online platform that will bring together global buyers and EU sellers of welding equipment and consumables, along with accessories and services.</p> <p>WeldGalaxy will launch 2 Open Calls (OICs) to select up to 25 Open Innovation Pilots [OIPs]. Those Pilots will participate as beta testers of the WeldGalaxy platform to help in creating the market proof to test the 'online welding equipment and consumables platform'.</p> <p>For more information visit WeldGalaxy Open Calls website: <a href="https://weldgalaxy-opencall.fundingbox.com/">https://weldgalaxy-opencall.fundingbox.com/</a></p>
<b>Call information</b>	<p><b>Open:</b> February 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 <b>Submission deadline:</b> April 29<sup>nd</sup> 2021</p>
	<p><b>Who can participate?</b> We are looking for efficient and cost-effective arc welding methods to weld different materials with different geometries and thicknesses. The innovation should be shown in terms of equipment, consumables and/or welding processes.</p> <p>Proposals can be submitted by a single applicant (SME or MidCap) or consortium of two or more of the below-listed types of entities.</p>

	<p><b>Funding:</b> up to 100.000€ per Pilot</p>
	<p>The selected pilots will become part of an exclusive 6-month WeldGalaxy Training Program which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical support from industry experts from TWI</li> <li>• Business Mentoring from Fundingbox</li> <li>• Up to €100k funding per pilot</li> <li>• WeldGalaxy platform account</li> <li>• Demonstration facilities</li> <li>• Media exposure</li> <li>• Access to private and public funding</li> </ul>

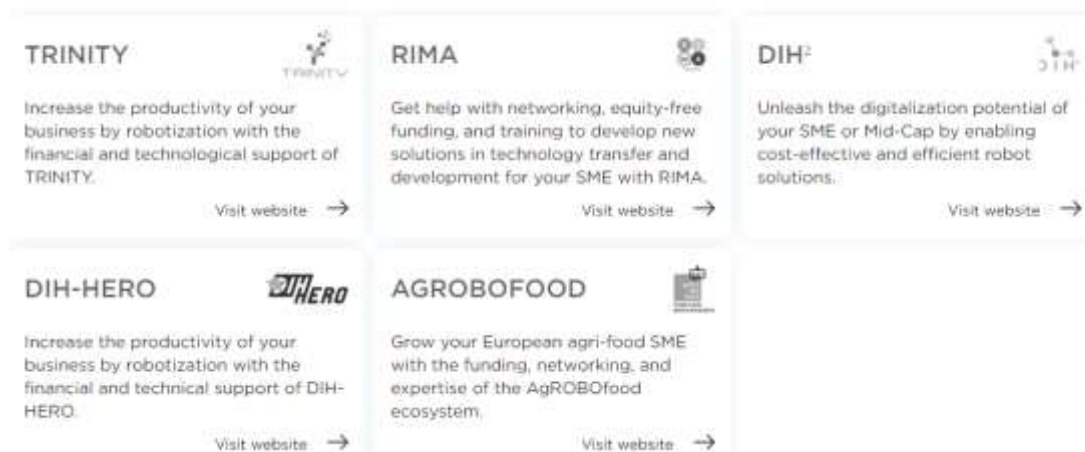
<b>Call and topic</b>	H2020-DT-2018-1DT-ICT-02-2018 - Robotics - Digital Innovation Hubs (DIH)
<b>Project acronym</b>	AgROBOfood
<b>Open Calls website</b>	<a href="https://agrobofood.eu/industrial-call/">https://agrobofood.eu/industrial-call/</a>
<b>Project title</b>	Digital Enterprise Innovations for Bioimaging, Biosensing and Biobanking Industries
<b>Project reference</b>	825395
<b>Objective</b>	agROBOfood builds the European ecosystem for the effective adoption of robotics technologies in the European agri-food sector and accelerates the digital transformation to make the European agri-food sector more efficient and competitive.
<b>Call information</b>	<p><b>Open:</b> October 2020  <b>Submission deadline:</b> April 2021</p>
	<p><b>Who can participate?</b>  agROBOfood Open Calls are aimed at European SMEs and start-ups working in the field of agrifood and robotics.</p>
	<p><b>Funding:</b>  <b>Up to 300K EUR</b></p>
	<p>The aim for all agROBOfood Open Calls is to stimulate, inspire and support innovation experiments and industrial challenges that meet user needs and have clear market potential with important benefits for EU economy and society.  The agROBOfood consortium builds upon an existing network and ecosystem and aims to use the mechanism of Open Calls providing financial support to third parties as a mechanism that will accelerate network expansion, driven by the robotics community and the European agri-food sector. Under this framework the Open Calls aim to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support industry, in particular SMEs of the agri-food sector, in their digital transformation, through demonstrators and platforms development, technology transfer experiments and other services,</li> <li>• allow the European automation industry (agricultural machinery, material handling, etc) to benefit from the opportunities of guiding, supporting and teaming up with start-ups and SMEs from the robotics sector, and</li> <li>• mobilize private matching funds (e.g. acquisitions by big industrial players, corporate VC investments, that will support the scale-up of robotic technologies and accelerate the</li> </ul>

	<p>digital transformation of the agri-food sector. To achieve these objectives, two types of Open Calls are foreseen – two Open Calls for Innovation Experiments and one Open Call for Industrial Challenges. In total 8 M Euro budget is allocated on financial support to third parties</p>
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## 1.2. Rodin network

The RODIN project is a pan-European network of networks aiming to bring together European Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) in robotics. RODIN helps robotics DIH networks to cooperate and strengthen the competitiveness of the European robotics market. RODIN is funded under the EU Horizon 2020 programme.

RODIN coordinates activities that are considered important for market segments with a potential of robotization: Healthcare, Agile Production, Infrastructure Inspection and Maintenance, and Agri-food.



The image shows five project cards arranged in a 2x3 grid (with the last cell empty). Each card features a logo, a title, a short description, and a 'Visit website' link with a right-pointing arrow.

- TRINITY:** Increase the productivity of your business by robotization with the financial and technological support of TRINITY.
- RIMA:** Get help with networking, equity-free funding, and training to develop new solutions in technology transfer and development for your SME with RIMA.
- DIH²:** Unleash the digitalization potential of your SME or Mid-Cap by enabling cost-effective and efficient robot solutions.
- DIH-HERO:** Increase the productivity of your business by robotization with the financial and technical support of DIH-HERO.
- AGROBOFOOD:** Grow your European agri-food SME with the funding, networking, and expertise of the AgROBOfood ecosystem.

The European Commission granted at least one project in each area to build a network of specialised DIHs. DIH-HERO focuses on healthcare robotics, DIH² and TRINITY work in agile production. RIMA concentrates on inspection and maintenance of infrastructure, while AgROBOfood concentrates on robotics in the agri-food sector. The overall aim of RODIN is to coordinate activities among these projects and support them by increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of their activities.

The project also coordinates communication and outreach activities, promotes the open calls that are issued by the mentioned projects to support SMEs in their digital transformation. This support is done, for instance, via demonstrators and platforms development, technology transfer experiments, or other services. For more information on RODIN and the current and future calls of the Innovation Actions, visit [rodin-robotics.eu](http://rodin-robotics.eu)

## 1.3 EIC Accelerator

The EIC Accelerator is the previous SME Instrument. It's big advantage is a high level of funding, fast evaluation process and individual application process. It is although very competitive funding instrument for which an application writing might be time consuming.

The SME Instrument was a funding programme for Small and Medium Enterprises under Horizon 2020, the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The program

“supported high-risk, high-potential small and medium-sized enterprises and innovators to help them develop and bring onto the market new innovative products, services and business models that could drive economic growth.”



Figure 1 EIC Accelerator. Source [EIC Guide for Applicants](#)

Currently the **EIC accelerator is in its pilot phase and it will not become a ‘fully-fledged’ reality until 2021** under the next EU research and innovation programme Horizon Europe (2021-2027).

**What are the main differences between the former SME Instrument and the EIC Accelerator (new SME Instrument)?**

Under the new EIC Accelerator, innovative companies can apply for 2 types of grant

Type of grant	GRANT ONLY	BLENDED FINANCE
Funding	0,5 – 2,5 million Euro per grant	Up to 15 million Euro per company
What does it cover	70% of the total costs of the project	grant in combination with equity investment
TRL level	TRLs 6 – 8	TRLs 6 - 9

Under the former SME Instrument there was only one option: grant only funding. Besides, the former SME Instrument was divided into two different grant schemes: SME Instrument Phase 1 and SME Instrument Phase 2. These two phases do not exist under the **EIC Accelerator** programme, which **is one only funding scheme (the former SME Instrument Phase 2)**.

**What is the selection process for EIC Accelerator?**

EIC Accelerator evaluation consists of two sequential steps, the remote evaluation and the interview.<sup>1</sup>

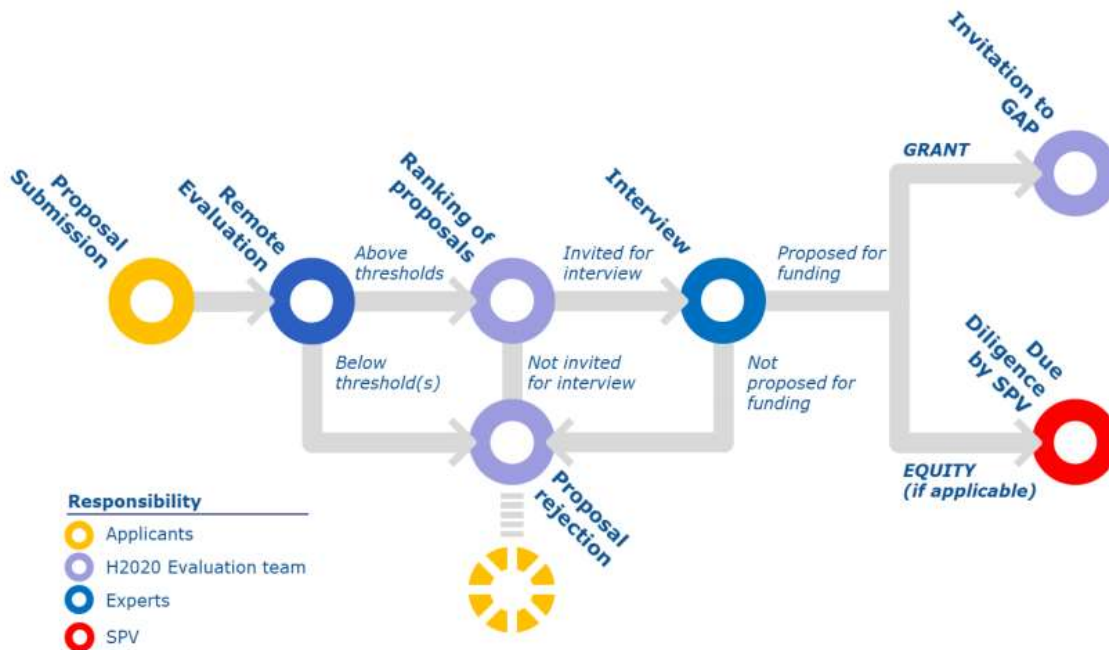


Figure 2 EIC Accelerator Selection process source: EIC Guide for Applicants

### What is evaluated?

- Excellence: Feasibility of the idea
- Impact: Commercial strategy, Potential to scale up and associated financial need
- Implementation: Team, Leveraging of investment

### Where should I go for official call/deadlines/programmes information and updates?

Official information related to Horizon 2020 is published on the European Commission website: [European Commission website](#)

Official information about the EIC Accelerator: [EIC Accelerator \(SME Instrument\) Funding opportunities](#)

European Innovation Council Official Twitter Account: @EUeic

<sup>1</sup> You can find the template of the pitch deck for the interview [here](#)



## 2. Other opportunities

Below you can find other regional and private initiatives for Robotics gathered from our Supportive Partners.

Name	Country	Website	Description
DIMECC	Finland	<a href="https://www.dimecc.com/">https://www.dimecc.com/</a>	DIMECC is the leading breakthrough-oriented co-creation ecosystem that speeds up time to market. Our innovation platform makes leaders and winners meet. Our network consists of 2.000+ R&D&I professionals, 400+ organizations, 67 shareholders and 10+ co-creation facilitators.
VTT Ventures	Finland	<a href="https://www.vttresearch.com/en/about-us/invest-innovation">https://www.vttresearch.com/en/about-us/invest-innovation</a>	VTT has a long history of supporting researchers in commercialising their deep-tech innovations. Today VTT's investment portfolio in these companies is managed by Voima Ventures.
Industry Hack	Finland	<a href="https://industryhack.com/">https://industryhack.com/</a>	Offers a wide range of services to support our customers' innovation activities in both private and public sector. So far, Industryhack has brought together 40 industrial companies and 10 public organisations with a community of more than 3000 solvers to create nearly 500 concepts, 80 proof of concept projects and 40 new solutions.
Innobooster	Denmark	<a href="https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/innobooster">https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/innobooster</a>	Innobooster is a grant to companies that wish to develop and make a new product or service ready for the market or to improve a process that increases the company's competitiveness and creates growth. The grant may help reduce the company's project-related risks.
Mkb-innovatiestimulering Regio en Topsectoren (MIT)	Netherlands	<a href="https://www.rvo.nl/subsidie-en-financieringswijzer/mit-regeling">https://www.rvo.nl/subsidie-en-financieringswijzer/mit-regeling</a>	The SMEs and Leading Sectors Innovation Promotion Region (MIT) encourages innovation in small and medium-sized enterprises beyond regional borders. In addition, MIT encourages SMEs to better align projects with the innovation agendas of the main sectors.

Vroege fase financiering	Netherlands	<a href="https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/vroegefasefinanciering-vff">https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-regelingen/vroegefasefinanciering-vff</a>	With a loan from the Early Stage Financing (VFF), start-ups and SMEs investigate whether their idea has a chance of success in the market. The Early Stage Financing should ensure that your idea from the planning stage gets into the start-up stage.
Chrysalix RoboValley Fund	Netherlands	<a href="https://robovalley.com/connect/programs/incubation-fund/">https://robovalley.com/connect/programs/incubation-fund/</a>	Are you working on robotic technologies, but do you lack the resources to fully pursue the opportunities they offer? The Chrysalix RoboValley Fund might offer opportunities for you.
ENISA	Spain	<a href="https://www.enisa.es/">https://www.enisa.es/</a>	If you are an SME that wants to undertake a viable and innovative business project, discover the financial alternative offered by the Enisa participative loan.
Fundingbox Deep Tech Fund	Poland	<a href="http://www.fundingbox.vc/">http://www.fundingbox.vc/</a>	FundingBox Deep Tech Fund finances early-stage European companies with a clearly defined technological advantage
Score	International	<a href="https://score.fundingbox.com/">https://score.fundingbox.com/</a>	scouting for scalable businesses, leading-edge technologies and resourceful entrepreneurs in the sports-tech industry.