

SMARTEES CALL FOR APPLICATION EXPERIMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

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The SmartEEs2 project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 872076.

1. General

1.1. What is an Application Experiment (AE)?

Application Experiments (AE) are collaborative projects of Innovative Companies (ICs). Each AE will be centred on the needs of a single IC, possibly associating other Third Parties as partners.

1.2. What are Competence Centers?

Competence Centres within the SmartEEs2 project are CEA, CPI, TNO, VTT, EUT, FHG, IMEC and CeNTI.

1.3. What are Innovation and Business Developers?

Innovation and Business Developers within the SmartEEs2 project are in charge of product trajectory, business support and access to finance. They are BLM, AMI, and EBN.

1.4. What is cascade funding?

Cascade Funding means financial support from the EC which will be distributed by the Service Delivery Manager assigned by SmartEEs consortium to the selected ICs for the implementation of their AEs.

1.5. Who are other third parties?

Other Third Party is an EU based entity that can be a supplier, technology or business provider and/or technology adopter.

1.6. What are Digital Innovation Hubs?

Digital Innovation Hubs are ecosystems that consist of SMEs, large industries, start-ups, academia, research centers, accelerators, investors, clusters, associations and other stakeholders. They aim at creating the best conditions for long-term business success for all parties involved. They help ensuring that every company, small or large, high-tech or not, can grasp the digital opportunities.

2. Eligibility to the Call for AEs

1.7. How many topics there are in the SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiments? May I apply to both topics?

SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiment has two topics:



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1. **EXPERIMENTING AND TESTING END-PRODUCT IDEAS WITH FWE TECHNOLOGIES**
2. **SUPPORT TO MANUFACTURING OF FWE BASED END-PRODUCTS INCLUDING UPSCALING**

Applicants may apply to one of the other topics depending on the requirements. Ready carefully the Call for AEs where you can find all explanations.

2.1. Regarding application conditions for mid-caps, which type of employees are included in the headcount: part time, EU/Worldwide, subcontractors?

The same principles about headcount apply to both the SMEs and Midcaps. Therefore, **Article 5 Staff headcount** of the **Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises**, which states the following, applies:

“The headcount corresponds to the number of annual work units (AWU), i.e. the number of persons who worked fulltime within the enterprise in question or on its behalf during the entire reference year under consideration. The work of persons who have not worked the full year, the work of those who have worked part-time, regardless of duration, and the work of seasonal workers are counted as fractions of AWU. The staff consists of:

- (a) employees;*
- (b) persons working for the enterprise being subordinated to it and deemed to be employees under national law;*
- (c) owner-managers;*
- (d) partners engaging in a regular activity in the enterprise and benefiting from financial advantages from the enterprise.*

Apprentices or students engaged in vocational training with an apprenticeship or vocational training contract are not included as staff. The duration of maternity or parental leaves is not counted.”

2.2. A subsidiary willing to apply to SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiments hires about 160 people but is part of a group hiring about 3400 employees. With such configuration, is the subsidiary eligible for SmartEEs2 Call?

In order to be eligible for the SmartEEs2 Call, the main criteria defining the type of company, i.e. size (employees, turnover, balance sheet total) and resources (ownership, partnership, linkages) must be respected. In fact, an enterprise can be very small in term of the size, but if it has access to significant additional resources it might not be eligible for the Call. Detailed information can be found in the SME recommendation published on the website.

Based on the information provided, it seems that, unfortunately, the subsidiary is no eligible for this Call, being part of another company with more than 3,000 employees.

2.3. Are SMEs from Egypt eligible for the SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiments?



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In order to be eligible for this Call, your company will have to be established in one of the countries eligible to receive funding from Horizon 2020. Please check the list of countries from the www.smartees.eu.

2.4. I notice that you are stating for a mid-cap company to apply a maximum of 3000 staff. Our company is counting over 4000 people from which about 1000 white collar and 3000 blue collars. Is the 3000 referring to the total headcount or only white collar? The reason for my question is clarification on the definition of “employees”, “workers”.

Indeed, the Commission Recommendation of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises does not provide the definition of an “employee”, but it can be found in national labour rules which vary from country to country. Therefore, we suggest that you check your labour law, or contact your own authorities to establish how your national legislation defines the term “employees”, and if “workers” are included.

2.5. Based on your criteria which of the companies comply to the micro-SME definition?

If you wish to apply for the SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiments you have to be either an SME, or a Mid-cap. Please note that the main factors determining the type of the company are staff headcount and, either, turnover or balance sheet total as shown in the table below. Read carefully the following document in which you will find all relevant information about the types of companies, and how to make the calculations of staff head count: COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION of 6 May 2003 concerning the definition of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.

Type of company		Staff headcount	(and) Turnover	(and/or) Balance sheet total
Mid-cap		< 3,000	N.A.	N.A.
SME	Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m	≤€ 43 m
	Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m	≤ € 10 m
	Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m	≤ € 2 m

3. Consortium



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3.1. Can I submit the project application as a single company or do you prefer to see the application coming from a consortium partner from different EU countries? If yes, how many?

SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiments is open to single SMEs or Mid-caps, not the consortium of 2 or more companies. A selected SME or Mid-cap will cooperate with SmartEEs2 consortium on the development of an application experiment.

4. Technical and non-technical services

4.1. Is it possible to combine 2 application experiments in my project idea or should the focus be only on one, e.g. OLED button for textile integration and printing antennas? I am interested into OLED button for textile integration, which can be used in textile and in automotive too? Should I describe both application cases or should I focus only on one application type?

It is possible to have only 1 product demonstrator with one application case.

4.2. I am not sure if the solution we can develop already exists and you provide us the guidelines to get to that solution or based on the existing fields, we have to develop a new product/solution.

The solutions displayed in the Marketplace are purely demonstrative of the flexible and wearable electronics technologies we can provide you with in the application fields of:

- OLED lighting
- Organic photovoltaics
- Flexible displays
- Electronics and components
- Integrated smart systems
- Smart textiles
- Structural electronics

If you are applying to the topic experimenting and testing end-product ideas into FEW technologies, the aim of your application experiment will be to turn your product idea into a product demonstrator integrating flexible and wearable electronics technologies inside. We will help you as well to create an exploitation plan for that new product and the associated value chain. You will also be offered a direct contact with investors. So, eventually, you will have a complete product concept kit to present to your customers and get into business with them, hopefully.



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4.6. Is it possible to use a product for a different activity field than the categorized? For example, the product “Pressure sensor” is described as a solution for: consumer electronics, Logistics, Medical & Pharmaceutical, Packaging and Textiles & Fashion, but our idea is about using it in an automotive solution. Is it accepted, or the proposed activities fields are compulsory the only options?

Yes, you are free to select the application sector. What you see in the Marketplace are possible applications, but of course you can select others according to your interest/necessities.

6. Voucher and in-kind

6.3. Do you expect the contribution from the applicant company? And how you they show own funding?

The total budget of the Application Experiment will be complemented by the in-Kind contribution from the Innovative Company (IC) up to:

- ✓ $40 \times \frac{0.3}{0.7} = 17 \text{ k€}$ in case of receiving 40 k€ Voucher (case 1);
- ✓ $20 \times \frac{0.3}{0.7} = 8.5 \text{ k€}$ in case of receiving 20 k€ Voucher (case 2).

Voucher support is subject to the EC rules of 70% funding rate of eligible costs for for profit organisation. The Voucher and the In-kind contribution from the IC will be used to cover services and costs that are not available within SmartEEs2 which are necessary to the successful realization and completion of the Application Experiment.

6.4. What are eligible costs for voucher and in-kind contribution?

Only the costs listed below are eligible:

- Qualified human resources from the IC dedicated to the Application experiment
- Consumables, Components, Materials for the product demonstrator
- Travelling (E.g. one meeting for kicking of the Application Experiment)
- Subcontracting (other third parties than the IC)

Please note that equipment and investment costs are not eligible.

6.5. What are the constraints or principles of using a Voucher?



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Voucher must be used in accordance with H2020 rules. When selecting other third parties/sub-contractors, it is important to ensure the best value for money or, if appropriate, the lowest price. Also, any conflict of interests must be avoided.

7. Evaluation of Application Experiment proposals

7.1. How are proposals submitted for the SmartEEs2 Call for Application Experiments evaluated?

All submitted proposal are evaluated by the Evaluation Panel composed of 3 evaluators.

8. Application Form

8.2. How do I submit my application experiment proposal?

First, you need to register through the submission software at <https://apply.smartees2.eu> then you download Application Form from the software, and finally you complete the Application Form (in line with the Application Guidelines), save it as a PDF file (MAX 5 pages), uploaded it and submit it through the submission software.

8.3. Would it be possible to attach Annexes to the Application Form?

No, annexes are not allowed. All information must be included in the Application Form (max 5 pages).



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