

## IFAB 2022 CALL FOR PROJECTS

### ***IFAB Missions***

The Foundation has three major goals:

- Reinforcing, enhancing, and promoting **scientific research** and its **cross-disciplinary** applications, with particular focus on **Big Data and Artificial Intelligence**.
- Designing **scenarios** related to **economic and social transformation** in connection with the great challenges of our times: climate change, the health crisis, the exploitation of resources, the management of complex urban systems, and the application of conventional and innovative technologies.
- **Dissemination** of the role and potential of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in addressing global problems and other issues with an **impact on people's lives**. The goal is to increase awareness of the importance of these new technologies among the public, entrepreneurs and politicians.

To pursue these goals, IFAB promotes, manages, and carries out cross-disciplinary and applied research, training and dissemination for establishing and reinforcing a **European Hub of Big Data and Artificial Intelligence** further to a new, inclusive, sustainable, open, and humane form of development.

### ***Aim of the Call***

The objective of this Call is to attract and finance innovative projects related to the areas listed below. We seek proofs of concept, research and development, applications and solutions **partnered with at least one private company**. Projects will develop and exploit HPC computational methods, big data analytics and artificial intelligence, cloud- and edge-computing workflow. Projects based on quantum computing methods will also be considered.

The Foundation will reimburse only 50% of eligible costs of private companies that are not members of the Foundation. However, reimbursement of up to 100% of eligible expenses is envisaged for Foundation members, public bodies, and not-for-profit operators and research organizations formally recognized by a public entity. However, co-financing, both in kind and in cash, is strongly appreciated to increase the mobilization of resources and the critical mass of the various initiatives.

### ***Thematic areas***

**1. Earth.** Project aims should relate to:

- Climate change and impact mitigation
- Production of energy from renewable and alternative sources
- Reduction and removal of greenhouse gas emissions
- Energy efficiency in industry and manufacturing

**2. Healthcare and medicine.** Project aims should concern the development of IT and computer-aided design platforms for:

- Care management flows
- Drug design and repurposing
- Precision medicine methodologies, and genomics and genetics data processing
- In silico (computational) medicine

**3. Digital twins of complex systems.** Project aims should concern the development of digital twins of complex systems for (for example, and not limited to):

- Urban systems
- Mobility and the transport of goods and people
- Value chains and supply chains relating to the agri-food, logistics/transport, manufacturing, finance, and insurance sectors
- Workforce health and safety

**4. New materials.** Project aims should concern the methods of development and design of innovative materials and their applications, with particular reference to:

- Environmental sustainability
- Reduction of environmental pollution
- Energy storage
- Circular economy and biotech for the reuse of manufacturing waste

At least one project for each of the above thematic areas will be funded from among those deemed appropriate. Projects will be assessed on the basis of their technical and scientific merit.

### ***Eligible subjects***

Proposals can involve public and private partners.

**Each private or public partner** can participate as coordinator in only one project. However, no restrictions apply to participation in multiple projects as a member of the partnership.

Any changes or amendments to the funding agreement must be approved by the IFAB Board of Directors.

The **Principal Investigator (PI)** of the leader entity cannot be the Principal Investigator of any other currently active IFAB funded proposal.

### ***Eligible projects***

Proposals should include a clear presentation of the project, its relevance to the IFAB mission and the thematic areas of this Call, its possible applications, and potential integration within industry and service systems. The levels of TRL or improvement of the previous TRL of the technologies developed or used must be specified among the expected outcomes.

Proposals should:

- i) Include the definition of scientific and management responsibilities of the project
- ii) State details of all the costs likely to be incurred

- iii) Specify the project duration, planned milestones and deliverables, and detail project endpoints, outcomes and reporting
- iv) Identify potential follow-ups and, in particular, potential practical applications for industry and/or public administration

In addition to the final report, technical review and interim reports will be required.

Projects are expected to last a maximum 12 months from the signing of the research agreement. Projects may be extended by up to a maximum of 6 months if judged pressing and justifiable. Any extension will not, however, entail any increase in the funding allocated.

### ***Eligible costs***

The total cost of the project should include costs and overheads, according to the eligibility criteria and thresholds listed below:

- Permanent or temporary research staff engaged in or recruited for the project. Costs of permanent staff dedicated to the project activities and for the duration of the project may also be included as in-kind co-funding of the project. Working hours must be reported on a timesheet or similar instrument. There are no restrictions on the number of staff involved.
- Equipment and software licenses that are necessary for carrying out the project (clear and precise motivations are required).
- Possible Patent or IP protection costs.
- Services provided by third parties. Specific components or services useful for the project may be outsourced, but not knowledge, research and development or technologies to compensate for gaps or shortcomings in the proposal team.
- Travel, publication and dissemination costs.
- Overheads (maximum 10% of the total amount).

Double funding is not allowed under any circumstances.

Grants can cover up to 100% of the eligible costs reported by members of the Foundation, public bodies, and not-for-profit operators and research organizations formally recognized by a public entity. For these entities, co-funding in cash or in kind of the eligible costs will be looked upon favourably in the assessment process.

For private companies who are not members of the IFAB Foundation, the grant awarded will cover up to a maximum of 50% of the eligible costs.

Proposals should provide the following mandatory documents:

- Online request for funding and detailed budget: <https://www.ifabfoundation.org/ifab-2022-call-for-projects/>
- IFAB privacy statement acceptance and authorization, duly signed by the Principal Investigator of the leading organization
- Acceptance of the contract model

By responding to this Call, organizations acknowledge, agree and accept that the award of the funding requires the irrevocable acceptance of all the documents, available online for download.

### ***Evaluation Criteria***

Projects will be assessed according to the methods and criteria below.

- DESCRIPTION
  - Project structure, aims and strategies
  - Project management
- APPROACH
  - Research plan
  - Availability and accessibility of infrastructure, applications and data enabling the proposal
  - Research and development action
  - Risk assessment, management and mitigation
  - Regulatory compliance and legal and ethical rights
  - Interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach
- INNOVATION
  - Originality of methods and implementation
  - Relevance and impact in the domain
- OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESSES
  - Breakthrough in the domain
  - Knowledge advancement and discovery, development of new applications, decision support for policy, strategy and organization
  - Business development potential
  - Benefits for citizens and the community
- RELEVANCE FOR THE FOUNDATION
  - Added value for the Foundation, its ecosystem and stakeholders
  - Guiding future philanthropic programmes by the Foundation.
- PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR AND PARTNERSHIP
  - P.I. R&D track record
  - Partnership quality
  - Complementarity and evidence of the role and contribution of each involved partner
  - Description of the infrastructure and tools used in the project and their appropriate scale
- YOUNG RESEARCHERS' INVOLVEMENT AND TRAINING
  - Description of the education and training programme for the involvement and valorization of young technologists and scientists
- DISSEMINATION
  - Communication and dissemination plan
  - Citizens' outreach and inclusion
- BUDGET AND PROJECT DURATION
  - Budget suitability, coherence, and project duration.

Proposed projects will be scored by independent external assessors appointed by the IFAB Advisory Board, also specifying the minimum threshold to be accepted for funding. Scores will be checked by the IFAB Advisory Board, which, in the event of a tie between two or more proposals, will decide the winner following interviews and/or the collection of additional information about the proposals. The final ranking will be approved by the IFAB Board of Directors.

### ***Non-eligible projects***

Proposals will be deemed non-eligible if they do not comply with the criteria outlined in the above paragraph "Eligible projects" and/or present the following features:

- Beyond the scope or aim of the Call for Projects
- Proposals with the aim of setting up new research centres

### ***Submission process***

Applications must be submitted online **by 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**: <https://www.ifabfoundation.org/ifab-2022-call-for-projects/>

Personal data collected in the context of this Call will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679.

Communication of the personal data required in the attached project form is necessary to participate in this Call and for any subsequent operation(s).

For more information on how personal data is processed by the Foundation, please see the information on processing of personal data attached to the project form.

### ***Available budget***

A budget of **€400,000** for the 2022 Call will be made available by IFAB through its own funding sources. Exceptions notwithstanding, the maximum admissible funding granted per project will be €125,000.

### ***Communication and Information***

The text of the Call and all the mentioned documents can be found on the Foundation website ([www.ifabfoundation.org](http://www.ifabfoundation.org)).

Partners awarded a grant will have 30 days from notification thereof to sign the contract, after which the funding will be transferred to another proposal in the rankings.

CALL SUMMARY IFAB 2022 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Deadline **14<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

Aim To improve the understanding of complex and socially relevant topics by means of the exploitation of HPC computational methods, big data analytics, and artificial intelligence, cloud- and edge-computing workflow. Projects based on quantum computing methods will also be considered.

Eligible subjects Public or private organizations

Contact info **projects@ifabfoundation.org**