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Innovation, Mobilität
und Infrastruktur

1ST CALL
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VERSION 1.0

TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE 2025
CALL GUIDELINE

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1 KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

A total funding of EUR 13.55 million is available under the Technology Infrastructure 2025 Call.

Table 1: Key points of the Call

Key points	Information
Short description	This Call supports projects for the acquisition and establishment of R&D infrastructure ("economic use") for applied research and development. The Call is subject to thematic restrictions.
Max. funding amount	EUR 1,5 million per project
Min. eligible total project costs	EUR 300,000 per project
Funding rate	max. 50%
Eligible costs	Cost for the acquisition of R&D infrastructure capitalised in the fixed asset register
Duration (years)	max. 3 years Latest project start: 01/12/2026 Projects must start on the 1st day of the month.
Type of application	Individual application or consortium
Eligible organisations	The following are eligible: – Undertakings – Research and knowledge dissemination organisations – Universities (universities and universities of applied sciences) – Non-university research institutions – Technology transfer institutions, innovation intermediaries and other scientifically-oriented organisations (e.g. dedicated associations, operators of R&D infrastructure) – Other organisations endowed with their own legal personality (e.g. non-scientifically oriented associations)

Key points	Information
Language	English or German
Total budget	EUR 13.55 million
Funding provider	Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI)
Submission deadline	25/02/2026, 12:00 (CET)
Contact	**Technology Infrastructure 2025 team:** Barbara Lohwasser, +43 57755-2201, **barbara.lohwasser@ffg.at** Lisa Eberlein, +43 57755-2414, **lisa.eberlein@ffg.at** Barbara Rief-Vernay, +43 57755-2413, **barbara.rief-vernay@ffg.at** Martin Reishofer, +43 57755-2402, **martin.reishofer@ffg.at**
Online information	**https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibung/technologieinfrastrukturfoerderung-2025**
Submission portal	https://ecall.ffg.at

This Call is subject to the provisions of the Guideline for R&D Infrastructure Funding, Economic Use. However, this Guideline contains restrictions specific to this Call.

In the event of inconsistency or discrepancy between the German language version and the English translation of this Call Guideline, the German language version shall prevail.

2 OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

Since 2016, the FFG has been promoting high-quality R&D infrastructure as a means of strengthening the basis for excellent research in Austria and improving the international standing of Austrian research and innovation activities. The corresponding R&D Infrastructure Funding calls were aimed at both basic research and applied research and development.

The current **Technology Infrastructure** Call, which premieres in 2025, supports the establishment of R&D infrastructure for applied research and development. This Call **exclusively** addresses technology infrastructure for **economic use**.

Modern technology infrastructures are essential to industrial excellence, innovation and technological breakthroughs. They allow companies to develop new technologies, innovative products, processes and services. Technology infrastructures play a key role in retaining scientific know-how and global talent and strengthening innovation ecosystems in which research and technology organisations and companies cooperate closely.

Overall, the Technology Infrastructure Funding 2025 initiative is intended to strengthen the ability of business and science to engage in strategic innovation, enabling them to react even more flexibly to global developments and accelerate transformative developments (fundamental transformation, disruptive changes).

The Call is aimed at companies and research and knowledge dissemination organisations (e.g. universities, non-university research institutions). Funding is provided for the purposes of acquiring and establishing technology infrastructure for economic use with the following objectives and priorities:

Improving RTI services of Austrian companies and research and knowledge dissemination organisations **by providing competitive technology infrastructure**

- for **applied research and development**
- for **cooperative (national and international) use**
- to combine **education and research**[1]

Use of the funded infrastructure should generate the following added value:

- **Increasing research and innovation capacities** in Austria
- Strengthening technology infrastructures by focusing on initiatives of relevant **critical size**
- Establishing **new collaborations**
- Increasing **multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity in research and development** by **opening access** to other users
- **Helping create holistic system solutions** through cooperation between companies and research and knowledge dissemination organisations across industries
- **Strengthening the ability to engage in strategic innovation** in all sectors of the topics addressed
- **Strengthening the competitiveness** of companies by providing technology infrastructure for applied research and development as well as commercial exploitation of the findings

[1] E.g. open technology laboratories at universities or universities of applied sciences, where students and researchers work together with companies to develop novel technologies.

3 CALL TOPICS

The funded infrastructure should help accelerate **transformative developments** (fundamental transformation, disruptive changes). Technology infrastructure can be submitted for the **following topics**.

To achieve the transformation goals of the **energy transition**, infrastructures will be funded which

- enable and disseminate transformative innovations in renewable energy technologies, and/or
- support the development, testing and scaling of novel energy-related solutions and thus ensure the timely availability of these solutions, and/or
- enable integrated and flexible energy systems through cooperation: interdisciplinary and intersectoral test environments for research into power, heat and ICT systems, as well as infrastructures and subsystems of the energy system

To achieve the transformation goals of the **mobility transition**[2], infrastructures will be funded which

- support the development, testing and scaling of innovations to achieve the goals of the mobility transition and ensure their short/medium-term availability, and/or
- provide the simulation, measurement, testing, validation and certification methods required for the development, testing and scaling of innovations in the field of the mobility transition, and/or
- can create holistic, cross-sectoral innovations at the interface between energy and mobility

To achieve the transformation goals in the field of **digital and key technologies**, infrastructures will be funded which

- strengthen Europe's technological sovereignty and the development of European value chains, for example in the fields of artificial intelligence, microelectronics, quantum technologies, automation and robotics, photonics, materials engineering and advanced materials, and cybersecurity, and/or
- use digital innovations to address societal challenges such as demographic change & health systems, climate change, democracy promotion & societal resilience, and/or

[2] See objectives of Austria's 2030 Mobility Master Plan and the Circular Economy Strategy

- increase acceptance, trust and transparency when it comes to the use of digital and key technologies

To achieve the transformation goals in the field of **space and aviation technologies**[3], infrastructures will be funded which

- support the development, testing and scaling of innovations for future-oriented and competitive aviation which is digital and intermodal, and ensure the availability of these innovations, or
- support the development, testing and scaling of innovations for competitive and sustainable space technologies and space-based solutions, and ensure the availability of these innovations, and
- can create cross-sectoral innovations in fields such as energy, mobility, the circular economy and production or climate protection, including climate change adaptation.[4]

To achieve the transformation goals in the field of the **circular economy and production technologies**[5], infrastructures will be funded which

- increase productivity through intelligent and regional use and production of products and infrastructure (Refuse, Rethink, Reduce), and/or
- intensify product use by extending the service life of products, components and infrastructure (Reuse, Repair, Refurbish, Remanufacture, Repurpose), and/or
- close material cycles by recycling materials (Recycle, Recover), and/or
- strengthen resilience through crisis-proof, resilient and flexible companies, and/or
- increase the technological sovereignty of Austria/Europe by reducing technology and resource dependencies

[3] In accordance with the Austrian Space Strategy 2030+ and the RTI Strategy for Aviation 2040+

[4] This point must be fulfilled in combination with one of the first two points.

[5] Each submitted funding project must address at least three of the following five operational objectives at project level, and present clear implementation paths for the project duration and commercial exploitation. In addition, potential contributions that the project can make to the two other operational objectives must be addressed in the application. The presentation of potential conflicting objectives (e.g., longevity versus deconstructability or the use of biogenic raw materials versus weight reduction) must be taken into account and cited in the application.

To achieve the transformation goals in the field of **climate-neutral cities**, infrastructures will be funded which

- enable the development, testing and scaling of innovations for climate-neutral cities, in particular the interdisciplinary, intersectoral and cross-thematic (energy transition, mobility transition and circular economy) development of solutions, and/or
- also enable the development and testing of technologies as well as scaling and preparation for commercial exploitation in the field of sustainable, climate-fit and circular construction and renovation, thus ensuring the short-term availability of these technologies

The application must be assigned to at least one of these topics.

4 CALL DOCUMENTS

Projects may only submitted electronically via eCall.

The application consists of the following **online** elements, which must be entered in eCall under the following menu items:

- **Content description** presents the content of the project.
- **Work plan** includes the work packages and elements of project management, such as time management plan (GANTT diagram), deliverables, milestones, results.
- **Consortium** describes the expertise of the individual consortium members.
- **Costs and funding** describes all cost categories for each consortium member. The totals for each work package will be automatically displayed in the online work plan.

Annexes to the electronic application

The following tables list the call documents and all documents required for submission. Please use the templates and call documents provided in the Download Center:

Table 2: Overview of call documents

Call documents
– Call Guideline (this document) – Guidelines for R&D Infrastructure Funding – Economic Use – Cost Guidelines (version 3.2)

Table 3: Overview of mandatory annexes

Mandatory annexes
– CV of at least the project manager (no template) – Letters of Interest (LOI) of at least two organisations interested in using or co-financing the planned R&D infrastructure (no template) Note: LOIs of organisations that are linked to the applicant organisations do not count in meeting this minimum requirement. (Linked companies will be considered and treated as one organisation. A company is considered to be linked if a holding exceeds the threshold of 50%.) – If the application is submitted by a university or university of applied sciences: – Letter of Commitment (LOC), signed by the Rector's office or management (template) – Mandatory master data: Annual accounts of the past two years

5 ELIGIBLE COSTS

Only infrastructure costs are eligible for funding within the framework of this Call. Details on the eligible costs can be found in the relevant Guidelines for R&D Infrastructure Funding – Economic Use (section 2.7). eCall shows only the cost category "R&D infrastructure". Cost categories such as personnel costs and travel costs are non-eligible costs and therefore not included in the online form.

6 LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

6.1 Funding decision and legal basis

The FFG Management makes the **funding decision** based on the funding recommendation provided by the evaluation committee.

This Call is based on the Guideline of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency for the funding of research, technology, development and innovation with the aim to strengthen structures for a powerful RTI ecosystem (FFG-Strukturen-Richtlinie 2024-2026).

All EU regulations shall be applicable as amended.

6.2 What to consider when acquiring R&D infrastructure

All required permits and licences must be obtained and all official directives and statutory provisions (national and EU law) adhered to in the R&D infrastructure acquisition process.

Procurement in FFG projects is subject to stringent regulations. Further information can be found on the FFG website – Procurement in funded projects.

6.3 Mandatory entry in the Research Infrastructure Database

The funded R&D infrastructure must be entered in the Austrian Research Infrastructure Database of the Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research (BMFWF).

7 FURTHER INFORMATION

This section contains information about further funding options and services which you may find useful in connection with funding applications or funded projects.

7.1 FFG Project Database

The public access FFG Project Database provides the opportunity to publish brief information about funded projects and an overview of the project partners involved. This enables you to present your project and your project partners to the interested public. The database can also be used to search for cooperation partners.

Once funding is granted, the applicants are informed via the eCall system that they can publish specific brief information about their project in the FFG Project Database. The information will only be published if active consent is given in the eCall system.

More information can be found on the Project Database page on the FFG website.

7.2 BMIMI Open4Innovation

The **open4innovation** platform of the Federal Ministry for Innovation, Mobility and Infrastructure (BMIMI) offers a knowledge base for companies, researchers etc. (community support, detailed information, success stories, etc.).

7.3 Open Access publications

Research results obtained with the aid of public funding are to be put to the best use to provide maximum benefit to science, business and society. The Open Access principle should therefore be followed where possible for peer-reviewed publications produced with the support of FFG funding. The principle is "as open as possible, as closed as necessary", which also applies in European funding schemes.

Publication costs are considered as eligible project costs.

7.4 Handling of project data – data management plan

A data management plan (DMP) is a tool that supports the efficient and systematic management of all data generated throughout the duration of a project.

DMPs can be created, e.g., using the free tool DMP Online. The Guidelines on FAIR Data Management of the European Commission also provide assistance in this respect.

A data management plan describes

- the data that are collected, processed or generated within a project
- how these data are handled in the project
- what methods and standards are applied
- how the data are stored and updated over the long term, and
- whether it is planned to make datasets available to third parties for reuse (i.e., open access to research data)

It is sensible to ensure public access to research data which provide the basis for peer-reviewed publications and whose publication is necessary to reproduce and verify the published results.

In the event of publication, the data should be "findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable" (FAIR principle). Storing data in established and internationally recognised repositories is recommended in order to ensure broad access (see also the re3data website).

7.5 Additional FFG funding opportunities

You are interested in other funding opportunities provided by the FFG?

The FFG **Funding Service** is the central contact point for your enquiries about FFG funding and advisory services. Please feel free to contact us, we are happy to help.

Contact: FFG Funding Service, T: +43 (0) 57755-0, E: foerderservice@ffg.at

Web: https://www.ffg.at/foerderservice

Additional FFG funding options can be found on the FFG website.

8 EVALUATION AND DECISION

8.1 What is the formal check?

The formal check serves to examine the application for formal correctness and completeness.

The FFG will communicate the result of the formal check within 4 weeks of submission via an eCall message:

- If the formal criteria are not met and the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the application for funding will not enter the subsequent steps of the procedure.
- If the deficiencies can be corrected, you may rectify these problems within a reasonable period of time.
- Should it transpire after the formal check that incorrect information has been given, the funding application may also be removed from consideration at a subsequent point in the procedure.

Table 4: Formal criteria

Criteria	Items checked	Can deficiency be corrected?	Consequence
The eCall menu items must be sufficiently completed	Checking the completeness	*No*	Rejection for formal reasons
The application must be written in one language	Language: German or English.	*No*	Rejection for formal reasons
The applicant organisation must be eligible to apply	Eligibility verification	*No*	Rejection for formal reasons
The maximum project duration must be adhered to	Max. 3 years project duration	*No*	Rejection for formal reasons
The project location requirements must be met	The R&D infrastructure must be located in Austria	*No*	Rejection for formal reasons
The total eligible project costs must be above the minimum limit	Min. EUR 300,000	*No*	Rejection for formal reasons
The mandatory annexes must be available	Checking the completeness	*Yes*	Rectification via eCall after submission

8.2 What criteria are used in the evaluation?

Applications for funding are **evaluated** according to **four criteria**:

1. Quality of the project
2. Suitability of funding applicants
3. Benefit and exploitation
4. Relevance of the project

The projects are evaluated by awarding points in each criterion. Projects which do not reach the stated threshold value for a certain criterion will be rejected. The following tables show the evaluation criteria, including the relevant sub-criteria.

Table 5: Evaluation criteria – Quality of the project

1. Quality of the project (threshold = 18 points)	**max. points 30**
1.1 Innovation content – To what extent does the innovative content of the project represent an advance on the state-of-the-art/state-of-knowledge at national, European and international level? – What is the added value of the project in comparison with existing infrastructures?	**max. points 12**
1.2 Planning What is the quality and efficiency of planning? – Are the work packages and the associated division of work adequate for the goals of the project? – Have the risks in the work packages been adequately addressed and corresponding measures put in place? – Have all relevant aspects been taken into account in establishing the R&D infrastructure (time schedule, cost plan, resource plan, etc.)?	**max. points 6**
1.3 Usage strategy Has the usage strategy been clearly presented with regard to the following points? – Management of use (incl. personnel and resource plan) – Demand and capacity utilisation – Shared use by third parties (i.e. by organisations other than the applicant organisation or members of the applicant consortium) – Terms and conditions for transparent and non-discriminatory access by third parties – Calculation of usage fees (process for calculating full costs including profit margin or market prices) – Calculation of start-up and follow-up costs (operating costs, maintenance costs and replacement investments) – Presentation of sustainable financing – Presentation of ownership structure for the planned R&D infrastructure – If applicable: planned conditions for preferential access for co-financing organisations	**max. points 12**

Table 6: Evaluation criteria – Suitability of funding applicants

2. Suitability of funding applicants (threshold = 9 points)	**max. points 15**
2.1 Expertise – To what extent do the consortium members possess the necessary qualifications and resources to ensure the successful implementation of the R&D infrastructure acquisition and the usage strategy? – If applicable: To what extent does the implementation of the project by the selected consortium present an added value?	**max. points 9**
2.2 Gender balance – Does the composition of the project team reflect the aim to improve the gender balance in the sector? Further information on equality and diversity: Equality and Diversity | FFG	**max. points 6**

Table 7: Evaluation criteria – Benefit and exploitation

3. Benefit and exploitation (threshold = 18 points)	**max. points 30**
3.1 Cooperative research and innovation activities – How will the additional opportunities that are created by the new infrastructure influence prospective future research and innovation activities, especially in cooperation with companies (quantitatively and qualitatively)? – Can results with a high degree of innovation and novelty be expected? – How will they be exploited?	**max. points 12**

3.2 Development potential
– What is the development potential of the consortium members in terms of the following points:
  – Connectivity to existing innovation fields and key areas of innovation
  – Contribution to advancement of innovation fields and key areas of innovation
  – Potential for new opportunities for collaboration with industry and with research institutions and universities
	max. points 6

3.3 Gender-specific topics
If the contents of the prospective future research and innovation activities or their results relate to individuals:
– To what extent have gender-specific topics been taken into account in the planning process?
  – Quality of the analysis of gender-specific topics
  – Consideration of gender-specific topics in the methodological approach taken in the project
	max. points 6

3. Benefit and exploitation (threshold = 18 points)	max. points 30
Further information on equality and diversity: Equality and Diversity | FFG Projects in which content and focus have no gender relevance according to this analysis will score full points in this sub-criterion.	
3.4 Sustainability – What are the impacts (positive and negative) of the prospective future research and innovation activities in terms of sustainability (social, ecological, economic), in particular concerning climate neutrality? Further information on sustainability: Sustainability in research, technology, development and innovation | FFG Research and innovation activities producing overall (net) negative contributions/effects will score 0 points in this sub-criterion.	**max. points 6**

Table 8: Evaluation criteria – Relevance of the project

4. Relevance of the project (threshold = 15 points)	max. points 25
4.1 Relevance – How relevant is the project in terms of achieving the objectives and topics of the call?	**max. points 10**
4.2 Demand – Are the arguments justifying the acquisition conclusive? (demand analysis, taking into account the size, type and availability of existing resources in Austria and Europe)	**max. points 5**
4.3 Location – Has the impact on Austria's position as a location for research and innovation been described plausibly? – What impact will the planned research and innovation activities have on the visibility of Austria as a location for research and innovation in an international context?	**max. points 5**
4.4 Incentive effect – How would you judge the incentive effect of the funding? To what extent will the funding help to implement the project in the first place or complete it in a shorter timeframe, and/or make it more ambitious, and/or increase its scope?	**max. points 5**

8.3 How is the evaluation procedure organised?

National and international experts will review the submitted documents in accordance with the criteria mentioned in section 8.2.

The evaluation committee will make a funding recommendation based on the written reviews.

It is possible to exclude reviewers (individuals or employees of specific organisations) stating the reasons. This can be done in eCall using the menu item “Project data”.

FFG experts examine the financial potential of the companies involved, including credit rating and liquidity. Where necessary, they may request additional documents without which the examination cannot be completed. Undertakings in difficulty are not eligible for funding. The decision as to whether an undertaking is considered to be 'in difficulty' is made based on the definition provided in the GBER, which provides the European legal basis of the present funding scheme.

Recommendations and requirements can be defined as part of the evaluation process. Recommendations are non-binding remarks and opinions of the evaluation committee, which are designed to support the consortium in implementing the project.