

THE GERMAN LUFO PROGRAMME AS PART OF THE “JOINED CALL 2025/26”

Hartwig Hagen

Manager International Relations



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The aviation research programme (LuFo)

History LuFo I - VI



348 sketches with 1,143 participants and approx. €1.1 billion in requested funding volume

630 proposals in the LuFo VI-3 call



Strengthening SMEs

increases the share of SME funding to 15% of the total volume



LuFo research funding for over 30 years

Approximately 3,800 projects in total with €3.8 billion in funding,

of which 1,100 are ongoing with €1.3 billion in funding (at January 1st 2024)



Project duration: on average 3¼ years



LuFo VII-1 Climate

Disclaimer



- *The following information is referring to **LuFo VII-1** which has been closed for application.*
- The LuFo programme will participate in the „JoinED Call 2025/26“ with the second round of the LuFo VII call for proposals (**LuFo VII-2**).
- *The information provided in LuFo VII-1 is for **guidance only** and may change in LuFo VII-2.*
- **For participation in the “JoinED Call 2025/26”, please consult exclusively the official documentation of LuFo VII-2, the publication of which is expected for the first quarter of 2026**
- For planned (LuFo) **consortia with the Austrian Take-Off Programme**, it is recommended to **contact the PT-LF** due to the early closing date.

Key areas of focus in LuFo Climate VII-1



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Image: Adobe Stock/Robert Kneschke



Alternative climate-neutral drive technologies



Reduction of energy consumption



Increasing competitiveness, resource efficiency and social acceptance



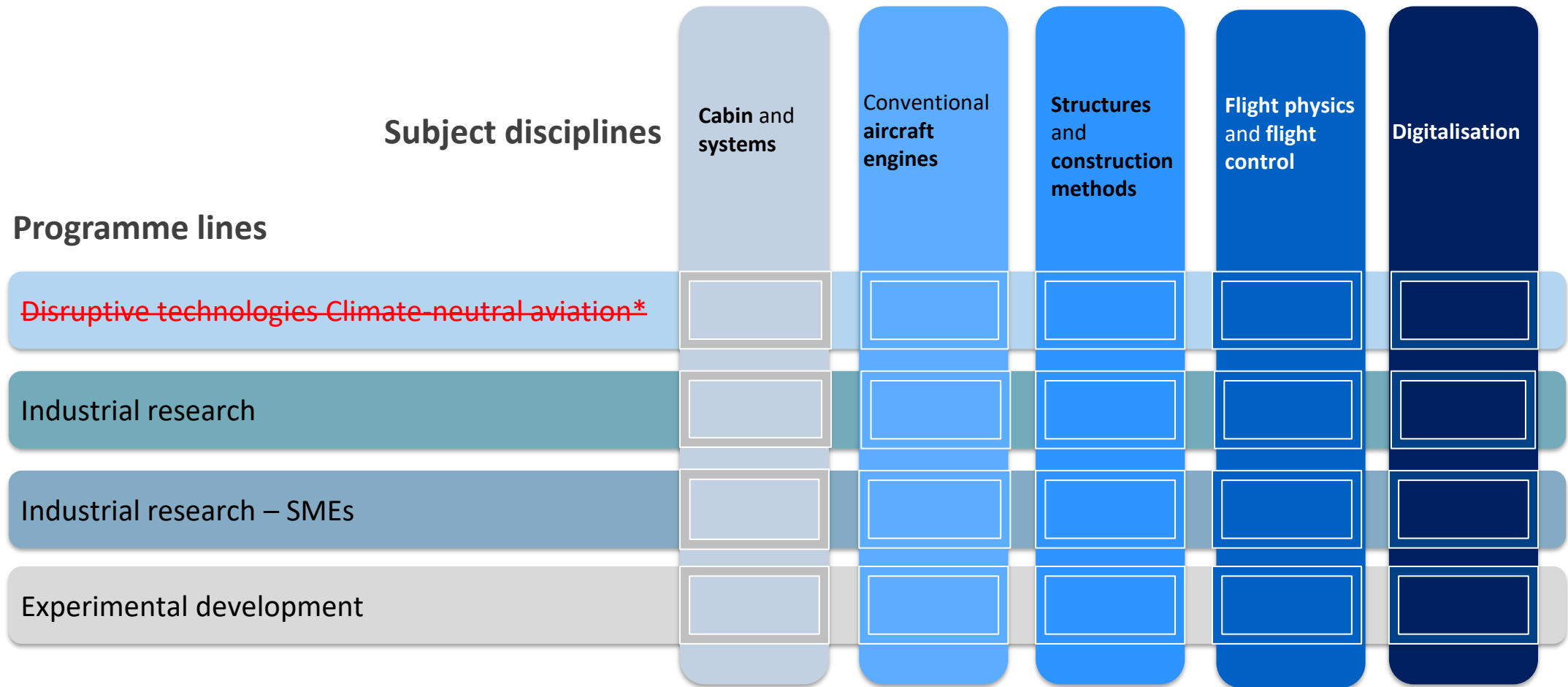
Internationalisation and integration of start-ups and SMEs into value chains



LuFo Climate VII-1 - Systematics

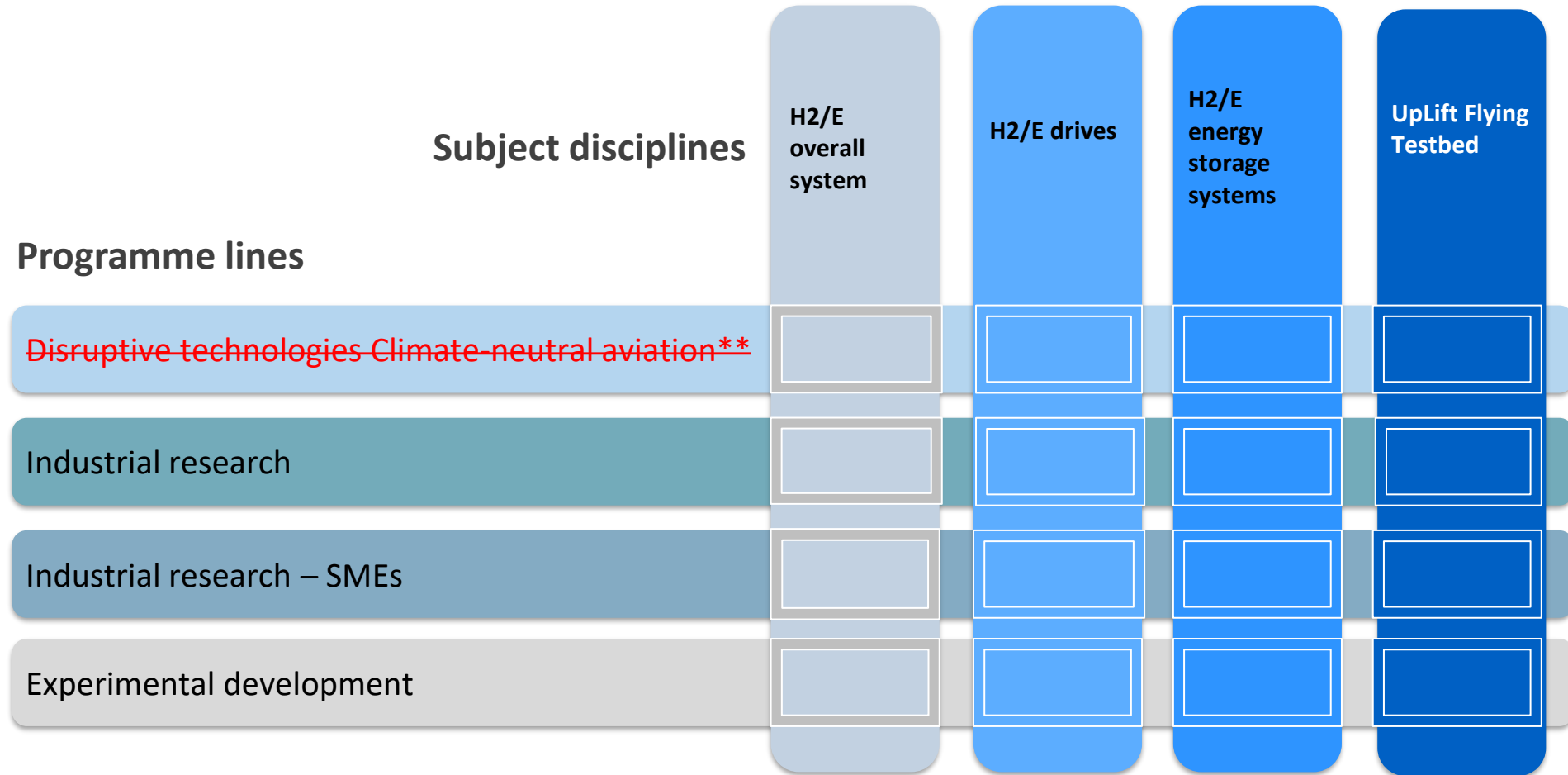


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* Does not apply for the “JoinED Call 2025/26”

LuFo Climate VII-1 (KTF*) - Systematics



* Climate Transformation Fond

** Does not apply for the "JoinED Call 2025/26"

LuFo Climate VII-1 Funding Rules

Programme lines

Funding recipients

Maximum funding rates

01

~~Disruptive technologies~~
~~Climate-neutral aviation~~

~~Scientific institutions (SCI)~~
~~(universities and non-university~~
~~research institutions)~~

~~Funding rate SCI 100%~~
~~Proof of industrial implementation potential~~
~~(letter of support from IND/SME)~~
~~(max. €600,000 per institute)~~

02

Industrial research

Commercial enterprises
(IND/SMEs) and scientific
institutions (WIS)

Funding rate **IND** 50%
Funding rate **SMEs** 65%
Funding rate **SCI** 100%
Industrial research projects
Technological focus on IND/SMEs, consortium leader IND/SMEs
(max. €15 million per consortium)

03

Industrial research – SMEs

Small and medium-sized
enterprises (SMEs) in the
commercial sector and scientific
institutions (SCI)

Funding rate **SMEs** 65% **(max. €750,000 grant per partner)**
Funding rate **SCI** 100% **(max. €1,200,000 grant per partner)**
Industrial research projects
Technological focus on SMEs, consortium leader SME

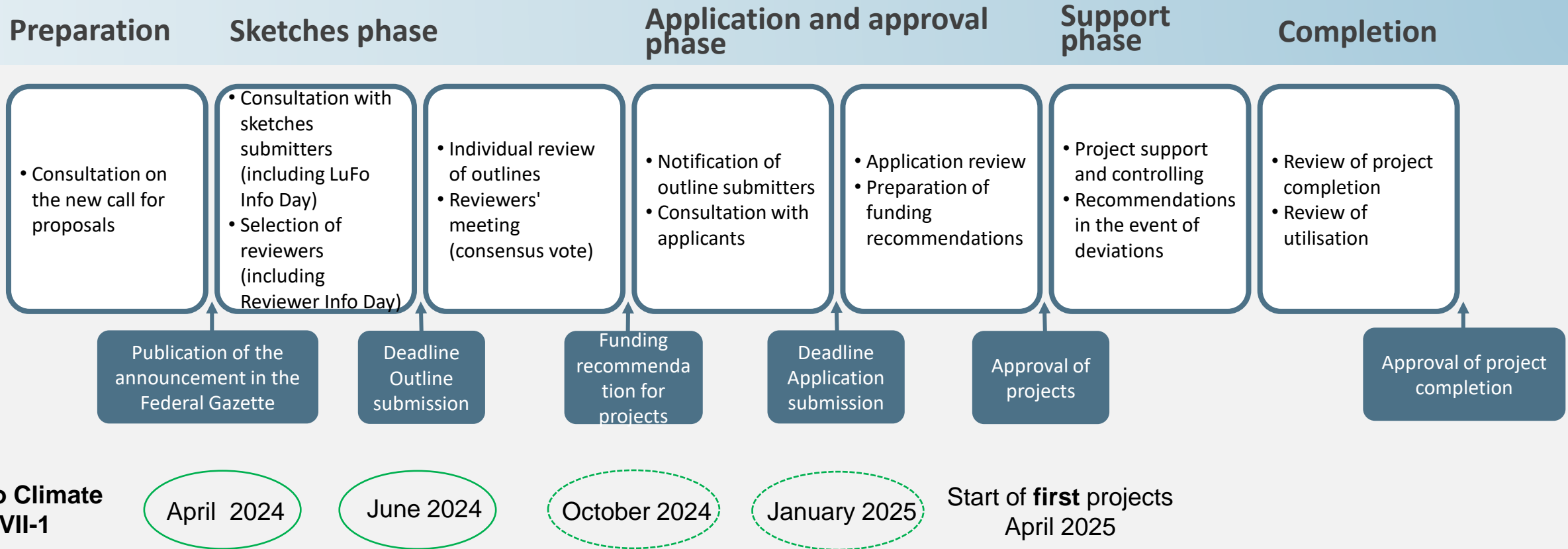
04

Experimental development

Commercial enterprises
(IND/SMEs) and scientific
institutions (SCI)

Funding rate **IND** 25%
Funding rate **SMEs** 40%
Funding rate **SCI** 100%
Experimental development projects
(max. €15 million per consortium)

Overview of the LuFo process / LuFo Climate VII-1 schedule





**LuFo and the
„JoinED Call 2025/26“**

„LuFo International“



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- *As part of LuFo VII-1 in 2025, the “Internationaler Zwischencall” (international consortia only) was performed as a “prototype” for the „JoinED Call 2025/26”.*
- *32 proposals from 13 countries.*
- *Another „Internationaler Zwischencall” is expected for 2027 to provide a yearly opportunity for international cooperation.*
- *Applications for international cooperation in 2026 will be integrated in the “normal” biannual LuFo Call (VII-2).*
- *Special “bonus points” for participants of the „JoinED Call 2025/26” are expected to apply during the evaluation process.*

Special requirements for LuFo participants (from the “JoinED Call 2025/26” publication document)



- The outline proposal will only be accepted if there is effective cooperation with at least one commercial company in [Germany](#) and at least [one other commercial company from each international partner consortium](#)
- The need for [robust commercial exploitation](#) in Germany is emphasized
- A [significant federal interest](#) must be clearly evident, usually through at least one significant contribution in the content areas of climate, acceptance, or costs
- The planned cooperation must in all cases be documented by an [LOI from the international partner\(s\)](#)
- If a funding [programme not listed in Chapter 2 of this document](#) shall provide funding, a [confirmation letter from the foreign funding agency](#) confirming eligibility for funding of the international partner [is required](#). Funding is also possible by regional or European funding programmes. In any case, [the funding program must provide a meaningful assessment](#) of the funding opportunities for the foreign consortium member [by October 31, 2026](#) (e.g., by completing the first stage of a two-stage process)
- In principle, a [balanced workload ratio between Germany and the partner country](#) is expected within the consortium
- [No proposals](#) will be accepted in the "Disruptive Technologies" program line
- [Effective cooperation does not exist if only the company itself, affiliated companies, partner companies, or other affiliated institutions](#) with a funding share [are directly involved](#) in the project outline or as subcontractors.

*Thank you!
very much!*



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Wissen für Morgen