



**FFG**

Promoting Innovation.

CALL 2026  
SUBMISSION DEADLINE  
13 OCTOBER 2026  
VERSION 1.0

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# **COMET PROJECTS 2026 CALL GUIDELINE**

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This document is a translated version of the original German version. In cases of unclear formulation, the German version is the decisive document.

### **Changes compared to Version 2024**

- Chapter 3: classification to a call focus / key technology

## 1 KEY FACTS AT A GLANCE

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The Call for COMET Projects 2026 makes available 10 million euros (plus provincial funding).

*Table 1: Overview of key facts*

Key facts	Detail
<b>Funding instrument</b>	COMET Projects (C8-P)
<b>Short description</b>	<p>Within COMET projects, high-quality research is carried out through collaboration between academia and industry.</p> <p>The aim is to initiate exploitable products, processes, and services that have strong development potential and can be brought to market maturity in the medium term.</p>
<b>Focus of the call</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Artificial intelligence and data innovation</li> <li>2. Advanced production technologies and robotics</li> <li>3. Quantum technology and photonics</li> <li>4. Advanced materials</li> <li>5. Life sciences and biotechnology</li> <li>6. Energy and environmental technologies</li> <li>7. Mobility technologies</li> <li>8. Space and aviation technologies</li> </ol>
<b>Maximum funding in €</b>	federal: max. € 1.8 m provincial: max. € 0.9 m
<b>Funding rate</b>	Max. 45 % (a slight shortfall from 45 % is permitted due to rounding differences in the eCall)
<b>Remaining financing</b>	Share of participating companies: min. 45 % The remaining financing has to be secured
<b>Duration in months</b>	36, 42, 48 months
<b>Cooperation required</b>	at least 1 research organisation and at least 3 companies

*Table 2: Budget – Deadlines – Contact*

Further information	Details
<b>Total budget</b>	€ 10 million plus provincial funding
<b>Deadline for submission</b>	13 October 2026, 12:00:00 (CET)
<b>Meeting of the evaluation panel</b>	June 2027, funding recommendation

Further information	Details
<b>Project start</b>	August 2027 until December 2027 on the first of each month
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Contact</b>	Julia Faustner, T (0) 57755-2105; E <a href="mailto:julia.faustner@ffg.at">julia.faustner@ffg.at</a> Budiono Nguyen, T (0) 57755-2104; E <a href="mailto:budiono.nguyen@ffg.at">budiono.nguyen@ffg.at</a>  <b>costs and financing</b> Christine Löffler, T (0) 57755-6089; E <a href="mailto:christine.loeffler@ffg.at">christine.loeffler@ffg.at</a>  Advisory interviews can be arranged.
<b>Information online</b>	<a href="https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibung/comet-projekte-2026">https://www.ffg.at/ausschreibung/comet-projekte-2026</a>
<b>Submission portal</b>	<a href="https://ecall.ffg.at">https://ecall.ffg.at</a>

### Diversity in team composition

Diverse teams can be more innovative and productive due to their diversity and different perspectives. A team composition that takes gender and diversity into account can ensure a higher quality of projects and resulting research results, products and services. The effects of the project results on people are thus taken into account, e.g. by considering different needs in the use or manufacture of products. Different perspectives, experiences, world views and skills can contribute to the development of convincing solutions for society and the economy.

The FFG supports you with funding! You can find more information on the [website](#).

## 2 CALL OBJECTIVES

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The strategic objectives of COMET are:

- **Developing and focussing competences** through long-term research cooperation between science and industry at the highest level.
- **Strengthening Austria as a business location:** accelerating technology transfer to industry should serve to create new products, processes and services, open up new markets and increase the innovative capacity of companies.
- **Strengthening Austria as a research location:** excellent cooperative research should trigger new research impulses and establish promising/emerging fields of research.
- **Strengthening the competitiveness of science and industry by driving internationalisation** as a sign of high-quality cooperative research: involving internationally-renowned scientists, organisations and companies, positioning COMET Centres as internationally attractive partners, and ongoing benchmarking with top research institutions are designed to generate an edge in international competition.
- **Establishing and developing human resources:** increasingly attracting scientists of international renown, creating structured career models for scientists, and actively supporting intersectoral mobility for research personnel in order to intensify the transfer of know-how.

### Sustainability:

The Call makes reference to the global Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (SDGs) and the European elements of the EU Green Deal. COMET Projects should contribute to solving societal challenges and support the transformation of the Austrian economy in its sustainable change.

More detailed information can be found on the [FFG website](#).

The COMET Project Call requires applicants to address the key SDGs to which the proposed project makes a concrete positive contribution and to demonstrate the project's contribution to solving societal challenges. The planned sustainability effects must be described in the application and taken into account in the research design.

### 3 FOCUS OF THE CALL

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The call is thematically open within the key technologies defined in the [Industrial Strategy Austria 2035](#).

Projects must primarily be assigned to one key technology, but may also address several key technologies in the project content.

*Table 3: Description of key technologies*

Key technologies	Description
<b>Artificial intelligence and data innovation</b>	Artificial intelligence (AI) enables machines to learn from large amounts of data, to identify patterns, to make forecasts and to solve complex tasks in an automated manner, be it drafting texts and programming IT applications or enforcing quality control in industrial production or achieving disruptive progress in robotics in the future. AI is changing fundamental processes in nearly all fields of economic activity, leading to a steep rise in productivity and efficiency. Against the backdrop of globally mounting cost pressures, using AI will allow Austria's industry to leverage hitherto unused efficiency and productivity potentials and regain a competitive edge in the process.
<b>Advanced production technologies and robotics</b>	State-of-the-art production technologies such as additive manufacturing (3D printing), automation and robotics contribute to making manufacturing processes more precise, flexible, efficient and resource-friendly. Entailing a profound change in the industrial creation of value, they are vital when it comes to safeguarding global competitiveness. Austria's strengths in this field are based on development and invention excellence as well as on thriving exports.
<b>Quantum technology and photonics</b>	Quantum technologies and photonics make use of the special characteristics of light and quanta to develop quantum computers, new encryption procedures and communication networks, high precision sensors, measuring methods, and efficient manufacturing processes, thereby unlocking a new dimension of performance and output and enabling applications that would not have been achievable using conventional technologies. Austria is a world

	<p>leader in quantum research. What we need now is to leverage this potential for use in real-life business applications.</p>
<b>Advanced materials</b>	<p>New materials such as ultralight composites, self-healing polymers, multifunctional biomaterials or high-performance alloys improve product performance, durability and sustainability in a variety of manufacturing sectors, from metalworking to medical and energy technology applications, from vehicle construction to space and aviation applications. Materials technologies count among Austria's acknowledged strengths, with a high level of specialisation to boost.</p>
<b>Life sciences and biotechnology</b>	<p>Life sciences and biotechnology account for new medications, diagnostics, biobased materials and sustainable production processes. Providing solutions for key health and food related challenges and acting as crucial interfaces to production and environmental technologies, their importance cannot be overstated. Austria has been promoting life sciences and biotechnologies for more than 20 years and boasts both an excellent research ecosystem (for example Vienna Biocenter) and internationally outstanding businesses.</p>
<b>Energy and environmental technologies</b>	<p>Energy and environmental technologies make a key contribution towards ensuring both supply and production in Austria. The range of applications they cover includes converting, storing and transporting a variety of energy resources, state-of-the-art circular economy solutions, buildings and cities, as well as carbon management systems. Our ability to reduce our dependence on global resource flows and value chains, the efficiency, resilience and security of our energy supply systems, their impact on the environment, on society and on the climate, and other issues impacting our economic position hinge to a large extent on our capacity for developing sustainable solutions. On the plus side, Austria's industrial sector is highly specialized when it comes to energy and environmental technologies. Placing a stronger focus on this area will strengthen our position as a</p>

	key part of international value chains and as a provider of competitive products on global markets.
<b>Mobility technologies</b>	Fields of application of innovative mobility technologies include, for example, intelligent connectivity transport systems, self-driving vehicles, low emission drives, and automotive lightweight construction. Closely linked to energy, material and digitalisation technologies, they contribute significantly to making mobility more efficient, safer and more climate-friendly. Forward-looking mobility technologies are crucial, in particular for the long-term prosperity of automotive suppliers and rail sector enterprises, both of which are key fields of economic activity in Austria.
<b>Space and aviation technologies</b>	Space and aviation technologies drive innovation when it comes to developing and building satellites, space research and air traffic. The technologies and services developed in this field have the potential to be applied in numerous other sectors, too, energy systems, transport systems or communications among them. Impacting a range of different fields of technology, they are indispensable for our security and defence efforts. Austria features a highly specialized aviation and space sector, with some 300 companies and research institutions operating at national, European and global level.

The field of microelectronics and semiconductors is currently the subject of extensive, specifically targeted funding programmes and structures with their own strategic objectives, governance structures, and funding levels. Therefore, research topics related to chips, electronic components and systems are not covered by this call. Consequently, projects with a primary focus on the following are not eligible for funding:

- The development of semiconductor technologies, chip design, or chip manufacturing;
- Research on integrated electronic components and systems as the core content;
- The establishment or further development of microelectronics pilot lines;
- Topics that fall within the core scope of SAL, IPCEI, or the Chips Act in terms of content and strategy.

Projects that focus on other key technologies, in which electronic components serve merely as *enabling technologies* or application components, are eligible for funding.

Further details on the key technologies can be found on the websites of the funding federal ministries [BMWET](#) and [BMIMI](#).

**Funding instrument:**

- C8-P: COMET Projects






This call relates exclusively to COMET Projects and is thematically open with regard to key technologies. It is based on a broad concept of innovation as defined in the federal RTI pact 2024-2026, which includes not only technological innovations, but also societal, social, creative, sustainable and organizational innovations (in the sense of the SDGs).


## 4 CALL DOCUMENTS

Projects may only be submitted electronically via [eCall](#).

Templates and call documents provided on the [FFG website](#) have to be used.

Table 4: Call documents - funding

Funding instrument / other information	Call documents
<b>COMET Projects</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–  Guidelines for COMET Projects</li> <li>–  Call guideline for COMET Projects 2026</li> <li>–  Template for Project Description - COMET Project</li> <li>–  Online cost-input The input of costs and financing is done directly in the eCall</li> <li>–  <a href="#">Declaration of SME-Status</a> (if necessary)</li> </ul>

Funding instrument / other information	Call documents
<b>General cost regulation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–  <a href="#">Cost Guideline 3.2</a> (cost recognition in FFG projects)</li> </ul>
<b>Annexes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– <b>ANNEX 0: Letter of reapplication:</b> (upload as PDF file) Optional; in case of a re-submission in COMET, the changes or improvements in the present application compared to the last rejected COMET application may be explained in the cover letter, which must additionally be uploaded as a file attachment to the eCall.</li> <li>– <b>ANNEX 1: References:</b> Literature used in drawing up the application (upload as PDF file, no template)</li> <li>– <b>ANNEX 2: CVs and List of Publications:</b> Please upload all CVs and publications in a single file via eCall (upload as PDF file, no scans)</li> <li>– <b>ANNEX 3: Partner Descriptions:</b> Short description of the partner organisation, role within the COMET Project, expected benefit, key persons, etc. (upload as PDF file)</li> <li>– <b>ANNEX 4: Letters of Commitment (LOC) Scientific Participant:</b> Duly executed letters of commitment of all scientific partners including their respective contributions (cash and in-kind, upload as PDF file)</li> <li>– <b>ANNEX 5: Letters of Commitment (LOC) Participating Companies:</b> Duly executed letters of commitment of all company partners including their respective contributions (cash and in-kind, upload as PDF file)</li> <li>– <b>ANNEX 6: Declaration(s) of Federal Province(s):</b> Written declaration(s) of the participating province(s) (at time of application at least province of residence, upload as PDF file, no template).</li> </ul>
<b>Additional information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annexes: Uploads max. 20 MB per file.</li> <li>– It is not permitted to enclose additional Annexes.</li> </ul>

*Please note: The declaration of SME status is required for associations, sole traders and foreign companies. In the template provided, a classification of the last 3 years according to the SME definition must be made - if possible.*

## 5 LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASPECTS

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### 5.1 Funding decision and legal basis

The FFG Management will make the **funding or financing decision** based on the funding recommendation of the evaluation panel.

The 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-Struktur-Richtlinien 2024-2026](#)).

The company size shall be established in accordance with the corresponding SME definition specified in EU competition law. More detailed information about the SME definition can be found on the [SME page of the FFG website](#).

All EU provisions shall be applicable as amended.

### 5.2 Procurement as part of the project

If you are planning or carrying out procurements as part of your FFG project, there are regulations that must be complied with. Further information can be found on the [FFG website](#).

## 6 PROCESS OF APPLYING FOR PROVINCIAL FUNDING

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Each funding application **must include a written statement**, usually issued by the **federal province of domicile**, as well as **all other co-financing provinces**. In exceptional, justified cases, the statement by the co-financing provinces may be submitted up to a maximum of four weeks after submission.

The consortium leader initially contacts the federal province of domicile (i.e. the province in which the COMET Project or the consortium leader will be based) in order to discuss the next steps.

The written statement is a reference letter accompanying the funding application in which the respective provincial government communicates its commitment to provide funding and co-financing should the COMET Project be approved. The

written statement(s) must cover the entire amount of funding contributed by the federal province(s).

Where involvement is inconsistent with the interests of a federal province, a provincial government may also state in its written statement that it will not participate in a specific COMET Project. In this case the federal government reserves the right to fund an approved COMET Project without co-financing from the provincial government.

**More detailed information about co-financing conditions and deadlines for the individual provinces must be obtained from the relevant [contact point](#) in a timely manner prior to submission of the funding application.**

Prior to submission deadline the so-called [Core Form](#), which contains key parameters about the project, must be submitted to this contact point. The submission deadlines may differ and must be confirmed by the contact point of the relevant federal province.

The full application must be submitted to the contact point of the relevant federal province.

## 7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

### 7.1 FFG service - 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 will be 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 on the Project Database can be found on the [FFG website](#).

## 7.2 BMIMI service - Open4Innovation

Additionally, 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 eligible for funding.

## 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

- which data are collected, processed or generated within a project,
- how these data are handled within 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 FAIR principle should be observed, i.e. data should be "findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable".

## 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](mailto:foerderservice@ffg.at)

Website: <https://www.ffg.at/en/funding-service>

Additional funding options can be found on the [FFG website](#).

## 8 ANNEX: CHECKLIST FOR SUBMISSION

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

**Please note:** If the formal requirements are not met and the deficiencies cannot be corrected, the funding application will be excluded from the further procedure and will be formally rejected without exception in accordance with the principle of equal treatment of applications.

A detailed checklist for the formal check can be found in the [Project Description](#).

*Table 5: Checklist for the formal check of funding applications*

Criteria	Items checked	Can deficiency be corrected?	Consequence
Project Description is complete and correct language is used.	Project Description must be completed in full. Language: English	<i>no</i>	Rejection for formal reasons
The correct template for the project description is used.	See application forms	<i>No</i>	Rejection for formal reasons
Mandatory annexes specified in the call are available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Annex 0: Letter of Reapplication (optional)</li> <li>– Annex 1: References (pdf)</li> <li>– Annex 2: CVs and List of Publications (pdf)</li> <li>– Annex 3: Partner Descriptions (pdf)</li> <li>– Annex 4: Letters of Commitment Scientific Partners (pdf)</li> <li>– Annex 5: Letters of Commitment Company Partners (pdf)</li> </ul>	<i>yes</i>	Rectification via eCall after submission

Criteria	Items checked	Can deficiency be corrected?	Consequence
	– Annex 6: Declaration(s) of Federal Province(s) (pdf)		
Funding applicant is eligible to submit an application.	See Guidelines of the funding instrument (who is eligible for funding)	<i>no</i>	Rejection for formal reasons
For consortia: project partners are eligible to participate in the Call.	See Guidelines of the funding instrument (requirements for the consortium)	<i>no</i>	Rejection for formal reasons
Minimum requirements for the consortium	Min. 1 research and knowledge dissemination organisation and min. 3 companies	<i>no</i>	Rejection for formal reasons