

IPCEI (Important Projects of Common European Interest)

Expression of Interest for the Participation of Austrian Associated
Partners in the IPCEI Circular Advanced Materials (CAM)

Vienna, 8 June 2026

Submission of the Application Form by 13 July 2026, 12:00 CET at the latest

Legal notice

Media owner, publisher, editor:

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Table of Contents

Important Notice	4
Motivation.....	5
IPCEI Circular Advanced Materials (CAM)	5
Associated Partners (APs).....	6
Important Clarification	7
Added Value of Participation as an Associated Partner.....	7
Participation Requirements.....	9
Formal Criteria.....	9
Content-related Criteria	11
Rights and Obligations of Austrian Associated Partners.....	12
Submission and Application Process.....	15
Submission.....	15
Required Documents.....	15
Selection Process	16
National Level.....	16
European Level.....	17
Timeline and Further Process	18
Further Information	19
Important Links.....	19
Advisory Services and Contact	19

Important Notice

Participation as an Associated Partner (AP) in the IPCEI CAM takes place without additional national or European funding.

The present Expression of Interest therefore does not constitute a funding call and neither establishes an entitlement to funding nor a right to be included in the IPCEI CAM.

Participation as an Associated Partner in the IPCEI CAM is based on the fundamental interest of the participating organisation in cooperation, networking and the resulting benefits. Further details are provided in the description below.

Participation in the national Expression of Interest constitutes the basis for participation in the IPCEI CAM.

Motivation

IPCEI Circular Advanced Materials (CAM)

Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEIs) are an instrument of the European Union to support highly innovative and strategically relevant projects of common European interest. Their objective is to strengthen the development and industrial deployment of innovative technologies and value chains in Europe.

An IPCEI in the field of Circular Advanced Materials (CAM) is currently being prepared at European level under Slovenian coordination. The initiative focuses on the development and industrial deployment of circular advanced materials along the entire value chain.

The initiative is currently being prepared by a Design Group composed of participating Member States considering participation in the IPCEI CAM. These currently include Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Spain.

During the ongoing design phase, the participating Member States are jointly preparing the strategic and state aid-related foundations of the initiative, including the so-called Chapeau Document, and are conducting national selection procedures for potential Direct Participants and Associated Partners.

Selected projects may subsequently participate in European matchmaking and consortium-building activities. Following the design phase, the IPCEI CAM is expected to enter the assessment phase including notification to and assessment by the European Commission under state aid rules. Subject to state aid approval by the European Commission, the implementation phase of the IPCEI CAM would subsequently begin.

The IPCEI candidate aims to strengthen European technological sovereignty, resilience and industrial leadership in the field of Circular Advanced Materials.

The initiative particularly seeks to accelerate the development, scale-up and industrial deployment of circular advanced materials and related technologies, strengthen circular value chains, reduce strategic dependencies on critical raw materials and support the transition towards a climate-neutral and resource-efficient European industry.

Within this broader European framework, the IPCEI CAM is expected to focus on selected strategic application areas and value chains relevant for the green and industrial transition.

The planned activities particularly address the following application areas:

- renewable energy,
- industrial decarbonisation,
- circular mobility,
- as well as related electronics and system applications.

The planned IPCEI CAM follows an integrated approach along European value chains and focuses on research, development, piloting, scale-up, and recycling of circular advanced materials.

A key element of the initiative is the implementation of circular economy principles along the so-called “9R Framework”:

- Refuse
- Rethink
- Reuse
- Repair
- Refurbish
- Remanufacture
- Repurpose
- Recycle
- Recover

Associated Partners (APs)

The status of “Associated Partner” (AP) in the context of IPCEI initiatives refers to a form of participation of companies and research organisations in the IPCEI ecosystem without undergoing the state aid approval process and without receiving state aid under the IPCEI.

APs participate in the IPCEI through their own project activities and thereby contribute to achieving the common objectives along the value chain. They may participate in key

activities such as cooperation activities, matchmaking formats, as well as governance and working processes, while assuming largely comparable roles and obligations to Direct Participants, albeit with reduced administrative burden.

The BMIMI intends, through the participation of one or more APs, to enable the integration of Austrian actors into the emerging European value chains, even though Austria does not foresee participation in the initiative with Direct Participants and national funding.

Participation in this context is based exclusively on already existing national or European funding.

Important Clarification

Participation as an AP does not establish an entitlement to additional national or European funding.

Projects considered suitable at national level will be invited by the BMIMI, subject to fulfilment of the formal criteria, to participate in further IPCEI CAM activities (e.g. matchmaking).

The final decision regarding the inclusion of Austrian projects as APs is taken at European level by the so-called Design Group of the IPCEI CAM together with the European Coordination team.

Added Value of Participation as an Associated Partner

Participation as an AP enables Austrian companies and research organisations to:

- participate in a strategic European innovation ecosystem in the field of Circular Advanced Materials,
- participate in matchmaking and networking opportunities as well as further activities within the framework of possible joint programme management at European level,
- establish European cooperation activities along the value chain,
- increase their visibility within the European innovation ecosystem,

- gain valuable insights into the results of other partner projects, for example within working and governance formats.

Participation Requirements

Formal Criteria

Funding Status

Only national standalone projects, national consortium projects, and national project parts of European consortium projects receiving or expected to receive funding for research, development or innovation activities within the scope defined below are eligible for participation.

At the time of submission, either the funding contract or a conditional grant approval for a funding contract must already be available. In the latter case, the existence of the funding contract must be demonstrated by 31 March 2027 at the latest.

Participation as an Associated Partner ceases if the underlying funding is withdrawn or the project is terminated.

Location

The project or the Austrian project part must be implemented in Austria.

Type of Organisation

The following entities are eligible to participate:

- companies,
- non-university research organisations,
- universities.

Research organisations and universities are eligible provided that a clear pathway towards industrial exploitation or application can be demonstrated.

Project Type

The following project types are eligible:

- R&D standalone projects,
- Austrian R&D consortium projects (represented by one consortium partner),
- Austrian project parts of European R&D consortium projects.

Project Size

The Austrian project or project part must demonstrate eligible costs of at least EUR 1,000,000.

This requirement is intended to ensure sufficient critical mass and integration into the IPCEI ecosystem.

Project Character and Strategic Relevance

The project must demonstrate clear relevance to industrial application, scale-up or deployment along the value chain.

Purely exploratory activities or preliminary studies without a recognisable perspective for further development in the context of the IPCEI CAM are not addressed.

Project Duration and Relevance

As a general rule, the funding period of the project may not end before 31 March 2029. Exceptions apply to FFG Basisprogramm projects.

Where a project or project part (in particular national consortium projects) allows for a cost-neutral extension, the project end date may be considered under inclusion of such a cost-neutral extension (maximum extension of one year).

For national FFG projects, participation as an Associated Partner in the IPCEI CAM may be regarded as a valid justification for a cost-neutral extension.

Submission Language and Submission Platform

Submission takes place via the website [www.ffg.at/IPCEI CAM EOI](http://www.ffg.at/IPCEI_CAM_EOI).

Submissions must be made in English.

Content-related Criteria

Thematic Scope

Projects or project parts contributing to Circular Advanced Materials and related value chains are invited to participate.

The projects or project parts must contribute to at least one of the following application areas:

- renewable energy,
- industrial decarbonisation,
- circular mobility,
- as well as related electronics and system applications.

The contribution to circularity must be demonstrated by assigning the project to at least one or more principles of the 9R Framework.

Assignment to Work Streams

The work streams represent the central thematic strands of the IPCEI CAM along the value chain.

The project must be assignable to at least one of the following work streams of the IPCEI CAM:

1. Sustainable raw material sourcing and design of Circular Advanced Materials as well as corresponding products and applications
2. Circular manufacturing, processing and end-of-life concepts

3. Circular applications and optimisation of the use phase

Position within the Value Chain

The project or the national project part must be clearly assignable to one or more stages of the value chain.

These include:

- sustainable raw material sourcing,
- research and development,
- piloting and scale-up,
- industrial production and processing,
- integration into components or systems,
- market launch and market uptake,
- use phase,
- recovery and recycling,
- integration into circular value chains and ecosystems.

Rights and Obligations of Austrian Associated Partners

Transparency Obligation

Participating companies and research organisations agree that their identity as well as non-confidential project content may be published in connection with the IPCEI CAM.

Participation Obligation

Participating companies and research organisations agree:

- to contribute to matchmaking and networking activities,
- to participate in selected governance, workshop and conference formats,
- to actively contribute to the European innovation ecosystem of the IPCEI CAM.

Cooperation Obligation

APs generally commit to establishing at least two effective cooperation activities with Direct Participants or Associated Partners of the IPCEI CAM during the implementation of the initiative.

The cooperation activities may be initiated within the framework of the European matchmaking activities.

At least one of these cooperation activities must involve a Direct Participant of the IPCEI.

At the time of submission, a general willingness to implement such cooperation activities must be demonstrated.

By the time of the state aid approval of the IPCEI CAM by the European Commission at the latest, such cooperation activities must at least be demonstrated through Letters of Intent (LoIs).

Effective cooperation activities are understood as cooperation activities within the meaning of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER).

Spillover Obligation

APs generally commit to carrying out at least one spillover activity with effects in at least three EU Member States.

Spillover activities are understood as all activities generating additional value beyond the direct project objective(s) and which are not directly necessary for achieving the project objective(s).

Reporting Obligations

Associated Partners commit:

- to submit a short annual report to the BMIMI on non-confidential project progress as well as cooperation and spillover activities,
- to contribute to the preparation of European reporting formats, in particular the Annual Executive Report.

Financial Contribution Obligation

Participating companies and research organisations agree, in the event of the establishment of a joint programme management structure at European level, to provide a financial contribution towards the implementation of corresponding coordination and management activities.

The specific structure and amount of this contribution will be determined during the further European-level process.

Experience from comparable IPCEI initiatives indicates that such contributions for APs are typically in the low four-digit range per year.

Maintenance of AP Status

The maintenance of the status as an AP requires the continuous fulfilment of the obligations undertaken within the framework of this Expression of Interest throughout the duration of the IPCEI.

BMIMI reserves the right to revoke the status as an AP in the event of substantial or persistent breaches of these obligations or in the absence of active participation in the IPCEI ecosystem.

Participating companies and research organisations may also withdraw their participation as an AP at any time in written form.

Submission and Application Process

Submission

Interested companies and research organisations must complete the Application Form in full and submit it via the designated submission platform by 13 July 2026, 12:00 CET at the latest.

Submissions received after the deadline cannot be considered.

Required Documents

The submission within the framework of the Expression of Interest must contain the following documents and information:

- project description,
- proof of existing funding or financing,
- assignment of the project:
 - to the thematic scope,
 - to the work streams,
 - to the value chain,
- description of planned cooperation activities,
- description of planned spillover activities,
- statement of motivation for participation in the IPCEI CAM,
- declaration of intent regarding the fulfilment of the obligations described above.

A form covering the above-mentioned contents is available for download at www.ffg.at/IPCEI_CAM_EOI and must be completed for submission.

Selection Process

National Level

At the Austrian level, suitable projects are selected based on fulfilment of the following formal criteria:

- Was the submission made within the indicated submission deadline?
- Was the submission made in English?
- Was the submission completed in full and are all required documents included?
- Was the submission made via the indicated submission platform (website)?
- Is a valid funding contract or a written provisional funding commitment for the project available? (Note: in the case of a provisional funding commitment, the funding contract must without exception be available by 31 March 2027 at the latest.)
- Is the project a national standalone project, a national consortium project, or a national project part of a European project?
- Does the project or project part demonstrate eligible costs of at least EUR 1,000,000?
- Does the funding period end after 31 March 2029? If not, can the project end date be considered after 31 March 2029 under inclusion of a possible cost-neutral extension? If not, is the project a FFG Basisprogramm project?
- Is a clear relevance for industrial application, scale-up or deployment along the value chain demonstrated?
- Is the project or relevant project part implemented in Austria?
- Is the submitting organisation an Austrian company, Austrian university or Austrian non-university research organisation?
- Is the connection to at least one of the application areas (renewable energy, industrial decarbonisation, circular mobility or related electronics and system applications) demonstrated?
- Is the project assigned to at least one of the principles of the 9R Framework?
- Is the project assigned to one or more stages of the value chain?
- Are the planned cooperation activities described in a substantial manner?
- Are the planned spillover activities described in a substantial manner?
- Is the motivation for participation in the IPCEI CAM as an Associated Partner described in a substantial manner?

- Is the declaration of intent regarding fulfilment of the above-mentioned obligations confirmed?

Each block of questions (bullet point) must contain at least one positive answer in order to fulfil the formal criteria.

Upon fulfilment of the formal criteria, BMIMI will invite applicants to participate in further activities (European matchmaking, etc.).

Fulfilment of the formal criteria at national level and the invitation to further activities do not constitute acceptance as an AP by the Design Group of the IPCEI CAM.

European Level

The national selection does not constitute automatic acceptance as an AP in the IPCEI CAM.

The final decision regarding acceptance is taken at the European level by the Design Group of the IPCEI CAM (association of the participating Member States under the leadership of the Coordination team).

Timeline and Further Process

The national Expression of Interest is open until 13 July 2026, 12:00 CET.

The formal selection process will be carried out by BMIMI and FFG by 31 August 2026.

Selected projects will be informed about the next steps.

Subsequently, the following activities may in particular take place:

- participation in matchmaking formats,
- preparation of European cooperation activities,
- involvement in preparatory activities for the state aid approval procedure (Chapeau Document),
- possible inclusion as an Associated Partner in the IPCEI CAM.

Further Information

Important Links

- [BMIMI IPCEI Website](#)
- [Application Form and Submission Platform](#)

Advisory Services and Contact

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