AIRISE Open Call 6

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1 Abstract

This document collates the rules and conditions to be applied to support provided to third parties within AIRISE. It is addressed to potential applicants and aims at being a practical guideline for successful application.

The aim of AIRISE is to accelerate the uptake of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of manufacturing throughout the European Union. AIRISE is offering services that support SMEs and is creating offerings to provide impartial access to the best European AI knowledge and resources to support this adoption.

To build a truly pan-European initiative, several renown research institutes and best-of-breed consulting companies are involved in the AIRISE project. These partners will provide the technological backbone for guidance and support in transferring ideas to applications in a profitable way and will manage the "AIRISE Services Offering".

Further information about AIRISE is available through project website and Cordis portal. AIRISE is co-funded from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101092312.

https://www.airise.eu/

2 Call Aim and Topic

Through this call, AIRISE supports European SMEs and mid-caps in developing an idea for using Artificial Intelligence on their manufacturing shop floor. We call each supported engagement an experiment: a short, focused piece of work, in which you and an AIRISE expert take your AI idea a concrete step forward, clarifying the challenge, assessing your data, prototyping an approach, and/or building your team's competence.

AIRISE support for this Open Call is provided **as expert services and training, not as a cash grant**. Our support follows the paradigm of empowerment: the services are meant to teach and guide you, so that you are able to tackle future challenges with less support.

The anticipated AI application must address at least one of the following objectives:

- Improve the sustainability of processes and products, significantly reduce or reuse waste and must lower the energy and carbon footprint
- Make industrial processes more agile, secure and resilient to future changes
- Make manufacturing jobs more attractive for humans, whichever the age, gender or social and cultural background, through better human-machine interfaces and more intuitive interaction with digital tools

2.1 Services

AIRISE offers AI related services that help you increase your knowledge and competence. The full catalogue of service groups available under this call is given in Annex 1.

In your proposal you indicate the service group you are interested in and describe how it is expected to close a specific gap in your organisation's knowledge or capability. The total support from AIRISE per applicant may not exceed two full-time weeks of expert effort.

2.2 Duration of the experiment

Experiments are expected to run for three to four weeks. Your proposal must include a simple week-by-week plan showing what happens in each week, who is involved, and what the output is.

2.3 Service Providers

AIRISE uses Service Providers (experts from the project consortium organisations) to lead the applicants through their experiments. Your Service Provider is assigned after your proposal has been selected and is matched to the service group you requested.

2.4 Reporting

The applicants need to provide information on the execution and achievements. To do so, a simplified report is expected, containing a summary of the challenge, work done, main achievements, and impact on the applicant business, as well as confidential feedback for AIRISE services.

On a regular basis, status updates need to be provided to the Service Provider of the applicant for monitoring of progress.

2.5 Dissemination

The applicants need to provide a publishable story, pictures and video footage about their experimentation work as part of the aforementioned reporting process. Media files need to be of high resolution but do not need to disclose IP. Story, pictures and video footage are part of the reporting.

Each applicant will need to take part in a short (10') online video interview session, which will be recorded and disseminated by AIRISE to present achievements and results of the experiment.

3 Conditions and Eligibility

3.1 Eligibility requirements

Applicable requirements and limitations are in line with Grant Agreement nº101092312 signed by the AIRISE partners and the European Commission.

3.1.1 Who may receive support

Any legal entity that applies for support must

- be established in an EU Member State or a country associated to Horizon Europe;
- qualify as an SME or a mid-cap;
- hold a PIC number (Participant Identification Code) at the time of submission

Research and technology development organisations are not eligible, nor are members of the AIRISE consortium.

3.1.2 Activities for which a third party may receive support

SMEs or mid-caps that conduct an experiment may receive support to develop an innovative approach in using AI in their manufacturing environment, to design and construct the application and to implement and run it for validation, within the scale of support described in Section 2.

3.2 Criteria for awarding support to Experiments

The proposals will be evaluated against three criteria.

#	Name and Explanation	Threshold
1	**Scope:** The sector and manufacturing context in which you operate. What you want to do with AI, stated as specific and measurable objectives with a clear focus on the application area. Why you need AIRISE support, which capability you do not have in-house and which AIRISE service group closes that gap.	3/5
2	**Viability:** Your starting point with respect to AI. Whether the data the experiment needs is already available, and whether it is consistent, coherent and accessible. Whether you have the human and IT resources to support the experiment, realistic in both amount and timing for a 3–4 week engagement.	3/5
3	**Impact:** The expected improvement within your company, expressed as concrete KPIs with a measurement method and target values, based on actual and realistic scenarios. Whether the solution can be scaled further within your company if successful. Whether the challenge is significant for the sector overall. The credibility of your plan to communicate results, so that the wider community can follow the experiment's progress.	3/5

Each criterion will be scored with the following scale (half points are allowed):

- 0: The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information
- 1 (Poor): The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
- 2 (Fair): While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;
- 3 (Good): The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary
- 4 (Very good): The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible
- 5 (Excellent): The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question.

Proposals which fail to achieve a score of at least 3 for any of the criteria cannot be supported (score threshold)

Proposals that meet the threshold on all three criteria are selected on a first come - first served basis until the available resources are consumed. Overall, we intend to support 15 applications.

Proposals that meet the threshold but arrive after the available resources have been committed are placed on a reserve list. If capacity becomes available, or if a further call is opened, reserve-list applicants are contacted first.

The call closes on 30 November 2026 at 17:00 Brussels local time, or earlier if all available resources are committed. If applicable, early closure will be announced on www.airise.eu/calls

3.3 Publication

The call is published on the AIRISE website. It is communicated through social media and on the web pages of the European Commission. The primary source for call documents remains the AIRISE website (www.airise.eu/calls).

4 Proposal Submission

Project Acronym	AIRISE
Project GA#	101092312
Project full name	Artificial Intelligence for resilience in manufacturing SMEs
Call Identifier	AIRISE OC6
Call Title	AIRISE Call 6 for support of challenges on AI-in-Manufacturing
Publication date	14. September 2026
Call closing date	30. November 2026 17:00 Brussels Local Time, or earlier if all available resources are committed
Expected Experiment Duration	3-4 weeks
Maximum amount of support for a third party	a maximum of 2 weeks of expert services (no financial support)
Eligibility	See Section 3
Proposal language	English (UK or US)
Proposal content	Use the AIRISE OC6 Proposal Template, addressing the topics detailed in this guide.
Proposal length	Sections 2 to 6 of the proposal template must not exceed four (4) pages on A4 at 11 pt, including all tables, figures and references. Additional content may be truncated before evaluation.
Submission	Through the website www.airise.eu/calls
Questions	call-for-proposals@airise.eu

4.1 Communications and Data Processing

The mail account is handled by the project's office team. The identity of the sender and the content of the proposal will be treated confidentially within the consortium. The proposal document will be stored on a collaboration platform accessible only to consortium members.

Personal data provided in your proposal and related correspondence (names, e-mail addresses, telephone numbers and company contact details) are processed by the AIRISE consortium for the sole purpose of managing this Open Call, including registering and evaluating your proposal, contacting you, contracting where applicable, and reporting to the European Commission as required under Grant Agreement No 101092312. Data are not transferred to any third party outside the consortium and are not used for any other purpose. Data are retained for five years after the end of the project and then deleted. You may request access to, rectification of, or deletion of your personal data by writing to call-for-proposals@airise.eu.

Any questions concerning this call shall be submitted in writing not later than 3 days before the closing date to call-for-proposals@airise.eu. Questions shall make specific reference to the appropriate section(s) of this document. Questions received via call-for-proposals@airise.eu may be published on the AIRISE web site.

4.2 Submission and evaluation

In order to apply for this call, applicants need to submit a proposal that contains information according to the requirements listed in this guide for applicants. The responsibility for a successful and timely reception remains with the applicants. Proposals arriving after the closing date and time will not be taken into consideration. After evaluation, the applicants will be informed of the result of their proposal's evaluation by e-mail.

AIRISE will offer submission through its website. Submissions by other means will not be taken into consideration.

4.3 Conditions

The applicants selected to be supported ("beneficiaries") will sign a contract with the coordinator of the project, overing non-disclosure and IP ownership.

Beneficiaries must declare that they have no conflict of interest with AIRISE partners, which are listed at www.airise.eu. This prevents any situation in which the impartiality and objectivity of the award is compromised by economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other shared interest. Applicants who cannot make this declaration cannot be awarded support.

The IP of the results generated by the beneficiary in the experiment is owned by the beneficiary. Beneficiaries grant the AIRISE consortium partners access to the results for the pursuance of the objectives of the project and the exploitation of the project's results, in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

5 Annex 1: AIRISE services available to applicants

For Open Call 6, the following AI service groups will be available for selection by applicants:

Design and Engineering

- Materials exploration
- Product design optimization
- Manufacturing process design

Process Monitoring and Control

- Manufacturing process optimisation
- Manufacturing process quality assessment
- Manufacturing process control

Manufacturing Operations

- Shopfloor management
- Personnel development & management
- Maintenance
- Cybersecurity

Production Chain

- Scheduling
- Production assessment/optimisation

Supply Chain AI Services

- Warehouse management

Training Services