

INTRANSIT

DELIVERABLE D5.3

**PROJECT RESULTS EXPLOITATION GUIDE
AND SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY
ACTIVITIES. BEST PRACTICES GUIDE FROM
IMPLEMENTATION LEARNING**



**Funded by
the European Union**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Deliverable 5.3 presents the Project Results Exploitation Guide and the synergies with other key activities, as well as a Best Practices Guide based on the implementation experience of In Transit project. Its purpose is to provide a practical reference for maximising the use of project results, highlighting connections with other European and international initiatives, and summarising the best practices and lessons learned throughout the project.

The deliverable explains In Transit strategy for ensuring the continued use and impact of its outcomes. These outcomes are presented in two main sections:

- Exploitation of the DEVELOP Call Results
- Best practices for future cascade funding projects

EXPLOITATION OF THE DEVELOP CALL RESULTS

This section highlights the achievements of SMEs funded through the In Transit DEVELOP calls, providing insights to help partners support these companies in advancing towards market deployment, adopting, industrialising, and commercialising their innovations. It includes an overview of newly formed value chains and examples of SME projects developing innovative technologies that enhance competitiveness and resilience. The information is valuable for SMEs and technology developers to identify current trends and cross-sector opportunities, while large companies and end users can anticipate emerging challenges and refine their business and technology strategies.

Understanding these changes is crucial for businesses to adopt new economic and business models, offering innovative value propositions that increase competitiveness and resilience. In Transit Project Results Exploitation Guide handbook outline synergies with other key activities and provide an exploitation roadmap for eight newly identified value propositions, compiled from presentations of funded SME projects supported in the two DEVELOP cascade funding calls.

EXPLOITATION OF THE DEVELOP CALL RESULTS

In total, In Transit supported 43 projects from 61 SMEs. Thirty-nine of these projects defined their key exploitation ambitions and next steps in the innovation pathway. The projects were grouped into eight value propositions based on their innovations, sectors, or primary development focus. For each value proposition, generalised exploitation roadmap guidelines were prepared, including:

- Overview of the value chain, main innovation, and sectors involved
- Exploitation Roadmap Guidelines, detailing key actions for future implementation
- Presentation of the SME projects within the group
- Synergies with other key activities, including:
 - Strategic partnerships and cross-sector collaboration
 - Certification and market readiness
 - Pilot use cases and real-world applications
 - Research and innovation synergies
 - Market expansion and commercialisation

These guidelines serve as a practical reference to maximise the impact of the DEVELOP call results and ensure SMEs can successfully move from innovation to market-ready solutions.

BEST PRACTICES FOR FUTURE CASCADE FUNDING PROJECTS

The second handbook presents the key best practices learned from implementing In Transit project, which are essential for planning and managing future cascade funding initiatives, such as Horizon Europe and Euroclusters. It offers practical lessons and recommendations to ensure high-quality preparation, execution, and support services in cascade funding schemes.

Through In Transit, we successfully implemented a cascade funding project by first engaging SMEs via Open Innovation collaboration spaces, webinars, and Learning Expeditions, encouraging interaction and matchmaking. Once SMEs became familiar with the programme, many applied for cascade funding to advance their innovations. We are proud of their achievements and continue supporting their scale-up to market.

The best practices and lessons learned have been compiled into a stand-alone handbook to facilitate dissemination and ensure broad understanding across sectors. This guide consolidates essential practices in EU project management and cascade funding, including incubation services, matchmaking events, learning expeditions, coaching and webinars, call preparation and evaluation, and communication and dissemination.

Both documents are intended as a reference for a wide range of stakeholders: policymakers and public organisations offering grants, clusters and organisations applying for new calls, SMEs and start-ups seeking funding and support, large companies and end-users for identifying challenges and hosting visits, research and technology providers supporting innovation transfer, and investors looking for promising opportunities to fund new technologies and solutions.

ANNEXES

To increase usability and facilitate dissemination, the outcomes and exploitation guidelines are also provided as standalone documents that can be shared and printed independently:

ANNEX I

Handbook on Project Results Exploitation



- Synergies with Other Activities

ANNEX II

Best Practices Handbook



- A Guide for Implementing Cascade Funding Projects



HANDBOOK

PROJECT RESULTS EXPLOITATION GUIDE AND SYNERGIES



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SMES AT THE CORE OF EUROPE'S GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the European economy, they create jobs, drive innovation, and boost exports. Together, they contribute over half of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provide employment to around 100 million people.

However, despite their importance, many SMEs still face barriers that limit their growth and innovation potential. One of the most persistent challenges is limited access to financing for research, development, and innovative projects.

At the same time, SMEs are under increasing pressure to respond to global challenges such as climate change and the transition to a low-carbon, circular economy. Currently, only 9% of materials used in the economy are recycled, highlighting a major gap in circularity across industries.

The construction sector alone accounts for 30–40% of energy consumption, 40–50% of raw material use, 25–40% of freshwater usage, and 30–40% of solid waste generation.

The textile industry faces similar scrutiny, ranking among the highest for resource consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, while recycling rates for textiles remain low.

In the aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors, sustainability and innovation integration remain challenging due to resource-intensive production and high CO2 emissions.

THE ROLE OF IN TRANSIT PROJECT

In Transit project was implemented to help SMEs in these sectors overcome such challenges by fostering cross-sector collaboration, promoting circular economy principles, and supporting the adoption of sustainable practices.

The project engaged more than 160 SMEs across Europe, offering tailored consultancy services and financial support to help them transition to greener, more innovative business models. This included funding for feasibility studies, prototyping, and pilot testing of new technologies and processes.

Through this approach, In Transit helped build a more resilient, competitive, and sustainable European industrial landscape, enabling SMEs to better respond to global market challenges and the growing demands of sustainable development.

All participating SMEs under DEVELOP calls received targeted support, tailored mentoring, and cascade funding to speed up the development and market adoption of their innovative technologies. In addition, In Transit fostered crosssector collaboration, creating valuable synergies between the textile, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and construction industries.

KEY INSIGHTS FROM THE IN TRANSIT PROJECTS

An analysis of 43 projects (with detailed data available for 39) funded through the DEVELOP call highlights several strong trends and achievements:

- 65.1% of projects introduced new technologies, showing that European SMEs are actively embracing innovation to boost efficiency and remain competitive.
- 37.2% of projects focused on creating new value chains, reflecting a growing shift toward circular economy models and resource-efficient processes that align with the European Green Deal.
- 23.3% of projects developed new business models, helping SMEs explore alternative strategies to improve flexibility and resilience in changing markets.
- 18.6% of projects integrated artificial intelligence (AI), underlining the increasing importance of digital tools to enhance decision-making, efficiency, and sustainability.

To properly establish and present the results achieved, we have grouped them based on innovations, sectors, or the main focus of development.

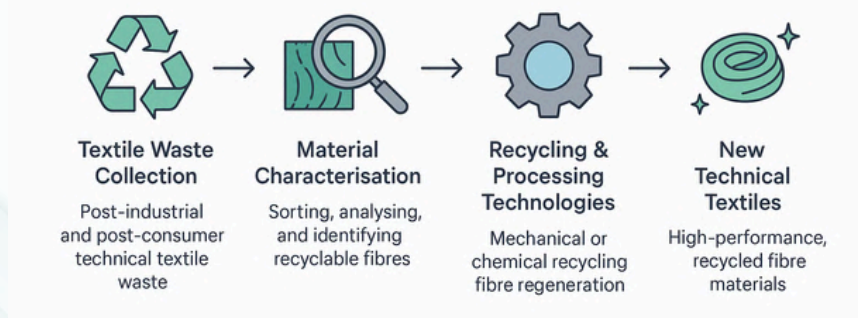
- Technical Textiles & Textile Recycling on Technical Textiles (**RE-HITECHTEX, GREEN WEAVE & ECOFILTER & TEXTFIRE**)
- Advanced Manufacturing to Improve Textile Processes (**AVTEX, FabriX AI, FIDELIS, PERFECT & ECO-SPIN**)
- Smart Textiles (**ARTICWEAVE, MAGOS VR GLOVES, EPIS HARMONY & CONFORTHEAT**)
- Textile Recycling and Sustainable Processes (**RECOTTEX, REFIBER4WORK, BIORE-DYE, FO-CEL, CLEANCOAT, MULTICOLOR & SORT MATE**)
- Digital Product Passport for the Textile and Construction Sectors (**DIGIBIOMAT, CIRCULARTECH & BLOCKCHAIN**)
- Advanced manufacturing (**GREENCUBE, CUTSMART & SUSTAINABLE THERMOPLASTIC**)
- Construction + Advanced manufacturing Sustainability (**ATLAS, LYNXCRAFT, SOLARDRAPE, PLISSADE & WOOLWALLS**)
- Aerospace + Advanced manufacturing (**DREAM, EOM3D.2, DELTA, HERMES AIRLINK, GREEN FURNACE, VBOX, ATHENA PICO, INOSCOPE & D-DOGSE**)

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From Textile Waste to Technical Innovation

The In Transit Recycling Pathway



In Transit under the topic **Textile Recycling on Technical Textiles and Technical Textiles** has supported a group of innovative SMEs that are driving the transformation of Europe's textile industry towards circularity and sustainability.

Projects such as **RE-HITECHTEX**, **GREEN WEAVE**, **ECOFILTER**, and **TEXTFIRE** are at the forefront of developing advanced recycling solutions, with a particular focus on technical textiles, high-performance materials critical to industries like mobility, healthcare, construction, and protective equipment. These projects are dedicated to recovering, reusing, and repurposing textile waste, transforming it into valuable resources and next-generation materials that offer enhanced functionality while significantly reducing environmental impact. It is crucial to note that the recycling of technical textiles often involves complex multi-material composites and fibers (e.g., aramids, fluoropolymers), presenting unique challenges in material separation and purification not found in conventional apparel recycling.

The groundbreaking innovations emerging from these initiatives align seamlessly with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan, demonstrating how SMEs can play a pivotal role in closing material loops and enhancing the competitiveness of Europe's textile ecosystem. By addressing the challenges of textile waste and resource efficiency, these projects are setting new benchmarks for sustainable industrial practices.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

To ensure the successful implementation and scaling of these innovations, the following exploitation roadmap guidelines have been outlined:

- **Industrial Partnerships:** Foster strategic collaborations with recycling plants and material suppliers to streamline the integration of recycled materials into industrial processes.
- **Licensing Models:** Explore and establish licensing agreements for recycling technologies to enable broader adoption and commercialization across the textile industry.
- **Digital Tracking:** Integrate advanced digital tracking systems, such as QR codes or Digital Product Passports (DPP), to ensure full traceability of recycled fibres and enhance transparency in the supply chain.
- **Testing Protocols:** Develop rigorous testing protocols to guarantee the consistent performance and quality of recycled materials, ensuring they meet industry standards and end-user requirements. These protocols must include not only standard physical tests (e.g., tensile strength, abrasion resistance) but also functional performance validation specific to the technical application, such as Limiting Oxygen Index (LOI) for fire retardancy or hydrostatic head testing for waterproofness, benchmarked against virgin material equivalents.
- **Eco-Labels and Compliance:** Obtain recognized eco-labels and ensure compliance with EU standards to strengthen market credibility, build consumer trust, and facilitate access to green markets. This should include pursuing certifications such as OEKO-TEX® STANDARD 100 for harmful substances, Global Recycled Standard (GRS) for recycled content traceability, and relevant EN standards for personal protective equipment (e.g., EN ISO 11612 for heat and flame protection).

RE-HITECHTEX

Re-hitechtex-Recycling of high-tech garments

Summary

The e-hitechtex project recycles used firefighters' suits into high-performance, fire-retardant textiles that meet PPE standards. Through reverse logistics and sustainable fiber processing, the project achieved strong mechanical performance and a high LOI of 45. It demonstrates that recycled materials can deliver durable, flame-resistant protective garments and sets a benchmark for circularity in technical textiles.

Results

Hilaturas Arnau successfully recycled firefighter garments into high-performance fire-resistant fabrics, achieving an LOI of 45, exceeding safety standards and paving the way for sustainable protective gear.]



Next steps

Re-hitechtex will scale by expanding reverse logistics for PPE across industries, including high-performance workwear. This will include optimising yarn blends, securing IP, developing a business plan, and marketing eco-friendly products, driving commercialisation and sustainability.

Target markets

Re-hitechtex targets B2B markets in industries needing high-performance PPE. The solution emphasizes sustainable, fire-resistant and high-performance materials for protective workwear, advancing circular economy practices and eco-friendly innovation.

GREEN WEAVE

A Transit from Green Agriculture to High-Tech Textiles

Summary

The GreenWeave project links regenerative agriculture with high-tech textiles by developing TerraDown™, a bio-based thermal insulation made from Iroony® cellulose pulp. Led by FYZ and RBX, the consortium created and validated a full prototype, showing that hemp-based, biodegradable insulation can be a high-performance alternative to synthetic fibers in technical apparel.

Results

RBX produced Iroony® cellulose-based nanocellulose and aerocellulose for a sustainable insulation material, while FYZ developed a high-performance hydroentangled nonwoven. A mid-layer jacket prototype using TerraDown™ insulation was successfully tested, advancing the project to TRL 7.



Next steps

Future steps include expanding commercialization, securing funding, and integrating Harmony into broader industrial applications. The system will be refined for international scalability, targeting new markets and partnerships while continuing real-world testing to optimize performance.

Target markets

Target users are eco-conscious, performance-focused consumers (mainly men 25–45). Growing demand centers on biodegradable, traceable, high-performance textile alternatives, with applications in outdoor gear, workwear, and sustainable fashion.

ECOFILTER

ECOFILTER project

Summary

The project applied circular economy principles to recycle polypropylene waste into monofilament yarns with 10% recycled content for a filter demonstrator, reducing environmental impact and raw material use. Supported by In Transit, the company developed sustainable processes and innovations, enhancing competitiveness and growth opportunities.

Results

The project recovered 17 tons of polypropylene filter cloth waste, which was transformed into monofilament yarns containing 10% recycled material. These yarns were then used to produce a functional filter demonstrator, showcasing the potential of recycled materials in technical applications.



Next steps

We plan to scale production, seek certifications, and validate the product with clients. A business plan is under development to support commercialization and explore additional R&D for improved recyclability.

Target markets

B2B - Targeting the textile, filtration, and environmental industries. Applications include industrial filter production and technical textiles using recycled monofilament yarns.



 finsa@finsajob.com

 www.finsajob.com

TEXFIRE

Testing and Implementation of Fire Blankets for Electric Vehicles

Summary

During the project, Texfire's fire blankets were tested on electric vehicle batteries and a full electric motorcycle to validate their effectiveness against lithium-ion battery fires. The tests confirmed their performance and guided the development of improved prototypes with enhanced safety and efficiency.

Results

The project confirmed Texfire's fire blankets effectively contain electric vehicle fires, provided key technical insights, and established standardized procedures for emergency responders, enhancing overall safety.



Next steps

Commercializing the new prototypes, showcasing them at industry trade fairs, and conducting further tests with industrial partners on larger vehicles. Efforts will also focus on developing supply channels and integrating Texfire's solutions into the electric mobility value chain.

Target markets

Advanced manufacturing sector focused on applications in aerospace and medical field, as films, are the target market of the developed material in our B2B model. In this model Solublion produces the pellets and the manufacturer produce the product.



 info@texfire.net

 texfire.net

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Industrial Partnerships & Supply Chain Integration

Recycling Plant Collaborations: Partner with large-scale recycling facilities to optimize the recovery and processing of technical textile waste, ensuring high-quality outputs for reuse.

Material Supplier Networks: Work with material suppliers to integrate recycled fibers into high-performance textiles for industries like automotive, healthcare, and construction.

Cross-Sector Material Flows: Explore partnerships with industries such as aerospace or electronics to repurpose recycled technical textiles into new applications (e.g., insulation, composites).

2. Licensing Models & Technology Transfer

Technology Licensing: License recycling technologies developed by RE-HITECHTEX and GREEN WEAVE to textile manufacturers globally, accelerating the adoption of circular practices.

Startup Incubators: Collaborate with innovation hubs (e.g., Fashion for Good, EIT Climate-KIC) to support startups in commercializing recycling solutions for technical textiles.

3. Digital Tracking & Transparency

Digital Product Passports (DPP): Integrate DPPs or QR codes to track the lifecycle of recycled materials, ensuring transparency and traceability across the supply chain.

Blockchain for Traceability: Partner with blockchain technology providers to create immutable records of material origins, recycling processes, and end-use applications.

4. Testing Protocols & Quality Assurance

Standardized Testing Frameworks: Develop and share rigorous testing protocols to ensure recycled materials meet industry standards for performance, durability, and safety.

Collaboration with Testing Labs: Partner with accredited laboratories to certify the quality of recycled technical textiles, building trust among manufacturers and endusers.

5. Eco-Labels & Market Access

Eco-Label Certification: Obtain recognized eco-labels (e.g., EU Ecolabel, Cradle to Cradle) to validate the sustainability credentials of recycled materials.

Compliance with EU Standards: Ensure alignment with EU regulations (e.g., REACH, Circular Economy Action Plan) to facilitate access to green markets and public procurement opportunities.

6. Research & Innovation Synergies

Material Science Partnerships: Collaborate with research institutions to explore advanced recycling techniques (e.g., chemical recycling, enzymatic processes) for complex technical textiles.

AI & Data Analytics: Use AI to optimize recycling processes, predict material performance, and identify new applications for recycled fibers.

7. Policy Advocacy & Funding Alignment

EU Funding Programs: Leverage Horizon Europe, Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), or national grants to scale recycling innovations and pilot projects.

Policy Engagement: Advocate for policies that incentivize textile recycling, such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes or tax breaks for circular practices.

8. Consumer & Industry Awareness

B2B Campaigns: Educate manufacturers and brands about the benefits of recycled technical textiles through workshops, case studies, and industry events.

Consumer Education: Launch campaigns to raise awareness about the environmental benefits of products made from recycled materials, driving demand for sustainable options.



In Transit has deepened its collaboration with **Advanced Manufacturing** to drive innovation in textile processes, empowering SMEs across Europe to enhance efficiency, quality, and sustainability. Through strategic projects: **AVTEX**, **FabriX AI**, **FIDELIS**, **PERFECT**, and **ECO-SPIN**, cutting-edge technologies such as AI-driven machine vision, real-time monitoring systems, and digital quality control are being integrated into traditional textile manufacturing.

These initiatives modernize production lines, reduce waste and energy consumption, and increase flexibility to meet rapidly evolving market demands. By bridging expertise from the textile, manufacturing, and digital sectors, In Transit enables SMEs to boost competitiveness while accelerating the twin transition, toward a greener and more digitally advanced European industry.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Demonstrating Efficiency Gains:** Quantify improvements in cost reduction, time savings, and waste minimization through process optimization. Highlight case studies showing energy efficiency and resource savings from digitalized textile production.
- **Scaling Through Collaboration:** Partner with technology providers to expand automation and integrate scalable solutions. Foster cross-industry alliances to accelerate adoption of AI and IoT in textile manufacturing. Strengthen collaboration with EDIHs, which provide valuable “test before invest” services that can support companies before committing to an investment.
- **Innovative Business Models:** Explore “Digital Manufacturing as a Service” (DMaaS) to offer SMEs flexible, on-demand access to advanced production technologies. Develop subscription-based or pay-per-use models to lower entry barriers for smaller manufacturers.

These projects exemplify how advanced manufacturing can transform textile production into a more resilient, efficient, and sustainable ecosystem. By continuing to push boundaries, In Transit and its partners are establishing new innovation standards that will shape the future of European industry.

AVTEX

Advanced Vision system for zero-defect TEXTile manufacturing

Summary

AVTEX, a joint Maccion-CINPASA initiative, developed an AI-powered system for real-time defect detection in narrow fabric production, cutting defects by 30%, energy use by 20%, and eliminating 26 tons of waste. The project reached TRL 8, delivering scalable, traceable, and cost-saving solutions ready for industrialization.

Results

Prototype validated in real textile production, achieving 30% fewer defects, 100% inspection coverage, 26 tons/year waste reduction, and full ERP-integrated quality analytics system.



Next steps

Industrialize the solution, launch pilot projects in new sectors, create licensing and support model, define IP strategy, and seek partners and investment for commercial rollout during 2025–2026.

Target markets

B2B – Application in Textile, Packaging, Automotive and other continuous production industries. Scalable solution for quality control in advanced manufacturing, aligned with Industry 4.0 and Green Deal.



-  info@maccion.com
-  www.maccion.com
-  cinpasa@cinpasa.com
-  www.cinpasa.com

FABRIXAI

Complex Fabrics Inspected with AI

Summary

FabrixAI leverages AI-powered machine vision to reduce textile defects by up to 80%, cut waste, and enhance sustainability. Validated at TRL 7 with CamposM, the scalable system applies to multiple industries, supports real-time quality control, and promotes digital innovation, circular manufacturing, and competitiveness for European SMEs.

Results

The system achieved 92% defect detection accuracy and improved process efficiency by 12%. Workers adopted the solution successfully, enhancing quality and sustainability.

More info: www.visiontexapp.com



Next steps

We will refine the AI model, expand its use to new textile lines and upholstery, protect IP, and seek strategic partners. A detailed business plan and marketing strategy will support EU-wide commercialization and sector diversification.

Target markets

B2B solution for the textile sector, with future application in advanced manufacturing, upholstery, and automotive. Focused on weaving and finishing companies seeking efficiency, waste reduction, and higher quality standards.



-  arisnova@arisnova.com
-  www.biomatcanapa.it
-  prod@camposm.com
-  www.camposm.com

FIDELIS

Fast Identification of Defects and Errors
Leading to Improved Sustainability in Textiles
and Advanced Manufacturing

Summary

FIDELIS developed a modular CBM system for real-time fault detection and Zero-Defect Manufacturing, adaptable to both advanced and legacy equipment. Tested in manufacturing and textiles, it enhances quality, reduces waste, extends asset life, and supports digitalization and sustainability.

Results

Advanced CBM solution with AI diagnostics for real-time fault detection and ZDM, validated at TRL6 in a demonstrator representative of production processes in both advanced manufacturing and textile.



Next steps

Next steps target commercialisation as a standalone product or as an extension of the iSent® QA/QC framework, focusing on textile and packaging sectors, while also serving as an entry point into new markets seeking intelligent CBM and quality assurance capabilities.

Target markets

Targeting B2B markets with an initial focus on textile and packaging sectors, leveraging existing QA/QC systems and expertise. Nevertheless, due to its modular, industry-agnostic design, the solution is adaptable to various manufacturing environments.

PERFECT

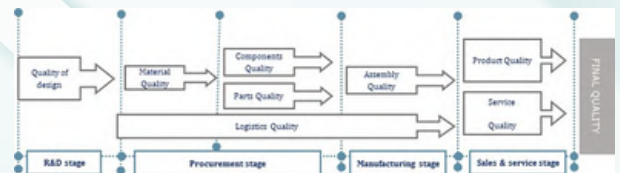
Precision Engineering for Reliable Fabrication
and Enhanced Clothing Technology

Summary

PERFECT is an AI-driven Autonomous Quality Control system that automates garment size validation using smartphone images and morphotype analysis, significantly reducing sizing errors, waste, costs, and CO₂ emissions, while enabling Zero Defect Manufacturing and scalable, sustainable production for protective, sportswear, and fashion textiles.

Results

PERFECT cut size validation time by 75%, reduced sizing errors by 80%, lowered costs by 10%, and saved up to 280 tons of CO₂ annually through reduced waste and returns.



Next steps

After the experiment, i-Deal will scale the PERFECT solution via API integration with new partners in technical clothing, sportswear, and fashion, improve algorithms with user feedback, and expand to EU and global markets.

Target markets

Target markets include technical and protective clothing, sportswear, fashion, and orthopedic garments. Geographically, the focus is on Europe first, followed by Asia-Pacific and North America.

ECO-SPIN

ECO-SPIN project

Summary

The project improved air-textured yarn production by implementing real-time monitoring and recycling systems, reducing process waste, preventing machine stoppages, saving energy, cutting CO₂ emissions, and converting 2 tons of rejected yarn into reusable material, showcasing the combined benefits of smart technology and circular economy practices.

Results

igital monitoring system fully implemented, operator response time improved, material sorting workflow integrated, and recycling validated by external partner for industrial reuse.



Next steps

Next steps include scaling the monitoring system to additional lines, expanding recycling workflows, exploring industrial partnerships, and preparing a business case for broader adoption and commercialization.

Target markets

2B – Targeting the textile industry and advanced manufacturing. Applicable to producers of synthetic yarns and fiber-based materials with potential expansion into automotive, health, and technical textiles.



 ductel@agatex.es

 ductel.com

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Demonstrating Efficiency Gains & Case Studies

Cross-Industry Benchmarking: Share quantified results (e.g., cost reduction, energy savings) from projects like AVTEX and ECO-SPIN with other manufacturing sectors (e.g., automotive, aerospace) to showcase the benefits of digitalized production.

Sustainability Reporting: Collaborate with sustainability certification bodies to integrate efficiency metrics (e.g., reduced waste, lower CO2 emissions) into ESG reporting frameworks, enhancing the appeal of digitalized textile manufacturing.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Highlight success stories through media and industry events to inspire broader adoption of advanced manufacturing technologies.

2. Scaling Through Collaboration

Technology Partnerships: Partner with AI and IoT providers to integrate scalable solutions like FabriX AI's machine vision or FIDELIS' real-time monitoring into textile production lines.

Cross-Sector Alliances: Collaborate with industries like electronics or pharmaceuticals to adapt advanced manufacturing technologies for textile applications, fostering crosssector innovation.

EDIHs (European Digital Innovation Hubs): Strengthen ties with EDIHs to provide SMEs with "test before invest" services, reducing risks and accelerating the adoption of digital tools.

3. Innovative Business Models

Digital Manufacturing as a Service (DMaaS): Develop DMaaS platforms to offer SMEs flexible, on-demand access to advanced production technologies, lowering upfront investment costs.

Subscription-Based Models: Introduce subscription or pay-per-use models for technologies like PERFECT's digital quality control, making them accessible to smaller manufacturers.

Shared Manufacturing Hubs: Establish regional hubs where multiple SMEs can access advanced manufacturing equipment, fostering collaboration and resource optimization.

4. Research & Development Synergies

AI & Machine Learning Integration: Collaborate with AI research institutions to enhance predictive maintenance and process optimization in textile manufacturing.

Sustainable Materials Development: Partner with material science labs to integrate eco-friendly materials into digitalized production processes, aligning with the EU Green Deal.

Circular Economy Integration: Explore how advanced manufacturing can support circular textile production, such as enabling efficient recycling or upcycling of materials.

5. Policy & Funding Alignment

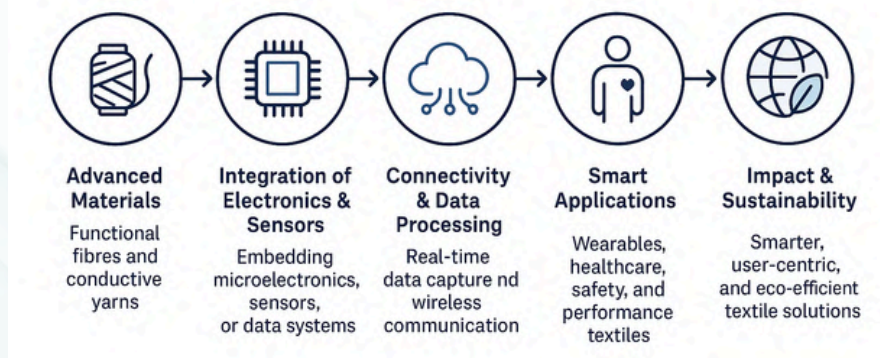
EU Funding Programs: Leverage Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, or regional innovation funds to scale pilot projects and support SMEs in adopting advanced manufacturing technologies.

Policy Advocacy: Work with policymakers to shape regulations that incentivize digitalization and sustainability in textile manufacturing, such as tax breaks for green investments.

6. Workforce Development & Training

Skills Development Programs: Partner with educational institutions to train textile workers in advanced manufacturing technologies, ensuring a skilled workforce for the digital transition.

SMART TEXTILES INNOVATION PATHWAY – FROM FUNCTIONAL FIBRES TO INTELLIGENT FABRICS



Under the Smart Textiles topic, In Transit has significantly supported SMEs and projects such as **ARTICWEAVE**, **MAGOS VR GLOVES**, **EPIS HARMONY**, and **CONFORTHEAT**. These projects are at the forefront of integrating advanced materials, sensors, and digital technologies into textile products, paving the way for innovative, functional, and high-value solutions. By embedding cutting-edge technologies into textiles, these beneficiaries are developing next-generation fabrics capable of sensing, reacting, and adapting to environmental or user stimuli. This moves beyond simply attaching electronics to garments towards creating true textile-based systems, where conductive yarns, piezoresistive coatings, or fiber-optic sensors are seamlessly integrated into the fabric structure. Their groundbreaking innovations span a wide range of applications, from responsive protective gear to intelligent fabrics tailored for sports, mobility, and construction sectors.

Beyond enhancing product functionality, these projects are actively contributing to the European twin transition, driving both digital transformation and sustainability within the textile and advanced materials industries. By merging traditional textile engineering with electronics and data technologies, these SMEs are positioning Europe as a global leader in textile innovation, demonstrating the potential of smart textiles to revolutionize industries and improve everyday life.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Prioritize Certification and Compliance:** Focus on obtaining necessary certifications for wearable and technical applications to ensure safety, reliability, and market readiness.
- **Forge Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborate with electronics manufacturers or IoT providers to enhance technological integration and expand product capabilities. Further collaboration through industry partnerships might lead to more opportunities for taking products to market than what has so far been explored. Greater potential for cross sector innovation.
- **Develop Pilot Use Cases:** Create and showcase pilot applications in high-impact sectors such as sports, aerospace, healthcare, and mobility to demonstrate realworld benefits and attract potential investors.

ARCTICWEAVE

An innovative textile-based cooling technology

Summary

The Arcticweave project is developing lightweight, energy-efficient cooling textiles that can be integrated into everyday clothing, such as jackets or trousers, to actively lower body temperature in hot conditions. This innovative solution offers a more comfortable and sustainable alternative to existing cooling technologies.

Results

Reached TRL 7 Prototype and developed additional technologies around the cooling system. Market strategy ready. Established contact with interested early-adopter companies.



Next steps

Integration of feedback from market and user studies. Cooperation with brands to adapt technology to their products. Product marketing at trade fairs and potential market entry by the end of 2025.

Target markets

Technical Clothing for sports and extreme environments, Personal safety equipment, B2B



-  jeta@ltp-gmbh.de
-  ltp-gmbh.de
-  info@clim8.com
-  Myclim8.com

MAGOS VR GLOVES

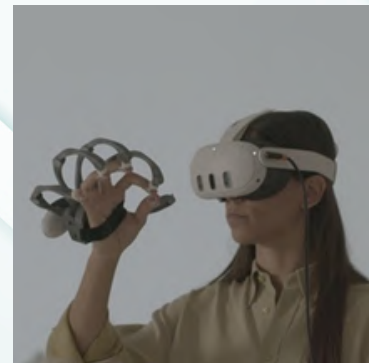
Magos VR Gloves

Summary

The project optimises Q&Q's Magos VR haptic gloves, enhancing finger-tracking accuracy, haptic feedback, and electrical components to reach TRL7. Integrated with a Unity SDK, the gloves enable natural interaction in virtual environments for high-dexterity training, with prototypes already purchased by organisations like Siemens and Leonardo. Magos, fully developed in-house, has earned multiple innovation awards for its impact in advanced human-machine interfaces.

Results

The project enhanced Magos by improving a key component, thereby strengthening its edge in VR haptics. It's cross-sector, with a focus on VR training, while exploring robotics and other horizontal markets.



Next steps

The next steps are to showcase the new solution at global events and expos, explore FSTP funding opportunities, establish collaborations with solution providers identified during the In Transit (Jules Verne) project, and commercialize the MAGOS BETA version.

Target markets

B2B | Sectors: Robotics, Aerospace, Healthcare, Industry 4.0 | Focus: early adopters in robotics, VR training/simulation | Projects: surgical VR, pilot VR, mining VR, chess game, AR assembly, digital twin teleoperation | synchronous teleoperation.



-  info@themagos.com
-  <https://www.themagos.com/>

EPIS HARMONY

Universal tracking tag

Summary

The EPIS Harmony project developed a universal tracking tag and IoT platform to improve PPE and asset management for SMEs in textiles, aerospace, and construction. Piloted with SACYR, it enables real-time tracking, geolocation, and efficient asset control, supporting digitalization, operational efficiency, and future market expansion.

Results

EPIS Harmony developed a smart PPE tracking system integrating IoT, UX/UI design, and real-world testing with SACYR, enhancing efficiency, safety, and digitalization in construction and related industries.



Next steps

uture steps include expanding commercialization, securing funding, and integrating Harmony into broader industrial applications. The system will be refined for international scalability, targeting new markets and partnerships while continuing real-world testing to optimize performance.

Target markets

EPIS Harmony targets B2B sectors, including Construction, Aerospace, Advance Manufacturing, and Textile industries. It enhances PPE and asset tracking, improving safety and efficiency. Potential expansion includes logistics and other industrial applications.

ENGIDI

✉ info@engidi.com
 🌐 www.engidi.com
 ✉ info@lucid.pro
 🌐 www.lucid.pro

lucid

CONFORTHEAT

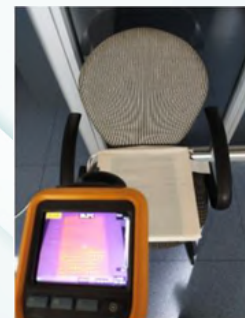
Heated sofa solution using printed electronics technology for furniture industry

Summary

The project develops an innovative heated sofa using printed electronics, combining flexible heating elements with existing designs to enhance comfort, integrate seamlessly, and reduce energy consumption. Collaboration with textile, electronics, and furniture partners aims to ensure material compatibility, design integration, and successful commercialization.

Results

Collaboration between Rotimpres and textile and furniture manufacturers presented challenges in integrating heating elements with diverse materials, but also spurred innovation and enhanced the adaptability of Rotimpres products.



Next steps

The project is progressing from prototype development and IP protection of the printed electronics heating element, through market research and partner identification, to partner engagement and pilot testing, with the goal of refining production for scalability and launching a commercial product.

Target markets

B2B Sales: The primary focus will be business-to-business sales, targeting high-end furniture manufacturers.

ROTIMPRES
 printed electronics

✉ pe@rotimpres.com
 🌐 printedelectronics.rotimpres.com

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Strategic Partnerships & Cross-Sector Collaboration

Electronics & IoT Integration: Partner with electronics manufacturers (e.g., semiconductor companies) and IoT providers to enhance the functionality of smart textiles, such as integrating advanced sensors or wireless connectivity.

Healthcare & Wearables: Collaborate with medical device companies to develop smart textiles for remote patient monitoring, rehabilitation, or adaptive prosthetics.

Sports & Fitness: Work with sportswear brands to create performance-enhancing garments that monitor biometrics or adapt to environmental conditions.

Aerospace & Automotive: Partner with aerospace and automotive industries to develop lightweight, adaptive materials for seating, insulation, or safety gear.

2. Certification & Market Readiness

Compliance & Safety: Collaborate with certification bodies to ensure smart textiles meet industry standards (e.g., CE marking, ISO certifications) for wearable and technical applications.

Regulatory Alignment: Engage with policymakers to shape regulations that support the adoption of smart textiles in high-stakes industries like healthcare and construction.

3. Pilot Use Cases & Real-World Applications

Healthcare Pilots: Develop pilot projects in hospitals or clinics to demonstrate the effectiveness of smart textiles in monitoring vital signs or improving patient comfort.

Construction & Safety: Showcase adaptive protective gear for construction workers that responds to environmental hazards (e.g., temperature changes, toxic gases).

Mobility Solutions: Partner with public transport providers to test smart textiles in seating or uniforms that enhance passenger comfort and safety.

Sports & Performance: Collaborate with professional athletes or teams to validate the performance benefits of smart sportswear in real-world scenarios.

4. Research & Innovation Synergies

Material Science Partnerships: Work with research institutions to explore new materials (e.g., graphene, conductive polymers) that enhance the functionality of smart textiles.

AI & Data Analytics: Integrate AI algorithms to analyze data collected by smart textiles, enabling predictive maintenance, personalized recommendations, or real-time feedback.

Sustainability Integration: Combine smart textiles with circular economy principles, such as recyclable or biodegradable materials, to align with the EU Green Deal.

5. Market Expansion & Commercialization

Licensing & Franchising: License smart textile technologies to manufacturers in other regions or industries to accelerate global adoption.

Consumer Education: Launch awareness campaigns to educate consumers about the benefits of smart textiles, driving demand for innovative products.

Investor Engagement: Showcase pilot use cases and success stories to attract investors and secure funding for scaling production and R&D.



In Transit DEVELOP call, under the theme of Textile Recycling and Sustainable Processes, has been instrumental in supporting innovative SMEs that are reimagining the textile value chain to foster a more circular, resource-efficient, and environmentally responsible industry. Projects led by beneficiaries such as **RECOTTEX, REFIBER4WORK, BIORE-DYE, FO-CEL, CLEANCOAT, MULTICOLOR, and SORT MATE** are pioneering groundbreaking advancements in textile recycling and sustainable production. These include cutting-edge sorting technologies, eco-friendly production methods (such as replacing conventional dyes with microbial pigments or separating and recycling Toluene and elastomer waste for reintegration into the process), and the development of new sustainable materials that significantly reduce waste, water, and energy consumption across the textile lifecycle. Their efforts exemplify how innovation and sustainability can synergize to transform waste into valuable resources while bolstering the competitiveness of the European textile industry.

These projects align directly with the EU Green Deal and Circular Economy Action Plan, demonstrating how European SMEs can spearhead the transition toward a greener, low-impact textile ecosystem where materials circulate longer, and production processes leave a lighter environmental footprint.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Industrial Partnerships:** Foster collaborations with recycling plants and material suppliers to integrate innovative solutions into existing industrial processes.
- **Licensing Models:** Explore licensing opportunities for recycling technologies to expand their adoption across the textile industry and beyond.
- **Environmental Impact Communication:** Clearly communicate key environmental impact metrics, such as CO2 reduction, waste avoided, and energy savings, to stakeholders and consumers, throughout Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) reinforcing the value of sustainable practices.

RECOTTEX

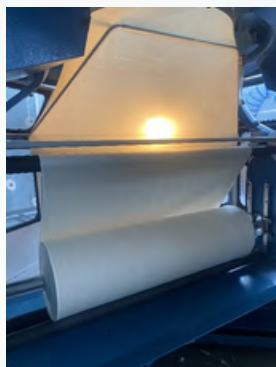
Recycled cotton textile for durable functional applications

Summary

The project developed a high-performance recycled cotton fabric using eco-friendly processes, achieving strong durability, comfort, and stain-resistant properties suitable for clothing, home textiles, and even aerospace applications. Supported by digital traceability and validated through user testing, the fabric proved its quality and sustainability, leading to prototype garments and early interest from brands.

Results

The project developed a high-performance recycled cotton product that meets ecological standards and functional requirements with performance in sweat management, water resistance, and comfort.



Next steps

The next steps involve continuing research to further optimise the fabric's performance, focusing on scalability and reducing production costs. Marketing efforts include targeting sustainable fashion brands and exploring additional applications in other textile sectors.

Target markets

The target markets include B2B customers, particularly textile manufacturers, sustainable fashion brands, and home décor companies, and also aerospace companies. It meets the growing demand for eco-friendly, sustainable materials.



 info@niltextile.com

 niltextile.com

REFIBER4WORK

Transforming Textile Waste into Innovative Solution for Sustainable Post Consumer Workwear

Summary

The project transformed post-consumer corporate uniforms into high-quality recycled workwear, helping reduce Europe's growing textile waste. Through a recycling process, AI-supported eco-design, and GRS-certified traceability, it produced a full range of durable garments while proving the viability of circular corporate apparel. The project demonstrated scalable recycling methods and set a strong benchmark for sustainable uniform production.

Results

ReFiber4work successfully transformed post-consumer uniforms into durable garments, optimizing recycling, eco-design, and traceability. The project set a replicable model for sustainable corporate apparel.



Next steps

ReFiber4work will scale sustainable uniform production, optimize recycling processes, and refine textile quality through R&D. A marketing strategy will enhance adoption, while industry collaborations and impact assessments will support circular economy growth.

Target markets

ReFiber4work targets B2B markets, particularly in sectors like Textile, Manufacturing, and Corporate Apparel. The solution is ideal for businesses seeking sustainable workwear solutions, promoting circular economy practices, and reducing textile waste in supply chains.



 operaciones@technitiger.com

 cloudsignals.eu

BIORE-DYE

Textile dyeing using sustainable microbial pigments

Summary

BioRe-Dye is a proud collaboration between Vienna Textile Lab and Care Applications® to revolutionize textile dyeing using sustainable microbial pigments. By combining biotechnological innovation, and technology that drastically reduces water, energy, and chemical usage in fabric dyeing, offering a cutting-edge eco-friendly alternative to conventional synthetic dyes and pigments.

Results

We have clearly shown that biobased materials and novel sustainable processes can work together. In the course of this collaboration Care Applications® and Vienna Textile Lab created a capsule collection.



Next steps

This project is a great example of the cross-sectoral activity between the technical textile sector and the industrial biotech sector, highlighting the need for novel materials and production systems in fashion and textiles.

We are working towards protecting our combined technology, creating a product for licensing and promoting together our successful collaboration.

Target markets

BIORE-DYE aims to be the first to offer garment dyeing with microbial pigments, delivering a fully sustainable, locally applicable alternative for textile producers, designers, and consumers. Its primary target markets are dyeing houses in Europe—especially Portugal, Italy, and Spain—that already use ECOFinish technology and are ready to adopt biobased, non-polluting chemicals.



info@careapplications.com

www.viennatextilelab.at

FO-CEL

Fo-Cel project

Summary

The FO-Cel project proved that Forward Osmosis can sustainably and efficiently replace traditional, energy-intensive effluent treatment in AeoniQ™ cellulose fiber production. Pilot trials achieved a 30% final concentration—over 95% dewatering—advancing the technology from TRL 4 to TRL 6. This milestone supports the development of the first commercial AeoniQ™ plant and moves the textile industry closer to circular, climate-positive fiber production.

Results

Successfully concentrated the process solution to 30%, achieving a dewatering rate of over 95%. The technology was advanced from TRL 4 to TRL 6, validating its use in a relevant industrial environment.



Next steps

The next step is to advance from TRL 6 to TRL 8 by designing and implementing the full-scale FO system for the first commercial AeoniQ™ plant in Portugal. AeoniQ™ is using the positive results as a key part of the business case for upscaling.

Target markets

This solution is applicable to the textile manufacturing sector (cellulose fibers), with additional applications in chemical, biotechnology, and other industries requiring low-energy recovery of high-value solutes from aqueous solutions.



info@heiq.com

heiq-aeoniq.com

fluvicon@fluvicon.com

fluvicon.com

CLEANCOAT

Sustainable transformation by separating and reintegrating coating ingredients, developing environmentally conscious and resource-efficient textile coating processes.

Summary

ROSICH y PUIGDENGOLAS, S.A. improved sustainability in textile and coating industries by validating a process to separate and recycle Toluene and elastomer waste. The project recovered solvent efficiently, developed compliant protocols, and explored using rubber waste as fuel for the cement sector. These actions enhance circularity, reduce costs and waste, and strengthen the company's leadership in responsible manufacturing.

Results

Rosich successfully completes CleanCoat project, turning textile coating waste into a sustainable resource.



Next steps

ROSICH y PUIGDENGOLAS, S.A. plans to replicate the CleanCoat process across its group and industry partners through pilots, training, and collaboration. Targeting B2B markets in textiles, coatings, and construction—first in Spain and later across the EU—the solution supports sustainable waste management, resource recovery, and circular economy practices, aiming for broad industry adoption.

Target markets

ROSICH y PUIGDENGOLAS, S.A. targets B2B markets in textile, coatings, and construction industries initially Spain and in the future will target the EU markets. The CleanCoat solution benefits manufacturers seeking sustainable waste management, resource recovery, and circular economy adoption. Expansion aims at industry-wide implementation.

MULTICOLOR

Multicolor project

Summary

The Multicolour Project transforms mixed-colour textile waste—normally unrecyclable—into high-quality fabrics through a local, water-free, chemical-free process. This reduces carbon footprint, adds value to discarded materials, and creates a circular solution that allows fashion waste to return to the fashion industry, strengthening sustainability across the value chain.

Results

We transformed multicolor textile waste into 12 different fabrics: 4 structures, 2 compositions, and 2 colors. We obtained a local and sustainable fabric that is resistant and ready to print or dye.



Next steps

We will create a waterproof version of the recycled multicolor fabrics for the fashion industry. We will also develop new applications for the multicolor fibers and fabrics together with the Elisava School of Design. Eventually we will work with polyester multicolor waste to produce new fabrics.

Target markets

Our current target market is fashion industry. However, with the waterproof treatment, we will also aim at more technical markets. The new applications developed with the fibres will target other sectors such as packaging, furniture or construction.

SORT MATE

Sort Mate project

Summary

Sort Mate delivers scalable, automated textile sorting by combining high-throughput imaging with advanced garment recognition software. It assesses resale potential using real-time market pricing and directs only non-reusable items to recycling or disposal. After testing prototypes with 26 sorting centers, Trosort and ICA are developing a reliable system that identifies key garment features—brand, type, colour, fabric, gender—to generate resale values and automate precise sorting decisions.

Results

Functional system to obtain high quality pictures and clothes data points with a system rate of 2s per garment and a manual feeding rate of 6s per garment (1.4T per day) per operator.



Next steps

The next steps include deploying pilots in sorting centers with multiple semi-automated lines, commercializing the system in 2026, and continuing R&D to enable fully automated sorting for repair.

Target markets

2B textile sorting and resale actors:

- Textile sorting centers
- Textile retail logistic partners
- Clothing/Workwear rental companies
- Brands and textile retailers

TROSORT



www.trosort.com



www.trosort.com



info@ica.be



www.ica.be

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Industrial Partnerships & Supply Chain Integration

Collaboration with Recycling Facilities: Projects like SORT MATE (advanced sorting tech) and RECOTTEX (circular textile solutions) can partner with large-scale recycling plants to enhance material recovery rates and purity.

Supplier Engagement: BIORE-DYE (microbial pigments) and CLEANCOAT (eco-friendly coatings) can work with dye and chemical suppliers to replace conventional, polluting alternatives with sustainable options.

Cross-Sector Material Flows: Explore partnerships with industries like automotive or construction (e.g., recycled fibers in composites) to create new demand for upcycled textiles.

2. Licensing & Scaling Technologies

Tech Licensing Models: REFIBER4WORK and MULTICOLOR could license their recycling and dyeing innovations to textile manufacturers, accelerating adoption beyond the EU.

3. Environmental Impact Communication & Market Adoption

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Transparency: Projects like FO-CEL (low-impact materials) and CLEANCOAT should highlight CO₂, water, and energy savings in consumer-facing labels (e.g., EU Ecolabel, Higg Index).

B2B & B2C Campaigns: Collaborate with sustainable fashion brands to integrate these innovations into their supply chains while marketing the benefits to eco-conscious consumers.

4. Policy & EU Green Deal Alignment

Advocacy for Standardization: Work with policymakers to integrate these technologies into EU-wide textile recycling regulations (e.g., Extended Producer Responsibility schemes).

Funding Synergies: Leverage Horizon Europe, Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking (CBE JU), or national circular economy grants to scale pilot projects.

5. Research & Cross-Industry Innovation

Biotech & Material Science Partnerships: BIORE-DYE could collaborate with bioengineering labs to optimize microbial pigment yields, while FO-CEL might explore partnerships with mycelium-based material startups.

Digital Integration: Use AI (like SORT MATE's sorting algorithms) in waste management systems to improve textile traceability and recycling efficiency.

Digital Product Passport – Enabling Transparency and Circularity



Production & Material Data



Digital Product Passport Creation



Data Sharing & Traceability

In Transit has been at the forefront of Digital Product Passport (DPP) development through its involvement in pioneering projects such as **DIGIBIOMAT**, **CIRCULARTECH**, and **BLOCKCHAIN**. These initiatives are driving digital traceability solutions to enhance transparency, circularity, and sustainability in key industrial sectors, particularly textiles and construction.

By assigning each product a unique digital identity, these projects enable stakeholders to access critical information, including:

- Material composition (e.g., recycled content, hazardous substances)
- Product origin (supply chain visibility)
- Environmental impact (carbon footprint, water usage)
- Recyclability & end-of-life options

Leveraging cutting-edge technologies, such as blockchain for secure data integrity, IoT for real-time tracking, and AI-driven analytics, these systems are establishing data-driven value chains. This empowers businesses, policymakers, and consumers to make informed, sustainable decisions while ensuring compliance with evolving EU regulations on product transparency.

The outcomes of these projects extend beyond regulatory adherence, they are:

- Enhancing supply chain connectivity
- Reducing waste through improved circularity
- Boosting efficiency via interoperable digital tools

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Regulatory Alignment & Compliance:** Monitor and align with EU DPP mandates (e.g., Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation - ESPR). Engage with policymakers to shape standardized frameworks for cross-sector adoption.
- **Scalable Digital Infrastructure:** Develop interoperable data systems to ensure seamless integration across supply chains. Explore SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) models for cost-effective, scalable deployment. Incorporate modular architecture to adapt to evolving industry needs.
- **Industry Collaboration & Deployment:** Partner with textile and construction clusters to pilot and scale solutions. Establish sector-specific guidelines for DPP implementation (e.g., EPDs for construction materials). Foster public-private alliances to drive market uptake and investment.
- **Consumer & Business Empowerment:** Launch awareness campaigns highlighting DPP benefits (e.g., sustainability claims, resale value). Integrate user-friendly interfaces (e.g., QR codes, mobile apps) for easy data access.

DIGI4BIOMAT

Digital Product Passport for upscaling a circular business model for Bio- based construction Materials

Summary

The Digi4BioMat project promotes sustainable, circular construction by combining bio-based blocks made from lime, hemp, and local agro-waste with a Digital Product Passport for lifecycle and ESG tracking. Led by PEDONE with LEVERY and CETMA, it improves performance, lowers costs and CO₂, and defines a circular business model scalable across Europe.

Results

The project validated innovative bio-blocks integrating agricultural waste, enhancing thermal and mechanical properties while reducing costs by 15%, implemented a Digital Product Passport (TRL 6), and designed PEDONE's circular business model.



Next steps

Commercialization of new bio-blocks & DPP via robust and integrated business plan, market expansion, and 'as a service' models. Future R&D targets DPP scalability & advanced materials, aiming for TRL 7, driving market adoption for sustainable construction.

Target markets

Our results target a B2B model, primarily within the Construction sector with innovative bio-based materials. The DPP solution also offers broader applications for supply chain traceability and circular business models across various industries.



- www.linkedin.com/company/93166595/
- www.biomatcanapa.it
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/levery-societ%C3%A0-a-benefit/posts/?feedView=all>
- www.levery.it

CIRCULARTECH

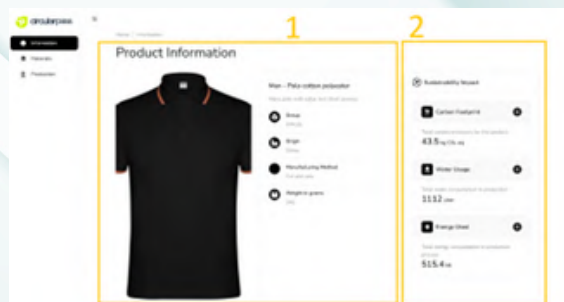
CIRCULARTECH project

Summary

CircularTech is a digital platform for the textile sector that enhances traceability, efficiency, and waste management to support a circular economy. It combines Blue Room Innovation's blockchain-based Digital Product Passport for immutable product and environmental data with bAwear's real-time sustainability scoring on carbon, water, and waste, enabling precise environmental assessments and optimized recycling and reuse processes.

Results

CircularTech integrated bAwear and CircularPass to enable real-time environmental scoring and traceability of textile products, supporting EU compliance, circularity, and sustainability.



Next steps

Next steps include pilot deployments with textile SMEs, scaling market adoption across Europe, enhancing platform features, expanding into sectors like footwear and home textiles, and forming strategic alliances for EU-wide commercialization.

Target markets

Target markets include EU textile SMEs, fashion brands, material suppliers, retailers, and recyclers in Spain and the Netherlands, with expansion to sustainability-driven sectors across Europe and globally.



- www.blueroominnovation.com
- www.blueroominnovation.com
- info@bawear.eu
- <https://bawear.eu/>

BLOCKCHAIN

Blockchain Transparency and Traceability for Textiles

Summary

The project boosted fashion supply chain transparency and circularity using blockchain-based Digital Product Passports. Modular tools like smart contracts, IPFS SDK, and Shopify integration enabled traceability and incentives. Pilot tests exceeded targets, supporting a business model focused on recycled materials and consumer sustainability, while validating technology and market scalability.

Results

Developed blockchain-based digital passports; successfully piloted with several brands; exceeded user targets with a high number of active users; received strong partner feedback.



Next steps

Next steps include deepening partnerships for networked sales expansion, enhancing analytics for bio-based and recycled material marketing, advancing interoperability features, preparing detailed business plans, addressing IP issues, and conducting further pilot studies.

Target markets

B2B primarily targeting fashion and textile industries, with potential expansion into Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, and Construction sectors. Particularly suited for brands emphasising sustainable, innovative, bio-based, and recycled materials.



 hello@tr3e.com

 www.tr3e.com

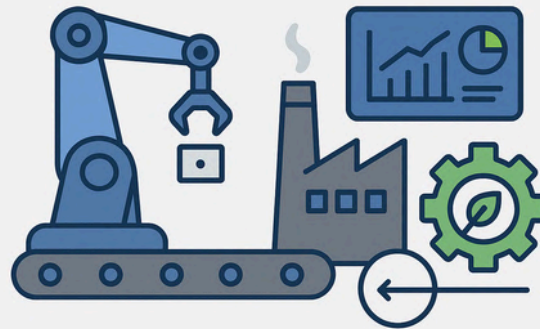
SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

Industry Collaboration & Deployment

- Foster partnerships between textile and construction clusters to pilot DPP technologies.
- Co-develop sector-specific standards, such as Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for construction.
- Encourage public-private cooperation to accelerate market readiness and investment attraction.
- Integration with Digital Supply Chains: Connect the DPP to Supply Chain Management (SCM) platforms and ERP systems to extend data visibility from suppliers to end customers.
- Expansion to Adjacent Sectors: Extend to automotive, electronics, packaging, and construction & demolition waste. Scaled impact, multi-sector ecosystems, greater value for stakeholders.
- Interoperability Across DPP Platforms: Establish open standards and APIs for interoperability among different DPPs, data hubs, and data governance models.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

The In Transit DEVELOP call supports innovative SMEs in transforming production with smart, sustainable technologies



In Transit DEVELOP call, under the Advanced Manufacturing theme, has been instrumental in supporting innovative SMEs that are revolutionizing traditional production systems through the adoption of smart, automated, and sustainable technologies. Projects led by beneficiaries such as **GREENCUBE**, **CUTSMART**, and **SUSTAINABLE THERMOPLASTIC** are at the forefront of this transformation, implementing cutting-edge solutions that redefine manufacturing processes.

These projects include:

- Predictive tool life systems for CNC machining, enabling precise cutting of advanced materials like Cobalt-Chromium and Titanium.
- Standardized structures for nanosatellites, streamlining production and reducing costs in the aerospace sector.
- Biopolymer matrices based on Thermoplastic Starch (TPS), offering a sustainable alternative to conventional polymers and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

These innovations exemplify how technology and sustainability can converge to enhance.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Industrial Partnerships & Scaling:** Collaborate with manufacturers to integrate solutions into existing production lines. Engage with industry clusters (e.g., aerospace, automotive) to pilot and scale technologies. Develop modular solutions to ensure adaptability across diverse manufacturing environments.
- **Sustainability & Circular Economy Integration:** Highlight environmental benefits (e.g., reduced material waste, lower carbon footprint) to attract eco-conscious partners. Explore closed-loop systems for biopolymers and other sustainable materials. Align with EU Green Deal objectives to secure funding and regulatory support.
- **Digitalization & Smart Manufacturing:** Leverage IoT and AI to enhance predictive maintenance and process optimization. Develop digital twins for CNC machining and other advanced processes to improve efficiency. Integrate data-driven insights to enable real-time decision-making and reduce downtime.
- **Market Entry & Commercialization:** Validate technologies through pilot projects and industrial case studies. Communicate ROI (Return on Investment) to potential adopters, emphasizing cost savings and efficiency gains. Explore licensing models for standardized solutions (e.g., nanosatellite structures).

GREENCUBE

CubeSat structure based on bio-high-performance polymers

Summary

The project explores sustainable CubeSat structures using bio-based polymers or PEEK recyclate instead of aluminium, reducing CO₂ emissions across production and launch. It tests injection moulding for efficient, reproducible manufacturing, aiming to support the growing NewSpace market and inspire broader industrial adoption of sustainable plastics.

Results

Promising polymers have been identified for CubeSats, with recycled PEEK outperforming bio-based alternatives by offering superior stability and low outgassing, meeting CubeSat Design Specification (CDS) standards. The bio-based options used are among the few on the market that also largely satisfy these requirements.



Next steps

The next steps include advancing the space qualification of recycled PEEK via a dedicated space mission, collaborating with granulate manufacturers to further optimize the bio-based polymer, enhancing the thermal conductivity of PEEK structures through targeted additives, and securing property rights for PEEK components used in satellite applications.

Target markets

The aim is to market our sustainable polymer structure in the B2B sector. As the space sector requires some time here, we do not see marketing taking place until after the first test mission in space, which is expected to take place at the end of 2026. In the meantime, we will continue to optimize our structure.

Hoffmann

 entwicklung@hoffmann-kunststoffe.de

 hoffmann-kunststoffe.de

CUTSMART

CutSmart project

Summary

The CutSmart project predicts tool life in CNC machining of hard-to-cut materials using production data and Machine Learning, offering a scalable, cost-effective solution. Its dashboard enables operators and engineers to monitor trends and provide feedback, reducing scrap and downtime. By integrating multi-source data, CutSmart supports smart manufacturing, resource efficiency, and SME collaboration between Croom Medical and BrightCape.

Results

A ML-based model with dashboard for tool wear detection, improved efficiency and a easy to redeploy, scalable solution.

Next steps

Further exploitation within Croom Medical to enhance the ML model prediction ability and showcase the solution on different machining types/strategies. Enable continuous learning and scalability to new geometries/materials/products. Seek new collaborations to test and commercialise the solution.

Target markets

This solution is applicable to a range of markets, mainly focused on those using high precision CNC machining for high value add productions, such as medical device, aerospace, space, energy.

 **CROOM**
MEDICAL

 **BRIGHT**
CAPE

 enquiries@croommedical.com

 croommedical.com

 info@brightcape.nl

 brightcape.nl

SUSTAINABLE THERMOPLASTIC

Iron Oxide films with MW shielding properties for their use in aerospace industry for UAV's protection

Summary

Solublion, a University of Alicante spin-off, develops biodegradable, compostable, and water-soluble Thermoplastic Starch (TPS) biopolymers with low environmental impact. With the global TPS market projected to exceed €300 million by 2030, the project aims to create TPS-based materials filled with micro- and nano-magnetite to absorb microwave radiation, enhancing stealth technology and protecting electronics in aerospace applications such as UAVs.

Results

Obtained shielding is not enough for aerospace applications, but films can be used in medical applications. Also, ranges of absorption open new possibilities to create a kind of selective materials.



Next steps

Identifying new applications is crucial to creating the business plan to commercialise the obtained results. In this case, further research activities are needed, as the evaluation of the shielding capability in terms of the thickness of the film fabricated, opening the range of possible future applications.

Target markets

Advanced manufacturing sector focused on applications in aerospace and medical field, as films, are the target market of the developed materials in out B2B model. In this model Solublion produce the pellets and the manufacturer produce the product.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Cross-Industry Collaboration (Aerospace, Automotive, & Electronics)

Predictive Tool Life Systems (e.g., CUTSMART): Partner with automotive manufacturers to optimize CNC machining for lightweight materials used in electric vehicles.

Standardized Nanosatellite Structures (e.g., GREENCUBE): Collaborate with satellite operators and space agencies to scale production for small satellite constellations.

Biopolymer Matrices (e.g., SUSTAINABLE THERMOPLASTIC): Engage with consumer electronics companies to replace conventional plastics with sustainable biopolymers in device casings.

2. Integration with EU Green Deal & Circular Economy Initiatives

Closed-Loop Systems: Align with Horizon Europe's Circular Economy Mission to develop recycling systems for biopolymers and advanced materials.

Carbon Footprint Reduction: Quantify and communicate the environmental benefits of sustainable manufacturing processes to attract eco-conscious investors and partners.

Material Waste Reduction: Partner with waste management companies to repurpose manufacturing byproducts into new materials or energy sources.

3. Digital & Smart Manufacturing Expansion

IoT & AI Integration: Collaborate with Industry 4.0 initiatives (e.g., European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH)) to deploy predictive maintenance systems across smart factories.

Digital Twins: Partner with aerospace and automotive manufacturers to create digital twins for CNC machining and other advanced processes, optimizing design and production.

Data-Driven Insights: Work with AI startups to integrate real-time monitoring and decision-making tools into manufacturing workflows.

4. Policy & Regulatory Alignment

Compliance & Advocacy: Ensure alignment with EU manufacturing standards (e.g., REACH, RoHS) and sustainability regulations.

Incentives for Adoption: Advocate for subsidies or tax incentives to accelerate the adoption of green manufacturing technologies.

EU Green Deal Alignment: Highlight project contributions to EU Green Deal objectives to secure funding and regulatory support.

5. Research & Education Partnerships

Joint R&D with Universities: Collaborate with academic institutions to advance research on sustainable materials and smart manufacturing technologies.

Industry Clusters: Engage with manufacturing clusters to foster knowledge sharing and innovation.

Workforce Training: Partner with vocational training programs to upskill workers in digital and sustainable manufacturing practices.

6. Market Entry & Commercialization

Pilot Projects & Case Studies: Validate technologies through real-world applications in diverse industries (e.g., aerospace, automotive, electronics).

ROI Communication: Emphasize cost savings, efficiency gains, and sustainability benefits to attract adopters and investors.

Licensing Models: Explore licensing opportunities for standardized solutions (e.g., nanosatellite structures) to expand market reach.

Building the Future

CONSTRUCTION & ADVANCED MANUFACTURING IN TRANSITION

The In Transit DEVELOP call supports SMEs developing smart, sustainable and efficient solutions



In Transit DEVELOP call, under the themes of Construction, Advanced Manufacturing, and Sustainability, is empowering SMEs such as **ATLAS**, **LYNXCRAFT**, **SOLARDRAPE**, **PLISSADE**, and **WOOLWALLS** to drive transformative innovation in the building and manufacturing sectors. These beneficiaries are developing smart, sustainable, and efficient solutions that address critical challenges in productivity, environmental impact, and technological integration.

Key innovations include:

- **Smart solutions:** Development of photovoltaic panels for temporary construction sites and seamless urban integration.
- **Sustainable materials:** Use of modular, prefabricated building components and acoustic panels made from post-consumer textile waste, as well as eco-friendly alternatives for traditional contract furniture.
- **Efficiency enhancements:** Validation of ERP API integration for elevators, streamlining operations and improving productivity.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Market Entry & Commercialization:** Validate technologies through pilot projects and real-world case studies to demonstrate feasibility and benefits. Develop business models tailored to target markets (e.g., construction firms, urban developers, manufacturers). Highlight ROI (Return on Investment) to attract investors and adopters, emphasizing cost savings, efficiency gains, and sustainability benefits.
- **Sustainability & Circular Economy Integration:** Promote eco-friendly materials (e.g., recycled textiles, biopolymers) to align with EU Green Deal objectives. Explore closed-loop systems for material reuse and waste reduction. Communicate environmental impact metrics (e.g., carbon footprint reduction, waste diverted from landfills) to stakeholders.
- **Digitalization & Smart Technologies:** Leverage IoT and AI to enhance system integration and operational efficiency (e.g., smart photovoltaic panels, ERP APIs). Develop digital twins for construction and manufacturing processes to optimize planning and execution. Integrate data-driven insights to enable real-time monitoring and decision-making.
- **Industry Collaboration & Scaling:** Partner with construction companies, urban planners, and manufacturers to pilot and scale solutions. Engage with industry clusters to foster knowledge sharing and adoption. Develop modular and adaptable solutions to ensure applicability across diverse projects and sectors.
- **Policy & Regulatory Alignment:** Ensure compliance with EU construction and manufacturing standards (e.g., energy efficiency, material safety). Advocate for policy incentives to accelerate the adoption of sustainable and smart technologies. Align with EU Circular Economy Action Plan and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

ATLAS

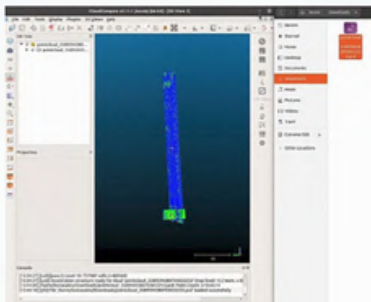
ATLAS project

Summary

ATLAS set out to transform the manufacturing phase of elevator systems by making it smarter, greener, and more connected.

Results

By digitally capturing the elevator shaft and creating a 3D point cloud, the automation connects the datasets through an API that enables elevator manufacturers to direct access the processed shaft data designed for ERP integration.



Next steps

The IN-TRANSIT exploitation strategy focuses on leveraging its ERP-integrated web API and enhanced AI, validating the system across elevator manufacturers, onboarding new partners, adapting workflows for broader construction applications, offering premium AI modules, and promoting digital skills among manufacturing partners.

Target markets

Expand into additional Balkan and Central European markets using existing contacts and demonstration projects as references, while preparing entry into Asian markets by adapting API integrations to diverse ERP standards.



 innovation@vertliner.com

 www.vertliner.com

LYNXCRAFT

Modular, prefabricated building components ecosystem

Summary

LynxCraft, by TimberLynx and HiGroup, is a cloud-based platform using modular, circular-economy components to streamline homebuilding, reduce waste, and integrate real-time project management. Tested to Technology Readiness Levels 6–7 and backed by the In Transit EU grant, it is market-ready and aims to expand production, finalise software, and form EU partnerships to promote sustainable, digitally enabled construction.

Results

LynxCraft successfully developed a modular, prefabricated building system and advanced software platform, validated through a fully functional prototype, ready for market entry and scaling.



Next steps

Finalize software deployment for commercial use; scale modular component production; launch pilot projects with real estate partners; secure strategic investments and partnerships; enhance software capabilities through additional R&D.

Target markets

B2B market focused on application sectors including Construction and Advanced Manufacturing, targeting architects, real estate developers, and prefabricated manufacturers aiming for sustainable, digitally enhanced residential building solutions.



 info@lynx-craft.com

 www.lynx-craft.com

 info@higroup.si

 www.higroup.si/

SOLARDRAPE

Ultra-lightweight, flexible, and modular photovoltaic panel

Summary

The SolarDrape project develops ultra-lightweight, flexible, modular photovoltaic panels for temporary construction and urban sites, offering a sustainable alternative to diesel generators, with prototyping, testing, and manufacturing optimisation aimed at field-ready deployment in construction energy and BIPV markets.

Results

The project produced a functional SolarDrape prototype, a lightweight ($\approx 1.5\text{kg/m}^2$), modular photovoltaic panel for temporary construction sites, achieving up to 23% energy efficiency and easy deployment. Key advancements include optimized materials selection, particularly for the frontsheet and encapsulant layers, with various polymeric solutions tested.



Next steps

The next phase will involve completing field validation. Following this, SolarDrape will undergo pre-industrial optimisation, including final design fixes and cost analysis for scaled production.

Target markets

SolarDrape targets two key markets: construction energy systems for temporary or remote sites, with a €5.9 billion market growing ~9% annually, and building-integrated photovoltaics (BIPV) for urban retrofits and new zero-emission buildings, a €24 billion market growing ~20% per year.



-  davide.vittori@astradyne.space
-  www.astradyne.space
-  f.gentile@reospace.com
-  reaspazio.com

PLISSADE

A 100% circular acoustic wall solution

Summary

The Plissade project creates modular acoustic partitions from post-consumer textiles using a patented fold-and-friction assembly for full disassembly and material recovery. Offering a sustainable, high-performance alternative to traditional partitions, it reduces waste while maintaining acoustic functionality. Supported by IN-TRANSIT, the project advanced through process optimisation, market alignment, production scaling, and validation for scalable, low-impact production.

Results

The design has been updated to incorporate market feedback, resulting in significantly faster assembly times and streamlined, scalable production workflows. An accompanying LCA report demonstrates the product's low environmental impact.

Next steps

Develop the commercialisation strategy, finalise production partnerships and agreements, initiate small-series production for pilot customers, and launch a targeted communication campaign aimed at architects, interior designers, and specifiers across Europe.

Target markets

B2B – Targeting the textile, filtration, and environmental industries. Applications include industrial filter production and technical textiles using recycled monofilament yarns.

LUIS MARIE

-  [IG: @luismarie.studio](mailto:IG:@luismarie.studio)
-  www.luismarie.com

WOOLWALLS

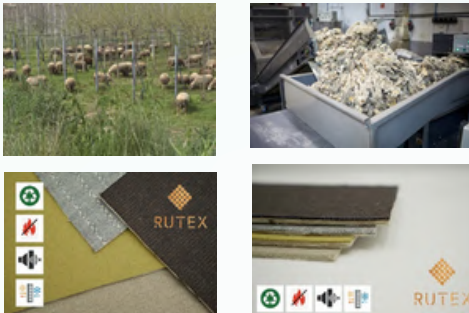
transforming Wool Waste into Sustainable and Innovative Textile-Construction Interior Design Panels

Summary

WoolWalls transforms low-value Catalan wool waste into high-performance, customizable interior wall panels offering acoustic comfort, flame retardancy, air purification, and aesthetic appeal. Made from natural, biodegradable materials with digital traceability, the project has produced market-ready prototypes, showcasing circular economy innovation and supporting local rural economies.

Results

WoolWalls developed and tested sustainable wool-based acoustic panels with traceability, flame retardancy, and photocatalysis. Prototypes and lab results confirm market readiness.



Next steps

Next steps include scaling up production, finalizing certifications (REACH, OEKO-TEX), expanding to hospitality and healthcare markets, developing a business plan, and launching commercial and marketing activities.

Target markets

B2B – Target sectors: Construction, Textile, Hospitality, Healthcare, and Transport. First potential markets are Europe and the Orient, focusing on sustainable and design-driven interior applications.



 info@rutex.es

 rutex.es

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

1. Cross-Industry Collaboration (Energy, Urban Development, & Manufacturing)

Smart Solutions (e.g., SOLARDRAPE): Partner with renewable energy companies to integrate photovoltaic panels into urban infrastructure, such as smart cities and public transportation systems.

Sustainable Materials (e.g., WOOLWALLS, PLISSADE): Collaborate with the automotive and furniture industries to adapt eco-friendly materials for use in vehicle interiors and consumer products.

Efficiency Enhancements (e.g., ERP API Integration): Work with logistics and supply chain sectors to streamline operations using advanced digital tools.

2. Integration with EU Green Deal & Circular Economy Initiatives

Circular Economy Practices: Align with Horizon Europe's Circular Cities Mission to repurpose construction waste into new building materials or energy sources.

Eco-Friendly Materials: Partner with textile and fashion industries to scale the use of post-consumer waste in acoustic panels and other construction components.

Carbon Footprint Reduction: Collaborate with carbon offset programs to quantify and monetize the environmental benefits of sustainable construction practices.

3. Digital & Smart Technologies Expansion

IoT & AI Integration: Engage with European Digital Innovation Hubs to deploy smart technologies (e.g., IoT-enabled photovoltaic panels) in urban and industrial settings.

Digital Twins: Partner with smart city initiatives to create digital twins for urban planning, optimizing energy use and resource allocation.

Data-Driven Insights: Collaborate with AI startups to develop predictive maintenance systems for construction equipment and manufacturing processes.

4. Urban Development & Smart Cities

Temporary Construction Solutions (e.g., SOLARDRAPE): Work with urban planners to integrate temporary energy solutions into disaster relief and rapid urbanization projects.

Modular Building Components (e.g., ATLAS): Partner with affordable housing initiatives to scale modular, prefabricated solutions for underserved communities.

Urban Acoustic Solutions (e.g., WOOLWALLS): Collaborate with public infrastructure projects to reduce noise pollution in urban areas.

5. Policy & Regulatory Alignment

Compliance & Advocacy: Engage with EU policymakers to ensure alignment with energy efficiency standards (e.g., EPBD) and material safety regulations.

Incentives for Adoption: Advocate for subsidies or tax incentives to accelerate the adoption of sustainable construction and manufacturing technologies.

SDG Alignment: Align project outcomes with UN Sustainable Development Goals (e.g., SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production).

6. Research & Education Partnerships

Joint R&D with Universities: Collaborate with academic institutions to advance research on sustainable materials and smart construction technologies.

Industry Clusters: Engage with construction and manufacturing clusters to foster knowledge sharing and innovation.

Workforce Training: Partner with vocational training programs to upskill workers in digital and sustainable construction practices.

INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE



In Transit DEVELOP call, under the Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing theme, is empowering European SMEs to strengthen their competitiveness at the intersection of high-tech manufacturing and aerospace innovation. Beneficiaries such as **DREAM, EOM3D.2, DELTA, HERMES AIRLINK, GREEN FURNACE, VBOX, ATHENA PICO, D-DOGSE, and INOSCOPE** are pioneering groundbreaking solutions that address critical challenges in the aerospace sector.

These projects focus on:

- **Lightweight Materials:** Developing propulsion systems for picosatellites to reduce system complexity and enhance reliability, as well as creating compact, thermally optimized devices to simulate solar vectors without physical movement.
- **Precision Engineering:** Designing advanced stabilization systems for 3D printing machines operating on moving helicopters and optimizing devices for multidirectional solar vector simulation.
- **Automation:** Integrating laser marking machines into automated Industry 4.0 islands to streamline production processes.
- **Digital Manufacturing:** Validating satellite-specific demonstration kits for remote testing and studying 5G connectivity for aircraft user terminals via satellite systems.
- **Sustainability:** Developing eco-friendly materials and coatings for delivery drones, modernizing furnace operations to optimize energy use, and reducing emissions.

These innovations contribute directly to reducing emissions, enhancing safety, and improving performance in aerospace applications, aligning with the EU's goals for a greener and more resilient industrial base.

EXPLOITATION ROADMAP GUIDELINES

- **Market Entry & Commercialization:** Validate technologies through pilot projects and real-world case studies to demonstrate feasibility and benefits. Develop business models tailored to target markets (e.g., aerospace manufacturers, satellite operators, drone developers). Highlight ROI (Return on Investment) to attract investors and adopters, emphasizing cost savings, efficiency gains, and sustainability benefits.
- **Sustainability & Environmental Impact:** Promote eco-friendly materials and processes to align with EU Green Deal objectives. Quantify and communicate environmental benefits (e.g., emissions reduction, energy savings) to stakeholders. Explore circular economy practices for material reuse and waste reduction in aerospace manufacturing.
- **Digitalization & Smart Technologies:** Leverage IoT, AI, and 5G connectivity to enhance system integration and operational efficiency. Develop digital twins for aerospace systems to optimize design, testing, and maintenance. Integrate data-driven insights for real-time monitoring and predictive maintenance.
- **Industry Collaboration & Scaling:** Partner with aerospace manufacturers, satellite operators, and drone developers to pilot and scale solutions. Engage with industry clusters and research institutions to foster knowledge sharing and adoption. Develop modular and adaptable solutions to ensure applicability across diverse aerospace applications.

DREAM

DRone Evolution via Additive Manufacturing

Summary

The DREAM project, led by Matersia and SpacEngineer, develops sustainable, recyclable materials and coatings for delivery drones. Using Fused Granular Fabrication, bio-based composites and coatings maintain performance while reducing carbon footprint, supporting circular business models and the European Green Deal's goals to cut aerospace waste.

Results

A combination of bio-based materials with I2S coating for FGF drone fabrication, utilising cheaper and lighter components. Demonstration of drone component recyclability to fabricate new prototypes.

Next steps

After demonstrating the recyclability of drones into useful pellets for FGF, a new business model was created. We now plan to introduce these materials into our sales portfolio. Additionally, we will offer our customers a new route to recycle their waste and develop sustainable products.

Target markets

We mainly target B2B models to sell our sustainable/recycled materials into aerospace sector for injection moulding or additive manufacturing. However, other specific uses of these materials are foreseen in sectors such as construction or furniture.



info@matersia.com



matersia.com



info@spacengineer.com



spacengineer.com



EOM3D.2

EOM3D.2 project

Summary

The project develops an advanced stabilization system for 3D printing onboard moving helicopters, enabling in-transit production of parts for aerospace and advanced manufacturing. Starting at TRL 1–2, it aims to reach TRL 5 with a functional prototype validated in controlled conditions, focusing on maintaining precision and stability in highly unstable flight environments.

Results

We have conducted various simulations.
We have a prototype breakdown ready for real testing.
We have an agreement to establish an EIG from which we'll continue the project's R&D until its completion.

Next steps

We have an agreement to establish an EIG, through which we will develop a functional prototype and conduct flight tests, complete aeronautical patents and certification, secure a pilot contract with at least one European armed force, and enter the humanitarian aid market.

Target markets

Application sectors include Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing. Following extensive testing and certification, the final solution will be showcased to key clients at international trade shows.



ceohorizontetresde@gmail.com



www.horizonte3d.com

DELTA

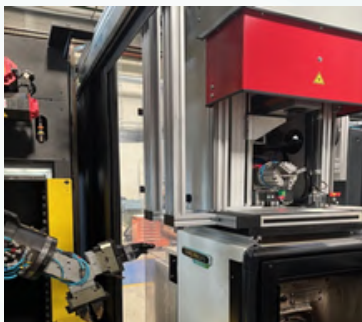
Laser marking machine in an already automated Industry 4.0 island

Summary

Delta's project automated the laser marking of high-volume pull studs by integrating a robot-served laser machine into an existing Industry 4.0 production island. Previously performed manually, this phase now benefits from increased precision, efficiency, and alignment with Industry 4.0 principles, enhancing operational excellence and profitability.

Results

After adopting the new cycle, we started collecting significant savings in terms of manhours. We are saving several minutes on each PS batch, which will amount to hundreds of hours by the end of 2025.



Next steps

In Transit project isn't Delta's first automation project and won't be the last one either: we are constantly looking for new issues to face with automation solutions. Human capital is scarce and preserving it from doing repetitive tasks is strategically fundamental for a manufacturing SME like us.

Target markets

The integration we designed positions itself as a smart solution for precision, speed and traceability in one setup. Our integration fits industries with high-volume repetitive productions, such as automotive, aerospace and medical devices.



 info@delta-industrie.it
 www.delta-industrie.it

HERMES AIRLINK

HERMES Airlink: Unleash Your Personal Messenger in the Skies with 5G in-flight

Summary

ERMES Airlink, supported by the In Transit Horizon project, studied 5G connectivity for aircraft using satellites as intermediate network components. By integrating a 5G-NR small cell onboard with a LEO satellite backhaul, the system enables seamless, high-speed in-flight connectivity, bridging aircraft picocells to terrestrial 5G networks and supporting reliable passenger communication.

Results

Three main deliverables - Market Research, Demo Conclusion, and Feasibility Study - covered product design, market analysis, competition, revenue model, and pilot tests on 5G infrastructure.

Next steps

Complete 5G-LEO prototype integration, test HERMES Airlink onboard for live performance, and secure certifications in 6 months. Then, expand to 10 aircraft, form new airline partnerships, and ensure seamless connectivity.

Target markets

Target segments include regional airlines operating short- to medium-haul routes in Greece and nearby regions, as well as international airlines needing premium connectivity (B2B from sectors: Airlines, Aerospace).



 info@cloudsignals.eu
 cloudsignals.eu
 info@skyflox.eu
 skyflox.eu



GREEN FURNACE

Green Furnace project

Summary

Project Green Furnace modernised aerospace MRO furnace operations using AI, IoT, and data analytics, enabling real-time monitoring and optimisation. The system reduced energy consumption and potential carbon emissions by 17%, delivered cost savings, improved operational efficiency, and introduced new data-driven skills, demonstrating the potential for broader industry adoption in sustainable, energy-intensive sectors.

Results

The project has an estimated total annual energy savings potential of 223MWh, representing a 17% reduction, with corresponding carbon emissions savings of approximately 67tonnes CO₂e. The anticipated annual cost savings are around €44,000, amounting to over €220,000 across five years.



Next steps

We plan to commercialise the solution by launching it and its services, targeting MROs and advanced manufacturers. A business plan is in place, and expansion across Europe is planned, with a focus on sustainability and CSRD compliance.

Target markets

B2B application sectors include Advanced Manufacturing and Aerospace, targeting European markets in alignment with the Green Deal, CSRD, and related sustainability frameworks.

VBOX

VBOX project

Summary

The project developed and validated a satellite-specific demonstration kit for VBOX, a remote testing platform, simulating a multi-vendor scenario with a solar panel and light sensor array. Advancing VBOX from TRL 4 to TRL 5/6, the system proved effective for real-time off-site testing of satellite components, reducing delays, emissions, and rework. Demonstrations shared with stakeholders like the Emerald Aero Cluster and ESA highlight VBOX as a viable solution for aerospace remote testing and future deployment opportunities.

Results

Created and validated a satellite-specific demonstration kit for remote testing using VBOX, achieving TRL 5/6 and enabling more efficient and sustainable satellite manufacturing workflows.

Next steps

Conduct targeted stakeholder pilots, refine the demonstration based on feedback, develop a commercialisation plan, and pursue partnerships to deploy VBOX in live aerospace manufacturing projects.

Target markets

B2B – Aerospace sector, with focus on satellite manufacturers, and component vendors in Europe. Applicable to advanced manufacturing and digital engineering workflows.

ATHENA PICO

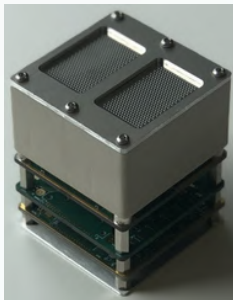
ATHENA PICO prototype

Summary

ATHENA PICO is a compact propulsion system for picosatellites under 1 kg, using solid High-Temperature Ionic Liquids (HTILs) to enable orbit adjustment, collision avoidance, and deorbiting without complex fluidics. Advancing from TRL 4 to TRL 5 with a functional prototype, it delivers efficient, reliable performance in a miniaturized form, supports EU strategic autonomy, fosters cross-sector collaboration, and positions IENAI SPACE for future commercial deployment in small spacecraft.

Results

A fully functional prototype of the ATHENA PICO propulsion system was designed, manufactured, and validated, marking a key step toward commercialization of picosatellite mobility solutions.



Next steps

IENAI will advance the prototype to higher TRLs, refine the business model and engage early adopters. Commercialisation will follow through pilot missions, partnerships, and targeted outreach.

Target markets

IENAI will target the space sector, specifically satellite manufacturers and integrators in the growing picosatellite segment, with applications in Earth observation, IoT, scientific missions, and technology demonstration.



IENAI [SPACE]

 info@ienai.space

 atlar.pt

D-DOGSE

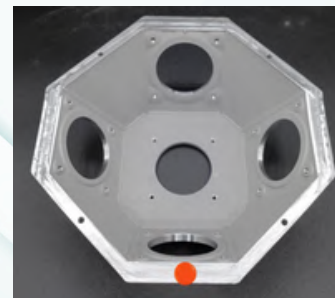
Disruptive – Dynamical Optical Ground Support Equipment

Summary

The D-DOGSE project develops a compact, lightweight, and thermally optimized device for testing small satellite sun sensors, simulating solar vectors without moving the light source. Using a strategically positioned light array, miniaturized opto-mechanical design, additive manufacturing, and advanced thermal and optical simulations, the system enables dynamic sun vector testing under space-like conditions, surpassing traditional static OGSE capabilities.

Results

The D-DOGSE has achieved a volume reduction of 25.28% through topology optimization and additive manufacturing, while maintaining optimal optical capabilities.



Next steps

The D-DOGSE prototype directly addresses a market growth by offering dynamic capabilities. After testing, the final development of the product is expected to be completed in partnership with an end user.

Target markets

The D-DOGSE is a product targeted for the aerospace sector. Even though the techniques used in the system are useful in other sectors, the product is designed for calibration and testing of sun sensors.





 smt@solar-mems.com

 solar-mems.com

 david@cubicoff.com

 cubicoff.com

INOSCOPE

Innovative Optical Sensors for
ComPrehensive Observation of Space DEbris

Summary

INOSCOPE is a flexible, cost-effective system for monitoring Low Earth Orbit satellites, combining COTS optical hardware with proprietary software for automated detection and classification. Its modular, portable design allows deployment with minimal infrastructure, validated in lab and field conditions. By offering sustainable, radar-free observation, INOSCOPE strengthens ATLAR Innovation's position in the European Space Situational Awareness ecosystem and supports future commercial deployment.

Results

Integrated telescope and software system delivered and tested under real conditions, confirming readiness for satellite detection and tracking in space surveillance applications.



Next steps

Next steps will improve detection accuracy via calibration and extended validation. After refinements, INOSCOPE will be commercialized through service-based models like observation-as-a-service for institutional clients in aerospace and research.

Target markets

B2B applications target Aerospace, Defence, and Satellite Operators, providing ground-space integration, launch support, SSA/SST services, and capabilities for scientific observatories.

SYNERGIES WITH OTHER KEY ACTIVITIES

Below are proposed synergies that can amplify the impact of these projects while fostering broader industrial and technological advancements:

1. Cross-Industry Collaboration (Automotive, Energy, & Space Sectors)

Lightweight Materials: Partner with automotive manufacturers to adapt aerospace-grade lightweight composites for electric vehicles, improving energy efficiency.

Precision Engineering: Collaborate with medical device manufacturers to apply high-precision stabilization systems in surgical robotics.

Digital Manufacturing: Extend satellite-specific testing kits to the broader space industry, including small satellite (SmallSat/CubeSat) developers.

2. Integration with EU Green Deal & Circular Economy Initiatives

Sustainability Projects (e.g., GREEN FURNACE, HERMES AIRLINK): Align with EU-funded circular economy programs (e.g., Horizon Europe's Circular Cities Mission) to repurpose aerospace materials in construction or renewable energy sectors.

Eco-Friendly Coatings for Drones: Partner with maritime and logistics industries to apply sustainable coatings in shipping and last-mile delivery fleets.

3. Digital & Smart Manufacturing Expansion

AI & IoT Integration: Work with Industry 4.0 initiatives (e.g., European Digital Innovation Hubs) to deploy AI-driven predictive maintenance in smart factories.

5G & Satellite Connectivity (HERMES AIRLINK, ATHENA PICO): Engage with telecom providers to test hybrid 5G-satellite networks for autonomous vehicles and smart infrastructure.

4. Defense & Security Applications

Stabilization & Autonomous Systems (D-DOGSE, EOM3D.2): Adapt drone stabilization and 3D printing technologies for defense logistics (e.g., in-field part manufacturing).

Secure Satellite Communications: Explore dual-use applications with ESA (European Space Agency) and EDA (European Defence Agency) for resilient aerospace communications.

5. Research & Standardization Partnerships

Joint R&D with Universities & Clusters: Engage with EIT Manufacturing and Clean Aviation JU to co-develop next-gen aerospace materials and propulsion systems.

Standardization & Certification: Collaborate with EASA (European Union Aviation Safety Agency) to establish certification pathways for new lightweight materials and automation solutions.

In Transit project has provided SMEs with targeted support, mentoring, and cascade funding to accelerate the development and market uptake of their technologies. By fostering cross-sector collaboration, In Transit encourages synergies between textiles, advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and construction industries. Below is a summary of the Exploitation Roadmap Guidelines grouped by innovations, sectors, and development focus:

1. Technical Textiles & Textile Recycling

- Projects: RE-HITECHTEX, GREEN WEAVE, ECOFILTER-TEXTFIRE
- Focus: Develop advanced technical textiles and recycling solutions to reduce waste and enhance sustainability in textile production.
- Guidelines: Scale recycling technologies, promote eco-friendly materials, and align with circular economy principles.

2. Advanced Manufacturing for Textile Processes

- Projects: AVTEX, FabriX AI, FIDELIS, PERFECT, ECO-SPIN
- Focus: Optimize textile manufacturing through automation, AI-driven solutions, and energy-efficient processes.
- Guidelines: Implement Industry 4.0 practices, enhance productivity, and reduce environmental impact.

3. Smart Textiles

- Projects: ARTICWEAVE, MAGOS VR GLOVES, EPIS HARMONY, CONFORTHEAT
- Focus: Integrate technology into textiles for applications such as wearable tech, thermal regulation, and VR interfaces.
- Guidelines: Commercialize smart textile products, expand into new markets, and foster partnerships with tech companies.

4. Textile Recycling & Sustainable Processes

- Projects: RECOTTEX, REFIBER4WORK, BIORE-DYE, FO-CEL, CLEANCOAT, MULTICOLOR, SORT MATE
- Focus: Develop recycling technologies, biodegradable dyes, and waste sorting systems for a circular textile economy.
- Guidelines: Promote sustainable practices, reduce textile waste, and collaborate with recycling industries.

5. Digital Product Passport for Textiles & Construction

- Projects: DIGIBIOMAT, CIRCULARTECH, BLOCKCHAIN
- Focus: Enhance traceability and transparency in textiles and construction using blockchain and biomaterial tracking.
- Guidelines: Implement digital product passports, ensure compliance with EU regulations, and promote transparency in supply chains.

6. Advanced Manufacturing Innovations

- Projects: GREENCUBE, CUTSMART, SUSTAINABLE THERMOPLASTIC
- Focus: Develop precision manufacturing techniques and sustainable materials to improve efficiency and reduce environmental footprints.
- Guidelines: Scale advanced manufacturing solutions, optimize resource use, and align with sustainability goals.

7. Sustainability in Construction & Advanced Manufacturing

- Projects: ATLAS, LYNXCRAFT, SOLARDRAPE, PLISSADE, WOOLWALLS
- Focus: Create sustainable building materials, such as solar-integrated textiles and eco-friendly insulation solutions.
- Guidelines: Promote green construction practices, reduce carbon emissions, and enhance energy efficiency in buildings.

8. Aerospace & Advanced Manufacturing Synergies

- Projects: DREAM, EOM3D.2, DELTA, HERMES AIRLINK, GREEN FURNACE, VBOX, ATHENA PICO, INOSCOPE, D-DOGSE
- Focus: Leverage advanced manufacturing for aerospace challenges, including lightweight materials, precision engineering, and sustainable propulsion systems.
- Guidelines: Enhance aerospace efficiency, reduce emissions, and align with EU Green Deal objectives.

A PATH FORWARD

These outcomes demonstrate that when provided with the right support, European SMEs can be powerful drivers of technological innovation, sustainable transformation, and economic growth.

In Transit project stands as a practical example of how targeted initiatives can accelerate this shift, bridging innovation across sectors and enabling SMEs to play a central role in Europe's green and digital transition.



ATEVAL is a textile industry association supporting over 340 companies with services in innovation, training, and internationalisation. It aims to boost the competitiveness of the Valencian Textile Cluster through cooperation and global outreach.



Tèxtils.CAT is the Catalan cluster of advanced textile materials with a nonprofit association structure, formed by companies in the value chain of the advanced textile materials sector in Catalonia and other organizations supporting innovation.



CTA is an Andalusian private foundation supporting R&D through funding, mentoring, and innovation services, with over 700 projects backed and €175 million invested. It brings together 160+ companies across key sectors, helping turn innovation into business opportunities.



PRODUTECH is a Portuguese manufacturing technologies cluster offering innovative and integrated solutions for industry challenges. It drives modernization and international competitiveness through cooperation and collective efficiency strategies.



Science Park Graz is Austria's leading business incubator, supporting over 300 startups with coaching, funding, and network access. It manages ESA BIC Austria and fosters academic spin-offs and entrepreneurship across Graz, Styria, and Southeast Europe.



Corallia is a Greek innovation hub and accelerator supporting over 500 enterprises, fostering entrepreneurship, and managing high-tech clusters. It drives startup growth, international expansion, and ecosystem development through different programs.



IDEAM Cluster is a national hub in Ireland supporting manufacturing SMEs in their digital and green transitions through collaboration and innovation. It unites industry and academia to drive smart manufacturing, aiming to support 75+ SMEs and sustain 2,000 jobs.



IRT Jules Verne is a French industrial research centre focused on developing advanced manufacturing technologies to boost industry competitiveness. It accelerates innovation and technology transfer to factories, supporting strategic sectors since 2012.



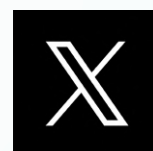
Politecnico di Milano is a top public university in Italy focused on engineering, architecture, and design, with strong ties to industry and innovation. It actively collaborates on international research and training projects, offering globally oriented programs and partnerships.



Construction Cluster of Slovenia supports organisations across sectors through EU projects, skills development, and technology transfer. It offers workshops on business model innovation, focusing on circular economy and innovation commercialisation.

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BEST PRACTICES HANDBOOK

GUIDELINES TO IMPLEMENT
A “CASCADE FUNDING” PROJECT



**Funded by
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Funded by the European Union under the Grant Agreement no. 101091494. Views and opinions expressed are, however, those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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Welcome

Cascade funding, or “Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP)”, actions are projects that aim to directly support SMEs through financial vouchers for developing their innovative projects. Cascade funding actions, usually include both financial support to the end beneficiaries and the provision of innovation support services by core partners. Cascade funding aims to accelerate, foster and boost the development of innovative solutions by SMEs. In the case of In Transit, the goal is to develop new cross-sectoral and cross-border industrial value-chains facilitated by clusters, incubators, universities, and technological and research centers.

Cascade funding is great for SMEs thanks to the shorter time-to-grant, the simplified administrative procedures for both application and reporting thanks to the use of lump-sums and the closeness to clusters to identify priorities for funding. This handbook gathers all the good practices regarding four key topics considered highly relevant when managing and implementing an EU project that includes cascade funding.

- Management of the open calls to favour the emergence of cross-border and cross-sectoral projects.
- Communication and Dissemination activities.
- Coaching and training activities.
- Activities to create and foster open-innovation collaboration spaces.

During the In Transit project, the partners of the consortium had the opportunity to share knowledge, experiences and methodologies regarding to the four related topics. This handbook aims to be a reference tool to smooth the adoption process for new cross-sectoral value chains driven by European clusters. We hope that the present guide might support those who are involved in European projects.

The In Transit partners.

In Transit Consortium



SC Meeting, Milan, May 2025

SC Meeting, Graz, May 2024



SC Meeting, Limerick, May 2023

In Transit achievements

In Transit aims to strengthen the resilience of SMEs in the textile, aerospace, construction, and advanced manufacturing sectors by supporting their transition to greener and more digital sectors, with a focus on social and business model innovation. The project provides a comprehensive support mechanism, including individual assessments, coaching, and a funding instrument in the form of a lump sum voucher. The core strategy is based on four mechanisms:

- INCUBATE: joint services for incubating cross-sectoral innovation.
- INNOVATE: customised advisory services, including assisted self-assessment and circular/digital diagnostic, and coaching/training at a strategic level.
- DEVELOP: FSTP support of development projects, including coaching services for developing innovative and sustainable business models.
- SCALE-UP: brings solutions to the market and offers additional customised services for the new business models.

This support is targeted at SMEs and start-ups with innovative solutions—whether in processes or products—arising from the implementation of new circular business models that can integrate into cross-sectoral and cross-border value chains within the relevant industries. The In Transit consortium received 349 applications across its two Calls for Proposals (144 in the first and 205 in the second) and selected 43 for funding. These projects involved a total of 478 SMEs from the textile, aerospace, construction, and advanced manufacturing sectors, representing 30 European countries.

Foreword from the In Transit project coordinator

“We are pleased to present this Best Practices Handbook, developed as a result of our collective experience leading the In Transit project, a cascade funding initiative supporting SMEs in the textile, aerospace, construction, and advanced manufacturing sectors. Over the course of the project, we’ve learned valuable lessons about the unique dynamics of managing financial support to third parties (FSTP), from designing transparent calls and selecting beneficiaries to evaluating and monitoring progress and ensuring impact.

This guide aims to share practical insights, tested methodologies, and useful tools that can support other organizations or consortia planning to implement similar cascade funding schemes. Whether you’re a first-time coordinator or an experienced manager of EU-funded projects, we hope this handbook serves as a useful roadmap to design and execute FSTP actions that are efficient, inclusive, and aligned with the needs of innovative SMEs across Europe.

By sharing our experience, we contribute to strengthening the European innovation ecosystem and promoting more effective support mechanisms at the regional and sectoral levels. We sincerely thank all partners and beneficiaries of In Transit for their active collaboration and commitment, which made this work possible.”

INCUBATE

Objectives



- 1 Deliver joint services through online activities to stimulate product/service innovations, and foster cooperation between SMEs with shared interests.
- 2 Create a collaboration space to build cross-border and cross-sectoral partnerships.
- 3 Organise learning expeditions and matchmaking events to deepen intersectoral knowledge.

Tips and tricks



- > Provide all partners with a standard methodology for deploying workshops oriented toward innovation and promoting cooperation.
- > Mix cross-sectoral onsite events to enrich the learning experience and facilitate innovation.
- > Support SME attendance at onsite activities covering travel expenses through travel vouchers.

Methodological approach



- 1 Collect SME profiles to enable personalized 1-on-1 meetings focused on their needs and goals.
- 2 Organise cross-sector site visits and guided networking to promote knowledge exchange.
- 3 Provide coaching and follow-up guidance to help shape and enhance project ideas.
- 4 Distribute travel vouchers via open calls to facilitate SME participation while ensuring compliance.

Learnings



- > SME profiling and targeted matchmaking are crucial to ensure relevant, high-quality connections.
- > Follow-up is critical as regular check-ins help turn meetings into real partnerships.
- > Participants respond best when events are clearly linked to funding opportunities, and when support tools help them move from discussion to concrete collaboration.

In Transit results



- > Over 200 participants throughout organised onsite activities.
- > Participating SMEs took the opportunity to network and matchmake using the Community Platform.

MATCHMAKING EVENTS

Objectives



- 1 Collect detailed profiles of participating SMEs to identify complementary strengths, needs, and innovation goals, enabling tailored one-on-one meeting schedules.
- 2 Facilitate timed, focused meetings between SMEs to explore collaboration opportunities, align on shared interests, and discuss potential joint proposals.
- 3 Provide guidance and coaching during and after the event to help SMEs shape concrete project ideas and prepare competitive funding applications.

Tips and tricks



- > Provide SMEs easy-to-do registration and one-to-one information on the opportunity.
- > Inform SMEs about the upcoming cascade funding calls, clarify the application process.
- > Support SME attendance covering travel expenses through travel vouchers.

Methodological approach



- 1 Collect SME profiles to enable personalized 1-on-1 meetings focused on their needs and goals.
- 2 Plan comprehensive and engaging agenda designed to maximize networking and information exchange among participants.
- 3 Provide best practices from SMEs previously receiving funding support.
- 4 Distribute travel vouchers via open calls to facilitate SME participation while ensuring compliance.

Learnings



- > SME profiling and targeted matchmaking are crucial to ensure relevant, high-quality connections.
- > Enabled participants to connect directly, explore collaboration opportunities, and discuss sector-specific challenges and solutions.
- > Participants respond best when events are clearly linked to funding opportunities.

In Transit results



- > Over 60 participants attended matchmaking events in Barcelona and Graz.
- > Participating SMEs came from across EU.



LEARNING EXPEDITIONS

Objectives



- 1 Foster cross-sectoral collaboration by facilitating visits to leading companies, clusters, and innovation hubs.
- 2 Encourage knowledge exchange and learning from real-life experiences and challenges.
- 3 Promote networking opportunities by connecting participants with peers and the upskilling and capacity-building of SMEs by learning from advanced ecosystems and frontrunners.

Tips and tricks



- > Provide interesting visits in terms of novel technologies with opportunities for one-to-one connections.
- > Mix cross-sectoral onsite events to enrich the learning experience and facilitate innovation.
- > Support SME attendance at onsite activities covering travel expenses through travel vouchers.

Methodological approach



- 1 Collect SME profiles to enable personalized 1-on-1 meetings focused on their needs and goals.
- 2 Organise cross-sector site visits and guided networking to promote knowledge exchange.
- 3 Provide coaching and follow-up guidance to help shape and enhance project ideas.
- 4 Distribute travel vouchers via open calls to facilitate SME participation while ensuring compliance.

Learnings



- > SME profiling and targeted matchmaking are crucial to ensure relevant, high-quality connections.
- > Follow-up is critical as regular check-ins help turn meetings into real partnerships.
- > Participants respond best when visited sites are opening new perspectives and opportunities for their innovation activities.

In Transit results



- > Over 80 SMEs attended LE in Ljubljana, Seville, Barcelona, and Athens.
- > LEs have been a turning point for SMEs to understand the industrial sectors better, and gain preview of current and future developments.

INNOVATE COACHING AND WEBINARS

Objectives



- 1 Trigger innovation in SMEs through customized advisory services. The program offered webinars and 40 hours of coaching and training, combining workshops and 1-to-1 consultancy.
- 2 Guide SMEs in exploring and adopting new circular business models, enhancing processes, or developing new products.
- 3 Engage SMEs from the textile, construction, aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Tips and tricks



- > Align coaching with the industry trends, enhancing engagement and fostering the ideation of Call for Proposals projects.
- > Make webinars videos available to everyone who missed attending the live sessions.
- > Regularly updating topics based on feedback ensuring that the program remain relevant and address the evolving needs of SMEs.

Methodological approach



- 1 Collect the needs of SMEs to identify the services to be provided by the consortium.
- 2 Organise the matchmaking between the coaches and the beneficiaries.
- 3 Monitor the progress of beneficiaries and fine-tune the program if needed.
- 4 Collect feedback on the coaching program and gather lessons learned.

Learnings



- > Adding breakout sessions during workshops and coaching could have enhanced interaction.
- > Utilizing interactive tools like live polls during coaching could have increased engagement.
- > Incorporating more interactive elements, such as real-time case study discussions and SME-led presentations, could have created even more dynamic learning experience.

In Transit results



- > 100 SMEs received coaching and training services.
- > Some of them took this opportunity to network and matchmake using the Community platform.

DEVELOP CALL PREPARATION

Objectives



- 1 To offer financial support (FSTP) to European SMEs and select cross-sectoral and cross-border innovative proposals targeting challenges covered by the project.
- 2 To ensure the excellence of the supported proposals via a clear and easy application process and a transparent and merit-based selection process.
- 3 Engage SMEs from the textile, construction, aerospace and advanced manufacturing sectors.

Tips and tricks



- > Open the call at least 2 months to leave enough time to SMEs to apply.
- > Communicate largely on the open call using the following channels: ECCP, Funding&Tenders Portal, social media, project website.
- > Mention the evaluation grid in the application guidelines to ensure transparency for applicants.
- > Avoid call deadlines during holiday periods and ideally close the call on a Wednesday, so the Helpdesk is available to applicants throughout the last three days of the call.

Methodological approach



- 1 Define the open call topic involving all partners in targeted sectors.
- 2 Draft the open call announcement and all the supporting documents.
- 3 Define a clear, transparent and merit-based evaluation process.
- 4 Define a clear implementation plan for FSTP distribution and SMEs' reporting.

Learnings



- > Plan well in advance and allocate resources to call preparation and validation by partners.
- > Large and intense communication on the open calls is essential.
- > FSTP scheme should be based on an easy application process : make it as simple as possible!

In Transit results



- > Well defined evaluation criteria and scoring system.
- > 31 SME beneficiaries in the first call, and 30 SME beneficiaries supported in 2nd Develop call.

DEVELOP CALL EVALUATION

Objectives



- 1 To ensure a smooth, fair and coherent evaluation process.
- 2 To select excellent innovative proposals addressing the topics of the open calls.
- 3 To select external experts to evaluate the proposals with impartiality and objectivity.

Tips and tricks



- > Plan for a max of 40 days for the assessment period, starting from the closing date of the call.
- > Evaluate each proposal by external experts, on well defined evaluation criteria and scoring.
- > Evaluate cross-border or cross-cluster proposals positively by awarding a 5% bonus for the “cross-border partnership” criterion.

Methodological approach



- 1 Eligibility check to verify that application meet eligibility criteria.
- 2 Assign the evaluation to external reviewers according to their fields of expertise.
- 3 Preparation of the ranking list based on the overall final score of each application.
- 4 Announcement of the results: notification to all applicants and sending of the ESR.

Learnings



- > Launch open call for experts.
- > Simplify the procedure to optimize the time for contractualization and administrative follow-up.
- > Assign the monitoring and final approval of SMEs’ project reports to project partners.

In Transit results



- > 349 SME proposals in two calls, 43 projects selected for FSTP support in total.
- > A total of 32 external experts were selected to evaluate DEVELOP proposals.

DEVELOP CALL IMPLEMENTATION

Objectives



- 1 Ensure smooth project implementation and assist funded SMEs during execution.
- 2 Define a harmonized payment scheme to manage FSTPs effectively and ensure smooth budget transfers to beneficiaries and evaluators.
- 3 Assess the innovation impact, ensure impartial evaluation, and monitor ethical aspects of funded proposals

Tips and tricks



- > Involve monitoring partners from contract signature and assign the same partner to guide each company through all vouchers (innovate and/or develop).
- > Whenever possible, assign a monitoring partner who speaks the SME's language to facilitate communication and accelerate project implementation.
- > Set at least two instalments (pre-financing, final payment) to reduce the risk of non-implementation

Methodological approach



- 1 Organize info days for each open call to guide applicants and for evaluators to harmonize criteria and ensure equity.
- 2 Adjust open call and execution periods to avoid deadlines during holidays.
- 3 Launch pre-financing (50%) within 30 days of contract signature.
- 4 Validate the final technical report, detailing all project tasks and results.

Learnings



- > Separate fields for project budget and requested funding to avoid confusion and ensure eligibility.
- > Avoid pursuing individual projects in future FSTP calls, as solo projects limit collaboration across sectors and countries and reduce the potential for innovative proposals.
- > New procedure to assure ethical issues.

In Transit results



- > 61 SMEs received funding carrying out 43 projects (25 individual + 18 in consortium).
- > Total funding: €2.956.500.
- > More than €23M of total budget requested.

DEVELOP COACHING

Objectives



- 1 Provide SMEs with structured tools to develop business offers, analyze markets, and plan strategically.
- 2 Enhance competitiveness by supporting SMEs in aligning their commercial strategies with market needs.
- 3 Adapt coaching methods to the diverse maturity levels and innovation goals of SMEs.

Tips and tricks



- > Use clear templates and examples to help SMEs apply complex concepts.
- > Personalize coaching based on SME expertise levels (beginner, intermediate, expert).
- > Involve SMEs early and refine tools through iterative feedback.

Methodological approach



- 1 Developed five core tools: business proposal, market analysis, strategic planning, product-process integration, and dynamic capabilities.
- 2 Piloted and adapted tools with SMEs to ensure relevance and usability.
- 3 Delivered support through templates, presentations, and personalized coaching.
- 4 Added two new tools (Digital Marketing and Online PM) in response to specific SME needs.

Learnings



- > Iterative interaction with SMEs increased tool effectiveness.
- > Coaching impact improved with a tiered expertise approach.
- > Technical tools require expert facilitation for successful implementation.

In Transit results



- > SMEs showed clear improvement in strategic and commercial understanding.
- > One-on-one coaching was highly valued and seen as key to achieving results.

DISSEMINATION & COMMUNICATION

Objectives



- 1 Raise awareness of the project objectives, the open calls for SMEs and expected results.
- 2 Promote the events and activities organised by the project to a large-scale audience in the EU.
- 3 Attract and engage stakeholders, especially SMEs to create innovative, cross-sectoral and cross-border projects.
- 4 Disseminate and valorize the results of the projects led by funded SMEs.

Tips and tricks



- Ensure direct contacts with SMEs (phoning, individual meeting) to attract them and keep them involved all along the project.
- Focus communication efforts on the results of SME projects results to offer them visibility.
- Establish a sustainable SME network: even if grants are important, networking is also essential for SMEs.
- Use other European clusters, industrial platforms and national associations to disseminate all the activities and opportunities offered by the project and increase the overall project outreach with multiplier effects to engage the different stakeholders.
- Create brand image. All the communication materials should be designed in line with the project graphic identity in order to promote its recognition.
- Build stakeholder loyalty and create awareness about future calls and activities.

Communication channels



- Use traditional online channels (social media, project website, ECCP page, e-Newsletter, community platform) to reach a vast and diverse audience.
- Non-electronic dissemination materials (flyer, roll-up) to allow project objective and results to be promoted in on-site events.
- Interactive dissemination (face-to-face meetings, events) to increase project visibility and impact and develop synergies with related initiatives.
- A final showcase event to allow the projects led by SMEs to present themselves to investors and disseminate to a large audience the achievements of their project.

Targeted stakeholders

- **SMEs:** principal target beneficiaries of the project and the various services and funding schemes.
- **Entrepreneurs and start-ups:** potential beneficiaries of the cascade funding mechanisms.
- **Large companies and end-users:** to be involved in the identification of challenges and potential hosts for mutual learning visits.
- **Research and technology providers:** potential suppliers of technological services to funded companies via vouchers. Needed for technology transfer to bridge the innovation gap.
- **Investors:** potential partners of funded companies and start-ups, identifying candidates for investing.
- **Clusters and Technological & Research centers:** multiplier communication and dissemination effect to reach out to European SMEs elsewhere where the partnership is not directly present.
- **Policy makers:** interested in collecting feedback, best practices, and investment plans.

In Transit results



- + 50.000 project website pageviews.
- + 1.500 distributed printed materials.
- + 850 followers on LinkedIn.
- + 30 events organized to promote the project and its activities.

ATEVAL

ATEVAL is a textile industry association supporting over 340 companies with services in innovation, training, and internationalization. It aims to boost the competitiveness of the Valencian Textile Cluster through cooperation and global outreach.

TÈXTILS CAT

Tèxtils.CAT is the Catalan cluster of advanced textile materials with a nonprofit association structure, formed by companies in the value chain of the advanced textile materials sector in Catalonia and other organizations supporting innovation.

CTA

CTA is an Andalusian private foundation supporting R&D through funding, mentoring, and innovation services, with over 700 projects backed and €175M invested. It brings together 160+ companies across key sectors, helping turn innovation into business opportunities.

PRODU TECH

PRODUTECH is a Portuguese manufacturing technologies cluster offering innovative and integrated solutions for industry challenges. It drives modernization and international competitiveness through cooperation and collective efficiency strategies.

corallia

inspiring innovation, driving excellence

Corallia is a Greek innovation hub and accelerator supporting over 500 enterprises, fostering entrepreneurship, and managing high-tech clusters. It drives startup growth, international expansion, and ecosystem development through different programs.

IDEAM TUS

INDUSTRY CLUSTER

IDEAM Cluster is a national hub in Ireland supporting manufacturing SMEs in their digital and green transitions through collaboration and innovation. It unites industry and academia to drive smart manufacturing, aiming to support 75+ SMEs and sustain 2,000 jobs.

Science Park

The High Tech Incubator
Graz

Science Park Graz is Austria's leading business incubator, supporting over 300 startups with coaching, funding, and network access. It manages ESA BIC Austria and fosters academic spin-offs and entrepreneurship across Graz, Styria, and Southeast Europe.



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