



CALL FOR PROPOSAL

LAUDS EXPLORATION

oc1-2024-laudsexp-01



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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the first Open Call for Experiments under the LAUDS Factories - Local Accessible Urban Digital and Sustainable Factories: New European Bauhaus Approach to Open and Decentralised Urban Manufacturing project, co-funded by the European Union.

Through the #1 Open Call I LAUDS Exploration, the LAUDS Factories project aims to fund and support Experiments focused on the collaboration and co-creation relationship between artists/creative people and technology providers and end-users, following the spirit of the New European Bauhaus.

The main objective is for hybrid teams, composed by technology providers and artists/designers/creatives/architects, to explore and work with LAUDS factories to enhance their usability and uptake, aligned with the wider scope, challenges and specific applicable conditions.

2. BACKGROUND

Societal transformation and appropriate innovation governance models along with new technical solutions are seen as important pillars in solving environmental problems. Today, seeds of this societal and industrial transformation exist. Digital communities gather around open-source innovative projects, makers create collectives of professionals, artists and tinkerers in third places to co-create solutions while designing global and manufacturing local. SMEs, looking for more sustainable new business models, are inventing circular and sense-making businesses in various territories. An agile co-creation based on “do no significant harm” principle is a known development practice that can be expanded to the whole manufacturing chain. The transition to a low carbon, resource efficient, circular and sustainable bioeconomy, with its technological potentials and proven applications and initiatives like the New European Bauhaus offers solutions to the challenges society is facing today. Transformation processes towards a climate positive society call for finding new ways and patterns of decentralised, local and urban manufacturing within existing ecosystems. Small, versatile factories, close to innovators and customers allow various types of customised products to be produced in regions close to the consumer that create a virtuous cycle based on design-produce-use-repair-recycle loops.

Such factories can enable the production of customised products in small series at a cost comparable to mass-produced products, helping to promote new skills and new job opportunities, and create activity in the local area, with the subsequent economic benefits to the community. By bringing production inside the local market, small factories can reduce transportation costs and time, increase resilience by cutting the supply chains and making it easier for customers to access the products they need and subsequently reduce the required resources of the production process, which aligns with the sustainability goals of many modern consumers and those envisioned by the EU.

3. OBJECTIVES AND CHALLENGES OF LAUDS FACTORIES

LAUDS factories is an innovative concept aiming at creating small, versatile factories in local and urban areas to co-create and produce customised products in small series. The project aims to incorporate innovative and active resiliency capabilities at production and supply chain levels, as part of a green, circular, and digital transformation. The project seeks to create an increased personalised experience for customers, enhance their satisfaction and loyalty to local



manufacturing businesses and, more generally, to boost local development of open and decentralised manufacturing ecosystems.

The #1 Open Call | LAUDS Exploration intends to gather applications for Experiments to be implemented in cooperation with one of the LAUDS Factories listed in Table 1, and for providing an answer to one of the challenges defined. Within the proposed activities, experiments are encouraged to develop open-source hardware either as new solutions or further development of existing solutions.

Table 1 – LAUDS Factories and Challenges

LAUDS Factory	Domain	Challenges
Fab City Hamburg (Germany) 	Mobility	Pop-up Factory Zone: Enabling Ad-Hoc Manufacturing on Bicycle Wheels
	Energy	Unlocking Insights: Revolutionizing the Way We See and Manage Resource Consumption
	Agriculture / Food Production	Towards the Future of Farming: Low-Maintenance Innovation for Local Food Production
Maker V-10 (Denmark) 	Mobility	Reviving Mobility in the City of Bicycles: From Discarded Transportation Parts to Innovation
	Energy	Revolutionize Local Recycling: Solutions Repurposing Materials into Valuable Composites
	Agriculture / Food Production	Greening Urban Spaces: Innovate Vertical Farming Systems from Local Waste Streams
Université de Lorraine, Lorraine Smart Cities Living Lab (France) 	Mobility	Smart Mobility Solutions for Efficient, Resilient and Sustainable Forms of Transportation
	Energy	Efficient Recycling for a Greener Future

Detailed information about the challenges is available in the Catalogue of Challenges, accessible on the LAUDS Factories website: <https://lauds.eu/>.

The #1 Open Call | LAUDS Exploration expects to select two (2) proposals per each LAUDS Factories and at least one (1) proposal per domain. Nevertheless, the LAUDS Factories project reserves the right to decide differently on this distribution based on the quality of the proposals received.

Selected Experiments are expected to deliver the following outcomes: 1) one *challenge-focused report* describing the developed production process including a blueprint of the proposed solution (where relevant); and 2) one *final report* on the collaboration with the LAUDS Factory. The LAUDS Factories project will be providing the respective templates to the selected teams.



4. TIMETABLE

The indicative schedule for the different stages of the selection procedure is as follows.

Table 2 - LAUDS Exploration Open Call Timetable

Stage of the Open Call	Planned Date
Call opening	29 May 2024
Deadline for submission	29 July 2024 – 17:00 (CET), Brussels time
Evaluation	30 July – 29 August 2024
Information on evaluation results	30 August 2024
Sub-grant agreement signature	30 September 2024
Experiment execution timeframe	1 October 2024 – 30 September 2025

The LAUDS Factories project reserves the right to adjust the planned timetable and any change will be announced in the communication channels of the project.

5. AVAILABLE BUDGET

A total budget of 240.000 Euros is allocated to the LAUDS Exploration Open Call for funding the participation of at least 6 Experiments¹.

Successful applicants will receive a grant that cannot surpass 40.000€ per Experiment. The grant will be paid in three lump sums: one at the beginning of the project (40% with the sub-grant agreement signature), the second with an interim assessment (40%) and at the end of the project pending the achievement of agreed milestones and deliverables (20% with expected outcome).

Applicants will have to submit a budget overview for the implementation of their proposal, including the expected costs concerning Staff Costs; Travel Costs; Equipment/Tech Consumables Costs (depreciation) and, whenever required, Subcontracting Costs. Following the standard flat rate applicable in the Horizon Europe programme, a flat rate of 25% for overheads will be applied.

All payments will be subject to tax and other reductions according to the laws of all involved countries.

Multiple applications are possible under this call. In these cases, applicants need to submit one application form per Experiment proposal. However, only one proposal can be awarded per applicant.

6. ADMISSIBILITY AND DOCUMENTS

Proposals must be submitted electronically via <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/OC-2024-LAUDSEXP-01> (see section 12. How to submit an application). Paper or email submissions are NOT admissible.

¹ The LAUDS Factories Consortium reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the open calls planned within the project, depending on the quality of the applications received and the results of the evaluation.



Proposals must be submitted in English using the Application Form provided on the submission page.

Proposals must be complete and contain all the requested information in the Application Form.

Additional supporting documents (e.g., bank account validation) will be requested only from selected applicants.

7. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, proposals must be presented by a hybrid team composed of a minimum of 2 legal entities, meeting the following criteria:

- Each proposal must include at least one technology provider and one artist /designer/creative/architect with no conflicts of interest with any of the LAUDS Factories partner organizations.
- Must be based in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries.
- Applications need to be submitted by the deadline of the call. Late applications will not be admitted.
- Applications must be submitted in English. Applications submitted in any other language will not be eligible.
- Duration of the proposed Experiments is limited to a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of twelve (12) months.
- Applicants can submit multiple applications, but only one of them can be funded.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

Eligible applications will be evaluated according to four criteria, as presented in Table 3.

Table 2 - LAUDS EXPLORATION Open Call evaluation criteria

Evaluation Criteria (EC)	Description
EC1. Technical approach & Art-Tech congruency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soundness of concept, quality of objectives and innovative elements of the proposal. Alignment with the LAUDS project objectives. Synergy between members of the hybrid team will be assessed.
EC2. Innovation potential and impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Originality and novelty of presented ideas. Economic, environmental and social impact of the proposed contribution.
EC3. Technical capacities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of competences and skills of the project team and its capacity to carry out the activities of the proposal. • Complementarity of partners.
EC4. Cost-benefit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequacy of budget requested against the proposed workplan.



Each criterion will be scored from 0 to 5, following the rationale below:

0	Fail	The proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be judged due to incomplete or missing information.
1	Poor	The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair	The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
4	Very Good	The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The threshold for each criterion is three (3). This indicates that if a proposal scores less than 3 in any criterion the proposal is automatically rejected. Proposals that pass the criterion thresholds will be considered for funding.

9. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Payment Schedule: 40% payment with sub-grant agreement signature, 40% with an interim assessment and 20% at the end of the project, with achievement of agreed milestones and deliverables. The grant cannot surpass 40.000€ per Experiment.

Contract: A sub-grant agreement (SGA) will be signed between the beneficiary and the LAUDS Factories consortium, represented by its coordinator (TUBerlin) and the Host Organization (representing the LAUDS factory which will be determined according to the selected proposal). A model template for the contract can be found on the LAUDS Factories website: <https://lauds.eu/>.

10. VISIBILITY

Beneficiaries must clearly acknowledge the European Union's contribution in all activities. In this respect, beneficiaries are required to give prominence to the name and emblem of the European Commission on all their activities implemented under the co-financed action. Where appropriate, they should also use the LAUDS Factories logo and visuals. Guidelines will be provided to the successful applicants.

11. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

The reply to any call for proposals involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as name, e-mail, and address). Such data will be processed pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data. Unless indicated otherwise, the questions and any personal data requested that are required to evaluate the application in accordance with the call for proposal will be processed solely for that purpose by the consortium.



12. HOW TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

Project proposals must be submitted by 29 July 2024 at 17:00 (CET) by completing the application online, here: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/OC-2024-LAUDSEXP-01>.

Complete the Application Form, including the Technical Annex and the Budget Template. Applicants can find the templates of the Technical Annex and the Budget Template on the LAUDS Factories website: <https://lauds.eu/>. These templates need to be downloaded, completed, and uploaded in PDF format.

Applicants should submit one Application Form per project proposal. Multiple proposals are allowed but only one project can be awarded per beneficiary.

Once the proposal is submitted, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive this confirmation e-mail, it means your proposal has NOT been submitted. If you believe this is due to a fault in the submission system, you should immediately file a complaint via lauds.opencall@inova.business, explaining the circumstances and attaching a copy of the proposal (and, if possible, screenshots to show what happened).

Queries about applications can be sent by email to lauds.opencall@inova.business before 22 July 2024. We cannot guarantee that emails will be answered after this date. A FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section will be posted on the LAUDS Factories project website and updated regularly.

All applicants will be notified via email of the results of the evaluation process by 30 August 2024 (indicative date). The results will then be published on the information channels of the LAUDS Factories project.