



*Holistic approach towards Empowerment of the Digitalization
of the Energy Ecosystem through adoption of IoT solutions*

HEDGE IoT Open Call 1

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. GENERAL AND ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

1.1 When is the open call submission deadline?

The HEDGE-IoT Open Call 1 opens in **July 22nd 2025** and closes in **October 24th 2025**. Applications must be submitted by **17:00 CET (Brussels time)** on the final day. Late submissions will not be accepted.

1.2 Can a university or research centre lead a proposal?

No. Only **profit-making SMEs or Startups** can be the lead applicant.

1.3 Can a large industrial partner or non-SME lead a proposal?

No. Only **SMEs or Startups** are eligible to apply and lead the proposal. Large industrial partners cannot apply. If a proposal is successful, an additional eligibility check will be conducted to verify the SME status of the applicant(s). This includes the submission of an SME Declaration from the applicant's side. If the SME status cannot be confirmed, the proposal will be automatically declined regardless of its evaluation results.

1.4 Can a proposal be submitted by a consortium?

Yes. A proposal may be submitted by a single SME/startup or by a group of legal entities. In the latter case, the application must include a copy of the signed team agreement that clearly designates an authorized representative who will act as the single point of contact and bear legal responsibility for the application and contract. In the case of a consortium, each member must provide a Declaration of Honour, and only one technical proposal should be submitted per consortium.

1.5 Can a startup apply for the open call?

Yes. As long as the startup is a **registered SME in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country** and meets the financial stability and eligibility requirements.

1.6 Is financial stability assessment mandatory?

Yes. All applicants must prove **financial capacity** and will be asked to submit a **Declaration of Honor** and other supporting documentation (e.g., SME self-declaration, proof of no outstanding debts, etc.).

1.7 Is the funding provided as a lump sum?

No. HEDGE-IoT applies a **cost-based funding scheme**. Selected applicants will receive funding based on **eligible costs**, with a funding rate of **70%**, plus **25% overheads** on all costs except subcontracting.

1.8 Can I apply without a valid VAT or PIC number?

You must have a **valid PIC (Participant Identification Code)** at the time of submission. A **VAT number is required** for signing the sub-grant agreement. Failure to provide either may result in rejection.

1.9 I missed the submission deadline due to technical issues. Can I still submit?

No. Late submissions will not be accepted unless the issue is **verifiably caused by the F6S platform**. If you experience any issues, immediately contact support@f6s.com

2. SUBMISSION AND EVALUATION

2.1 How do I submit a proposal?

All proposals must be submitted via the **F6S platform**: <https://www.f6s.com/hedge-iot-open-call-1/apply>. You must complete the online form and upload the required documents.

2.2 Can I submit the proposal in a language other than English?

No. **English is the only accepted language** for submission, communication, and reporting. Proposals not written entirely in English will be rejected.

2.3 Can I submit multiple proposals?

Yes. Applicants may submit multiple proposals across both Open Calls, under the following conditions:

- Each proposal must target a different Business Use Case (BUC).
- If an applicant is selected for funding in Open Call 1 for a specific BUC, they cannot submit another proposal under the same BUC in Open Call 2.

This approach ensures diversity and encourages broader participation in the program.

2.4 What kind of documents are required from applicants at each stage of the application process?

The application process consists of two stages, each requiring different sets of documents:

- **Application Stage:**
At this initial stage, applicants must submit:
 - A **Declaration of Honour**, signed by the applicant. If you apply as a consortium, merge the PDFs of the Declarations of Honour from the lead and all consortium members into a single file and upload it here.
 - A **Technical Proposal**, outlining the proposal and its relevance to the Open Call objectives.
 - If you apply as a **consortium**, a **Team Agreement** must also be submitted. This should clearly designate the **authorized representative** who will act as the single point of contact and bear legal responsibility for the proposal.
 - **Evidence supporting the TRL (Technology Readiness Level)** of the proposed solution, based on the respective selection made in the application form. This may include lab validation reports, deployment results, pilot case descriptions, user testing feedback, or relevant publications.
- **Evaluation Stage (for successful proposals):**
Applicants whose proposals are successful will also be required to provide the following supporting documents:
 - **Proof of legal existence** (e.g., company registration documents)
 - **Proof or validation of SME status**
 - **Certification of no outstanding social security or tax debts**

- **Judicial record extracts**
- **Bank details**

Failure to submit these documents will result to the withdrawal of the funding offer.

2.5 What are the evaluation criteria?

Proposals are evaluated based on:

- **Expected Impact**
- **Technical Quality**
- **Quality of Work Plan**

Each criterion is scored 0–5. To be eligible:

- Minimum **3/5** per criterion
- Minimum total score: **10/15**

2.6 My proposal is great but only loosely related to the BUCs. Will it be evaluated?

All proposals must **clearly align with one of the 15 Business Use Cases (BUCs)** described in the Guide. Proposals not aligned with a BUC will be considered **non-eligible**.

2.7 My proposal received 5/5 in two criteria, but 2/5 in one. Can I still get funded?

No. Each evaluation criterion requires a **minimum score of 3/5**, and the total must be at least 10/15. Proposals that don't meet **both thresholds** are not eligible for funding.

2.8 Can I request a re-evaluation if I disagree with the evaluation results?

Yes. A **redress request** can be submitted **within 10 business days** of receiving your evaluation summary. Only **procedural errors** (not judgment disagreements) can be grounds for redress.

3. PROJECT EXECUTION

3.1 If I'm selected, when do I start the project?

Selected applicants will start execution in **February 2026**, after signing the Sub-Grant Agreement. Specific onboarding steps and document checks will take place beforehand.

3.2 What are my obligations during the project?

You will be required to:

- Submit a **Mid-term Report** after 3 months.
- Submit a **Final Report** at the end of the 6-month implementation.
- Participate in evaluations and respond to project/EC requests.
- Comply with **EU visibility, data, and reporting requirements**.

3.3 What happens after the project ends?

The European Commission may **audit the funded entities** for up to **five years** after project completion. Beneficiaries must keep relevant documentation and cooperate if requested.



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