

1. GENERAL AND ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

1.1 When is the Open Call 2 submission deadline?

The HEDGE-IoT Open Call 2 opens in **June 25th 2026** and closes in **August 25th 2026**. 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 submit a proposal?

No. Only **profit-making SMEs or Startups** can apply. An SME Declaration submission is required during the application process, using the template featured on <https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/>.

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

No. Only **SMEs or Startups** are eligible to apply. Large industrial partners cannot apply.

1.4 Can a proposal be submitted by a consortium?

No, applications submitted by consortia, joint applications, or groups of legal entities will be declared ineligible and will not be evaluated.

1.5 Can a startup apply for Open Call 2?

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**, along with other supporting documentation (e.g. 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. Can I still submit late via email or any other form?

No. Late submissions will not be accepted.

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-2-application/>. 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. Proposals must be written in English to a full extent. Any uploaded supporting documents must also be in English and will not be taken into consideration if submitted in any other language.

If any part of the proposal is written in any language other than English, the entire proposal will be rejected. English is the only official language during the whole procedure of the HEDGE-IoT Open Calls. Any requested deliverables and/or reports shall be submitted only in English, otherwise not accepted.

2.3 Can I submit multiple proposals?

No. Each applicant may submit only one proposal under Open Call 2, and each proposal must address only one topic. Applicants funded under Open Call 1 are not eligible to apply again.

If an applicant submits more than one proposal, all their applications will be declared ineligible. This approach ensures diversity and encourages broader participation in the program.

2.4 What documentation must be submitted with my proposal?

Applicants must upload the following as part of the submission:

- Technical Proposal (max. 10 pages, including all sections, abstract and cover pages)
- Declaration of Honor
- SME Declaration
- Supporting materials (optional - TRL justification)

2.5 Do I have to use the official Proposal Template?

Yes. All applicants must use the official Proposal Template available on <https://hedgeiot.eu/open-call-2/>. Proposals submitted outside the official template, or documents submitted in place of the required proposal template, will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.

2.6 Can I edit, reopen or resubmit my application after submitting it?

No. Applications submitted through the Open Calls Portal are final. No reopening, editing or resubmission will be possible at any stage, so applicants should carefully check that their application is complete and final before submission.

2.7 Where can I ask questions about the Open Call?

Questions must be posted in the Open Calls Portal Discussion section [here](#). Questions sent by email during the submission process will not be answered. This ensures that all applicants have equal access to the same information.

Questions posted during the final two weeks of the submission period will not be taken into consideration or answered. For Open Call 2, the final date for submitting questions is 7 August 2026.

2.8 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**

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

All proposals must **clearly align with one of the 14 Topics** described in the Guide for Applicants. Proposals not aligned with one unique topic will be considered **non-eligible**.

2.10 What does the Technical Proposal need to cover?

The Technical Proposal must cover Technical Quality, Impact, Quality of Work Plan, Intellectual Property & Ethical Issues and a Company Description. Applicants must describe their solution, alignment with the selected topic, objectives, concept, innovation potential, expected scientific/technological/economic impact, exploitation plan, work plan, deliverables, milestones, risks, resources, budget, an approach to IP management, ethical compliance, and absence of conflicts with consortium partners or pilot providers and a brief description of the legal entity, along with a short profile of the key individuals.

2.11 Are all sections of the Proposal Template evaluated?

Only Sections 1, 2 and 3 – Technical Quality, Impact, and Quality of Work Plan – are scored. Sections 4 and 5 (Intellectual Property & Ethical Issues and Company Description) are still mandatory and are used for eligibility verification, ethical compliance, intellectual property assessment and contractual preparation. Failure to complete mandatory sections may result in ineligibility.

2.12 Can budget inconsistencies affect the evaluation?

Yes. The Estimated Eligible Costs table and the budget justification must be fully consistent. Discrepancies, mismatches or insufficiently explained cost items may be flagged during evaluation and may lead to a penalty under the Quality of Work Plan criterion.

2.13 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.

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

Applicants may submit a redress request **within 5 business days of receiving their Evaluation Summary Report**. The redress procedure is not a re-evaluation and does not lead to a change of score, ranking or funding decision. It may only be used to request clarifications on how the evaluation result should be understood, how the evaluation procedure described in the Guide for Applicants was applied, or to report a clear administrative error. Disagreement with the evaluators' comments, scores or expert judgement does not constitute grounds for redress. The evaluators' judgement and the awarded scores are final.

3. PROJECT EXECUTION

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

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

Applicants should note that selection following the evaluation process is provisional and does not automatically constitute a final grant award. The final award of financial support is subject to the successful completion of all required legal, administrative and financial checks, the submission and validation of all requested supporting documents, and the signature of the Sub-Grant Agreement between the selected applicant and the HEDGE-IoT project.

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.