



## **CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST TO PARTICIPATE IN THE IMPORTANT PROJECT OF COMMON EUROPEAN INTEREST ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (IPCEI-AI)**

Luxembourg, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026

### **1. Context**

The European Union aims to enhance European competitiveness and to strengthen the technological sovereignty and resilience of its industrial base.

To achieve these objectives, its Member States intend to collectively leverage advanced technologies, in particular artificial intelligence (AI).

Through the [AI Continent Action Plan](#) and the [Apply AI Strategy](#) published in 2025, the European Commission has defined several strategic priorities along the entire AI value chain, including the needs to:

- provide access to high-quality datasets to European developers;
- facilitate and stimulate the development of European AI solutions;
- encourage the adoption of European AI solutions, in particular in strategic sectors.

Within this framework, Luxembourg is willing to support the participation of its national AI stakeholders in the Important Project of Common European Interest on Artificial Intelligence (IPCEI-AI), which is currently under preparation at the European level.

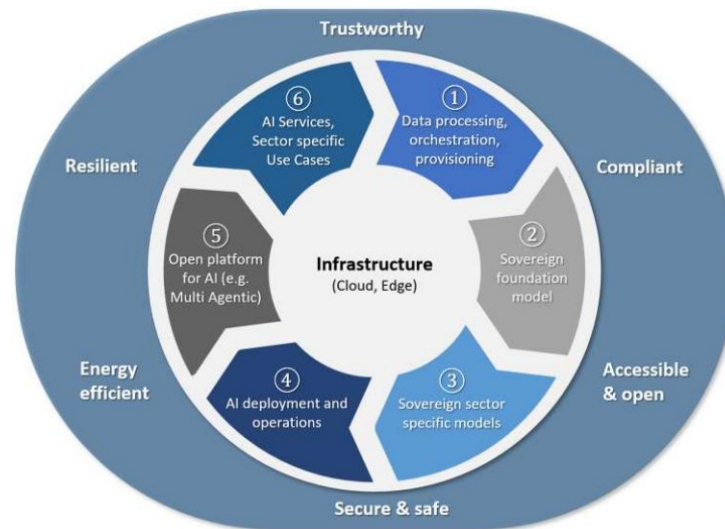
### **2. Scope**

The present call for expressions of interest aims to identify projects led by entities established in Luxembourg that could potentially be integrated into the IPCEI-AI ambition.

IPCEIs constitute an instrument enabling Member States, under strict conditions, **to support transnational research, development and innovation (RDI) projects that are highly strategic, disruptive, and high-risk (e.g. first of a kind), and that make a significant contribution to the objectives outlined above.**

### **3. Topics**

The [Value-Chain Description](#) document details the elements of the value chain that will be supported under the IPCEI-AI framework. These elements are briefly listed below.



- **Data processing, orchestration and provisioning:**  
Data processing services consist of foundational system components that manage, process, and deliver data for AI models. They cover data collection, transfer, storage, labelling, transformation, and access in order to ensure high-quality and scalable inputs for model training and inference.
- **Sovereign foundation models (LLM/LRM):**  
Large foundation models are advanced machine-learning systems containing billions of parameters, designed to perform complex tasks such as language understanding, image generation, and problem solving across multiple domains.
- **Sovereign industry-specific foundation models (SFM):**  
Industry-specific foundation models can deliver decisive differentiation and competitive advantages for specific industrial sectors.
- **AI deployment and operations (AI Ops):**  
Deployment and operations encompass the end-to-end process of bringing AI models into production and managing them throughout their lifecycle, including maintenance, monitoring, and continuous updates. These activities may be delivered through various means, such as cloud-based services.
- **Open platform for AI:**  
An open AI platform refers to a software or infrastructure ecosystem designed to be accessible, extensible, and typically based on open-source code. It enables developers, researchers, and organisations to build, deploy, experiment with, and share AI models and tools, either on-premises or via cloud services.
- **AI services and sector-specific use cases:**  
AI services and applications are systems built on foundation models using AI techniques—such



as machine learning, natural language processing, or computer vision—to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence.

#### 4. Eligibility

The present call for expressions of interest aims to identify projects promoted by organisations established in Luxembourg that could be included into integrated projects forming part of the IPCEI-AI.

Those organisations will not be in the position to participate as direct beneficiaries of the IPCEI. Their participation will be limited to the role of associated partners, contributing to the objectives of the IPCEI through collaborative activities with direct partners.

Luxembourg-based organisations may be considered for inclusion in an IPCEI-AI project provided that they demonstrate effective cross-border collaboration with at least three independent organisations participating in the IPCEI-AI, including at least one direct participant. Such collaboration shall be of a genuine and substantial nature and must contribute to the achievement of the common European objective pursued by the IPCEI.

In accordance with the IPCEI framework, activities carried out by direct participants are subject to a coordinated notification (or pre-notification) to the European Commission pursuant to Article 107(3)(b) TFEU. By contrast, activities implemented by Luxembourg-based associated partners will not form part of the notified IPCEI aid package and will instead be supported, where applicable, under national funding schemes in compliance with the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) and the applicable national legal framework.

Companies identified under this call for expressions of interest may be eligible for public support for research and development activities pursuant to Article 5 (“Aid for research and development projects”) of the Law of 6 June 2025 on the renewal of RDI aid schemes [1].

Applicant companies requesting public support must comply with:

- the general eligibility conditions laid down in the RDI law [1]; and
- the specific eligibility and compatibility conditions of the relevant aid scheme under which the support is granted [2].



Eligible activities shall be limited to *industrial research*<sup>1</sup> and/or *experimental development*<sup>2</sup>, as defined in Article 2 of the RDI law [1], and must be consistent with the scope, objectives and technological domains addressed by this call and the IPCEI-AI.

The maximum aid intensities applicable to companies are as follows:

Maximum aid intensities	Large company	Medium company	Small company
Experimental development	45%	55%	65%
Industrial research	65%	75%	80%

**The above aid intensities includes a top-up of 25%** that is subject to the conditions set out in Article 5(5)(5°) of the RDI law [1]. Such an increase may be granted where the project involves effective collaboration between undertakings or entails significant cross-border cooperation and dissemination of results, in line with the applicable State aid rules.

---

<sup>1</sup> 'industrial research' means the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or aimed at bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services, including digital products, processes or services, in any area, technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies, such as super-computing, quantum technologies, block chain technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data and cloud technologies).

Industrial research comprises the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.

<sup>2</sup> 'experimental development' means acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services, including digital products, processes or services, in any area, technology, industry or sector (including, but not limited to, digital industries and technologies, such as for example super-computing, quantum technologies, block chain technologies, artificial intelligence, cyber security, big data and cloud or edge technologies). This may also encompass, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services.

Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.

Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.



## 5. Assessment

The projects will be assessed based on their:

- alignment with the objectives of the IPCEI-AI and the Luxembourg AI strategy
- significant level of innovation, including advance on state of the art
- opportunities for spillover and dissemination in Luxembourg and abroad
- potential for effective and international collaboration

## 6. Procedure for the Submission of Expression of Interests

Applicants are invited to submit the “IPCEI-AI Project Description Template.docx” describing their position within the value chain, their specific area of interest among the six topics listed above (see Section 3. Topics), as well as a high-level outline of their potential industrial project and contribution.

Submissions should be sent to the following email address, which also serves as the contact point for this call:

[IPCEI-AI@eco.etat.lu](mailto:IPCEI-AI@eco.etat.lu)

Any questions related to this call for expression of interest may be sent to the above-mentioned address.

Completed expressions of interest must be received by the Ministry of the Economy no later than **Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026, end of day**.

Expressions of interest submitted by Luxembourg-based entities are non-binding and do not constitute a formal application for State aid.

---

## References

[1] [Law of 6 June 2025 on the promotion of research, development and innovation](#)

[2] <https://quichet.public.lu/en/entreprises/financement-aides/aides-recherche-developpement/rdi/aides-rdi.html>