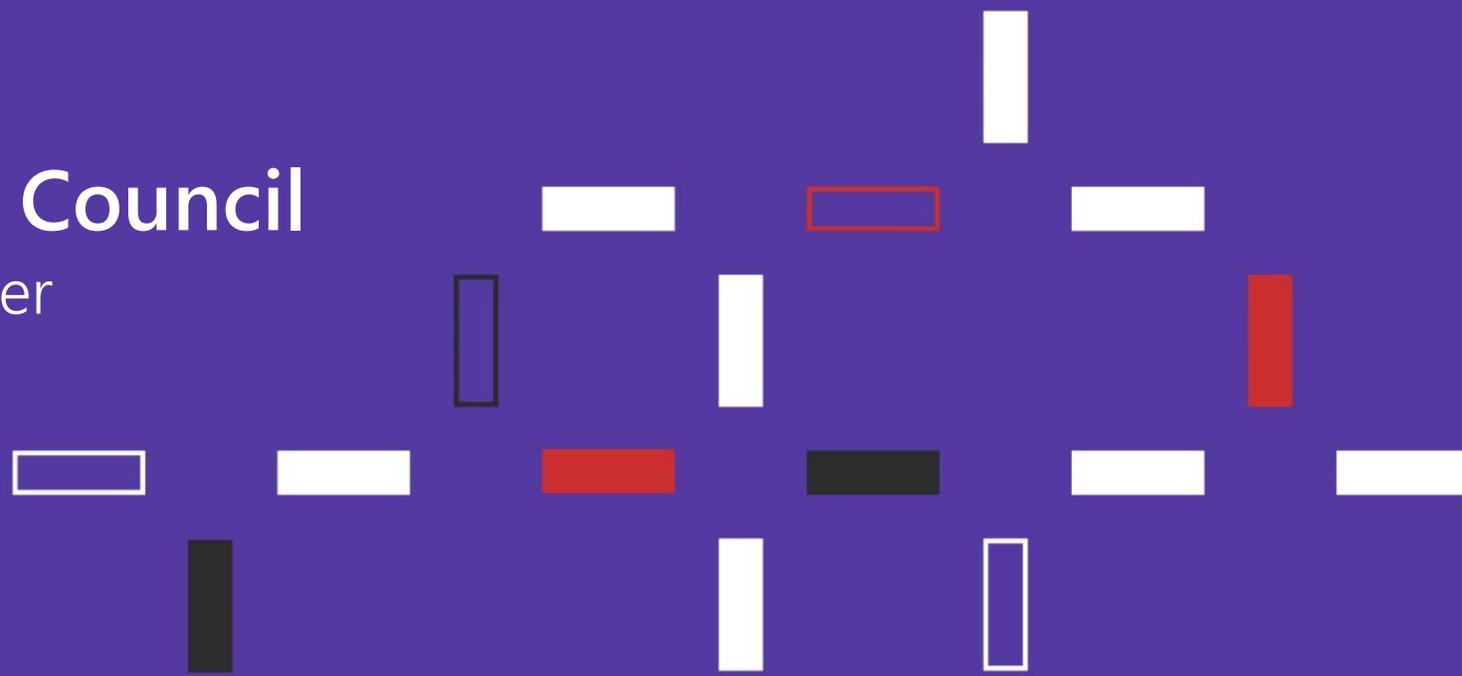




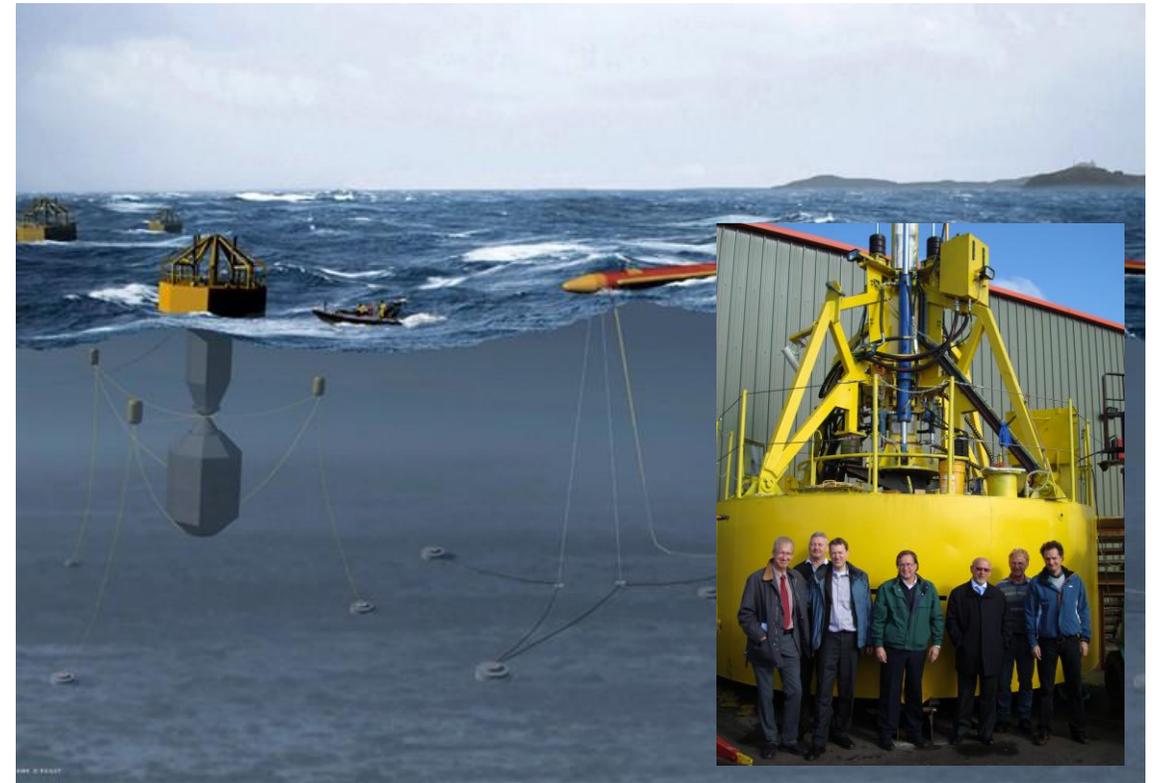
# Backing visionary entrepreneurs

The European Innovation Council

Franc Mouwen, Programme Manager



# My own experiences with ocean energy



# My own experiences with ocean energy



... some wave tech also helped other sectors

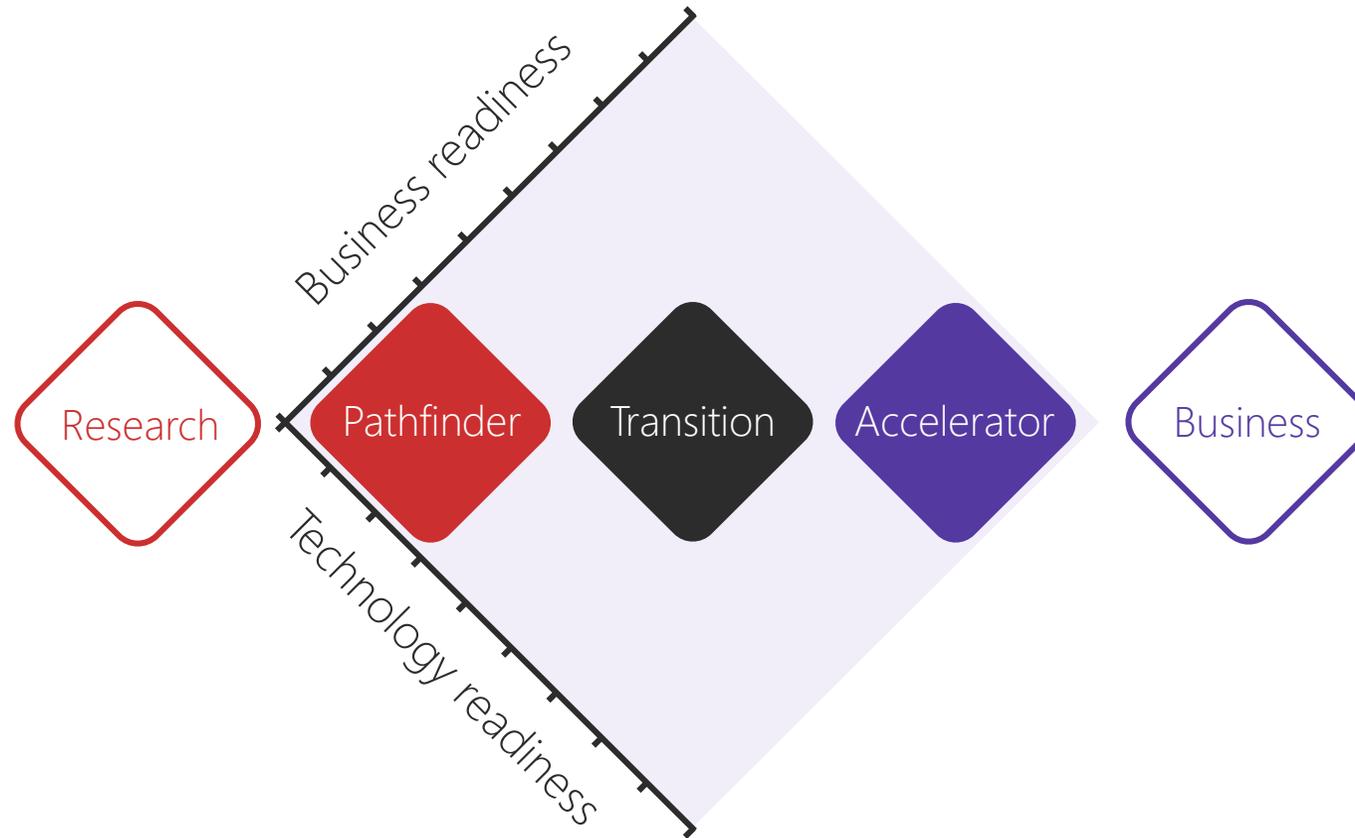
European  
Innovation  
Council



# EIC Work Programme 2026: Instruments



**WHAT?**

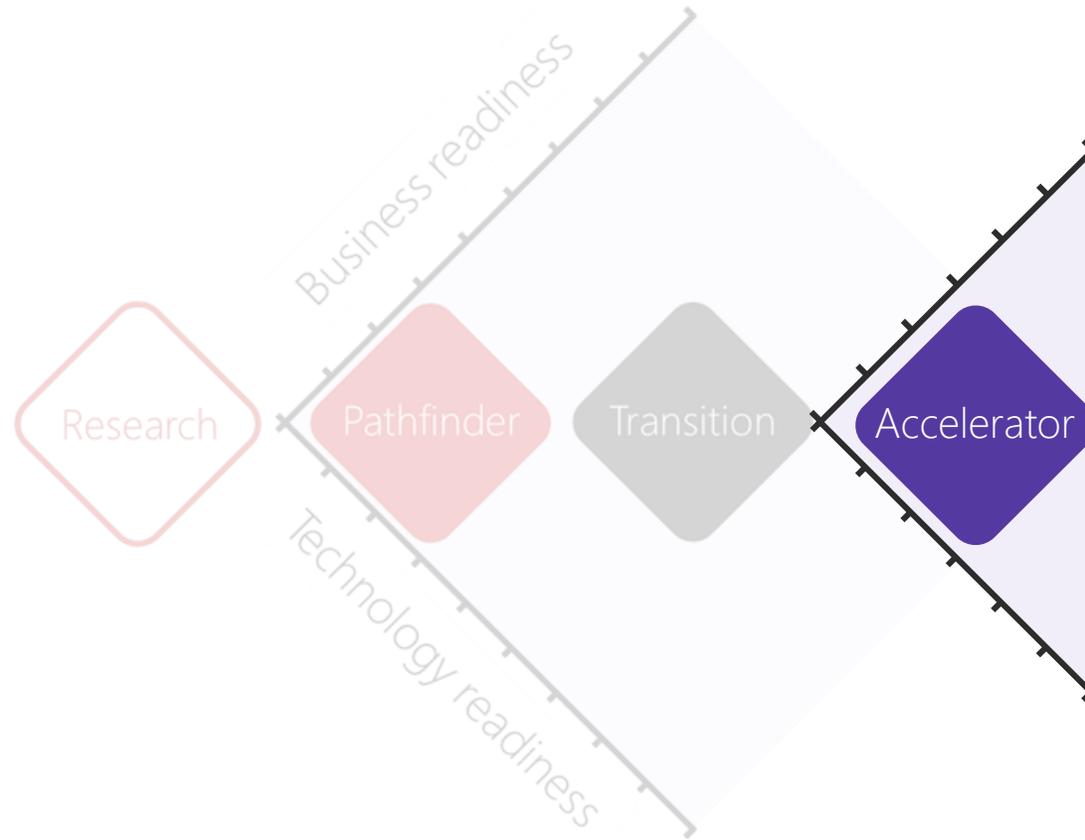


**WHY?**

# EC: other (non-dilutive, dilutive) instruments

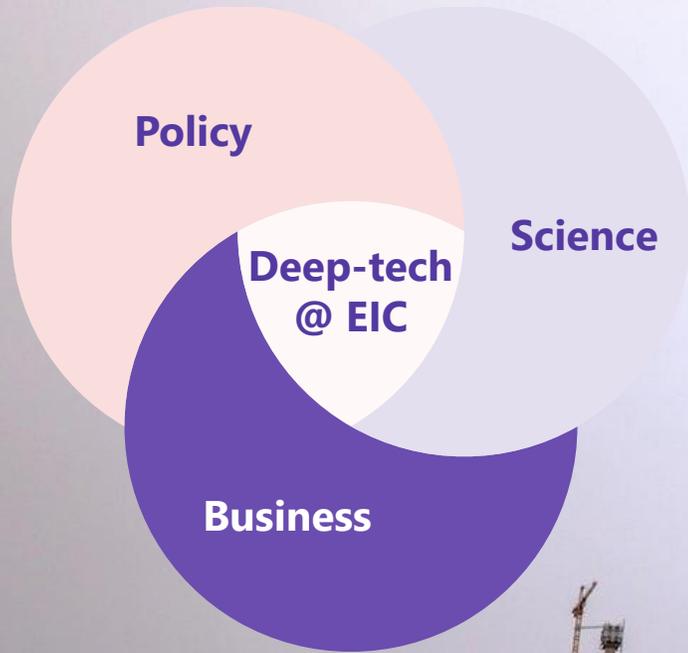
Eur  
Inv

WHAT?



- EIC STEP scale-up (equity)
- Innovation Fund
- InvestEU
- EIB venture debt
- EIB loans (FOAK, project)
- LIFE
- Horizon Pillar 2 (clusters)
- Etc.

# EIC Deep Tech: Bridging the Gaps



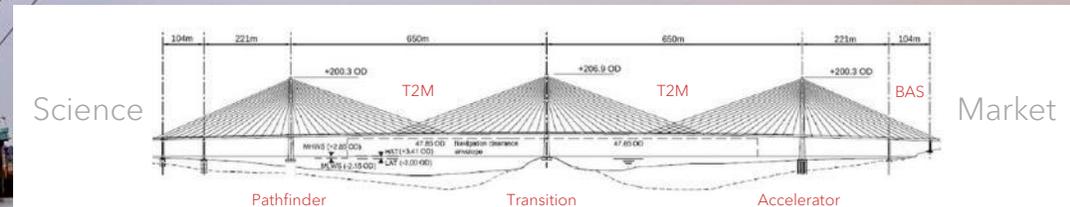
**BAS**  
Business  
Acceleration  
Services



Transition

Accelerator

**T2M**  
Tech2Market



Pathfinder

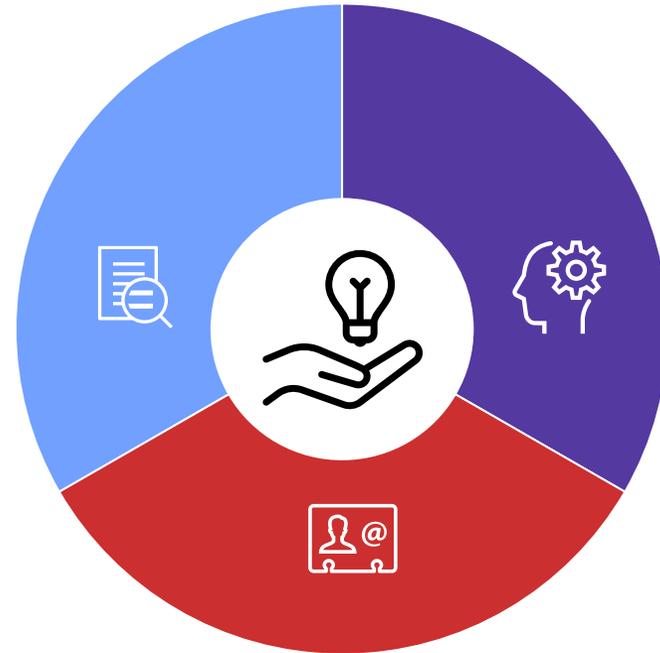
# EIC Work Programme 2026: BAS Services



## Contracts

Business creation with:

-  Corporates
-  Investors
-  Innovation buyers
-  Trade Fairs
-  EIC Scaling Club



## Skills

-  Tech 2 Market
-  Women Leadership Programme
-  Coaching

## Contacts

-  Ecosystem Partners Service catalogue
-  XIR – Entrepreneurs in residents
-  Soft Landing



**Orsolya Symmons**  
*Health and Biotechnology*

**Hedi Karray**  
*Artificial Intelligence*

**Federica Zanca**  
*Medical imaging and AI in healthcare*

**Isabel Obieta**  
*Sustainable Semiconductors*

**Stella Tkatchova**  
*Space systems & technologies*

**Samira Nik**  
*Quantum tech & electronics*

**Franc Mouwen**  
*Architecture engineering construction technologies*

**Ivan Stefanic**  
*Food chain technologies, novel & sustainable food*

**Paolo Bondavalli**  
*Advanced materials for energy*

**Carina Faber**  
*Renewable energy conversion & alternative resource exploitation*

**EIC  
PROGRAMME  
MANAGERS**



What are the main elements?

Budget: €1.4 bn

5 main funding schemes

**EIC PATHFINDER** < €262 million  
*Funding for early-stage technology research and development*

GRANTS PER PROJECT < €4 max

Open: apply by 12.05.2026 < €166

Challenges: apply by 28.10.2026 < €96

FROM TRL 1-2 TO REACH TRL 3-4

**EIC TRANSITION** < €100 million  
*Funding for technology validation and commercialisation*

GRANTS PER PROJECT < €2.5 max

Open: apply by 16.09.2026

FROM TRL 3-4 TO REACH TRL 5-6

**EIC ACCELERATOR** < €634 million  
*Funding for commercialisation and scale-up*

OPEN < €414

CHALLENGES < €220

Batches  
 7.01.2026 | 4.03.2026 | 6.05.2026 |  
 8.07.2026 | 2.09.2026 | 4.11.2026

GRANTS PER COMPANY < €2.5 max

EQUITY INVESTMENT PER COMPANY < €10 max

FROM TRL 4 TO TRL 9

**STEP SCALE-UP** < €300 million  
*Equity investments to catalyse larger investments rounds of €50 million or above to companies with pre-commitments from investors*

INVESTMENT < €30 max

Open: batches  
 11.02.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 9.09.2026 |  
 25.11.2026

**NEW SCHEME** **EIC ADVANCED INNOVATION CHALLENGES**  
*To support high-risk, demand-driven deep tech innovation with transformative potential especially in areas where there is extensive research but lack of commercial uptake.*

2026	€6m	26.02.2026	• First stage grants up to €0.3m
2027	€25m	18.06.2027	• Follow-up grant up to €2.5m

\* The total budget consists of the programme parts highlighted in the factsheet, along with several other actions, bringing the total budget to €1.4 billion.

**BUSINESS ACCELERATION SERVICES**

For all EIC awardees, as well as selected applicants:

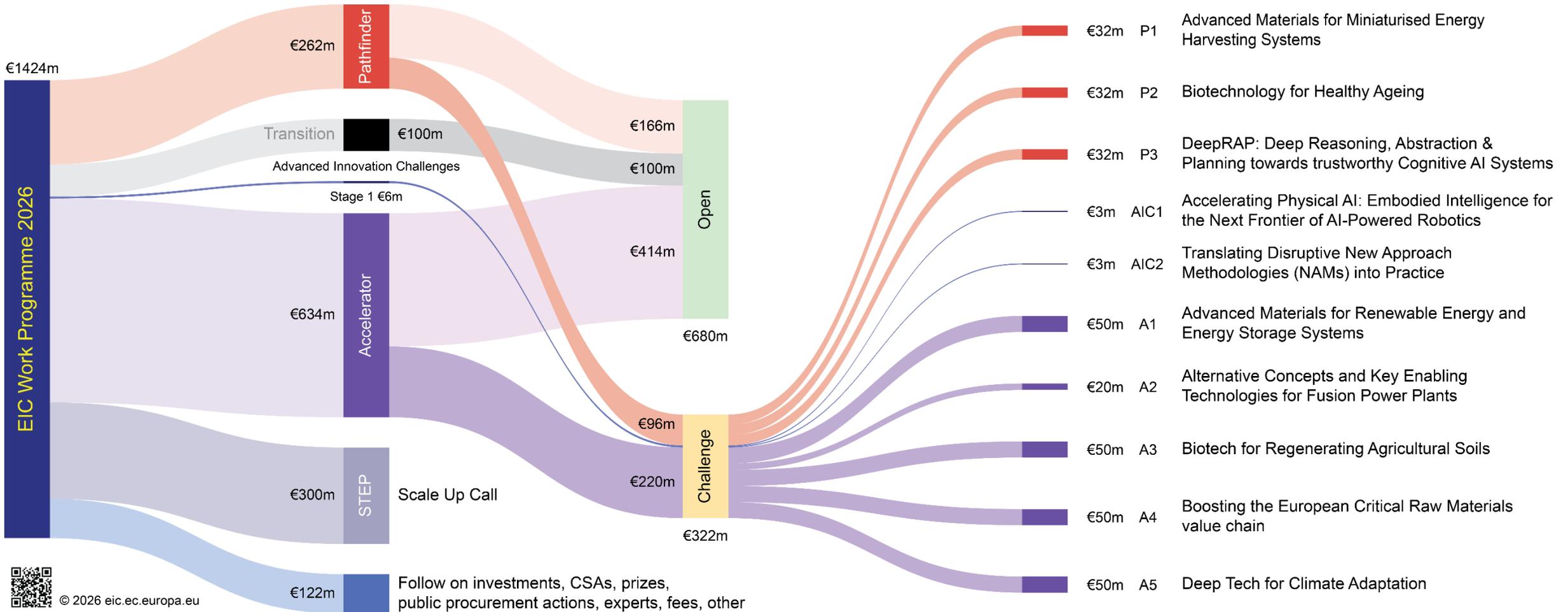
- Access to **coaches, mentors, expertise** and **training**
- **Access to global partners:** leading corporates, investors, procurers, distributors, clients
- Access to **innovation ecosystem and peers**
- **Support** to test EIC innovations for potential clients

**APPLY NOW**



[eic.ec.europa.eu](http://eic.ec.europa.eu)

# EIC Work Programme 2026: budget



# Accelerator: what are we looking for?



**Start-ups and SMEs** seeking to **scale-up** high impact innovations with the **potential to create new markets** or disrupt existing one

Innovation building on scientific discovery or technological breakthroughs  
(„**deep tech**“)

Innovations where **significant funding** is needed over a **long timeframe** and are **too risky** for private investors alone

# Accelerator: funding options



## Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

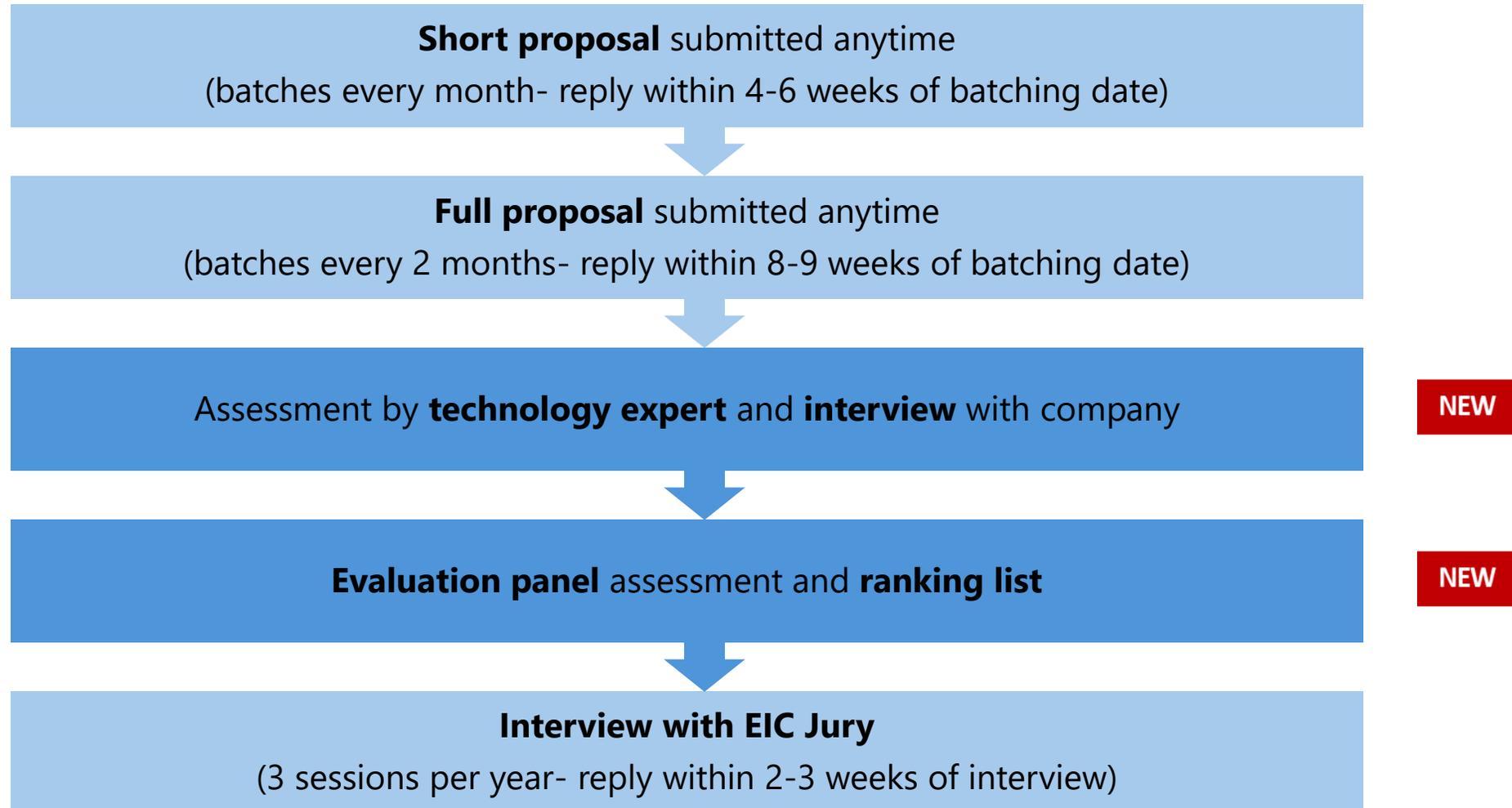
## Grant & Investment

If you need support for development (TRL 6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

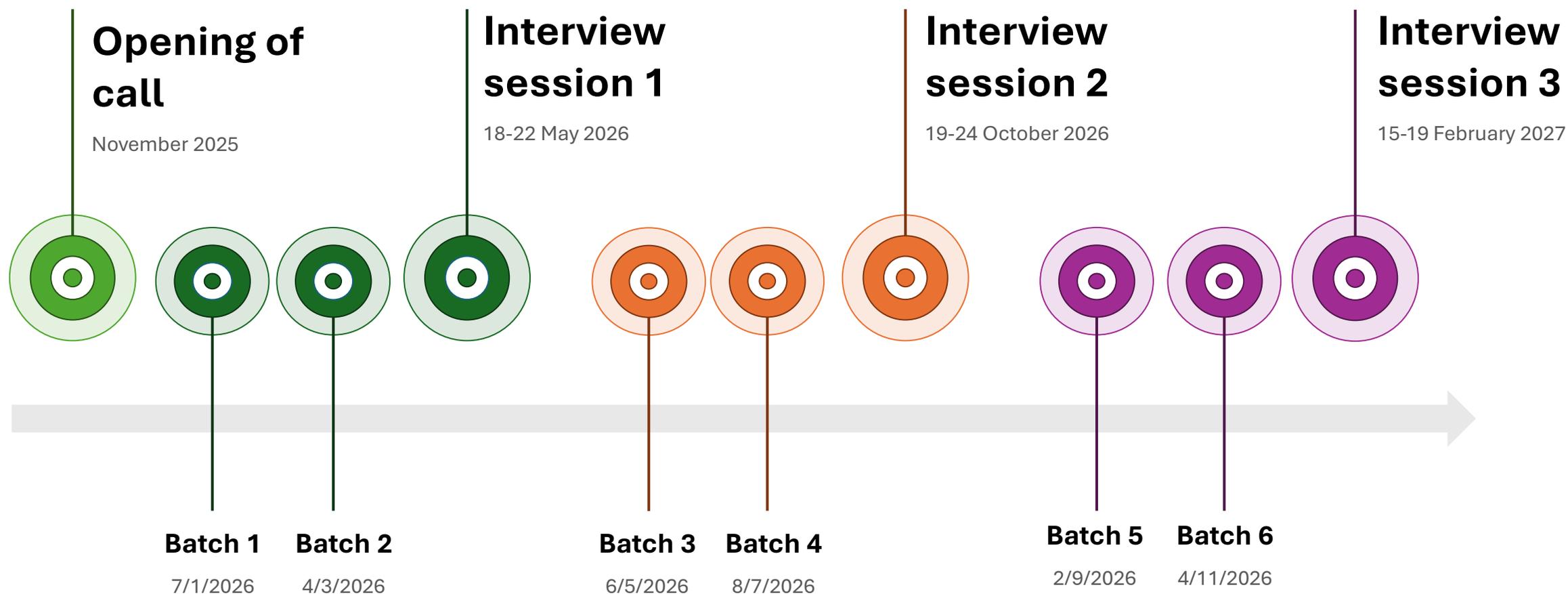
## Investment only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant

# Accelerator: workflow and indicative timing



# Accelerator: timeline of batches and interviews



# More information on EIC website

