

Autonomous vessels in short sea shipping and inland waterways

Horizon Europe

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● PENDING

Code

HORIZON-CL5-2027-03-D5-16

Scope

International

Location

Europe

Curator

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Financial Details

Support type

Non-Refundable

Maximum Funding Rate

100%

Budget

15M€

Eligible Project Value

Up to 7.5M€

Dates & Deadlines

Publication Date

October 5, 2026

Opening Date

December 15, 2026

Fase única

April 14, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+2

Description

Objectives

This incentive seeks to accelerate the market adoption and large-scale deployment of Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) in Europe. The main objectives are to demonstrate the technological readiness and commercial viability of both remotely controlled and fully autonomous vessels, thereby strengthening European leadership in waterborne autonomy. Projects must include demonstration activities for at least two types of remotely controlled vessels and fully autonomous operations on both short-sea shipping and inland waterway vessels. Eligible entities are primarily industry consortia, including shipyards, equipment manufacturers and providers located and/or manufacturing in the EU and EEA. Applicants are expected to drive advancements in navigation, safety, cybersecurity, data management, and integrate ongoing legal and regulatory processes. Ensuring upskilling and training for port and vessel operators is a key requirement.

Funding

Funding is provided through a Horizon Europe Innovation Action (IA) , implemented as a lump sum grant. According to the Work Programme information currently available, the topic has an indicative budget of EUR 15 million , with the European Commission expecting to fund two projects , corresponding to an indicative EU contribution of approximately EUR 7.5 million per project . Applicants may nevertheless request different amounts if adequately justified. The funding rate follows the standard rules for Horizon Europe Innovation Actions, with up to 70% of eligible costs for for-profit entities and up to 100% for non-profit organisations , plus applicable indirect costs.

Eligible Expenses

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs

Eligibility

Application Mode

Consortium / Copromotion

Eligible Sectors

- Blue Economy
- Mobility & Transport
- Industry
- ICT & Software
- Energy & Environment

Company Typologies

- SME
- Large
- Public entities
- Private non-profit entities

Action Types

- Technology demonstration
- Pilot project
- R&D
- Training and upskilling
- Integration of legal/regulatory frameworks

- Economic modeling
- Innovation Action

EU Programme Details

Call ID

HORIZON-CL5-2027-03-D5-16

Cluster

5 – Climate, Energy and Mobility

Destination

D5. Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes

Submission Mode

Single-stage

EU Contribution

Around €7,500,000.00 per project

Expected Projects

2

Funding Rate Rule

Up to 100% of eligible costs for non-profit entities;
up to 70% for for-profit participants

Official Links

Official Regulation

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2027-03-D5-16?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=relevance&keywords=HORIZON-CL5-2027-03-D5-16&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503>

Grantavia page

<https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/autonomous-vessels-in-short-sea-shipping-and-inland-waterways>

Schedule a meeting

<https://calendly.com/sandra-cardoso-epsa/reuniao>