

EU Frontier AI Initiative: Developing frontier AI solutions that are safe and computationally efficient within Apply AI (RIA)

Horizon Europe

● PENDING

Code

HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11

Scope

International

Location

Europe

Curator

Marlene Faria

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type

Non-Refundable

Maximum Funding Rate

100%

Budget

44M€

Eligible Project Value

Up to 44M€

DATES & DEADLINES

Publication Date

Not defined

Opening Date

November 17, 2026

Phase 1

March 18, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+1

DESCRIPTION

Objectives

This call focuses on reinforcing the EU's capabilities and leadership in the development of frontier artificial intelligence (AI) models that are both safe and computationally efficient. The incentive aims to consolidate European excellence in AI by advancing the creation of sovereign AI architectures and embedding safety by design into next-generation models. It actively seeks participation from the European AI research community, supporting legal entities established in EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, and several associated countries, with restrictions on entities controlled by non-eligible countries, notably China. The program prioritizes initiatives bringing together leading actors in AI to further the EU's strategic interests, autonomy, and security.

Funding

Projects are funded as Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) under Horizon Europe. The maximum indicative EU contribution is around 44,000,000 EUR for the supported project, with one grant expected to be funded per topic. The maximum co-financing rate is 100% of eligible costs, consistent with Horizon Europe RIA rules. The total call budget is 44,000,000 EUR. Applicant consortia are responsible for compliance with detailed eligibility rules regarding ownership and control from third countries, as well as detailed documentation required for grant signature.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

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

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode

Consortium / Copromotion

Eligible Sectors

- Industry
- ICT & Software

Company Typologies

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

Action Types

- Research and innovation on frontier artificial intelligence models
- Development of safe-by-design AI systems
- Methods to reduce computational demands in AI
- AI safety, alignment, robustness, and interpretability research
- Benchmarking and progress monitoring
- Cohesion and partnership activities across European AI networks

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID	Cluster
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11	4. Digital, Industry and Space
Destination	Submission Mode
D3. Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies	Single-stage
EU Contribution	Expected Projects
around 44 000 000 EUR	1
Funding Rate Rule	
Up to 100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)	

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&keywords=HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503>

Grantavia page

<https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/eu-frontier-ai-initiative-developing-frontier-ai-solutions-that-are-safe-and-computationally-efficient-within-apply-ai-ria>

Schedule a meeting

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