

Wind Energy R&I industrialisation, scale-up and demonstration at large scale

Horizon Europe

CODE	HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D3-03	SCOPE	International
LOCATION	Europe	STATUS	Open
PROGRAM	Horizon Europe	CURATED BY	Maria Macedo
GENERATED AT	June 8, 2026		

Financial Details

SUPPORT TYPE	Non-Refundable	MAXIMUM FUNDING RATE	100%
BUDGET	93M€	ELIGIBLE PROJECT VALUE	Up to 93M€

Dates & Deadlines

PUBLICATION DATE	Not defined	OPENING DATE	May 5, 2026
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Application Phases

- Deadline: September 15, 2026 at 04:00 PM (100 days left)

Objectives

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The main objective of this incentive is to advance research and innovation in wind energy, directly supporting the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan's priorities for the sector. Eligible entities include research organizations, academia, start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs, industries, and other public or private actors. The action targets improvements

in wind energy technology efficiency, flexibility, reliability, and sustainability, while aiming to reduce costs and environmental impact. Cooperation among actors is emphasized to avoid fragmentation and encourage the alignment of efforts, with a key focus on both energy producers and consumers achieving benefits throughout the wind farm lifecycle.

Project Typologies

Projects may be structured into three main challenges: breakthrough, validation, and demonstration. The eligible expense categories include direct research and innovation activities (such as automation, AI integration, digitalisation, and advanced materials), validation and demonstration of innovative technologies (including large-scale testing, grid integration, and sustainability solutions), and activities supporting environmental and social impact assessments. Specific eligible expenses are:

- Mass production supported by automation and robust supply chains
- Digitalisation and deployment of AI in both industrial and operational environments
- Development and validation of advanced repair, maintenance, and sensor solutions
- Grid integration, energy storage, and hybrid plant solutions
- Material substitution, recycling, and circularity-focused activities
- Floating offshore wind technology development
- Upgrade and development of wind energy infrastructure and test centres
- Assessment of environmental, climate, and social impacts
- Activities supporting stakeholder engagement and public participation
- Emerging and innovative wind energy system technologies

Financing

The total maximum EU funding for demonstration activities under this call is EUR 50 million. Up to EUR 8 million may be allocated to the breakthrough challenge and up to EUR 16 million to validation through financial support to third parties (FSTP). The budget for project management is typically expected not to exceed 7% of total EU funding. Project co-financing is aligned with Horizon Europe rules. Projects must implement at least three demonstration activities, each with a clear, distinct focus, and demonstrated for a continuous period of at least six months. Supported FSTP projects should have a relatively short duration (12-18 months).

Constraints

The maximum project duration is expected to be around 5 years. Each demonstration activity must include a go/no-go milestone requiring proof of permits, detailed engineering plans, and a business implementation plan. Supported actions must contribute to achieving technological readiness levels (TRL) 6-8 by the project's end. Monitoring of progress will rely on high-level and technology-specific KPIs as defined by SET Plan stakeholders. Proper financial management and risk mitigation plans are mandatory, with special attention to the demonstration activities' timely go-decision. Governance requires periodic evaluation of FSTP calls and selection criteria, set by the project consortium in accordance with EU rules. A clear pathway for permit acquisition, financial closure, and a transparent methodology for calls and competitions are essential requirements.

Eligible Expenses

- Personnel costs
- Equipment
- Subcontracting
- Travel and subsistence
- Financial support to third parties (FSTP)
- Other goods, works and services

- Indirect costs

Eligibility

Eligible Sectors

- Industry
- Energy & Environment
- Other

Company Sizes

- Micro
- Sme
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Large
- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities

Action Types

- Innovation actions
- Demonstration activities
- Validation activities
- Financial support to third parties

EU Programme Details

CALL ID

HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D3-03

CLUSTER

5 – Climate, Energy and Mobility

DESTINATION

Destination 3 – Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply

EU CONTRIBUTION

93000000

FUNDING RATE RULE

Up to 70% for Innovation Actions (up to 100% for non-profit entities only)

Official Links

Official Regulation: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D3-03>

Grantavia page: <https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/wind-energy-ri-industrialisation-scale-up-and-demonstration-at-large-scale>

Schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/ines-carreira-fi-group/reuniao>