



AI-BOOST

Delivering the next level of European
AI Open competitions

LARGE AI GRAND CHALLENGE

CALL FOR EXPERTS - EVALUATORS

 AI-BOOST CONSORTIUM

#	Participant organisation name	Short name	Country
1	ZABALA INNOVATION CONSULTING, S.A.	ZABALA	Spain
2	F6S NETWORK IRELAND LIMITED	F6S	Ireland
3	CINECA CONSORZIO INTERUNIVERSITARIO	CINECA	Italy
4	INESC TEC- INSTITUTO DE ENGENHARIADE SISTEMAS E COMPUTADORES, TECNOLOGIA E CIENCIA	INESC TEC	Portugal
5	UNIVERZITA PAVLA JOZEFA SAFARIKA V KOSICIACH	UPJS	Slovakia
6	EIT DIGITAL	EIT DIGITAL	Belgium
7	UNIVERSIDAD POMPEU FABRA	UPF	Spain



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ABBREVIATIONS

EM	Evaluator Manager
EP	Evaluation Panel
ESR	Evaluation Summary Report
HPC	High-Performance Computing
EuroHPC JU	The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking

1 ABOUT THE CHALLENGE

The Large AI Grand Challenge, part of the AI-BOOST EU-funded project, aims to foster the development of large-scale AI models within Europe, bridging the gap between European companies and the forefront of the AI revolution. By incentivizing innovative startups to undertake ambitious projects and strategies, this challenge serves as a cornerstone for strengthening Europe's stance in AI domain.

The Large AI Grand Challenge targets the establishment of up to 4 foundational language models that excel beyond existing state-of-the-art systems across various tasks. These models are expected to harness the capabilities of High-Performance Computing (HPC), specifically utilizing the EuroHPC JU targeted facilities, such as the LUMI or Leonardo supercomputers.

2 INVITATION FOR EVALUATORS

We cordially invite experts in the fields of High-Performance Computing (HPC) and/or Large AI Models/System to become part of our esteemed Evaluation Panel for the Large AI Grand Challenge. As a member of the panel, you will play a crucial role in:

- Approving Applications;
- Evaluating the technical and strategic merit of each application;
- Preparing the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) with the consolidated results and final score. If appointed as Evaluator Manager (rapporteur) for a specific proposal(s);
- Participating in internal evaluation meeting and the final meeting;
- Providing the final ranking/scores.

3 WHAT DO YOU GET IN RETURN?

The selected external experts will be paid for their time and work in the evaluation process. A contract will be signed between the evaluator and the coordinator of the AI-BOOST project (ZABALA).

- Each external expert is expected to evaluate up to 6–9 proposals;
- Each external expert will **receive 90€** per full application evaluated;
- External Experts acting as Evaluator Manager (EM) will receive an **extra 30€** per application acting as EM;
- External Experts involved in the technical assessment will receive an **extra 30€** per application;
- Evaluators will have **10 business days** to complete the whole evaluation process.

4 ELIGIBILITY

Registration is open to experts from European member states and associated countries within the Horizon Europe framework (such as the UK, Norway, etc.).

We are looking for experts in the fields of High-Performance Computing (HPC) and/or Large AI Models/System.

Strong proficiency in English, especially in writing and reading, is mandatory.

5 EXCLUSION

Persons who are subject to EU administrative sanctions (i.e., exclusion or financial penalty decision)¹ or in one of the following exclusion situations that bar them from receiving EU funds can NOT work as experts:

- bankruptcy, winding up, court-ordered administration, arrangement with creditors, suspension of business activities or similar procedures
- in breach of social security or tax obligations
- guilty of grave professional misconduct²
- committed fraud, corruption, links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking
- shown significant deficiencies in complying with main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar
- guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No [2988/95](#)
- have created an entity under a different jurisdiction with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin.

Experts will also be refused if it turns out that³:

- during the contract award procedure, they misrepresented information required as a condition for participating or failed to supply that information.
- they are in a conflict of interest.

6 COMPOSITION OF THE EVALUATION PANEL

- The panel will be composed of an odd number of experts, ranging from three (3) to nine (9) members, each possessing a voting right.
- The panel members will be appointed jointly by AI-BOOST and EuroHPC JU.

¹ See Article 136 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July 2018 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No 1296/2013, (EU) No 1301/2013, (EU) No 1303/2013, (EU) No 1304/2013, (EU) No 1309/2013, (EU) No 1316/2013, (EU) No 223/2014, (EU) No 283/2014, and Decision No 541/2014/EU and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 966/2012 ('EU Financial Regulation') (OJ L 193, 30.7.2018, p. 1).

² Professional misconduct includes: violation of ethical standards of the profession, wrongful conduct with impact on professional credibility, false declarations/misrepresentation of information, participation in a cartel or other agreement distorting competition, violation of IPR, attempting to influence decision-making processes or obtain confidential information from public authorities to gain advantage.

³ See Article 141 EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

- A representative from AI-BOOST or EuroHPC JU will chair the panel, without any voting rights to maintain impartiality.
- It is imperative that the panel consists solely of individuals who are not affiliated with any of the contest participants.
- At least one-third of the panel members shall have extensive experience in leading-class HPC systems and their use as main expertise area, while another third shall be experts in large AI systems.
- All decisions made by the Panel shall be considered binding and final on the participant, in all phases of the challenge.

7 EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluation process is divided into 5 steps:

1. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT
2. TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT
3. SCIENTIFIC ASSESSMENT (including internal meetings, if required)
4. PANEL MEETING AND FINAL RANKING

The work of the external evaluators will be in **Step 2**, when about 20 proposals have been shortlisted by the AI-BOOST consortium and member from LEONARDO and LUMI in Step 1, and in **Step 4**.

Members from the hosting institutions LEONARDO and LUMI will be involved in Step 2 and Step 3.

For more details on the evaluation process, check the Guidelines for Applicants.

8 TIMELINE

- **Call for Evaluators:** The opening of the first call for proposals is 4th December 2023.
- **Submission Deadline:** submitted electronically via F6S Platform (accessible <https://www.f6s.com/evaluators-ai-boost-open-call/apply>) before Thursday, 11th January 2024, 17:00 Brussels time.
- **Evaluation Period:** The whole evaluation process will take from the 17 of January 2024 to the 18 of March 2024. However, specific timeline will be provided to the selected external evaluators. The evaluation process might be shorter and start earlier if the pre-screening process is not required.

9 HOW TO APPLY?

Applicants are invited to register, create a user profile, and complete the full application form, prepare the required supporting documents, and submit them via the F6S platform:

<https://www.f6s.com/evaluators-ai-boost-open-call/apply>

The F6S platform accessible through AI-BOOST website (<https://aiboost-project.eu/>).

All proposals must be fully completed and submitted via F6S platform before the deadline (see point 8)

Main steps required:

- Registration via F6S platform
- Dully complete the application form (all mandatory fields must be completed) available at <https://www.f6s.com/evaluators-ai-boost-open-call/apply>
- Attach your CV
- Submit the application form before the deadline (<https://www.f6s.com/evaluators-ai-boost-open-call/apply>).

10 SELECTION CRITERIA FOR EVALUATORS

- Proven expertise in High-Performance Computing (HPC) or large-scale AI systems.
- Ability to commit to the assessment timelines and participate actively in panel discussions.
- Demonstrable experience in evaluating technical projects or research proposals (bonus points).

We look forward to your expertise and contribution in shaping the future of AI in Europe. Together, let's embark on a journey to recognize and reward innovative solutions that have the potential to redefine the AI landscape.

For any inquiries related to the application process, please contact info@aiboost-project.eu.

AI-BOOST & EuroHPC JU

APPENDIX A: APPLICATION FORM

(A) PERSONAL DETAILS

- Full Name: _____
- Date of Birth: dd/mm/yyyy
- Nationality: _____
- Current Organization: _____
- Position/Title: _____
- Email Address: _____@_____.
- Contact Number: _____

(B) EXPERTISE DETAILS

- Primary Area of Expertise: (Choose one: High-Performance Computing (HPC) / Large-Scale AI Systems) _____
- Years of Experience in Chosen Area: _____
- List of Relevant Publications/Projects: (Attach additional sheets if necessary)
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

(C) TECHNICAL EXPERTISE & EXPERIENCE IN AI RESEARCH & IMPLEMENTATION

Please mark the statements that align with your background and expertise.

- **HPC Systems Experience:** I have directly contributed to the design, deployment, or optimization of high-performance computing systems, either through hardware or software advancements.
- **Large-Scale AI Development:** I have been involved in the development, training, or deployment of AI models that operate at a significant scale, handling vast datasets or complex computations.
- **Research Contributions:** I have authored or co-authored academic or industry publications specifically focusing on advancements in HPC or AI.
- **Conference Engagements:** I have been an invited speaker, panelist, or presenter at conferences or seminars where the primary focus was on HPC, AI, or the intersection of both.
- **Project Oversight:** I have led or been a significant part of teams overseeing the setup of HPC infrastructure or managing end-to-end large-scale AI projects, from conceptualization to deployment.
- **Project Evaluation:** I have experience reviewing or evaluating projects, proposals, or research endeavors primarily aimed at pushing the boundaries of HPC systems or AI capabilities.

Bonus Expertise: I've undertaken initiatives or research where HPC systems directly supported large-scale AI operations, signifying a blend of both domains.

(D) STATEMENT OF INTEREST

In a brief paragraph, please detail why you consider yourself a suitable candidate for this evaluator panel and your motivations to join.

[maximum 800 characters]

(E) CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

Please declare any affiliations, past or present, with potential contest participants, or any other information that might pose a conflict of interest (if applicable):

[List]

(F) CV ATTACHMENT

Please attach an updated CV highlighting your expertise in HPC or large-scale AI systems. Ensure it includes your educational background, professional experiences, awards, honors, and other relevant details.

(G) ACCEPTANCE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Absence of conflict of interest*

I declare that I have not submit, nor am I to my knowledge involved in any proposal currently under evaluation or submitted for evaluation under the AI-BOOST Large AI Grand Challenge Open Call

Acceptance of Data Privacy Policies*

I understand and accept, F6S Data privacy policy and that the data collected in this form will be used by the AI-BOOST Consortium to manage expressions of interest of evaluators

Acceptance of Non-binding and no commitment from AI-BOOST*

I understand and accept that this expression of interest to participate to the AI-BOOST Large AI Grande Challenge Open Call as an external evaluator is NOT binding and does NOT constitute any commitment for the AI-BOOST Consortium.