Positioning Europe at the forefront of artificial intelligence

Following the success of its first call for innovative projects promoting artificial intelligence (AI) in the periphery, the dAIEDGE team is now launching its second open call.

The dAIEDGE project team, funded by the European Union, has just launched its second open call to support research projects that develop solutions leveraging the power of AI at the edge. Through these calls, dAIEDGE is bringing together leading European research centres, universities and industrial partners in a cutting-edge AI innovation ecosystem and dynamic network of excellence. The aim is to advance Europe's innovation and technology base and make it a global leader in innovation in the data economy.

The open call is the second of three calls and follows the successful first call (opens in a new window) which attracted 146 applications from researchers around the world and resulted in 36 full proposals representing 21 countries. The second call is open to research and technology organisations, universities, SMEs and start-ups from European Union (EU) Member States, associated countries and countries participating in Horizon Europe. Entities may apply individually or as a consortium of up to two entities.

Up to ten proposals will be selected. The winning projects will receive a maximum of sixty thousand euros to address specific industrial challenges defined by the dAIEDGE consortium, over a period of up to seven months. This period will be divided into two key stages: a one-month planning phase (with funding of up to nine thousand euros), and a six-month implementation phase (with funding of up to fifty-one thousand euros).

During the planning phase, beneficiaries must submit an individual mentoring plan that includes planned activities, key performance indicators, milestones and budget. The

implementation phase must result in a demonstration test that the design, product or process meets the specified requirements.

Launching the challenge

A total of twenty industrial challenges(opens in a new window) have been identified for the second call. These include mobile concealed weapon detection systems, cutting-edge robotics based on continuous learning, energy-efficient AI solutions, machine learning benchmarks for on-board processing in space applications, and the deployment of large language models on low-memory edge devices.

Participants will be able to use resources from the dAIEDGE virtual laboratory, add new tools to it, or reuse existing dAIEDGE project developments or use cases. They will also be guided by dAIEDGE technical experts to develop and showcase their solutions throughout the seven-month project.

The deadline for submitting proposals is 13 March 2025. To assist interested parties, dAIEDGE organised an informative webinar in January and a second webinar is scheduled for 27 February. An online tutorial(opens in a new window) is also available on YouTube to guide applicants through the proposal submission process.

Workshops and stands

From 20 to 22 January 2025, the dAIEDGE (A network of excellence for distributed, trustworthy, efficient and scalable AI at the Edge) team also participated in the HiPEAC Conference(opens in a new window) held in Barcelona, Spain. The two workshops (opens in a new window) organised by the project during the three days focused on excellence in AI and edge computing (20 January) and accelerated machine learning (21 January). dAIEDGE also had a stand (number 23) at the event, offering attendees the opportunity to learn about the consortium's projects and use cases and discover how it is positioning Europe as a global leader in the data economy.