



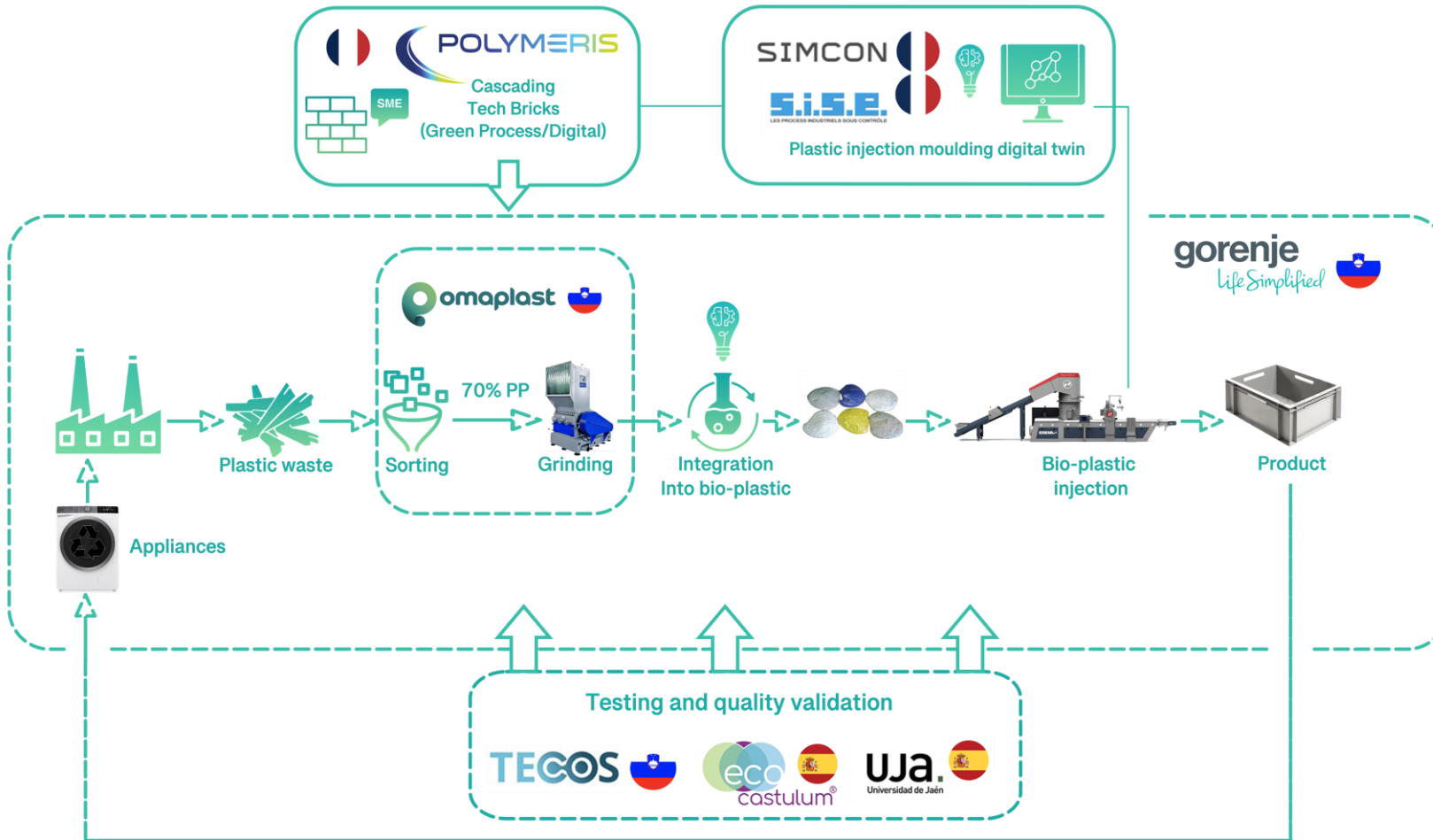
INtegrating Cybernated Innovation to Raise the scale of Circular Units Looping Allied Regions

**How to apply to the INCIRCULAR call to SMEs for a
60 000 EUR GRANT?**



Co-funded by
the European Union

INCIRULAR Project Objective



1. Demonstrate the production of bioplastic sourced 100% from recycled plastic and presenting technical specificities (mechanical, optical, thermal, etc.) similar or better to current petro-plastics. This is based on the demonstration (TRL6 to TRL9) of a technical process developed by our Slovenian research partner, in collaboration with an innovative Spanish SME and meant to be installed and deployed at the industrial site of Gorenje.

2. Integrate this new second-life material directly into the production chain of the Gorenje site by collaborating with the waste management company Omaplast which will collect, sort and recycle (developed by TECOS) directly on the site. The innovative integration of the digital twinning of plastic injection molding developed by two French SMEs is necessary to ensure the use of this new second-life material in the Gorenje production chain.

INCIRCULAR SME Open Call



Ambition

- **INCIRCULAR will invest 360 000 EUR to source digital and process technology bricks meant to tackle its key challenges**
- **INCIRCULAR will select 6 promising proposals led by SMEs to develop over 12 months innovation projects within the industrial pilot (Gorenje IPC) in view of addressing tech-driven “upscaling” barriers.**
- **We provide 60 000 EUR funding for proposal providing solution-oriented innovations** from SMEs to address key barriers in design, digital twinning, sustainability, resource efficiency, and automation interregional transfer of best available technologies and the valorisation of SME innovations
- **We source top-notch tech in four fields** (automation, digital technology, sustainability and AI-based design)
- We especially seek proposals having a **cross-regional component**, leveraging the potential of SMEs to develop new products, processes and/or technical services.

The Open Call



Basic Information

Type of Action	GRANT (non-repayable)
Call Opening Date	12 September 2024
Call Closing Date	13 November 2024 – 17h00 CET
Time to inform the applicants	15 December 2024
Project start	1 January 2025
Maximum budget	60 000 EUR per SME
Expected grants to be signed	6
Maximum project duration	12 months

The Open Call



Proposals can be submitted to one challenge or cover both

Challenge: Upgrading of plastic recycling lines for industrial side-stream/residues

- Milling & Shredding Equipment with innovative potential (for example: advanced TB coatings for blades, superior alloys for knives, ...)
- Upgraded units/devices/screws/accessories for Recycled Materials Processing (extrusion, compounding equipment) and injection moulding technology (smart moulds, innovative sensors (in-line/off-line))

Challenge: Digitalisation systems with advanced AI solutions

- Material Screening (efficient waste sorting, machine vision, input/output control etc.)
- Digitalisation of Recycling Processes (AI processing & smart digitalised mould/line, ...)

Solutions we seek



Incircular is developing a value chain for circular plastic in Europe. The following missing digital and process technology bricks have been identified:

Major obstacles	Current state of the art	Examples of expected innovative bricks
Sorting of plastic side-stream	currently a manual procedure	automatic conveyers, in-line metal detectors and/or NIR/ Spectral imaging for easier sorting procedures between plastic types of streams and for assuring the relative clean streams are missing
Shredding of plastic lumps	new equipment required	innovative equipment or renovated and upgraded machine hardware (blades, sieves, mills, etc.) & secondary online sorting of by-products within the shredded material)
Compounding of new material formulations	Extrusion compounding of plastic matrices with fiber reinforcement requires comprehensive characterization analyses of the resulting composite formulations.	While mechanical, chemical, thermal, and morphological analyses are covered, equipment for Vicat Softening Point (VSP) and Heat Deflection Temperature (HDT) analyses are missing. Innovative hardware equipment could also be welcome such as drying systems for compounds, rheological nozzle for homogenous distribution of reinforcing fillers, in-line process control for eliminating the material thermal degradation, etc.
Processing polymer side-streams, optimizing injection molding processes, synchronizing parameters with simulations	Recycling line for mono-materials (single screw extruder), injection molding machine with automatic control and virtual twin export, smart molds with innovative sensors	Digital solutions for hardware equipment, advanced machine vision for parts inspection (complete parts, burned parts, surface defects)
Producing final products from recycled materials	Part design and CAD models, simulations for design correction, part/demonstrators production, GD&T measurements supported by the consortium	Automation of final parts quality control (e.g., scan box), on-site installation, online data transfer, replication to other production lines or sectors at GORENJE

The Open Call



Eligibility conditions - Who can apply?

1. Are you a SME* ?

SMEs are legal entities as defined by the EC as Small and Medium Enterprises			
Company category	Staff headcount	Turnover	Balance sheet total
Medium-sized	< 250	≤ € 50 m	≤ € 43 m
Small	< 50	≤ € 10 m	≤ € 10 m
Micro	< 10	≤ € 2 m	≤ € 2 m

2. Is your SME based in one of these regions?

Andalusia, Auvergne Rhône-Alpes, Slovenia

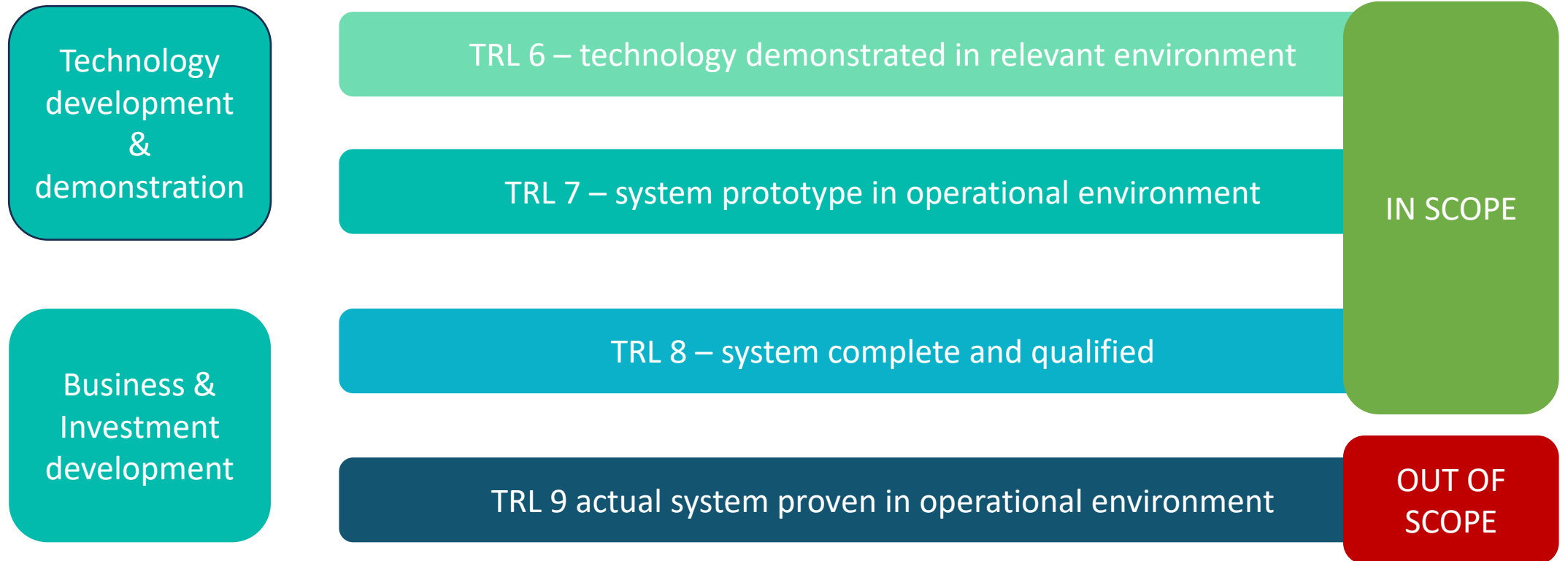
A total Budget of 360 000 EUR is available.
Each SME can receive max. 60 000 EUR
6 SMEs will be selected

* Legal entities that fall under the European SME definitions (cf. 1) are eligible, this includes e.g. sole traders in Slovenia, micro Entrepreneurs in France or other legal forms as long as the maximum thresholds Staff headcount, Turnover or Balance sheet total) are not exceeded

What activities will be funded?

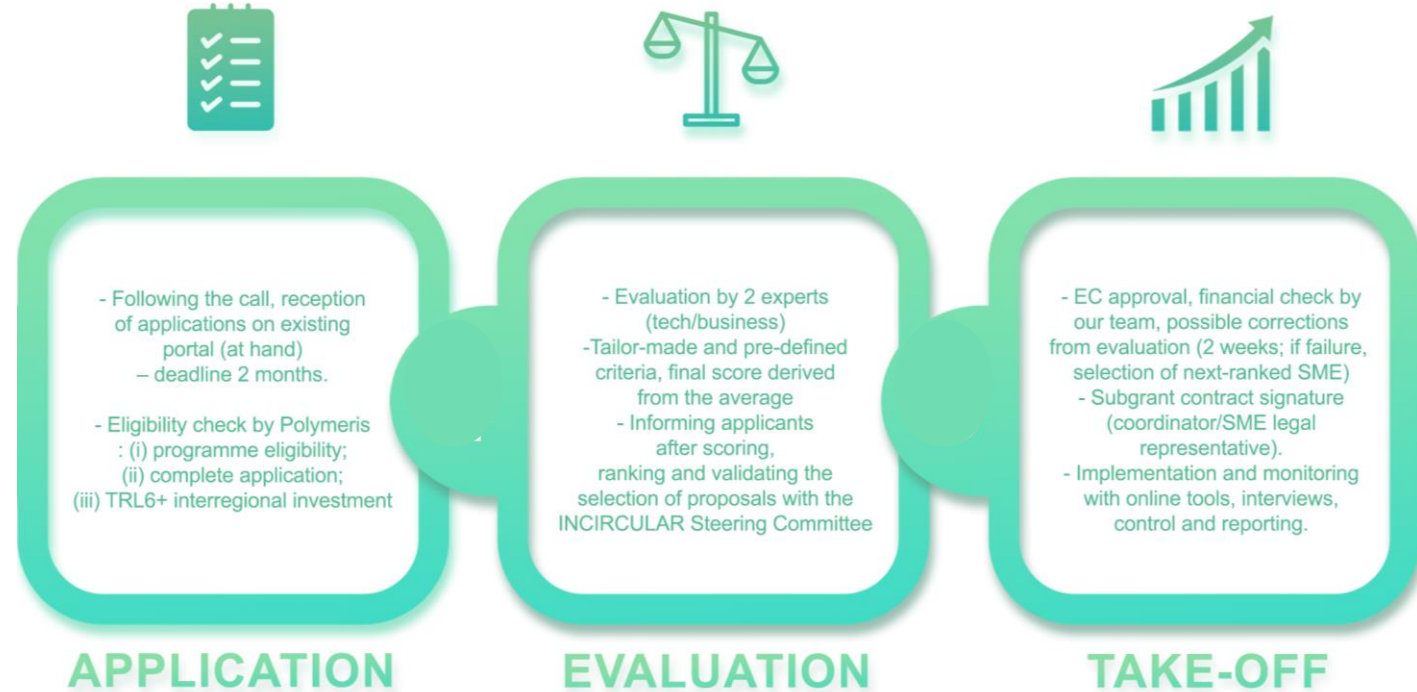


Maturity of innovation - TRL level

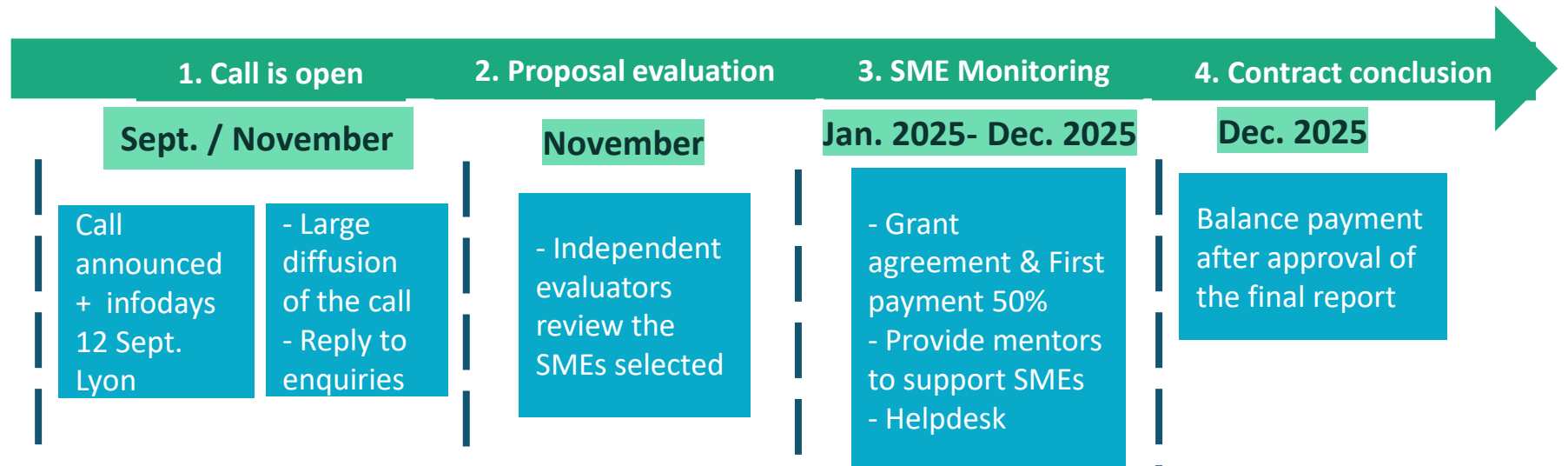


Evaluation

The process



Phases





How to calculate the budget?

Example of Form of costs	Costs	INCIRCULAR grant amount Lump sum
Staff costs		(min. 50 000 EUR)
Consumable or Equipment		
Other Costs: Subcontracting, Commercialization activities and travel costs		(max. 10 000 EUR)
TOTAL	60 000 EUR	60 000 EUR

NOTE:

- The **final payment will be made after acceptance of the final report**, including a financial report.
- Smaller deviations from the original cost proposal will be accepted.
- For the final financial report you will need to declare:
 - that 100 % of the funding have been used for your project
 - that the report is based on substantiated data (receipts, invoices, bank slip, etc.)
 - that the information contained in the final report is full, reliable and true, and is substantiated by adequate supporting documentation that will be produced upon or in the context of checks, reviews, audits and investigations.



When do I receive the funding?

- The grant amount will be transferred in two instalments of 50% pre-financing (January 2025) and balance after completion of the project (January 2026).
- **IMPORTANT: You need to showcase the ability to cover relevant costs from your own cashflow (or funding) in order to cover the project cost for the period between selection and the moment the final payment is made.**
- The final subgrant payment is subject to the fulfilment of major milestones, which must be defined in the application proposal and will also be included into the subgrant agreement.

Reporting



At the end of the project the

- milestones defined in the proposal
- are summarized in a final report,
- including a simple cost statement with explanations of expenditure.

Evaluation



How will the proposals be selected?

Criteria	Weight	Score
Relevance : The proposal provides a realistic and relevant description of how it will contribute to the call topics and INCIRCULAR Key Challenges – Relevance / Innovation potential / Adaptation to Incircular consortium	40%	/5
Implementation : The SME has the relevant resources and the ability to carry out the proposed activities? Workplan / Team / resource allocation	30%	/5
Impact : The proposal lines out a sound exploitation strategy as well as a societal and economic value of the targeted product/service - In the project / After the project, for the interregional collaboration	30%	/5
TOTAL	100%	/15
Extra point for interregional proposals		/1

FAQ



The INCIRCULAR consortium started a short list of potential FAQs. This list will be continuously elaborated and updated, based on feedback and questions from interested SMEs. Thus, we will ensure to cover all relevant questions in one section.

[FAQ](https://incircular-project.eu/)

<https://incircular-project.eu/>

Contact



SUBMISSION

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL BY SENDING THE FULL APPLICATION BEFORE THE DEADLINE

13 November 2024 – 17h00 CET PER E-MAIL TO:

fundingopportunities@incircular-project.eu

CONTACT

For every feedback or question you have, please write us an email to

fundingopportunities@incircular-project.eu

We will collect the questions and publish the answers within our FAQ section

<https://incircular-project.eu/>