



**OPEN CALL GUIDE FOR
APPLICANTS**



Submission of applications starts on 1st of September 2023

Submission deadline: 31st of December 2023, at 17:00 Brussels Time



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1. Background information on iclimabuilt project

iclimabuilt is an **Open Innovation Test Bed (OITB)** with an ultimate goal to support and help small high-tech firms to scale up and cope with the continuous rising of technological complexity by translation of research results into innovations. Through its **Single-Entry-Point** the necessary upgraded infrastructures and tools will be offered to test, validate and upscale new technological solutions.

The test cases designed, developed, tested and validated within the test bed, as a well-studied combination of material technologies per market and climate, contributing to desired energy savings to reach **nZEB** balance, will serve as a means for validating and improving selected materials and corresponding innovations and, finally, services of the OITB.

As iclimabuilt is a user-driven testbed and is based on ‘co-creation’, its offering has been preliminarily defined based on industrial companies’ needs assessed with a preliminary market survey.

The iclimabuilt concept is shown in Figure 1.

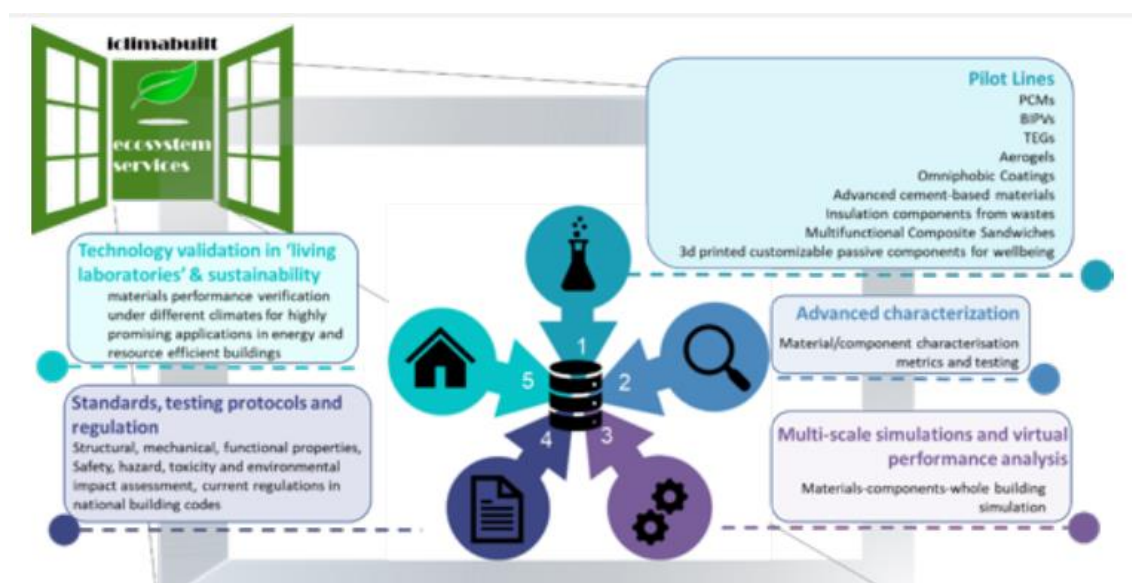


Figure 1. iclimabuilt concept

Some other relevant data about the project:

- **Project full name:** Functional and advanced insulating and energy harvesting/storage materials across climate adaptive building envelopes
- **Project grant agreement number:** 952886
- **Project acronym:** iclimabuilt
- **Call identifier:** H2020-NMBP-TO-IND-2018-2020 (FOUNDATIONS FOR TOMORROW'S INDUSTRY)
- **Topic ID:** DT-NMBP-05-2020 Open Innovation Test Beds for materials for building envelopes (IA)



- Website: <https://iclimabuilt.eu>
- Project partners: <https://iclimabuilt.eu/partners/>

2. What we offer

The Open Call (OC) will support applicants by providing 70% funding to their individual proposal. This means that 70% of the costs will be covered by iclimabuilt and the rest 30% will be covered by the applicant. The iclimabuilt partners will provide to the open-call winners services consisting of person-months dedicated to subsidies activities, while through the funding consumables, travel costs, logistics etc will be covered. Each proposal will receive funding ranging from 50,000 to 150,000 € per project. The final amount will be specified during the Planning and fine-tuning of OC Projects for the selected cases. The total foreseen budget is 1,15 M€ which will be provided to 10-12 proposals. The project can last for a **maximum of 9 to 10 months**.

The idea of this OC is to deploy a set of test cases where SMEs or small consortia outside of the iclimabuilt consortium (experimentation teams), will be able to develop or test any of their technologies referring to materials for building envelopes, bringing in their case. iclimabuilt will offer the related services through its Services Arena. Each experimentation team needs to describe its lack in knowledge, the selected services and how the selected services are expected to bridge their knowledge gaps.

The iclimabuilt consortium contribution comprises:

- mentoring and technical support from experts;
- access to consortium infrastructure and services;
- access to ecosystem, the project Single Entry Point (SEP) and tools;

The applicants' contribution comprises:

- validation of the ecosystem with external applicants;
- the applicants may need to cover their own expenses in relation to the project (e.g. own personnel cost, travel, material provision and preparations, etc.) utilizing the open call funding.

This action is expected to give mutual benefits to both the consortium and the applicants concerning the building of a strong business/research network with key-partners that will accelerate the innovation of the building sector.

iclimabuilt project will offer services relevant to the six building blocks (BBs) shown in Table 1 and according to the nine Pilot Lines (PLs) of the project.



Table 1. iclimabuilt Building Blocks (BB) and corresponding number of services

BB No.	BB Name	# services
1	Materials-by-design	17
2	Testing	73
3	Virtual performance testing	42
4	Safety assessment standards and regulation	8
5	Upscaling	17
6	Financing, Investment and innovation	15
	TOTAL	172

3.Dates/Schedule

Timelines for the Open Call are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Timelines for the Open Call

Months (period)	Action
M24 (end of February 2023)	Set application guidelines and conditions for funding
M24 – M34 (February 2023-December 2023)	Dissemination of Open Call
M30 (August 2023)	Launch of Open Call
M30 – M34 (August 2023 – December 2023)	Open Call Application submission
M35 – M36 (January 2024 – February 2024)	Eligibility check & evaluation & ranking of applications
M36 – M37 (February 2024 - March 2024)	Planning and fine-tuning of Open Call Projects
M37 – M46 (from March 2024 – December 2024)	Open Call Projects running



M46 – M48 (December 2024 – February 2025)	Feedback gathering by the Open Call winners who will review the services provided via the Open Call and ecosystem fine tuning based on their input.
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Furthermore, in order to facilitate the monitoring of the open call projects, progress meeting will be set every 2 months, and a progress report will be provided to the Open Call Committee (OCC) at the project midway, in order to evaluate the progress.

4. Eligible Applicants

The eligibility of all applications which were submitted before the deadline via our online application form will be checked. By submitting a proposal to the iclimabuilt platform you declare that to your knowledge there are no conflicts of interest (CoI). The list of iclimabuilt partners can be found here:

<https://iclimabuilt.eu/partners/>

For the CoI the applicants should consider the following:

- Proposals that include in their consortium partners of the iclimabuilt project cannot be accepted;
- The applicant's proposals cannot, either as a whole or partially, be included in any other project that has been or is being funded by any EU funding source;
- The submitted proposals must be based on original works and any foreseen developments must be free from third party rights;
- The applicants should not have an already established cooperation with partners of the iclimabuilt project, that involves the work described in the proposals, either as a whole or partially.
- The applicants shouldn't have a family relationship with the iclimabuilt project partners whose services are requested in their proposal.

Entities eligible to participate in the iclimabuilt OC must meet the following criteria:

- SMEs according to the definition of the European Union, which you can view [here](#);
- Small consortia of up to three members including SMEs and R&D Organisations as per the call and GA requirements;
- Entities eligible to apply must be established in any of the following countries (hereafter collectively identified as the "Eligible Countries"):
 - Member States of the European Union, including their overseas departments and outermost regions;
 - Associated Countries according to the updated list published by the EC;
 - Third Countries according to the updated list published by the EC;
 - United Kingdom under the conditions set by the EC for H2020 participation at the time of the deadline of the Call;
- Entities eligible to apply must not be under liquidation or under difficulty according to corresponding EU Directives and must submit a corresponding declaration.



Proposals have to be focused on small scale collaborative projects for development, testing, demonstration and/or verification of a new material, technology or product, with enhanced properties.

The proposals aiming to reach Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6-7, starting from TRL 4-5, are preferred.

The applicant's ideas will have to answer specific industry challenges, ensuring market's relevance and future uptake.

5. Other general rules

- The proposal will be kept confidential by the members of the consortium. Nonetheless, it is recommended not to disclose confidential or sensitive information. The access to this type of information could be crucial to start experiments, so iclimabuilt will sign with the customer/s a contract including confidentiality clauses.
- Relation between the new test cases and the OITB will be regulated with dedicated contracts.
- English is the only acceptable language. Proposals submitted in any other language will not be evaluated!
- Font of the body text of the proposal is Times New Roman. The minimum size allowed is 11 points. Standard character spacing and a minimum of single line spacing needs to be employed, in A4 page format. All margins (left, right, top and bottom) need to be at least 20 mm. Maximum length allowed is 8 pages.
- Figures, schemes and photos are encouraged to be provided to make clearer the aim of the proposal, whilst they do not exceed the maximum length above indicated (no annexes are allowed).
- The total budget that is required for the fulfilment of the proposed work should be indicated along with its break down. Also, the part of the budget to be reimbursed by the OC funding should be indicated.
- IPRs will be handled and decided during the fine-tuning/negotiations that will take place between the winning proposals of the Open Call and the involved partners of the iclimabuilt project. IPRs will be examined case-by-case and ownerships will be set, including joint ownerships of results. All contractual aspects will be managed (NDA, access rights and conditions, IPRs, etc.).

6. Evaluation criteria and process

The submitted proposals will be initially evaluated according to their eligibility and conflict of interest (CoI) by the coordination team which will then forward them to 2 evaluators and 1 Rapporteur chosen from a pool of experts. This pool of experts comprises partners of the iclimabuilt consortium according to their declared field/s of expertise and preferably with



previous experience in proposal evaluation process. During the final step of the proposal evaluation, the Open Call Committee (OCC) will perform the feasibility analysis of the proposals that have been approved for realization, while the fine-tuning of the new test cases will take place during a negotiation period between the applicants and the iclimabuilt partners that will offer their services.

The OCC will be set by specialists of the Ecosystem, namely the BBs managers, WP leaders partners of the iClimabuilt consortium with prior experience in Open Calls in the framework of other Open Innovation Testbeds (OITBs).

The proposals evaluation criteria are shown below:

- Relevancy of proposals (new test cases) with the ecosystem capacity and services provided;
- Starting TRL of new test cases cannot be lower than 4;
- Solid business plan, reflecting the market potential of the proposed solution must be included in the proposal;
- New test cases must be based on new concepts/workflows which were not explored through the foreseen test cases of iClimabuilt.
- As mentioned before each proposal must be consistent of three main sections: Excellence, Implementation, Impact according to which score criteria and score system for the evaluation of the proposals is determined. More specifically, as will be elaborated below, the threshold for each individual section mentioned above is 3 (out of 5) and the overall threshold is 9 (out of 15). In order to be considered for support, the application must score above both individual and overall thresholds.

EXCELLENCE (industrial need and challenges to overcome, objectives and background of the concept, etc): Score ranging from 0 to 5. The following aspects will be evaluated:

- **Ambition:** Applicants must provide a description of the problem to overcome and/or the challenges to be addressed and how the proposed project goes beyond the state of the art.
- **Innovation:** Provision of a detailed description of the material / technology to be developed in collaboration with the iclimabuilt partners. The way challenges discussed previously are addressed through this collaboration as well as the iclimabuilt contribution should be pointed out. The applicant/s background knowledge including Intellectual Property Rights related to this final demo part should also be clearly stated.
- **Soundness of the approach:** It has to be demonstrated the soundness and credibility of the proposed methodology.

IMPLEMENTATION. Score ranging from 0 to 5. Next points will be evaluated:

- **Work plan description:** Key inputs, deliverables, tasks titles and time schedule, together with the role that the iclimabuilt pilot lines will play in it.
- **Team:** Demonstrate applicant's management and leadership skills plus ability to bring new concepts and ideas into the market.
- **Budget estimation:** Cost breakdown must be delivered. Personnel effort and timeline requirements for all team members mentioned above must be clearly defined, other costs essential for the successful implementation of the project (consumables, travel, logistics, etc) must also be mentioned. If the proposal is submitted by a consortium, the



participation of each partner, the budget distribution and resource allocation between them to fulfil the described tasks has to be explained, too.

- TRL level: The initial TRL of the project cannot be lower than 4.
- Risk management: A description of most relevant techno-economic and management risks must be provided, together with a proposal of suitable mitigation strategies.

IMPACT (Showcase the key exploitable results of the proposal, market positioning and overall impact of the new material/technology. An exploitation and business plan should be included.). Score ranging from 0 to 5. The following aspects must be evaluated:

- Market opportunity and competition: The applicant’s goals, the target market/s and the novelty compared with existing products / technologies should be clearly stated.
- Commercial strategy and scaling up potential: Channels, resources and tools that will be recruited to penetrate the target market(s), as well as time estimation to achieve that should be discussed.
- A description of the Return of Investment (RoI) and the global economic value creation must be provided.
- Other expected impacts: A detailed description of any societal, environmental, and economic impacts outside your company itself needs to be described.

The review process is schematically described in Figure 2.

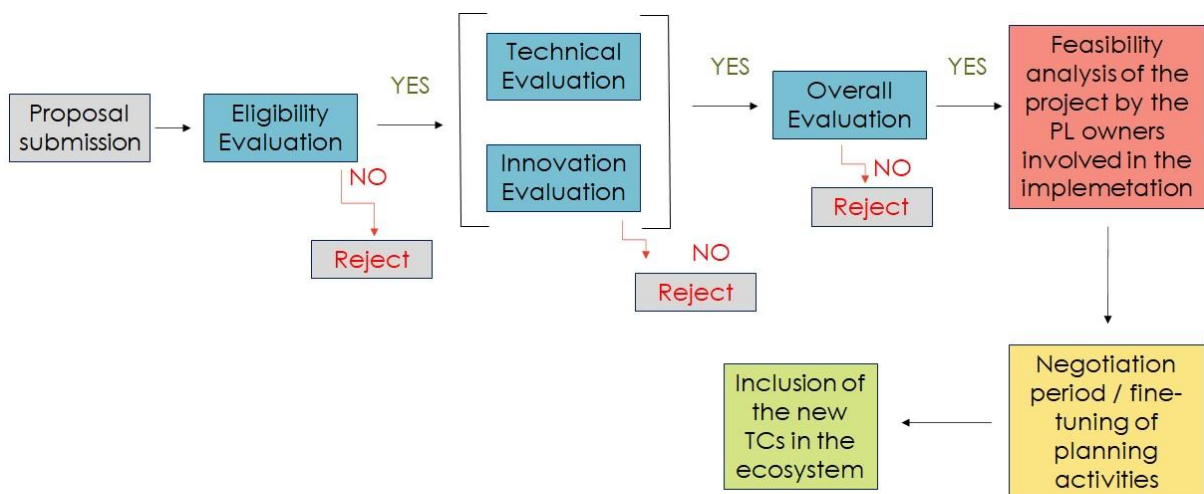


Figure 2. Schema of review process

The score system is discussed in detail in following table.

Table 3 Score system elaboration

Value	Comments
0	Very Poor, proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
1	Poor, criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
2	Fair, proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
3	Good, proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	Very good, proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent, proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

7.Steps to be followed for application

Are you interested in applying to the Call? Please follow the next steps to apply:

- Have a look to the **services** on the project SEP platform in the project website (<https://sepiclimabuilt.com/products-services/>);
- Download, fill and submit the **Registration Form**;
- Download the **Application Form**;
- Fill and submit the application form through the SEP within the application period (deadline 31st of December 2023).

For more information, contact us at info@iclimabuilt.eu

