

## ANNOUNCEMENT:

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### **PRO-FACTORY-PLUS Call for Proposals for Joint R&D Projects**

**Deadline for Phase 1 – 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2012**

**Deadline for Phase 2 – 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2012**

### SCOPE

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The Member Countries of the Eureka Umbrella PRO-FACTORY-PLUS: Austria, Belgium, Finland, Malta, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey commonly announce a Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects. The Call is focusing on developing innovative products and applications in **Smart and Sustainable Manufacturing Technologies**. Applicants are expected to develop ready to market solutions or projects which have strong market potential. The Call invites for proposals with special focus to the following domains: Here we suggest some domains that can be relevant...

- Flexible and agile production
- Key technologies for production of tomorrow
- Resource Efficient and Sustainable manufacturing processes
- Intelligent manufacturing systems
- Other Manufacturing topics not covered above

Keywords for the technical scope and industrial sectors are:

- Automation Engineering, Industrial Engineering, sustainability, energy efficiency, reduction of waste (materials, water,..), Life Cycle Engineering, Environmental Testing, etc.;
- machinery, mechatronics, factory automation, manufacturing, automotive, food, etc..

- ★ PRO-FACTORY-PLUS Member Countries supporting this call will provide the opportunity to access to public funding for joint projects within less than 8 months.
- ★ PRO-FACTORY-PLUS will provide assistance to project partners during project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase.
- ★ The Call is announced in the field of industrial research and experimental development in cooperation with the EUREKA initiative and Eurostars programme. Hence, the Joint call initiative is managed in cooperation and in line with the procedures of the EUREKA innovation platform [www.eurekanetwork.org](http://www.eurekanetwork.org)

## CALL LAUNCH AND STRUCTURE

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The Call is launched on **6<sup>st</sup> February, 2012** by PRO-FACTORY-PLUS.

Eligible partners are invited to present proposals for industrial R&D projects according to the following procedures:

### Qualifications

- The proposal should include at least two partners from two different [EUREKA Member Countries](#), where at least one partner must come from a [PRO-FACTORY-PLUS Member Country](#).
- Project partners are funded in their respective countries. Each country's funding regulations must be followed and respected.
- Innovation actors from other Eureka Member Countries or Associated Countries may also apply without a PRO-FACTORY-PLUS Member Country organisation, but there will be no specific advisory support from the PRO-FACTORY-PLUS umbrella.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants (e.g. increased knowledge base, competitive advantage, access to R&D infrastructure etc.).
- The project should demonstrate the contribution of the participants from different countries on a balanced base, and the project must be sufficiently advantageous for all participants.

### Supportive Measures by PRO-FACTORY-PLUS

- The PRO-FACTORY-PLUS Member Countries supporting this call will assist the project initiator and partners with supportive actions regarding the national funding rules as well as providing feedback comments about the technical content (Contacts are given below).
- For international partner search the services of the local branches of Enterprise Europe Network is recommended ([www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu](http://www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu)). Introduce the keyword "PF+Call" for easy identification. You can also contact your national PF+ expert for introduction to networks in other countries.

## SUBMISSION AND THE APPROVAL PROCEDURES WILL BE IN TWO PHASES:

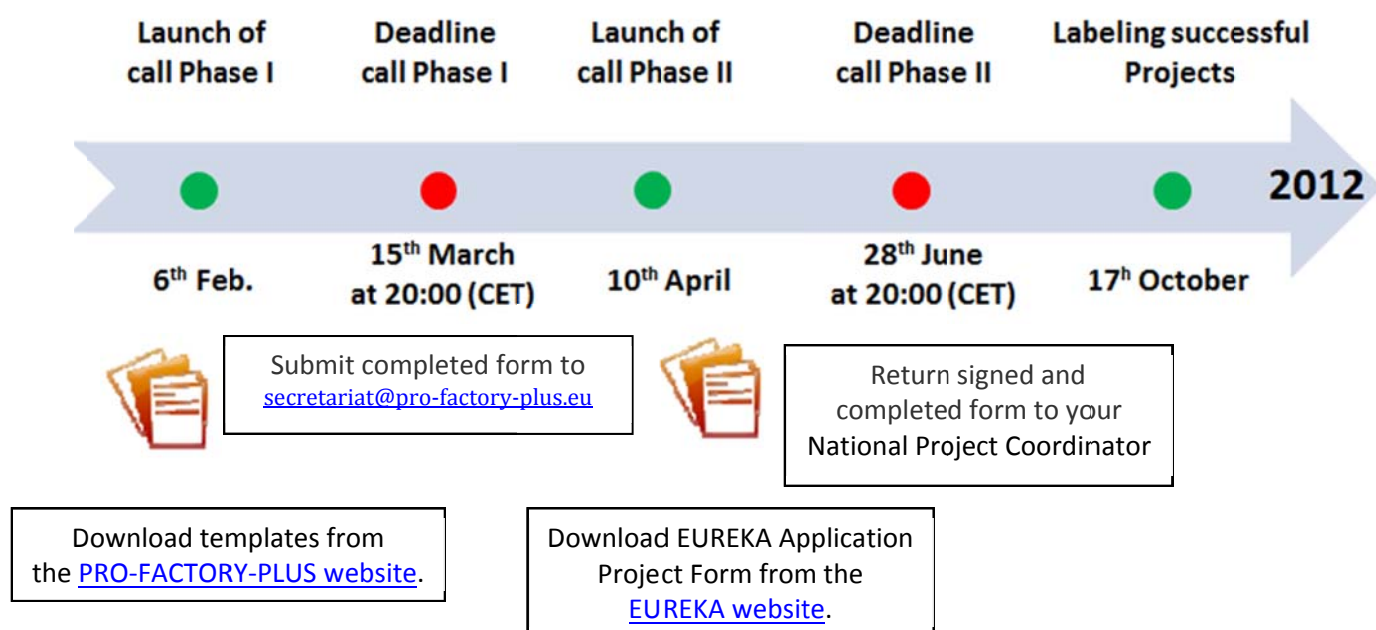
1) **In the first phase**, partners will be asked to present a short project pre-proposal via the template provided at the [PRO-FACTORY-PLUS website](#).

- The completed template of the phase 1 pre-proposals should be submitted to the PF+ Secretary General, [secretariat@pro-factory-plus.eu](mailto:secretariat@pro-factory-plus.eu) **until 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 at 20:00 (CET)**.
- The pre-proposals will be screened and evaluated by PRO-FACTORY-PLUS experts against PF+ scope and call criteria and the results will be notified to the partners within 3 weeks.

2) **In the second phase**, applicants will be supported by PRO-FACTORY-PLUS representatives in contacting their respective national/regional agencies to apply for the EUREKA label and for funding. Partners will be supported by the National Eureka Project Coordinators on how to complete submission of their full applications.

**Deadline of the second phase (full application) is at Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and successful projects are approved at the EUREKA meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012.**

## TIMELINE



**Important:**

It is still possible for applicants to submit an application for the June deadline even if they had not submitted an abstract for the March deadline.

## FINANCING

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Each country will fund its eligible participants within EUREKA framework. Funding conditions and eligibility criteria may vary from country to country. It is strongly recommended to contact the corresponding PRO-FACTORY-PLUS experts or National Eureka Project Coordinator for detailed information (see list below).

### Contacts

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#### ***PF+ EXPERTS FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING PARTNER SEARCH AND CONTENT***

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#### ***NATIONAL EUREKA PROJECT COORDINATORS FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT FUNDING RULES***

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