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101120731

PROJECT ACRONYM

MAGICIAN

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IMMERSIVE LEARNING FOR
IMPERFECTION DETECTION AND REPAIR
THROUGH HUMAN-ROBOT INTERACTION

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D6.1

Report on OCs launch and selection of
beneficiaries

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Deliverable Lead Partner	ZAB
Main author(s)	Francesca Pasqualino and Margherita Volpe (ZAB)
Internal Reviewer(s)	Jacqueline Fritz (SIG)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This deliverable (D6.1) reports on the launch and outcomes of the first MAGICIAN Open Call (OC1), aimed at engaging European SMEs and startups in advancing human-robot collaboration technologies. MAGICIAN seeks to integrate collaborative robotics, AI-driven defect detection, and human-centered design to improve manufacturing safety, productivity, and ergonomics.

Open Call Structure and Implementation: OC1 was open from February 3 to May 2, 2025, providing a 3-month window for submissions. The scope focused on enhancing MAGICIAN's sensing and cleaning robot modules through functionalities in (F1) perception or (F2) human-robot collaboration. Support for applicants included webinars, weekly helpdesks, FAQs, and standardized proposal templates. A broad outreach campaign targeted innovation hubs, SMEs, and startups across Europe.

Participation and Selection Process: A total of 80 proposals was received, of which 72 met eligibility requirements. Applications came from 23 countries, with the majority from Italy, Turkey, and Greece. The evaluation involved external experts, internal reviewers, and business case assessments, using transparent scoring criteria (Excellence, Impact, Quality). A consensus meeting finalized results, ensuring fairness and alignment with EC standards.

Results: Five projects were selected for funding (totalling €936,980), with an additional five placed on a reserve list. Selected projects demonstrated strong innovation potential, market relevance, and feasibility. The process also highlighted underrepresented regions, guiding targeted promotion strategies for the upcoming second call (OC2).

Lessons Learned: Improvements were identified in reviewer guidelines, evaluation timelines, consensus meeting practices, proposal templates, and applicant support mechanisms. These lessons will strengthen future calls and enhance the efficiency and transparency of the process.

Next Steps: Following selection, beneficiaries entered a contracting phase using a standardized agreement (SASA – model reported as Annexe 6). Each was assigned a monitoring partner to oversee implementation through structured reporting and milestone reviews. This monitoring ensures progress, financial compliance, and

protection of intellectual property while supporting beneficiaries in bringing innovations to market.

Conclusion: OC1 successfully achieved its objectives, establishing a robust, transparent selection framework and fostering innovation through SME and startup engagement. It provides valuable insights for refining subsequent calls and strengthens MAGICIAN's contribution to European leadership in advanced manufacturing technologies.

DEVIATIONS

The launch of the first open call was slightly anticipated respect to initial planning in order to anticipate the overall plan of Open Calls, as to guarantee that eventually, the second Open Calls' selected project will finish 3 months before the finalization of the project.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
D	Deliverable
EC	European Commission
WP	Work package
T	Task
AS	Application Solution
EU	European Union
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
OC	Open Call
SASA	Standard Application Solution
PC	Project Coordinator
PM	Person Month
GA	Grant Agreement

INTRODUCTION

In alignment with MAGICIAN project, Open Calls have been tailored to integrate collaborative robotics, AI-driven defect detection and repair, and human-centered design principles to produce a system that enhances productivity, safety, and ergonomics in manufacturing, while also considering ethical and social dimensions. Two Open Calls (OCs) are planned for the creation or strengthening of partnerships between important stakeholders.

These are intended to enable European organisations (SMEs and Startups) to benefit from the creation of knowledge regardless of their location. As part of the OC running process, MAGICIAN activities within WP6 are dedicated to the OC management, selection, monitoring and assessment of the Application Solutions (AS). These management activities include, but are not limited to:

- The launch of the OC and provision of support along the application period
- The selection process to distinguish the most promising ASs amongst the ones that are submitted
- Support and monitoring of the selected ASs
- Work towards the sustainable success of the generated assets in the post-AS-project phase
- Derive a relevant set of lessons learnt for constructive improvements of the ecosystem.

MAGICIAN's WP6 is the main entry point for the innovative ASs to reach the available technical offers and competencies in the sphere of innovation management.

OPEN CALL 1 – STRUCTURE AND OBJECTIVES

OC1 provides the first window of opportunity (3 months opening) for applying SMEs and Startups to integrate new functionalities within the MAGICIAN project with their innovative ideas and to seek enhancing the capabilities of the SR (Sensing Robot) and CR (Cleaning Robot) through advanced technologies. MAGICIAN asked the applicants of the OC1 to provide a solution focusing on a single module of functionalities: F1. *Perception* or F2. *Human-robot collaboration* as detailed in the Guide for Applicants.

The application process involved an online submission of a project proposal description in combination with a certification attesting the existence of the Startup, for cases where the applying Startup had been active for more than five years and was claiming the funding rate corresponding to Startups (i.e. 100% funding rate).

After publication of the Open Call material, an initial launching webinar has been held

on 24th February 2025 and an online helpdesk was activated on a weekly basis on Teams, available throughout the entire call period every Wednesday from 17:00 to 18:00. This was intended to assist the applicants, not only from the perspective of preparation for the application process but also in terms of aligning the interests of all relevant stakeholders so that it is clear whether potential proposals lie within the scope set for the MAGICIAN First Open Call.

2.1 OC 1 TIMELINE

The OC1 was opened on 3rd February 2025 (M17) and closed on 2nd of May 2025 (M20), in line with the EC requirement of having the OC open for at least 3 months. The detailed scheduling is comprised of four main components:

- 03/02 – 02/05: the call is open for **proposal submission** (deadline 17:00 Brussels time)
- 14/05 – 13/06: **proposals evaluation**, which is performed in the combination of external and internal reviewers, followed by the merging and analysis of the resulting feedback and scores. The culmination of the process is marked with the final selection of successful Ass.
- 16/06 – 27/06: a time window is secured for **EC validation** of the selected proposals by MAGICIAN's project officer.
- 30/06: Once validated, the successful **applicants are officially notified** of their results.

FAST-TRACK SCHEMA TOWARDS IMPLEMENTATION

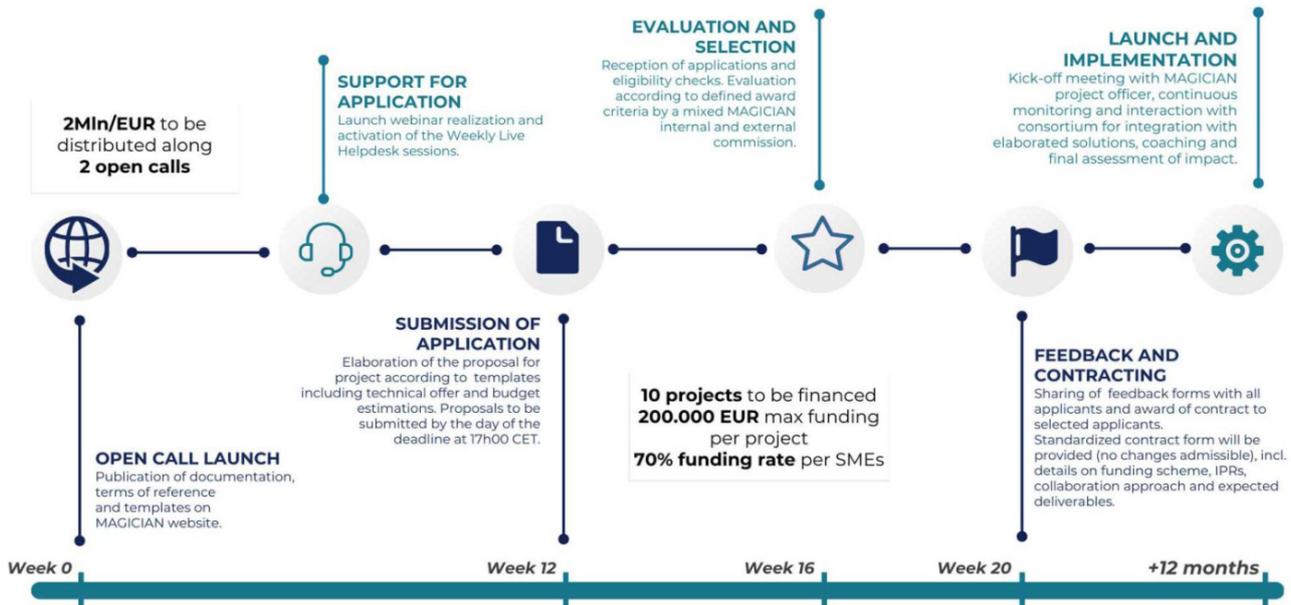


Figure 1 - Timeline of Open Calls launch, selection and implementation

2.2 SCOPE

The scope of the OC is reflected in the OC1 text, which is presented in **Error! Reference source not found.** and is available online. The text defines MAGICIAN'S technical scope and provides details on the expected fields of applications, aggregated around two categories of functionalities namely F1 – *Perception* and F2 – *Human-robot collaboration*. The following table describes the technical specifications of the existing MAGICIAN functionalities and which type of technical integration MAGICIAN partners are looking for. These functionalities were defined in close collaboration with MAGICIAN technical partners in order to guarantee the relevance of perspective projects respect to MAGICIAN overall vision.

F1. PERCEPTION			
Functionality	Description	Technical specification (Existing MAGICIAN functionality)	Integration expected from applicants
(F1.1) Sensors for accurate defect detection and classification	A vision-based defect detection system capable of identifying and classifying surface imperfections in real-time.	High-resolution cameras AI-powered analysis 5 ms response timing	New solution adding sensing systems (e.g., scanners, lasers, tomography, structured light, microwave imaging), ML algorithms (CNNs, transformers), ultrasonic sensors, photometric sensors, all meant to increase the defect detection precision, robustness and reliability.
(F1.2) Polarized camera system	Detects defects using polarized imaging	MAGICIAN current prototype includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - polarized camera 16mm lens - 6 polarized lights - ToF laser range sensors 	New modular design, improved power delivery mechanisms, enhanced structural stability and optimized lighting control for polarization-specific imaging.
(F1.3) Increase defect removal and rework abilities	CR's ability to handle material defects through modular and specialised tools.	MAGICIAN current CR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports reworking body-in-white for abrasion and removal of excess material. 	A tailored grinding tool for the specific application, with co-design characteristics with robot end-effectors and control algorithms for optimised

		- Equipped with a commercial grinding tool for welding spatters and excess material	performance.
(F1.4) Annotation Tools for Multi-modal Data	Annotating datasets tool for training defect models	<u>Not implemented yet; solution requested from applicants</u>	New solutions applying semi-automated or AI-assisted annotation frameworks Integrating user-friendly interfaces for annotators
(F1.5) Innovative approaches and architectures for improved defect detection and classification	Defect localisation and characterization through advanced algorithms and architectures	MAGICIAN polarized camera system serves as the current data source for training defect detection models	Machine learning algorithms (e.g., CNNs, transformer architectures) to boost classification accuracy Hybrid methods comprising traditional computer vision techniques, or novel algorithmic strategies
(F1.6) Wearable and innovative tactile systems for capturing expertise in Defect detection and classification	Tactile systems for defect detection and interaction with manufacturing surface inspections.	Device integrating a piezoresistive force sensors and an accelerometer Tactile features are extracted directly from the force and acceleration data.	AS enabling data acquisition without altering the operator's natural exploration techniques Acquisition of a larger dataset testing and comparing various tactile sensors (e.g. microphones, bragg fiber, visual-tactile systems)
F2. HUMAN-ROBOT COLLABORATION			
(F2.1) Human Observation	Modelling human defect correction skills for robots.	Dynamic Motion Primitives (DMPs), capturing and analysing human	New solution implementing DMPs with Riemannian manifolds for high-

		motion patterns during defect-handling tasks	fidelity behaviour replication. New approaches solutions such as zero-shot learning for a facilitated adaptation to tasks with minimal training.
(F2.2) Human Interface and Interaction	Flexible interfaces for human-robot collaboration	Tablet GUI for defect detection and classification review.	An example are the augmented reality glasses that allows a more intuitive and flexible interaction of the worker with the working piece.
(F2.3) Human worker speaking system	Voice-based human-robot communication	<u>Not implemented yet; solution requested from applicants</u>	New solution enabling spoken commands to adjust defect detection and correction.
(F2.4) Motion Improvements	Increase of flexibility and productivity, and reduce the impact on the working cell	CR and SR fixed on the ground or placed on mechanical slider	Mobile robots carrying the SR/CR robots, soft robotic arms, algorithmic solutions for safe trajectories in the work cell shared space

Moreover, the OC text presents the eligibility conditions for applying organisations, in terms of geographical location, affiliation and conflict of interest, size and funding rates.

In details, to avoid conflicts of interest, applications involving or coming from persons or organisations who are partners in the MAGICIAN consortium or who are formally linked to partners of the MAGICIAN consortium were defined as ineligible. For the purposes of the call for proposals, “organizations formally linked to the partners” of the MAGICIAN consortium were to be understood according to the definition of affiliated entities and third parties with a legal link to a beneficiary described within the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement – Art. 12 — CONFLICT OF INTEREST (available at: [aga_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)).

As concerns geographical eligibility, legal entities established in Member States (MS) of

the European Union (EU), including their overseas departments and Horizon Europe Associated Countries were considered eligible. Legal entities established in any other country or region cannot receive funding under the Open Call in object.

Finally, as concerns size of the companies, types of companies eligible for funding were Startups and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises¹. A legal entity will be considered **an SME** if it complies with the European Commission’s definition. The main factors defining an enterprise as an SME are (i) staff headcount and (ii) either turnover or balance sheet total, as specified in Table 1.

Table 1: SME definition

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

It was also clarified that any applicant commits itself:

- 1) to have at the moment of the submission of the application, or at the latest by the kick-off of the AS activities (corresponding to the entry into force of the Standard Agreement), the necessary stable and sufficient resources to implement the MAGICIAN solution,
- 2) to guarantee that its organisation is not in any situation which would exclude them from receiving financial support (including pending financial procedures concerning frauds or inappropriate management or undue previous appropriation of funds from other funding programs),
- 3) not to cumulate the MAGICIAN funding with other forms of financial support for the same work (i.e. exclusion of double funding case).

Finally, the call for proposals and application guidelines provides relevant indications in relation to the budget scope of the FSTP projects and eligible costs. Indeed, the maximum funding per AS was set to be 200.000€, at a funding rate of 70% of the budget for SMEs, reaching up to 100% of the budget in case of Startups.

Each AS budget will include justifications of cost and resources. The amount of financial support was to be calculated on the basis of the estimated costs. The AS budget must follow Horizon Europe rules, among them:

- It must respect the limit of 15% for specific subcontracting tasks that neither the MAGICIAN partners nor the Third Party can carry out

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

- The Third Party shall not make a profit from the EC funding

Budget categories eligible:

A. Personnel costs:

- A.1 Employees,
- A.2 Natural persons under direct contract,
- A.3 Seconded persons,
- A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries

B. Subcontracting costs

C. Purchase costs

- C.1 Travel and subsistence,
- C.2 Equipment,
- C.3 Other goods, works and services

E. Indirect costs to be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 25% (categories A-D, except volunteers' costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

The expected duration of an AS is targeted for 12 months. Within timeline, Each AS would receive funding distributed in three stages:

1. Pre-financing (up to 50%): An initial payment of up to 50% of the total funding amount will be provided upon the successful completion of the Kick-off Meeting (KoM).
2. Intermediate Payment (up to 35%): A second instalment of up to 35% will be disbursed following the submission and approval of a status report. This report should include updates on the Work Package (WP) progress, a risk assessment, and financial reporting for the pre-financing amount.
3. Final Payment (remaining balance, up to 15%): The final payment, covering the remaining funding amount, will be made at the conclusion of the AS, contingent upon the successful achievement of milestones and/or deliverables.

2.3 OC1 APPLICANTS OUTREACH

Two months before the Open Call launch, a database of more than twenty relevant innovation hubs with SME and startup networks was created, based on MAGICIAN partner contacts. In addition, tailored digital content and channels were developed within MAGICIAN WP7 in order to be shared as a mitigation measure to boost the visibility of the first Open Call.

Moreover, an online webinar was delivered at the beginning of the Open Call launch (M17) to encourage the access by applicants from all over Europe. The purpose of the event was to allow third parties to discover the intricacies of the cascade funding, to familiarise themselves with MAGICIAN's functionalities technology offerings and to be informed of the application submission process. The recording of the webinar was made available for future reference through the MAGICIAN YouTube Channel and website at <https://youtu.be/vfzDMh2Ueas>.

2.4 OC 1 APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

With the aim of facilitating the submission process and encouraging the candidates to formulate their projects in a concise and structured manner, supporting material and activities were created. These include:

- Supporting materials, such as the Guide for applicants, FAQ and Proposal template
- Webinar and Weekly Help desk
- Online application platform

The *Guide for Applicants* (see **Error! Reference source not found.**) provides interested third parties with detailed information about the call and the rules of proposal submission. It also delivers an introduction on how to structure proposals, how to submit the same and it details the evaluation criteria. The content of the guide is based on the Horizon Europe guide for applicants provided by the European Commission. This document is further supplemented with an online version of the *Frequently Asked Questions* (FAQ) at [Open calls | MAGICIAN](#) and a contact Email (OpenCall@magician-project.eu) for promptly assistance in the proposal development. Additionally, a mandatory proposal template to (**Error! Reference source not found.**) ensure a uniform structure and the quality of the proposals

The proposal submission is supported by an online application platform. The platform was developed, implemented and maintained within MAGICIAN's WP7 to enable the online submission process. The usage of the submission system with automatic acknowledgement of the proposal receipt ensures a transparent and secure system for both the applicants and the project. Proposals that were either late or submitted by any other means were not accepted for evaluation.

A weekly helpdesk was implemented and maintained for the entire opening period of the Call to help applicants in case of either technical difficulties during the submission process or to respond with any necessary clarifications in terms of the OC in general.

OC 1 SELECTION PROCESS

The overview of the selection process is shown in Figure 1. No evaluation was performed prior to the closure of the application process. Once the submission deadline expired, the proposals, which were submitted in time and have been supported with all adequate materials (i.e. proposal), have been gathered for evaluation. The first step of this process consisted of an eligibility check, which ensured that only proposals which fit the MAGICIAN scope were considered for evaluation.

The core evaluation consisted of three parallel components: (i) evaluation by external experts, (ii) business case evaluation and (iii) evaluation by internal experts. These components are detailed in further subsections. Once the proposal scoring from these three parallel paths was collected, it was reviewed in a consensus meeting (involving the internal evaluators and ZAB as WP6 leader chairing the session), which provided an opportunity to assemble a high-view picture of the OC results and to reach a consensus in terms of results of the OC evaluation. The consensus meeting offered an opportunity to review and either confirm or justifiably overrule the results of the evaluation process through a plenary discussion.

The outcomes of the consensus meeting were delivered to MAGICIAN's project officer for validation and for the sake of full transparency. Once validated, the ranked list of proposals was used for notifications of the third parties.

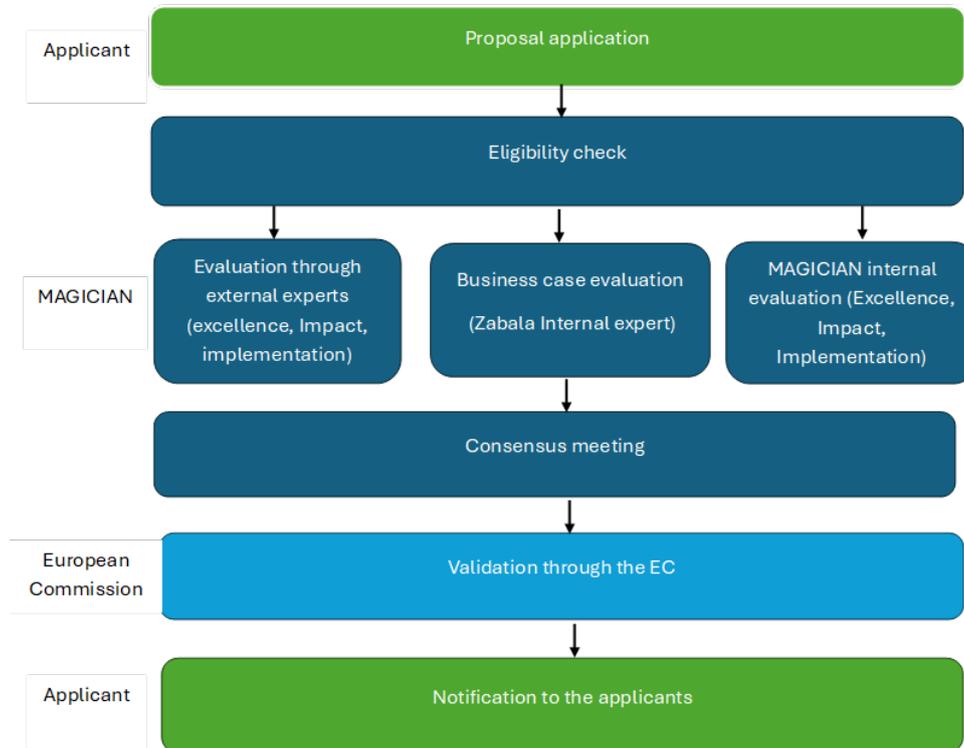


Figure 1- Selection WorkFlow

While the proposal application process is described in the last subsection (**Error! Reference source not found.**) of the previous chapter (**Error! Reference source not found.**), further details of the remaining parts of the process are described in the following subsections.

3.1 ELIGIBILITY CHECK

Eligibility check is a part of the process which ensures that proposals which are to be evaluated fit to the scope of the project (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The guiding principle of this Check is based on three aspects:

- Applying organisations are of the type and size that is targeted by MAGICIAN (i.e. SMEs and Startups dimension)
- Startups that have been operating for more than five years must hold an official document certifying the company's existence.
- Proposed technical solutions fit the scope of MAGICIAN (i.e. proposing maximum 2 functionalities within the module chosen F1/F2)
- The geographic location of the applicants is fitting Horizon Europe rules.
- Following the administrative and technical template provided by MAGICIAN
- Application within defined timeline (03/02 – 02/05, 17h00 CET)

By the day of the OC1 deadline, 80 applications were sent on the MAGICIAN submission portal. The result of this check was that 8 out of 80 submitted proposals were disqualified from further evaluation on the grounds of not fitting to the above eligibility criteria.

From 72 eligible ASs submitted, it emerged that the majority of the Applications Solutions came from 23 countries (19 MS; 14 horizon Europe associate countries). It is interesting to notice the distribution of applications per country of origin of the applicants (regardless of if they were part of a SINGLE or TWIN AE), which highlighted that the majority of applicants were from Italian companies, followed by Turkish and Greek ones.

These indications will be used by the MAGICIAN consortium to intensify the promotion of OC2 through communication and marketing channels that target countries that were underrepresented in the first OC.

3.2 SCORING ALGORITHM

The scoring algorithm for OC1 is presented in Table 2. Four aspects were considered in the evaluation process: Excellence, Impact (which includes a Business evaluation), and Quality — these have been assessed based on the written proposal —The three aspects (Excellence, Impact, and Quality) have been evaluated by one external expert and one internal reviewer from MAGICIAN’s technical partners. The evaluation committees, as illustrated in Table 2, are composed of MAGICIAN partners.

Table 2 - MAGICIAN OC1 Scoring Algorithm

The Business evaluation, as part of the Impact section, is conducted by a business expert reviewer from Zabala Innovation (a MAGICIAN partner). The score assigned to the business plan description is integrated into the total Impact score.

Finally, the 20 highest-scoring proposals from the first round of evaluation have been subjected to a second round of evaluation by the MAGICIAN Evaluation Committee.

The **Excellence** describes the major technical contributions of the project and as such is

Criteria/ scoring	Extern al Experts	MAGICIA N Evaluatio n Committe e	Business evaluatio n	1st Total for proposal	2nd Round MAGICIA N Evaluatio n Committe e	Final Total for proposal	Threshol d
<i>Excellenc e (/5)</i>	E1	1E _{DEC}		$E = (E1 + 1E_{dec}) / 2$	2E _{DEC}	$E = (E1 + 1E_{dec} + 2E_{dec}) / 3$	3
<i>Impact & Business (/5)</i>	I1	1I _{DEC}	Bu1	$I = (I1 + 1I_{dec} + Bu1) / 3$	2I _{DEC}	$I = (I1 + 1I_{dec} + 2I_{dec} + Bu1) / 4$	3
<i>Quality (/5)</i>	Q1	1Q _{DEC}		$Q = (Q1 + 1Q_{dec}) / 2$	2Q _{DEC}	$Q = (Q1 + 1Q_{dec} + 2Q_{dec}) / 3$	3
<i>Total (/15)</i>							9

evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Clarity and pertinence of the objectives.
- The soundness of the concept.
- The extent that proposed work is ambitious, has innovation potential and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).
- Stage of development of the idea (TRL – no basic science or fundamental research is expected to be funded under this call).
- Excellence, innovation and quality of objectives.

The **Impact section** of the proposal considers how generated assets would affect different stakeholders for that particular project. The focus is placed upon the industrial relevance of the project and the potential exploitation that is contributing to the (business orientated) sustainability of the generated assets. The following criteria are used to evaluate the impact of the proposal:

- **Enhancing innovation capacity** and integration of new knowledge.
- **Strengthening the competitiveness and growth of companies** involved by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets; and, where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the markets.

- Any other **environmental and socially important impacts** (covered contribution to EU policies or international targets, e.g. Sustainable Development Goals).

The Quality of the proposed plan is judged based on the soundness of the implementation concept i.e. the intention is to validate the quality of the proposed project management and the ambition to convert proposed technical solutions into marketable and industrialised assets. The quality is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.
- Complementarity of the participants.
- Justification of resources.

The following three subsections describe parallel processes that are contributing to the overall evaluation of the submitted proposals.

The scoring scale is presented in Table 3. It must be noted that half-a-point scores are also allowed.

Table 3: Scoring scale

Score	Description
1	Fails: to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
2	Fair: The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses/incoherences.
3	Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
4	Very Good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
5	Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

3.3 EXTERNAL REVIEWERS

A pool of 28 external reviewers is suggested by MAGICIAN partners. The experts are individuals from different sectors: science, industry or academic, and with experience in the field of automation and robotics to increase the overall expertise. Each partner has an opportunity to contribute to that pool with their suggestions. A set of **eight** external reviewers has been selected for OCl. The selection took into account that professional

backgrounds of the experts primarily fit the scope MAGICIAN but also delivered sufficient spread of technical expertise, with a gender balance and geographical equity criteria. Each reviewer reviews **nine** proposals. The scores of the external experts are taken into account when calculating the total score for each proposal as described in the previous section (**Error! Reference source not found.**).

It was ensured that the selected experts were free of conflict of interest to every involved party. All selected external experts are subcontracted and have been paid based on general daily rates for the evaluation of the proposals.

3.4 BUSINESS REVIEW

The business evaluation was made based on the analysis of the following elements:

- Market attractiveness
- Business model
- Marketing strategy

Together these evaluation criteria accounted for a maximum score of 5 points, which was integrated into the impact score as detailed in chapter 3.2 Scoring Algorithm, above.

3.5 INTERNAL REVIEW

The internal review has been conducted in two steps. Both steps have been carried out on an individual basis. In the first step, evaluators independently reviewed and assessed the proposals. Each proposal has been assigned to an internal reviewer whose expertise aligned with the type of functionality introduced by the AS.

Once the first round of evaluation was completed, in accordance with the algorithm section shown above, a meeting was held to announce the 20 highest scoring AS out of 72. A second round of internal evaluation has then been agreed upon by the MAGICIAN partners. In this phase, four MAGICIAN partners have each been assigned five AS to evaluate, ensuring that no AS is assessed by the same internal reviewer who evaluated it in the first round.

The outcome of this meeting was a single consolidated evaluation for each criterion for each proposal. These scores have then been taken to the overall consensus meeting (described in next section 3.6 *Final selection and results*).

3.6 FINAL SELECTION AND RESULTS

The final selection of the proposals was performed during the consensus meeting. This meeting presented an opportunity for the proposals to be presented, discussed and evaluated while taking into account the evaluation produced by three parallel processes

(see **Error! Reference source not found.**: external, business and internal). The outcome of this meeting was a ranked list of all the proposals with comments, which have been used for notifications provided to the applicants.

The selection considered the MAGICIAN criteria:

- Eligibility scores and threshold
- Feasibility assessment
- Target to reach for the number of selected proposals, ratio Single / Twin, success ratio, etc.

Aside from the list of selected proposals and a waiting list, the consensus meeting also informed and updated perspectives and objectives for the following OCs. It also provided an opportunity to derive lessons learned as a form of feedback to deliver constructive improvements to the process for the following calls.

As a result of the OC1 selection process, MAGICIAN has selected 5 projects (SINGLE ones) and 5 European companies to receive a total of over 936,980.00 Euro for their robotics and automation ambitions, and identified 5 proposals in a reserve list (as detailed in Figure 2).

PROP. ID	PROP. TITLE	Module+Functionalities	REQUESTED FUNDING	BENEFICIARY 1	TOT. FUNDING TO BE PROVIDED	MONITORING PARTNER
30	AMMSAS	F1. (F1.1;F1.5)	£ 200,000.00	Introsys – Integration For Robotic Systems – Integração de Sistemas Robóticos S.A.	200,000.00 €	UNITN
24	NEODES – NEO (New) Defect Enhancement Systems Next-	F1 (F1.4;F1.5)	£ 199,980.00	Yonga Technology Microelectronics R&D Inc.	399,980.00 €	FORTH
16	PolarQI-Net	F1. (F1.5)	£ 196,000.00	Multiverse Computing	595,980.00 €	PIPPLE
79	Human-Augmented Reality Monitoring for Operator Navigation (HARMONY)	F2. F2.2	£ 200,000.00	Lider Teknoloji Geliştirme Müh. Taah. San. ve Tic. Ltd. Sti. (LTG)	795,980.00 €	IIT
63	Adaptive Robotic Rework System for Automotive Defects	F1 (F1.3;F1.5)	£ 140,000.00	Ada Guzey Engineering Software Mechatronics Ltd.	935,980.00 €	ALTINAY
45	INVISAI: INTELLIGENT SENSING FOR INSPECTION AND GENERALIZED HYBRID TECHNIQUES WITH AI	F1. (F1.1; F1.5)	£ 175,000.00	WINGS ICT Solutions	175,000.00 €	RESERVE LIST
56	MULTI-EYERUS project	F1. (F1.4)	£ 199,990.00	BLUETENSOR SRL	374,990.00 €	RESERVE LIST
	PolarSynth: Generating Synthetic Polarized Image Data in Isaac Sim for Robust Defect Detection in					RESERVE LIST
29	Manufacturing	F1. (F1.4; F1.5)	£ 199,815.00	Sigmoid doo	574,805.00 €	RESERVE LIST
	Perception and Robotic Intelligence for Automotive					RESERVE LIST
28	Manufacturing (PRIMA)	F1. (F1.4; F1.5)	£ 199,375.00	AUTOMAVIS	774,180.00 €	RESERVE LIST
40	IDDC_ELVEZ Sensifai	F1.1 (F1.2)	£ 196,000.00	ELVEZ	970,180.00 €	RESERVE LIST

Figure 2: Final OC1 selection list

3.7 LESSONS LEARNED

The Lessons learned session is an integral part of the consensus meeting. It was performed immediately upon creation of the proposal ranking list. Each finding has

been concluded on with a SMART action point to improve the process of MAGICIAN's offers in the following call. Each action has also been assigned to an individual that is then accountable for its execution withing a feasible time limit. The range of improvements have been grouped in the following categories:

- Application and reviewer guidelines minor improvements in light of FAQ
- Consolidation of the second review at consensus meetings for highly scored proposals
- Adjustments to the evaluation timeline
- Repetition and expansion of the online events (webinars, helpdesks)
- Additions to FAQ resulting from analysis of requests received by the MAGICIAN helpdesk
- Minor adjustments to the proposal template
- Minor adjustments to the online application procedure

NEXT STEPS / IMPLEMENTATION

After the selection of the 5 ASs and the information of the applicants, the implementation phase has been launched and has been operatively conducted by the monitoring partners identified per each proposal at selection phase (as indicated in **Error! Reference source not found.**). The key steps after selection concern the contracting of the selected AS using the Standard Application Solution Agreement (SASA), elaborated by ZAB and UNITN legal department, and launch of the Monitoring Process.

4.1 CONTRACTING PHASE

After communication of the results of the selection process, all selected AS applicants were informed on 30/06/2025 about the results (either positive or negative) via a standardized form detailing the scores received per each criterion and the comments of the reviewers, as reported in **Error! Reference source not found.**

After information, the Monitoring partners contacted the AS beneficiaries in order to set up the following phases, in particular sharing the template of the SASA, setting up deadlines for reviews and feedback process, and sharing the Financial Identification form for the collection of certified bank account details for subsequent transfer of the Grant.

In relation to the SASA, the feedback exchange process has been implemented limiting the number of modifications to be accepted, in order to guarantee the maximum coherence among the different SASA signed with beneficiaries. Once the feedback exchange process has been concluded and the AS applicants have completed the

technical annex, the signature process has been launched according to the following procedure and admitting alternatives were deemed necessary (e.g. monitoring partner signing first).

Once the Selected Third Parties confirm their participation in implementing the MAGICIAN ASs, a kick-off meeting will be organised with the MAGICIAN consortium. This meeting will provide the OCI winners with the opportunity to present their project idea to the MAGICIAN coordinator and the assigned Monitoring Partner as well as learning about the monitoring procedures.

After the signature process is finalized, the beneficiaries may contact their Monitoring Partner to initiate the activities. This step officially launches the AS implementation.

4.2 MONITORING PROCESS

UNITN, IIT, FORTH, PIPPLE and ALTINAY have been in charge of defining the process and elaborating the documents for the monitoring phase (in particular the Monitoring tool and the templates for reporting).

All documents concerning the contracting and monitoring phase will be reported in private channels on teams, the secure storing system, for which each monitoring partner has received dedicated credentials for access.

All Monitoring partners have been briefed about the procedures to be implemented, namely:

- **Monthly internal reporting:** all monitoring partners will have to monthly report about the status of the corresponding AS using a standardized slide set (with qualitative information about the project status) and filling in the monitoring tool (**Error! Reference source not found.**); the monitoring tool will allow to aggregate information about all AS status and to promptly identify relevant emerging issues;
- **AS periodic status reporting:** AS partners will be requested to fill in a detailed reporting after each key milestone identified at M6, and at project termination M12 for authorising mid and final payment; the final reporting will include also a cost reporting form detailing the use of the grant in compliance with the SASA.
- **Sharing the results** achieved by the MAGICIAN project through a private channel on teams, in order to avoid the risk of disclosure, as these results will be used by the ASs as background IP for the implementation.

5 CONCLUSION

In conclusion, OC1 has been successfully organised and managed. It has resulted in the completion of the AS selection procedure and with the contracting procedure under finalization. Process implementation followed a consistent, transparent evaluation, scoring and selection strategy in line with the evaluation criteria of the European Commission.

Through the usage of evaluation experts with diverse professional backgrounds and business experience, the MAGICIAN consortium has ensured a broad, independent and fair proposal evaluation. The business case evaluation performed by a ZABALA expert brings additional value into identifying the highest quality proposals. The feedback provided to the applying third parties, regardless of their success, is to serve as a respected contribution to the applicants to improve their future proposals, as well as a valuable tool for evaluation of their own technical and business development.

A positive benefit for MAGICIAN, which is resulting from completion of the OC, is seen in the possibility to implement lessons learned within future MAGICIAN OCs. These are specifically referring to the improvements of the application process, as well as adjustments to the proposal template and associated supporting materials (FAQ and application guidelines).

The launch of the contracting phase and the implementation of the AS will provide the consortium with further indications to optimize the project selection and implementation process. In particular, the Innovation Management actions will be tested against the actual need of the AS beneficiaries in order to gather insights on how to support the AS beneficiaries in the launch on the market of their products and solutions. Moreover, the set monitoring process will allow to closely follow the implementation of the AS and the possible emergence of any relevant issue as well as to gather lessons for the subsequent AS implementations.

Hence, considering the parallel implementation of the approved ASs from the OC1 and the launch of OC2, the coming months will allow for further tests of the process in terms of robustness. It will also enable further refinement following the emerging evidence.

ANNEX 1 - CALL FOR PROPOSALS TEXT



MAGICIAN – AUTONOMOUS DEFECTS DETECTION AND REPAIR IN MANUFACTURING

Are you a European start-up or SME?

Are you ready to digitalize your products, get into new markets and expand your market-share?

MAGICIAN can support your development of smart products!

Open call for Application Solution (AS): MAGICIAN offers grants of up to **€200k** as well as technical support for the development of smart applications.

IF YOU ARE:

- ✓ Developing innovative robotic or automation solutions in manufacturing environments.
- ✓ Enhancing production process efficiency by integrating advanced technologies like AI, robotics, and sensor systems to address quality control
- ✓ Interested in using premium resources and competencies to speed up solutions development.
- ✓ Wishing to access a unique european ecosystem composed of leading industrial companies, world-class research organizations, innovation accelerators.

MAGICIAN OFFERS YOU:

- ✓ the opportunities and resources to develop an innovative application/software in domains of advanced robotics, AI-driven defect detection, tactile sensing technologies, vision-based defect detection systems and human-robot collaboration.
- ✓ Access to advanced industrial platforms for defect detection and rework automation, leveraging cutting-edge robotics, AI, and sensor integration technologies.
- ✓ Up to € 200k in funding – representing 70% of your project's declared

1

Open call for Application Solution #1
Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm
(Brussels Time)



budget, reaching 100% if you are a start-up.

- ✓ Added value to your product, through high-level technical expertise pooled from research centres across europe.
- ✓ Support for visibility and newtworking by providing targated information to multiple audiences

MAGICIAN IS OPEN TO PROPOSALS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING FIELDS:

- **AUTOMATION/ EMBEDDED SYSTEMS**
- **ROBOTICS**
- **ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**
- **MACHINE LEARNING**
- **COMPUTER VISION**
- **SMART MANUFACTURING**
- **SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES**
- **HUMAN-ROBOT COLLABORATION**
- **DATA ANALYTICS**
- **ADAPTIVE PROCESS CONTROL**

Proposals must be submitted by startups or SMEs in Europe, and based in EU member states or countries associated with Horizon Europe, as defined by [Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council](#) of 28 April 2021¹

If you have a promising innovative idea, we will help you to integrate it within the MAGICIAN ecosystem in tight collaboration with MAGICIAN partnerts – **do not miss this opportunity and apply to the open call to realize your innovative solution!**

Visit [Open calls | MAGICIAN](#) and contact the infomail OpenCall@magician-project.eu for promptly assistance you in proposal development.

¹ [Publications Office](#)

Open call for Application Solution #1
 Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm
 (Brussels Time)



Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm (Brussels Time)
 Notification to Applicants: 30th June 2025
 Call identifier: MAGICIAN01 call
 Proposal language: English
[Open calls | MAGICIAN](#) (full call text/proposal guidelines/standard agreement):
 For further information please contact: OpenCall@magician-project.eu

Important MAGICIAN process guidance, rules, offered technologies and platforms can be found at [Resources & Findings | MAGICIAN](#) in our Guide for Applicants document (see section 2.)

SCOPE of Applications:

F1. PERCEPTION			
Functionality	Description	Technical specification (Existing MAGICIAN functionality)	Integration expected from applicants
(F1.1) Sensors for accurate defect detection and classification	A vision-based defect detection system capable of identify and classify surface imperfections in real-time.	High-resolution cameras AI-powered analysis 5 ms response timing	New solution adding sensing systems (e.g., scanners, lasers, tomography, structured light, microwave imaging), ML algorithms (CNNs, transformers), ultrasonic sensors, photometric sensors, all meant to increase the defect detection precision, robustness and reliability
(F1.2) Polarized camera system	Detects defects using polarized imaging	MAGICIAN current prototype includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - polarized camera 16mm lens - 6 polarized light - ToF laser range sensors 	New modular design, improved power delivery mechanisms, enhanced structural stability and optimized lighting control for polarization-specific imaging.

Open call for Application Solution #1
Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm
(Brussels Time)



<p>(F1.3) Increase defect removal and rework abilities</p>	<p>CR's ability to handle material defects through modular and specialised tools.</p>	<p>MAGICIAN current CR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supports reworking body-in-white for abrasion and removal of excess material. - Equipped with a commercial grinding tool for welding spatters and excess material 	<p>A tailored grinding tool for the specific application, with co-design characteristics with robot end-effectors and control algorithms for optimised performance</p>
<p>(F1.4) Annotation Tools for Multi-modal Data</p> <p>(F1.5) Innovative approaches and architectures for improved defect detection and classification</p>	<p>Annotating datasets tool for training defect models</p> <p>Defect localisation and characterization through advanced algorithms and architectures</p>	<p><u>Not implemented yet; solution requested from applicants</u></p> <p>MAGICIAN polarized camera system serves as the current data source for training defect detection models</p>	<p>New solutions applying semi-automated or AI-assisted annotation frameworks</p> <p>Integrating user-friendly interfaces for annotators</p> <p>Machine learning algorithms (e.g., CNNs, transformer architectures) to boost classification accuracy</p> <p>Hybrid methods comprising traditional computer vision techniques, or novel algorithmic strategies</p>
<p>(F1.6) Wearable and innovative tactile systems for capturing expertise in Defect detection and classification</p>	<p>Tactile systems for defect detection and interaction with manufacturing surface inspections.</p>	<p>Device integrating a piezoresistive force sensors and an accelerometer</p> <p>Tactile features are extracted directly from the force and acceleration data.</p>	<p>AS enabling data acquisition without altering the operator's natural exploration techniques</p> <p>Acquisition of a larger dataset testing and comparing various tactile sensors (e.g. microphones, bragg fiber, visual-tactile systems)</p>
<p>F2. HUMAN-ROBOT COLLABORATION</p>			
<p>(F2.1) Human Observation</p>	<p>Modeling human defect correction skills for robots.</p>	<p>Dynamic Motion Primitives (DMPs), capturing and analyzing human motion</p>	<p>New solution implementing DMPs with Riemannian manifolds for high-fidelity behavior replication.</p> <p>New approaches solutions such as</p>

Open call for Application Solution #1
Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm
(Brussels Time)



		patterns.during defect-handling tasks	zero-shot learning for a facilitated adaptation to tasks with minimal training.
(F2.2) Interface and Interaction	Human and	Flexible interfaces for human-robot collaboration	Tablet GUI for defect detection and classification review.
(F2.3) Human worker speaking system		Voice- based human-robot communication	Not implemented yet; solution requested from applicants
(F2.4) Motion Improvements	Motion	Increase of flexibility and productivity, and reduce the impact on the working cell	CR and SR fixed on the ground or placed on mechanical slider
			Mobile robots carrying the SR/CR robots, soft robotic arms, algorithmic solutions for safe trajectories in the work cell shared space

THROUGH OPEN CALLS, MAGICIAN PROVIDES:

- ✓ A unique opportunities to collaborate and engage with major experts in AI, robotics, smart manufacturing (...)
- ✓ Assistance in terms of expertise, know-how, coaching and technologies transfer from our partners through a live/recorded webinar
- ✓ Access to advanced technologies and industrial platforms developed by MAGICIAN consortium, with which proposed solutions need to be fully compatible (see section 3.7 Guide For Applicants)

MAGICIAN WELCOMES PROPOSALS ADDRESSING SMART APPLICATION TARGETING:

- ✓ **Perception/Action Systems for Manufacturing:** leveraging advanced perception technologies (e.g., AI-driven vision systems, sensors) for identifying and analyzing defects during production processes. The expected outcome is ensuring high precision and reliability in removing defects and performing surface treatment operations while maintaining production efficiency.

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Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm
(Brussels Time)



- ✓ **Flexible and customizable robotic systems:** Modular robotic manipulation system technologies that can be quickly adapted to the requirements of different surface defect removal tasks, through agile software and mechatronic nodular and reconfigurable functionalities as well as flexible interfacing enabling the quick integration with third party end-effector tools and perception components.
- ✓ **Planning/High-Level Control for Robotics and Automation:** Developing advanced control systems to manage complex robotic actions. The expected outcome is a solutions focused on efficient task planning for robots that integrate safety mechanisms and ensure compliance with safety standards

THROUGH MAGICIAN APPLICANTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH LEADING-EDGE TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATION MANAGEMENT EXPERTS

TECHNOLOGY

- *UNITN, ITALIA*
- *ALTINAI, TURKEY*
- *FORTH-ICS, AUSTRIA*
- *HWH, GERMANY*
- *IIT, ITALY*
- *LUND UNIVERSITY, SWEDEN*
- *CENTRO RICERCHE FIAT (CRF), ITALY*
- *PIPPLE, NETHERLANDS*
- *TOFAS, TURKEY*

INNOVATION MANAGEMENT

- *ZABALA INNOVATION CONSULTING, BELGIUM*
- *STEINBEIS INNOVATION (SIG), GERMANY*

Application Solution can run up to **12** months. The expected outcome of your Application Solution is a demonstrator prototype with a high technology readiness level (TRL7). The prototype may also be used as a first-generation product.

MAGICIAN targets 'small' companies (start-ups, small/medium enterprises), including organisations with both, low and high digital maturity.



Open call for Application Solution #1
Call deadline: 2nd May 2025, 5:00pm
(Brussels Time)



Interested start-ups, SMEs from EU member states and Horizon Europe associated countries are encouraged to review the offered platforms, technologies and testbeds at [Home | MAGICIAN](#) and contact our project members to gather further details. Additionally, a webinar will be organized to present the Open Call, with the recording made available on the MAGICIAN website. A weekly live helpdesk will also be accessible throughout the entire duration of the Open Call.

ANNEX 2 - APPLICATION GUIDELINES

MAGICIAN – AUTONOMOUS DEFECTS DETECTION AND REPAIR IN MANUFACTURING

Open call 1, Guide for Applicants

February 3rd 2025

Closing date for the 1st Open Call: 02.05.2025, 5 pm (Brussels Time)

Important: MAGICIAN offers 2 opens calls, the second one will open in
December 2025

Short Description

The Guide for Applicants contains the basic information needed to guide you in preparing a proposal for submission to the MAGICIAN Open Calls. It gives an introduction on how to structure your proposal. It also describes how the proposal should be submitted, and the criteria on which it will be evaluated.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
AS	Application Solution
FSTP	Financial Support To Third Party
IP	Intellectual Property

GENERAL INFORMATION

The **Guide for Applicants** contains the basic information needed to guide you in preparing a proposal for submission to the MAGICIAN Open Calls. It gives an introduction on how to structure your proposal, how to submit the proposal and what are the evaluation criteria applied.

Please note:

Every selected applicant will be required to sign a Standard Agreement, a model example will be provided to applicants before the Notification of Results at the MAGICIAN website [Home | MAGICIAN](#).

This Guide for Applicants does not supersede the rules and conditions laid out, in particular, in Council and Parliament decisions relevant to the Horizon Europe framework program.

MAGICIAN Summary

MAGICIAN project takes on the challenge of producing a modular automation solution in which robots are used to detect and rework production defects before the last production phases commence and the aesthetics of the product is finalised. The project will produce two robotic solutions, one for defect analysis (sensing robot - SR) and one for the defects' rework (cleaning robot, CR). The SR and the CR can be used separately, with the humans remaining in charge of some of the activities, or in combination, with the CR operating on the defects identified by the SR. The solution will be developed around a human-centered approach, which will allow to evaluate the impact of the innovation on the production processes and remove the most important asperities along this path. MAGICIAN project will generate research and human-centered processes in automation/robotics that considers effects and potential impacts on the workers and society, by improving collaboration, productivity and quality along with the enhancement of working conditions.

MAGICIAN consortium

The MAGICIAN consortium brings together the following members:



UNIVERSITY
OF TRENTO



FORTH
INSTITUTE OF COMPUTER SCIENCE



TÜRK OTOMOBİL FABRİKASI A.Ş.



LUND
UNIVERSITY



Steinbeis
Europa Zentrum
Enabling Innovators to Grow



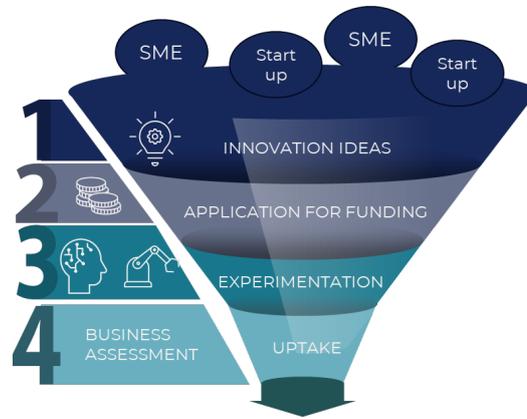
ISTITUTO ITALIANO
DI TECNOLOGIA



INNOVATION

- UNITN, Italia
- ALTINAY, Turkey
- FORTH-ICS, Austria
- HWH, Germany
- IIT, Italy
- Lund University, Sweden
- Centro Ricerche FIAT (CRF), Italy
- Pipple, Netherlands
- Tofas, Turkey
- Zabala Innovation Consulting, Belgium
- Steinbeis Innovation gGmbH (SIG), Germany

2. SCOPE OF THE CALL



The first open call focuses on the integration of new functionalities within MAGICIAN project solutions through close collaboration with MAGICIAN partners, with the ultimate aim to enhance the capabilities of the SR (Sensing Robot) and CR (Cleaning Robot) through advanced technologies such as improved defect detection algorithms, more efficient rework techniques, or complementary AI modules that optimize their performance in real-time production environments.

More precisely, the MAGICIAN project integrates collaborative robotics, AI-driven defect detection and repair, and human-centered design principles to produce a system that enhances productivity, safety, and ergonomics in manufacturing, while also considering ethical and social dimensions. The technical MAGICIAN solution foreseen by the consortium is summarized in what follows:

Collaborative Robotic Platforms:

- **Platform for defect detection (SR):** Uses advanced sensors (visual, tactile) to identify surface imperfections on automotive parts.
- **Platform for defect reworking (CR):** Equipped with a high-payload robotic arm and specialized grinding tools to repair identified imperfections.

Human-Robot Interaction Design:

- **Human-centered interfaces** for safe and ergonomic interaction between workers and robots.
- Active **involvement of end-users** (workers) throughout the design and testing phases to ensure usability, safety, and worker acceptance.

Perception and Learning Systems:

- **Multi-modal perception system** combining visual and tactile data for

defect detection and classification.

- **AI models for defect categorization** and skill transfer from humans to robots using Learning from Demonstrations (LfD) and semi-supervised learning.

Control and Motion Systems:

- Motion and force control strategies for safe, precise, and efficient defect reworking tasks.
- Planning and scheduling tools to optimize robotic operations, including path planning and task execution in collaborative environments.

Ethical and Social Frameworks:

- Incorporation of ethical, social, and gender considerations in the design and deployment of robotic solutions.
- Ongoing evaluation of the social and psychological impacts of robotic systems on workers' trust, comfort, privacy, and quality of life.

Configuration Optimization and Validation Tools:

- A configuration optimization tool to tailor robotic system settings to various manufacturing use cases for efficient deployment.
- Closed-loop control for welding processes to detect and address defects in real-time.

Validated Datasets and Algorithms:

- Comprehensive datasets for training and testing AI algorithms for defect detection and reworking.
- Tools and models for inline defect analysis, leveraging techniques like FFT, PCA, and deep learning.

Funded projects must provide a solution to be integrated in the above described framework, while focusing on a single module between the ones described below (F1 or F2) and proposing a maximum of two functionalities for integration within that module² (applicants must specify their chosen module when applying):

F1. PERCEPTION

F1.1 Sensors for accurate defect detection and classification: MAGICIAN Consortium seek to advance defect detection and classification by integrating alternative non-invasive sensing modalities into the current vision-based system. The current implementation of that system integrates a polarized camera paired with polarized side lighting to enhance the visibility of surface irregularities. The system is optimized for rapid image acquisition, balancing fast exposure times with sufficient contrast to maintain high detection accuracy. Proposed solutions may include technologies such as laser scanners, structured light, Time-of-Flight (ToF) sensors, acoustic emission sensing, thermographic cameras, photometric stereo methods, microwave imaging, eddy current sensors, or ultrasonic techniques. This list is only indicative, and any other sensing modality demonstrably suitable for the needs of MAGICIAN is also welcome. Proposals should aim to meet key performance indicators (KPIs), such as detecting defects as small as 0.3 mm, achieving strict scan time requirements, and ensuring computational efficiency for near real-time performance on commodity hardware. The focus is on developing reliable, scalable prototypes capable of enhancing defect detection accuracy and throughput.

F1.2 Polarized camera system: We invite proposals that focus on optimizing the MAGICIAN polarized camera system for defect detection, with an emphasis on improving its robustness, compactness, and suitability for real-world deployment. The current prototype includes a polarized camera with an upgraded 16mm lens, six polarized light sources, and Time-of-Flight (ToF) laser range sensors for plane measurement. While effective for the project's current needs, the system could be further optimized to better address industrial constraints such as size, weight, power efficiency, and seamless integration into robotic platforms. Proposals are encouraged to address these challenges, exploring solutions like modular designs, improved power delivery mechanisms, enhanced structural stability and optimized lighting control for polarization-specific imaging. The goal is to deliver a refined, production-ready camera system capable of maintaining or surpassing the defect visualization quality achieved by the current prototype, while ensuring compatibility with high-throughput industrial operations.

F1.3 Increase defect removal and rework abilities: The MAGICIAN CR has the limit of reworking the body-in-white only for abrasion and removal of excess

² Of the five selected projects, three will be funded under the first set of functionalities (F1), and two under the second (F2).

material. However, dents can be also reworked by the design of a hammer-like end-effector that can be used for small dents repair. Moreover, The CR developed by the MAGICIAN Consortium is endowed with a commercial grinding tool able to rework welding spatters and other defects that come with an excess of material on the body in white. A possible improvement is to design a specific grinding tool for the defect reworking activities that is not general purpose but tailored on the MAGICIAN solution and that can be co-designed with the robot end-effector and the control algorithms to be applied.

F1.4 Annotation Tools for Multi-Modal Data: Given the importance of annotated datasets for training defect detection models, this topic seeks innovative annotation tools tailored for multi-modal data (e.g., polarized imaging, tof measurements and possibly other modalities). Proposed solutions could include semi-automated or AI-assisted annotation frameworks, making it easier to handle large-scale data labeling tasks while maintaining high accuracy and consistency. Proposals may also explore user-friendly interfaces for annotators or tools that generate synthetic data to augment real-world datasets.

F1.5 Innovative approaches and architectures for improved defect detection and classification:

We invite innovative approaches to improve defect detection, localization, and characterization of defects, using annotated visual data acquired from the polarized camera system developed within MAGICIAN. Proposals may focus on leveraging machine learning algorithms, including convolutional neural networks (CNNs) and transformer architectures, to enhance classification accuracy and reduce misclassification rates. Alternative approaches, such as traditional computer vision techniques, hybrid methods, or novel algorithmic strategies, are also encouraged. The aim is to leverage the existing data to develop techniques that achieve real-time defect analysis by training models, and integrating features such as defect size, type, and severity. The resulting systems should aim to match human performance in accuracy and precision or potentially exceed it in specific aspects. The proposed solutions should have the potential to account for industrial constraints, such as computational efficiency and scalability, ensuring compatibility with real-time processing requirements on production lines.

F1.6 Wearable Tactile Systems for Capturing Operator Expertise in Defect Detection and Classification:

The current tactile system developed within the MAGICIAN project relies on piezoresistive force sensors and an analog accelerometer to extract tactile features from force and acceleration signals. While this handheld device is practical for initial testing, it does not fully align with the natural exploration techniques used by operators during defect inspections, as it impairs their natural scanning modality. Addressing this limitation requires the design of a wearable solution that allows seamless data acquisition while preserving operator expertise and transparency. Additionally, exploring alternative sensors such as microphones, Bragg fiber sensors, and visual-tactile systems could enhance defect detection by capturing features beyond those measured by the current system. Acquiring a larger dataset will

enable comprehensive testing of various tactile sensors, improving our understanding of operator strategies and identifying the most effective technologies for robust and accurate defect detection.

F2. HUMAN-ROBOT COLLABORATION

F2.1 Human Observation: The MAGICIAN first solution currently employs Dynamic Motion Primitives (DMPs) and Riemannian manifolds to model and transfer human skills for defect detection and correction to the CR. This approach captures nonlinear motion patterns and allows robotic systems to replicate precise, adaptable motions in real-time, ensuring smooth human-robot collaboration in manufacturing scenarios. To enhance this framework, the Consortium invites innovative proposals that explore cutting-edge learning techniques capable of improving the modeling of complex dependencies and relationships across motion trajectories. Additionally, approaches such as zero-shot learning could enable robots to generalize effectively from limited examples, facilitating adaptation to new and unseen tasks with minimal training. The goal is to improve human-level precision in motion modeling while addressing key needs like scalability, computational efficiency, and robustness.

F2.2 Human Interface and Interaction: One of the selling points of the project MAGICIAN is to let the SR or CR robot to be a working apprentice. After a first learning phase, that can be carried out on the plant of interest or otherwise learned from previous applications, the human worker has to check if both the SR and the CR are correctly performing their tasks and if they need some fine tuning, e.g., in the detection phase or in the reworking phase. To this end, a simple user interface is needed. In its first version, the MAGICIAN solution comes with a simple GUI on a tablet in which the human worker can check if the defects are correctly detected and classified by the SR and then if they are correctly removed by the CR. The Consortium is looking for more flexible interfaces, such as augmented reality glasses that allows a more intuitive and flexible interaction of the worker with the working piece under investigation. Such interfaces should demonstrate bidirectional functionality. They should be able to communicate with the MAGICIAN robotic platform, augment and display relevant information gathered from the perception system of the robot as well as serve as input interface enabling the human operator to also interact and command the robotic platform on the basis of the augmented information received.

F2.3 Human worker speaking system: In the spirit of a simple and effective interaction. Between the human worker and the robots, MAGICIAN Consortium is planning to add a intuitive natural language interface to let the human worker speak aloud, communicate and guide/control the robot during the execution of the task. Such vocal interface can be for example employed in situations where the robot has mistakenly detected a defect or incorrectly reworked it, Application must suggest alternative procedures and operations to the defect detection or the reworking operation. In addition, the speech interface can provide an

efficient communication channel through which the human operator can provide commands to control the general workflow of the defect detection and correction operations. The proposals should provide both the software components of the speaking system and their interfaces, as well as ergonomic, yet reliable solutions for the integration of the physical sensors (microphones).

F2.4 Motion improvements: In the MAGICIAN first solution, the CR and the SR are supposed to be fixed on the ground or to be placed on a mechanical slider. In the former case, robots have limited mobility and make it hard to respect the foreseen takt time. In the latter case, the mechanical slide is bulky and requires time to be deployed, modified or removed. In both cases, the motion of the human worker will be impaired by the robot mounting system. To increase flexibility and productivity, and reduce the impact on the working cell, the Consortium is looking for a mobile robot solution that can host the robotic arm and increase the mobility of the system. The proposed solutions should also provide the necessary perception and control components enabling reliable and safe navigation as well as the coordination of the mobility/navigation and manipulation motion generation and control in whole body fashion demonstrated in relevant mobile manipulation task scenarios. This robotic system should be able to share the working cell with the human being, and hence planning and executing safe trajectories. Moreover, the Consortium aims to increase interoperability, safety and worker acceptability.

3. RULES AND CONDITIONS

To avoid conflicts of interest, applications involving or coming from persons or organizations who are partners in the MAGICIAN consortium or who are formally linked to partners of the MAGICIAN consortium will not be accepted. For the purposes of this call for proposals, “organizations formally linked to the partners” of the MAGICIAN consortium are understood according to the definition of affiliated entities and third parties with a legal link to a beneficiary described within the Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement – Art. 12 — CONFLICT OF INTEREST (available at: [aga_en.pdf \(europa.eu\)](#)).

3.1 ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

Legal entities established in the following countries are eligible to receive funding through this Open Call:

- Member States (MS) of the European Union (EU), including their overseas departments
- The Horizon Europe Associated Countries

The EU Associated Countries participate in Horizon Europe under the same conditions as the EU Member States. A list with all eligible associated Countries can be found here:

[list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-euratom_en.pdf](#)

Legal entities established in any other country or region cannot receive funding in this open Call.

3.2 TARGETED COMPANIES

MAGICIAN is targeting the following types of companies from the eligible countries mentioned above:

- Startups
- Small and Medium Sized Enterprises³

A legal entity will be considered **an SME** if it complies with the European Commission's definition. The main factors defining an enterprise as an SME are (i) staff headcount and (ii) either turnover or balance sheet total, as specified in the table below:

Table 1: SME definition

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

Further requirements on the European Commission's SME definition can be found at: <https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition/>

Any applicant commits itself:

- 1) to have at the moment of the submission of the application, or at the latest by the kick-off of the AS activities (corresponding to the entry into force of the Standard Agreement), the necessary stable and sufficient resources to implement the MAGICIAN Solution;
- 2) to guarantee that its organisation is not in any situation which would exclude them from receiving financial support (including pending financial procedures concerning frauds or inappropriate management or undue previous appropriation of funds from

³ http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en

other funding programs),

3) not to cumulate the MAGICIAN funding with other forms of financial support for the same work (i.e. exclusion of double funding case).

3.3 ETHICAL ISSUES

MAGICIAN complies with the European policies regarding data protection and privacy and respects fundamental ethical issues particularly those outlined in the “European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”.

Each AS is responsible to respect European policies regarding data protection and privacy, in particular to be GDPR compliant.

All data that are involved (collected, generated, stored) into an AS or that are processed in an AS must be GDPR compliant and therefore completely anonymized beforehand.

For more information on ethical issues, please consult the documentation provided by the European Commission: [how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/euipo/ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf) (europa.eu)

The MAGICIAN consortium respects the European Ethics Guidelines Trustworthy AI, with the guarantee that AI systems are not only ethical and socially robust, but also operate harmoniously throughout their entire lifecycle, promoting trust in new AI technologies.

For more information on Ethics Guidelines Trustworthy AI please consult the documentation provided by the European Commission: [Ethics Guidelines for AI](https://ec.europa.eu/euipo/ethics-guidelines_en.pdf) (europa.eu)

All applicants have to confirm if their proposal does or does not have ethical issues by selecting the relevant checkboxes in the proposal template. If you suspect that you have to answer “Yes” to any of the questions in the template, please contact a MAGICIAN Partner for guidance the issue.

The MAGICIAN consortium may check during the evaluation of a proposal if this declaration is in line with the contents of the proposal itself and reserves itself the right to contact the companies for clarification and eventually take necessary steps depending on the ethical issues.

3.4 FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THIRD PARTIES RULES

As per European Commission's rules, companies have the possibility to participate in different open calls during MAGICIAN entire duration. In that case, the maximum possible financial support per MAGICIAN project is limited to **200.000 €**. Financial support to third parties is called cascade funding.

The limited amount does not include any EC contribution that your organization receives or has received via an EU-funded project (within Horizon Europe) as a fully associated beneficiary.

As per the European Commission's rules, financial support will not be awarded for work that was previously or is currently funded under any other (Regional, National or EU) program.

3.5 FUNDING OF PROPOSALS

The funding of proposals will follow the Financial Support to Third Party rules detailed in the previous section (§3.4).

The **maximum funding** per AS is **200.000 €**, at a funding rate of **70%** of the budget for **SMEs**, reaching up to **100%** of the budget in case of **Start-ups**. This refers to the base configuration, more details in section §3.6.

Each **AS budget** will include justifications of cost and resources. The total European Commission available funding per AS will represent 70% of the total cost involved by selected **SMEs**, and 100% of the costs involved by selected **Start-ups**.

The amount of financial support will be calculated on the basis of the estimated costs. Each AS will include an implementation plan including milestones and deliverables, and a cost estimate justifying the costs and resources in relation to the implementation plan. The selected company(-ies) will receive funding distributed in three stages:

4. **Pre-financing (up to 50%)**: An initial payment of up to 50% of the total funding amount will be provided upon the successful completion of the Kick-off Meeting (KoM).
5. **Intermediate Payment (up to 35%)**: A second instalment of up to 35% will be disbursed following the submission and approval of a status report. This report should include updates on the Work Package (WP) progress, a risk assessment, and financial reporting for the pre-financing amount.
6. **Final Payment (remaining balance, up to 15%)**: The final payment, covering the remaining funding amount, will be made at the conclusion of the AS, contingent

upon the successful achievement of milestones and/or deliverables.

The **AS budget** must follow Horizon Europe rules, among them:

- It must respect the limit of 15% for specific subcontracting tasks that neither the MAGICIAN partners nor the Third Party can carry out
- The Third Party shall not make a profit from the EC funding

Budget categories/activity types:

A. Personnel costs:

- A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons
- A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries

B. Subcontracting costs

C. Purchase costs

- C.1 Travel and subsistence,
- C.2 Equipment,
- C.3 Other goods, works and services

E. Indirect costs

Indirect costs will be reimbursed at the flat-rate of 25% (categories A-D, except volunteers' costs, subcontracting costs, financial support to third parties and exempted specific cost categories, if any).

It is strongly recommended that travel costs for dissemination in the "*other direct costs*" budget are included in the budget up to a limit of 10k.

Please consider that all budgeted costs must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labor and social security and must be in compliance with the rules and conditions laid out in Council and Parliament decisions relevant to the Horizon Europe framework program, in particular - but not exclusively - "[Regulation \(EU\) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021](#)"

Provisions for possible future losses or charges, exchange losses, costs related to return on capital, costs reimbursed in respect of another Union action or program, debt and debt service charges and excessive or reckless expenditure are **ineligible costs** and **cannot be included** into the budget.

The expected **duration** of an AS is **targeted for 12 months**.

3.6 PARTNERS IN APPLICATION SOLUTION

MAGICIAN partners support selected third parties in different ways and roles: AS can be promoted by one single applicant (Single AS) or by a small consortium of maximum 2 organizations (Twin AS), as summarized in the following table.

Single AS	Twin AS
<p>BASE CONFIGURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Third party (= the applying company) • MAGICIAN Competence partner • Cascade funding partner (ZAB) • 200.000 € max of cascade funding for the applying company 	<p>BASE CONFIGURATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Third parties (= the applying company(ies)) • MAGICIAN Monitoring partner • Cascade funding partner (ZAB) • Each applying consortium receives a max of 200.000 € of cascade funding each • One of the two legal entities in the applying consortium will be designated as the coordinator and will serve as the sole point of contact with the MAGICIAN counterparts

For Twin AS, one of the two legal entities applying will have to be designated as **the coordinator** of the project at application phase. Its duties are i) to ensure that the proposal is in line with the companies expectations and targets, ii) to make sure that both the administrative declarations and the ethical issues section (§4) of the proposal are fully completed on behalf of the two third parties, iii) to be the privileged contact with the MAGICIAN partners and ensuring smooth communication, iv) will be the point of contact receiving the fund and distribute them among the consortium.

MAGICIAN competence partners will support and collaborate with third party(ies) during the execution of the selected single AS. They will report on the AS status to the cascade funding partner and the validation of the defined milestones.

MAGICIAN monitoring partner will ensure the project follows its work plan as a single point of contact for the third party(ies) during the execution of the selected twin AS. They will relay the AS status to the cascade funding partner and the validation of the defined milestones.

MAGICIAN coordinator partner (UniTN) is in charge of the cascade funding (FSTP) payment to the coordinator of the two Third parties or the unique applicant in case of Single AS, following the payment schedule described in the standard contract and the validation of the Status report, milestones and associated deliverables by the competence or monitoring partners, depending on the AS type.

3.7 AVAILABLE MAGICIAN TECHNOLOGIES

MAGICIAN provides access to advanced technologies and industrial platforms that are developed by the Consortium, such as:

- Collected datasets (defect collections, human motions inside the working cells for defect detection and reworking, camera and touching sensor data)
- CAD design and mounting instructions for the designed sensing system and grinding tool
- Testing facilities, including testing robots, for solutions fine-tuning
- Support in software integration and solution adaptation
- Application domain knowledge

Beneficiaries must integrate their solutions with the foreseen MAGICIAN platform. Indeed, it is essential that the proposed solutions are fully compatible with MAGICIAN's current software and hardware specifications, communication system, and computational requirements to enable effective collaboration. These specifications include:

- Robotic system, which consists of a Doosan H2515 with a tool output flange (Standard ISO9409-1-50-4-M6) and a maximum payload of 25 kg
- The rated power outlet at the end effector (1000W)
- Computing power of the onsite workstation that consists of one high-end desktop computer with one CPU and one dedicated NVIDIA GPGPU.
- API and software interfaces, which build upon Linux 22.04 as operating system and ROS2 Humble as communication middleware, together with a description of the developed algorithms and functionalities
- The software developed by the consortium to provide vision capabilities to the Magician platform is based on Keras 3+/Tensorflow 2.18.0+ and is written in Python 3.10+ , C and C++. Usage of mature standard open-source libraries such as OpenCV and NumPy is preferred. Docker containers could be used to facilitate integration to our platform, however targeting a similar development environment reducing code surface will be ideal.
- Git and GitHub version control software to host the code
- Hardware interfaces for the onsite workstation (e.g., USB and Gigabit Ethernet)
- Comply with the automation standard
- Time and quality requirements of the defect inspection and removal production line according to the automotive standards

3.8 APPLICATION SOLUTION TYPE: SINGLE AS # TWIN AS

Two types of ASs are supported by MAGICIAN in this open call:

- **SINGLE AS:**

Base configuration

- *a single AS involves one European company that brings an idea of innovation can be integrated to the existing MAGICIAN solution and that thus will have a potential market vision. The maximum cascade funding grant available for the company is 200.000 €.*
- *One MAGICIAN technical partner brings the technical expertise to the European company.*
- *One MAGICIAN innovation partner is associated, bringing its expertise on innovation management and business.*
- *Together with UNITN as project coordinator, they will constitute a dedicated unit of work, committed together through the signed standard and specific AS agreement, if selected.*

- **TWIN AS:**

- *a twin AS involves two European companies, preferably but not mandatorily from different countries, that are associated in a small consortium to build together a proposal and to manage it to its realization, if selected. The maximum cascade funding grant available will be **200.000 € for each consortium.***
- *Company #1 brings an idea of innovation, a clear market vision and needs complementary expertise to validate the concept. This legal entities within the applying consortium will be designated as the **coordinator** and will be the sole point of contact for all communications with the MAGICIAN counterparts.*
- *Company #2 brings the complementary expertise to realize the Solution.*
- *One MAGICIAN partner is associated to monitor the good realization of the project, based on the defined workplan.*
- *Together with UNITN as project coordinator, they will constitute a dedicated consortium, committed together through the signed standard and specific AS agreement, if selected. Both European companies will receive cascade funding based on the workplan and payment schedule conditions defined in the standard and specific AS agreement.*

3.9 TECHNICAL AREAS

MAGICIAN welcomes proposals including, but not limited to, the following fields (see section 2 for detailed description of targeted solutions): Robotics, Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Sensor technologies, Smart Manufacturing, Human-robot collaboration, Advanced Materials, Data Analytics, Digital technologies, Adaptive Process control.

4. PROPOSAL CREATION AND SUBMISSION

4.1 ONE STAGE SUBMISSION

Proposals for a MAGICIAN AS are submitted in a single stage, by submitting a complete proposal through our submission portal → [Application Form | MAGICIAN](#).

After completing the fields indicated in the application form, each applicant needs to upload a proposal description file, a technical description (including a business-oriented description): small document (max 15 pages) written in English and submitted under pdf format.

4.2 PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION LANGUAGE AND LENGTH

The proposal description has to follow the structure of the proposal template provided in Annex 1 of this document. The template can be downloaded from the open call website as a Microsoft-Word file: [Resources & Findings | MAGICIAN](#)

The proposal has to be written in English. Proposals submitted in any other language will not be evaluated. The proposal has to be submitted under a pdf format.

The proposal (technical sections, i.e. Excellence, Impact and Implementation) **should not exceed 15 pages in length** (recommended Arial or Times New Roman font, minimum font 11), not including the title page, the administrative declarations and section 4. (Ethical Issues) of the proposal. Applicants are free to provide limited additional information such as letters of support or additional data or references in the Appendix that does not count to this page count. It is recommended that applicants include in their proposals also innovation management/business development actions to be subsequently implemented.

4.3 SUPPORT DURING THE CREATION OF THE PROPOSAL

Applicants are **strongly encouraged to contact MAGICIAN partners through the following email OpenCall@magician-project.eu**, in order to get more information on the technologies available, the Innovation management services and advice on how to create a successful proposal prior to submitting.

Applicants can contact MAGICIAN thanks to:

- MAGICIAN weekly helpdesk (every Wednesday, 17h00 – 18h00): [Join the meeting now](#)
- Direct contact with MAGICIAN partners (link)
- Participation in webinar and by accessing its recorded session

Past experience indicates that proposals with engagement before submission are more likely to succeed.

4.4 SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Proposals in MAGICIAN are submitted through our dedicated proposal submission portal.

Only proposals submitted through this portal before the closure of the call will be evaluated after its closure. Proposals must be received by the closing time and date of the call (**02/05/2025 Wednesday at 5:00pm, Brussels Time**). Late proposals or proposals submitted to any other address or by any other means will not be evaluated.

If one of the mandatory documents is missing (pdf file), the proposal will be considered as incomplete and therefore will not be evaluated.

If you discover an error in your proposal, you can at any time - provided the call deadline has not passed - submit a new version of your proposal in our portal. Only the last version received before the call deadline will be considered in the evaluation.

All proposals will be evaluated as submitted; after the close of a call, no additions or changes to received proposals will be taken into account.

Do not wait until the last minute to submit the final version of your proposal. A complete proposal includes the proposal description (pdf document). Failure of your proposal to arrive on time for any reason, including communication delays, is not acceptable as a delay circumstance. The time of receipt of your submission as recorded by the portal system will be definitive.

4.5 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT

The submission of a proposal will be confirmed by the proposal submission system through an automated email received from OpenCall@magician-project.eu.

The acknowledgement of receipt will be emailed to you by MAGICIAN project (**see Annex 2** of this document).

The sending of an acknowledgement of receipt does not imply that your proposal has been accepted as eligible for evaluation.

5. PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION

5.1 ADMISSIBILITY AND ELIGIBILITY CHECK

A proposal is eligible if it complies to the following requirements

1. The proposal description is written in English

2. It was submitted by a legal entity established in one of the countries mentioned in section 3.1 Eligible countries
3. Its content corresponds to the call topic description (in scope/out of scope)
4. The proposal is cross-border and the company(ies) are from Eligible countries (see §3.1)
5. The company(ies) are Start-up or SME (see definition in §3.2)

A proposal will only be deemed “out of scope” in clear-cut cases when there is no obvious link between the proposal and the scope of the call (referring to F1 and F2 and challenges/features are reported therein). If the proposal is partially within the scope of the call, it will be evaluated in any case.

If any of the above criteria do not apply to a proposal, the applicant will be informed about it and the proposal will not be furthered into the evaluation process. In any other case, the proposal will be evaluated as described in the following sections 5.2 and 5.3 of this document.

5.2 PROPOSAL EVALUATION OVERVIEW

MAGICIAN project will evaluate proposals received in the open calls in the light of the criteria that govern the European Commission’s original evaluation and selection of their projects. All evaluations are carried out in the light of the same basic principles:

- **Excellence:** The proposals selected for funding must demonstrate a high quality in the context of the topics and criteria set out in the call
- **Transparency:** Funding decisions are based on clearly described rules and procedures, and all applicants will receive adequate feedback on the outcome of the evaluation of their proposals
- **Independence:** Evaluators assess proposals on a personal basis. Evaluators represent neither their employer nor their country.
- **Impartiality:** All proposals submitted to a call are treated equally. They are evaluated impartially on their merits, irrespective of their origin or the identity of the applicants⁴.
- **Objectivity:** Evaluators assess each proposal as submitted⁵ not on its potential if certain changes were to be made.
- **Accuracy:** Evaluators make their judgment against the official evaluation criteria of the call or topic the proposal addresses, and nothing else.
- **Consistency:** Evaluators apply the same standard of judgment to all proposals.
- **Confidentiality:** All proposals and related data, knowledge and documents are treated in confidence

The evaluation of AS proposals is based on scores given according to three criteria:

Criteria	Associated documents
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⁴ In the frame of any restrictions provided for in the call

⁵ This includes the input made during phone interview for the business case evaluation as described below

Excellence	These 3 criteria will be evaluated through the proposal description (pdf document).
Impact	
Implementation Quality	
<u>The impact section must provide a business case-oriented description.</u>	

The evaluation criteria and the scoring system are described in detail in the next section of this document. The evaluation process in MAGICIAN follows the three basic steps:

- External experts will evaluate all the proposals with regards to the criteria of *Excellence, Impact and Quality of implementation*.
- A business case evaluation will be done through business case-oriented description in the impact section inserted by the applicant
- MAGICIAN evaluation committee will perform a global evaluation of the proposals based on the results of both the technical and business case evaluation, in regard to the criteria of Excellence, Impact and Quality

The external experts are individuals from different sectors: science, industry or academic and with experience in the field of innovation. These experts are internationally recognised authorities in the relevant specialist area and are independent of any member of the consortium and of any proposer. They will also sign a non-disclosure form with MAGICIAN to ensure the confidentiality of the proposals.

Each of the three steps, described above will assign a score to each proposal in the following way:

- Each external expert will assign a score between 1 and 5 to each of the criteria mentioned above. The assigned scores of the experts will be averaged for each criterion to get one single score for each criterion.
- MAGICIAN evaluation committee will assign a score between 1 and 5 to each of the criteria mentioned above.

During MAGICIAN evaluation & selection meeting, each proposal will be discussed, and a consensus formed on the scoring. To achieve a single score for each of the criteria of *Excellence, Impact and quality Implementation the scores of MAGICIAN Evaluation committee and the score of the external experts (which has been combined into a single score for each criterion as described above) will be averaged.*

A total score of a proposal is reached by calculation the sum of all individual scores of the evaluated criteria of a proposal. Each criterion is equally weighted. Therefore, the overall maximum score for an AS proposal is 15. However, in the event of proposals receiving the same score, the final ranking will depend on the best value achieved in excellence, giving priority to the best proposals in terms of innovation, technical soundness and feasibility of the robotics and automation solution proposed, specifically for defect detection, rework processes and human-centered approach.

For a proposal to be considered for funding, each individual score must meet a minimum threshold, which is 3 out of 5 points. The total sum of the individual scores must reach the minimum threshold of 9 points.

5.3 EVALUATION CRITERIA AND SCORE

The evaluation of AS proposals will be based on scores given according to three basic criteria: *Excellence*, *Impact*, *Implementation* of the AS.

The **Excellence** is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How well does the proposed solution address the identified automation challenge as detailed in the open call text?
- Are the proposed objectives clearly defined, measurable, and relevant to the automation goals of the MAGICIAN project?
- How well does the proposed solution incorporate the required functionalities (e.g., defect analysis, AI-driven rework decision-making, real-time monitoring)?
- How intuitive is the technology for the end-users? How easy can the technology be integrated into MAGICIAN existing functionalities? How robust is the technology?
- How well does the proposed work align with the broader goals of the MAGICIAN project?
- To what extent is the proposed work ambitious, has innovation potential, and is beyond the state of the art (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches)?
- Is your solution expecting to achieve TRL7, aligning with MAGICIAN project target?
- Is the concept sound and shows a clear plan for the development of a working solution in collaboration with MAGICIAN?
- How effectively does proposal address gender and diversity considerations?
- Are potential ethical issues thoroughly identified and addressed?
- To what extent does the proposed work reflect a commitment to inclusivity and accessibility?

The **Impact** is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Does the proposal enhance innovation capacity and the integration of new knowledge of the companies?
- Are the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (including management of IPR), to communicate the project, and to manage research data where relevant effective?

- How will data be organized, stored, and shared, ensuring compliance with relevant regulations and promoting transparency?
- How will the project contribute to responsible manufacturing practices?
- Are any other environmental and socially important impacts relevant? (e.g. sustainability, workforce safety, and community engagement)

The impact session must include a **business case-oriented description** of the AS which will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- What distinguishes your offering from competitors in the market? (e.g. specific features, benefits that offer a competitive edge)
- How does the proposed solution create tangible value for the company and the broader industry? (e.g. economic benefits, cost saving, potential revenue generation)
- What is the potential for scalability and adoption within the industry? (e.g. market needs, anticipation of future economical trends.)

The **Quality** and the efficiency of the implementation will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- How effectively will the AS be managed throughout the project lifecycle? Is the proposed work plan coherent and effective in achieving project goals?
- Are Tasks, deliverables, deadlines well defined, realistic and adapted to the goals of the proposals?
- Is the allocation of tasks and dedicated resources (e.g. human capital, equipment, person-hours, etc.) appropriate and necessary to perform the scope of the proposal and achieve its objectives?
- Are the costs clearly defined, aligned, and justified with the required efforts?
- Have crucial risk (technological, operational, financial, etc.) to the success of the AS been identified and how effectively will those be managed
- Does the third party possess the technical skills and abilities necessary to perform the scope of the proposal?

The scores used during the evaluation process indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination:

- 1 – Proposal fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- 2 – Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.

- 3 – Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4 – Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 – Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

5.4 AS SELECTION

The outcome of the evaluation will be a ranked list of all proposals, ordered in descending order by the total score obtained by the proposal.

As already mentioned in section 5.3, the priority in the selection process will be given to the best proposals in terms of innovation, technical soundness and feasibility of the robotics and automation solution proposed, specifically for defect detection, rework processes and human-centered approach.

Depending on the available budget for funding, the available resources for the technological offer of the MAGICIAN consortium members, the number of eligible and fundable proposals in the call, 5 proposals- based on this ranked list - will be selected for funding. Whilst normally the highest-ranked proposals will be selected for funding, there might be objective reasons (as mentioned above) for objecting to a specific third party. In this case, the choice may pass to the next-ranked proposal.

The 5 selected proposals will be reported the MAGICIAN project officer of the European Commission for a final granting decision. Any remaining FSTP budget will be considered for a potential extra solution funded in the OC2.

5.5 FEEDBACK TO APPLICANTS

After the evaluation of the proposals, all applicants will be informed if their AS was accepted or not. The first call notifications are planned to be released on 30 June 2025.

In case a proposal is selected, the applicant will receive a short summary of the evaluation outcome along with further information about the upcoming steps. In case a proposal is not granted, they will receive a full evaluation report, including an extended summary with the main remarks of the evaluation to allow the improvement of the proposal for future submissions. In any case, it is allowed to resubmit proposals to MAGICIAN's further Open Calls.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

6.1 CALL HELPDESK

For further information on the call, access to our weekly **helpdesk, available every Wednesday, from 17h00 – 18h00 during the three-month open call period: [Join the meeting now](#)**

Email: OpenCall@magician-project.eu

6.2 THE INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

All partners involved in a funded and implemented AS will sign a standard agreement before the AS starts. All information of whatever nature and in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Party to any other during the implementation of the AS and which has been explicitly marked as “confidential” at the time of disclosure, or when disclosed orally, has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within fifteen (15) calendar days from oral disclosure, is “Confidential Information” and shall not be disclosed to any other third party.

Ownership of the developed product of an AS will remain with the third party. In case any IP is transferred or developed during the implementation of the AS, a bilateral contract between the involved parties will be concluded to define the exploitation rules.

7. CHECKLIST FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROPOSAL

Please consider this checklist as a helpful tool to maximize the chances of your proposal to be successful:

1. **Fill in with your information in our website** and **contact a MACIAN Partner for support, if needed.**
2. **Does your planned work fit with the call for proposals?** Check that your proposal does indeed address the topic in this open call.
3. **Is your proposal eligible?** The eligibility criteria are given in chapter 3 of the guide for applicants. Make sure that you satisfy the formal participation requirements (eligible country, written in English)
4. **Readability:** Check that your proposal printable and all information (especially in charts, figures etc.) is readable.
5. **Budgetary limits:** Check that you comply with the budgetary limits.
6. **Did you use the current template?** All proposals have to be based on the current proposal template available on the website [Home | MAGICIAN](#)
7. **Is your proposal complete?** Have you completed all mandatory questions?
8. **Does your proposal answer all requests/comments?** Proposals should be precise, concise and should answer to requested questions. Omitting requested information will almost certainly lead to lower scores in the evaluation.
9. **Have you submitted your proposal before the deadline?** It is strongly recommended not to wait until the last minute to submit the proposal. **The deadline is May 2nd, 2025 at 5 p.m. Brussels time**

ANNEX 3 - PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

CALL INFORMATION

IDENTIFIER: Magician01 Call (OC1_AS1)

PROJECT FULL NAME: Immersive Learning For Imperfection Detection And Repair Through Human-Robot Interaction

ACRONYM: MAGICIAN

GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 101120731

DEADLINE: 02.05.2025, 5 PM (CET)

Note:

*All parts of this document in **red** are explanatory guidance notes. Please delete these guidance notes and replace them with your own text.*

Do not delete headings, subheadings and tables.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The maximum total length of the technical proposal (Section 1-3) must not exceed 15 pages (minimum font dimension 11, font Calibri, minimum margins 1,5 up/down - 1,5 left/right) not including the title page, the administrative declarations and Section 4 – Ethical issues. **Proposals exceeding the page length indicated will be penalized as any page beyond the allowed length will not be read or taken into account during the evaluation process.**

Exceeded pages allowed: Applicants are free to provide limited additional information such as letters of support or additional data or references in the Appendix that does not count to this page count.

SINGLE AS

TWIN AS

For a **Single AS proposal**, please fulfil below the column “Single AS”.
 For a **Twin AS proposal**, please fulfil below the column “Twin AS” for both companies.

Single AS One company	Single / Twin AS	
	Company #1: coordinator	Company #2
Participant organisation/company: <i>[Organization/Company name]</i>	Participant organisation/company: <i>[Organization/Company name]</i>	Participant organisation/company: <i>[Organization/Company name]</i>
Organization/Company Number: <i>[Organization/Company number or national equivalent if available]</i>	Organization/Company Number: <i>[Organization/Company number or national equivalent if available]</i>	Organization/Company Number: <i>[Organization/Company number or national equivalent if available]</i>
Organization/Company Website <i>[URL /link if available]</i>	Organization/Company Website <i>[URL /link if available]</i>	Organization/Company Website <i>[URL /link if available]</i>
Country:	Country:	Country:
Contact person name: <i>[Name]</i>	Contact person name: <i>[Name]</i>	Contact person name: <i>[Name]</i>
Contact person phone number: <i>[Phone number]</i>	Contact person phone number: <i>[Phone number]</i>	Contact person phone number: <i>[Phone number]</i>
Contact person email: <i>[Email address]</i>	Contact person email: <i>[Email address]</i>	Contact person email: <i>[Email address]</i>
Contact person position in the organization/company: <i>[Position in company]</i>	Contact person position in the organization/company: <i>[Position in company]</i>	Contact person position in the organization/company: <i>[Position in company]</i>

Please make sure that your information here is the same that you entered in the submission portal.

Email address to which the acknowledgement of receipt should be sent:
[insert]

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ADMINISTRATIVE DECLARATIONS

Please answer the following questions. Failure to answer them might render the proposal ineligible to be selected for funding.

- In case of a SINGLE AS with one applying company, to be fulfilled by the applicant
- In case of a TWIN AS with two applying companies, to be fulfilled by company #1 (coordinator) on behalf of the two companies.

1. We confirm that the proposed work has not previously, or is not currently been funded under any other (Regional, National or EU) program:

Yes No ⁶

⁶ If the option "No" has been selected but it is subsequently revealed that the proposed work has been previously funded by another program, MAGICIAN reserves the right to withhold the grant.

If you select “No” or do not select anything here, the proposal might be ineligible to be selected for funding. Please contact MAGICIAN Helpdesk for guidance if you do not know how to answer this.

If appropriate or necessary, please add a comment here, explaining your answer to the question above.

2. We confirm that the company “*name of the company*” does exist, is not bankrupted and have or will have the necessary stable and sufficient resources to implement the MAGICIAN Application Solution,

Yes No

If you select “No” or do not select anything here, the proposal might be ineligible to be selected for funding. Please contact MAGICIAN helpdesk for guidance if you do not know how to answer this.

If appropriate or necessary, please add a comment here, explaining your answer to the question above.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
AS	Application Solution
FSTP	Financial Support To Third Party
IP	Intellectual Property

PROPOSAL SUMMARY

Mandatory (maximum of 2000 characters including spaces)

Describe your proposal high level. It must be clear which module of functionalities (F1 or F2) your proposal is focusing on integrate (see section 2. Guide For Applicants)

Please note that this information may be used for dissemination purposes

1. EXCELLENCE

1.1 CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES

*Describe the specific **concept and objectives** for the Application Solution, which should be **clear, measurable, realistic and achievable** within the duration of the Application Solution (max. duration 12 months)*

Objectives should be consistent with the expected exploitation and impact of the Application Solution. Illustrate how each objective aligns with the overarching goals of the MAGICIAN project

Please indicate the specific two MAGICIAN functionalities (maximum) within the chosen module (F1 or F2) that you wish to integrate or apply for

Provide a clear list of the Application Solution objectives, along with related KPIs to demonstrate that the objectives are measurable, realistic, and achievable, and indicate the associated work package (WP).⁷

RECOMMENDED 2 PAGE

1.2 PROPOSED INNOVATION DESCRIPTION

Please provide an overview of the progress beyond the state of the art, the potential innovation and the targeted automation, defect management and system embedded:

Describe how you ensure to be GDPR compliant and how to respect security and privacy

- *Describe the advance your proposal would provide beyond the state-of-the-art, and to what extent the proposed work is ambitious. You may indicate the TRL⁸ of your application solution (start and target at the end of the project).*

What is the main differentiator of your proposition compared to the state of the art or existing product?

- *Describe the innovation potential, which the proposal represents for your company(ies). Where relevant, refer to products and services already available on the market. Please refer to the results of any patent search carried out.*
- *Describe the measures to respect European policies regarding data protection and privacy, how you ensure to be GDPR compliant.*

⁷ A work package (WP) is a major sub-division of the work plan of your project. (A single activity is not a WP, A single task is not a WP; A % of progress is not a WP e.g. 50 % of the tests; A lapse of time is generally not a WP e.g. activities of year. https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-funding-what-do-i-need-to-know_he_en.pdf

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/faq/2890>

- *Is the feasibility of the solution demonstrated already? Please explain if your solution is already developed considering that MAGICIAN project is targeting solutions already at TRL5 that aim to achieve TRL7(MANDATORY AS IT IS CONSIDERED AN EXCLUSION CRITERIA)*
- *Describe the level of innovativeness of your proposed solution*

RECOMMENDED 2 PAGES

1.3 HUMAN-CENTERED PERSPECTIVE

Please provide a description of how your Application Solution incorporates key human-centered principles to ensure inclusivity, ethical responsibility, and demonstrated expertise:

- *Describe how gender and diversity perspectives are integrated into your AS. Focus on the approach you will use to addressing these aspects within the project design and implementation*
- *Identify any ethical issues relevant to your sub-project and detail your strategies for managing them effectively.*
- *Highlight your team's experience in conducting human-centered projects, emphasizing the methods and methodologies you have successfully used in the past.*

RECOMMENDED 1 PAGE

2. IMPACT

2.1 INDUSTRIAL RELEVANCE & POTENTIAL IMPACT

Describe the industrial relevance of your project, potential impact (improved defect detection and prediction, minimization of production interferences, enhancement of workplace safety conditions, reduction of production time, and early-stage quality control. IP management sales, return on investment and profit), exploitation plan and business view.

Provide insights on how your project will contribute to

- *The potential impact on the industry, on your market, including the improvement of the innovation capacity of your company(ies). Provide specific examples of how the project will facilitate the adoption/integration of new technologies, processes, or methodologies by considering the compatibility with the ones currently used by MAGICIAN*

- *Describe the plan for protecting innovations and ensuring that the benefits of the project are accessible while respecting IPR regulations.*
- *Outline how the project contributes to sustainability, workforce safety and responsible manufacturing practices*
- *Explain how your project will improve defect detection and correction in the early stages of production.*
- *Describe how your solution efficiently manages tasks across multiple robots, minimizing interference and adapting to the production environment.*
- *Describe how your solution reduces the need for human intervention in risky tasks, enhancing safety and working conditions.*
- *Detail the ability of your solution to adapt to different production stages and industrial environments.*
- *Explain how the solution contributes to reducing production times and maintaining uniform product quality.*
- *Explain how your project leverages data analytics and machine learning to enhance defect prediction, enabling proactive measures in quality control before final production stages.*

Please be specific and provide only information that applies to the proposal and its objectives. Wherever possible, use quantified indicators and targets.

RECOMMENDED 3 PAGES.

2.2 BUSINESS PLAN ORIENTED DESCRIPTION:

- *What is the market attractiveness of the proposal? Provide insights into how the solution meets current market needs and anticipates future trends.*
- *What is the business model/exploitation strategy?*
- *Explain your possible sales and marketing strategy. Detail the expected economic benefits, including cost savings, efficiency improvements, and potential revenue generation.*

RECOMMENDED 1 PAGES.

3. IMPLEMENTATION

3.1 COMPANY(IES) DESCRIPTION

Single/Twin AS: applying company(ies)

Provide a brief description of the legal entity (e.g., the type of company, age, size, country, focus domain(s), tech/non-tech, “newcomers” to EU programs or have prior experience), the main tasks and the previous experience relevant to those tasks. Provide also a short profile of the individuals who will be undertaking the work.

Describe the needed expertise from the involved MAGICIAN competences partners.

Specify the needed support for innovation management from MAGICIAN partners.

RECOMMENDED 1 PAGE to 1.5 PAGES in case of two applying companies AS proposal.

3.2 COOPERATION AND PARTNERS ROLE

Please describe who is your AS partner and what is your expectation in terms of their involvement (expertise, technical support, task & deliverables implication, etc.)

RECOMMENDED MAX 0.5 PAGE

3.3 WORKPLAN INCLUDING THE PROJECT DURATION

Please provide the following:

- *Brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan and timing of the work plan (6-12 months recommended)*
- *List of necessary competencies, MAGICIAN technologies that will be used or that are targeted*
- *Please add a GANTT-Chart to visualize the duration of the individual WPs over the duration of the Application Solution.*
- *Detailed work description (use the template provided below; 1 table per WP). Applicants are required to structure their proposals with a maximum of 5 Work Packages, including one dedicated to project management.*
- *Provide a comprehensive risk management plan, detailing strategies for mitigating identified risks and ensuring project resilience.*
- *Please add a list of deliverables using the provided table.*

RECOMMENDED 2 PAGES

Work package number:		Start Date:	
Work package title:			

Planned Person-months⁹:	
---	--

Objectives

Description of work (where appropriate, broken down into tasks)
--

Deliverables (brief description and month of delivery)

Table 1: List of Deliverables

Deliverable (number)	Deliverable name	Work package number	Participant Name	Type ¹⁰	Dissemination level	Delivery date

⁹ In case of more than one participating company, please assign values for all involved participants here.

¹⁰ Use one of the following codes:

R: Document, report

DEM: Demonstrator, prototype

DEC: Patents filing, press & media actions, videos, etc.

OTHER: Software, etc.

3.4 JUSTIFICATION OF PLANNED COSTS AND RESOURCES

Please provide a summary of required efforts per WP using the table below.

RECOMMENDED 0.5 PAGE

Participant Name	WP Number	Estimated eligible costs					
		Effort (PM)	Personnel Costs (€)	Other Direct Costs (€)	Indirect Costs (€)	Total Costs (€)	Requested Funding (€)
Total							

In column 'Effort', insert the required person months for the work involved.¹¹

In column 'Personnel Costs', insert your personnel costs for the work involved. ATTENTION: The personnel costs are to be consumed by the workforce in the country where the Third Party that has been granted the fund is registered (a transfer of funds to affiliated or associated organisations is not allowed and would fall within the subcontracting rules).

In column 'Other Direct costs', insert any other direct costs, for example, material or travel costs (technical meetings, dissemination activities, etc.)

In column 'Indirect costs', insert your indirect (overhead) costs, (...%) of all your direct costs.

In column 'Total costs', calculate the sum of all your indicated costs.

In column 'Requested Funding', insert your requested EC contribution.

*You may **request up to 70% of the total costs***.*

¹¹ You may refer to the Guide of Applicants for further information on these different categories of costs.

Up to 15% of the cascade funding may be used for specific subcontracting tasks that neither the MAGICIAN partners nor the Third party can carry out. Please provide sufficient justification on what and why you need to subcontract some of your tasks.

*The maximum funding per Application Solution is **200.000€** at a funding rate of **70%** of the budget.*

Please consider that all budgeted costs must comply with the applicable national law on taxes, labor and social security and must be in compliance with the rules and conditions laid out in Council and Parliament decisions relevant to the Horizon Europe framework program, in particular - but not exclusively - "REGULATION (EU) No 1290/2013 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 11 December 2013"

Provisions for possible future losses or charges, exchange losses, costs related to return on capital, costs reimbursed in respect of another Union action or program, debt and debt service charges and excessive or reckless expenditure are ineligible costs and cannot be included into the budget.

4. ETHICAL ISSUES

MAGICIAN complies with the European policies regarding data protection and privacy and respects fundamental ethical issues particularly those outlined in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity¹² and Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI¹³.

All data that is brought into an Application Solution or that is processed in an AS must be GDPR compliant and therefore completely anonymized beforehand.

Please answer the following questions.

Does your proposed work involve:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Human embryos and fetuses | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Humans | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Human cells/tissues | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Personal data | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Animals | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Third countries | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Environment & Health and Safety | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Dual use | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Misuse | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10. Other ethics issues | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> / No <input type="checkbox"/> |

If the answer is 'YES' to any of the questions, please contact MAGICIAN project at OpenCall@magician-project.eu or one MAGICIAN partner, for guidance on the issue.

For more information on ethical issues, please consult the documentation provided by the European Commission: [how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf](#)

¹² [european-code-of-conduct-for-research-integrity_horizon_en.pdf](#)

¹³ [Ethics Guidelines for AI \(europa.eu\)](#)

ANNEX 4 - REVIEW GUIDELINES



MAGICIAN 1st Call GUIDE FOR REVIEWERS

Evaluating proposals in the competitive first call for Application Solution (AS)
(MAGICIAN, Grant agreement number **101120731**)

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The **Guide for Reviewers** contains basic information needed to guide you in reviewing a proposal in the MAGICIAN Open Calls.

The review is expected to be completed in approximately two weeks: deadline for the submission of the reviews **may 22nd**.

All external evaluators will have to sign a non-disclosure agreement with the MAGICIAN coordinator and confirm that, to the best of their knowledge, they have no direct or indirect conflict of interest¹ in the evaluation of the proposal.

1.1 CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

MAGICIAN project takes on the challenge of producing a modular automation solution in which robots are used to detect and rework production defects before the last production phases commence and the aesthetics of the product is finalised. The project will produce two robotic solutions, one for defect analysis (sensing robot - SR) and one for the defects' rework (cleaning robot, CR). The SR and the CR can be used separately, with the humans remaining in charge of some of the activities, or in combination, with the CR operating on the defects identified by the SR. The solution will be developed around a human-centered approach, which will allow to evaluate the impact of the innovation on the production processes and remove the most important asperities along this path. MAGICIAN project will generate research and human-centered processes in automation/robotics that considers effects and potential impacts on the workers and society, by improving collaboration, productivity and quality along with the enhancement of working conditions

1.1.1 THE FIRST MAGICIAN OPEN CALL

All proposals to be reviewed were submitted for the first open call in MAGICIAN with the call text in Annex 1 and also available at [MAGICIAN_OpenCall-template.docx](#). The key elements of the call are summarized in Table 1.

¹ According to the details given on conflict of interests within the MAGICIAN CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION (Annex 2)



Table 1. Key elements of MAGICIAN's first open call

MAGICIAN Offer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product support aimed at bringing your innovations to target markets. • Up to € 200k in funding – representing 70% of your project's declared budget in case of SMEs and 100% in case of startups applying • Added value to your product through the usage of high-level technical expertise pooled from research centres across Europe. • Digital Innovation Hub (DIH) services
Target	Startups, Small and Medium Size Enterprises (according to EC definition European Commission SME Definition .) Startups are considered micro sized enterprises and they must have a maximum of existence of 5 years. ²
Basic requirements	<p>AS duration requirement: Application Solution will run up to 12 months but must be completed by 31.07.2026</p> <p>Scope requirement:</p> <p>The first open call focuses on the integration of new functionalities within MAGICIAN project solutions through close collaboration with MAGICIAN partners, with the aim to enhance the capabilities of the SR (Sensing Robot) and CR (Cleaning Robot) through advanced technologies such as improved defect detection algorithms, more efficient rework techniques, or complementary AI modules that optimize their performance in real-time production environments. Funded projects must provide a solution to be integrated in MAGICIAN framework, while focusing on a single module between F1. PERCEPTION or F2. HUMAN-ROBOT COLLABORATION and proposing a maximum of two functionalities for integration within that module (applicants must specify their chosen module when applying)</p>

Noteworthy, two types of application experiments are supported by MAGICIAN in this open call:

SINGLE AS: namely proposals involving one European company that brings an idea of innovation, a business plan oriented description, looking for technical support to validate the concept. The maximum cascade funding grant available for the company is 200 k€; in these proposals, one MAGICIAN technical partner (cross-border condition) brings the technical expertise to the European company.

TWIN AS, namely proposals that involve two European companies that are associated

² [Open calls | MAGICIAN](#) FAQ section:
With regard to startups, in the Guide for Applicants under the definition table, start-ups are categorized as "Micro-sized enterprises." startups should have a maximum of five years of existence and possess an official certificate confirming their establishment, issued, for example, by a chamber of commerce. This document must be uploaded together to the proposal file in the application process.



to build together a proposal and to manage it to its realization, if selected; in details, Each applying consortium receives a max of 200 k€ of cascade funding each. One of the two legal entities in the applying consortium will be designated as the coordinator and will serve as the sole point of contact with the MAGICIAN counterparts

For reference, further details on this mechanism and on the requirements of the call are available in the Guide for Applicants available at: [MAGICIAN_GuideForApplicants_V2.pdf](#)

1.1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE OVERALL EVALUATION PROCESS

The MAGICIAN project will evaluate proposals received in light of the criteria that govern the European Commission's original evaluation and selection of projects. This is achieved through an Internal Evaluation Committee (IEC) with the assistance of external independent experts jointly evaluating the criteria of *Excellence*, *Impact* and *Implementation Quality*. The process is further supported through *business case* evaluation of the proposal, which is performed by Zabala internal expert.

The experts will be individuals from diverse sectors (science, industry or academy) and with experience in the field of innovation. These experts are internationally recognised authorities in the relevant specialist area. They will sign a CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION (see Annex 2) with the MAGICIAN coordinator. The overall process of the Application Solution evaluation and selection is illustrated in Figure 1.

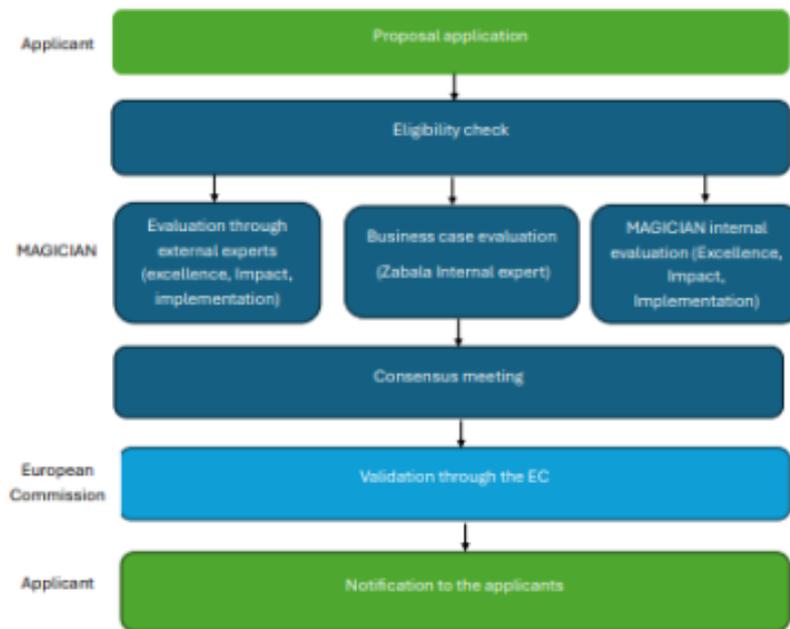


Figure 1. MAGICIAN Application Experiment selection process



2. PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND SELECTION

A. EVALUATION CRITERIA FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATORS

The evaluation of Application Solution proposals made by external evaluators is based on scores given according to three macro-criteria: *Excellence*, *Impact*, and *Quality of implementation* of the Application Solution.

Under the **Excellence** criteria, the following aspects are expected to be assessed:

- **Clarity and pertinence** of the objectives.
- The **soundness** of the concept.
- The extent that proposed work is **ambitious**, has **innovation potential** and is **beyond the state of the art** (e.g. ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches).
- **Stage of development of the idea** (TRL – no basic science or fundamental research is expected to be funded under this call).
- **Excellence, innovation and quality** of the objectives.

Under the **Impact** criteria, the following aspects are expected to be assessed:

- **Enhancing innovation capacity and integration** of new knowledge.
- **Strengthening the competitiveness and growth** of companies involved by developing innovations meeting the needs of European and global markets; and, where relevant, by delivering such innovations to the markets.
- Any other **environmental and socially important impacts** (covered contribution to EU policies or international targets, eg. Sustainable Development Goals);

Under the **Quality** and the efficiency of the implementation criteria, the following aspects are expected to be assessed:

- Coherence and effectiveness of the **work plan**, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.
- Complementarity of the **participants**.
- Justification of **resources**.

Please note:

Section 2.2 of the proposal will contain information about the business case of the application experiment. A dedicated business case evaluation of the application experiment will be done by ZABALA internal experts

- Market attractiveness taking into account the market size, the applicant's expected growth and expected market positioning



- The business model explaining the applicant's revenue generation model
- The tangible value for the industry (economic benefits, cost saving, potential revenue generation)
- The potential for scalability and adoption within the industry (e.g. market needs, anticipation of future economical trends.)

Therefore the business case of the Application Solution, in regards to the parameters mentioned above, should not factor into your evaluation as an external expert!

Evaluation Grades and Level of Confidence

Please allocate scores to each Application Solution proposal for the technical criteria as follows:

- A score 1-5 is awarded for **Excellence**.
- A score 1-5 is awarded for **Impact**.
- A score 1-5 is awarded for **Quality of implementation**.

Each score is weighted the same with the weighting factor 1. **Half marks may be given.** Evaluators are asked to score proposals as they were submitted, rather than on their potential if certain changes were to be made. When an evaluator identifies significant shortcomings, they must reflect this by awarding a lower score for the criterion concerned.

The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination:

- 1 – Proposal **fails** to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.
- 2 – **Fair**. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses/incoherences.
- 3 – **Good**. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 4 – **Very Good**. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 5 – **Excellent**. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Please allocate a level of confidence with each scoring from 0 to 5, to indicate how "sure" you are in your score and the evaluation of that aspect of the proposal, with the end of the scale meaning the following:

- 0 – **Unsure**. The scoring represents an educated guess.



- 5 – **Absolutely sure.** The scoring was done with the highest confidence.

For each score, please also prepare a short remark/comment, explaining your scoring and why you chose that score for the criterion under examination. Tips for providing remarks and comments:

- Exercise critical judgement and or challenging approach respect to the information given in the application
- Reflect shortcomings in a lower score for the relevant criterion
- Use the whole scale of scoring 1 to 5: for extreme scores (1 and 5) please provide full justification (detailed and overall comprehensive) on the rationale for such evaluation
- Provide an explanation of shortcomings identified (even on proposals highly scored)
- Pay particular attention to the consistency between the score attributed and the comments provided (in case of incoherence, the MAGICIAN consortium may contact you for clarifications)
- Avoid providing generic comments or comments generically mirroring the criteria in object.

ANNEX 5 -LEDGEMENT OF SELECTION/REJECTION

Evaluation summary report

Proposal ID:	
Proposal Type:	
Proposal Title:	
Company:	
Country:	
Company Contact:	
Email of Company contact:	
Company:	
Country:	
Company Contact:	
Email of Company contact:	

Abstract:	
------------------	--

Evaluation:

Score:

Total (/15):	
Excellence (/5):	
Impact (/5):	
Quality (/5):	
	1: Poor – the criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner or that there inherent weaknesses; 2: Fair – while the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses; 3: Good – the proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements would be necessary; 4: Very good – the proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible; 5: Excellent – the proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

Reviewer comments:

Excellence:	
Impact:	
Quality and the efficiency of the implementation:	

ANNEX 6 – STANDARDS APPLICATION SOLUTION AGREEMENT (SASA)

MAGICIAN Standard Application Solution Agreement

This MAGICIAN STANDARD APPLICATION SOLUTION AGREEMENT intends to regulate the terms and conditions for the provision of financial, technical and non-technical services in support to the Selected Third Party. The present document, hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”, is entered into by and between:

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO (UNITN-DII), an Italian state-owned research entity established in VIA CALEPINA 14, TRENTO 38122, Italy and registered with the PIC number 999841954, represented by Prof. Alessandro Pegoretti as Director of Industrial Engineering Department (DII), hereinafter referred to as “Coordinator”

And

(SELECTED THIRD PARTY)., an organisation under the laws of **(XXX)**, having its registered office at XXX, , herein represented by **(COMPANY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE)**, hereinafter referred to as “XXX” or “Selected Third Party”

And

(MAGICIAN ASSIGNED MONITORING PARTNER), an organisation under the laws of **(XXX)**, having its registered office at XXX, herein represented by **(COMPANY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE)**, hereinafter referred to as “Monitoring Partner”

Hereinafter sometimes individually or collectively referred to as “Party” or “Parties”.

Whereas UNITN, ALT, FORTH, HWH, DIGICAT, IIT, LU, PIP, TOFAS, SIG, ZAB BRUSSELS, (hereinafter collectively referred as the “MAGICIAN Beneficiaries”) participate to the Horizon Europe project entitled “iMmersive leArninG for ImperfeCtion detectIon and repAir through humanrobot interactioN” (hereinafter the “MAGICIAN Project”).

Whereas the MAGICIAN Beneficiaries entered into a Grant Agreement (GA) N° **101120731** with the European Commission (the “Grant Agreement” and signed together in 2023 a Consortium Agreement (CA) with respect to the MAGICIAN Project

Whereas the MAGICIAN Project involves financial support to Selected Third Party through a cascade funding scheme (hereinafter “Cascade Funding”) as technical/non-technical services.

Whereas further to an open call for a specific Application Solution as described in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”, the Selected Third Party has been selected by the Evaluation Committee of the MAGICIAN Project with the Coordinator to implement such Application Solution.

Whereas the Selected Third Party will implement such Application Solution with the participation of the Monitoring Partner, and of MAGICIAN Coordinator identified in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”.

Whereas the Coordinator is willing to provide Financial Support to the Selected Third Party for the implementation of such Application Solution and the Selected Third Party is willing to receive such support under the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

Whereas the Coordinator is responsible for the execution of this Agreement with the Selected Third Party and for the monitoring of the Application Solution.

Now therefore it has been agreed as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

Words beginning with a capital letter shall have the meaning defined in the preamble of the Agreement or in this Section:

- 1.1 Access Rights** means rights to use Results or Background under the terms and conditions laid down in this Agreement.
- 1.2 Beneficiaries** mean MAGICIAN partners signatory to the Grant Agreement No. 101120731.
- 1.3 Coordinator** means the MAGICIAN Coordinator who is a signatory to the Grant Agreement No. 101120731.
- 1.4 Monitoring Partner** refers to MAGICIAN partner which is assigned to each Application Solution. Its role includes (a) Scheduling a monthly monitoring meeting to verify that the technical activities of the third parties are progressing as planned; (b) Review and formally approve Status report at M6 and M12 (end of project) to authorise mid and final payment c) Acting as the main point of contact for any technical issues that may arise. d) Being responsible for monitoring the MAGICIAN results to be used by the Selected Third Party as background for the implementation of the Application Solution.
- 1.5 An Affiliated Entity** in relation to a Party, means any legal entity which directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that Party. For the purposes of this definition, “control” shall mean (a) direct or indirect holding of more than 50% of the nominal value of the issued share capital in the legal entity concerned, or of a majority of the voting rights of the shareholders or associates of that entity or (b) the direct or indirect holding, in fact

or in law, of decision-making powers in the legal entity concerned, provided that this entity is listed in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement” . Any such legal entity shall be deemed to be an Affiliate of such Party only as long as such ownership or such control exists.

However, the following relationships between legal entities shall not in themselves constitute controlling relationships:

(a) the same public investment corporation, institutional investor or venture-capital company has a direct or indirect holding of more than 50% of the nominal value of the issued share capital or a majority of voting rights of the shareholders or associates;

(b) the legal entities concerned are owned or supervised by the same public body.

1.6 Agreement means this Standard Application Solution Agreement, together with its Annexes.

1.7 Application Solution means the Solution detailed in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement” to be carried out by the Selected Third Party, with the objective to be integrated among the functionalities of the overall MAGICIAN platform.

1.8 Background means any data, know-how or information – whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights – that:

(a) is held by a Party before the effective date of the Specific Application Solution Agreement, and

(b) is Needed by another Party to implement its own tasks under the Application Solution or to Exploit its own Results,

but solely within a) and b) to the extent that such data, information, know-how and/or intellectual property rights are introduced into the Application Solution by the owning Party, and provided it is listed in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement” , Chapter 2 - *Background included chapter* to this Application Solution Agreement.

1.1 Exploitation or Exploit means the direct or indirect use of Results in (a) further research activities other than those covered by the Application Solution, or (b) in developing, creating or marketing a product or process, or (c) in creating and providing a service, or (d) in standardisation activities.

1.2 Fair and Reasonable conditions means appropriate conditions, including possible financial terms or royalty-free conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances of the request for Access Rights, for example the actual or potential value of the Results or Background to which Access Rights are requested and/or the scope, duration and other characteristics of the exploitation envisaged. To fall within Fair and Reasonable conditions, the conditions must also be non-discriminatory.

With respect to Parties not established for the purpose of directly carrying on an industrial or commercial activity (for instance public bodies), considering their specific positioning, “appropriate conditions” necessarily means a financial compensation in case of direct or indirect industrial or commercial exploitation.

1.3 Financial Support means the cash element of the financial support to be given by the Coordinator to the Selected Third Party for the implementation of the Application Solution as detailed in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”.

1.4 Force Majeure means any situation or event that:

- prevents either party from fulfilling their obligations under the Agreement,
- was unforeseeable, exceptional situation and beyond the parties’ control,
- was not due to error or negligence on their part (or on the part of third parties involved in the action), and
- proves to be inevitable despite exercising all due diligence.

The following cannot be invoked as force majeure:

- any default of a service, defect in equipment or material or delays in making them available, unless they stem directly from a relevant case of force majeure,
- labour disputes or strikes, or
- financial difficulties.

1.5 Intellectual Property Rights Policy means the Policy set out at Section 5 of this Agreement.

1.6 Legitimate Interest means but is not limited to academic or commercial interest or interest related to a Party’s corporate image, which breach would result in such Party suffering significant harm in the cases provided for in this Standard Application Solution Agreement. For the purpose of this Agreement, Legitimate Interest shall also mean prior written authorization of the Coordinator when an Affiliated Entity of the Selected Third Party has an activity which is competitive to the Partner’s activity (i.e. for Access Rights,...).

1.7 Needed means in respect of executing or carrying out the Application Solution, and/or in respect of Exploitation of Results, technically essential and:

(a) For the implementation of the Project:

Access Rights are **Needed** if, without the grant of such Access Rights, carrying out the tasks assigned to the recipient Party would be technically or legally impossible, or significantly delayed;

(b) For Exploitation of a Party own Results:

Access Rights are **Needed** if, without the grant of such Access Rights, the Exploitation of the recipient Party’s own Results would be technically or legally impossible.

Results means any tangible or intangible outputs of the Application solution, such as data, knowledge and information whatever their form or nature, whether or not they can be protected, which are generated in the Application Solution, as well as any rights attached to them, including intellectual property rights. For the sake of clarity, Results shall be considered Confidential Information.

2. CONDITIONS FROM THE GRANT AGREEMENT AND THE CONSORTIUM AGREEMENT REFLECTED IN THE AGREEMENT

The Coordinator receives funding from the European Commission for organizing the Application Solution. Under the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement (GA) and the Consortium Agreement (CA), some

of the obligations have to be imposed to the Coordinator and Selected Third Party. Those obligations are reflected in this Agreement. The specific obligations that the Selected Third Party must ensure described in the HE Model Grant Agreement are reproduced in Annex 1.

The Coordinator and the Selected Third Party acknowledge and agree that these obligations comprised in this Agreement are fully applicable to it and shall do everything that is necessary to comply with these obligations, it being understood that the Selected Third Party is only bound by this Agreement and not by the GA or CA.

3. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

3.1 The Selected Third Party shall take part in the Application Solution in accordance with the state of the art.

The Selected Third Party shall carry out the tasks according to the schedule set forth in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement” at the latest and shall report to the Coordinator the activities’ progress in regular intervals as indicated in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution”.

Such technical reports based on the template reproduced in Annex 2 shall contain detailed information on the Results generated by the Selected Third Party.

3.2 Upon report, the Coordinator shall give Financial Support for the Application Solution carried out by the Selected Third Party, within the limits and in accordance with the schedule of payments specified in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”.

For each Application Solution, and at the time the selected Third Party will issue the Specification Application Solution Agreement as described in Annex 3, the Coordinator shall provide financial support in the form of a pre-financing installment, amounting to 50% of the grant allocated for the Application Solution, at kick-off meeting phase (key milestones). Subsequent instalments will be made upon due technical reporting at M6 (35% of grant) and at M12 after finalization of the project and successful final assessment (15% of due grant). The reports for the Application Solution must be validated by the MAGICIAN General Assembly before the related payments can be processed.

3.3 The Selected Third Party shall provide a technical report with deliverables to the coordinator which will report it to the Coordinator. The Selected Third Party shall use the “Implementation of the Application Solution” in Annex 3. The following elements shall at least be included in this technical report:

- a) The Identification of the Application solution.
- b) The identification of milestones, based on the completion of several tasks;
- c) Detailed information on the deliverable achieved for the implementation of the Application Solution .

No payment will be made by the coordinator if no sufficient evidence document is presented by the Selected Third Party.

The Coordinator will transfer the amount of the Financial Support to the Selected Third Party on the basis of (i) a written payment request by the Monitoring Partner to be sent to the Coordinator together with a technical report with deliverables validated by the legal representative of the Selected Third Party in accordance with the schedule set forth in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement” and (ii) a decision of the Coordinator for awarding the amount to the Selected Third Party, provided the terms and conditions of this Agreement are complied with, in particular after the written validation by the Coordinator of the corresponding deliverable(s) identified in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”. The payment shall be made as indicated in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement” after the written validation of the payment request by the Coordinator, however always provided that the conditions listed in this Section 3 are met by the Selected Third Party.

4. LIABILITY

- 4.1** The Selected Third Party shall comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, including, but not limited to safety, security, welfare, social security and fiscal laws, rules and regulations.
- 4.2** The Selected Third Party shall not be entitled to act or to make legally binding declarations on behalf of the Coordinator and shall indemnify all of the latter from any third-party claim resulting from a breach of these obligations.
- 4.3** The contractual liability of the Coordinator under this Agreement shall in any case be limited to the amount of the Financial Support provided to the Selected Third Party hereunder. The coordinator shall not in any case be liable for any indirect or consequential damages such as:
- loss of profits, interest, savings, shelf-space, production and business opportunities.
 - lost contracts, goodwill, and anticipated savings;
 - loss of or damage to reputation or to data;
 - costs of recall of products; or
 - any other type of indirect, incidental, punitive, special or consequential loss or damage.

By exception, the maximum amount of liability to be taken into account in case of breach of confidentiality and/or infringement of the intellectual property rights of any other Party or any Affiliated Entity, which is the result of any activity or use of such intellectual property rights that exceeds the scope of the Access Rights granted by or pursuant to Standard Application Solution Agreement shall not exceed once the amount of the financial support provided to the Selected Third Party hereunder.

- 4.4** This limitation of liability (4.3) shall not apply in case of willful act or gross negligence.
- 4.5** The Selected Third Party shall fully and exclusively bear the risks in connection with the Application Solution for which Financial, Technical/Non-technical Support is granted by the Coordinator. The Selected Third Party shall indemnify the Coordinator for all damages, penalties, costs and expenses which the Coordinator as a result thereof would incur or have to pay to the European Commission or to any third parties with respect to such Application Solution financially supported and/or for any damage in general which the Coordinator incur as a result thereof. In addition, should the European Commission have a right to recovery against

the Cascade Funding Partner and/or the Coordinator regarding the Financial Support granted under this Agreement, the Selected Third Party shall pay the sums in question in the terms and the date specified by the Coordinator. Moreover, the Selected Third Party shall indemnify and hold the Coordinator, their respective officers, directors, employees and agents harmless from and against all repayments, loss, liability, costs, charges, claims or damages that result from or arising out of any such recovery action by the European Commission.

- 4.6** In respect of any information or materials (including but not limited to Software, Results and Background) supplied by one Party to another Party or to a Beneficiary, or by the Coordinator to a Party, no warranty or representation of any kind is made, given or implied as to the sufficiency, accuracy or fitness for purpose nor as to the absence of any infringement of any proprietary rights of third parties. Such information or materials are provided AS IS.

Therefore,

- the recipient, shall in all cases be entirely and solely liable for the use to which it puts such information and materials (including but not limited to Software, Results and Background), and
- there is no liability in case of infringement of proprietary rights of a third party resulting from any Access Rights.

5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS POLICY

The Selected Third Party acknowledges the terms of the “Intellectual Property Rights Policy” defined hereinafter. The Selected Third Party agrees that it will comply with the Intellectual Property Rights Policy to ensure that the Cascade Funding Partner will always be able to comply with such terms towards the Monitoring Partner. For the sake of clarity, the Parties precise this article is subject to the Legitimate Interest of the Monitoring Partner.

5.1 General Principle regarding Ownership

Results are owned by the Party that generates them.

5.2 Joint Results

If in the course of carrying out work on the Project, a Result is generated by two or more Parties or their Affiliated Entities involved in the Project, and if the contributions to or features of such Result form an indivisible part thereof to the extent that none of the said Parties could reasonably claim full ownership of this Result, such Result shall be jointly owned by them in according to their share of contribution, unless differently agreed by the Parties concerned.

The joint owners shall execute a joint ownership agreement regarding the allocation and the terms and conditions of Exploitation of the joint Result as soon as possible. They shall do all their best efforts to execute such joint ownership agreement at the latest twelve (12) months as from the date of generation of such joint Results

The joint owners shall agree on all protection measures, on their joint ownership shares and on the division of related costs in a joint ownership agreement to be negotiated.

Unless otherwise agreed:

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to use their jointly owned Results for non-commercial research activities on a royalty-free basis, and without requiring the prior consent of the other joint owner(s), and

- each of the joint owners shall be entitled to otherwise Exploit the jointly owned Results and to grant non-exclusive licenses to third parties (without any right to sub-license), if the other joint owners are given:

- (a) at least 45 calendar days advance notice; and
- (b) Fair and Reasonable compensation.

With respect to Parties not established for the purpose of directly carrying on an industrial or commercial activity (for instance public bodies), considering their specific positioning, “appropriate conditions” necessarily means a financial compensation in case of direct or indirect industrial or commercial exploitation.

5.3 Access Rights

For the purpose of this article 5.3, Background shall mean the Background as listed in the Specific Application Solution Agreement and validated by the Parties for the concerned Application Solution.

Access Rights to Background and Results may be requested by the Selected Third Party only if these Access Rights belong to a Party and if the following conditions are fulfilled, and unless specific restrictions inserted in Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”:

- Subject to the prior written approval of the holding Party, Access Rights on Background or Results to Selected Third Party, if Needed for implementation of the Selected Third Party’s own tasks in the Application Solution, shall be granted for the duration of the Application Solution royalty-free basis, except in the event such Background has been prior identified as not being accessible on a royalty free basis and/or subject to separate licenses agreements signatures with the holding Party;
- Subject to the prior written approval of the holding Party and upon separate written bilateral agreement, Access Rights on Background or Results to Selected Third Party, if Needed for Exploitation of the Selected Third Party’s own Results obtained through the Application Solution, shall be granted on Fair and Reasonable conditions, except in the event such Background has been prior identified as subject to legal restrictions or limits. A request for Access Rights for Exploitation may be made up to twelve (12) months after the end of the Application Solution.

In case of total or partial transfer or change of Control of Selected Third-Party share’s as set out in Section 10.2 of the Standard application Solution Agreement, Access Rights may be refused to the Selected Third Party, if such granting is contrary to the Legitimate Interest of the Party which owns the Background and/or the Results.

Selected Third Party which obtain Access Rights in return will fulfil confidentiality obligations as

determined in the Section 6.

For the sake of clarity, a Party participating to an Application Solution shall not grant to a Selected Third Party any Access Rights to another Party's Background or Results without the holding Party's prior written authorization.

The Coordinator enjoys the same Access Rights on Background or Results owned by the Selected Third Party for implementation of the Application Solution, direct or indirect Exploitation of their Results, under the same conditions mentioned hereinabove.

For the avoidance of doubt, any grant of Access Rights not covered by this Section shall be at the absolute discretion of the owner and/or holder and subject to such terms and conditions as may be agreed between the owner and/or holder and recipient.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

- 6.1** All information of whatever nature and in whatever form or mode of communication, which is disclosed by a Party (the "Disclosing Party") to another Party (the "Recipient") in connection with the Application Solution during its implementation and which has been explicitly marked as "confidential" at the time of disclosure, or when disclosed orally or in intangible form has been identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and has been confirmed and designated in writing within thirty (30) calendar days from oral or intangible disclosure at the latest as confidential information by the Disclosing Party, is "Confidential Information".

For the sake of clarity, the Selected Third Party acknowledges and agrees that any information of whatever nature and in whatever form or mode of communication disclosed and/or listed in the Background by Multiverse as "prototype" or "pre-serial" or equivalent or similar mention is Confidential Information, as well as any subsequent information of any nature and any form whatsoever generated by the Selected Third Party from such Confidential Information.

The Recipients hereby undertake for the duration of the Application Solution and a period of 5 years after the end of the Application Solution:

- not to use Confidential Information otherwise than for the purpose for which it was disclosed;
- not to disclose Confidential Information to any third party other than its Affiliated Entities (and safe in the event of a Legitimate Interest for the Disclosing Party) without the prior written consent by the Disclosing Party;
- to ensure that internal distribution of Confidential Information by a Recipient to its employees or to its Affiliated Entities shall take place on a strict need-to-know basis; and
- use the Confidential Information solely for the purpose of the execution of the Application Solution and not otherwise use the Confidential Information in the design or manufacture of its products or the design of its processes, or in any other manner;
- not reverse engineer, decompile, disassemble, modify, adapt, translate or otherwise alter in any way, any prototype, product, sample, software, schematic, flowchart or other tangible objects which embody the Confidential Information, except if so authorized in writing by the Disclosing Party;
- except as required for continuing Access Rights, to return to the Disclosing Party on demand all Confidential Information which has been supplied to or acquired by the Recipients including all

copies thereof and to delete all information stored in a machine readable form. The Recipients may keep a copy to the extent it is required to keep, archive or store such Confidential Information because of compliance with applicable mandatory laws and regulations (i.e. public policy legislation).

The Recipients shall be responsible for the fulfilment of the above obligations on the part of their employees or third parties (subcontractors, Affiliated Entities) if previously authorized involved in the Application Solution and shall ensure that they remain so obliged, as far as legally possible, during and after the end of the Application Solution and/or after the termination of the contractual relationship with the employee or third party.

The above shall not apply for disclosure or use of Confidential Information, if and in so far as the Recipient can show that:

- the Confidential Information becomes publicly available by means other than a breach of the Recipient's confidentiality obligations;
- the Disclosing Party subsequently informs the Recipient that the Confidential Information is no longer confidential;
- the Confidential Information is communicated to the Recipient without any obligation of confidence by a third party who is to the best knowledge of the Recipient in lawful possession thereof and under no obligation of confidence to the Disclosing Party;
- the disclosure or communication of the Confidential Information is foreseen by provisions of the Grant Agreement;
- the Confidential Information, at any time, was developed by the Recipient completely independently of any such disclosure by the Disclosing Party; or
- the Confidential Information was already known to the Recipient prior to disclosure without any obligation of confidentiality to the Disclosing Party or
- the Recipient is required to disclose the Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order subject to the last paragraph of this Section.

The Recipient shall apply the same degree of care with regard to the Confidential Information disclosed within the scope of the Application Solutions with its own confidential and/or proprietary information, but in no case less than reasonable care.

Each Recipient or Disclosing Party shall promptly advise the other Recipient or Disclosing Party in writing of any unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation or misuse of Confidential Information after it becomes aware of such unauthorized disclosure, misappropriation or misuse.

If a Selected Third Party becomes aware that it will be required to disclose Confidential Information in order to comply with applicable laws or regulations or with a court or administrative order, it shall, to the extent it is lawfully able to do so, prior to any such disclosure:

- notify the Disclosing Party of said request, and
- comply to the extent possible with the Disclosing Party's reasonable instructions to protect the confidentiality of the information at the Disclosing Party's expense, and
- make such disclosure only to the extent it is compelled.

6.2 As far as the Coordinator is concerned, disclosure of Confidential Information to the European Commission shall be governed by the terms of the Grant Agreement.

7. DISSEMINATION

Each Party agrees that any dissemination activity (including but not limited to publications, presentations or contributions to any standards organisation) by the Selected Third Party is subject to the prior written approval of the other Parties. The Selected Third Party must follow Horizon Europe rules regarding Dissemination (Annex I)

The Coordinator are entitled to include the main issues and information regarding the Application Solution in their reporting towards the European Commission, subject to prior written notification to the Selected Third Party.

8. CHECKS AND AUDITS

The Selected Third Party undertakes to provide any detailed information, including information in electronic format, requested by the European Commission or by any other outside body authorised by the European Commission to check that the Application Solution and the provisions of this Agreement are being properly implemented.

The Selected Third Party shall keep at the European Commission disposal all original documents, especially accounting and tax records, or, in exceptional and duly justified cases, certified copies of original documents relating to the Agreement, stored on any appropriate medium that ensures their integrity in accordance with the applicable national legislation, for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance specified in the Grant Agreements.

The Selected Third Party agrees that the European Commission may have an audit of the use made of the Financial Support carried out either directly by the European Commission staff or by any other outside body authorised to do so on its behalf. Such audits may be carried out throughout the period of implementation of the Agreement until the balance is paid and for a period of five years from the date of payment of the balance. Where appropriate, the audit findings may lead to recovery decisions by the European Commission.

The Selected Third Party undertakes to allow European Commission staff and outside personnel authorised by the European Commission the appropriate right of access to the sites and premises of the Selected Third Party and to all the information, including information in electronic format, needed in order to conduct such audits.

In accordance with Union legislation, the European Commission, the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Court of Auditors (ECA) may carry out spot checks and inspections of the documents of the Innovative Company, and of any recipient of Cascade Funding, including at the premises of the Innovative Company, in accordance with the procedures laid down by Union law for the protection of the financial interests of the Union against fraud and other irregularities. Where appropriate, the inspection findings may lead to recovery decisions by the European Commission. The Articles 25 of the Grant Agreement, reproduced in Annex 1, also apply to the Selected Third Party.

9. TERMINATION

The Coordinator can terminate this Agreement with immediate effect through written notice to the Selected Third Party and the Beneficiary:

- if the Selected Third Party is in breach of any of its material obligations under this Agreement, which breach is not remediable, or, if remediable, has not been remedied within thirty (30) days after written notice to that effect from the party not in breach,
- if, to the extent permitted by law, the Selected Third Party is declared bankrupt, is being wound up, is having its affairs administered by the courts, has entered into an arrangement with its creditors, has suspended business activities, or is the subject of any other similar proceeding concerning those matters, or
- if the Selected Third Party is subject to an event of Force Majeure, which prevents the Selected Third Party from correct performance of its obligations hereunder and such circumstances have lasted, or can reasonably be expected to last more than 3 months.

Access Rights granted to the Selected Third Party shall cease immediately upon the effective date of termination.

10. CONCLUDING CONDITIONS

- 10.1** This Agreement shall enter into force on the date as written in the Annex 3 “Specific Application Solution Agreement”.
Any ancillary agreements, amendments, additions or modifications to this Agreement shall be made in writing and signed by the all the parties confirming that they agrees.
- 10.2** The Selected Third Party’s consistent level in its respective field of expertise played a key role in the selection of the Selected Third Party to implement the Application Solution. Any total or partial transfer of provisions and the rights and duties it entails is subject to the prior formal approval of all signatories. The Selected Third Party shall promptly notify any total or partial transfer or change of Control of said Selected Third Party to the other Parties.
- 10.3** Any subcontract by the Selected Third Party concerning some of its tasks under this Agreement requires the prior written consent of the Coordinator and does not affect its own obligations resulting from this Agreement. The Selected Third Party shall secure that the subcontractor will comply with all obligations – especially coming from the GA, and with regard to confidentiality – resulting from this Agreement and that the results attained by the subcontractor will be available in accordance with Section 5.
- 10.4** If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be illegal or in conflict with the applicable law, the validity of the remaining provisions shall not be affected. The ineffective provision shall be replaced by an effective provision which is economically equivalent. The same shall apply in case of a gap.
- 10.5** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of Belgium.

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- 10.6** Any disagreement or dispute which may arise in connection with this Agreement and which the Parties are unable to settle by mutual agreement will be brought before the courts of Brussel, Belgium.
- 10.7** List of Annexes:
Annex 1 Grant Agreement specific obligations
Annex 2 Technical report template
Annex 3 Specific Application Solution Agreement

ANNEX 1 - GRANT AGREEMENT SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS

As an indirect beneficiary, the Selected Third Party has to fulfill the obligations described in article 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 25, 26, 33 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement¹⁴ and included in the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement n.101120731. This section is part of the current Standard Application Solution Agreement. In case of contradiction between these sections and the Grant Agreement, the terms of the Grant Agreement will prevail.

ARTICLE 12 — CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

12.1 Conflict of interests

Selected Third Party must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the action is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest (**‘conflict of interests’**).

They must formally notify to the Commission without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interests and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation.

The granting authority may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline.

12.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If a Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement) and the grant or the Selected Third Party may be terminated (see Article 32 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

Such breaches may also lead to any of the other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

ARTICLE 13 — CONFIDENTIALITY AND SECURITY

13.1 Sensitive information

The parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as sensitive in writing (**‘sensitive information’**) — during the implementation of the action and for at least until the time-limit of 5 years as set out in the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement n.101120731.

If Selected Third Party requests, the granting authority may agree to keep such information confidential for a longer period.

Unless otherwise agreed between the parties, they may use confidential information only to implement the Standard Application Solution Agreement.

Selected Third Party may disclose sensitive information to their personnel or other participants involved in the action only if they:

- (a) Need to know it in order to implement the Standard Application Solution Agreement and

¹⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

(b) Are bound by an obligation of confidentiality

The granting authority may disclose sensitive information to its staff and to other EU institutions and bodies.

It may moreover disclose sensitive information to third parties, if:

(a) this is necessary to implement the Standard Application Solution Agreement or safeguard the EU's financial interests and

(b) the recipients of the information are bound by an obligation of confidentiality.

The confidentiality obligations no longer apply if:

(a) the disclosing party agrees to release the other party

(b) the information becomes publicly available, without breaching any confidentiality obligation

(c) the disclosure of the sensitive information is required by EU, international or national law

Specific confidentiality rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5 of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement¹⁵

13.2 Classified information

The parties must handle classified information in accordance with the applicable EU, international or national law on classified information (in particular, Decision 2015/44415 and its implementing rules).

Deliverables which contain classified information must be submitted according to special procedures agreed with the granting authority.

Action tasks involving classified information may be subcontracted only after explicit approval (in writing) from the granting authority.

Classified information may not be disclosed to any third party (including participants involved in the action implementation) without prior explicit written approval from the granting authority.

Specific security rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5 of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement¹⁶.

13.3 Consequences of non-compliance

If Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

ARTICLE 16 — INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) — BACKGROUND AND RESULTS — ACCESS RIGHTS AND RIGHTS OF USE

16.1 Background and access rights to background

Selected Third Party must give the beneficiaries access to the background identified as needed for

¹⁵ Annex 5 of the Magician Grant Agreement, that is not attached to the present agreement but is made available to the Third Party for consultation via dedicated digital repository

¹⁶ as indicated in Footnote 2 above

implementing the action, subject to any specific rules in Annex 5 of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement¹⁷.

‘Background’ means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is:

- (a) held by Selected Third Party before they acceded to the Standard Application Solution Agreement and
- (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results.

If background is subject to rights of a third party, Selected Third Party concerned must ensure that it is able to comply with its obligations under the Standard Application Solution Agreement.

16.2 Ownership of results

The granting authority does not obtain ownership of the results produced under the action.

‘Results’ means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether or not it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including intellectual property rights.

16.3 Rights of use of the granting authority on materials, documents and information received for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes

The granting authority has the right to use non-sensitive information relating to the action and materials and documents received from Selected Third Party (notably summaries for publication, deliverables, as well as any other material, such as pictures or audio-visual material, in paper or electronic form) for policy, information, communication, dissemination and publicity purposes — during the action or afterwards.

The right to use the Selected Third Party’ materials, documents and information is granted in the form of a royalty free, non-exclusive and irrevocable licence, which includes the following rights:

- (a) use for its own purposes (in particular, making them available to persons working for the granting authority or any other EU service (including institutions, bodies, offices, agencies, etc.) or EU Member State institution or body; copying or reproducing them in whole or in part, in unlimited numbers; and communication through press information services)
- (b) distribution to the public (in particular, publication as hard copies and in electronic or digital format, publication on the internet, as a downloadable or non-downloadable file, broadcasting by any channel, public display or presentation, communicating through press information services, or inclusion in widely accessible databases or indexes)
- (c) editing or redrafting (including shortening, summarising, inserting other elements (e.g. meta-data, legends, other graphic, visual, audio or text elements), extracting parts (e.g. audio or video files), dividing into parts, use in a compilation)
- (d) translation
- (e) storage in paper, electronic or other form
- (f) archiving, in line with applicable document-management rules
- (g) the right to authorise third parties to act on its behalf or sub-license to third parties the modes of use set out in Points (b), (c), (d) and (f), if needed for the information, communication and publicity activity

¹⁷ as indicated in Footnote 2 above

of the granting authority

- (h) processing, analysing, aggregating the materials, documents and information received and producing derivative works.

The rights of use are granted for the whole duration of the industrial or intellectual property rights concerned.

If materials or documents are subject to moral rights or third party rights (including intellectual property rights or rights of natural persons on their image and voice), Selected Third Party must ensure that it complies with their obligations under this Agreement (in particular, by obtaining the necessary licences and authorisations from the rights holders concerned).

Where applicable, the granting authority will insert the following information:

“© – [year] – [name of the copyright owner]. All rights reserved. Licensed to the [name of granting authority] under conditions.”

16.4 Specific rules on IPR, results and background

Specific rules regarding intellectual property rights, results and background (if any) are set out in Annex 5 of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement.¹⁸

16.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement). Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

ARTICLE 17 — COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND VISIBILITY

17.1 Communication — Dissemination — Promoting the action

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, the Selected Third Party must promote the action and its results by providing targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public), in accordance with Annex 3 and in a strategic, coherent and effective manner.

Before engaging in a communication or dissemination activity expected to have a major media impact, the Selected Third Party must inform the granting authority.

17.2 Visibility — European flag and funding statement

Unless otherwise agreed with the granting authority, communication activities of the Selected Third Party related to the action (including media relations, conferences, seminars, information material, such as brochures, leaflets, posters, presentations, etc., in electronic form, via traditional or social media, etc.), dissemination activities and any infrastructure, equipment, vehicles, supplies or major result funded by the grant must acknowledge EU support and display the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (translated into local languages, where appropriate):

¹⁸ as indicated in Footnote 2 above



Co-funded by the
European Union



Co-funded by the
European Union

The emblem must remain distinct and separate and cannot be modified by adding other visual marks, brands or text.

Apart from the emblem, no other visual identity or logo may be used to highlight the EU support.

When displayed in association with other logos (e.g. of Selected Third Party or sponsors), the emblem must be displayed at least as prominently and visibly as the other logos.

For the purposes of their obligations under this Article, the Selected Third Party may use the emblem without first obtaining approval from the granting authority. This does not, however, give them the right to exclusive use. Moreover, they may not appropriate the emblem or any similar trademark or logo, either by registration or by any other means.

17.3 Quality of information — Disclaimer

Any communication or dissemination activity related to the action must use factually accurate information.

Moreover, it must indicate the following disclaimer (translated into local languages where appropriate):

“Co-funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Commission. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.”

17.4 Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules

Specific communication, dissemination and visibility rules (if any) are set out in Annex 5 of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement.¹⁹

17.5 Consequences of non-compliance

If Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

¹⁹ as indicated in Footnote 2 above

ARTICLE 18 — SPECIFIC RULES FOR CARRYING OUT THE ACTION

18.1 Specific rules for carrying out the action

Specific rules for implementing the action (if any) are set out in Annex 5 of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement.²⁰

18.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the grant may be reduced (see Article 28).

Such a breach may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

ARTICLE 25 — CHECKS, REVIEWS, AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS — EXTENSION OF FINDINGS

25.1 Granting authority checks, reviews and audits

25.1.1 Internal checks

The granting authority may — during the action or afterwards — check the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Grant Agreement, including assessing costs and contributions, deliverables and reports.

25.1.2 Project reviews

The granting authority may carry out reviews on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Grant Agreement (general project reviews or specific issues reviews).

Such project reviews may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit of 2 years as set out in the Data Sheet of the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement. They will be formally notified to the coordinator or Selected Third Party concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent, outside experts. If it uses outside experts, the coordinator or Selected Third Party concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The coordinator or Selected Third Party concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information and data in addition to deliverables and reports already submitted (including information on the use of resources). The granting authority may request Selected Third Party to provide such information to it directly. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

The coordinator or Selected Third Party concerned may be requested to participate in meetings, including with the outside experts.

For on-the-spot visits, the Selected Third Party concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including to the outside experts) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the review findings, a project review report will be drawn up.

²⁰ as indicated in Footnote 2 above

The granting authority will formally notify the project review report to the coordinator or Selected Party concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations.

Project reviews (including project review reports) will be in the language of the Agreement.

25.1.3 Audits

The granting authority may carry out audits on the proper implementation of the action and compliance with the obligations under the Grant Agreement.

Such audits may be started during the implementation of the action and until the time-limit of 2 years as set out in the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement. They will be formally notified to the Selected Third Party concerned and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

The granting authority may use its own audit service, delegate audits to a centralised service or use external audit firms. If it uses an external firm, the Selected Third Party concerned will be informed and have the right to object on grounds of commercial confidentiality or conflict of interest.

The Selected Third Party concerned must cooperate diligently and provide — within the deadline requested — any information (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data) to verify compliance with the Agreement. Sensitive information and documents will be treated in accordance with Article 13 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

For on-the-spot visits, the Selected Third Party concerned must allow access to sites and premises (including for the external audit firm) and must ensure that information requested is readily available.

Information provided must be accurate, precise and complete and in the format requested, including electronic format.

On the basis of the audit findings, a draft audit report will be drawn up.

The auditors will formally notify the draft audit report to the Selected Third Party concerned, which has 30 days from receiving notification to make observations (contradictory audit procedure).

The final audit report will take into account observations by the Selected Third Party concerned and will be formally notified to them.

Audits (including audit reports) will be in the language of the Grant Agreement.

25.2 European Commission checks, reviews and audits in grants of other granting authorities

Where the granting authority is not the European Commission, the latter has the same rights of checks, reviews and audits as the granting authority.

25.3 Access to records for assessing simplified forms of funding

Selected Third Party must give the European Commission access to their statutory records for the periodic assessment of simplified forms of funding which are used in EU programmes.

25.4 OLAF, EPPO and ECA audits and investigations

The following bodies may also carry out checks, reviews, audits and investigations — during the action or afterwards:

- the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) under Regulations No 883/201320 and No 2185/9621
- the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO) under Regulation 2017/1939
- the European Court of Auditors (ECA) under Article 287 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) and Article 257 of EU Financial Regulation 2018/1046.

If requested by these bodies, Selected Third Party concerned must provide full, accurate and complete information in the format requested (including complete accounts, individual salary statements or other personal data, including in electronic format) and allow access to sites and premises for on-the-spot visits or inspections — as provided for under these Regulations.

To this end, Selected Third Party concerned must keep all relevant information relating to the action, at least until the time-limit of 5 years as set out in the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement and, in any case, until any ongoing checks, reviews, audits, investigations, litigation or other pursuits of claims have been concluded.

25.5 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations — Extension of results of reviews, audits or investigations

25.5.1 Consequences of checks, reviews, audits and investigations in this grant

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations carried out in the context of this grant may lead to rejections (see Article 27 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement), grant reduction (see Article 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement) or other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement. Rejections or grant reductions after the final payment will lead to a revised final grant amount (see Article 22 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

Findings in checks, reviews, audits or investigations during the action implementation may lead to a request for amendment (see Article 39 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement), to change the description of the action set out in Annex 1 of MAGICIAN Grant Agreement.

Checks, reviews, audits or investigations that find systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations in any EU grant may also lead to consequences in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions ('extension to other grants').

Moreover, findings arising from an OLAF or EPPO investigation may lead to criminal prosecution under national law

25.5.2 Extension from other grants

Results of checks, reviews, audits or investigations in other grants may be extended to this grant, if:

- (a) Selected Third Party concerned is found, in other EU grants awarded under similar conditions, to have committed systemic or recurrent errors, irregularities, fraud or breach of obligations that have a material impact on this grant and
- (b) those findings are formally notified to the Selected Third Party concerned — together with the list of grants affected by the findings — within the time-limit of 2 years for audits as set out in the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement .

The granting authority will formally notify the Selected Third Party concerned of the intention to extend the findings and the list of grants affected. If the extension concerns rejections of costs or contributions: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings
- (b) the request to submit revised financial statements for all grants affected
- (c) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors, to calculate the amounts to be rejected, if the Selected Third Party concerned:
 - (i) considers that the submission of revised financial statements is not possible or practicable or
 - (ii) does not submit revised financial statements.

If the extension concerns grant reductions: the notification will include:

- (a) an invitation to submit observations on the list of grants affected by the findings and
- (b) the correction rate for extrapolation, established on the basis of the systemic or recurrent errors and the principle of proportionality.

The Selected Third Party concerned has 60 days from receiving notification to submit observations, revised financial statements or to propose a duly substantiated alternative correction method/rate.

On the basis of this, the granting authority will analyse the impact and decide on the implementation (i.e. start rejection or grant reduction procedures, either on the basis of the revised financial statements or the announced/alternative method/rate or a mix of those; see Articles 27 and 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

25.6 Consequences of non-compliance

If Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, costs or contributions insufficiently substantiated will be ineligible (see Article 6 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement) and will be rejected (see Article 27 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement), and the grant may be reduced (see Article 28 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement).

Such breaches may also lead to other measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

ARTICLE 26 — IMPACT EVALUATIONS

26.1 Impact evaluation

The granting authority may carry out impact evaluations of the action, measured against the objectives and indicators of the EU programme funding the grant.

Such evaluations may be started during implementation of the action and until the time-limit of 5 years as set out in the MAGICIAN Grant Agreement. They will be formally notified to the coordinator or Selected Third Party and will be considered to start on the date of the notification.

If needed, the granting authority may be assisted by independent outside experts.

The coordinator or Selected Third Party must provide any information relevant to evaluate the impact of the action, including information in electronic format.

26.2 Consequences of non-compliance

If Selected Third Party breaches any of its obligations under this Article, the granting authority may apply the measures described in Chapter 5 of the Horizon Europe Model Grant Agreement.

ARTICLE 33 — LIABILITY FOR DAMAGES

33.1 Liability of the granting authority

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused to Selected Third Party or to third parties as a consequence of implementing Standard Application Solution Agreement, including for gross negligence.

The granting authority cannot be held liable for any damage caused by any of the Selected Third Party or other participants involved in the action, as a consequence of implementing the Standard Application Solution

Agreement.

33.2 Liability of the beneficiaries

The Selected Third Party must compensate the granting authority for any damage it sustains as a result of the implementation of the action or because the action was not implemented in full compliance with the Standard Application Solution Agreement, provided that it was caused by gross negligence or wilful act.

The liability does not extend to indirect or consequential losses or similar damage (such as loss of profit, loss of revenue or loss of contracts), provided such damage was not caused by wilful act or by a breach of confidentiality.

ANNEX 2 - TECHNICAL REPORT TEMPLATE (M6, M12)

Document Description

The technical report includes an explanation of work carried out, an overview of progress and a publishable summary (describing the overview of the results and the exploitation and dissemination, the conclusions of the actions and its socio-economic impacts).

1. Public summary

Description of the objectives of the Application Solution (concept and objectives), progress beyond state-of-the-art and potential innovation. Including:

- High-resolution picture(s) of the prototype with caption(s)
- Video of the prototype
- Partners list
- Description of problem to be solved

2. Results and Analysis

- Short discussion of the state-of-the-art
- Describe the results including required details
- Use diagrams, tables and figures for overview and understanding
- Show results vs. requirements vs. state of the art
- Describe cooperation of the Parties
- Give an interpretation and/or analysis of the results
- Highlight major achievements

3. Business strategy and exploitation

- Market description
- Strategic positioning & unique value proposition
- Sustainability plan
- Value Chain description
- Public co-funding opportunities
- Private funding opportunities

5. Summary and Conclusion

Summarize major results and achievements and evaluate them compared with the objectives

6. Use of Resources

This table is CONFIDENTIAL, declaring Selected Third Party costs at M6 and M12 of the Application Solution versus estimated costs presented inside the Specific Application Solution Agreement (SASA) in compliance with Horizon Europe Funding Rules for Innovation Action and within the limit of the ceiling defined in the guidelines of the MAGICIAN project.

Selected Party	Third Party Costs	Estimated (SASA)			Declared			Short description
		Total cost EUR	estimated	rate Max 70%	Maximum MAGICIAN contribution EUR	Total declared cost EUR	rate Max 70%	
1. Personnel								
2. Consumables, materials, component								
3. Travel								
4. Subcontracting								
5. Other								
6. Indirect costs								
Total costs								

A Table of the Person Months per Work Package (planned/spent) is also requested.

WP n.	Total planned PMs (from proposal)	Actual PMs
Total		

All information will be delivered by the Selected Third Party.

The Coordinator will not make any payment until the Selected Third Party presents sufficient evidence and the report is accepted by the MAGICIAN General Assembly.

ANNEX 3 - SPECIFIC APPLICATION SOLUTION AGREEMENT

This MAGICIAN Specific Application Solution Agreement for implementation of the Application Solution by the Selected Third Party, hereinafter referred to as the “Specific Agreement”, is entered into by and between:

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI TRENTO (UNITN-DII), an Italian state-owned research entity established in VIA CALEPINA 14, TRENTO 38122, Italy and registered with the PIC number 999841954, represented by Prof. Alessandro Pegoretti as Director of Industrial Engineering Department (DII), hereinafter referred to as “Coordinator”

And

(SELECTED THIRD PARTY)., an organisation under the laws of **(XXX)**, having its registered office at **XXX**, , herein represented by **(COMPANY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE)**, hereinafter referred to as “**XXX**” or “Selected Third Party”

And

(MAGICIAN ASSIGNED MONITORING PARTNER), an organisation under the laws of **(XXX)**, having its registered office at **XXX**, herein represented by **(COMPANY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE)**, hereinafter referred to as “Monitoring Partner”

Hereinafter sometimes individually or collectively referred to as “Party” or “Parties”.

Whereas the Coordinator, the Selected Third Party and the Coordinator have agreed the main terms and conditions to implement the Application Solution during the MAGICIAN Project by signing the Standard Application Solution Agreement Number OC_1-AS_ID16 which form part of this Standard Application Solution Agreement.

Now therefore it has been agreed as follows:

1. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE APPLICATION SOLUTION

The Selected Third Party shall implement the Application Solution in accordance with the following:

Description of the Application Solution	
Acronym	
Call N°	

Full Title	
MAGICIAN call identification	
Starting date of the Application Solution :	
Duration of the Application Solution :	
Date of selection of the Selected Third Party(ies) by the Evaluation Committee	

Application Solution outcomes	
Expected results in terms of Industrial Impact	
Expected results in terms of building blocks, IPs, software and hardware solution	

Implementation of the Application Solution	
Outline scope of work	
Milestones	
Deliverables	
WP1	
Objectives	
Task 1.1	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Task 1.2	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	

Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
Task 1.3	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
WP 2	
Objective	
Task 2.1	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
Task 2.2	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
Task 2.3	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
WP 3	
Objective	
Task 3.1	

Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
Task 3.2	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
Task 3.3	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
WP 4	
Objective	
Task 4.1	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and resp partner	
Task 4.2	
Description	
Starting date	
Duration	
Inputs	
Actions per partner	
Deliverable date and	

resp partner	
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2. BACKGROUND INCLUDED

According to the Grant Agreement (Article 16.1) Background is defined as “*data, know-how or information (...) that is (...) needed to implement the Action or exploit the results*”. Because of this need, Access Rights have to be granted in principle, but Parties must identify and agree amongst them on the Background for the Project..

As to **MULTIVERSE COMPUTING** , it is agreed between the Parties that, to the best of their knowledge the following table represents the status at the time of signature of the present Agreement:

Describe Background	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights to background and results for implementing the Action”)	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for Exploitation (Article 16.4 Grant Agreement and its Annex 5, Section “Access rights to results and background”, sub-section “Access rights for exploiting the results”)

The background shared by Magician partners will be listed in the teams channel and will be listed in the final report of the FSTP. The monitoring partner will be responsible for monitoring the MAGICIAN results to be used by the Selected Third Party as background IP for the implementation of the Application Solution.

The list of MAGICIAN results used as background by Selected Third Parties will be included in the interim and final PolarQI-Net project reports and will be subject to the rules of the present Standard Application Solution Agreement.

The rights granted to the Selected Third Parties for using MAGICIAN background IP shall be non-exclusive, non-transferable, and limited solely to the implementation of the selected Application Solution, unless explicitly otherwise agreed by the relevant rights holder(s) and approved by the Data Access Committee (DAC)²¹.

The Selected Third Party agrees not to sublicense, disclose, or commercially exploit any part of the MAGICIAN background IP received, except otherwise agreed in the frame of a formal licensing agreement approved under DAC protocol 2.2.6²².

²¹ The DAC protocol that is not attached to the present agreement but is made available to the Third Party for consultation via dedicated digital repository
²² as indicated in Footnote 8 above

The access to MAGICIAN background material shall be time-limited and expire upon project completion unless otherwise specified in the licensing agreement. All obligations concerning confidentiality and non-use shall persist for at least five (5) years after termination of the Application Solution Agreement.

The Selected Third Party will be provided a Rights Ownership List (ROL) tailored for its use in the context of the specific project. This dedicated ROL will also include background material provided by the MAGICIAN partners, and will be utilized to document contributions of partners and the Selected Third Parties in preparation to licencing, patenting, and any exploitation-related negotiation. This ROL will be integrated with the MAGICIAN project ROL at the end of the project to document and discriminate contributions between partners and third parties.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) arising solely from the activities of the Selected Third Party will remain with the Selected Third Party. In cases where joint development of results occurs between a Selected Third Party and a MAGICIAN partner, co-ownership arrangements shall be negotiated in good faith and documented in writing, subject to DAC oversight²³.

No patent application involving results developed within the scope of the Application Solution may be filed by the Selected Third Party without prior notification to the DAC and a joint assessment of ownership contributions, particularly requesting the activation of DAC protocol 2.2.2, 2.2.4, 2.2.6, or 2.2.10²⁴, according to the corresponding case. In cases where the request does not fully fit any of the DAC protocols, the DAC will create a new protocol tailored for the specific instance.

In the event that a data or resource sharing request is denied by the DAC, the MAGICIAN partners and the Selected Third Party commit to exploring alternative datasets, software, or approaches that allow continuity of the Application Solution without compromising legal or ethical safeguards.

3. FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Financial conditions	
Financial Support	Corresponding to 70% of the Selected Third Party total eligible costs of the Application Solution accordingly to Horizon Europe for Innovation Action and within the limit of the ceiling defined in the guidelines of the MAGICIAN project.
Schedule of payment	50% at Standard Application Solution Agreement signature, 35% at M6 after reporting and validation of the interim M6 report, and 15% balance payment at completion of Application Solution and validation of final report (deliverables validated)
Payment conditions	30 days upon Specific Agreement signature and receiving the specific request of payment (debit note) from the Third Party for

²³ as indicated in Footnote 8 above

²⁴ as indicated in Footnote 8 above

	<p>the first installment; 30 days upon receiving the specific request of payment (debit note) from the Third Party after the approval of deliverables and reports at at M6 and at the end of the Application Solution. Both the M6 interim and final reports for the Application Solution must be validated by the MAGICIAN General Assembly before the related payments can be processed.</p>
Application Solution rejection	<p>In case the Standard Application Solution Agreement is not signed by all the Parties within 4 months (120 days) from the notice day and time of the selection of the Selected Third Party, the Application Solution will be simply rejected, without appeal, and without any Financial Support payment.</p>
Application Solution extension	<p>At the midterm of the Application Solution, a checkpoint will be made by the Coordinator to validate if the Application Solution will be completed on time or if an extension is requested. One extension only, of a maximum of three months, will be given. Balance payment will be postponed to the end of the extension. Passed the extension time, the Application Solution will be terminated. In any case, with or without forced termination, the balance payment is conditional upon provision of the final report by the Selected Third Party.</p>
Penalties	<p>Depends on each Standard Application Solution Agreement</p>

Parties involved in the Application Solution	
Coordinator	Università degli Studi di Trento
Name & surname	Daniele Fontanelli
Department	Industrial Engineering Department
Tel:	+39 0461 282080
Email:	daniele.fontanelli@unitn.it
Selected Third Party	
Name & surname	
Department	
Tel:	
Email:	
Monitoring Partner	
Name & surname	
Department	
Tel:	
Email:	

<u>Date of agreement of all the Parties involved in the Application Solution</u>	the date of the Coordinator’s digital signature
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The Selected Third Party will estimate costs, per category of costs to be covered by the Financial Support and its (their) in-kind contribution. Short description of costs will also be given.

The Financial Support represent 70% of the total costs while in-kind contribution of the company represents 30% of the total costs, in compliance with Horizon Europe Funding Rules for Innovation Action and within the limit of the ceiling defined in the guidelines of the MAGICIAN project.

Selected Third Party costs	Estimated (SASA)		Short description
	Total estimated cost	rate	
	EUR	Max 70%	MAGICIAN contribution EUR
1. Personnel			
2. Consumables, materials, components			
3. Travel			
4. Subcontracting			
5. Other			
6. Indirect Costs			
Total costs			

4. MISCELLANEOUS

4.1 This Specific Application Solution Agreement, composed of the Standard Application Solution Agreement and its Annexes 1 to 3 included, constitutes the sole and complete understanding of the Parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous communications between the Parties concerning such subject matter. This Specific Application Solution Agreement will be governed and construed according to the choice of governing and constructive law set forth in the Standard Application Solution Agreement.

4.2 Save to the extent expressly modified in this Specific Application Solution Agreement, all of the terms of the Standard Application Solution Agreement and Annexes 1-3 included shall apply to this Specific Application Solution Agreement. Save to the extent expressly specified in this Specific Application Solution Agreement, all capitalized terms used in this Specific Application Solution Agreement which are defined in the Standard Application Solution Agreement shall have the meaning set force in the Standard Application Solution Agreement. In the event of a conflict between this Specific Application Solution Agreement and the terms of the Standard Application Solution Agreement, the terms of the Specific Application Solution Agreement shall apply.

4.3 The terms of Article 11.1 of the Standard Application Solution Agreement shall apply to the signing and enforceability of this Annex 3.

4.4 The present Contract is subject to stamp duty (Presidential Decree n. 642/1972) which shall be virtually paid by the University of Trento as Coordinator (ex autoriz. 106668/2014 d.d. 23.12.2014)

Done in 1 (ONE) original digital copy.

Signature Selected Third Party
Date:

Monitoring Partner	Signature Coordinator
Date :	date of the digital signature

This document in paper form is a copy of the electronically signed original document, which has been written and is stored by the University of Trento in compliance with articles 3bis and 71 of Legislative Decree no. 82/05. The hand written signature has been replaced by the printed name of the signer (article 3 of Legislative Decree no. 39/1993 as amended).