

**WELCOME!**  
**WE WILL START SOON.**



**AUTOASSESS**  
AI & robotics for safe vessel inspection

# Open Call for Tech Innovations

Information Webinar

*12 March 2026 | 11.00 - 12.00 CET*



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# Webinar housekeeping



- This webinar will be recorded and shared via the project channels.
- Rename yourself to first, last name and entity you represent. It will be easier to identify you during the Q&A.
- There will be a specific slot dedicated to Q&A. If you have a question, please use the “Raise Hand” tool. If we miss your signal, you can indicate you have a question in the chat box.
- The moderator will go through the raised hands and asks participants to turn on their microphones to ask their questions.

# Agenda



**11:00** | Welcome

**11:05** | AUTOASSESS: Project Overview

**11:20** | The Open Call for Tech Innovations

**11:40** | Q&A

**11:55** | Tips to prepare your application

**12:00** | Closing

# AUTOASSESS Project Overview



Evangelos Boukas  
AUTOASSESS  
coordinator



Melanie Brunhofer  
AUTOASSESS  
Project Manager



# AUTOASSESS - Autonomous Aerial Inspection of GNSS-denied and Confined Critical Infrastructures



- Funded by: EU Horizon Europe Programme (Innovation Action)
- Call: HORIZON-CL4-2022-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02
- Budget: 13 Million EUR
- Project started: 1 October 2023
- Duration: 48 months
- Consortium: 16 Partners across Europe (academia, industry, class and end users)



# AUTOASSESS *Need*

→ Large marine structures must endure harsh environments



On January 15th 2021 just off the port of Bartın in Turkey (Black Sea), the MV Arvin sank

# AUTOASSESS *Need*



>50 000 vessels to be regularly monitored for corrosion & defects by human surveyors in dirty, confined GNSS-denied areas as water ballast tanks and cargo holds

- Navigation of humans in tight and dangerous spaces lead to 1 death every week on average from accidents in these dangerous spaces
- Inspection currently takes time (15 days)
- Inspection costs are up to 1 Million €



# AUTOASSESS *Need*

AUTOASSESS has the goal of removing human surveyors to:

- avoid deaths
- provide more reliable and accurate inspection
- save up to 9B€ per year on inspection cost

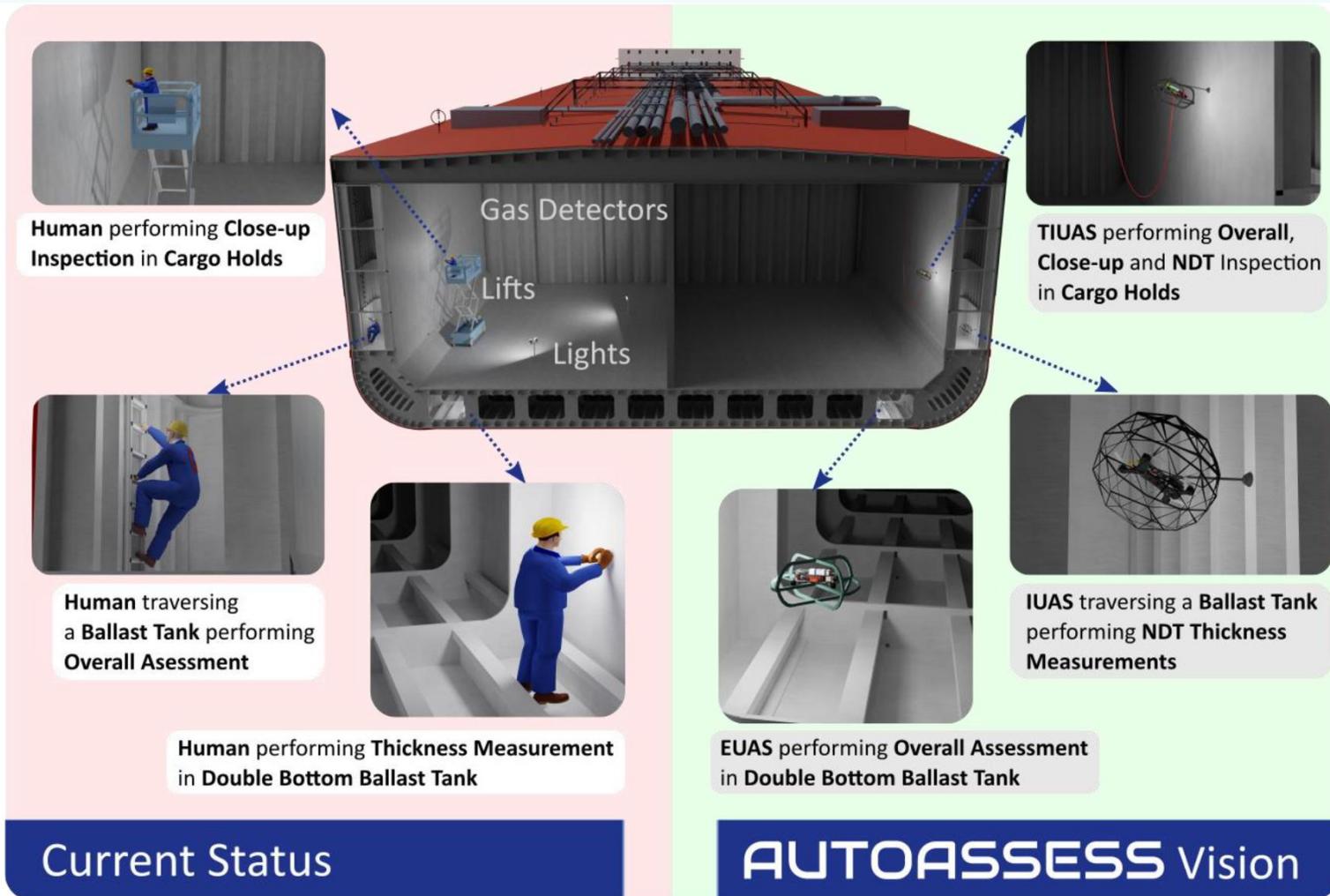
# AUTOASSESS *How*



- Integrating various technologies to address the challenge of deploying aerial robots in these challenging conditions:
  - 1) Exploration UAS - New drone for a quick overall assessment of Ballast Tanks
  - 2) Inspection UAS – Adapted Flyability drone for CloseUp inspection and Thickness Measurements of Ballast Tanks
  - 3) Tethered UAS Inspection – Overall Inspection, CloseUp inspection and Thickness measurements using an adapted ScoutDI drone for Cargo holds
- All of them operate fully autonomous

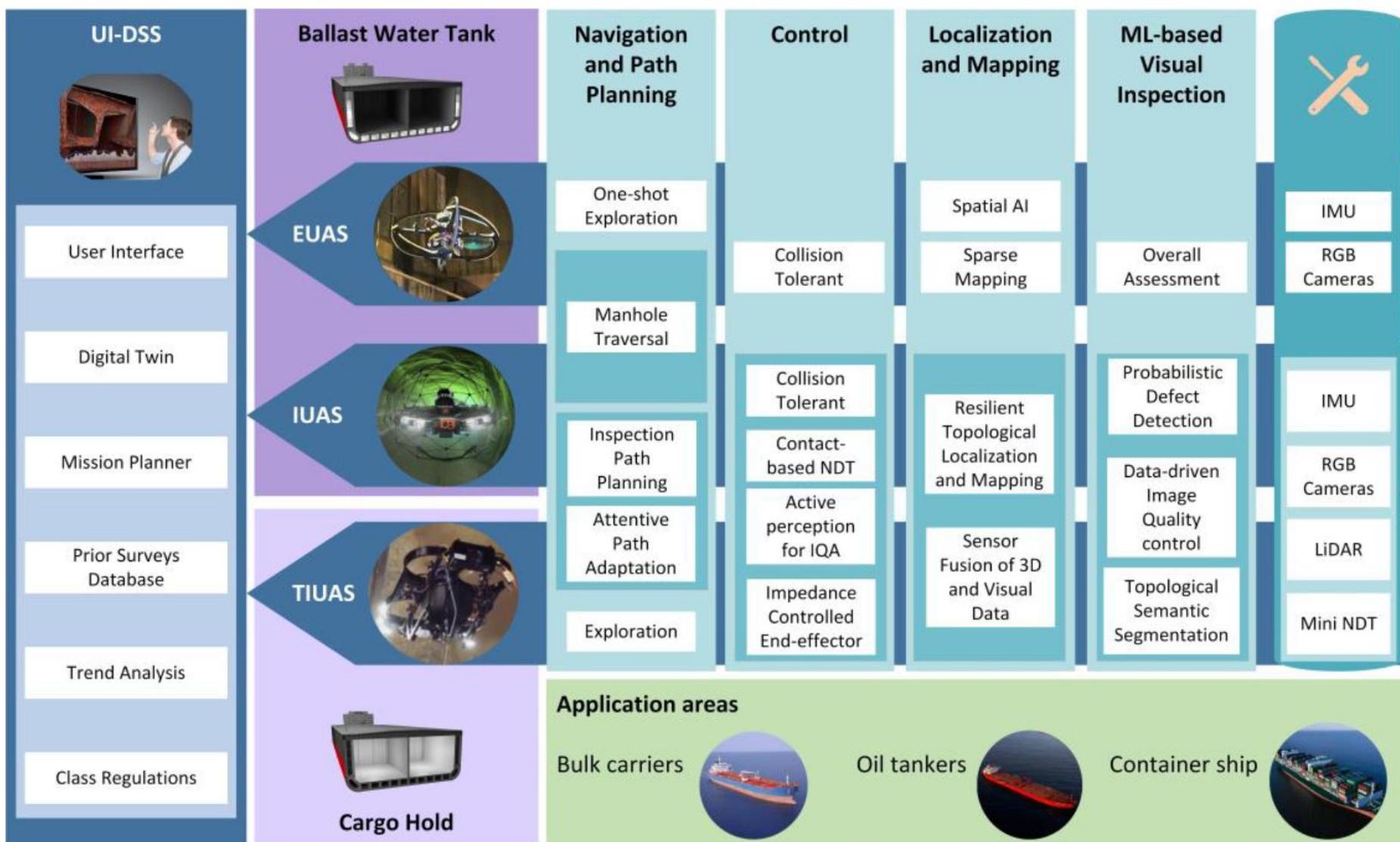


# AUTOASSESS How



**The Overall Objective (OO) of the AUTOASSESS project is to remove human surveyors and workers from dangerous and dirty confined areas of offshore structures by employing an autonomous robotic system that exceeds human capabilities and is able to perform maritime vessel classifications**

# High level work description



# **AUTOASSESS**

## **Open Call #2 for Tech Innovations**



Samuel Almeida



# What we'll cover



- 1 | Open Call Framework
- 2 | Who can apply?
- 3 | What projects are expected?
- 4 | What are the funding conditions?
- 5 | How to apply?
- 6 | How are applications evaluated and selected?
- 7 | What is the Open Call timeline?
- 8 | What happens if selected?

# 1 | Open Call Framework



## // Goals

Select and award startups and SMEs that have presented the most innovative solutions aligned with the defined challenges proposed by AUTOASSESS.

## // Funding and opportunity

- €1.350.000 budget available to fund nine (9) projects
- Programme duration: nine months

## 2 | Who can apply?

### // Types of entities

- Single legal entities, either **startups\*** or **SMEs**
- Consortia of (maximum) two entities; both partners must be startups or SMEs

Other requirements:

- Consult the specific definition for **startups** and SME
  - *Has been incorporated for less than 10 years (i.e. after 1 January 2015),*
  - *Has an innovation focus business,*
  - *Has a specific intention to grow as a business.*
- Valid VAT & PIC number

## 2 | Who can apply?



### // Countries

- EU Member States and their outermost regions
- Horizon Europe Associated countries eligible for funding (*as defined in HE rules for participation at the date of signature of the AUTOASSESS Grant Agreement 29 June 2023*).

Other country considerations:

- UK and Swiss entities are eligible to participate but will not receive funding from AUTOASSESS.
- Entities from these two countries must ensure their own funding and provide proof if selected.

## 2 | Who can apply?



### // Participation and multiple submissions

- Entities that have applied to Open Call #1 for Tech Solutions can apply to Open Call #2, individually or as part of a consortia.
- An entity can participate individually or in a consortium, but only once. Participating both individually and in a consortium will disqualify both applications.
- Any single entity or consortia can only submit one application. Different applications to different challenges are not accepted.
- Awarded entities from the Open Call #1 Funding Programme are not eligible to participate in Open Call #2.

# 3 | What projects are expected?



## // Types of projects <sup>(1)</sup>

Applicants are required to **select one** of the challenges and align their application and respective proposal with the challenge requirements. *Challenge descriptions provided in Appendix 1 of the GfA.*

Challenge	Title
C1	SOT-aided NDT Thickness Tool for a Fully-Actuated Aerial Robot
C2	Remote Inspection Support and Augmented Collaboration between Onboard and Shore-Based Experts
C3	Autonomous Patrolling Concepts and Early Event Detection Frameworks for Engine Rooms
C4	Vessel Structural Condition Analysis and Hotspot Identification via Digital Representation and Modelling for Robotic Inspection

*Join us for our next webinar on Thursday 2 April 2026 at 11:00 CET to learn about the OC challenges*

# 3 | What projects are expected?



## // Types of projects (2)

Applicants are required to **select one** of the challenges and align their application and respective proposal with the challenge requirements. *Challenge descriptions provided in Appendix 1 of the GfA.*

Challenge	Title
C5	Combined Qualitative and Quantitative Assessment of Structural Integrity Using Imaging and Measurements
C6	NDT-MINI: Ultra-Lightweight, low power (<10W) ACFM/ECT Sensor for Autonomous Drone Inspection
C7	Graphical User Interface for UAS
C8	Open Challenge: <i>Tell us what AUTOASSESS needs (within the project framework)</i>

*Join us for our next webinar on Thursday 2 April 2026 at 11:00 CET to learn about the OC challenges*

# 4 | What are the funding conditions?



## // Funding per project

- Each application may request a maximum contribution of up to €150.000 (total grant contribution).
- Specific funding rates apply:
  - *Startups: 100% funding rate.*
  - *SMEs: 70% funding rate.*
- For **consortia**, the budget distribution should consider (1) partners involvement in the project, (2) the applicable funding rate, and (3) be within the maximum grant amount.
- Subcontracting is eligible and must not exceed 25% of the project budget.
- Funds will be disbursed in lump sums at the end of the three stages of the Funding Programme and pending the achievement of agreed upon milestones and reports.

# 5 | How to apply?

## // AUTOASSESS website for documents



**Open Call #2 for Tech Solutions:**  
Apply from 2 March 2026 to 5 May 2026 (17:00 CET)

The core innovation of AUTOASSESS focuses on a fully autonomous inspection of ballast tanks and cargo holds of vessels. AUTOASSESS employs an open approach to innovation that relies upon using the entire value chain of the consortium and external stakeholders to assess the best ideas, regardless of their origin.

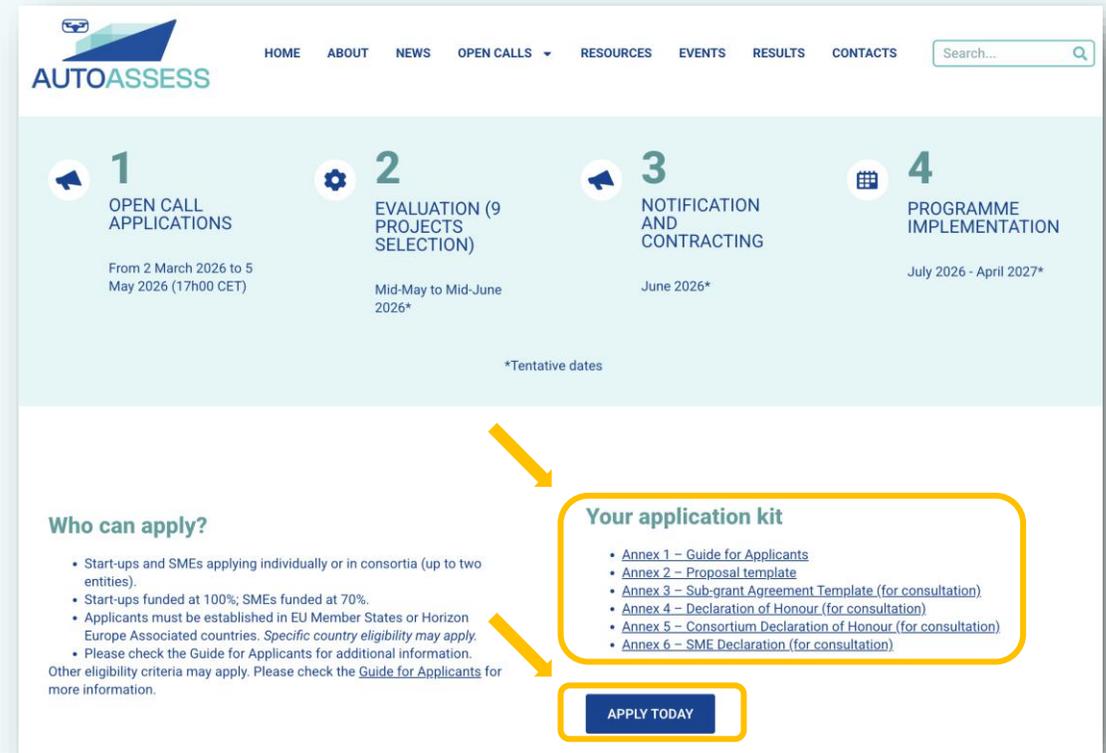
This includes embracing the possibilities enabled by the Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism. Such an approach ensures that the consortium will be able to leverage the possibilities of cocreation to create solutions that are ready to go to market before project completion.

**The Open Call for Tech Solutions**

The AUTOASSESS Open Call #2 for Tech Innovations invites startups and SMEs to present their innovative technology solutions that are aligned with the project's use cases and answer to project defined

**€150k**  
MAXIMUM GRANT

**9 Months**  
PROGRAMME DURATION



**1 OPEN CALL APPLICATIONS**  
From 2 March 2026 to 5 May 2026 (17h00 CET)

**2 EVALUATION (9 PROJECTS SELECTION)**  
Mid-May to Mid-June 2026\*

**3 NOTIFICATION AND CONTRACTING**  
June 2026\*

**4 PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION**  
July 2026 - April 2027\*

\*Tentative dates

**Who can apply?**

- Start-ups and SMEs applying individually or in consortia (up to two entities).
- Start-ups funded at 100%; SMEs funded at 70%.
- Applicants must be established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated countries. *Specific country eligibility may apply.*
- Please check the [Guide for Applicants](#) for additional information.

Other eligibility criteria may apply. Please check the [Guide for Applicants](#) for more information.

**Your application kit**

- [Annex 1 – Guide for Applicants](#)
- [Annex 2 – Proposal template](#)
- [Annex 3 – Sub-grant Agreement Template \(for consultation\)](#)
- [Annex 4 – Declaration of Honour \(for consultation\)](#)
- [Annex 5 – Consortium Declaration of Honour \(for consultation\)](#)
- [Annex 6 – SME Declaration \(for consultation\)](#)

**APPLY TODAY**

# 5 | How to apply?



## // F6S for submissions

**AUTOASSESS**

### AUTOASSESS OC#2 - Tech Innovations

Funding and support to develop tech innovations for safe vessel inspections

Samuel & Ana

[Submit your application by May 5](#) [DISCUSS](#) [FIND OUT MORE](#)

You know 1 connection

Overview

Brussels, Belgium

Staff

- Ana Rita Alves**  
EU Projects - Communications Manager @ F6S  
Admin
- Samuel Almeida**  
EU Projects Manager @F6S  
Admin

€150k grant per company    Virtual location    \$0 cost    9 companies funded per year

Funding and support to develop tech innovations for safe vessel inspections

[AUTOASSESS](#) portfolio companies and 3 more

\$375.1k raised by [AUTOASSESS](#) alumni from investors

Looking for companies:

- in Engineering, Telecommunications, UAV, Robotic Systems, Computer Science, Computer Vision, Software Development Methodologies, Navigation Systems, Drones, UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle), Damage Inspection, VMS (Vessel Monitoring System), Damage Detection, Damage Prevention, Damage Assessment, Vessel Management
- located in Europe
- incorporated or not
- idea or prototype stage
- have raised funding or not
- currently raising or not raising funds
- have revenue or not

# 5 | How to apply?



## // F6S for submissions

**Questions**

### AUTOASSESS | Open Call #2 - Tech Innovations

The AUTOASSESS Open Call #2 for Tech Innovations is a competitive process that invites entities to propose innovative technology solutions that are aligned with the project and answer to the defined open call challenges.

#### Application form information and documentation

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Please ensure that you have carefully read the Guide for Applicants before starting and submitting your application.

This application form has the following mandatory sections:

- Section 1: Application identification
- Section 2: Applicant information
- Section 3: Proposal description
- Section 4: Requirements to join the AUTOASSESS programme
- Section 5: Additional questions

When preparing your proposal and before filling in this form, you are required to carefully read the following documents (available at: [autoassess.eu/open-call-2/](https://autoassess.eu/open-call-2/)):

- > Annex 1: Guidelines for Applicants
- > Annex 2: Technical proposal template [Note: this template should be completed and uploaded with your proposal]
- > Annex 3, Annex 4, Annex 5, and Annex 6 [Note: These annexes will be required to be filled in by the applicant ONLY if the application is awarded.

Failure to provide the required information/ documentation will result in disqualification. Review them before applying.

#### APPLICATION INFORMATION

1 **Proposal title \***  
Proposal title should be different from the proposal acronym.

100

2 **Proposal acronym \***  
An acronym is an abbreviation of the project title.

20

3 **Proposal summary \***  
Please provide a detailed summary that will be used for promotional purposes and made public. Maximum length: 1500 characters (including spaces).

1500

25 **DECLARATION OF HONOUR (Applicable to all organisations): I CONFIRM that I accept all the conditions in the (Consortium) Declaration of Honour and information contained therein, and that it will be provided signed and stamped should this proposal be accepted for funding. \***

By selecting 'Yes', you (and all applicants, inc ase of a consortium) agree to these conditions.

Declaration of Honour template: [autoassess.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AUTOASSESS-OC2-Annex-4-Declaration-of-Honour-v1.0.pdf](https://autoassess.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AUTOASSESS-OC2-Annex-4-Declaration-of-Honour-v1.0.pdf)  
Consortium Declaration of Honour template: [autoassess.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AUTOASSESS-OC2-Annex-5-Consortium-Declaration-of-Honour-v1.0.pdf](https://autoassess.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AUTOASSESS-OC2-Annex-5-Consortium-Declaration-of-Honour-v1.0.pdf)

Yes

26 **SME DECLARATION (Applicable to start-ups/SMEs): I CONFIRM that the company I represent is a valid SME following established EU rules, whose validity will be proved with a signed and stamped declaration to be provided should this proposal be accepted for funding. \***

By selecting 'Yes', you agree to these conditions.

SME Declaration template: [autoassess.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AUTOASSESS-OC2-Annex-6-SME-Declaration-Form-v1.0.pdf](https://autoassess.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/AUTOASSESS-OC2-Annex-6-SME-Declaration-Form-v1.0.pdf)

Yes

27 **I accept that the information provided and submitted in this proposal can be shared by F6S with AUTOASSESS partners for the purpose of evaluation and managing the programme. \***

Yes

28 **I declare that I have no conflict of interest with AUTOASSESS Project nor the consortium partners \***

Yes

#### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

29 **How did you hear about AUTOASSESS ? \***

- Event
- EC Portal (fund to third-parties page)
- Friend/Colleague/Reference
- Autoassess website
- Autoassess partner recommendation
- Social Media
- F6S page
- Other

30 **I am interested in being contacted about future funding opportunities and project activities. \***

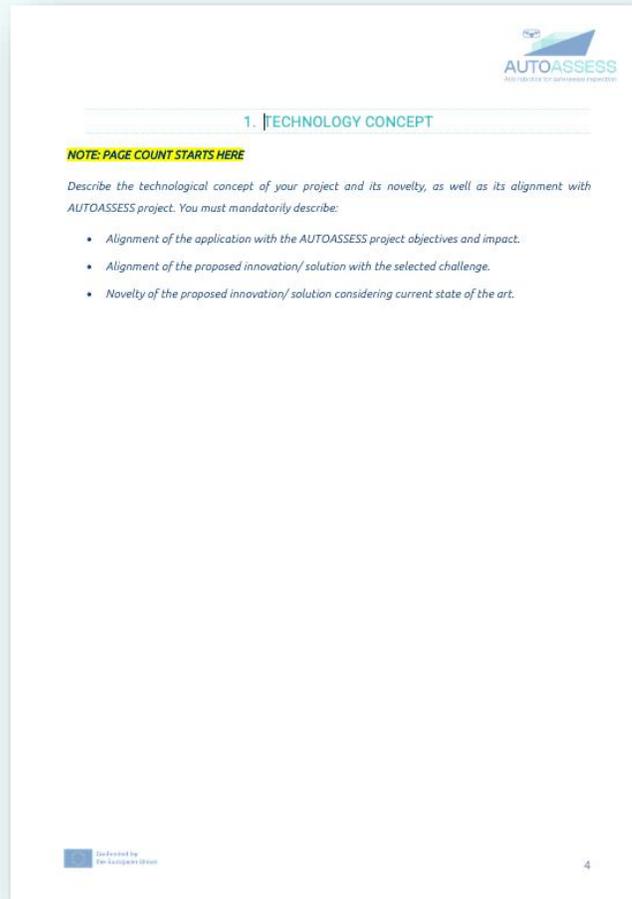
- Yes
- No

Are you done? Click below to finalize

**Submit your application**

# 5 | How to apply?

## // Technical proposal template (Annex 2)



**1. TECHNOLOGY CONCEPT**

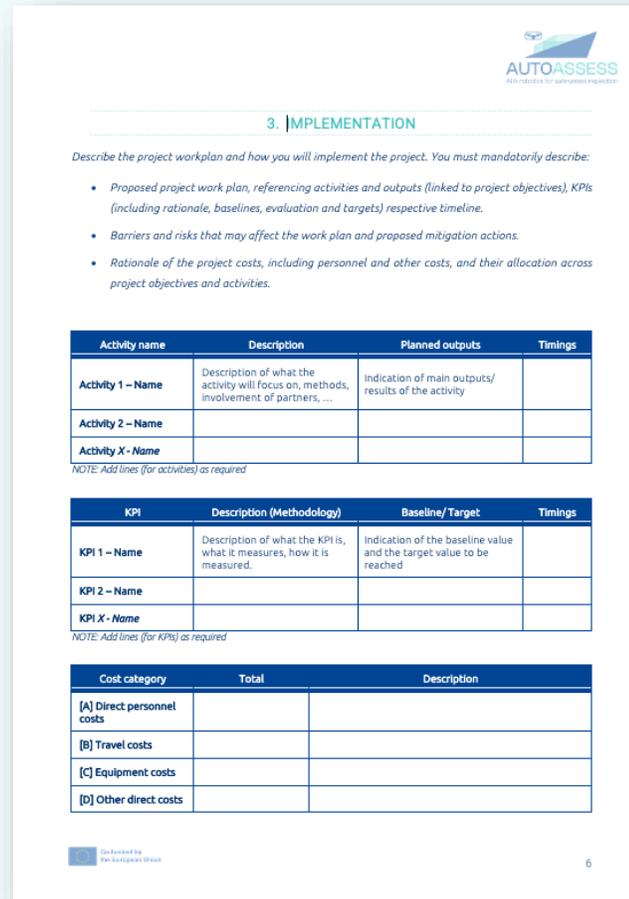
**NOTE: PAGE COUNT STARTS HERE**

Describe the technological concept of your project and its novelty, as well as its alignment with AUTOASSESS project. You must mandatorily describe:

- Alignment of the application with the AUTOASSESS project objectives and impact.
- Alignment of the proposed innovation/solution with the selected challenge.
- Novelty of the proposed innovation/solution considering current state of the art.

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**3. IMPLEMENTATION**

Describe the project workplan and how you will implement the project. You must mandatorily describe:

- Proposed project work plan, referencing activities and outputs (linked to project objectives), KPIs (including rationale, baselines, evaluation and targets) respective timeline.
- Barriers and risks that may affect the work plan and proposed mitigation actions.
- Rationale of the project costs, including personnel and other costs, and their allocation across project objectives and activities.

Activity name	Description	Planned outputs	Timings
Activity 1 – Name	Description of what the activity will focus on, methods, involvement of partners, ...	Indication of main outputs/ results of the activity	
Activity 2 – Name			
Activity X - Name			

NOTE: Add lines (for activities) as required

KPI	Description (Methodology)	Baseline/Target	Timings
KPI 1 – Name	Description of what the KPI is, what it measures, how it is measured.	Indication of the baseline value and the target value to be reached	
KPI 2 – Name			
KPI X - Name			

NOTE: Add lines (for KPIs) as required

Cost category	Total	Description
[A] Direct personnel costs		
[B] Travel costs		
[C] Equipment costs		
[D] Other direct costs		

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Please read the template guidelines and respect the requirements:  
(1) formatting, (2) structure, (3) section items.

# 6 | How are applications evaluated and selected?



## // Eligibility and evaluation criteria (1)

### ADMIN ELIGIBILITY CHECK

Legal entities (startups/SMEs) eligible for EC funding

Country of establishment

Complies with participation and submission rules

Complies with funding conditions

Use of required templates, respect page limits and language

### EXTERNAL (REMOTE) EVALUATION

*All proposals are reviewed by AUTOASSESS internal experts*

#### TECHNOLOGY CONCEPT

Alignment with AUTOASSESS and selected challenge; novelty of the solution.

#### AMBITION & SCALABILITY POTENTIAL

Contribution to broader AUTOASSESS impact; contribution to industry transformation; promotion of the project and results exploitation.

#### IMPLEMENTATION

Project work plan, including activities and outputs; KPIs; barriers and risks and proposed mitigation measures; rationale of project costs.

#### TEAM SKILLS & EXPERTISE

Knowledge and skills to implement the project; team complementarity; gender balance.

FOUR  
CRITERIA

# 7 | What is the OC timeline?

## // Timeline from launch to funding

### OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

(60 days)

2 March 2026 - 05 May 2026



Proposals submitted on F6S 



### EVALUATION & SELECTION CONTRACTING



Eligibility  
check

Remote  
evaluation

Admin check  
& contracting



Is the application  
eligible?

Selected for  
funding?

N Y

N Y

Rejection letter +  
ESR

ESR

### OPEN CALL #2 FOR TECH INNOVATIONS FUNDING PROGRAMME



Stage 1  
1 months

Stage 2  
6 months

Stage 3  
2 months



Report  
Review 1

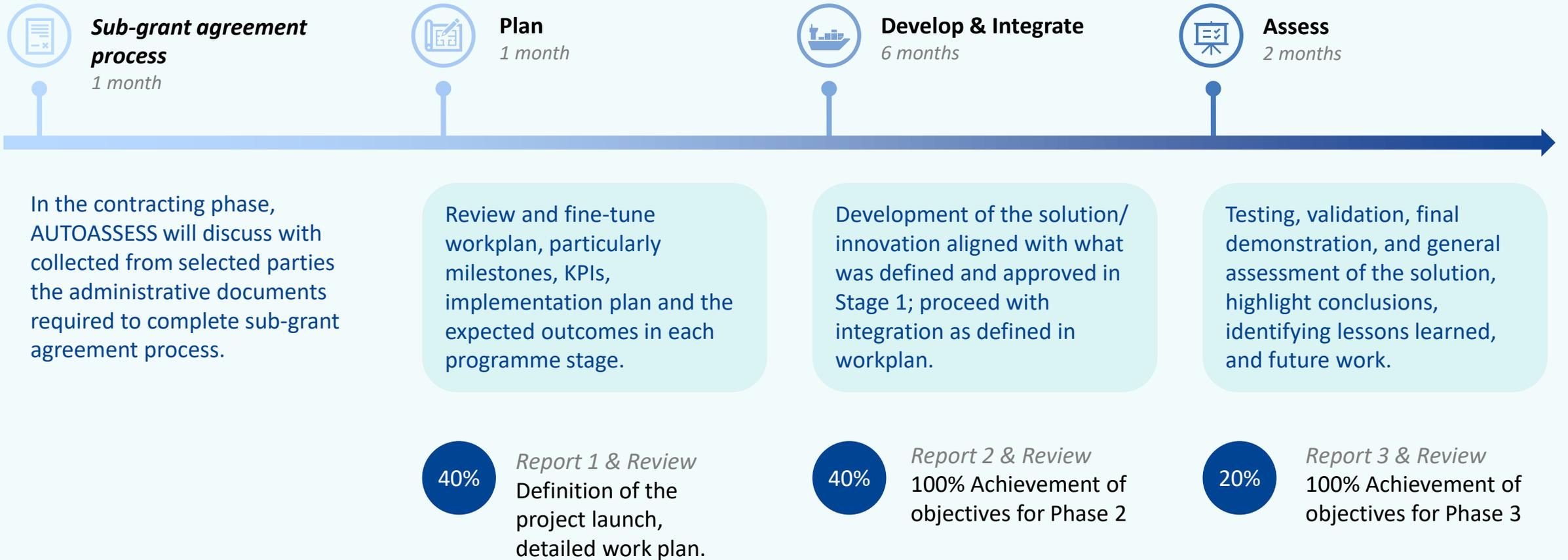
Report  
Review 2

Report  
Review 3

# 8 | What happens if selected?



## // Open Call #2 Tech Innovations Programme



# Need support?



## // Important links and contacts

- Project website: <https://autoassess.eu/>
- Open call application form: <https://www.f6s.com/autoassess-oc2-tech-innovations/apply>
- Contact us: [autoassess-opencall@f6s.com](mailto:autoassess-opencall@f6s.com)
- Online discussion board: <https://www.f6s.com/autoassess-oc2-tech-innovations/discuss>
- F6S platform support team: [support@f6s.com](mailto:support@f6s.com) *(to be used for issues with the submission, resubmission, access to the platform, etc.)*

**Q&A**  
from the  
audience

# **Tips & Recap** about preparing your application

## // Tips when preparing your application

- Download and read carefully **all documents** relevant to the open call, particularly **Annex 1: Guidelines for Applicants**, which provides detailed information about the rules and requirements to participate.
- Be clear and specific. Make sure the evaluators can understand the concept of your project, the objectives, what you want to deliver and how.
- The open call will run for **more than two (2) months!** Prepare carefully, ask questions, review your proposal template. Most importantly: **submit well ahead of the deadline.**
- Attend our webinars (and re-watch them) for information and ask questions using the discussion board.

# Tips & Recap



## // Applying & the timeline

### **STEPS**

1. Visit the OC page on the **AUTOASSESS website**
2. Read the **Annex 1- Guide for Applicants**
3. Download and complete Annex 2 – Proposal Template
4. Register on F6S and visit the OC#2 page
5. Complete the required items and upload Annex 2.
6. Submit your application

### **DATES**

<b>What?</b>	<b>When?</b>
Application submissions	2 March – 5 May 2026
Eligibility check	6 May – 8 May 2026
Application evaluation	11 May – 12 June 2026
Announcement of results	2nd half of June 2026

# Open Call #2 for Tech Innovations

// In a nutshell.





[@AUTOASSESS\\_EU](https://twitter.com/AUTOASSESS_EU)



[autoassess/about](https://www.facebook.com/autoassess/about)



[/company/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/autoassess/)



[@autoassess](https://www.youtube.com/@autoassess)



[Autoassess.eu](https://www.Autoassess.eu)



[info@autoassess.eu](mailto:info@autoassess.eu)



# AUTOASSESS

AI & robotics for safe vessel inspection

# Thank you!



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