



DIGITAL EUROPE PROGRAMME

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DIGITAL-2026-DSM-AI-09-DS-MANUFACTUR-STEP

Data Space for Manufacturing General information

Budget	Indicative # of funded projects	Call deadline
9 M€	3 projects	03 March 2026 17:00:00 CET

Objectives

- Support the continued uptake and further expansion of the data space for manufacturing.
- To develop legal, technical and business solutions **to pool sufficient data** and enable AI developers to have data access **to train generative AI models for the manufacturing sector, including AI-powered robotics.**



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Two main problems for the collection and use of manufacturing data:

- Most data are proprietary
- Data complexity (not just text)



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Scope

- Collect massive data from real industrial environments, to train or finetune generative AI models for manufacturing sector.
- Develop both technical and business solutions to enable authorized AI developers to have data access.
- Propose clear use cases to ensure alignment with real-world needs.
- Coordinate with AI Factories to ensure that the datasets generated can be effectively used for the development of advanced AI models.
- Work in close partnership with the Data Spaces Support Centre and establish synergies with projects funded under **HORIZON-CL4-2025-03-DIGITAL-EMERGING-07** and “**GenAI4EU central Hub**”.



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Expected outcomes

- Identification and analysis of real AI application use cases.
- Solutions that allow the collection of large, high-quality data from real industrial environments.
- Solutions that allow access to these large datasets to train gen-AI models that respond to real-world industrial needs.
- Agreements with specific AI factories for using data sets for training AI models.
- Interoperability and governance framework of manufacturing data spaces to aggregate data for training AI at EU level.
- Recommendations for widening the adoption, improvement and/or extension of existing technical standards and open-source middleware.



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KPIs

- Amount and quality of the data
- Usage of these data for training AI models
- TRL of the proposed solutions
- TRL of the application use-cases
- Involvement of relevant stakeholders
- Share of SMEs among data providers and data users
- Deployment of resources
- Scientific, technical and economic impact of the project
- Sustainability of the action, after the end of the EC funding



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Data Space for Manufacturing Must-haves & deal-breakers

What are you looking for?

- Real application use cases in manufacturing environments with high economic impact.
- Build on recent AI developments and previous work on data spaces.
- Collaboration with related actions.
- Comprehensive approach and appropriate stakeholder involvement to ensure impact.
- European dimension.
- SME and mid-cap involvement.

What do you not want?

- Academic exercises with non-realistic settings disconnected from actual needs and challenges of the manufacturing sector.
- Focus on low impact challenges with little potential to deliver economic benefits.
- Proposals built from scratch ignoring previous developments and work on data spaces or possible collaborations.
- Insufficient stakeholder involvement.



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Target groups, stakeholders and leading groups:

Entities with a focus on **manufacturing SMEs and mid-caps**:

- Data suppliers
 - Organizations (such as data brokers, data stewards, data integrators, trusted data intermediaries) participating in data aggregation and governance activities.
 - Data users
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- IT companies, AI developers and System integrators.
 - Industrial software providers.
 - Manufacturing companies and associations.
 - IT infrastructure providers (e.g. cloud, HPC...).



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Other important information

Is there a key group of actors driving this?

- AI Factories
- EDIHs
- PPPs:
 - ADRA
 - Made in Europe (EFFRA)

How relevant is this topic for SMEs?

- SME support actions

Required consortium composition

- Minimum 3 independent applicants from 3 different eligible countries.



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Thank you for your attention!

Questions?