

AI & ML-Track Call

Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning call

**Big Science
Business
Forum
2026**



Maastricht, January 2025

Call for ILOs to propose companies to participate in the BSBF2026 AI & ML-Track

The fourth edition of the Big Science Business Forum (BSBF2026) will take place in Maastricht, The Netherlands, from the 27th to the 30th of October 2026 and is organised by the Netherlands and Belgium. The BSBF is a business-oriented congress that brings the main European research infrastructures together with European industry to present and discuss the future developments, investments, and procurement opportunities of the Big Science market.

The use of both Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning in various fields is growing rapidly and it is expected that this will continue to increase in both the number of fields as well as the applications in those fields. In the domain of Big Science, this is being observed as well with the notion that certain developments in industry go faster and across a broader range of fields.

Therefore, we publish this call for abstracts for European companies and organisations that are involved or would like to be involved in the Big Science domain and that have experience with Artificial Intelligence and/or Machine Learning in the technical domains playing a role in the Big Science Organisations (BSOs).

Companies and organisations that submit an abstract on Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning can be selected to present their experience in a dedicated technical parallel session. The aim is to encourage constructive discussions between industry and the BSO representatives on this fast-developing domain.

Introduction to Big Science Business Forum 2026

BSBF2026 represents the most important opportunity for European companies and Big Science organisations to meet and discuss challenges in the high-tech domain that need to be resolved over the period 2026-2030. Following the success of the previous editions held in Copenhagen, Granada and Trieste, the Forum will offer participating organisations the opportunity to:

- Learn about business opportunities across a wide range of technology areas.
- Meet representatives from Europe's Big Science Organisations and their key suppliers.
- Showcase their expertise and potential for the Big Science market by participating in the open exhibition area.
- Gain insights into procurement rules, intellectual property rights (IPR), opportunities for SMEs and how companies can interact with the Big Science market.

In conclusion, the perfect occasion to determine whether a relation with certain organisations and projects can provide viable innovation and business opportunities that align with the company's strategy.

Hosts of the BSBF2026 Maastricht

More than 1,000 participants are expected, the majority from European businesses and Big Science Organisations that want to work together to develop the Big Science common market. Delegates are expected to include CEOs, Heads of R&D and Procurement departments, Business Developers, and officers involved in sales and collaborations between research infrastructures and high-tech industry.

BSBF2026 is hosted by the Dutch Ministries of Economic Affairs and Education & Science together with BELSPO and the Belgian and Dutch networks of industrial liaison officers AGORIA and BigScience.NL with the support of the Dutch province of Limburg and various other stakeholders.

The business forum is organised in partnership with the following European Big Science Organisations: European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), European Space Agency (ESA), European Southern Observatory (ESO), The European Synchrotron Radiation Facility (ESRF), European Spallation Source (ESS), Facility for Antiproton and Ion Research in Europe (FAIR), European X-Ray Free-Electron Laser (European XFEL), Fusion for Energy (F4E), Institut Laue-Langevin (ILL) and Square Kilometre Array Organisation (SKAO).

BSBF2026 will consist of:

- Plenary sessions with involvement from the Big Science Organisations mentioned above.
- Parallel sessions focusing on Big Science investments in the coming years: opportunities within the main technology areas.
- An Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning track that will fill one of the parallel sessions.
- An SME-Track poster session, enabling European small and medium sized enterprises to be highlighted as key interlocutors for business opportunities with European Big Science organisations in the coming years.
- A Women in Big Science (WBSBF) programme with lunch (pre-registration), a poster session and a plenary award session.
- 1:1 meetings (B2B and B2C) to enable Big Science Organisations, prime contractors, and subcontractors to meet each other.
- A single exhibition space to allow participants to showcase their products and services alongside Europe's largest Big Science infrastructures.

For more information, please visit the [BSBF2026 website](#)

Hosts of the BSBF2026 Maastricht

PERIIA

The PERIIA Network is the Pan-European Research Infrastructure ILO Association. The members of the PERIIA Network have given the board the mandate to do preparatory work to establish a legal statute of the future association. While working for this overall aim, the board will also follow the 2-year work programme defined at the General Assembly hosted in Trieste in October 2024. The main objectives of PERIIA are to:

- Be a key intermediary between the European supplier business/industry and big science-organisations for matters related to procurement, innovation and tech-transfer opportunities.
- Enhance the Big Science Organisations' interaction with business/industry in order to create an integrated and sustainable big science-market.
- Raise awareness and improve access for business/industry (particularly SMEs) entering and acting on the big science-market.
- Provide a forum for the exchange of best practices on how to work as an ILO.
- Enhance the cohesion and functioning of ILO networks at relevant Big Science organisations.
- Act as a consultative reference body for other European/International stakeholders.

PERIIA is supporting the organisation of BSBF2026, being in charge of the SME-Track, the selection of BSBF2026 moderators and this call focusing on Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, a new topic for the BSBF2026. See more information on [PERIIA Website](#)

Abstract selection and evaluation criteria

A limited number of companies and organisations will be selected for the AI & ML-track. After receiving the expressions of interest, the Board of PERIIA will coordinate the selection and propose a final list for the AI & ML-Track to the IOC committee including the submitted forms for all selected companies.

Countries with ILOs belonging to different organisations should name one ILO to act as interface with PERIIA.

Selection will be based on the following criteria:

- Clear experience with Artificial Intelligence and/or Machine Learning in one of the technical domains relevant to the Big Science domain.

Background; it would be good to know how familiar an organisation is with the Big Science domain. Hence the following information will also be collected.

- Experience with contracts for Big Science organisations and national research facilities (e.g. the number of contracts and for which organisations)
- Big Science public or private-funded R&D projects (national funding, Eureka, Horizon Europe, etc.)
- Size of the organisation: annual turnover, employment, growth, etc.

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Timeline

1. February 2nd 2026: BSBF2026 & PERIIA launch the AI-track.
2. May 1st 2026: deadline for submission by the EU ILOs, who can nominate a maximum of 2 candidates per country.
3. May - June 2026: the PERIIA Board will evaluate and inform the IOC.
4. July 2026: the IOC will approve the final list of participating companies & organisations in the AI-track.
5. July 2026: PERIIA will inform all the ILOs and the selected companies & organisations will be informed by their corresponding ILOs.

How does the AI-track work

Selected companies & organisations will be formally invited by the IOC to take part in the AI parallel session. These companies will be entitled to:

- Participation in the designated technical parallel session.
- Free registration to the congress for one delegate.
- Presence on BSBF2026 conference webpage, conference programme book and other media-related conference material

Expressions of interest

Expressions of interest shall consist of the submission of **Annex I: AI-Track template**. All the Expressions of interest should be signed.

Companies interested should contact their national Big Science ILOs and forward them their Expression of interest.

PERIIA will request all European ILOs to nominate a limited number of organisations in their country (2 organisations) (a certain coordination would be necessary in countries where ILOs belong to different organisations), providing information on the selected companies using the template included in Annex II.

ILOs should send the final list of their 2 national companies selected jointly with their Expressions of interest (Annex I) before May 1st by email with the subject line “AI&ML-Track – Application BSBF2026” to anabelen.delcerro@cdti.es with a copy to calls4tracks@bsbf2026.org

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Annex I: template for companies and organisations for the AI & ML-track

Organisation name:
Address:
Country:
Website:
Contact person:
Position:
Phone:
Email:
Size: see annex II

	2023	2024	2025
Turnover [M€]			
Balance sheet total [M€]			
Number of employees			

Company activities and competences (maximum 300 words)

Specific experience in the domain of Artificial Intelligence and/or Machine Learning either within or outside the Big Science domain that could be of benefit in the Big Science domain. (maximum 300 words)

Contracts/subcontracts awarded by large scientific facilities and national big science organisations (maximum 200 words, most recently first)

Please use the following format:

[Big Science Acronym], [year], [name of contract]; short description

Public or private R&D projects for the Big Science market (H2020, Horizon Europe, Eureka, INTERREG, national funding, etc.): (maximum 200 words, most recently first)

Please use the following format:

[Programme], [year], [project name]; short description of project and task assigned

Date:

Signature:

(The above signatory is responsible of the veracity of the provided information)

Annex II: Organisation size definition

The main factors determining whether an enterprise is an SME are:

1. Staff headcount
2. Either turnover or balance sheet total

Organisation category	Staff headcount	Turnover [M€]	Balance sheet total [M€]
Large	> 250	> 50	> 43
Medium	< 250	≤ 50	≤ 43
Small	< 50	≤ 10	≤ 10
Micro	< 10	≤ 2	≤ 2

These ceilings apply to the figures for individual firms only. A firm that is part of a larger group may need to include staff headcount/turnover/balance sheet data from that group too.