



EUROSME: FIRST CONFIDENTIALITY AND PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED

FUNDING PROPOSALS ISSUED FOR A VALUE OF 19 MILLION EUROS

Press Article (Issue 2)

Phase 1 and **Phase 2** of the COVID-19 emergency did not stop the activities of the **EACP-EUROSME** project, which marks significant steps forward. Work activities continued in smart working mode through webinars in which the involved clusters stimulated the SMEs in the six interested European regions towards major developments and investment issues at European level. 650 SMEs were involved, 100+ of which with actively participation, as well as about 50 clusters and 6 European regions. A path that will lead by September 30, the confirmed end date of the project, to the development of **technological innovation projects** for a total value of **20 million euros**, ready to be financed by public or private entities, contributing to the objectives of the European Commission of growth, jobs and investments in Europe.

There are 12 projects that are attracting the interest of SMEs from different European regions in highest-ranked strategic thematic areas: **“Aircraft of the future”** (hybrid propulsion and super/hypersonic business jet); **Industry 4.0** (Manufacturing digitalization, Advanced aviation maintenance and Circular economy competitiveness); **Observation Technologies** (Nanosatellites, Strategic infrastructures surveillance by remote sensing and Precision agriculture with satellites data); **UAV** (Cargo UAV, Drone Flight Termination System e Urban air mobility).

To date, three Confidentiality Agreements have been signed, and four financing proposals have been submitted to European Commission calls for a total value of € 19 million: (i) S4W - Sustainable Silent Supersonic Aviation for a Smaller World, (ii) ABOVE - Enhanced Urban Air Mobility Services, (iii) CONSCIOUS - Cross-cluster collaboration for promoting

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circular economy and competitiveness of European SMEs in the aerospace, automotive and construction sectors, (iv) INNOWINGS - New Cross-Sectoral Industrial Value Chains for Drones in Agrifood, Logistics and Energy.

The mapping of the Innovation Hubs and research centers was also started, with a view to aggregating them to the individual projects proposed and under definition by SMEs with the support of the clusters.

To support the project activities, the use of a new digital platform to facilitate the association between projects, SMEs and funding opportunities has been launched. The basic element to foster this association is the use of European taxonomies in aeronautical (ACARE, Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe), space (ESA, European Space Agency) and defence (WEAG, Western European Armaments Group).

The representative of the Campania Aerospace District, DAC, who coordinates the project said: *We believe in Europe and are therefore offering our attention and activity to the EACP. The EUROSME project fits into this framework and we are happy with how it has developed and is producing interesting results. It is a pilot project and we are working so that it can foster a 'modus operandi' of the EACP clusters in favor of aerospace SMEs, especially towards a new life after COVID-19.*

Abstract of the project EACP-EUROSME

The **EACP-EUROSME** project, "*Aerospace inter-cluster SMART specialization actions for SMEs competitiveness in the circular economy approach*", is funded by the **COSME program of the European Union** and is running under the coordination of the Campania Aerospace District, DAC. Other participating clusters are Hamburg Aviation (Germany), Moravian Aerospace Cluster (Czech Republic), Technologies for Earth Observation and Natural Risks (Basilicata), Aerospace Valley (Francia), North West Aerospace Alliance (United Kingdom).

The final objective of EACP-EUROSME is to **carry out at least 4 technological innovation projects** for a total value of **20 million euros**, ready to be financed by public or private entities, thus contributing to the objectives of the European Commission to stimulate growth, employment and investment in Europe, as expressed in the ESCP-S3 Partnership Charter.

The clusters participating in EACP-EUROSME represent 938 SMEs; 105 of these have been evaluated in terms of characteristics and corporate innovation capability; more than 100 have been involved in the scouting phase of new projects; over 650 have been informed about the project developments.

The EACP-EUROSME innovation project has so far made it possible to identify the priority areas of common interest among the Smart Specialization Strategies of the represented regions: Aircraft of the future, Industry 4.0, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Observation Technologies. In October last year a matchmaking event was held in Preston (United Kingdom) in which EACP-EUROSME was presented as part of the National Aerospace Technology Program (NATEP) Showcase & Networking, during which four webinars were held on the identified common priority areas. On this basis, 52 potential projects proposed by PMI were pre-selected.

In fact, an engagement methodology has been studied and defined which represents a framework for continuously feeding a pipeline of potential projects for the development of SME partnerships. This methodology was illustrated at the General Assembly of the EACP (European Aerospace Cluster Partnership) in Turin in November with the aim of expanding it to the whole partnership and to benefit in the long term from the European public funds assigned to the EACP-EUROSME project. The methodology was presented and discussed on February 17 in the offices of the Campania Region in Brussels, in the presence of the Project Officer of the European Commission Agency for SMEs, EASME.