Guidelines for Applicants

AMULET Awards

Submission of applications starts on the 08th of July, 2024, at 12:00 Brussels Time

Submission deadline: 16th of September, 2024, at 12:00 Brussels Time

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101005435

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1. Basic information about AMULET

The ultimate goal of AMULET is to significantly contribute to the reduction of CO_2 emissions and improve resource efficiency in the EU by boosting the role of SMEs, in which their innovations are expected to be facilitated & supported by clusters.
The AMULET project has 13 partners and is coordinated by 'POLYMERIS' (FR) https://amuleth2020.eu/partners/.

The Advanced Materials & Manufacturing United for LightwEighT (AMULET) project is a HORIZON 2020 project that aims to exploit the innovation potential of small and medium-sized enterprises through a crosssectoral and funded knowledge exchange. The goal of AMULET is to create new value chains by fostering the penetration of the three types of advanced lightweight materials in four sectors: automotive, aerospace and aeronautics, energy, and building. AMULET aims to do that through a cross-regional and cross-sectoral knowledge exchange approach.

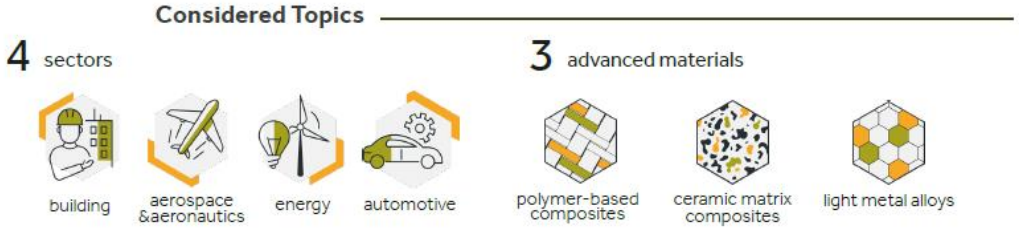

Figure 1 Sectors and materials addressed in AMULET

Three types of activities were implemented to foster innovation in SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprise).

Firstly, innovation projects targeting current sectoral challenges were developed to reach TRL7, following a competitive-based approach. Secondly, SMEs participating in the thematic challenge competitions will receive dedicated technical training support to develop their innovative projects. Thirdly, dedicated business-to-business coaching for accelerating the commercialization of their innovative solutions will be given to SMEs too. Besides supporting SMEs from the thematic challenge competitions, AMULET will also provide continuous support in technical and business topics through educational materials to SMEs interested in lightweight.

These activities will create a unique self-sustainable business framework in which end-users and SMEs from established and new industrial supply chains will explore innovative lightweight-driven market opportunities.

The total AMULET budget is **€4,952,732** out of which **€3,724,849** will be distributed to SMEs as financial and non-financial support and related supporting activities. The direct financial support to SMEs under two Open Calls has a budget of **€2,424,000.**
The total budget of the awards as a direct support to SMEs is up to **€8 000 for a consortium, within a total of 16 800€.**

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2. Awards - what do we offer?

The funding instrument will include awards for the 3 best innovative projects and solutions developed under the AMULET project.

The amount of the awards will be:

- 1st prize: 8000€
- 2nd prize: 5400€
- 3rd prize: 3400€

Figure 2 - Amulet Awards.

3. Eligibility criteria

We will check the eligibility of all applications which were submitted before the **16th of September 2024, at 12:00 Brussels Time** via email to contact-amulet@polymeris.fr. All eligibility criteria are listed below. The projects that do not comply with those criteria will be excluded and marked as ineligible.

1. Having successfully completed the three stages of the AMULET Support Programme (or being under stage 3 finalisation);
2. Apply on behalf of the whole consortium, which was taking part in the AMULET project;
3. Be a European SME or from associated countries;
4. Attend the AMULET final event during the Kompozyt Expo in Krakow, Poland.

4. How to apply?

Proposals must be submitted via email to contact-amulet@polymeris.fr before the **16th of September 2024, at 12:00 Brussels Time**. Applications submitted by any other means or after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

Your application form shall answer the 3 following topics and may not exceed 3 pages:

- Follow-up of the solution developed in the AMULET programme
- Impact of the project on the companies
- Extra-information on the Award application

A template will be made available to all applicants.

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Application Requirements:

✓ English Language

Your proposal must be written in **English** in all mandatory parts in order to be eligible. Only parts written in English will be evaluated.

✓ Multiple submissions

One consortium can only submit one application. If several applications are submitted, only the last submitted will be considered for funding.

✓ Healthy finances and a clean sheet are a must

We won't accept entities that are under liquidation or enterprises in difficulty according to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18. Neither will we accept proposals from entities that are excluded from the possibility of obtaining EU funding under the provisions of both national and EU law or by a decision of both national or EU authority.

✓ Absence of conflict of interest

The existence of a potential conflict of interest among you and one or more of the AMULET Consortium partners will be taken into consideration. The AMULET Consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees and permanent collaborators cannot take part in the AMULET programme. All cases of potential conflict of interest will be assessed case by case.

✓ Have a European dimension:

Your proposal should have a clear *European* dimension to fully exploit the potential of the European economy and society. The ultimate goal of AMULET is to significantly contribute to decarbonisation and resource-efficiency in the EU by boosting the role of SMEs, in which their innovations are expected to be facilitated & supported by clusters.

5. How will we evaluate your proposal?

Our evaluation process is transparent, fair, and equal to all our participants. It will be based on your application form and on the pitch performed at the AMULET final event taking place during the Kompozyt Expo in Krakow, Poland.

The evaluation criteria and their percentage are presented below:

- Application form - Evaluation performed by AMULET Consortium partners.
  - Follow-up of the solution developed in the AMULET programme.
    - 20%
  - Impact of the project on the companies.
    - 20%
  - Extra-information on Award application.
    - 10%

- Pitch during the final event. Evaluation performed by invited experts among the ELCA network.
    - 50%

The results of the evaluation will be presented on the last day of the Kompozyt Expo in Krakow, Poland.

6. Payment Arrangements

The payments of the awards will be transferred to the coordinator of the micro-consortium who will transfer the payments to the rest of the SME micro-consortium partners. The coordinator of the micro-consortium is obliged to deliver the confirmation of the transfer to micro-consortium partners to the contractor.

The payment will be transferred to the coordinator of the micro-consortium within 2 weeks after the notification of success.

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7. Last but not least - Final provisions

- Any matters not covered by this Guide will be governed by Belgian law and rules related to the Horizon 2020 programme and European Union grants regulations.
- We are obliged to keep all the applicants' data confidential. However, to avoid any doubts, you are entirely responsible to indicate what information is confidential.
- Your IPR will remain your property.
- For the selected beneficiaries, the agreement will include the set of obligations towards the European Commission (for example: promoting the project and giving visibility to the EU funding, maintaining confidentiality, understanding potential controls by the EC/ECA and OLAF, providing non-confidential information/summary on the project that receives financial support).
- The AMULET Consortium might cancel the awards at any time, change its provisions or extend it. In this case, we will inform all applicants about such a change.

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Annex 1 - AMULET : background and ambition

Background

The relevance of lightweight materials and technologies in decarbonisation & resource efficiency for circular economy cuts across different industries, having the most important impacts on the automotive, aerospace & aeronautics, energy, and building sectors. There are three main lightweight materials used in industry: polymer-based composites, light metal alloys, and ceramic matrix composites. However, their degree of penetration in these strategic sectors has been distributed unevenly.

For example, polymer-based composites have been used in aerospace & aeronautics for more than 30 years while in automotive their high costs have hindered a wider application. Their use in energy or building sectors has been limited, resulting in niche markets with few players, in which their potential is not fully exploited. The same can be said for light metal alloys and ceramic matrix composites. The former finds wide use as structural components in aircrafts (e.g. Al and Mg alloys) while the latter has been used in high temperature applications, e.g. aerospace.

AMULET will encourage the development of solutions to challenges that are currently blocking the penetration and market uptake of these three main advanced materials for lightweighting in the four strategic sectors mentioned above. Linking innovations from one sector into another value chain can effectively result in new solutions and opportunities, thereby building new industrial value chains.

In the case of **automotive**, new value chains might result from an increasing penetration rate of lightweight materials in varied auto applications by achieving important breakthroughs on processing technologies and recycling aspects. To develop a competitive edge in the automotive market, the industry needs to focus on the current challenges towards optimising lightweight performance. This includes: cost reduction from various ways e.g. raw material cost, labour cost, energy cost; increase productivity by developing manufacturing technologies with reduced cycle time for complex parts and mass customisation; improve robustness in supply chains for raw materials, design, tooling and manufacturing for composites; enhance simulation and prediction techniques with better software for manufacturing composite parts; improve repair and recycling technologies.

Aerospace & aeronautics have been at the front of lightweight innovation for decades. Introducing new advances in both industries will influence their entire supply chains, including manufacturers of aero components which would lead to a better productivity. Aerospace & aeronautics could benefit as well from advances in automotive on mass manufacturing or eco-design principles in energy to ensure recyclability.

Lightweighting in the **energy** sector has been mainly driven by polymer-based composites for wind turbines. However, a variety of raw material products can meet a varied range of energy applications.
AMULET aims to identify and prioritize big-volume applications based on synergy, capability, innovation potential, opportunity size, competitive intensity, profit potential, sustainability, and other factors to drive growth. Lightweight cuts across multiple applications to reduce costs and improve competitiveness along different value chains in the renewable energy sector.

In **building**, lightweighting offers advantages in terms of cost, time and energy intensity. The use of lightweight materials in the building sector can potentially reduce the cost of load-bearing structures, as well as those of energy and installation. However, the absence of cost-effective solutions is blocking their widespread use. Other areas of application that could benefit from lightweighting include roofing, building interior and exterior elements, facades, bridges and offshore structures.

Ambition

AMULET aims to consolidate **novel value chains for multi-sectoral industrial applications** enabled by advanced materials and their related manufacturing technologies as Key Enabling Technologies (KETs),

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ultimately contributing to decarbonisation, resource-efficiency through lightweighting and cost reduction.

In order to consolidate new lightweight industrial value chains in the automotive, aerospace & aeronautics, energy and building sectors, AMULET identifies current sectoral challenges per type of advanced material that are related to, e.g., decarbonisation, circularity, automatisation, cost-effectiveness (following RIS3 - Research & Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy).

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