

FORTIS PROJECT ANNOUNCES €2 MILLION OPEN CALL TO ADVANCE HUMAN-ROBOT INTERACTION TECHNOLOGIES

WHAT IS OC#1?

The FORTIS project has launched its first open call, FORTIS OC#1: Boosting Development of the FORTIS Solution, to stimulate innovation in <u>human-robot interaction and</u> <u>activity recognition</u>. With a total <u>budget of €2,000,000</u>, the Open Call will support up to 8 projects, each receiving a <u>maximum of €250,000</u>, to integrate and validate advanced solutions within the FORTIS framework.

This initiative seeks to engage <u>universities</u>, <u>research</u> and <u>technology organizations</u> (RTOs), <u>mid-caps</u>, <u>small and</u> <u>medium-sized enterprises</u> (SMEs), and <u>startups</u> to contribute to the development of the FORTIS solution. The call specifically targets multidisciplinary consortia of 2-3 entities, with a mandatory inclusion of at least one SME, to foster collaborative technological advancement.

KEY DETAILS OF FORTIS OC#1:

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- Open Call Period: April 1, 2025, to June 4, 2025
- Funding Period: September 2025 to June 2026
- <u>Total Budget:</u> €2,000,000
- <u>Funding per Project</u>: Up to €250,000 (maximum requested per participant €200,000)
- <u>Project Duration</u>: 10 months, structured in three sprints (3, 4, and 3 months)
- Number of Projects Funded: 8
- <u>Eligibility</u>: Multidisciplinary consortia of 2-3 entities, including at least one SME.
- <u>Geographic Eligibility</u>: EU Member States, H2020/HEU Associated Countries, and Overseas Countries and Territories linked to Member States.
- Evaluation: Milestone-based evaluation with mentor oversight at the conclusion of each sprint, and phased payments contingent upon successful sprint completion.



FOCUS AREAS:

The call invites proposals addressing the following topics within the FORTIS project:

Topic 1: Activity Recognition

- 1.1 Human Activity Recognition Using Non-wearable Sensors
- 1.2 Human Activity Recognition Using Wearable Sensors

Topic 2: Long-term Memory

- 2.1 Memory Consolidation and Forgetting Mechanisms
- 2.2 Lifelong and Continual Learning for Personalized Adaptation

<u>Topic 3: Enhancing Robotic Intelligibility Through Directional</u> <u>Audio and Visual Effects</u>

- 3.1 Spatialized and Adaptive Audio for Robot Communication
- 3.2 Visual Cues for Enhanced Intelligibility

Topic 4: Multimodal semantic segmentation/perception

ELIGIBLE SECTORS:

Applicants should be active in sectors including computational and artificial intelligence, autonomous and intelligent robotics, human-robot interaction, Internet of Things (IoT), activity recognition, and related areas.

CONSORTIUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Consortia must consist of entities from at least two different eligible countries.
- Each consortium must include at least one SME.
- Non-industry partners (RTOs and universities) are limited to a maximum of 30% of the total project budget.

EVALUATION AND FUNDING:

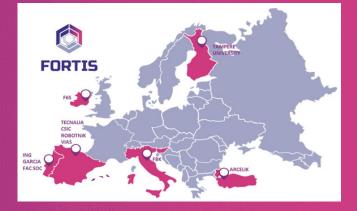
Projects will be evaluated based on their innovation, feasibility, and potential contribution to the FORTIS ecosystem. Funding will be disbursed in three installments (30%, 40%, and 30%) upon successful completion of each sprint.

APPLICATION INFORMATION:

Detailed application guidelines and eligibility criteria will be available on the FORTIS project website: <u>https://fortis-project.eu/open-call-1/</u>. Apply via: <u>https://www.f6s.com/fortis-project-opencall-1/apply</u>

IEED ASSISTANCE?

For any questions regarding the FORTIS Open Call #1, please contact us at: <u>opencall@fortis-project.eu</u>







Technical Assistance Up to € 250,000 per project Expert advisory services on HRI integration, regulatory compliance, prototyping and innovation scalability



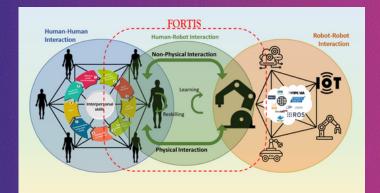
Pairing with FORTIS user cases for direct industry testing and iterative improvements





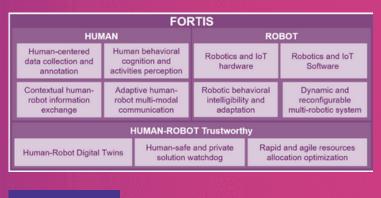
ABOUT FORTIS:

The FORTIS project is an EU-funded initiative that addresses the development of a solution to help and support the human at work and provide additional ability to the whole workforce. The robot technologies are one of the keyenabling technologies that provide such support. In more detail, human-robot interaction (HRI) is an essential aspect for deploying robots to support humans while keeping the human-in-the-loop. Nonetheless, the challenge in the interaction with the human should be holistic and encapsulate all human interaction aspects. Thus, the consortium of FORTIS aims to provide a solution that allows robots to interact with humans in a human-like way for long periods of time.



FORTIS IN A NUTSHELL:

- FORTIS will work on the creation of comprehensive interaction between humans and robots, encompassing both physical and non-physical communication.
- FORTIS will study how humans interact with each other, model human behaviour and understand the factors that influence human trust in robots.
- FORTIS will provide a solution for testing and experimenting with new human-robot collaboration and interaction scenarios.
- FORTIS will develop HRI systems that are more effective, user-friendly, and context-aware, allowing robots to work together with humans in a coordinated manner.



CONTACT:

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DISCLAIMER

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SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS:

