

A Bulgarian SME is looking for partners for the Horizon Europe call Integrating inland waterway transport in smart shipping and multimodal logistics chains HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-10

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request

Company's country

Bulgaria

POD reference

RDRBG20251022009

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

**Research and development
cooperation agreement**

Targeted countries

• World

Contact Person

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Term of validity

22 Oct 2025**22 Oct 2026**

Last update

22 Oct 2025

General Information

Short summary

A Bulgarian company with over 50 years of experience in maritime transport, ship-generated waste management, and oil spill prevention and response is looking for a consortium to apply under the Horizon Europe call "Integrating inland waterway transport into smart shipping and multimodal logistics chains" (HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-10). The focus of the project proposal is on demonstration of a zero-emission waste collection vessel integrated into smart and multimodal waterway logistic.

Full description

The idea of the project is to demonstrate how zero-emission vessels for collecting and transporting ship waste can be integrated into a real multimodal logistics chain. The initiative will focus on decarbonizing logistics, improving operational efficiency, and providing a scalable model for sustainable inland navigation in Europe. The main aim is to unite port operators, logistics companies, local authorities and technology providers to create a sustainable, digitalized and intelligent inland waterway transport system.

In response to the need for cleaner and more efficient logistics, the project will aim to introduce an innovative sustainable mobility model, in which a new generation of zero-emission vessels serves as a key element in the multimodal transport chain. The project will serve as a reference for future scaling up in other European regions, supporting the EU's strategies for sustainable and smart mobility.

Programme: Horizon Europe
Call: Cluster 5 Call 01-2026 (WP 2025) (HORIZON-CL5-2026-01)
Type of action: HORIZON-IA HORIZON Innovation Actions
Deadline model: single-stage
Deadline for EoI: 13.12.2025

Advantages and innovations

Successful demonstration of a zero-emission vessel operating in a real logistics network. Reduced CO₂ emissions, noise and pollution compared to conventional barges and trucks. Increased efficiency and capacity of the chain through digitalisation and smart planning. Example for multiplication in other European inland waterways. Support for EU policies for the decarbonisation of transport and the TEN-T network.

Technical specification or expertise sought

The project aims to demonstrate the integration of zero-emission vessels into a smart multimodal logistic chain, involving waterway, rail and road transport, supported by digital solutions for planning, monitoring and optimization. The target vessel will operate at TRL_{≥7} during the demonstration phase and will serve as a pilot platform for sustainable and intelligent inland navigation.

Type and role of partner: technology providers (vessels, digital systems); SMEs

research organisations/universities, public authority or NGOs

Type of partnership considered: Research and development cooperation agreement

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 13: Climate Action**
- **Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

IPR Status

Secret know-how

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

We are looking for partners with relevant expertise or operational capacity to join the consortium, including:
Technology providers (vessels, digital systems);
Research organization/university
Public authority or NGOs with an interest in sustainable mobility.
Partners will benefit from:

- EU funding to support pilot activities and technology deployment;
- Strategic positioning as innovators in zero-emission logistics;
- Networking with European actors and visibility at EU level;
- Access to real life demonstrations and operational data.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **University**
- **R&D Institution**
- **SME 50 - 249**
- **SME 11-49**

Call Details

Framework program

Horizon Europe

Call title and identifier

Cluster 5 Call 01-2026 (WP 2025) (HORIZON-CL5-2026-01)

Submission and evaluation scheme

single stage

Anticipated project budget

Coordinator required

Yes

Deadline for EoI

11 Dec 2025

Deadline of the call

20 Jan 2026

Project duration in weeks

Web link to the call

Project title and acronym

Dissemination

Technology keywords

Market keywords

- **06011 - Energy for Transport**
- **08004003 - Water treatment equipment and waste disposal systems**
- **08004004 - Other pollution and recycling related**
- **09001007 - Other transportation**

Targeted countries

Sector groups involved

- **World**