



GALACTICA

First Newsletter



GALACTICA PROJECT

The GALACTICA project, launched in September 2020, aims to bring Europe to the forefront of the textile and aerospace sectors.

This project consists of a cross-regional partnership across eight EU countries that involves eight innovation clusters from advanced manufacturing, aerospace, and textile industries, one investor network, and one business incubator and accelerator.

The project fosters the creation of unidentified or unexplored market opportunities for existent and new companies in developing latent and emergent value chains. It will overcome information and market failures by gathering together companies from diverse industrial sectors, R&D organizations, clusters, and bringing to life a set of tools, instruments, and triggering initiatives that will create a basis for establishing new value chains across textile and aerospace industries.

In these first six months, GALACTICA has supported the textile and aerospace SMEs by introducing activities that combine different competencies, innovative solutions and funding schemes. In the following sections, it is given a global overview of what has been done so far.

Smart Industrial Innovation as
Enabler to Drive New Value
Chains for Textiles and
Aerospace

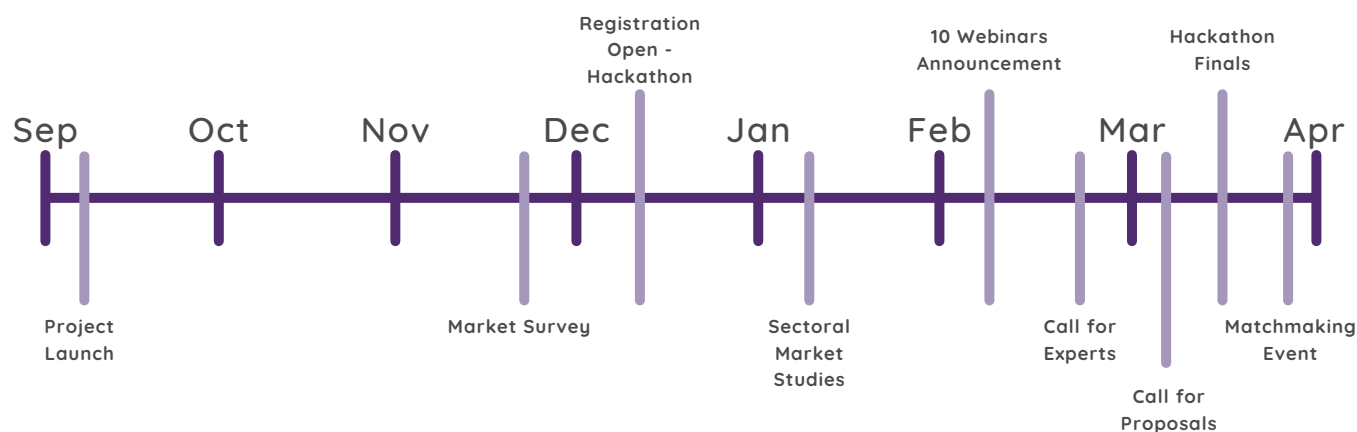
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TIMELINE OF ACTIVITIES

From September to April



In the last six months, GALACTICA has developed several activities to support the Textile, Aerospace and Advanced Manufacturing SMEs and Startups as seen in the graphic above

MARKET SURVEY

20 November - 14 January



As a starting point and key actor for future developments, was needed to identify and map the different stakeholders and competencies across the different countries and regions. We carried out a detailed analysis for seeding cross-sectoral collaborations. As part of this approach, a survey had been conducted and disseminated among the different sectors to identify their main needs and struggles and boost emerging market opportunities, therefore creating a blueprint that established a framework to develop cross-sectoral learning and foster industrial leadership.

The poll and market analysis underlined that the textile

and the aerospace industry faces similar challenges in the present and future. The three studies converge in one message: advanced manufacturing and digitalization are an essential part of the challenges and, at the same time, part of the solution.

In particular, the focus should be on new production processes (e.g., additive manufacturing) that support the development of advanced materials (e.g., lightweight materials like composites) and Industry 4.0 in general. Besides, there is still a severe skill shortage related to these topics, and the implementation in the industry is lagging partly due to existing strategies.

The three surveys confirmed a mutual willingness to create cross-sectoral and international collaboration, which could be the critical enabler to address the significant challenges of fostering innovation and business loss due to COVID-19.

GALACTICA project relies on using the “Outsider Effect,” resulting in a mix of new creative ways of thinking and innovation and extending and finding complementarities in business models.

If you are interested in reading the full market studies, please check:

<https://galacticaproject.eu/publications/>



HACKATHON

17 December - 19 March

GALACTICA announced on 17 December the registration opening for its first-ever Hackathon, with €50.000 in prizes. SMEs from these sectors as well as other interested parties such as start-ups and university students based in the European Union or the United Kingdom could form teams and register.

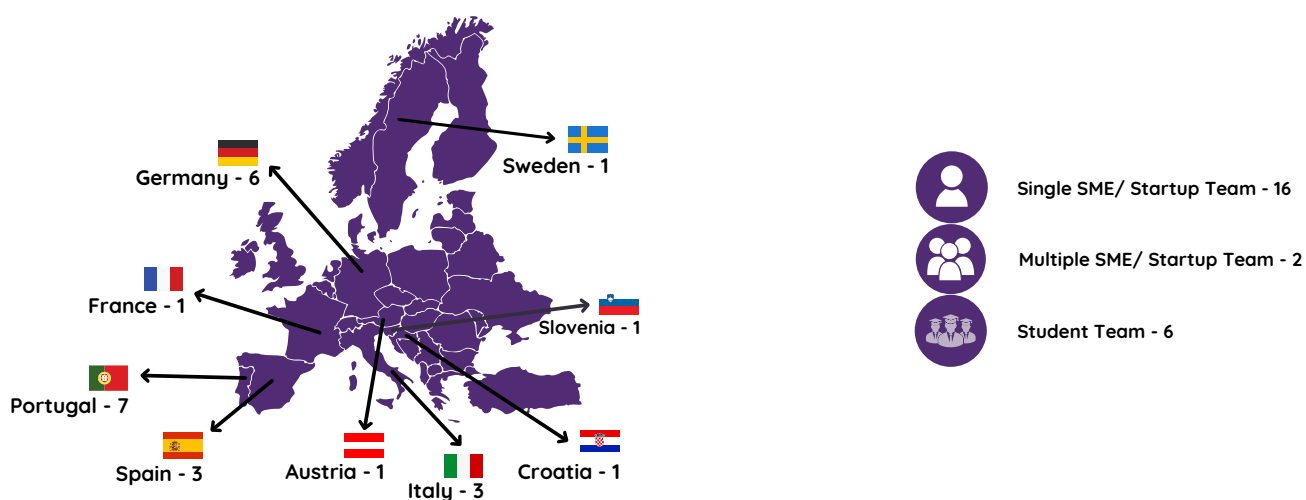
The GALACTICA Hackathon took place in two rounds, firstly an online

virtual challenge on open innovation from February 9th to February 25th, 2021 and the second round for selected finalists on March 18th and 19th, 2021.

All participants from the first round were invited to three free-to-access workshops from experts on technological and business topics. The ten finalist teams were also invited to an additional workshop and individual mentoring.

In total, twenty-four proposals were submitted in the first round of the hackathon. All of them have developed excellent innovative solutions for cross-sectoral value chains.

Sixteen were from single SMEs or startup, two from multiple SME/startups and six students teams representing nine countries in total.



Representation of the number of countries/teams at the first round of the Hackathon

HACKATHON

17 December - 19 March



Jury members selected the ten best projects from six European countries to access the second round of the GALACTICA Hackathon on 18-19 March.

In the final stretch, these teams competed for the most innovative ideas for a chance to take home the highly anticipated prize:

- The student teams awards
- 10.000€ for the winner
- 5.000€ for the runner-up

- The company teams awards
- 25.000€ for the winner
- 10.000€ for the runner-up.

The ten finalists for the SME/startup category were: 'Vienna Textile Lab' from Austria; 'Celestial', 'OrelTech' and 'SG2' from Germany; 'Eptune' from Portugal; 'FUREHO' from Sweden and 'ATHENA' from Spain.

Three student teams were also represented in the Hackathon Finals on the 18 and 19 of March: 'Fret' from Italy; 'TripleSimpleChange' from Portugal and 'ABEP' from Spain.

The winners in the four categories have been:

SMEs & Start-ups

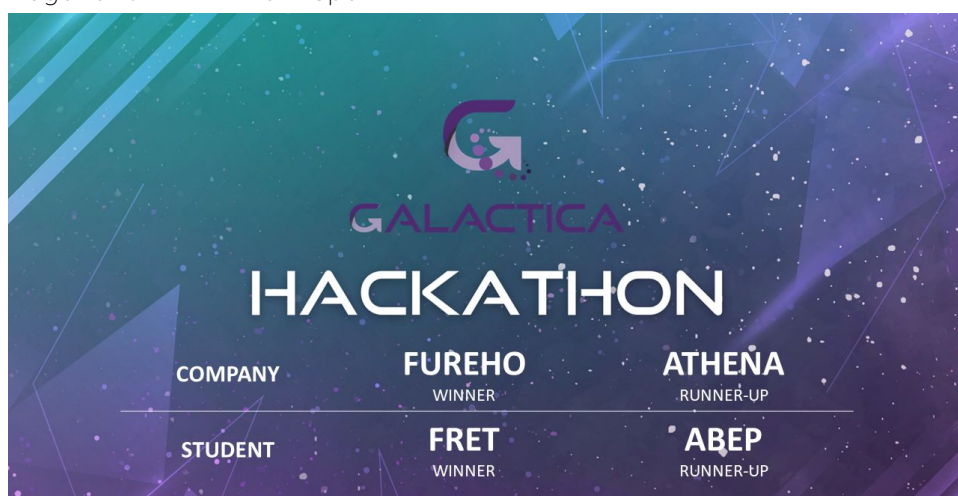
Fureho € 25.000


ATHENA € 10.000


Students


FRET € 10.000


ABEP € 5.000



 Fureho: Additive 3D textile pre-forming technology to manufacture near-net-shape 3D textile pre-forms, for use as reinforcements in advanced composite materials to lightweight aerospace products from Sweden. [in linkedin.com/company/fureho/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fureho/)

 ATHENA project by Ienai Space: Modular and scalable satellite on-board electric propulsion system, based on electrospray electric propulsion and bulk manufacturing from Spain. [in linkedin.com/company/ienaispace/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/ienaispace/)

 FRET: Combination of flexible printed circuit boards with textile (Nomex Textile) to achieve the next generation of dynamic aerospace structures from Italy.

 ABEP project by Kreios Space: "Air-Breathing" electric propulsion for very-low Earth orbit satellites, which turns the atmospheric air into plasma and uses it to accelerate the satellite from Spain.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 872336

WEBINARS

18 February - 30 April

From 18 February to 30 of April, GALACTICA is organizing a series of ten webinars with various topics, both technical and focused on open innovation, for seeding cross-fertilization opportunities within the textile, aerospace, and advanced manufacturing sectors. All webinars are interactive with a dedicated section for questions to the panellists, and each webinar are also recorded and made

available on the GALACTICA project community platform.

Each webinar will host keynote speakers, either innovation experts or technical experts from the textile, aerospace, or advanced manufacturing sector.

Registrations for the remaining webinars are still open on the GALACTICA platform, with detailed descriptions and agendas.



Next Webinars

9 April - Mr Fernando Conesa - Director of the Technology Transfer Office (UPV).

- How to convert bright ideas into business - The role of co-creation methodologies and open innovation experiences

14 April - Ms Audra Shallal - Founder and Managing Director at BOSS Consulting, EBAN Board member

- How to craft a killer pitch: what makes a business pitch effective?

20 April - Prof. Gualtiero Fantoni - University of Pisa

- Advanced manufacturing technologies for improving textile product environmental and social sustainability - Towards the smart Industry: digital transformation not only through technologies

26 April - Ms Katrin Krenn - Senior Innovation (SPG).

- How to develop an IP strategy

30 April - Ms Marie Weiss - Head of EU Unit and Mr Guy Caverot - Innovation & TOT expert (IRT Jules Verne).

- Example of a project combining advanced manufacturing, aerospace and textile: automated production line of textile composites for aeronautical applications

To access the previous webinars, please register at:
[GALACTICA Community Platform](#)



CALL FOR EXPERTS

26 February - 16 April



The GALACTICA consortium has launched a Call for Experts on the 26 February, looking for professionals with proven expertise in areas such as the Textile, Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing/Ict and Innovation to evaluate proposals submitted under the GALACTICA Call for Proposals: “Pioneer Acceleration” and “Orbital projects”. Experts that wish to apply for this call

must be experienced evaluators and/or entrepreneurship specialists with at least five years of experience in some of the noted areas and citizenship from one of all twenty-seven EU countries or the United Kingdom. For more information regarding this Call, please visit the website: <https://galacticaproject.eu/call-for-experts/>

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

16 March - 19 May

GALACTICA launched their first Call for proposals that consist of two different types of funding instruments, in the form of vouchers that are addressed to SMEs and start-ups with innovative solutions that could be part of cross-sectoral and cross border value chains in the relevant sectors.

- Pioneer Acceleration voucher will explore and support new business models focusing on producing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP).

- Orbital Projects voucher will aim to implement prototypes and demonstrators for new value chains while funding the integration of non-technological innovations for speeding up market launch.

The Call has a budget of EUR 1,2 million – from the EU’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation program and will fund the SMEs’ involvement in the projects.



Interested SMEs can apply at <https://calls.galacticaproject.eu/>

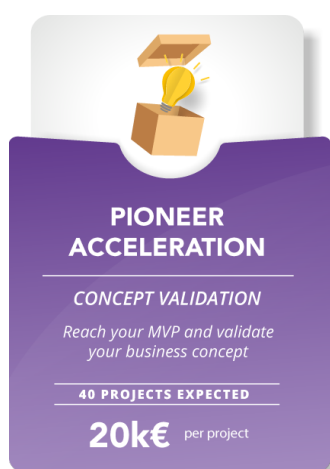


CALL FOR PROPOSALS

16 March - 19 May

PIONEER ACCELERATION

The main goal of the Pioneer Acceleration projects is to support the exploration of new cross-sectoral value chains feasibility with a focus on developing a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) as a mechanism for testing and validating the technological innovation concept, connecting two or more of the sectors (aerospace, textile, advanced manufacturing).



Scope: To develop a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) connecting two or more sectors

Activities:

- Building an MVP prototype
- Business hypothesis testing
- Market feedback

Eligibility: at least one SME/Startup from EU or UK (consortia welcome)

ORBITAL PROJECT

Orbital Projects are GALACTICA's primary mechanism to support innovative technical demonstrations and integrations in new value chains. Support will focus on developing functional prototypes and their market testing facilitated by integrating non-technological innovations like agile and lean start-up methodologies for speeding up the market match.

Scope: The implementation of functional prototypes and demonstrators, connecting two or more sectors

Activities:

- Experimentation
- Technological maturation
- Standardisation

Eligibility: at least two SME/Startup from EU or UK (consortia mandatory)



VIRTUAL MATCHMAKING

24 March



The Galactica Matchmaking event took place on the last 24 of March, one of the key events organized by the project to support meaningful community networking and present the First Call for Proposals, the call details, and the submission procedure and the evaluation information. This info-day session also included a question-and-answer session moderated by the project coordinator (AEI Tèxtils) and the call leaders' participation (CTA and CORALLIA).

A virtual space for pre-scheduled individual meetings to establish new and fruitful collaborations was established on the GALACTICA page, with the objective to:

- Establish B2B meetings on project proposals and possible partnerships.
- Enable networking with participants and getting to know each other.

To access the Info day recorded broadcast, click on <https://matchmaking.galacticaproject.eu/>

MESSAGE FROM THE PROJECT COORDINATOR

"With GALACTICA, we are looking to contribute to strengthening the resilience and the digitalization of European SMEs in the textile and aerospace sectors with the uptake of advanced manufacturing technologies. GALACTICA intends to be the seed and booster of new high-added-value products and services based on innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration that will increase European SMEs' competitiveness.

We are really looking forward to receiving proposals in the GALACTICA's first Call to support a wide variety of innovative solutions in the different sectors involved.."

Josep Casamada - AEI TEXTILS



MEET THE PARTNERS



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