

An opportunity for European StartUps and SMEs to co-develop an innovative solution with



GE Hydro France

DigiFed's Digital Challenge

The Digital Challenge is an Open Innovation challenge, which falls under the umbrella of the European funded project DigiFed. It is an opportunity for technology providers to address the needs of large corporations and apply their technology in novel environments, with support from Europe's leading innovation centres and clusters.

The Digital Challenge identifies and highlights attractive market needs to be addressed through cyber-physical systems (CPS) and embedded systems and for which **no** solutions currently exist.

The first edition is organized in collaboration with GE Hydro France as early adopters of the accelerated innovations which provide additional support to the programme in the form of co-funding, access to innovation support and pilot sites.

As part of GE Renewables Energy, GE's Hydro business provides a comprehensive range of various solutions (Large & Small new Hydro Projects, Storage, Digital solutions), from design to commissioning, as well as Services for the maintenance and upgrades of all the plants through their life cycle.

If you are a StartUp or SME:

- Developing innovative smart solution worthy of market leaders
- Bridging the physical and virtual worlds with advanced technologies and industrialized solution
- Wishing to open to the European market and directly collaborate with a large corporation
- Expert on the topic industrial IOT, Artificial Intelligence/ machine learning, Arduino, MQTT protocol?

Then this challenge is for you!



This Digital Challenge offers you:

1. **Opportunity to respond to a real-world industry challenge adding a relevant use case to your unique value proposition**
2. **Support aimed at bringing your innovation to target market through:**
 - a. Added value to your product, access to high-level technical expertise and to pilot sites to deploy your solution
 - b. Access to Innovation Management programme focusing on European sustainable development
3. **Financing support**
 - a. Up to €110.000 for 9-12 month project (co-funding between DigiFed and GE Hydro France)
 - b. Covering 70% of your project's declared budget
4. **GE Hydro France involvement :**
 - a. Resources and manpower to work with innovators to implement the technology solution
 - b. Mentoring and follow-up
 - c. Access to facilities (GE Hydro France workbench) and knowledge
 - d. Technical reviews and sign off meetings to ensure the implementation phase runs according to plan
 - e. If the pilot project is successful, opportunity to bid to implement the solution on other assets for GE Hydro France

Applicant's profile:

The Digital Challenge targets StatUps and SMEs with existing customer experience and minimum viable products or services, which can offer innovative and breakthrough solutions that matching GE Hydro France's needs.

Legal entities established in the member states of the European Union (including their overseas departments), the **EU associated countries** and the United Kingdom are eligible to apply.

GE Hydro France: 'We are thus looking for mature companies, comfortable with IIOT / Artificial Intelligence / Tiny Machine Learning & Arduino with strong knowledge in embedded devices / electronics and libraries building to help us achieve a promise that the component will share its Health condition. Our criteria are Time to Market, set-up time, deployment costs and solution versatility to our Asset families'

GE Hydro France is looking for solutions to **Build an AIOT system of systems:**

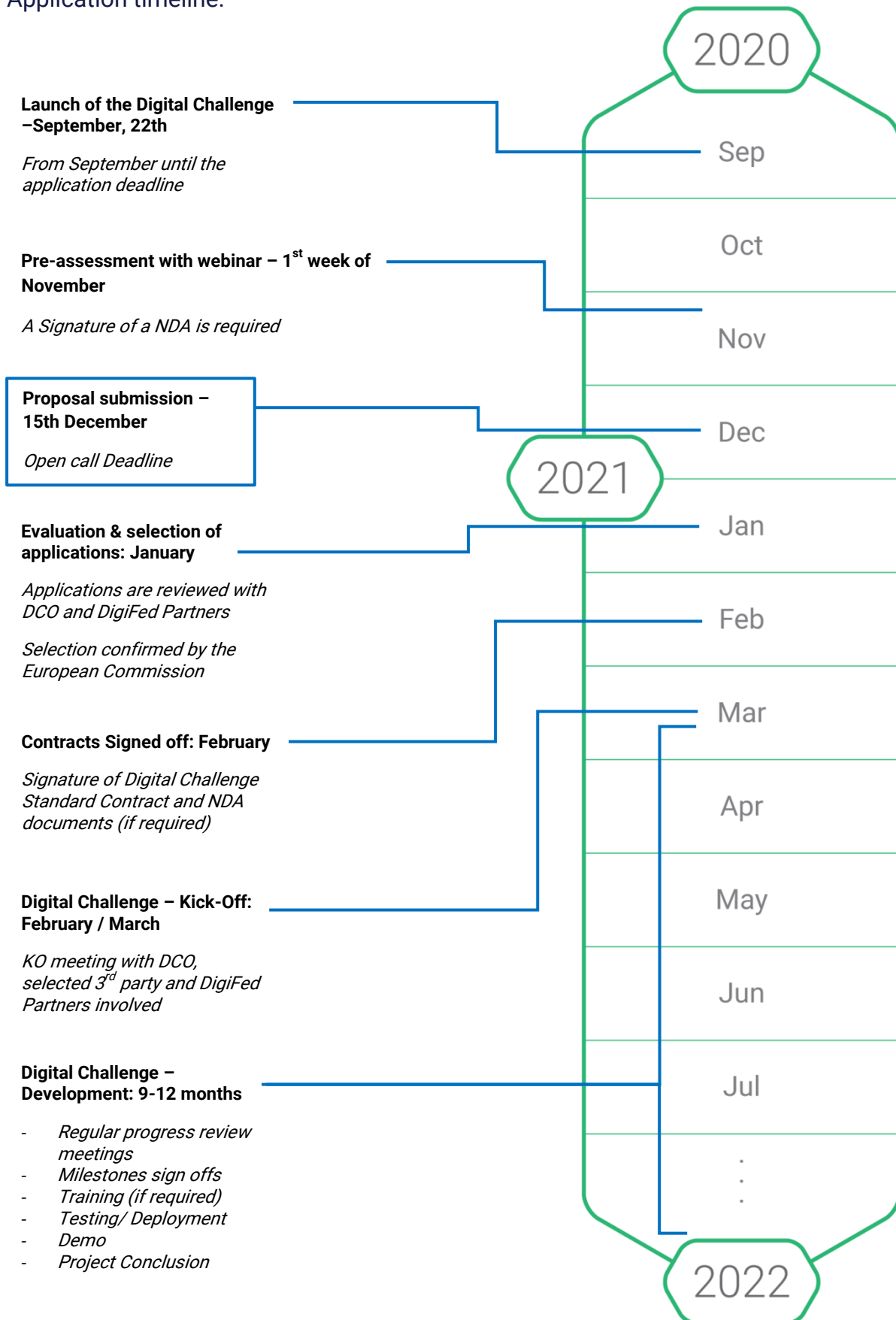
Today, we are living in a world of expectation and are addicted to connectivity and structured information. GE Smart components is a response to these trends. However, to acquire information is difficult and associated costs are more than ever a concern for our customers.

We address sensing and data collection with Condition Monitoring Systems on critical components of the plant. Raw analog data are collected with cables & processed on a local server where we build features and interpretations but this strategy becomes difficult on smaller components where the return on investment is not profitable.

Today, microcontrollers are evolving fast and become a great platform to collect, process and classify information at low cost, but GE Hydro France assets are working in harsh environment and 'off the shelf' IOTs are not well industrialized to survive and do not exhibit sufficient reliability and cybersecurity to become Industrial IOTs.

In the Digital team, we are currently much focused on customer Services, Edge & Cloud deployments using GE Asset Performance Management solutions.

In this challenge, we expect an industrialized solution on a specific chosen GE use-case to accelerate our developments with external skilled resources. If the experience is a success, we will pursue on other asset types.

Application timeline:


More information about DigiFed:

DigiFed is an EU funded innovation action on the H2020 program. Its main goal is to drive innovation across European SMEs & Midcaps via large-scale adoption of Cyber Physical Systems (CPS) & Embedded Systems.

3 Open Calls and 3 Main Innovation pathways are planned to help SMEs & Midcaps digitally transform their operations, products, and service offerings.

Facts and figures :

- 12 Partners from 9 European Countries
- Duration: 3 years, 01 January 2020 to 31 December 2022
- Cascade Funding: €3.9 million in direct support for SMEs & Midcaps

More details : <https://digifed.org/>



Application form:

Please return your application by submitting your form here <https://digifed.org/open-calls/open-call-2/digital-challenges/> by **27th October (5pm Brussels time)**.

Non-disclosure agreement and Pre-Selection Results:

If you are interested participating in discussions with the Digital Challenge Owners, please send us a NDA form signed by **6th of November, 2020 (5pm Brussels time)**.

Please follow the link below to download the NDA template <https://digifed.org/open-calls/open-call-2/digital-challenges/> .

The pre-selection results will be shared with all the applicants on the **9th November** and all the applicants who have send a signed NDA by the deadline will be invited to participate in a dedicated webinar with the DigiFed partners and the Digital Challenge Owners.

For more information around the Pre-Selection Criteria, please refer to the website <https://digifed.org/open-calls/open-call-2/digital-challenges/> .



PRE SELECTION - APPLICATION FORM

Company	
Company Name	
Website Address	

Contact Person	
Last Name	
First Name	
Job Title	
E-mail	
Mobile Phone	

How did you hear about this program?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Digital Catapult (UK)	<input type="checkbox"/> Blumorpho (FR)	<input type="checkbox"/> CEA (FR)
<input type="checkbox"/> Steinbeis (DE)	<input type="checkbox"/> University of Ljubljana (SL)	<input type="checkbox"/> Minalogic (FR)
<input type="checkbox"/> AVL (AT)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ikerlan (ES)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other?		

Company description
<p>Please provide a full description of your company indicating the level of maturity, team size, sector, main technology area and your experience in the domain - e.g. delivering a product in the market or working with third party companies or other CR&D projects.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">250 characters max</p>

Product description

Please describe the product that you see as potentially relevant to the challenge including technical maturity/readiness, and share any link that might provide additional information.

250 characters max

Expertise description

Please describe your unique expertise and know-how that you see pertinent to solving the challenge.

250 characters max

Have you ever interacted with the Digital Challenge Owner?

Yes

No

If yes, please give a short description and your contact person(s) at Digital Challenge Owner organisation.

NDA Requirement

The company is expected to sign a NDA with the Digital Challenge Owner before any further discussions can take place. The NDA template can be found here <https://digifed.org/open-calls/open-call-2/digital-challenges/>. Please **submit the signed NDA by 6th November**.