Robotics and AI as Enablers for Greener Dismantling, Remanufacturing and Recycling

-ROB4GREEN-

ROB4GREEN Open Call#1

PRESS RELEASE

ROB4GREEN is an EU-funded project under the Horizon Europe Programme that aims to bridge the current gap between **labor-intensive Re-X processing and automated circularity**. By developing **easy to-use**, **collaborative**, and **AI-driven robotic systems**, the project enables industries to reason and adapt to key "**R-strategies**" for processing products after their first life. More specifically, **ROB4GREEN** addresses gaps that currently limit the wider adoption of **flexible robotics** in the **circular economy**, including limited **cognitive intelligence**, **insufficient perception** of product states, and **restricted decision-making** at the value-chain level.

ROB4GREEN technologies, methodologies, and integrated frameworks will be **tested** and **validated** in three **pilots** from the **energy infrastructure**, **automotive**, and **electronics** industries. To maximize impact on the **European economy** and **validate** the **rapid technology deployment** of the project's solutions, ROB4GREEN incorporates a **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) program**.

The Open Call #1, for External Pilots, has been officially launched, allocating **€2.4 million** in funding to support innovative solutions that **advance AI**, **data**, and **robotics** technologies for **circular economy** applications.

ROB4GREEN Launches Open Call #1, for External Pilots, with €2.4 Million to Accelerate AI and Robotics for Circular Industry.

The Open Call will fund **8 collaborative projects**, each receiving up to **€300,000**, to develop and validate solutions addressing key challenges in **remanufacturing, reuse, recycling, and**

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decommissioning. Selected consortia will work on real industrial **Re-X scenarios**, contributing to Europe's transition towards more sustainable and resource-efficient production systems.

KEY CHALLENGES

This first round of ROB4GREEN Open Calls involves four distinct challenges, aligned with different hierarchy levels of the circular economy:

- **AI, Data and Robotics for Life Extension**
  Robotic and AI solutions enabling inspection, diagnostics, and repair to extend product lifetime.
- **AI, Data and Robotics for Value Retention**
  Flexible robotic systems and AI tools supporting refurbishing, remanufacturing, and repurposing at industrial scale.
- **AI, Data and Robotics for Parts Harvesting**
  AI-enabled robotic solutions for selective dismantling and recovery of high-value components.
- **AI, Data and Robotics for Decommissioning and Recycling**
  Robotic and AI technologies supporting safe decommissioning and high-quality material recovery, prioritising reuse and recycling.

OPEN CALL#1 KEY FACTS

The Open Call #1 **submission deadline** is on **8th of April 2026**, at **17:00 CET,** and all applications must be submitted through the **F6S platform**.

The consortium may consist of **2 or 3 legal entities**, including:

- At least one SME/startup leader (Technology integrator/provider)
- At least one industrial end-user (technology adopter)
- Optionally, one RTO, Academia, or Mid-cap supporting implementation

All participating entities must be independent from the ROB4GREEN consortium, and each consortium may submit only one proposal.

More details about **eligibility criteria** and **guidelines** for the application process are available on the official ROB4GREEN website.

OPEN CALL#1 TIMELINE

The Open Call #1 will run according to the timeline below:

- Application period: 04 February 2026 – 08 April 2026
- Eligibility & technical evaluation: 09 April 2026 – 15 May 2026
- Announcement of results: 16 May 2026 – 31 May 2026
- Project execution: 01 June 2026 – 01 March 2027

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