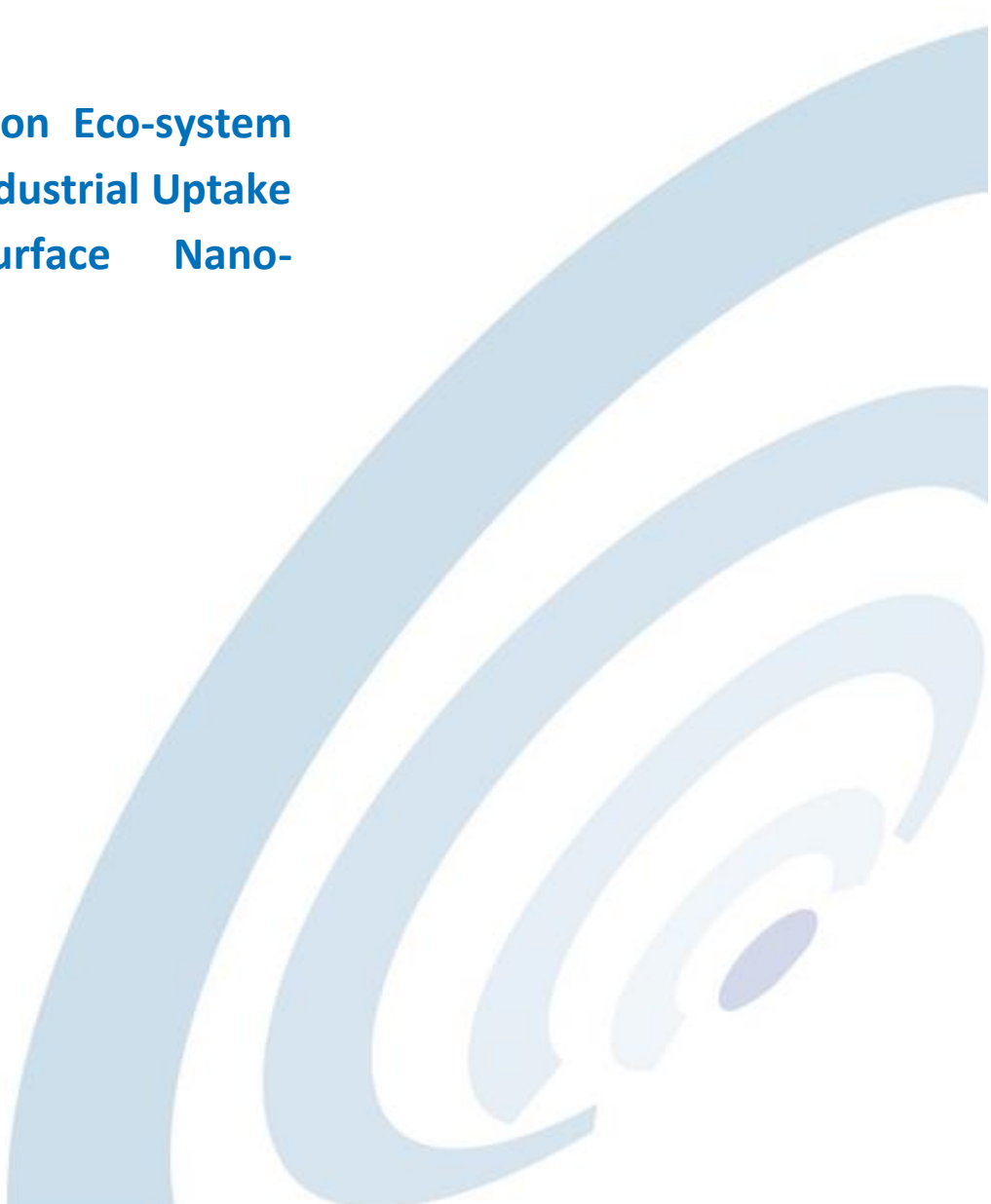




Open Calls

Guide for Applicants

**NewSkin - Innovation Eco-system
to Accelerate the Industrial Uptake
of Advanced Surface Nano-
Technologies.**



Find out more:

-  www.NewSkin-OITB.eu
-  [@NewSkinOITB](https://twitter.com/NewSkinOITB)
-  platform.NewSkin-OITB.eu
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Summary

Key Enabling Technologies (KET's) deployment will be the driving force for a significant part of the goods and services that will be available in the market in the next decade. Amongst KET's, nano-enabled surfaces and membranes must be highlighted due to their huge potential to offer material solutions to address sustainable development goals resulting in positive and sound impacts for the society and key industrial sectors.

The NewSkin Project aims to create an Open Innovation Test Bed (OITB) to provide the Innovation Ecosystem (IE) with the necessary technologies, resources and services to uptake a set of game changing, efficient and cost-effective innovative processes to manufacture nano-enabled industrial and consumer products as well as the necessary testing capabilities to demonstrate the features of nano-enhanced goods.

1. NewSkin Open Calls

The NewSkin open call targets to attract and engage SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) and other stakeholders around Europe operating in diversified sectors eager to develop novel concepts within the nano-enabled surfaces and membranes applications. In this framework, the NewSkin ecosystem (NewSkin OITB) offers an open access innovation environment, in which SMEs will be able to proceed in technological innovation in a fast and low-cost way. Beneficiaries can enter the NewSkin ecosystem free of charge and develop novel business ideas benefitting from the NewSkin services:

- 1) Access to existing Pilot lines sites around Europe – Upscaling;
- 2) Monitoring & Controlling;
- 3) Modelling & Testing: prototyping, design, LCA (Life Cycle Assessment), test sites, Nano-safety assessment and RMS;
- 4) Regulatory / Standardization;
- 5) Innovation Management and Market Uptake (Business Plan definition, access to corporate funding, dissemination services).

Mature projects (high Technology Readiness Level or Manufacturing Readiness Level) will be encouraged.

The selected successful NewSkin open call applicants will be provided with:

- free of charge access **to their selected NewSkin OITB services** - this includes:
 - Qualified staff time dedicated to the execution of their selected upscale or test service;
 - Consumables and materials necessary for the service execution;
 - Access to leading edge NewSkin OITB facilities, equipment, and infrastructure;
- the opportunity to innovate and develop their business idea;
- customised mentoring and support from industry experts for their concept;
- being part of a wide network assisting establishment of long-term relationships with key industry players and other actors in the NewSkin innovation ecosystem (e.g., start-up incubators, private investors, public funding agencies, standardisation bodies, regulatory).

Please note that services' availability for some areas is subject to budget limitations. The consortium will notify each applicant of the availability of the requested services once the project proposal has been evaluated.

2. Open Call Application

Proposals must be submitted online using the [application form](#) available on the NewSkin Open Call platform.

It is recommended to consult the NewSkin team (info@NewSkin-OITB.eu) in advance of submission to discuss your project needs and which of the NewSkin service(s) you should apply for.

Proposals submitted by any other means will not be considered eligible for financial support. Each applicant may fill out and submit more application forms to request multiple services.

Each applicant may request the signature of an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) prior to submitting the application

Please register on the platform, fill in the online application form, and submit it through the system within any cut-off date. A draft proposal can be edited and updated as often as needed until the closing deadline of the open call or submitting it. Please note that any further modification of the Proposal will not be possible once you click on submit. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure the timely submission of the proposals.

Evaluators will consider the documentation included in the application form and in the attachments to the form. The attachments can be in the following formats: PDF, PNG and JPG. It is the applicant's responsibility to include all the necessary information in the form.

The information provided should be actual, true and complete and should allow the assessment of the proposal.

English is the official language of the NewSkin Open Call. All proposals must be in **English** in all their mandatory parts to be eligible. Proposals submitted in any other language will not be evaluated.

Applications must be submitted by the closing time and date published in the open call. Only proposals submitted before the deadline will be accepted. No additions or changes to received proposals can be done after submission closing.

The fourth cut-off date is **July 17th, 2023 (17:00 CET)**.

Calls	Cut-off dates
Open Call #1	31 st January 2022
Open Call #2	29 th July 2022
Open Call #3	31 st January 2023
Open Call #4	17 th July 2023

Table 1. Open Calls forecasted cut-off dates

3. Eligibility Criteria

The following types of entities are eligible to participate in the call:

- Start-ups;
- SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) as defined in the EU recommendation 2003/361;
- REC (Research organisations) including HES (Higher education establishments);
- Research & Development organizations;
- LEs (Large enterprises);
- OTH (Other).

Please note there are no geographic restrictions in participating in the call, any entity that is interested in the concept of open innovation can apply.

By submitting a proposal to the NewSkin Open Call platform you declare that to your knowledge there are no conflicts of interest that might affect the objectivity of your proposal's evaluation.

The list of NewSkin partners can be found [here](#).

Each applicant must confirm that:

- It is not under liquidation or is not an enterprise under difficulty accordingly to the Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18 [Commission Regulation No 651/2014, art. 2.18](#)
- The project is based on original works and going forward any foreseen developments are free from third-party rights, or they are clearly stated.
- All statements embodied in the Information and Consent Forms, included as annexes, considering the ethical issues that might arise concerning the gathering of personal data, during the application process.
- The Project is not excluded under the provisions of [article 19 of Regulation \(EU\) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013](#) (ethics).

4. Submission guidelines

During the first stage of the application process, the applicant should make a registration in the [NewSkin-Platform](#).

The registration will need just an email address and the creation of a password. An automatic email will be sent to the email address in order to be approved by the applicant (activation of the account).

After this, the applicant can log in to the NewSkin-Platform.

Each applicant may request the signature of an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) prior to submitting the application.

The applicant will be able to see an **APPLY** button in the Open Calls page. By pressing it the applicant will start filling the application that includes two steps:

1. Filling of the Application Form including admin data, basic aspects of the concept and selection of OITB services.
2. Uploading any document, drawing, photo, certificate or authorization relevant for demonstration or exemplification.

Having started filling the application form the applicant may save the work and continue afterwards. As soon as all the necessary information is filled the applicant may press the submit button. After that, no other changes can be done.

4.1. Application Form

In the NewSkin platform the applicant may find the **short application form** to be filled. The proposal, generated by filling the form, consists of three sections (of a maximum length of 1000 words each). The structure of the proposal application is the following:

A. Excellence

- a. Industrial needs and challenges to overcome: Describe the motivation for developing the new product/solution and the main challenges that need to be overcome for achieving the scale.
- b. Objectives: Provide the objectives of the project in a quantifiable manner.
- c. Background of the concept – technological insight: Provide details on the maturity of the technology and the main milestones that have been achieved so far.
- d. Role of NewSkin OITB service: Describe the main services of the NewSkin OITB that need to be received for the upscale of the technology as well as the desired output.

B. Implementation

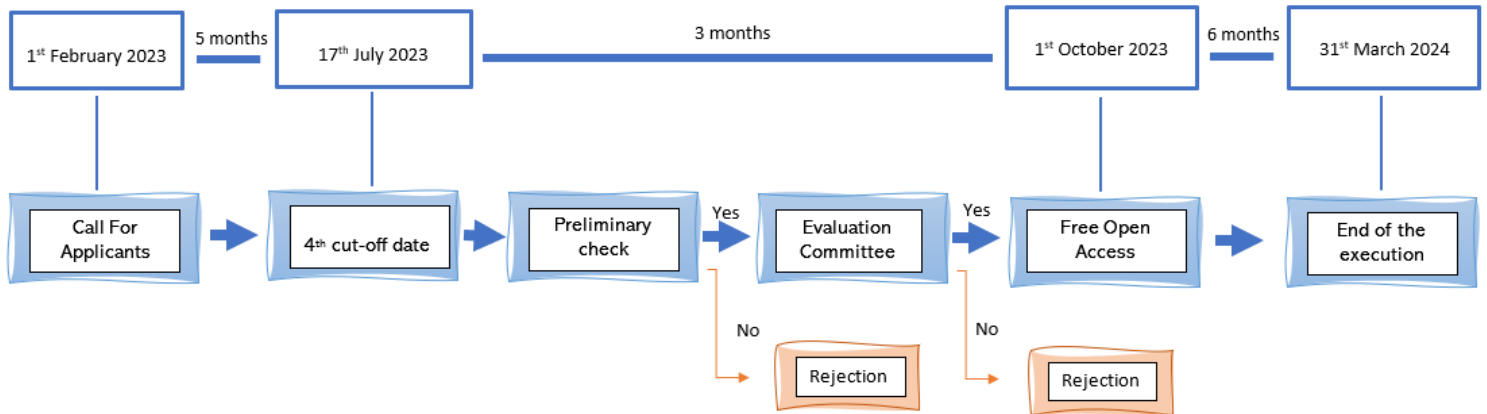
- a. Technical Workplan: Describe the main steps for the technical upscaling of the product/solution in reference to the available services of the OITB ([Catalogue of Services](#)). Moreover, describe the necessary tests for the validation of the product/solutions.
- b. Expertise and resources to be utilized: Mention the main expertise and background knowledge required for the development of the project as well as briefly the resources (e.g., materials, equipment etc).
- c. Risk management: Provide the main risks for the proper implementation of the project.

C. Impact

- a. Key Exploitable Results: Describe the main expected results of the projects that can be exploited.
- b. Market positioning: Briefly provide the unique selling points of the new products/solutions, the addressed markets and the market expectations.
- c. Other expected impacts: Describe other social, environmental and technological impacts of the new product/solution.

5. Evaluation Process

For the fourth open call, the application and evaluation process is as follows



A proposal will be considered eligible for evaluation if it meets the following conditions:

- the proposal was submitted by the closing date as stated in the open call text;
- the aforementioned eligibility criteria were met.

Proposals that do not fulfil all conditions will not be considered for evaluation.

It is expected that **up to 25** service offerings will be made to successful applicants for each of the 4 open calls.

Evaluation of each application submitted will be carried out by an Evaluation Committee consisting of 8 experts from the NewSkin consortium partners. To evaluate each application, several factors will be considered:

- Technical advance;
- Relevance on the call objectives;
- Feasibility of the project to progress in the TRL scale from TRL 4 to TRL 7 and higher;
- Feasibility to be carried out by the NewSkin Ecosystem;
- Feasibility in regard to research and development and innovation (R&D&I);
- Business viability;
- Expertise and resources available.

In order to ensure a wider European dimension to the Open Calls, the NewSkin OITB also especially encourages applications from widening countries and countries that are not already represented in the NewSkin consortium.

5.1. Evaluation Criteria

The application will be evaluated following the **three main criteria** (excellence, implementation, and impact).

Experts will score each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5 (half-point scores may be given) as described below:

- **0** - Application fails to address the criterion or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information;
- **1** - Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses;
- **2** - Fair. The application broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses;
- **3** - Good. The application addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present;
- **4** - Very good. The application addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present;
- **5** - Excellent. The application successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

The threshold for **each of the three** individual criteria is 3 (out of 5) and the overall threshold is 10 (out of 15). To be considered for support, the application must score above **both** individual and overall thresholds.

Given the project's aim of fostering the competitiveness of European businesses, the prime target of the NewSkin Open Calls is **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)**. Which means, provided they score above the required threshold, a certain proportion of European SME applicants may take priority over higher ranked proposals submitted by other organisation types.

6. Confidentiality and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)

All parties (including both the NewSkin OITB partners and the Open Call applicants) will exhaustively identify their background knowledge assets that they will bring to the project and will provide access rights to background IP for the cooperative implementation of the project.

Ownership of project results (including joint results generated by two or more partners) will belong to the parties having generated them, if not differently agreed in the contract signed between the parties.

Each applicant may request the signature of an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) prior to submitting the application. The successful applicants will sign an NDA (Non-Disclosure Agreement) with the NewSkin OITB partners covering all aspects of confidentiality.

The Evaluation Committee will handle any personal data and information included in your application submitted via the online submission platform for the purpose of your participation in the NewSkin Open Call and accomplishment of NewSkin objectives. Your data and content of the application will be kept confidential and will only be shared internally with NewSkin partners, evaluators and European Commission.

General data (e.g. type of company or country of origin) will be used to create statistics and reports which will be exploited through the project in terms of communication activities. In addition, the names of the selected organizations and their countries of origin will be published on the NewSkin website as part of public evaluation reports.

7. Applicant Support

Applicants may also contact the NewSkin Open Calls Support Service (opencalls-applications@newskin-oitb.eu) for technical assistance with the submission platform or the Open Call in general.

It is recommended for applicants that they contact the NewSkin team (info@NewSkin-OITB.eu) to make initial enquiries, or with any questions on the services available and how services can be tailored to the applicant's needs. Please include the following details in your email message when contacting the NewSkin Support Service:

- Username;
- E-mail address;
- Phone number;
- Specifics of the issue;
- Description of any error messages showed.