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LUMI AI Factory

CALL FOR STARTUPS

LUMI AI FACTORY x 28DIGITAL VENTURE INCUBATION PROGRAM

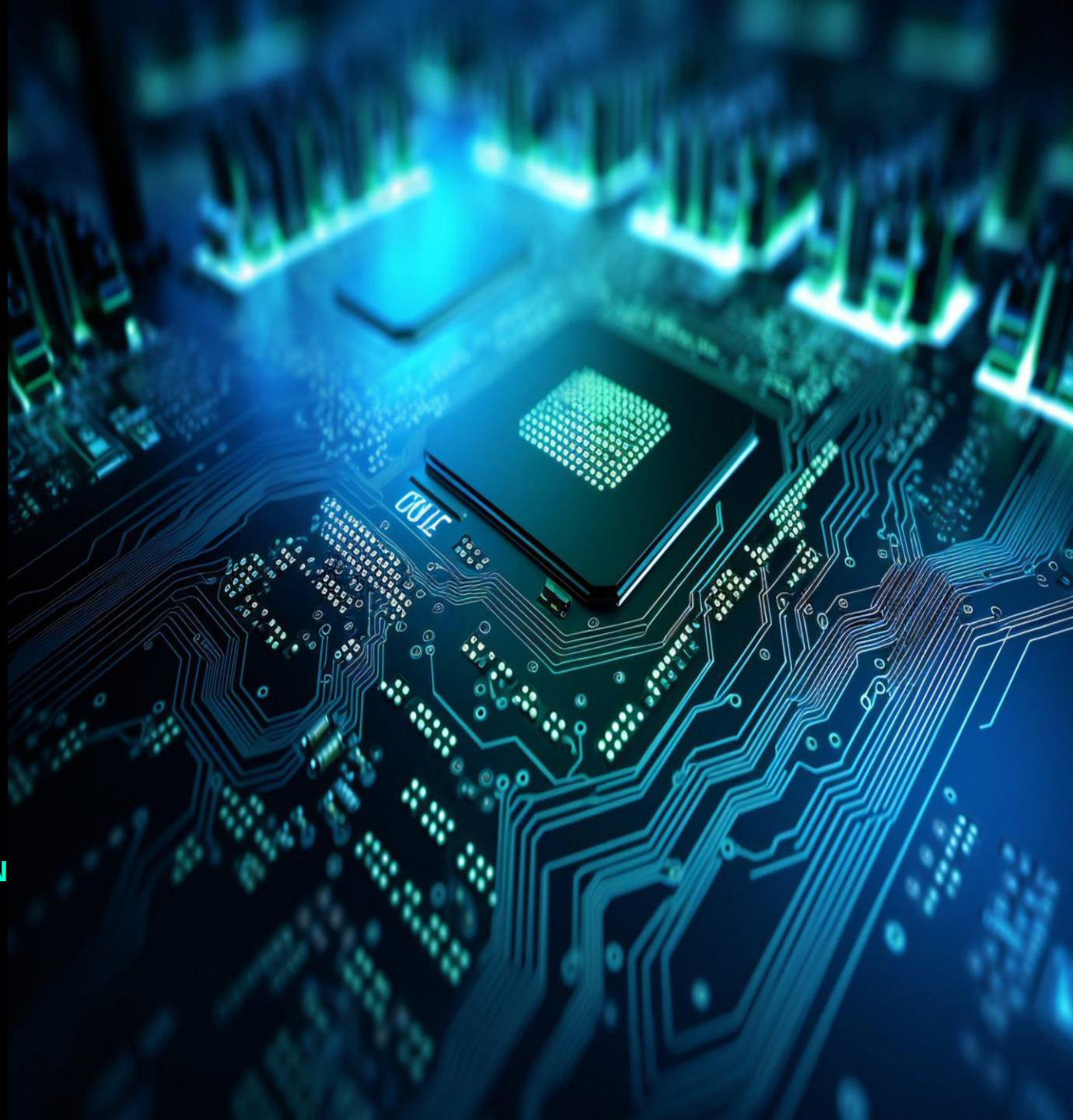
A free, 12-week online acceleration program for early-stage AI startups that need high-performance computing to grow. Get access to LUMI, technical and business mentoring, and a stage at the in-person Demo Day in Finland.

APPLY BY 11 JANUARY 2027

JOIN AN INFO SESSION

Read the Call Document

Initiated by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)



THE PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

10

startups selected

12

weeks, Feb – May 2027

FORMAT

Online sessions, including mentoring three mentoring tracks, plus an in-person Demo Day in Espoo, Finland

WHY APPLY?
SUPERCOMPUTING ACCESS AND INVESTOR READINESS IN ONE PATHWAY



COMPUTE RESOURCES

Access to LUMI's supercomputing capacity to train and scale AI models.



EXPERT SUPPORT

Tailored mentoring from technical and business experts.



VISIBILITY

Pitch to investors and European stakeholders at the Demo Day.



NETWORK

Join a community of founders and experts.



NO COST

Free of charge and no equity required.

Initiated by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

12 WEEKS, 3 PHASES, 1 DEMO DAY

Eight weekly group sessions build shared knowledge across the cohort. Four individual checkpoints turn it into concrete progress for each startup, through mentoring breakouts, roadmap reviews and repeated pitch feedback.

01 WEEKS 1–4

ONBOARDING & FOUNDATIONS

- Foundations Checkpoint

02 WEEKS 5–8

TECHNICAL DEPTH & INVESTOR READINESS

- Momentum Checkpoint

03 WEEKS 9–12

GROWTH READINESS & DEMO DAY

- Readiness + Final Checkpoints



DEMO DAY

May 2027, in person at LUMI's Otaniemi AI Hub, Espoo

PHASE 1

01

WEEKS 1–4

ONBOARDING & FOUNDATIONS

Startups are onboarded to the LUMI environment, with practical advice on portability, then get the fundamentals right.

PRODUCT-MARKET FIT

Validate the problem and customer: interviews, surveys, testing the riskiest assumptions, measuring early traction.

COMPLIANT & EFFICIENT BY DESIGN

Build regulatory compliance and computational efficiency in from day one. Introduces the Data Lab.

FOUNDATIONS CHECKPOINT

Roadmap review, technical setup on LUMI, first feedback on pitch and product-market fit.

PHASE 2

02

WEEKS 5–8

TECHNICAL DEPTH & INVESTOR READINESS

With solid foundations in place, startups prepare both the product and the company to scale.

CLEAN ARCHITECTURE

Production-ready AI: hosting, serving, scaling and monitoring.

MARKETING & POSITIONING

Positioning, messaging, channels, pricing logic and an early sales pipeline, with a campaign ready to test.

UNDERSTANDING INVESTORS

How investors think, term sheets, a compelling pitch deck, and where to invest in talent, software and hardware.

MOMENTUM CHECKPOINT

Technical clinic, second pitch feedback round and sales mentoring ahead of Sales Week.

PHASE 3

03

WEEKS 9–12

GROWTH READINESS & DEMO DAY

The cohort takes what they've built to the market.

SALES WEEK

Pitch to real prospects in meetings arranged through the program's network, aiming for a first customer or deal.

EU GRANT & EIC PATHWAY

How EIC instruments, cascade funding and innovation programs complement private investment.

READINESS CHECKPOINT

Refine the product with what prospects said and plan next steps.

FINAL CHECKPOINT

Legal structure, IP strategy and a final pitch rehearsal.

THE GRANDE FINALE · MAY 2027

DEMO DAY IN ESPOO, FINLAND

Each startup delivers a pitch followed by Q&A before a jury of investors, partners and the wider LUMI AI Factory ecosystem, at LUMI's Otaniemi AI Hub.



THE WINNING STARTUP RECEIVES

- LUMI AI Factory endorsement
- [AMOUNT] of additional compute resources on LUMI

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WHO SHOULD APPLY

Early-stage startups with a clearly defined AI product, service or development project, and a team able to take it to market.

- A working prototype, existing AI solution or technically credible development plan
- A team covering both the technical and business domains
- A genuine need for LUMI's compute resources
- Ready to commit actively to the full program

COMPANY INCORPORATED IN

- Belgium
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- Iceland
- Latvia
- Norway
- Poland
- Switzerland

ELIGIBILITY: MEET ALL EIGHT



GEOGRAPHY

Incorporated in an eligible country; certificate of registration required.



COMPANY AGE

Incorporated no more than 3 years before the deadline.



MATURITY

Early stage, with a prototype, existing AI solution or credible plan.



AI USE CASE

A clearly defined AI-related product, service or project.



RESOURCES

A genuine technical need for LUMI's compute and a commitment to use it.



TEAM CAPACITY

Competence in both technical and business domains.



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

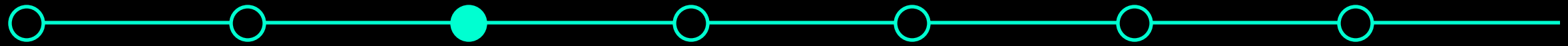
A credible IP plan or strategy; formal registration not required.



COMMITMENT

At least one founder joins the full program, Demo Day in person included.

KEY DATES



23 NOV 2026	30 NOV & 14 DEC	11 JAN 2027	12–22 JAN	25 JAN	8 FEB	MAY 2027
Call opens	Online info sessions	Call closes, 17:00 CET	Evaluation	Results announced	Program starts	Demo Day, Espoo

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HOW TO APPLY

One application per company, in English, via F6S. Create an account or log in, complete the form and upload:

- Completed F6S application form
- Certificate of company registration
- Pitch deck
- CVs of all team members

Incomplete or late applications, or those sent by other means such as email, are not accepted. Submit early to avoid technical issues.

APPLY NOW

ONLINE INFO SESSIONS

Program overview, eligibility and application process, then a live Q&A with the program team.

30 NOVEMBER 2026
15:00 CET

14 DECEMBER 2026
10:00 CET

HOW APPLICATIONS ARE SCORED

After an eligibility check, experts score each application on three criteria. The selection committee then ranks applications and selects up to ten startups.

EXCELLENCE

Clarity of the AI use case and problem, degree of innovation, technical soundness and maturity of the solution.

IMPACT

Size and relevance of the target market, strength of the business model, potential to scale, and wider economic, societal or environmental benefits.

QUALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION

Team competence across technical and business domains, realism of the technical roadmap, and credibility of the IP plan.

0–5

points per criterion

3

minimum score on each criterion

WHO WE ARE

LUMI AI FACTORY

A service infrastructure and expert support centre accelerating AI innovation across Europe, combining world-class supercomputing, high-value data and AI expertise.

lumi-ai-factory.eu

28DIGITAL

Europe's digital innovation engine: a multi-stakeholder platform rooted in European values and open to the world, turning knowledge into innovation and scaling startups into global ventures.

28digital.eu

MULTILAYER

[MULTILAYER DESCRIPTION]

READY TO SCALE ON LUMI?

Applications close 11 January 2027 at 17:00 CET.

APPLY NOW

Questions: Christian.Kunze@28digital.eu

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