



FormPlanet Open Call Application Guide



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1. Introduction to FormPlanet

The FormPlanet project is aimed at boosting the sheet metal forming industry by developing and demonstrating an **integrated ecosystem** offering **novel testing methodologies to characterise sheet metal properties, predict part performance and prevent production losses**, tackling the upcoming challenges in formability and part quality assessment.

The integrated ecosystem is conceived as an **Open Innovation Test Bed (OITB)**, a one-stop-shop to enhance the cooperation between leading sheet metal R&D agents and European SMEs/mid-cap enterprises. The new entity to be created as part of FormPlanet project will represent the entry point to a powerful interregional network of innovation stakeholders, that will benefit from a set of tools and services conceived to support industry, especially **Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)**, and increase the **competitiveness** of the European sheet metal forming sector.

A single entry point for accessing the services of 5 leading characterisation organisations and service providers with equality of access and conditions

The tests sites are research entities with a solid R&D background in metal forming. They complement each other to give the technical support required to address the industrial challenges of the sheet metal forming industry.

Test sites

eurecat | Fraunhofer IWU | COMTES FHT
Compatible Technological Services • Forming • Heat Treatment

LULEÅ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY | UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

Service providers

LETOMEC | Applus[®] laboratories | ANSYS | GRANTA



FormPlanet is funded by the **Horizon 2020** programme of the **European Commission** (GA no. 814517).

2. FormPlanet Open Call

In parallel to the technical developments, a core pillar of the project is to ensure the business sustainability of the proposed action. For this purpose, FormPlanet launches in January 2021 its **Open Call** to give the chance to European companies to be the first recipients of the Test Bed innovative services.

The FormPlanet Open Call is addressed to help SMEs and large companies of the sheet metal manufacturing sector to characterise sheet metal properties, predict part performance and

prevent production losses, tackling the upcoming challenges in formability and part quality assessment. Through this OpenCall, FormPlanet will provide to the industrial applicants with advanced testing methodologies for more accurate metals characterisation, non-destructive in-process measurements and modelling.

The Open Call will allow to validate the effectiveness of the characterisation and modelling approaches, but also to test how the Test Bed services will be delivered to European companies.

The characterisation services will be offered by the partners of the FormPlanet project as **in-kind support** to the awarded companies. The Open Call will benefit **between 5 to 8 European companies**. The FormPlanet Consortium will dedicate **15 person months valued in over 140.000€**. Awarded companies must have to contribute in man-hours and material resources, but not financially.

2.1 FormPlanet Open Call Challenges

FormPlanet Open Call offers **unique testing methodologies** for more accurate materials characterisation and modelling for high-strength sheet materials, addressing processability and quality parts problems in the sheet manufacturing sector due to crack defects and inaccurate quality assessment. These tests and modelling approaches permit to predict defect formations at an early design state, as well as to prevent and to solve these issues during industrial manufacturing, covering the whole value chain of the sheet metal forming industry.

The new experimental and modelling methodologies help sheet metal sector:

- Assure **zero-defects production** (reduction of rejected parts).
- Develop new **high-performance sheet materials** at **reduced costs** by the optimisation of the design, production and performance of the sheet material.
- **Reduce time-to-market** and develop **new high-performance sheet parts** at reduced cost by the optimisation of the design and manufacture processes.
- Increase **productivity** in the manufacture of sheet metal parts (reduction of press stops due to quality parts problems / increase of parts produced per day / reduction of energy and material consumption).
- Improve **quality parts** using non-destructive techniques to in-line assess part integrity in high quality products.
- Build **robust processes** to prevent unexpected failures due to deviations from batch to batch of the sheet metal coil or plates, using tests to control raw material properties.

The Open Call will contribute to validate and demonstrate the effectiveness of the testing methods in other sheet alloys and applications than those covered by the project and to evaluate the operational setup of the Test Bed.

2.2 Services Provided under the Open Call

The innovative services offered through the Open Call are detailed in the [FormPlanet Service Catalogue](#) which can be classified into:

Sheet material development and production

- Edge cracking and stretch-flangeability
- Micro-mechanical characterisation
- Fracture toughness
- Crashworthiness
- Delayed fracture and H embrittlement
- Fatigue resistance

Part and forming process design

- Forming limits evaluation at room and high temperature
- Edge cracking modelling and prediction
- Modelling of part performance
- Modelling of H embrittlement
- Material data for modelling

Components production

- In-process check systems
- In-line part quality assessment

In addition to these advanced material characterisation services, FormPlanet offers a wide range of complementary services that can be demanded together with the innovative services for an integral service provision to the sheet metal forming industry.

2.3 Dissemination activities and further information

FormPlanet and its partners will organise a series of informative webinars to provide additional information (on proposal drafting, evaluation process, etc.) to potential applicants. More information on the Open Call and webinars can be found on the Open Call project webpage: <https://formplanet.eu/opencall>.

Any further question can also be sent to info@formplanet.eu.

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document will also be available on the Open Call webpage at a later stage.

2.4 General Overview of the Open Call Process

The submission period is from **January 15th to March 31st**. During this time, questions on the application process can be addressed at: info@formplanet.eu.

The Evaluation Committee, composed of FormPlanet consortium members with technical expertise, will assess the quality of the presented offers from April 1st to April 30th¹.

¹ Please note that dates for evaluation are tentative and are subject to change according to Committee's availability

Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their application by late April 2021. Activities are planned to start at the beginning of May 2021 and last until end of November 2021.



Please note that all information provided will be treated confidentially and stored only for the purpose of this call.

3. Open Call Application

3.1 Publication

The Open Call will be published on the FormPlanet Portal on January 15th and will close on March 31st.

3.2 Beneficiaries

Any company based in the European Union or [associated countries of H2020](#) can apply to this call. Consortia between companies are not allowed. Furthermore, only one application per company is accepted. In case that more than one application is submitted by the same company, the most recent application will be considered.

3.3 Submission

Applicants will be required to complete the application form available through this [link](#). The application form can be found in the Open Call Guide and on the project website (<https://formplanet.eu/opencall/>)

Submission opening date: January 15th, 2021, 09:00 CET

Submission deadline: March 31st, 2021, 17:00 CET.

All submitted proposals received after the submission deadline will not be considered.

3.4 Language

English is the official language for the FormPlanet Open Call. Submissions done in any other language will not be evaluated. All official communication between the applicant and FormPlanet will be done in English. It will be the only official language during the whole execution of the FormPlanet project.

3.5 Origin of the Funds

This call uses funds obtained within the scope of the FormPlanet project funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under GA no. 814517. No additional funding will be dedicated to support this call.

4. Selection of Applications

4.1 Evaluation Committee

Evaluation of each submitted application will be carried out by an Evaluation Committee consisting of 6 experts from the FormPlanet consortium partners. They will have specific expertise in the different areas of knowledge and/or highly specialised staff belonging to FormPlanet partners.

4.2 Eligibility criteria

An application will be eligible if:

- it is submitted before the submission deadline date, applying the requested submission procedure.
- all the required fields in the application form (see below) are complete
- the company submitting the proposal is based in the European Union or [associated countries of H2020](#) may apply

Moreover, the Evaluation Committee will ensure that, overall, Open Call applications follow the criteria below:

- Proposals tackle testing methods that assess **replicability** and **transferability** to a number of sectors of industrial production (e.g. transport, machinery manufacturing, home appliance, food, cosmetic, energy, chemical),
- Proposals allow a proper **testing of the FormPlanet Test Bed** services, processes and delivery times, helping FormPlanet partners detect issues and ensure quality.
- A **geographic representation** and accessibility, including companies located in countries with no FormPlanet partners,
- A large **SME representation**.

4.3 Evaluation of Proposals

Evaluators will rate each proposal under specific evaluation criteria. The maximum number of points is 100. Key points for evaluation are:

Criterion	Description	Max. Points
Company presentation	General information of the applicant company (sector(s), strategy, geographical presence, R&D objectives)	10
Case study description	Overall fitness of the problem and the proposed services to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - FormPlanet objectives, - materials to be used in the case study, - adequacy to Open Call timeline and offered resources, - alignment with the challenges of the Open Call 	40
Expertise and resources	Man-hours and material resources that the company will dedicate to the execution of the Open Call case study	20

Impact of the case study	Possible applications in different sectors, societal and environmental impacts (reduced waste, emissions), economic gains for the company (time, money).	20
SME	Is the company an SME: Y/N	10

The scoring will take into account the average score of the members of the Evaluation Committee. At least 75% of the members of the selection board need to participate in the evaluation to assign a final score.

The Evaluation Committee evaluate each application in a transparent and fair way, respecting the confidentiality of any information identified as confidential at the time it is provided. Evaluations will be performed applying the highest ethical and moral standards.

The applicant's contact person (provided in the form) may be **contacted during the evaluation** to provide further clarification on all aspects of the application. Upon consideration of the problem and the proposed services, the Evaluation Committee may suggest different services or make observations on the proposal.

If the proposal is awarded, the details of the services will be discussed during the contracting period with staff from the FormPlanet partners responsible of the service(s).

The decisions of the Evaluation Committee shall be final and, upon proposal of the Committee, FormPlanet coordinator Eurecat may declare the call null and void, without the obligation to assign the established services, when the applications submitted do not fulfil the expectations in terms of completeness, excellence and fitness to the call.

4.4 Communication of the results

The applicants will be informed about the decision made by the Evaluation Committee by the end of April via email. Besides, the final decision will also be published on the FormPlanet website (www.formplanet.eu). If the application is successful, the FormPlanet consortium partners will enter into **contract negotiations** with the successful applicant with regard to the specific terms of the service.

4.5 Redress procedure

Within 2 working days of the reception of the communication, Applicants may submit a request for redress if they believe that there has been a shortcoming in the way their proposal has been evaluated that may affect the final decision on whether they are selected as beneficiary or not.

A designated internal review committee of the FormPlanet project will examine requests for redress. Requests for redress must be:

- Related to the evaluation process or eligibility checks;
- Clearly describe the complaint and reasons for potential consideration;
- Received within the time limit (2 working days) from the communication of the result is delivered; and
- Sent by the same company legal representative that has submitted the proposal.

The committee will review the complaint and will recommend an appropriate course of action. If there is a clear evidence that a shortcoming(s) could have affected the eventual decision, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be re-evaluated by the internal review committee.

Please note:

- This procedure is concerned with the evaluation and/or eligibility checking process. The committee will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts.
- Any redress request that call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts will be automatically rejected.
- A re-evaluation will only be carried out if there is evidence of a shortcoming that could have affected the final decision of selection. This means, for example, that a problem relating to one evaluation criterion will not lead to a re-evaluation if a proposal has failed anyway on other criteria.
- The evaluation score following any re-evaluation will be regarded as definitive. This score could be lower than the original score.

Only one request for redress per proposal will be considered by the committee. All requests for redress will be treated in confidence and must be sent to info@formplanet.eu

5. Implementation of Tests for Case Studies

5.1 Execution Timeline

Once the contracting process between the applicant and the partner(s) providing the service is concluded, the execution of the tests will start. It is foreseen that the execution phase will run from May until November.

5.2 FormPlanet partners commitment

The FormPlanet partners will not be obliged to provide any funding to the applicants. Services will be defined and addressed during contract negotiations.

5.3 Applicants commitment

During the execution of the tests, the applicants shall comply with the following requirements:

- 1) Each applicant will be the recipient of one or more of the selected services, as described in the [catalogue of FormPlanet](#).
- 2) The applicants will not transfer or assign directly or indirectly any portion of the support to other ends not included in the initial application.
- 3) The applicants will take part in the case study in accordance with the rules and requirements of the call and in accordance with the agreed support for each case study according to the contract;
- 4) The applicants will designate a person to lead the communication between the applicant and the FormPlanet consortium partners throughout the duration of the case study. In addition, a principal investigator will be responsible for the management of the case study and replying to any request of information within the scope of the case study;
- 5) The applicants will supply any information requested by the FormPlanet consortium partners for the purpose of ensuring that these requirements are complied with and comply with any written request or direction received from the European Commission concerning the proper management of the case study;
- 6) The applicants will not be entitled to require further supporting for the mere reason that they disagree with the results of the support by the FormPlanet consortium partners;
- 7) The applicants will comply with dissemination and communication requirements as described in the Confidentiality and Communication Rules relating to the Open Call published together with the application documentation of the FormPlanet call. All applicants are aware that the FormPlanet consortium partners are obliged to comply with the Open Data and Open Access rules of the EC provided for in the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. Details can be found in the Annotated Model Grant Agreement.

6. Confidentiality, Communication Rules and IPR

6.1 Confidentiality and Communication

All the information submitted by applicants will be handled only by the FormPlanet project team involved in the Open Call. The identity of the sender and the content of the proposal will be treated strictly confidential within the Evaluation Committee of FormPlanet. The application will be evaluated by a team of experts (Evaluation Committee) from within the FormPlanet consortium. FormPlanet will perform the work impartially applying the highest ethical and moral standards.

The application document will be stored on a web-based, password protected collaborative platform to which only the FormPlanet members have access for the duration of the project. Data with regard to the proposal may also be exchanged between the FormPlanet Evaluation Committee by way of corporate email.

Confidential information disclosed by the applicant must be marked as confidential. The applicant shall disclose to the FormPlanet consortium confidential information, in its sole discretion, if the applicant deems necessary or desirable for the purpose of assessing the application and execution of the case study. The FormPlanet consortium will strictly apply to confidentiality rules as laid down in its consortium agreement and will not use confidential information of applicants for any purpose other than to meet the objectives of this Open Call.

Media files need to be of high resolution but do not need to disclose IP. The applicant of the selected use case is aware of this and authorizes the EC and FormPlanet to publish, in whatever form and whatever medium, with the applicant's prior approval, information related to the use case while underlying IP and other sensitive information will remain confidential.

When filling the application form, applicants are asked to confirm that no conflict of interest could arise in connection with this Open Call. This will ensure to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective selection of the proposal is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ("conflict of interest"). Applicants who cannot confirm that there is no conflict of interest, will not be considered for the selection.

Any communication or publication under the Open Call should clearly indicate that the development or technology has received funding from the European Commission within the scope of the FormPlanet project (GA no. 814517) displaying the EU logo on all printed or digital material, including websites and press releases. In addition, it must be specified that it reflects only the author's view and that the EC and FormPlanet are not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

The applicant of the selected case study will, throughout the duration of their involvement with FormPlanet, take appropriate measures to engage with the public about such involvement and to highlight the financial support of the EC.

6.2 Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) conditions

1. The proposals submitted to this Open Call should be solely based on original work by the applicants and their foreseen developments should be free from any third-party right, or, if this is not the case, such rights should be clearly stated.
2. Before entering into the case study, applicants will be requested to identify their respective background in a separate list. This will be essential for the modifications of and derivative works to the background, as well as for the joint results use and exploitation – if applicable.
3. If the tests performed during the Open Call result in any improvement or enhancement for the company, the company will share this information with the FormPlanet project in order to report on the impact of the project.
4. If applicable, a joint ownership agreement will be drafted to define terms and condition for handling jointly owned intellectual assets.

Reference: European IP Helpdesk: "[Your Guide to IP in Horizon 2020](#)".

Application Form

This section shows the information and fields required in your application. To complete and send the application please do it online in the following [link](#).

Instructions:

Fill out the information as requested. Each applicant may only fill out and submit one application form.

If you have questions or experience technical issues, please contact us at info@formplanet.eu

A. Applicant Information

The information in this questionnaire will be shared with the members of the Evaluation Committee only for the purpose of assessing the application. You will be asked to confirm that you are okay with this at the end of the application form under “AUTHORISATION”.

Company Name	
Postal address	
Country	
Telephone number	
Website	
Email	
Sector(s) of application	DROP DOWN LIST OF SECTORS
Provide contact information for each of the following:	
Queries with regard to the application form (such as <u>Principal Investigator</u>)	
Name:	
Telephone:	
Cell phone:	

Email:	
Brief description of the problem to be solved with the FormPlanet services	
Proposed FormPlanet services aimed at solving the problem (according to the services offered in the catalogue) <i>*Please review the Open Call guide for more details about the support that each service offers.</i>	DROP DOWN LIST OF SERVICES

B. Company Presentation *(maximum 500 words)*

Provide an elevator pitch-type presentation of your company (main goals, markets, sectors, R&D efforts, etc.). You can attach documents to support your presentation.

C. Case Study Outline

Description of the case study *(maximum 1,000 words)*

Which is the problem your company needs to solve?

Which is the objective you seek to achieve with the participation in this Open Call?

How will your company benefit from these services? Which challenges will be addressed?

Please, include any images or documents that may help illustrate your point.

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Which is the objective you seek to achieve with the participation in this Open Call?

How will your company benefit from these services? Which challenges will be addressed?

Please, include any images or documents that may help illustrate your point.

Proposed Solution (*maximum 1,000 words*)

Which FormPlanet service(s) do you think will help you solve this problem and how? (please, refer to the services of the [catalogue](#)).

Impact (*maximum 500 words*)

Explain which are the potential impacts that may derive from your participation in the Open Call? (economic savings-annual production costs, material or unit costs-, gains in time – productivity of machinery, parts per day-, reduction of waste or other environmental impacts – rejected materials, energy consumption, reduction of scraps-, etc.)

Expertise and resources (*maximum 500 words*)

Name the key resources that you will provide to execute the case study (e.g. man-hours, materials, machinery). Please, include any images or documents that may help illustrate your point.

Background (*maximum 500 words*)

Key background that you bring into the case study (e.g. patents, industrial designs, process designs). Please attach any relevant documentation.

Additional Documentation

Please, include any other relevant documentation

D. Authorisation

Authorisation for sharing information

I, the undersigned [ENTER FULL NAME], CERTIFY that the information stated above is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. Likewise, I confirm that the company has no objection to the information contained herein being shared with the Evaluation Committee and that there does not exist any conflict of interest.

Name	Signature	Date (DD/MM/YYYY)
Full title/Position	Company name	