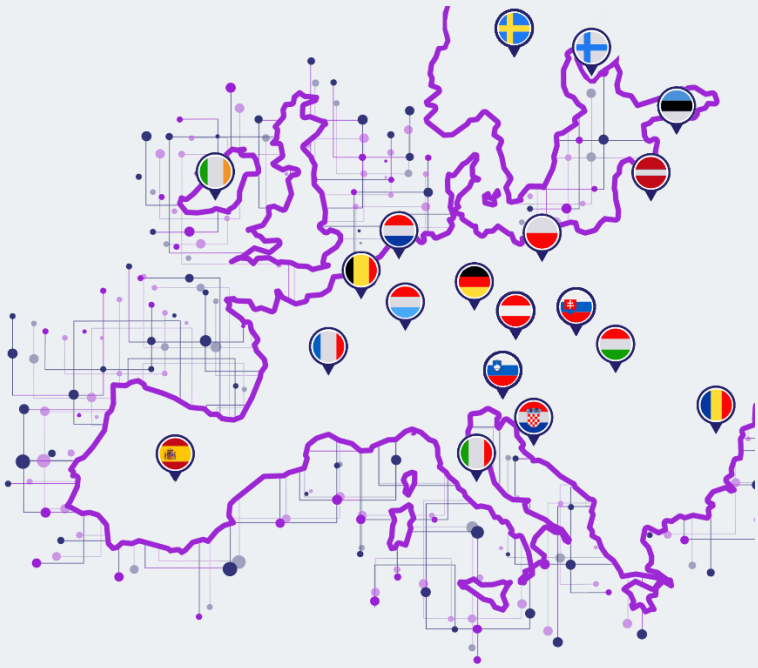
Manifesto for the Important Project of common European Interest on a continuum of federated and distributed Artificial Intelligence services (IPCEI-AI)

September 2026

The Republic of Austria, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Finland, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, Ireland, the Italian Republic, the Republic of Latvia, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Hungary, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Republic of Poland, Romania, the Republic of Slovakia, the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Spain, and the Kingdom of Sweden have agreed to join forces in an Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI) dedicated to shaping a continuum of federated and distributed Artificial Intelligence services (AI) with a European scale.



This ambitious integrated project will enable the R&D and first industrial deployment (FID) of a fundamentally new and sustainable AI-Ecosystem based on breakthrough technological advancements and thereby contribute to existing European initiatives and policies, in particular to the AI-Continent Action Plan, Competitiveness Compass, Apply AI Strategy and Data Union Strategy. It directly contributes to advancing the ambitions of the European Technological Sovereignty Package and the Cloud and AI Development Act to strengthen Europe's digital sovereignty in the field of AI.

The objective is the development of advanced and innovative industrial products and services. To this end it shall design and includes FID of the next generation, industry-ready and highly interoperable AI-continuum. In this continuum companies work not on their own but together to provide the next generation of industry and sector-specific AI models and systems and ultimately unlock new industrial capabilities for the EU and its end-users.

In light of the important Project, the IPCEI will thus directly contribute to the next industrial revolution of artificial intelligence (AI) which is the major paradigm shift and the technological foundation for the development and use of digital solutions today and

tomorrow. Europe´s industry needs access to the latest software, high-quality AI models, hardware, as well as high-end computing resources and services including cloud services for AI deployment. Therefore, it is necessary that European industries have equal access to sufficient computing and trusted high-quality industrial data resource for AI while reducing their dependence on third party solutions and providers. For European industries to have the sovereign choice of increasing resilience as well as security, they need to rely on a combination of new and existing European technologies through increased interoperability.

Building on Europe's strong research base and industrial capabilities, the IPCEI-AI seizes the opportunity to mobilise investment for capital-intensive AI development, support innovation along the entire value chain, strengthen coordination across stakeholders, and create the conditions to attract private investment in high-risk, systemic innovation. This shall create an integrated, large-scale European AI-Ecosystem and strengthen the Union's capabilities to compete globally in strategically critical AI domains. By empowering European deep tech ecosystems via facilitating high value partnerships with important industrial stakeholders, the IPCEI-AI will significantly strengthen Europe's technological resilience and sovereignty.

The key of the IPCEI-AI will be to bring technological innovation beyond the global-state-of-the-art with industry grade AI-Foundation Models in key products, tools, services. It will benefit many sectors of the European Economy and Society, such as manufacturing, robotics, mobility, energy, semiconductor, agriculture, healthcare, defence, telecommunications or public administration. The project will equip the EU with next generation AI capabilities, such as agentic AI frameworks, based on advanced services and interoperable solutions. As a result, the project will position Europe as a global leader in applied AI innovation while retaining critical technological expertise.

The IPCEI-AI will comprise both the research, development and innovation (R&D&I) and the first industrial deployment (FID) of the next generation continuum of Artificial Intelligence services, based on cutting-edge technologies that are part of open and distributed, sustainable and highly scalable architectures. This IPCEI-AI will complement the developments by IPCEI Compute Infrastructure Continuum, IPCEI-Next generation cloud infrastructure and services (8ra) and IPCEI-Advanced semiconductor technologies (AST).

In a Joint-European-Forum process in November 2024 Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Spain endorsed the IPCEI-AI and invited all EU Member States and interested European stakeholders to join the IPCEI-AI process. All eighteen countries that are signatories of this manifesto have been working intensively for more than a year with the support of the European Commission on the design on IPCEI-AI and have started the national calls for expressions of interest towards a meaningful European projects selection.

The Member States are, after successful matchmaking of the selected projects, ready to advance to the pre-notification gate to the European Commission. In order to prepare the prenotification process properly, the Member States agree to submit complete, comprehensive, and high qualitative project proposals and Chapeau Text and to ensure loyal cooperation of the companies funded under the IPCEI communication in the entire process. On this basis Member States are agreeing on the following schedule:

- Selection of national projects: September 2026
- Start of submission of pre-notification documents to the Commission: Sept. 2026
- Start of national selected projects on own risk: Q1/2027

Signatories

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