



Frequently Asked Questions

Advisory Services Support Program for SMEs



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1.1 Who can apply?

The FIERCE Advisory Services Support Program is open for applications from:

- **Self-employed individuals**
- **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)** including start-ups and scale-ups that are legally established in eligible countries (see below). Specifically, FIERCE adopts the following definitions regarding the eligible entities:
 - i. An **SME** is defined in line with the European Commission's Recommendation 2003/361/EC. To qualify, a company must have fewer than 250 employees (measured in Annual Work Units), and either an annual turnover not exceeding €50 million or an annual balance sheet total not exceeding €43 million. When assessing eligibility, figures from partner and linked enterprises must also be included, as outlined in the SME user guide. See the [EU SME definition](#) for details.
 - ii. A **Start-up** refers to a tech-oriented company. It should employ less than 10 people (but more than 2 full-time equivalent staff) that has operated for less than three years and has attracted more than €50k early-stage private sector investment or has demonstrable sales growth over 50% pa.
 - iii. A **Scale-up**, according to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), refers to those SMEs that have been growing over three consecutive financial years at an annual rate above 20% in terms of turnover or number of employees.

Only single applicants (individual legal entities) are allowed; applications submitted by consortia will not be considered.

Applicants have to be established in any EU [Member State and its Overseas Countries and Territories \(OCT\)](#) or [Horizon Europe Associated Countries](#). Applications from organisations not based in these regions will be automatically deemed ineligible.

1.2 How do I apply?

To apply for the FIERCE Open Call, eligible entities must submit their application online through the FIERCE Open Call submission platform, [OnePass](#), accessible also through the official [FIERCE project website](#).

Here's a step-by-step overview:

1. Register on the [OnePass platform](#) by creating a new account or sign in if you already have one.
2. Complete the online application form (see question 1.3 for details).
3. Submit the application before the deadline.

For a detailed walkthrough of the process, a "How to Apply" webinar will be organized and the recording will be made available on the project website after the event.

All applications must be submitted in English and within the official call period: 1 September 2025, 13:00 CET – 30 November 2025, 23:59 CET.

1.3 Which information is required in the application form?

Within the application form, the applicant is first asked to provide some key information about the company (name, type, country, etc.), its core activities, and relevant contact details.

Next, the applicant is asked to state whether their interest in space data derives from their need to (i) improve their own internal/ external processes or (ii) to create/ improve a space-enabled product or service. Based on this choice, the applicant is asked to describe their solution, highlighting its contribution to our thematic areas, if relevant.

Once the main idea is briefly described, the applicant must select all the services that they are interested in receiving. Multiple selection is allowed and strongly encouraged (via checkboxes).

At the end, the applicant goes through a set of self-declarations to state that information provided in the application form is true and accurate.

1.4 What are the deadlines for applying?

The deadlines for applying to the **1st Open Call** are as follows:

- Call opens: 1 September 2025, 13:00 CET
- First cut-off date: 31 October 2025, 23:59 CET
- Call closes: 30 November 2025, 23:59 CET

The call will remain open for a total of three months. Only applications submitted before the final deadline will be evaluated.

1.5 What is a cut-off date?

The 1st Open Call includes one cut-off date before the final closing deadline. This allows for two evaluation batches:

- **Cut-off date:** 31 October 2025 (23:59 CET)
Applications submitted by this date will be evaluated in the first round. Successful applicants will be onboarded in November 2025.
- **Final deadline:** 30 November 2025 (23:59 CET)
Applications submitted between 1–30 November 2025 will be evaluated in the second round. Successful applicants will be onboarded in December 2025.

The submission platform will remain open and continue accepting applications until the final deadline on 30 November 2025 (23:59 CET).

1.6 When and how will I be informed of the results?

As the 1st Open Call includes one cut-off date the evaluation and announcement of the results will be carried out in two phases.

- Applicants who submit by the cut-off date (31 October 2025) will be notified of the outcome in November 2025.
- Applicants who submit after the cut-off date, up to the final deadline (30 November 2025), will be notified in December 2025.

All notifications will be sent via email to the contact details provided in the application.

1.7 How many SMEs will be selected?

Up to **100 SMEs** will be selected in the 1st Open Call to receive the full FIERCE Advisory Services package.

Since there are **two rounds of Open Calls** (one in 2025 and one in 2026), **140 SMEs** will be supported across the project lifetime.

1.8 What kind of support will selected SMEs receive?

The Advisory Services Support Program is designed to help SMEs strengthen their capacity to design, develop, or enhance green solutions, including products, services, or processes by integrating downstream space data and services. While all kinds of space-enabled green solutions are eligible, the program places a particular focus on areas such as circularity and resource-efficiency, raw materials management and environmental monitoring.

SMEs selected through this Open Call will receive a personalized package of services aimed at enhancing their knowledge and capacity in integrating downstream space data into their business. This support will be delivered over a three-month period, and will include mentoring, Masterclasses and 1-1 Advisory Sessions. Support is available across six thematic areas, subject to availability:

- **Technical & Business Space**
- **Circular Value Chains and Products**
- **Environmental Monitoring & CSRD**
- **Raw Materials**
- **Business Strategy and Funding Opportunities**
- **Intellectual Property Essentials & EU Support Instruments.**

1.9 How will the services be delivered?

The FIERCE Advisory Services will be delivered **remotely and online**, without the need for physical presence.

1.10 Is any funding or financial grant provided?

Participation in the FIERCE Advisory Services Open Call does not involve the direct provision of financial grants or funding to selected SMEs. Instead, selected SMEs will receive up to 50 hours support through mentoring and advisory services.

1.11 Will selected SMEs need to sign a contract or agreement?

Selected SMEs will not be required to sign a traditional grant or subcontracting agreement. Instead, they will be asked to sign a simplified Consent Form outlining the terms of their participation.

1.12 Is support available during the application period?

Multiple resources are available to assist applicants:

- Interested parties can visit the official [FIERCE website](#) for detailed information about the project and the Open Call.
- An Info Day will be organized by FIERCE partners, providing an overview of the Open Call and available services. A recording will be made available on the project website after the event.
- A “How to Apply” webinar will be held, offering a step-by-step guide to the OnePass platform and the application process. The recording will be made available on the project website after the event.
- A LinkedIn group [“The FIERCE Group - Making downstream space a mainstream place for innovators”](#) has been created to collectively discuss queries.

For technical and procedural support, applicants can contact the FIERCE Helpdesk at: opencall_helpdesk@project-fierce.eu

Responses are typically provided within 4 working days, although this may extend to up to 6 days during peak periods. All inquiries must be submitted at least 72 hours before the application deadline to ensure a timely response.

Applicants are advised to consult the Guide for Applicants before reaching out for support.

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