

Innovation Challenge: A Finnish company is searching for European innovations to support shift towards sustainable solutions in surface finishing

Summary

Profile type

Technology request

Company's country

Finland

POD reference

TRFI20250919020

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

Investment agreement
Commercial agreement with technical assistance
Research and development cooperation agreement

Targeted countries

- **Luxembourg**
- **Sweden**
- **Hungary**
- **Malta**
- **Estonia**
- **Cyprus**
- **Norway**
- **Poland**
- **Ukraine**
- **Greece**
- **Romania**
- **United Kingdom**
- **Croatia**
- **Italy**
- **Lithuania**
- **Germany**
- **Switzerland**
- **Belgium**
- **Slovenia**
- **Latvia**
- **Austria**

- France
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Czechia
- Bulgaria
- Denmark

Contact Person

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Term of validity

23 Sep 2025**23 Sep 2026**

Last update

23 Sep 2025

General Information

Short summary

A Finnish company, a global leader in surface finishing technology has opened an innovation challenge to search innovations to support the shift towards sustainable solutions in surface finishing. The focus areas are Boosting circularity, Extending product life cycles and Developing sustainable material solutions. The cooperation model can be commercial or R&D cooperation, and the prize money of 10.000 € will be awarded for the winner.

Full description

A Finnish company is a global leader in surface finishing technology. It has opened an innovation challenge for European innovators, change-makers, early stage starts-ups, researchers and students

The company's product portfolio includes abrasives, superabrasives, sanders, dust extractions and a wide array of accessories. The company has subsidiaries around the world and the company sells its products globally. The headquarters is in Finland.

The innovation challenge aims to boost the green transition of the Finnish company. The company is looking for creative and impactful innovations that support the shift towards sustainable solutions in surface finishing.

The following areas are in the focus of this innovation challenge (more detailed in chapter Technical specification or expertise sought):

1. Boosting circularity, e.g. reuse and recycling, circular logistics and waste stream optimization, new systems and technologies that can boost circularity

2. Extending product life cycles, e.g. repair, refurbishment, and remanufacturing, new scalable business models, tools, and systems.

3. Developing sustainable material solutions, e.g. materials made from non-fossil-based sources or from the company's own or other waste streams, materials that are not only sustainable but also recyclable, reusable, or safely disposed at the end of their lifetime.

The challenge involves networking opportunities, and participants will gain valuable feedback and sparring from experienced mentors and industry experts. The winner receives 10,000 € and the first runner up 5,000 €. Additionally, all finalists will get the opportunity to apply for the company's incubation program, gaining further support to develop their idea into a viable business.

Application deadline: November 16th 2025.

Applications can be submitted at: <https://www.minc.fi/innovationchallenge>.

Advantages and innovations

The participants have an opportunity for the following benefits:

- Valuable feedback and sparring from experienced mentors and industry experts
- 10,000 € prize for the winner and 5.000 € for the first runner up.
- All finalists will get the opportunity to apply for the company's incubation program, gaining further support to develop their idea into a viable business.
- Possibility for commercial or R&D cooperation.

Technical specification or expertise sought

The proposals should focus on one of the following areas:

1. Boosting circularity:

- reuse and recycling of abrasives and tools,
- circular logistics and waste stream optimization.
- new systems and technologies that can boost circularity, such as smart logistic solutions, AI for environmental impact tracking, etc.

2. Extending product life cycles

- can be done through repair, refurbishment, and remanufacturing.
- new scalable business models, tools, and systems
- not only to the company's own products, but also to how their products can be part of extending the life of other products.

3. Developing sustainable material solutions:

- materials made from non-fossil-based sources, such as biobased fibers, resins, and fillers or byproducts from the company's own or other waste streams.
- materials that are not only sustainable but also recyclable, reusable, or safely disposed at the end of their lifetime.

Stage of development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- **Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production**
- **Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
- **Goal 13: Climate Action**

IPR Status

IPR Notes

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

The searched partners are European innovators, change-makers, early-stage startups, researchers and students who has innovations in the focus areas of this innovation challenge.

The expected role is to propose, adapt, or demonstrate solutions in the challenge. Participating in the challenge may lead to commercial or R&D cooperation with the company. The selected finalists also have the opportunity to apply for the company's incubation program.

Type of partnership

Investment agreement

Commercial agreement with technical assistance

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

• **R&D Institution**

• **SME <=10**

• **University**

• **Other**

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **02007024 - Nanomaterials**
- **02002015 - Surface treatment (painting, galvano, polishing, CVD, ..)**
- **02007003 - Ceramic Materials and Powders**
- **02007001 - Adhesives**
- **02007018 - Advanced Textile Materials**

Market keywords

- **08003007 - Other industrial equipment and machinery**
- **08004002 - Chemical and solid material recycling**
- **08001017 - Industrial chemicals**
- **08006001 - Process control and logistics**
- **08001007 - Coatings and adhesives manufactures**

Targeted countries

- Luxembourg
- Sweden
- Hungary
- Malta
- Estonia
- Cyprus
- Norway
- Poland
- Ukraine
- Greece
- Romania
- United Kingdom
- Croatia
- Italy
- Lithuania
- Germany
- Switzerland
- Belgium
- Slovenia
- Latvia
- Austria
- France
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Ireland
- Iceland
- Slovakia
- Spain
- Czechia
- Bulgaria

Sector groups involved

- Denmark