FORTISSIMO
PLUS

FFplus Support for SMEs through Open Calls

Guy Lonsdale, scapos AG



6 November 2026



www.ffplus-project.eu

Overview

- A (very) short history of Fortissimo projects – HPC for business innovation
- FFplus Objectives → Business Experiments & Innovation Studies
- Info about the Open Calls & latest call (to be announced Nov. 5th)
- Summaries of a few FFplus AI-oriented success stories

FFplus Consortium & Project Data

- Funded by the EuroHPC JU action DIGITAL-EUROHPC-JU-2023-SME-01 "Supporting the competitiveness and innovation potential of SMEs".
- Commenced 1.5.2024; extended to 60 months duration to April 2029
- Coordinator HLRS
- Other Partners:

ARCTUR CESGA CINECA CYFRONET scapos Teratec

Please have a look at https://www.ffplus-project.eu/

EC “Factories of the Future” (FoF) public-private partnership

Technologies for FoF: FP7 & Horizon 2020

2008 Financial crisis





2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2029

Fortissimo





Fortissimo 2

FF4EuroHPC

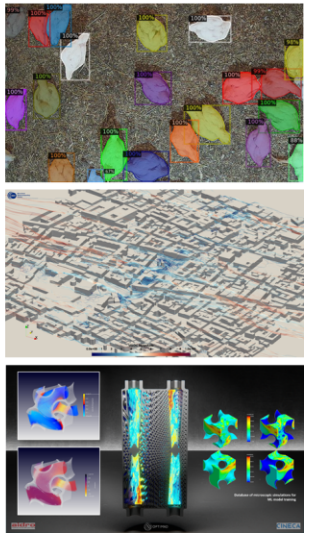


The Fortissimo Approach

- Execution of “experiments” with SMEs, delivering real business impact through use of HPC
- The bulk of project funding was used for these experiments and the highest quality, innovative SME-oriented experiments were acquired through the execution of **open calls for proposals**

FF, FF-2, FF4EuroHPC:

121 success stories were produced in collaboration with **310 partners** from **more than 20 European countries**.



https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/en/success-stories/

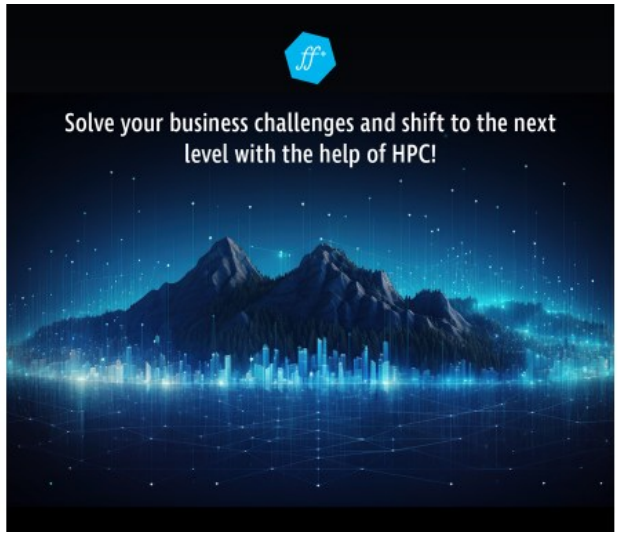
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Fortissimo

Fortissimo 2

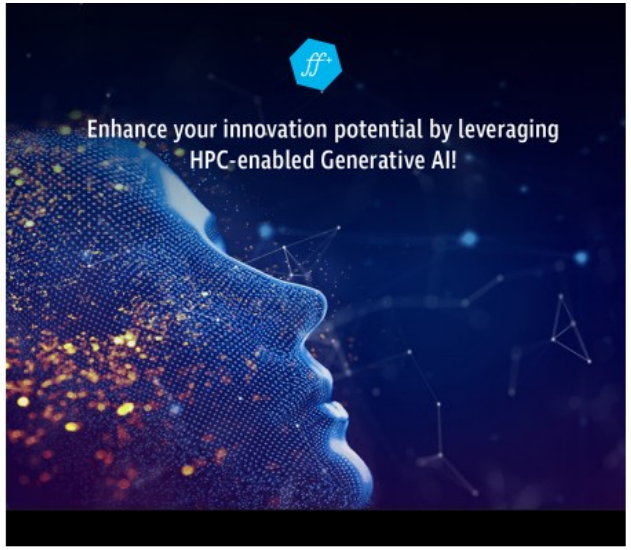
FF4EuroHPC

FFplus



Business experiments

will address the uptake of HPC by SMEs new to using HPC to solve specific business challenges



Innovation studies

will support European SMEs and Start-ups already active in the field of generative AI technology, which lack the necessary computational resources to scale up.

FFplus Objectives



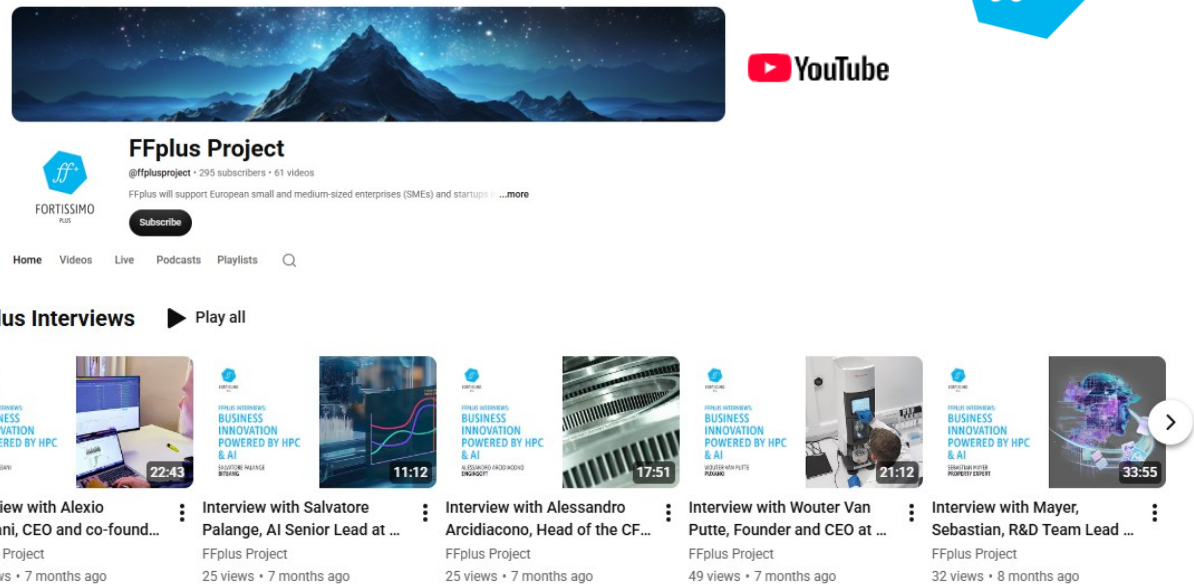
Empower SMEs and Start-Ups with advanced computational capabilities based on HPC, enabling them to **drive innovation**, enhance competitiveness, and overcome challenges in the digitalisation of R&D and business processes.

FFplus will **execute 6 open calls** (3 for business experiments, 3 for innovation studies) **with a funding budget of over 24 M€.**

FFplus Objectives – an alternative view

1. Promote the take-up of HPC by European SMEs by demonstrating the business impact through Success Stories
2. Support the participating SMEs to solve their business challenges and develop their business potential

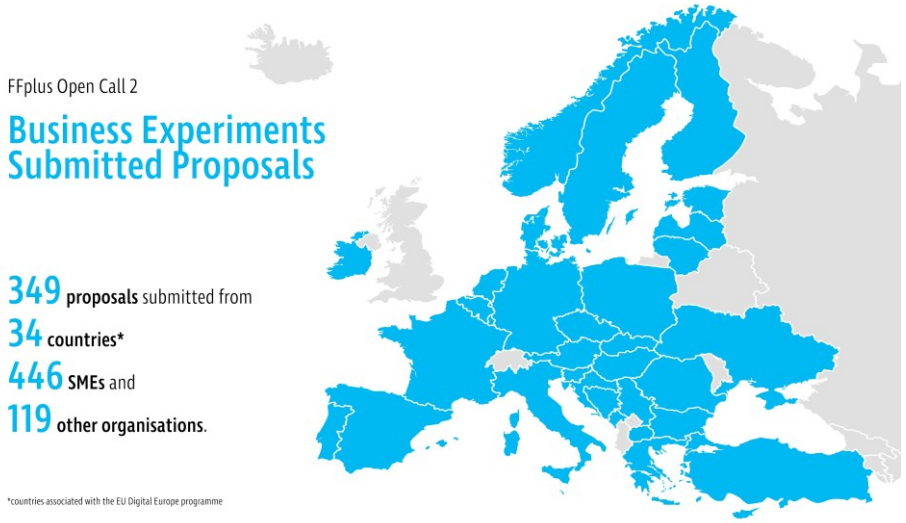
Item 1 provides the alignment with the larger context of EuroHPC JU impact on the EU business ecosystem





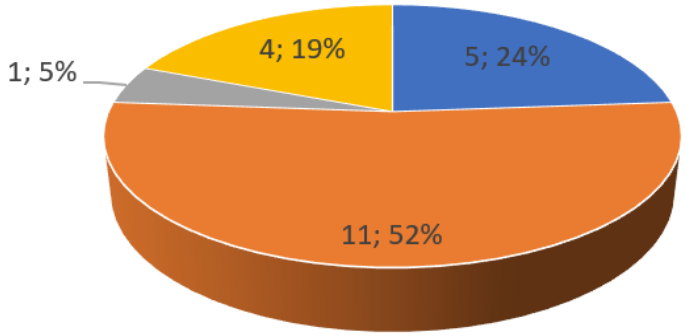


FFplus Open Call 2 – Business Experiments



21 Business Experiments started May 2026

Technologies used (selected proposals)



- LLM-based AI (no Engineering & Scientific Simulation)
- Non-LLM AI (no Engineering & Scientific Simulation)
- AI + Engineering & Scientific Simulation
- Pure Engineering & Scientific Simulation

- Approx. 80% AI-related
- Similar break-down for submitted proposals

Application Domains

Healthcare & Life Sciences	4	Construction & Built Environment	1
Manufacturing & Industrial Process Optimization	3	Finance & Insurance	1
Cybersecurity & Data Privacy	2	Software Development & DevTools	1
Environment & Sustainability	1	Media, Gaming & Entertainment	1
Energy & Utilities	1	Marine & Maritime	1
Education & Training	1	Materials, Chemicals & Advanced Materials	1
Agriculture & AgriTech	1	Public Administration & Government	1
Smart Cities & Urban Infrastructure	1		

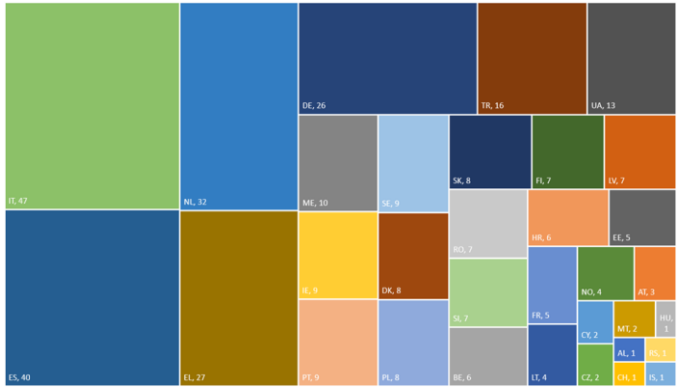
Call 3

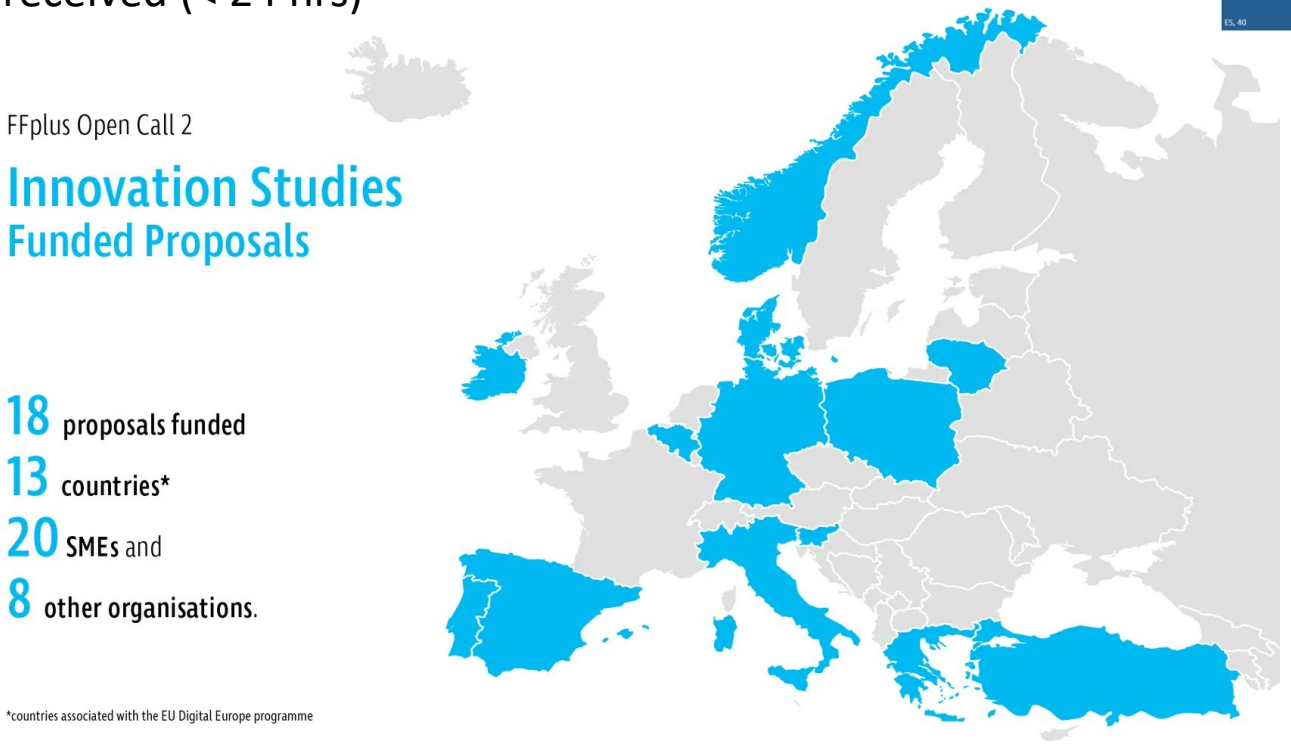
- Announcement November 5th 2026
- More Info on later slides

FFplus Open Call 2 – Innovation Studies

Staggered call announcement & proposal submission with the call closed after 250 proposals received (< 24 hrs)

250 proposals with participants from 33 countries





Tranche 2 Innovation Studies started Sept. 2026

Call 3 for Innovation Studies: open mid-2027



Business experiments

Apply to the Open Call!

FFplus Open Call-3 (Type-1)

Third call for business experiments addressing the uptake of HPC by SMEs

- Proposal submission will be possible commencing on January 14th, 2027 at 10:00 Brussels local time. The call will be closed when either 200 proposals have been received, or on January 20th, 2027 at 17:00 Brussels local time, whichever point in time is earlier.
- Expected duration of business experiments: 15 months, with targeted commencement August 1st, 2027
- The indicative total funding budget for all business experiments funded under this call is € 4M.

FFplus_Call-3-Type-1 - Objectives

- Proposals to address uptake of HPC by SMEs in order to solve specific business challenges of SMEs that have had no prior (business) use of, or experience with, HPC services.
- Demonstrate (to European SME ecosystem) that HPC uptake solves business challenges and leads to positive business impact through HPC-based computational methods (modelling and simulation, data analytics, AI, etc.) ➔ Key outputs are success stories
- Varied application domains – priority for highest business impact
- “Research-oriented” SMEs not in scope (defn in call text)
- Target for widening HPC user-base in Europe

HPC Computing Resources

- There is an expectation that FFplus sub-projects make use of the HPC resources provided under the EuroHPC JU access schemes, which services are provided free of charge. The use of nationally provisioned HPC resources is considered equivalent.
- Please refer to the EuroHPC JU website for regularly updated information about the various access calls, which are organised in the two areas “supercomputers access” and “AI Factories access”:
  https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/supercomputers/supercomputers-access-policy-and-faq_en
  https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/ai-factories/ai-factories-access-calls_en
  Depending on the type of methodologies foreseen to be used in the proposed business experiment, both access areas are relevant for FFplus sub-projects.
- The NCCs may be able to aid with the selection of appropriate resources and the application process.

FFplus Call-3-Type-1: Documentation & Proposal Submission

- Open Call area of the FFplus Website:

https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/open-call/business-experiments/

- Documents provided:
  - Call Announcement & Proposer‘s Guide
  - Proposal Templates
  - Proposal check-list
  - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
  - Funding Agreement template
- **Access to the proposal submission tool**

Still have questions about the call for business experiments?
ffplus-call3-t1@scapos.eu

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FFplus Tranche 1 Success Stories

A personal selection!

Today:
AI-related



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Damage Control for Rental Car Fleets

Tranche 1 Business Experiment

The Challenge

Replace manual processes for vehicle rental and fleet operations with fast, reliable, AI-based damage evaluation.

The Solution

A multimodal AI workflow platform that analyses vehicle images, text reports and voice descriptions – HPC-enabled AI training on thousands of annotated images

Main Participant SME:
TUBEIQ (Serbia)

Supporting Partners:
DunavNET (Serbia), AAA-1 RENT(Serbia)

Business Benefits

- Expands TUBEIQ's footprint into rental, fleet and insurance markets.
- Projected revenues exceed €500,000 in 3 years with profitability from Year 2.
- 30-40% faster damage-report processing for rental/fleet operators.
- 20-25% lower inspection/reporting costs per vehicle.
- Up to 30% fewer disputes via consistent, transparent reporting.



Real-time Energy Forecasting in Buildings

Tranche 1 Business Experiment

The Challenge

Realise predictive energy optimisation with 1-3 days energy forecasts (15-mins resolution) to handle dynamic tariffs, renewables and storage.

The Solution

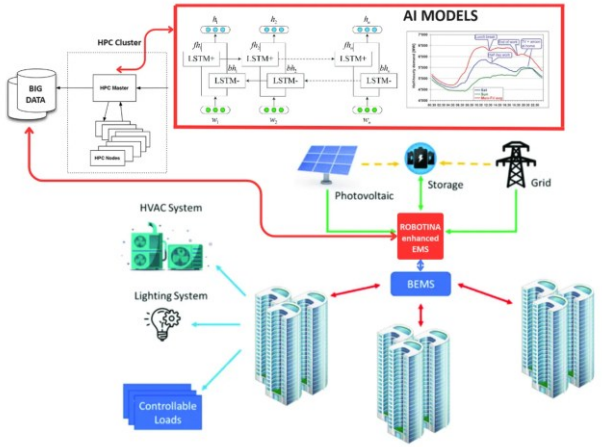
Extended xEMS product with forecasting workflow connecting the data pipeline and the VEGA supercomputer. AI training with building, weather, tariff and market data; optimized 15-minute prediction model & support for the xEMS edge devices.

Business Benefits

- Forecasting error cut from 47.88% to 10.49%.
- Model search & training reduce from about one week to under one day.
- Up to €800,000 annual revenue opportunity from new xEMS subscriptions.
- Customers can reduce energy costs by up to 10%.

Main Participant SME:
Robotina d.o.o. (Slovenia)

Supporting Partners:
Rudolfovo Science & Technology Centre (Slovenia), U. Ljubljana (Slovenia)





Precision Weed Detection for Sustainable Arable Farming

Tranche 1 Business Experiment

The Challenge

Reduce costs and environmental impact of herbicide spraying by a vision system able to deal with real-life scenarios.

The Solution

AI model trained on the Leonardo supercomputer. The edge deployment on the retrofit camera sensor system detects individual weeds in real time and activates the spray boom only where needed, at tractor speeds up to 15 km/h and without cloud connectivity.

Business Benefits

- 50% faster AI training on Leonardo, halving R&D time.
- 60% fewer prescription errors from large-scale multi-GPU training.
- Up to 90% less herbicide, saving farmers up to €70/ha per season.
- Spot spraying costs ~€5/ha, 6x lower than drone services.
- 50 paying customers in 4 countries; 700 units targeted in 5 years.

Main Participant SME:
PerPlant AsP (Denmark)

Supporting Partner:
D-Cube (Greece)



ClimateBlocks: Turning Climate Science into Instant Intelligence

Tranche 1 Innovation Study

The Challenge

Enable journalists to handle the rapid growth in Climate Science information, dispersed across > 500K papers, allowing the Newroom to enter the climate intelligence market.

The Solution

ClimateBlocks: an AI-powered platform that connects and interprets climate research papers through a transparent, sourcelinked knowledge graph. A system for practical, auditable newsroom use.

Business Benefits

- Built a proprietary knowledge graph of 500,000 climate papers with millions of structured links.
- Inference costs cut by 12–17 times.
- Enabled 150+ journalists to verify claims in seconds, improving reporting credibility.
- Secured European Journalism Centre partnership, accelerating market adoption.
- Created a scalable climate intelligence platform supporting new revenue streams.

Main Participant SME:
The Newsroom (Portugal)



A Specialized Generative AI model for the Banking Industry

Tranche 1 Innovation Study

The Challenge

Banks want to use generative AI to speed up software modernization and new features development, but they must protect sensitive customer data and meet GDPR, security and audit requirements.

The Solution

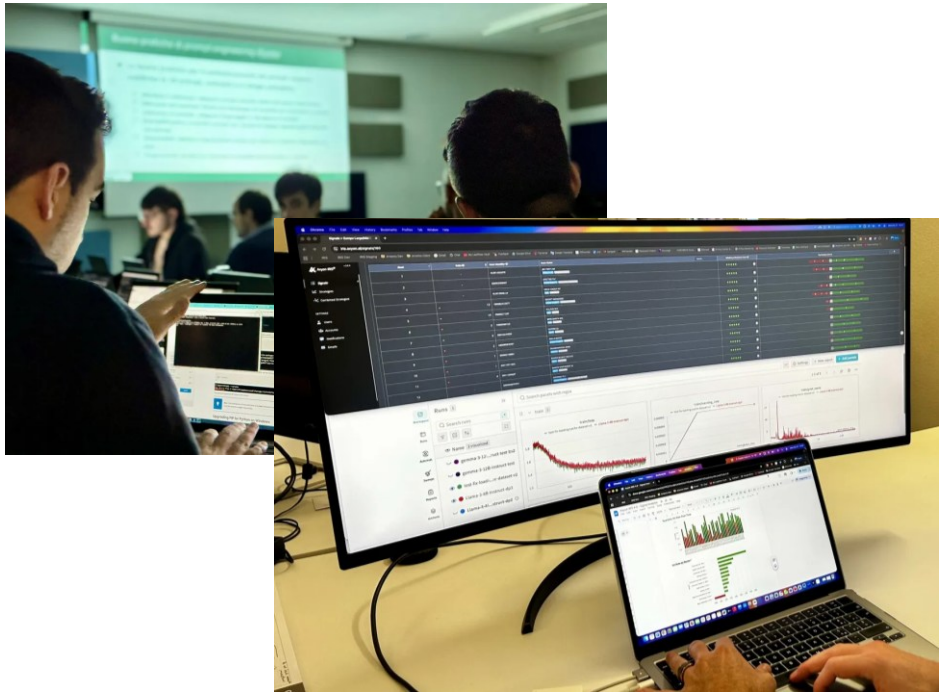
BankGPT, a banking-optimised open-weight model designed for secure internal deployment in banks; throughput- & memory-efficient HPC training. Implementation of full dataset traceability via versioned HuggingFace collections.

Business Benefits

- HPC enabled training of open-weight BankGPT variants up to 32B parameters.
- Repeatable qualification pathway for regulated institutions accelerates trusted adoption of sovereign AI.
- A banking Q&A benchmark validated by Credit Agricole experts.
- FairMind forecasts 3–5 pilots in year one (€180k–600k), scaling to 10–15 clients in year two (€600k–1.8m) and 20–30 clients in year three (€1.2m–3.6m)

Main Participant SME:
FairMind Srl (Italy)

Supporting Partner:
Credit Agricole Group Solutions (Italy)



Enhancing Public-Sector Decisions through AI

Tranche 1 Innovation Study

The Challenge

French local authorities publish millions of governance docs spread across thousands of websites. Their officers must analyse prior decisions before acting – efficiency gains are required to work with fragmented and distributed data.

The Solution

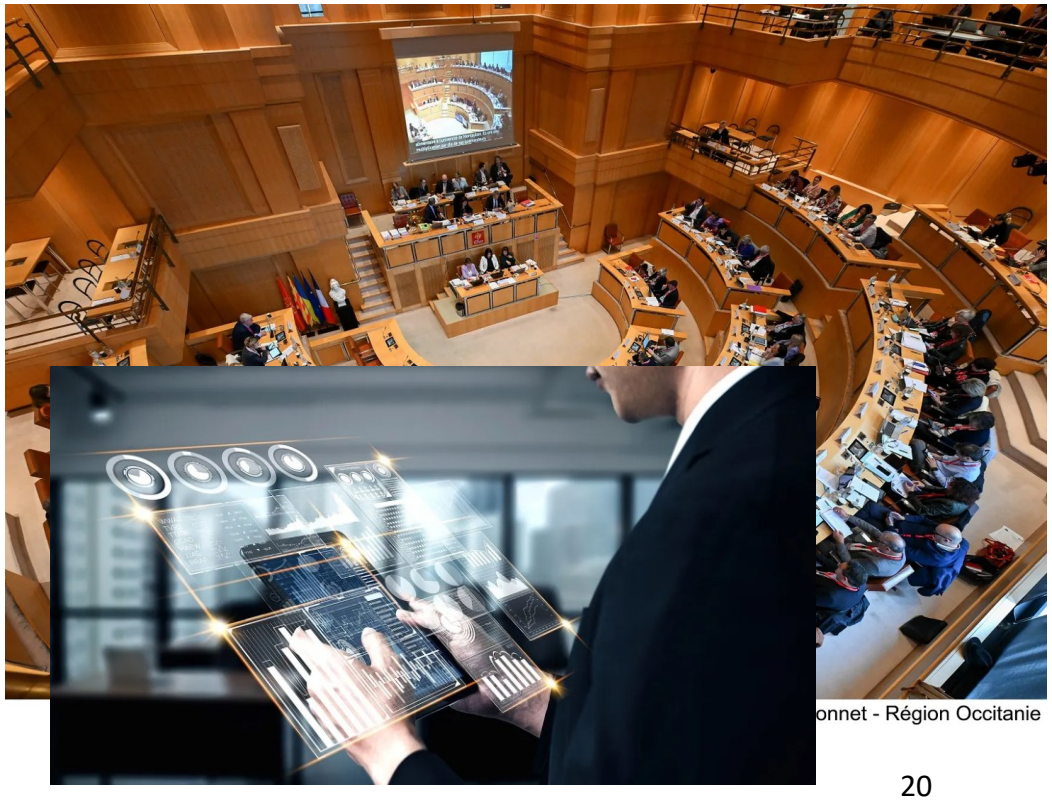
A long-context generative AI model specialised for public-sector documents. HPC Trained, the optimised model enables accurate retrieval, full on-premise deployment, and compliance with strict public-sector data sovereignty and security requirements (GDPR- and ISO 27001-aligned).

Business Benefits

- 2.3× faster inference, 4× smaller model footprint.
- High-accuracy retrieval across millions of administrative acts. Supports faster, evidence-based policymaking and more consistent governance across territories
- For Delibia: solution is expected to drive a 15– 20% increase in recurring revenue over two years; reusable methodology for other public-sector AI models; reinforced competitive position in sovereign AI.

Main Participant SME:
Delibia (France)

Supporting Partner:
The Occitaine Region (France), GENCI (France)



Generative Cranofacial Reconstruction for Forensic Identification

Tranche 1 Innovation Study

The Challenge

Cranio-facial reconstruction is needed to assist with the identification of human remains arising from disasters, conflicts & crime world-wide. Slow, subjective processes need to be replaced.

The Solution

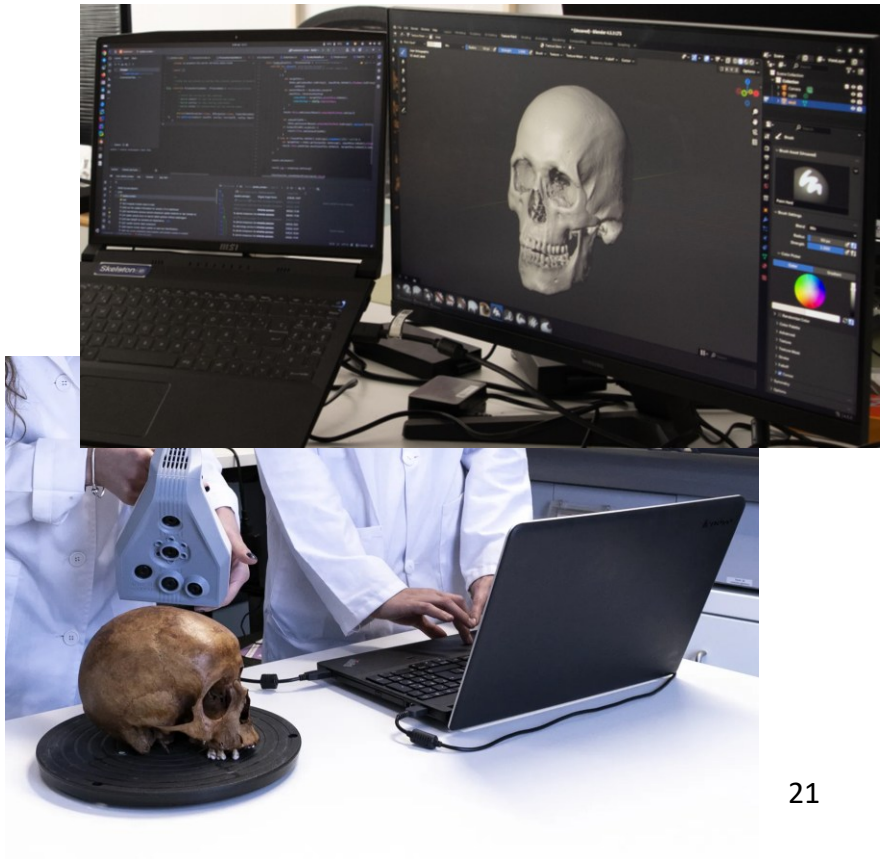
HPC-trained generative AI methods for automated cranofacial reconstruction. Generation of a full 3D facial reconstruction supported by evaluation and reliability tools for the forensic experts.

Business Benefits

- Facial reconstruction time reduced from weeks to seconds.
- Reachable market expanded from ~5% to nearly 80% of 10,000 global institutions.
- Scalable online, pay-per-use service enabled.
- Methods adopted in an €11M national project with the Spanish National Police.

Main Participant SME:
Panacea Cooperative Research (Spain)

Supporting Partner:
U. Granada (Spain), INRIA (France)

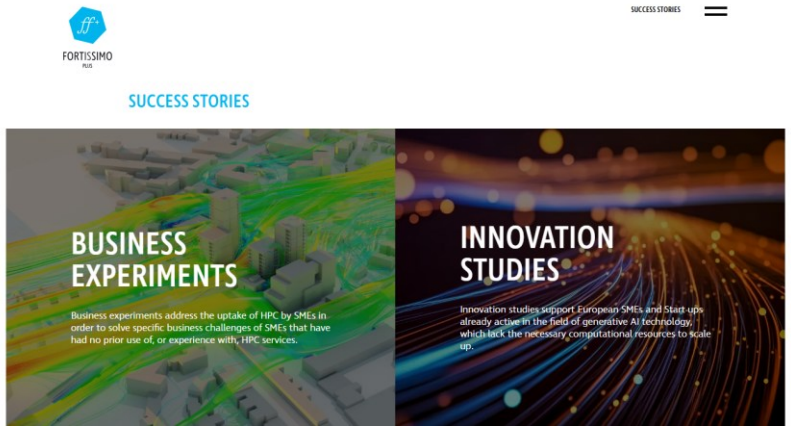


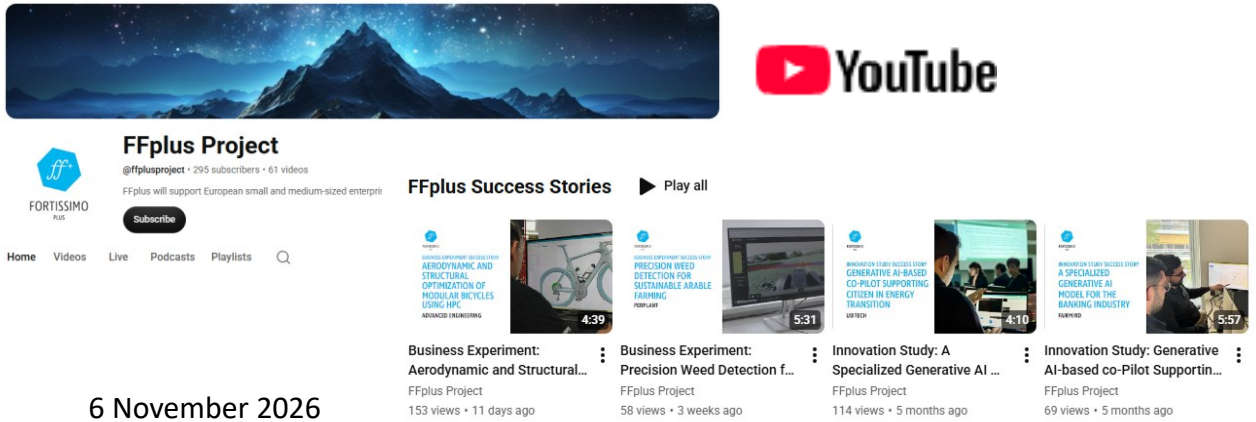
Interested to see more FFplus success stories ?





- The booklets: https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/multimedia/booklets/
- More Details: https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/success-stories/
- Videos: https://www.youtube.com/@ffplusproject





FORTISSIMO PLUS

FFplus - Supporting the competitiveness and innovation potential of SMEs

(By exploiting HPC!)

Funded by the European Union

EuroHPC Joint Undertaking

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