Annex I: Call Text Template

This Annex provides the indicative structure of the the call text, which can be adapted depending on project specificities and needs.

1. Project information	
Project name:	WEEE-NET9.SPEED
Lead Partner:	ZAG
RIS Task Partner Patron:	MONOLITHOS

2. Project description

E-waste is the fastest-growing waste stream in the EU and a valuable secondary source of CRM. The WEEE-NET9 project aims to exploit the untapped potential of East and Southeast Europe (ESEE) by addressing critical barriers such as redundant recycling technologies, lack of information and skilled workforce, and limited access to secondary raw materials markets. Project WEEE-NET9.SPEED works to:

1. Transfer advanced WEEE management and recycling technologies tailored to the needs of the RIS region, improving the treatment and recovery of valuable materials from e-waste.
2. Enhance collaboration between businesses, researchers, and decision-makers by organising networking and matchmaking events to foster innovation and business synergies.
3. Promote entrepreneurship by encouraging investment along the WEEE value chain, offering support services, and demonstrating the economic possibility of recycling ventures.
4. Improve policy frameworks by engaging with public authorities to boost e-waste collection systems and showcase financial gains for regional economies.
5. Spread circular economy principles, highlighting the role of the EIT RM KIC in providing innovation opportunities and sustainable solutions in RIS countries.

The WEEE-NET9.SPEED project's main objectives include transferring innovative WEEE recycling technologies to local recyclers, building strong networks for collaboration, and improving the overall policy environment to support investment in sustainable recycling practices in RIS countries. It also seeks to raise awareness of WEEE recycling as a key pillar of the circular economy, emphasising the role of the EIT RM KIC in fostering collaboration and driving innovation.

The recycling of Critical and Strategic Raw Materials such as Cu, Ni, Zn, Pd, Au, Ag and Sn from e-waste of PCBs has been achieved in the WEEE-NET9 project by combining pyrometallurgy with hydro-electrometallurgical technology and bioleaching technology. The metallic fraction - obtained

from PCBs (Printed Circuit Boards) and mobile phone recycling - is subjected to melting, producing a copper-based alloy that contains gold, silver, tin and zinc. The alloy is subjected to electrolytic refining - using simple sulfuric acid electrolyte - where noble metals are concentrated into the anode mud. Tin and zinc dissolve into the solution while copper continuously deposits at the cathode. The anode mud was used to recover gold and silver by simple leaching and precipitation steps; thus, gold and silver powder was obtained. The spent electrolyte is cemented with zinc powder to recover tin, whereas zinc is recovered by evaporating most of the tin-free solution. The solution is fully recyclable until the electrorefining stage. This method has been proven to recover Cu, Ag, Au, Sn, Ni, and Zn from the PCBs without producing inconvenient by-products.

Also, the results of bioleaching samples from PCBs and mobile phones and the usage of cultures of Acidithiobacillus ferrooxidans and Acidithiobacillus thiooxidans, efficiently extract from PCBs and mobile phones, the individual CRM, mostly Cu, Zn, Ni and other materials in different quantities (Co, Cr, Pd, Au, Ag). This method has been proven to rank among greener, environmentally friendly, technologically and economically acceptable technologies, in which the recycling process is slightly longer than other technologies. All innovative technologies demonstrated an effective technological process for the transition to the circular economy. The pyro- and hydrometallurgical route is already at TRL 6-7, and the bioleaching process is still at TRL 4-5.

Nevertheless, bioleaching has lower CO2 emissions by 80% compared to the pyrometallurgical methods, offering a sustainable option for recycling industries. In the bioleaching process, microorganisms are added to a bioleaching support medium, where they are in direct contact with e-waste in sterile conditions for optimal metal recovery. Potentially toxic substances released from e-waste can impede microbial growth, thus negatively impacting their metal recovery efficiency.

The results from bioleaching trials conducted under the WEEE-NET9 project will be scaled up from TRL 4-5 to TRL 7, bringing them closer to the market under WEEE-NET9.SPEED.

The proposed fast track project WEEE-NET9/SPEED will test bioleaching technology on PCBs (1st and 2nd grades) in different bioreactor capacities (volume 2l, 20 l, 100 l) at Monolithos (GR) in collaboration with ZAG (coordinator of the project and provider the bioleaching laboratory testing) to advance it from laboratory conditions to industrial application. This approach aligns with the goal of sustainable CRM supply for the EU market, addressing environmental, economic and social challenges.

Additionally, WEEE recycling engages stakeholders from diverse sectors from RIS countries, each playing a crucial role in collecting, processing, and managing e-waste. Through the sustained partnership from WEEE-NET9, effective collaboration and coordination among these stakeholders will be maintained as an essential part of establishing a sustainable and efficient WEEE recycling ecosystem, particularly in the commercial uptake of WEEE-NET9.

3. Expected role of RIS Task Partner

Under WP2 - COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION and WP9 - COLLABORATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, MARKET UPTAKE Taks partners tasks will cover:

- Organizing Workshops and Educational Programs: Plan, coordinate, and deliver targeted workshops (both online and hybrid) and educational programs aimed at professionals in RIS regions, with a focus on promoting expertise in CRM (Critical Raw Materials) recycling through bioleaching.
- Dissemination of Project Outcomes: Develop and implement a comprehensive dissemination strategy to share project results, best practices, and lessons learned with relevant stakeholders, including industry professionals, researchers, and policymakers.
- Capitalization of Knowledge: Facilitate knowledge transfer and promote the wider adoption of bioleaching technologies by ensuring that outputs from workshops and educational programs reach key audiences within the RIS regions.
- Collaboration with RIS HUBs: Work closely with local RIS HUBs to enhance outreach, engage regional stakeholders, and promote cross-border cooperation within the RIS community.
- Promotion of Project Activities: Manage communication channels (e.g., project website, newsletters, and social media) to ensure broad visibility and engagement with the project's goals and achievements.

The RIS Task Partner will be instrumental in fostering awareness, building capacity, and ensuring the long-term impact of the project's efforts in advancing CRM recycling through bioleaching within RIS regions.

4. Conditions for financial support

a. Maximum amount of financial support

YEAR	2025	xxxx	TOTAL
EIT Funding	23.000 €		23.000 €

b. Criteria for calculating the exact amount of the financial support

Financial support will be provided on the basis of actual costs incurred.

Cost category	Description	Evidence (non-exhaustive list)
Direct personnel	Actual personnel costs	Time sheets, payrolls, employment contracts, proofs

		on payment of salaries and social charges and taxes
Travel and subsistence	Travel, accommodation costs and applicable per diem in accordance with usual accounting principles of the RIS Task Partner related to participation in project related activities	Travel & Expense policy, receipts, proofs on payment
Other direct costs	Other costs incurred in relation to Task Partner activities in the project (e.g. purchase of material, services, depreciation of equipment)	Expense policy, receipts, proofs on payment
Indirect costs	25% of all direct costs above mentioned	N/A

c. Categories of persons / organisations that may receive financial support

General requirements

RIS Task parnters needs to be:

A. The KAVA Capacity building project WEEE-NET9.SPEED falls under the RIS category in the Business Plan for the Task Partner country.

B. The Task partner must come from a RIS-eligible country and more specifically from Greece or several strategic reasons. Firstly, having a Greek partner aligns with the RIS eligibility criteria, ensuring compliance with project requirements. Additionally, since **MONOLITHOS**, a key project partner, is also based in Greece, this geographical proximity will facilitate close collaboration, efficient coordination, and streamlined communication for dissemination activities. The shared location will enable the Task Partner to work directly with MONOLITHOS on organizing workshops, educational programs, and outreach events, ensuring consistent messaging and maximizing project impact. Furthermore, a Greek Task Partner will contribute to enhancing the project's visibility within the local and regional RIS ecosystem, leveraging existing networks and partnerships to broaden outreach and stakeholder engagement across the RIS community.

C. Kava falls under the RIS category and as stated in the Business Plan RIS Task partner needs conduct activities and have legal address in Greece.

D. Task Partner is able to contribute to and maximize the impact of a WEEE-NET9.SPEED project coordinated by ZAG.

E. The selected candidate shall provide the expertise in the raw materials sector as the **legal entity** with specific knowledge in **WEEE management**.

F. Credit will be given to RIS Task Partners contributing to local education and dissemination and communication activity.

G.

H. A RIS Task Partner is coming from the Knowledge Triangle and/or strengthening the Knowledge Triangle Integration approach of EIT RawMaterials. In particular the Task Partner should be one of the following:
   - Industry representative / company WEEE industrial value chains
   - Other stakeholder contributing to raw materials sector.

d. Criteria for giving financial support and selection process

Technical requirements

In addition to general requirements above, the candidate Task Partner must provide evidence of expertise in one or more of the following fields:

i. **Previous Experience in Communication and Dissemination**: The candidate Task Partner must demonstrate expertise in managing communication and dissemination activities, addressing to both niche and wider audiences to enusre effective outreach and stakeholder engagement.
ii. **Strong Evidence of Past Activities**: The candidate must provide documented proof of previous communication and dissemination efforts, including organizing workshops, managing digital campaigns, publications, stakeholder engagement, and knowledge transfer initiatives.
iii. **Experience in the Circular Economy/Recycling Projects**: The Task Partner should have prior involvement in communication and dissemination for EU funded projects specifically related to e-waste recycling, with a focus on circular economy and CRM (Critical Raw Materials) recovery.

The evaluation process will take place by appointing one (or three) reviewer(s) that will evaluate the candidate Task Partners' applications, rank them and select two Task partners that can contribute to the outcomes of the project the most.

Selection process

In case there are several organisations or persons that qualify for the Tasks to be implemented, the selection will be based on the following:

- For each Type of Activity a rating between 1 (poorly meeting the criteria) and 3 (criteria met by 100%) will be given;
- Based on the sum of the individual ratings a ranking of organisations will be established;

- For establishing the consortium the partner ranked 1st will be approached, in case this potential partners refuses to become a partner the 2nd ranked potential partner etc. will be contacted.
- In line with the HE AMGA[1] definitions, the final evaluation is based in accordance with the following pre-defined award criteria: (a) Excellence (b) Impact (c) Quality and efficiency of the implementation and (d) KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration and, for multibeneficiary projects, (e) EU dimension (consortia witha pan-European character involving at least two independent entities from two different eligible countries).
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The general requirements are exclusive, which means that failing to fulfil these requirements renders the candidate Task Partner applicant non-eligible, so no further evaluation of technical capabilities will be reviewed.
The eligible candidate Task Partners's applications will be reviewed for their technical requirements against the WEEE-NET9.SPEED project – related specific expertise, knowledge and capabilities ranked in three classes each providing a specific percent of the final evaluation mark:

1. the most specific capabilities and expertise will be awarded with 60% of the final mark;
2. the medium specific capabilities and expertise will be awarded with 30% of the final mark;
3. the least specific capabilities and expertise will be awarded with 10% of the final mark.

The **most specific** capabilities and expertise of the candidate Task Partner will provide up to 10 points for proven expertise related to each line:

Experience in the Circular Economy/Recycling Projects Experience in E-Waste Recycling Projects: The Task Partner should have previous experience in communication and dissemination activities for projects focused on e-waste recycling, particularly those emphasizing circular economy principles and the recovery of Critical Raw Materials (CRM).

The total points will be pondered with 60%.

The **medium specific** capabilities and expertise of the candidate Task Partner will provide up to 10 points for proven expertise related to each line:

Demonstrated Evidence of Previous Activities: The candidate must present documented proof of past communication and dissemination efforts, such as organizing workshops, executing digital campaigns, publishing materials, engaging stakeholders, and facilitating knowledge transfer initiatives.
The total points will be pondered with 30%.

The **least specific** capabilities and expertise of the candidate Task Partner will provide up to 10 points for proven expertise related to each line:

[1] Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement, page 184.

Prior Experience in Communication and Dissemination: The candidate Task Partner must showcase expertise in managing communication and dissemination activities, targeting both specialized and broader audiences to ensure effective outreach and stakeholder engagement.

The total points will be pondered with 10%.

The total points for each candidate Task Partner will be calculated as
total points = most specific criteria points x 60% + medium specific criteria points x 30% + least specific criteria points x 10%

The eligible candidates will be ranked according to the achieved total points and the highest two ranked candidates will be selected as Task Partners in the WEEE-NET9.SPEED project. In case a selected candidate later withdraws from candidacy, the next ranked candidate will be selected.

The maximum score in each criteria class is as follows:

- most specific 10
- medium specific 5
- least specific 10

Thus, the maximum total points sums to 25 points.
The pass threshold will be 50 % of the maximum score for A and B categories, C category does not have a pass threshold applied (applicant passess to the final evaluation even if he scores 0 at C).

Evaluation scale: In relation to each of the criteria above, each applicant will be scored from 0 to 5 according to the following scale:

0 Non-existent: no relevant information provided in the application file or cannot be judged because out of range
1 Very poor: The criterion is addressed in a very incomplete and unsatisfactory manner
2 Poor: There are serious inherent weaknesses in relation to the criterion in question
3 Fair: While the proposal addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correction
4 Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although some improvements are possible
5 Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor only.

Table 1: Scoring Grid

Criteria	Pass Threshold	Score ()		
Most specific criteria points (A)	5 (10 max)			
Medium specific (B)	2.5 (5 max)			

Least specific (C)	5 (10 max)			

Overall assessment of applicant based on the specific technical requirements addressing the HE AMGA[2] definitions :

Table 2: General assessment

Criteria	Pass Threshold	Score
Exellence (Criteria A final score)	50 % (5 points)	
Impact (Criteria B final score)	50 % (2.5 points)	
Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Criteria A + B final score)	50 % (7.5 points)	
KIC portfolio strategic fit and compliance with the financial sustainability principles and knowledge triangle integration (Criteria A + B + C final score)	50 % (12.5 points)	
TOTAL	50 % (27.5 points)	

The eligible candidates will be ranked according to the achieved total points and pass threshold will be 50 % for each criteria in general assessment and in total score. As the two task partner applications will be accepted, the evaluation process will involve the EU dimension (*consortia witha pan-European character involving at least two independent entities from two different eligible countries*). Therefore, the application with the highest scoring from Country A will be accepted and the second scored candidate will be approached. If this applicant will come also from the country A, the third ranked applicatnt will be aprocahed...etc, until the applicant from Country B will be ranked, aligining with the pass threshold criteria 50 %.

The two applicants selected as Task Partners in the WEEE-NET9.SPEED project will sign a Subgrainting agreement with the Patron (ZAG) with definition of rules and procedures and obligations in terms of the WEEE-NET9.SPEED.

Complaints

After the decision on the award of a financial support, the deadline for filing an appeal request is five (5) working days from the publication or announcement of the decision on the selection of the applicant. The appeal request must be sent to the following email address:

[2] Horizon Europe Annotated Model Grant Agreement, page 184.

yakoumis@monolithos-catalysts.gr

To be admissible, an appeal must:

- contain the name and address of the applicant and contact person,
- relate to a specific proposal
- be received within 5 working days after the publication or announcement of the decision
- be submitted in writing and submitted to the above email address
- state the alleged violations, the reasons for the appeal, which must be properly explained and supported by appropriate evidence.

The appeal will be considered by a specially established three-member commission, which will consider the appeal and decide on it within ten (10) working days. The decision of the expert commission is final.

Application Form

All applications must be submitted to this email address: yakoumis@monolithos-catalysts.gr

Submission of application / contact details for more information

The application must be submitted to this email address: yakoumis@monolithos-catalysts.gr

by April 25th, at 23.59 CET.

The following persons can assist you in case of questions:
Name: Iakovos Yakoumis
Phone number: +302106450106
Email address: yakoumis@monolithos-catalysts.gr

