

A Project by



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I-Tech Innovation Program 2022

**Call for Plug In
Industry 4.0, Big Data processing-HCP
& Applied Artificial Intelligence**



In partnership with





Call for Plug In Industry 4.0, Big Data processing-HCP & Applied Artificial Intelligence

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1. I-Tech Innovation Program 2022 | Framework, Values & Objective

Fondazione Golinelli and CRIF teamed up to launch the first edition of I-Tech Innovation 2021, a programme that has made available over €1.6 million in investments aimed at innovative start-ups in the Life Science & Digital Health, FinTech & InsurTech and FoodTech & AgriTech sectors.

CRIF is a global company specialising in credit and business information systems, outsourcing and processing services as well as credit solutions; in 2019 it completed its coverage as AISP in 31 European countries where the PSD2 directive is applied and is included in the prestigious IDC FinTech Rankings Top 100.

Fondazione Golinelli is a philanthropic holding company that has created a unique chain bringing together education, training, research, technology transfer, acceleration, incubation, open innovation and venture capital to valorise the projects of the younger generations.

These two realities, apparently different from one another, are in fact complementary in terms of competence. Fully in tune with the strategic partnership they undersigned, they have decided to launch a multi-year programme of joint projects to support the fragile yet strategic space that has always divided the world of research from that of enterprise.

Specifically, the aim of I-Tech Innovation is to encourage the creation of a new, highly innovative high-tech entrepreneurship by investing in Italian sectors of excellence, while in the long term, to contribute to narrowing Italy's serious technological gap.

The first edition of the programme foresaw three separate 'Calls for Innovation' dedicated to three strategic sectors on a national level. Seven start-ups were selected from the over 250 proposals received, on which equity investments were made. The Acceleration Programme came to an end last December, of which the operational implementation was entrusted to G-Factor Srl.

In connection with the programme promoted by CRIF and the Golinelli Foundation, and again with the support of G-Factor, a national community of reference called StartHub was also recently set up (launched in December 2021) for all the start-ups (more than 150 contacts have been made to date) that participated in the programme, in addition to those subsequently selected for the Acceleration Programme.

CRIF and Fondazione Golinelli are the original promoters of the programme and have designed this second edition by extending the partnership to other companies/institutions that have shown interest in joining the initiative and participating in it with different roles.

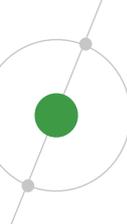
On these premises, CRIF and Fondazione Golinelli jointly launch the **I-Tech Innovation 2022** programme.

The first part of the project still consists of three interrelated Calls for Innovation in three different sectors: **Life Science & Digital Health, FinTech & InsurTech, AgriTech & FoodTech.**

These three main areas are joined in this new edition of the programme by two new 'experimental' ones: **Industry 4.0, Big Data Processing & Applied Artificial Intelligence**, created in partnership with the Bi-Rex Competence Center, and **Social Impact**, created in partnership with Emil Banca and the ICCREA group.

The Bi-Rex Competence Center together is also a technical partner for the Life Science & Digital Health area. Emil Banca and the ICCREA Group are also technical partners for the FinTech & InsurTech area together with BPER Banca.

The five sectors (three plus the two new experimental ones) are considered particularly



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strategic at a national and international level, and represent areas of activity and elective interest of CRIF and Fondazione Golinelli as well as of the partners involved.

All start-ups participating in the programme will immediately have the chance to join the national start-up community called StartHub, devised by CRIF and Fondazione Golinelli, designed and launched in December 2021.

G-Factor Srl has been entrusted with the task of managing and coordinating the operational activities of all five calls: from promotion to selection to the Acceleration Programme, which is mandatory for the selected start-ups.

The main venue for the Acceleration Programme will be BOOM, CRIF's new innovation hub, which will open in Bologna in autumn 2022. In addition to BOOM, part of the activities will also take place at Opificio Golinelli, the G-Factor headquarters, and the pilot line of the Bi-Rex Competence Center.

2. G-Factor

G-Factor Srl, four years after its establishment, has become a national reference point for the acceleration of start-ups in the Life Science sector, and with the I-Tech Innovation 2022 programme, it will consolidate its position in this sector, while at the same time – thanks to the partnership with Fondazione Golinelli and CRIF – opening up to other sectors in the implementation of its development plan.

G-Factor is an ecosystem that transforms the high potential for innovation and technology of young people and scientists into entrepreneurial realities capable of successfully establishing themselves on the market, creating replicable and scalable models. It is a response to the need to increasingly favour the possibilities of integration between research, industry and the market, focusing on young people, their business ideas, scientific research and their ability to produce innovation and new technology.

The experimental approach adopted at G-Factor for the acceleration to the market of the selected companies is based on investments made with both capital and skills, with a patient approach, in keeping with the logic of science and the market, in the belief that the mix of finance and training is decisive for the success and growth of the most innovative entrepreneurial realities. All the paths for increasing skills and experience are highly customised to meet the needs of the teams.



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3. BOOM

BOOM is CRIF's new innovation hub that will open in autumn 2022. BOOM will be aimed at students of all levels of education, entrepreneurs, start-uppers, non-profit organisations and all those who wish to explore highly topical issues through school labs, acceleration programmes, TED Talks, design thinking projects, virtual reality and all the new tools created by the acceleration of digital transformation. In particular, BOOM has been designed to offer various types of services, diversified according to the target audience and, among these, the 'BOOM INNOVATION EXPERIENCE' path, which is addressed to companies, research institutions, start-ups, individuals and organisations alike.

Fondazione Golinelli is CRIF's main partner for the design of BOOM's content, and will also be the reference partner for the management and provision of all educational and training activities for schools and citizens, as well as for the design and implementation of initiatives aimed at supporting the growth of start-ups and new entrepreneurial realities, through acceleration programmes and other initiatives to stimulate innovation.

4. Competence Center Bi-Rex

BI-REX is one of the eight national competence centres set up by the Ministry of Economic Development as part of the government's Industry 4.0 plan: a high skill hub revolving around 4.0-enabling technologies, with a special focus on Big Data.

It is a key point of aggregation for issues related to digital transformation and technological innovation: a public-private consortium, established in 2018 and based in Bologna, which brings together a partnership of 56 players, including universities, research centres and firms of excellence to assist companies – especially SMEs – through a diverse range of services.

BI-REX mainly operates along four axes, offering services of: consultancy, also with 'Test before Invest' activities; Training; Networking; and Access to Finance. BI-REX has a unique pilot line on the national territory, within which new Industry 4.0 technologies are integrated with traditional ones, in a digitally interconnected environment. The consortium is a technology transfer organisation that drives innovation and research projects applied to industry. The highly technological and innovative nature of BI-REX provides start-ups with fertile ground on which to rapidly develop and try out their solutions, thanks to the presence of a pilot line equipped with Industry 4.0-enabling technologies.



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5. Call for Plug In - Industry 4.0, Big Data processing-HCP & Applied Artificial Intelligence

5.1 Why?

CRIF, in partnership with Fondazione Golinelli, G-Factor and the Bi-Rex Competence Center intend to accompany the ideas of young people, scientists and start-ups to the market, with the support of experts and investors right from the early stages of development, and for this reason they are promoting the experimental **Call for Plug In** titled **Industry 4.0, Big Data processing-HPC & Applied Artificial Intelligence**, for innovative projects and new businesses, dedicated to those who think they have a winning idea in this sector.

5.2 How much?

The resources available are as follows:

- up to a maximum of €40,000 in kind (€20,000 up to two start-ups) for participation in the Acceleration Programme, G-Force 'light' version, created by G-Factor;
- facilities and services offered by promoters and by the partner Bi-Rex.

5.3 What?

The areas and sectors of interest are related to the development of high-tech solutions to address the environmental impact issues of Industry 4.0.

Possible areas of application:

- 1. Circular and eco-sustainable design:** start-ups with expertise in sustainable design to support the conversion to a circular economy and the sustainable use of environmental resources.
- 2. Sustainable manufacturing:** the integration of systems and processes to produce high quality products through the use of sustainable resources that are safer for customers, employees and the community; i.e. the development of new materials, sustainable production solutions, sustainable remanufacturing and sourcing, zero-waste packaging, zero-waste products.
- 3. AI, Big Data Analytics & Sustainability:** solutions for data acquisition, aggregation, integration, and the development of algorithms and predictive models related to manufacturing sustainability; solutions for data quality management related to sustainable production.
- 4. Edge & Cloud Computing-HPC & Manufacturing:** cloud computing solutions in software as a service; infrastructure as a service (i.e. network or virtual CPUs); platform as a service (i.e. virtual machines or operating systems), to support the creation of business models where resources and production capabilities can be shared on cloud platforms, in a sustainable way.
- 5. Digital Twinning:** development of digital twins of machines and production lines to enable virtual commissioning, reduce time to market in the product design phase, enable predictive maintenance solutions, manage material flows and warehouses, test logistic solutions at the plant level.



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- 6. Industrial IOTs and 5G Technology:** data collection from machines, devices, sensors with connectivity infrastructure for the industrial environment. Management of heterogeneous communication protocols (proprietary and open), database management for monitoring and graphical visualisation. Wireless industrial connectivity solutions such as 5G technology or other protocols (e.g. Wi-Fi 6).
- 7. Smart products:** products that allow data to be produced and exploited in descriptive, predictive and prescriptive models, enabling digital business models that enable automation and servitisation.

5.4 Who?

Eligibility requirements are:

Target candidates: spin-offs and / or start-ups and / or teams of graduates, PhD students and / or researchers.

Entrepreneurial projects: the projects must propose highly innovative solutions for which a product /solution / technological service exists at a minimum level of TRL (6). It is also useful to be able to demonstrate a degree of maturity and solidity of the underlying technology, and where applicable or foreseen, dispose of some form of IP protection.

Resources: selected teams will have access to a 'light' version of the innovative acceleration programme for young entrepreneurs, tailor-made for experts with a high technical-scientific profile, which will allow the teams to grow in both entrepreneurial and scientific terms. The programme lasts for a total of four months; it includes an initial phase of intensive activities lasting about two months, with the aim of accompanying the teams to introduce themselves to potential industrial partners; this initial phase is followed by a period of a further two months of mentoring and remote follow-ups, dedicated to meetings tailored to the needs of the specific start-up and with a view to accompanying the teams towards a greater degree of development of their products / services and present themselves to potential investors with a view to embarking on successive stages of growth and development.

The start-ups identified with this **Call for Plug In** will participate in a selected individual sub-programme of the overall activities foreseen by the G-Force Acceleration Programme: a specific personalised calendar of one-to-one meetings, events and initiatives with the participation of selected teachers and mentors will be identified for each individual start-up; customised support will be offered to the start-ups in the design/implementation of their business idea, and meetings with experts on the topics of greatest interest to the start-ups will be encouraged. In order to bring the start-ups to a greater technological and market maturity of their products / services, Bi-Rex will provide the use of part of its technological assets (pilot line, 5G, edge computing capacity, etc...) and the skills of BI-REX staff for the acceleration period. At the end of the acceleration programme, selected companies will have the opportunity to continue using BI-REX services at subsidised prices. The organisation of initiatives extended to strategic interlocutors is foreseen, such as investors and potential customers for the validation and fine-tuning of market solutions.



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Managers:

- General referent for the I-Tech Innovation Programme 2022 – Call Industry 4.0 2022 and for the Competence Bi-Rex is Dr Stefano Cattorini in the role of General Secretary of the Consortium.
- General manager of the I-Tech Innovation Programme 2022 on behalf of Fondazione Golinelli is Antonio Danieli, in the role of General Director and Board Member.
- General manager of the I-Tech Innovation Programme 2022 on behalf of CRIF is Dr Loretta Chiusoli, in the role of Corporate HR & Organizational Processes Senior Director of CRIF.

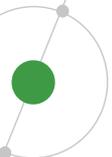
5.5 Where?

The residential activities will take place mainly in the new BOOM innovation centre, promoted by CRIF, located in Ozzano near Bologna, and in Opificio Golinelli, dedicated to emerging entrepreneurial realities, located in Bologna (Italy), Via Paolo Nanni Costa 20, where the Bi-Rex Competence Center is based along with its workshops and the pilot line.

5.6 When?

The schedule of the call and of the acceleration and incubation programmes will be divided into the following phases and timelines:

- **23 March 2022:** publication of the call
- **19 June 2022:** deadline for the presentation of applications
- **15 September 2022:** communication to the two teams selected
- **10 October 2022:** start of the G-Force programme and publication of the chosen teams
- **15 December 2022:** DEMO DAY
- **9 March 2023:** INVESTOR DAY



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6. Application process - Terms and Conditions

Applications may be submitted from 12 pm (noon), 23 March 2022 until 12 am (midnight), 19 June 2022.

6.1 Application form - How to apply

The application form is available from the following link <https://gust.com/accelerators/g-factor>. All documents must be submitted in Italian for Italian candidates and in English for foreign candidates.

For further information on the call for applications, the rules for participation and selection procedures, please contact info@g-factor.it.

For any technical or computer problems, please contact <https://gust.helpscoutdocs.com>.

To complete your application, you will need to upload the following documents to the platform, in line with the formats stated:

- Curriculum vitae of the team members
- Any publications relevant to the project proposal
- Patents or other protection programmes on intellectual property
- Pitch deck of the entrepreneurial project, in line with the format available online
- Video lasting a maximum of three minutes presenting the elevator pitch
- Any prototypes or technological demonstrators
- Any other documents useful for assessment purposes

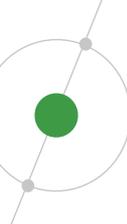
Participation is free of charge and does not entail any constraints or commitments of any kind other than those laid out in this document. By submitting their application and documents for participation in the selection process, participants declare that the information provided is true and that any decision made by the Evaluation Committee will be accepted unconditionally. The Commission reserves the right to request additional documentation, should it be deemed appropriate.

6.2 Communication with Start-ups

The selected start-ups or groups will be contacted to communicate the results and to agree on the logistical and technical aspects of participation.

6.3 Non-Admissible Applications

Any application received after 19 June 2022 and any incomplete applications will be considered ineligible and will not be taken into account in the assessment and selection process.



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7. Selection Criteria

The general selection criteria of applications are:

- assessment of degree of innovativeness, originality and scalability of the solution or business idea;
- assessment of effective knowledge of the need to which the solution responds;
- assessment of the team in terms of scientific, technical, managerial, multidisciplinary and solidity skills, and evaluation of the presence of business figures;
- assessment of the potential market and competitors;
- economic and financial sustainability;
- assessment of the soundness of the intellectual property or patentability of the invention;
- degree of maturity of the technology according to the TRL or stage of development in the case of biotech projects;
- assessment of industrial or economic partnerships, if any;
- assessment of the completeness of the contents of the pitch deck;
- assessment of the communicative effectiveness of the video pitch;
- assessment of ability to dialogue during direct confrontation;
- in the case of equal merit, the gender balance within the team will be deemed a distinctive element.

8. Selection Process

The evaluation of applications, according to the selection criteria stated above, will be entrusted to a Commission, appointed by Fondazione Golinelli and CRIF and coordinated by G-Factor, made up of leading figures in the field of innovation, research and business, national institutions and representatives of the medical-scientific sector. The selection process is divided into three phases: the screening phase, analysis phase and the interview phase. The selection phase is due to end on 15 September 2022.

9. Final Ranking

The teams selected to participate in the Acceleration Programme will be contacted on 15 September, while the final list of projects selected for investment and access to the G-Force 2022 Acceleration Programme will be announced on 10 October 2022 from 12 pm (noon) onwards, and subsequently published on www.fondazionegolinelli.it/area-impresa/g-factor.

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10. G-Force Program

The G-Force Programme is an innovative pathway created by G-Factor for the entrepreneurship training of young researchers and experts with a high technical-scientific profile. The programme provides residential and non-residential activities, logistic services, business services, conventions and facilities, matching and recruiting, including:

Summary of Services Offered

- Soft due diligence for the customisation of the G-Force Programme and definition of shared milestones
- Definition of a dashboard (customised KPIs) and project review for the whole period of the acceleration programme
- Workstation at BOOM and/or G-Factor and related services
- Coaching, Mentoring and Tutoring
- High-level talks
- Transversal services (legal, marketing, IP, resource selection, etc.)
- Meet your CEO or Meet your Co-Founder
- Demo Day with entrepreneurs, industry experts, corporations, potential partners
- Investor Day with venture capitalists, business angels, industry and institutional partners
- Possibility of access to well-equipped laboratories, in agreement with partner universities and research centres
- Recruiting young talents
- Number of projects supported: up to a maximum of two
- Value of services provided: €20,000 per project
- Duration: two months intensive + two months follow-up
- Services provided to start-ups by Bi-Rex:
 - Access to / use of the pilot line and / or the data deriving from it
 - Access to software licences on the pilot line and the BI-REX workstations
 - Specific technical consulting of BI-REX staff in the field of industry 4.0
 - Matchmaking service with consortium member companies
- Access to post-acceleration pathways: 12 months of participation in the StartHub community promoted by CRIF and FG, with access to events and exclusive services, partly free of charge and partly for a fee. Those offered by G-Factor include:
 1. support and assistance for planning at a European (e.g. EIC), national (e.g. Brevetti+, Smart&Start, Invitalia, etc.) and local (e.g. regional calls) level;
 2. support and assistance in the granting of subsidised financial loans from leading credit institutions, with a partial guarantee from G-Factor;
 3. support for the construction of projects to be presented as part of a possible BI-REX call.



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*In general, facilitated access conditions and discounts are envisaged, depending on the specific case, for participation in events and services subject to payment, and priority booking guarantees for both free and paid events.

11. Personal Data Processing

When submitting their application, applicants must mandatorily authorise CRIF, Fondazione Golinelli and G-Factor Srl to process their personal data for the purposes laid out in the specific privacy statement prepared in accordance with EU Regulation 679/2016 (so-called GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation). At every stage of this edition and also after its conclusion, all those involved shall guarantee the confidentiality of information relating to the ideas and projects submitted and with regard to all information classed as 'confidential' which they come across during this period, signing a specific non-disclosure agreement at the time of submitting their application.

12. Discharge of Responsibility

The promoters of this initiative, CRIF and Fondazione Golinelli, and the implementer G-Factor Srl assume no responsibility for technical, hardware or software malfunctions, interruptions of network connections, failed, incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, illegible, damaged, lost, delayed, misdirected or intercepted user registrations or for participant registrations that, for any reason, are not received, electronic or other communications that are delayed or for other technical problems related to the registration and upload of content within the scope of this initiative. Furthermore, the promoters of this call also decline any responsibility for the information specified by start-ups and/or teams in the application form. Participation in the programmes does not entitle a start-up or team to advertise itself as a partner of any of the event promoters or use the promoters' names to publicise its technology or activity. Eligible start-ups or teams may only advertise their participation in the G-Force programmes.