



**Innovation call worth up to €200,000 (EU de minimis rule)**

**The Global Entrepreneurship Centre promotes startup innovations for mobility, transport and sustainable economic transformation**

**Meerbusch, 7 August 2023** – *The Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) in Meerbusch/ Düsseldorf, an innovation hub and impact investor, is launching into autumn with a new call for deep-tech startups. It is providing support for sustainable technologies with a technology maturity level of 5 or higher, e.g. for overcoming the consequences of the climate crisis and environmental damage, and for promoting the circular economy. Startups that are successful in the innovation competition will receive one of 15 coveted places on the GEC Catalyst Programme at the internationally active centre. Startups from all over the world that have the potential to tackle global sustainability challenges are eligible for funding.*

For the first time, the GEC is now also looking for technology startups that address the most pressing sustainability challenges within the mobility and transport sector. The focus is on green & clean deep-tech solutions to support the transport and energy transition, including technologies to promote autonomous public transport networks and low-emission hydrogen transport solutions. The European Green Deal calls for a 90% reduction in transport-related greenhouse gas emissions to make the EU a carbon-neutral economy by 2050, while aiming for a pollution-free future. To support the European Commission's wished-for transition in mobility systems, the GEC is on the look-out for promising deep-tech startups. The submissions will undergo a sustainability assessment by the Global Entrepreneurship Centre's Impact Assessment Team and will be discussed with technology experts from technical universities, Deloitte's automotive division and other expert partners from industry and trade associations.

Startups from the four sectors already established in the GEC – Building & Living, Textiles, Energy and Food & Agritech – can also participate in the call for submissions. Applications will be accepted from 7 August to 27 August 2023 at [www.gec-scaleup.com/call\\_for\\_solutions/](http://www.gec-scaleup.com/call_for_solutions/)

The five sectors at a glance:

**Mobility & Transport:** Solutions promoted under the heading Mobility & Transport include sustainable traffic and transport systems, the design of a multimodal trans-European transport network, highly automated mobility, and the shift to zero-emission freight transport.



**Building & Living:** The loss of biodiversity, scarcity of raw materials and resource and energy inefficiency are among the issues addressed in the Building & Living sector. Innovative, concrete solutions are sought for these challenges.

**Textiles:** The major problems confronting the textile industry result from hazardous and environmentally damaging production processes, unsustainable materials and the huge amounts of textile waste generated every year. Therefore, the solutions sought are above all in the areas of material innovation, processing procedures and technologies for a circular value chain.

**Energy:** By contrast, the current challenges in the energy sector are high greenhouse gas emissions, dependence on fossil fuels, security of supply and grid stability, and an increase in demand for certain minerals and metals.

**Food & Agritech:** In the area of agriculture and food, the focus is on the sustainable transformation of the entire supply chain. Problems to be addressed include high CO2 emissions, food-related health hazards and regional security of food supply.

The Global Entrepreneurship Centre's "GEC Call for Solutions" is a unique opportunity for sustech startups to access resources, networks and funding. The Global Entrepreneurship Centre supports entrepreneurs in scaling their business models and technologies. In the first step, the selected startups have the opportunity to prepare for their next investment round in a 12-week programme – the GEC Catalyst. Following the Catalyst programme, selected scale-ups are invited to participate in the GEC Scaling Factory for up to 18 months. Together with the experts of the Global Entrepreneurship Centre, scaling barriers are eliminated, and the further commercialisation of the technologies is advanced.

"We want to foster the spirit of innovation worldwide through the GEC Call for Solutions, addressing global challenges with creative and forward-looking approaches. We are convinced that the best ideas can come from anywhere, while also wanting to create a place in the Rhineland area where these ideas can flourish," says Friedrich Barth, CEO and founder, Global Entrepreneurship Centre.

The submission deadline for the GEC Call for Solutions is 27 August 2023. The startups that pass the Global Entrepreneurship Centre's rigorous selection process and sustainability assessment can be accepted into the GEC Catalyst Programme, which will launch in November. Further funding is possible in the Scaling Factory worth up to €200,000 (under the EU de minimis rule).

Applications can only be submitted via the GEC tender portal at [www.gec-scaleup.com/call\\_for\\_solutions/](http://www.gec-scaleup.com/call_for_solutions/)

## About the Global Entrepreneurship Centre

*The Global Entrepreneurship Centre (GEC) is an innovation hub and impact investor that supports deep-tech startups in scaling their business models to market maturity. It invests in national and international startups with a clear sustainability and climate protection focus. The selection process includes a stringent sustainability assessment conducted internally by the GEC. The GEC invests in up to 20 start-ups per year in the areas of Building & Living, Textiles, Mobility & Transport, Food & Agritech, and Energy. In addition to the goal of establishing themselves in the region, the scale-ups in the GEC ecosystem are prepared for the next round of investment. This is done in the GEC Scaling Factory programmes for business development, as well as through access to experts, sustainability training, lab capacity or the provision of production space. Approximately 45 to 60 startups are also selected annually to participate in the GEC Catalyst Programme. The Global Enterprise Centre is funded by the Rhein-Kreis Neuss and by the STARK programme to support transformation in the Rhenish mining area. It is based in Meerbusch / Düsseldorf.*

For more information, please visit our homepage at <https://www.gec-scaleup.com>

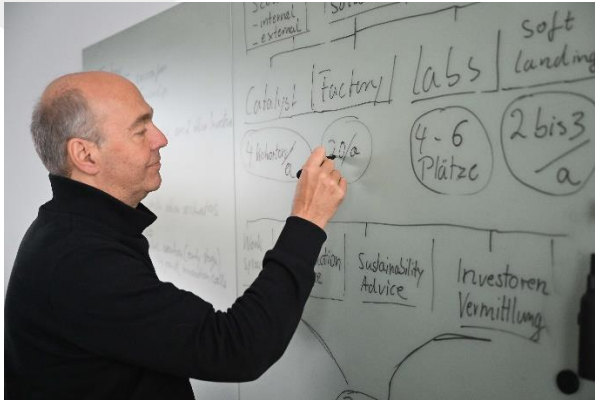
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Working together for sustainable impact: Promising sustech startups are taken to the next level at the Global Entrepreneurship Centre in Meerbusch.



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Friedrich Barth, Managing Director and founder of the Global Entrepreneurship Centre, which is based at the Areal Böhler in Meerbusch.