

### **General Programme Questions**

**What is the Deep Tech Launchpad programme?**
 DT Launchpad is a free, EU-funded programme designed to help researchers, PhDs, postdocs, and early-stage deep-tech startups transform scientific and technological breakthroughs into viable ventures. The programme offers expert-led training, peer learning, local and international networking, and tailored support services for selected participants.

**Who is the programme for?**
 DT Launchpad is ideal for:

* **PhD students**, **postdoctoral researchers**, and **academic teams** aiming to explore the commercial potential of their scientific innovations (TRL 1–3).
* **Early-stage deep-tech startups** (up to TRL 6) working to build and scale science-based solutions.

**What are the start and end dates of the programme?**
 The programme runs from **September 2025 to June 2026**:

* **30 September 2025:** In-person onboarding and introduction to the national deep tech ecosystem
* **October – November 2025:** 8 weeks of online training modules
* **Mid December 2025:** National pitch competition
* **January – June 2026:** Hands-on support phase for selected teams
* **11 June 2026:** In-person international pitch and fundraising event in Amsterdam

**When is the training scheduled?**
Weekly sessions are scheduled for **Tuesdays, 14:00–16:00 CET**. This may be subject to change in case of unforeseen circumstances.

**Is there a fee to participate?**
 No. The programme is **completely free of charge**.

**Do I need to give away equity to join?**
 No. **DT Launchpad takes no equity** from participants or startups.

### **🔹 Eligibility & Application**

**Who can apply for DT Launchpad?**
 You can apply as:

* A PhD student, postdoc, or researcher with a deep-tech idea or research project
* A deep-tech startup at early development stages (up to TRL 6)
* An individual or a team

**Where can participants join from?**
**Participants from EU member states and EU programme countries (like Turkey, etc.**

The limited spots are available for the programme, thus, the priority will be given to the participants from programme coordinators country. Thus, at least **one team member** is expected to be connected to an **eligible programme country** — either by:

* **Living** in that country
* **Being employed** by an organisation based there
* **Having registered** the startup in that country

Eligible programme countries: Austria, Finland, France, Ireland, Slovenia, The Netherlands, Turkey

**Can startups from outside the EU apply?**
 Only if at least one team member **lives in**, **is employed by an organisation in**, or **has a startup registered in** one of the programme countries. These countries are Austria, Finland, France, Ireland, Slovenia, The Netherlands, Turkey.

**What qualifies as a “deep tech” idea?**
 Deep tech refers to innovations built on advanced scientific or engineering discoveries with long-term impact. These include, but are not limited to:

* Quantum technologies
* Novel AI
* Robotics
* Advanced materials
* Biotech
* Clean energy and climate tech

**I’m a student — can I apply?**
 Yes, but conditions are applied. Student startups working on a deep tech innovation are welcome. You can also apply **together with a professor or researcher** who has developed a core technology and explore its market potential as a team.

**I am a PhD student. Can I gain graduate credit in addition to a certificate?**
 A **certificate of participation** is provided to all who meet minimum attendance requirements.
 If you're from **TU Delft, Ege University, University of Ljubljana, MTU, or IMTBS**, consult your institution to see if **graduate credit** can be awarded.

**Can I apply as an individual, or do I need a team?**
 You can apply **individually or as a team**. Team formation is encouraged, especially for the Deep Catalyst Track.

**When is the application deadline?**
 The deadline to apply is **31 July 2025**, or earlier if all spots are filled. Applications are reviewed on a **rolling basis**, so we recommend applying early.

**What happens after I submit my application?**
Eligible applicants will be reviewed for selection by the local programme coordinators. Final selection results will be shared by **mid-August 2025**.

**Can I apply to both tracks** **or switch later?**
You must select either **DeepSpark** or **DeepTech Catalyst** during your application. Track changes may be considered before training begins, based on your team's progress and recommendation from the local organisers.

### **🔹 Programme Structure**

**What are the two stages of the programme?**

1. **Training Phase (Oct–Nov 2025):**
	1. Online delivery of 8 modules over 9 weeks
	2. Includes peer learning, pitch prep, and ecosystem engagement
	3. Ends with a **National Pitch Competition** in December
2. **Service Phase (Jan–June 2026):**
	1. For selected teams only
	2. Hands-on, tailored support to advance your startup
	3. Ends with an **International Fundraising Fair** in Amsterdam on 11 June 2026

**What is the difference between DeepSpark and DeepTech Catalyst tracks?**

* **DeepSpark** is for early-stage research-based projects (TRL 1–3)
* **DeepTech Catalyst** is for teams and startups ready to build and scale (TRL 4–6)

**How is the training delivered?**
 The programme starts with a **local in-person onboarding session**, followed by **8 online modules** delivered weekly between October and November. Topics include:

* National Deep Tech Ecosystem
* Foundations of deep tech
* Market research and ideation
* Business models
* Prototyping and POC
* IP and innovation protection
* Leadership and communication
* Funding and investment

**How flexible is attendance?**
 Attendance requirements depend on your track:

* **DeepSpark participants (TRL 1–3)** must attend:
 ✔ 6 out of 8 online modules
 ✔ 2 mentoring sessions
 ✔ 1 peer learning session
* **DeepTech Catalyst participants (TRL 4–6)** must attend:
 ✔ 4 out of 8 online modules
 ✔ 2 mentoring sessions
 ✔ 1 peer learning session

You can **choose the modules** that best match your needs.

**Can my team divide participation across modules?**
 Yes. Different members of the team can attend different modules, provided the total participation meets your track’s minimum requirement.

**Can multiple team members join the training?**
 Yes, and it is **strongly encouraged**, especially for DeepTech Catalyst teams.

**What happens during the hands-on service phase?**
 Teams selected after the national pitch competition will receive:

* Tailored business development and strategy support
* Coaching on legal, regulatory, and funding readiness
* Access to facilities and international networks
* Exposure at the **international pitch and fundraising fair** in Amsterdam

### **🔹 Opportunities & Outcomes**

**What will I gain by joining the programme?**
 You’ll:

* Develop entrepreneurial skills
* Validate your idea’s market potential
* Join a European deep tech community
* Connect with investors, corporates, and public funders
* Prepare your startup for next-stage growth

**Will I receive funding during or after the programme?**
 The programme does **not provide direct funding**, but selected teams will be supported in preparing for and connecting with potential funders.

**Will I get to pitch to investors or partners?**
 Yes. Teams selected for the service phase will pitch at national and international events, including:

* The **National Pitch Competition** (Dec 2025)
* The **Fundraising Fair in Amsterdam** (June 2026)

**What is the Hello Tomorrow event?**
Hello Tomorrow is a premier global summit that brings together the world’s leading deep tech startups, investors, corporates, and researchers.

Please note: **The final pitch event and date are subject to change** in case of unforeseen circumstances.

### **🔹 Logistics**

**How much time should I expect to spend each week?**
 During the training phase, expect to spend:

* **~2 hours per week** on training sessions
* Additional time for optional mentoring, peer sessions, and startup development work

**Do I need to travel during the programme?**
 Travel is only required for:

* The **in-person onboarding session** (last week of September) in your country
* The **International Pitch & Fundraising Fair** (11 June 2026, Amsterdam) — for selected teams only

**Can I combine this with full-time research or work?**
 Yes. The programme is designed to be **flexible and part-time**, allowing you to participate alongside your academic, research, or professional commitments.

**Apply Now before 31st July 2025**



