

Subject: SNETP response to European Innovation Act

The Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the European Innovation Act (EIA) consultation. We wish to highlight specific challenges and needs of our SMEs and start-ups, some closely aligned with the objectives of the EIA, and others of broader relevance:

Challenges & needs

- SMEs and start-ups implementing innovation with their own resources require clearer guidance on **tax credits and other benefits**.
- **Talent acquisition:** Recruiting high-quality staff with leadership and creativity remains a significant challenge.
- **SME access to EU innovation instruments:** SMEs operating in regulated and complex sectors, such as energy, nuclear, and industrial infrastructure, need better guidance to access innovation funds and partnerships.
- **Collaboration hurdles:** Innovation programmes are often easier to implement when pursued by a single company rather than mandatory consortia, as is typically required in EU projects. SMEs would benefit from simpler, more flexible participation options.
- **High-CAPEX innovation challenges:** Nuclear and other capital-intensive sectors face scale-up and investment constraints that require tailored financial instruments and regulatory agility tools.

Potential ways to support SMEs and start-ups

- **Flexible funding approaches:** Introducing options for higher EU funding rates for SMEs in high-risk, high-capex innovation projects would help overcome difficulties in securing co-funding. Partial EU funding often limits SME participation.
- **SME integration in large projects:** The European Commission could encourage large institutions and companies to actively involve SMEs and start-ups in EU-supported R&I projects

Rationale

Implementing these measures would reduce administrative and financial barriers for SMEs, strengthen Europe's innovation ecosystem, and ensure that SMEs can contribute effectively to strategic, high-value R&I initiatives, enhancing industrial competitiveness in critical sectors.

SNETP thanks the European Commission for considering these points and remains at your disposal to provide further input or clarification.

The SNETP Secretariat