

# EIT Regional Innovation Booster in Poland 2025



**YOUR  
SMOOTH  
RUNWAY**

**TO EU  
MARKETS**



**PARTNERS:**



Ministry of Economic Development and Technology  
Republic of Poland

**NCBR**

Krajowy Punkt Kontaktowy  
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# About European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)



**70+**

Hubs across  
Europe



**9 900+**

Ventures  
Supported



**71 BILLION**

Valuation of EIT  
start-ups



**2 420+**

Leading Partners



**880 000+**

Learners trained



**9.5 BILLION**

Investment raised  
by EIT ventures

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# EIT thematic areas

2010



## EIT Climate-KIC

Accelerate the transition to a zero-carbon economy



## EIT Digital

Drive Europe's digital transformation



## EIT InnoEnergy

Achieve a sustainable energy future for Europe



## EIT Health

Give EU citizens greater opportunities for a healthy life

2015



## EIT RawMaterials

Develop raw materials into a major strength for Europe

COMING  
SOON!



## EIT Water

Contribute to a circular and sustainable water economy

2022



## EIT Culture & Creativity

Unite Europe's creatives



## EIT Urban Mobility

Smart, green and integrated transport

2019



## EIT Manufacturing

Strengthen and increase the competitiveness of Europe's manufacturing industry

2017



## EIT Food

Lead a global revolution in food innovation and production

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# EIT Regional Innovation Booster – First Edition

Introducing the **first-ever** initiative of its kind in **Europe**, the **EIT Regional Innovation Booster** is an unique programme designed to elevate Polish innovation to the European stage. Funded by the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)** – a body of the European Union – in partnership with Poland's **Ministry of Economic Development and Technology**, in 2025 this initiative will focus **only on Polish innovative ventures**.

**Poland leads  
the way.  
Will you?**

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“Poland is ready to lead innovation in the region — and the Regional Innovation Booster will help us do just that. It will empower our entrepreneurs, scale up our ventures, and give Polish innovation the visibility and support it needs to thrive across Europe and beyond.”

**Michał Jaros**, Secretary of State at the Minister of Economic Development and Technology of Poland



“We are excited to expand our cooperation with Poland whose vibrant innovation ecosystem and strong ambition make it an ideal launchpad for the Regional Innovation Booster. By combining our community’s expertise with Poland’s strengths, we will build stronger pathways for start-ups to succeed.”

**Martin Kern**, Director, European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

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# A programme for Polish start-ups and scale-ups only!

## **"Polish start-up or scale-up"**

means a company with its headquarter registered in Poland prior to launch of this call.

**It has to be TRL 7 or higher** and solve a pressing global solution in one of the industry-specific categories

- Healthcare
- Metals, minerals, industrial side streams
- Food & Agritech
- Energy and Renewables
- Smart Cities and Mobility
- Digital
- Climate



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# What would the journey look like?

The EIT Regional Innovation Booster programme in Poland in 2025/2026 will be organised in three interconnected stages. This means that only participants who successfully complete Stage 1 will be eligible to apply for Stage 2, and so on.

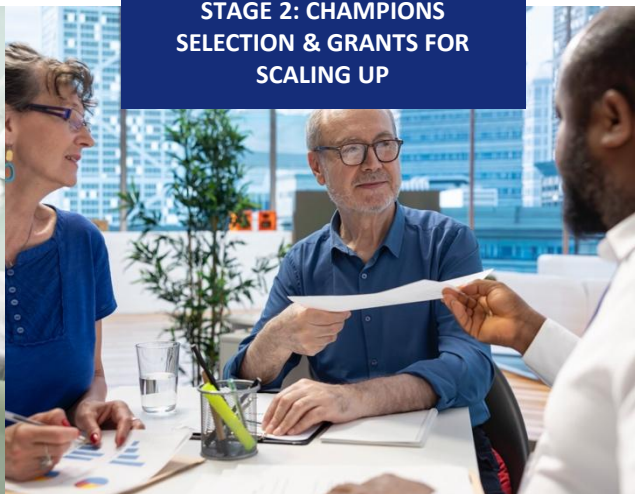
1

**STAGE 1: TOTAL IMMERSION  
- MENTORING & MATCHMAKING**



2

**STAGE 2: CHAMPIONS  
SELECTION & GRANTS FOR  
SCALING UP**



3

**STAGE 3:  
A NEW MARKET & ON-THE-  
GROUND EIT SUPPORT**



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# How many start-ups will be admitted to each stage?



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# Stage 1 Total immersion

**When: September - October 2025**

**Format: hybrid**

Up to 12 high-potential Polish start-ups will gain exclusive access to:

- Hands-on internationalisation support to help you get market-ready — fast
- 2 intensive bootcamps led by top European mentors and experts
- 1 targeted EU market selected for your innovation
- Online matchmaking with key players — investors, partners, and customers from your priority country

You'll leave with a sharpened go-to-market strategy, warm leads, and a clear path to cross-border expansion.



**One step closer to €200K in Stage 2.  
One step closer to expand.**

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# Stage 2

**When: November - December 2025**

**Format: online**

In Stage 2, selected start-ups will receive up to €200,000 in non-dilutive support to scale internationally within the EU.

You'll get:

- A tailored growth roadmap co-created with experts
- Funds for launching your product/solution abroad
- Help with entering a target EU market, validating your solution, building partnerships, and preparing for investment



Break into the new market with strategic backing.

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# Stage 3


When: January-June 2026

Format: online

## Your Start-up's Personal hands-on expert

As part of the programme, your venture gets access to a dedicated a hands-on expert who acts as your rented „problem-solver”. They'll guide you through:

- Resource optimisation
- Customers introductions
- And help you prepare for growth in EU

 No cost. No fluff. Just focused, strategic support.

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# What to expect in Stage1?



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# During the Stage 1 you will choose your next market

## SPAIN



Spain is a strategic gateway to both European and Latin American markets, offering a dynamic ecosystem for start-ups with strong demand in sectors like digital health, cleantech, agri-food, and mobility. With a growing VC scene, it is an ideal entry point for internationalisation in the EU. Spain ranks 7th in Europe by the number of unicorns and 4th in early-stage venture capital investment, reflecting its growing prominence in the European startup landscape.

## GERMANY



Germany is a leading innovation hub in Europe, offering access to one of the world's largest economies and a strategic location at the heart of the EU. Its strong industrial base, top-tier research, and growing demand in sectors like deep tech, mobility, fintech, and climate tech fuel a dynamic start-up ecosystem. With active VC firms, accelerators, and a top ranking in venture investment and scaleups, Germany attracts founders and investors aiming for international growth and lasting impact.

## THE NORDICS



The Nordics — Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Iceland — are a launchpad for sustainable, tech-driven innovation. With highly digitalised societies, strong purchasing power, and early tech adoption, the region is ideal for testing and scaling ethical, impact-focused solutions. According to the European Innovation Scoreboard 2024, Denmark leads the EU in innovation, followed by Sweden and Finland — all three classified as Innovation Leaders with scores over 125% of the EU average. Norway and Iceland also rank high globally, reinforcing the Nordics' reputation as a hub for forward-thinking innovation.

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# In Stage 1, together with the top tier experts, you will develop your Internationalisation Roadmap

## Bootcamp 1: Strategic Readiness & Strategic Fit 3-5.10.2025 | Warsaw

Refine the start-up's financial and operational readiness for international scaling, focusing on partnerships, pricing, and funding structure.

- **Workshops:** Partner Selection & Collaboration Models, Market-Specific Go-To-Market Strategies, Marketing Budget & Cost Allocation, State Aid Unlocked: Navigating Public Funding Rules, Investor & Corporate Pitching
- **Mentoring with Experts & Peer-to-Peer sessions**

## Bootcamp 2: Market Execution & Growth Roadmap 10-12.10.2025 | Online

Dive deep into your market strategy, refine your Go-To-Market plan, and use country-focused **personalised mentoring**. You'll shape a tailored roadmap for international expansion — with expert guidance and actionable next steps to help you scale with confidence.

**As part of this Bootcamp, you will participate in 1:1 Mentoring with top-notch experts, specialised in the country you selected.**

## Matchmaking: Successful & Efficient Expansion 24.10.2025 | Online

**Matchmaking with key players from targeted markets.**

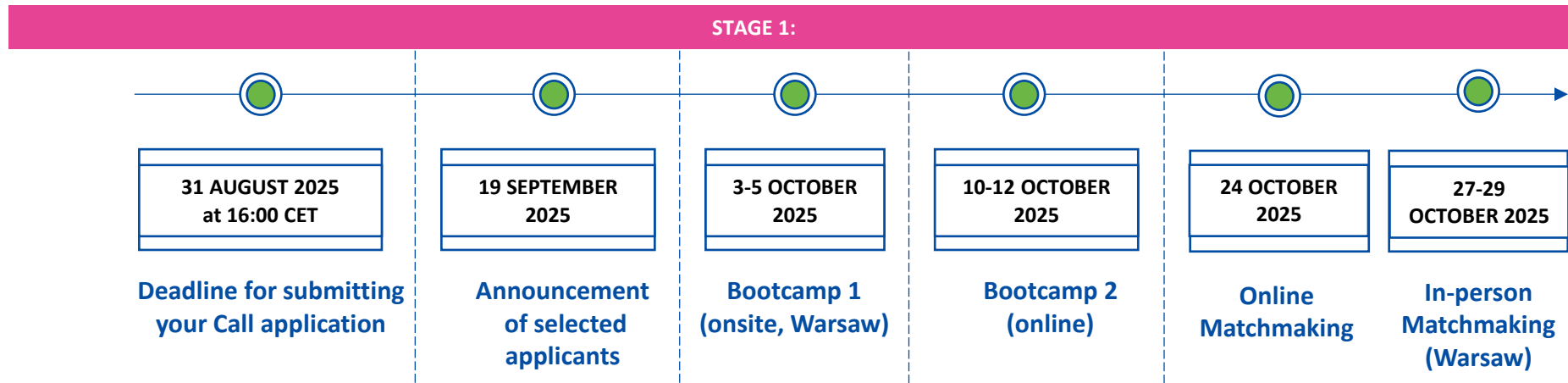
In addition you will get use cases and real-life examples from successful start-ups and scale-ups on Soft Landing & Regional Support, Global Market Positioning & Competitive Advantage.

27-28.10. Additional matchmaking in-person in Warsaw (non obligatory)

\*Specific areas and topics may be slightly adjusted based on participants' needs indicated during the application stage; any changes will be duly reported by the project management team.



# Timeline



*\*The dates are subject to change; however, any modifications will be communicated in a timely manner by the project management team.*

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# Give & Get

## WE GIVE YOU



Market-specific knowledge, including market benchmarking, regulations, distribution channels etc.



Guidance on the IP protection in EU and de minimis grants



Support in development of an internationalisation roadmap to support your growth, along with a financial plan for internationalisation activities.



Industry connections and one-to-one mentoring with industry experts,



Access to potential clients and partners who can support your commercial deployment in the chosen market



A chance to be selected to the Stage 2 and grants up to 200.000 EUR

## YOU GIVE BACK

Time and dedication – intensive October

Place logo of the EIT Community on your website

Promote the programme and provide support to other founders, exchange best practices and report your progress

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# Eligibility criteria

## 1 Company Stage & Type:

- The entity is a for-profit small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) according to the [EU definition](#).
- Only registered legal entities are eligible to apply; sole entrepreneurs are not permitted.
- The entity must be registered in Poland prior opening the call.
- The entity must be less than ten years old.
- SME applies alone, not in the consortium.
- The entity must have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 7 or higher. The solution must demonstrate clear potential for commercialisation and scalability.
- The entity needs to be owner of the IPR of the solution that will be promoted in new market.

## 2 Participation Requirements

- The entity must have at least 2 FTEs working at the time of the proposal submission.
- The entity must have a CEO working full-time in the company at the time of the proposal submission.

**Note:** A maximum number of two co-founding members or management representatives per entity is eligible to take part in the EIT RIB programme to ensure the high quality and comfortable conditions of the training activities. In justified cases, the EIT RIB Coordinator may allow the participation of more team members in specific activities.



# Market Traction & Proof

Applicants must demonstrate early market traction, through:

Proof of customer traction in Poland — ideally Letters of Intent (LoI) or similar agreements with existing clients validating the technology.

and/or

Funds obtained from other public and/or private sources.



# Main focus

1

The entity must be developing innovative solutions, services, products, or business models that address relevant societal challenges in line with one of the industry-specific challenges.



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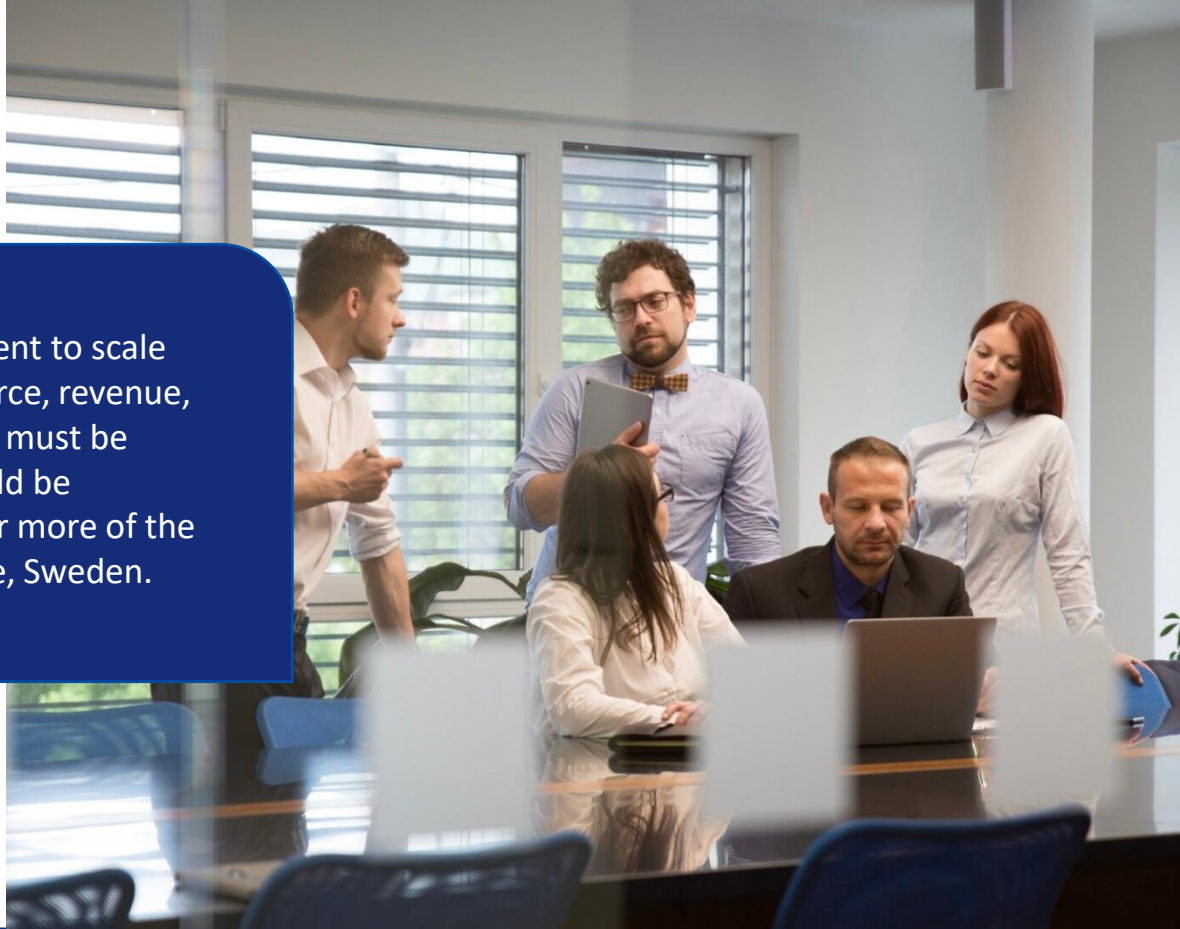
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# Main focus

2

The entity must have a clear intent to scale up, aiming to expand its workforce, revenue, or market presence. Companies must be committed, and a solution should be applicable to be scaled to one or more of the following markets: Spain, France, Sweden.



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# Main focus

3

The special focus is on deep tech ventures offering advanced and emerging technology solutions responding to deep societal challenges.

**Note:** [Deep Tech definition](#) for EIT RIB programme: Deep technology or Deep Tech is a classification of an institution, an organisation or a start-up company, with the expressed objective of providing advanced and emerging technology solutions to deep societal challenges. They present scientific or engineering challenges requiring lengthy research and development, and large capital investment before successful commercialization. Their primary risk is technical risk, while market risk is often significantly lower due to the clear potential value of solution to society. The underlying scientific or engineering problems being solved by deep tech companies generate valuable intellectual property and are hard to reproduce. Moreover, the solutions provided by deep technology and applications are critical for solving the complex global challenges that humanity faces, including climate change, sustainable energy or health.

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# Gender balance

The European Commission and the EIT are strongly committed to advancing gender equality in research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. As an integral part of Horizon Europe, the EIT emphasizes the importance of gender balance as a driver of innovation excellence, organisational performance, and societal impact. EIT upholds these values by promoting gender diversity across all supported and funded activities.



Accordingly, proposals submitted under this call are expected to reflect gender balance within entity management teams. Additional attention will be given during evaluation to how gender aspects are addressed, in line with Horizon Europe requirements and EIT's commitment to inclusive innovation.

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# How to apply?

The application will be made through the EIT Application Platform.

Proposal Submission deadline is set for **31 August 2025, 16.00 CET**.

It is recommended to begin the application process on the EIT Application platform at least 24 hours in advance of the deadline.

All applications for the programme must be completed as follows:

- 1 Applicants must fill in all required information tabs in the application [form](#)
- 2 Applicants must introduce a project team consisting of 2 to any number of participants.
- 3 Proposals must be in English. Proposals in other languages will not be accepted.
- 4 Incomplete submissions or submissions via any other means (e.g. email) will be rejected.
- 5 Proposals must be submitted before the deadline; all late applications will be rejected.

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# The application must be within the scope of the main challenges:



## **Place-Based Transformations (Climate KIC):**

Driving climate action locally through planning, mapping, analyzing, engaging, designing, testing, and investing in solutions across cities, bioregions, and value chains.

[Learn more](#)



## **Healthcare (EIT Health):**

Innovating healthcare delivery, promoting digital medical devices, harnessing health data, and supporting key European health initiatives to address market gaps.

[Learn more](#)



## **Digital Innovation (EIT Digital):**

Accelerating market uptake of deep tech in Digital Tech, Cities, Industry, Wellbeing, and Finance to address Europe's societal challenges. [Learn more](#)



## **Metals, Minerals & Industrial Side Streams (EIT RawMaterials):**

Innovating mineral exploration, digital monitoring, smart or targeting, safer and sustainable mining, efficient materials processing, and reducing emissions and resource use. Advancing recycling, secondary raw materials, waste valorization, circular economy business models, and traceability across raw material value chains.

[Learn more](#)

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# The application must be within the scope of the main challenges:



## **Food & Agritech (EIT Food):**

Boosting sustainability and efficiency across the food chain, developing personalized nutrition, ensuring traceability, and building consumer trust through digital and sensor technologies.

Goals: Healthier lives, net-zero food systems, and resilient, transparent food supply chains. [Learn more](#)



## **Smart Cities & Mobility (EIT Urban Mobility):**

Focusing on active mobility, sustainable logistics, future mobility solutions, clean transport energy, and smart infrastructure such as autonomous and demand-responsive transport. Open to all urban mobility innovations.

[Learn more](#)



## **Energy & Renewables (InnoEnergy):**

Reducing costs and emissions, improving system performance, promoting circular economy solutions, and innovating in green hydrogen, solar, storage, and sustainable industrial energy use.

[Learn more](#)

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# Excellence and Impact

## Excellence and Strategic Fit (20%)

This criterion assesses the quality and credibility of the innovation and its alignment with the EIT RIB strategic goals.

### Excellence

- **Innovative Approach:** Demonstrates a novel approach, unique value proposition clearly differentiated from current market offerings (Competitive Advantage).
- **Risk Management:** Provides a credible assessment of key risks and outlines robust mitigation strategies, particularly for international scaling.

### Strategic Fit

- **Alignment with Call Priorities:** The applicant aligns with the thematic, sectoral, and innovation goals described in the call.
- **Sector Alignment:** Start-ups in deep tech or high-growth technology sectors are prioritized.

### Evaluation Focus:

- **Strength of the innovation and its novelty.**
- **Fit with EIT RIB objectives and broader EU strategic agendas** (e.g., green/digital transition, competitiveness).

## Impact and Sustainability (30%)

This criterion evaluates the long-term relevance, market relevance, and systemic impact of the proposed solution.

### Impact:

- **Market Potential and Value Creation:** Clear commercial viability and fit with target markets.
- **Societal and Economic Benefits:** Demonstrates measurable positive outcomes for economy, environment, or society.

### Sustainability:

- **Funding Strategy:** Presents a viable financial model and credible plan to attract future investment.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Demonstrates willingness to collaborate with institutions, corporates, R&D centres, and international partners.

### Evaluation Focus:

- **Maturity of the go-to-market plan and financing approach.**
- **Likelihood of long-term success and societal benefit.**

## Scalability and Growth Potential (50%)

This criterion evaluates the start-up's readiness and capability to scale across EU markets, emphasizing operational strength, team expertise, market alignment, and risk preparedness to ensure successful international growth.

### Market Expansion Readiness and Growth Execution:

- **International Expansion Readiness:** Demonstrates both ambition and capability to enter and scale in EU markets.
- **Geographical scope:** justification and rationale for expansion to chosen market, initial knowledge of the market.
- **Operational Capabilities:** The start-up has the infrastructure and systems in place to manage growth efficiently.
- **Regulatory & Compliance Readiness:** Solutions should be capable of meeting industry regulations and certifications required for international expansion.
- **Personnel Expertise:** The team possesses the right mix of industry, technical, and business skills.

### Risk Management:

- **Identification of Risks:** Thoughtful identification of potential technical, financial, or market risks.
- **Mitigation Measures:** Presents solid plans to manage scale-up risks.

### Evaluation Focus:

- **Confidence in the team and execution plan.**
- **Evidence that the solution is operationally and strategically ready for growth.**



# Have any questions?



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