

## “SaferSEA Maritime Event: Solutions for a Safer & Smarter Shipping Industry” Call for Startups

# 1. CONTEXT

## 1.1 WHAT IS SAFERSEA

SaferSEA is a European project aimed at enhancing maritime safety and promoting eco-friendly practices for the shipping industry. Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Interreg Atlantic Area programme, the project started in October 2023 and will end in September 2026, with a total budget of €1.51 million, of which €1.13 million is co-funded by the ERDF.

The primary objective of SaferSEA is to develop a safer, more environmentally conscious maritime sector by providing stakeholders with practical solutions to support their green transition. The project focuses on identifying and supporting the development of innovative technologies for ships and ports, fostering stronger connections amongst shipowners, port authorities, researchers, and innovative startups in the Atlantic Area.

The project is structured around five major actions:

- Capitalizing on existing data and projects related to maritime safety
- Raising awareness of maritime transport challenges for safer and cleaner seas
- Supporting the emergence of projects that address sector needs
- Identifying emerging technologies to meet sector requirements
- Implementing pilot projects to test technologies in real-world conditions

The project consortium includes six partners from four Atlantic countries:

- **Technopôle Brest-Iroise (Plouzané, France):** a Business Support Organisation which fosters regional economic development through innovation.
- **CEEI Bahía de Cádiz (Cadiz, Spain):** a Business Support Organization which provides support, advice and training to startups and existing businesses, with a focus on innovation.
- **UPTEC (Porto, Portugal):** the Science and Technology park of the University of Porto, specialised in technology transfer and innovation.
- **Sines Tecnopolo (Sines, Portugal):** a Business Support Organisation which provides acceleration services for businesses.
- **Cedre (Brest, France):** International experts in accidental water pollution, who provide response support, contingency planning, training, analysis and testing and research.
- **AxisBIC (Cork, Ireland):** a Business Support Organisation which provides provide support and essential business expertise to innovative entrepreneurs.

## 2. CALL FOR STARTUPS

This call aims to identify startups in France and Ireland currently involved in the maritime sector, which develop technologies to support the transition of the shipping industry.

### 2.1 OBJECTIVE

The selected startups will be invited to the Sea Tech Week®. During a dedicated workshop, called “SaferSEA Maritime Event: Solutions for a Safer & Smarter Shipping Industry”, startups from the Atlantic area (Ireland, France, Spain, Portugal) will pitch their project and interact with an international audience.

### 2.2 WHAT IS THE SEA TECH WEEK®

The Sea Tech Week® is a biyearly event organised in Brest, France. It brings together 1000+ international participants over 3 days to discuss the latest scientific and technological advancements in the maritime sector.

30+ exhibitors from 15+ countries will be present over 3 days: Exail, MacArtney France, Sercel... The programme will also include 20+workshops and high-level sessions.

The next edition will take place on October 6-8, 2026.

### 2.3 SAFERSEA WORKSHOP

The SaferSEA workshop is a 2,5-hour session dedicated to innovation for the shipping industry. It will include a roundtable discussion on Decarbonisation and the challenges related to new maritime fuels, and 2 pitch sessions. Startups and companies will have the opportunity to present their activities and projects during timed speeches: 3’ of pitch and 4’ of Q&A with the audience.

Attendees will be invited to award the Best Pitch Prize at the end of the session.

The smallest room capacity is max. 40 seats, and the largest room can accommodate up to 110 people.  
No hybrid format is allowed.

### 2.4 DATES

This Call for Startups will be open from July 7, 2026, to July 24, 2026, 23:59 CEST.

## 2.5 COMPANY PROFILE

Irish partner AxisBIC and French partner Technopôle Brest-Iroise are looking for max. two (2) startups or SMEs in each country, that are developing technologies in one of the following areas:

- **Decarbonisation:** issues related to the transition to new fuels and energies for ships
- **Pollution:** problems involving marine pollution, such as oil spills, plastic waste, ballast water management, bilge water treatment, loss of containers at sea...
- **Safety at sea:** challenges related to maritime traffic management (incl. seafarer safety), reduction of collisions, rescue of person in distress...

## 2.6 SUPPORT

One (1) representative per company will be invited to come to Brest and pitch their project, with full access to the Sea Tech Week® exhibition hall, workshops and high-level sessions. The travel and accommodation costs will be covered by AxisBIC for Irish companies and by Technopôle Brest-Iroise for French companies, under the following conditions:

**2 nights, for a maximum of €150,00 per night and per person.**  
**The total costs cannot exceed €1,000.00 per person.**

# 3. APPLICATION

## 3.1 ELIGIBILITY

The application must be submitted in English.

The applicant organisation must be registered in one of the eligible regions of the Interreg Atlantic Area programme (reference period: 2021 – 2027)<sup>1</sup>:

- **In Ireland:** Northern and Western, Eastern and Midland, Southern
- **In France:** Normandy, Brittany, Pays de la Loire, Nouvelle Aquitaine

## 3.2 COMMITMENT

Once selected, the applicant commits to take part in the SaferSEA workshop and pitch session during the Sea Tech Week®.

<sup>1</sup> Programme area : <https://www.atlanticarea.eu/about-us/interreg-atlantic-area-2021-2027>

### 3.3 SUBMISSION REQUIREMENT

The applications must be submitted through the application form, and sent to:

- **For Ireland:** Fionnuala Wall, Project Manager for SaferSEA at AxisBIC: [fwall@axisbic.com](mailto:fwall@axisbic.com)
- **For France:** Morgane Le Meur, Project Manager for SaferSEA at Technopôle Brest-Iroise: [morgane.le-meur@tech-brest-iroise.fr](mailto:morgane.le-meur@tech-brest-iroise.fr)

### 3.4 SELECTION

AxisBIC and Technopôle Brest-Iroise will make a first selection of relevant profiles, based on:

- The relevance of the technology to the shipping industry and the alignment with SaferSEA topics (see paragraph 2.4)
- The desire to expand the company's market in Europe and beyond

The SaferSEA consortium will be consulted for final validation.

The selected companies will be contacted at the end of July 2026.

## 4. CONTACT

For any questions about this call, please contact us:

- **For Ireland:** Fionnuala Wall [fwall@axisbic.com](mailto:fwall@axisbic.com)
- **For France:** Morgane Le Meur [morgane.le-meur@tech-brest-iroise.fr](mailto:morgane.le-meur@tech-brest-iroise.fr)