

PROJECT:

READY4DECOM

SUPPORT CALL

**“GROWTH STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPANIES IN
THE DECOMMISSIONING OF WIND TURBINES”**

SUBMISSION TOOLKIT



**Funded by the
European Union**
NextGenerationEU

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1. About Ready4Decom

Wind turbines in Belgium provide green energy for an average of 25 years. Despite our pioneering role in the installation, use and maintenance of wind farms, we lack the experience to dismantle wind turbines sustainably and professionally. The Ready4Decom project aims to change that.

As several wind turbines in Belgium are approaching the end of their service life, it is important to develop a strategic plan for their dismantling. Ready4Decom wants to contribute to this by developing a clear and supported strategy for both on- and offshore wind turbines in collaboration with stakeholders of the quadruple helix.

Ready4Decom's strategy development focuses on four different topics:

- Legal aspect: Previous studies have shown that there is too much fragmentation and inconsistencies in the current European, federal and regional legislative framework on dismantling. Therefore, research is being done into how the relevant legislation can be improved.
- Logistics & processing: The project also focuses on the logistical challenges of dismantling wind turbines at sea and on land. The method of dismantling will have an impact on the organisation of the logistical flow, and vice versa.
- Social support: The challenges in the energy field have not missed their effect on society. It is therefore important that the public is correctly informed about what happens to wind turbines at the end of their lifespan.
- Growth strategies and opportunities for companies: The knowledge gained in the project will be bundled and translated into specific opportunities for companies to roll out (new) activities in the decommissioning and repowering market.

Based on the four topics above, Ready4Decom wants to contribute to a truly feasible circular economy to ensure a sustainable future for wind energy and to have a positive impact on the social, economic and ecological well-being of our community.

This project is facilitated by Blue Cluster and POM West-Vlaanderen.

Partners: Belgian Offshore Cluster; OWI Lab; Belgian Offshore Platform; Port Oostende; Port of Antwerp Bruges; ODE; EDORA; and OVAM.

With financial support from: Belgium Builds Back Circular



Table 1 – Ready4decom partnership

1.1. CONTACT POINTS

For any enquiries about the Ready4Decom project, please contact the Project Coordinator. For any enquiries regarding information and/ or clarification on the support call, please contact Blue Cluster:

	Partner	Contact	E-mail address
Project coordinator	POM West-Vlaanderen	Rebecca Verhaeghe	rebecca.verhaeghe@pomwestvlaanderen.be
Support call	Blue Cluster	Philippe Martens	philippe.martens@blauwecluster.be

Table 2 - Contact points

2. SUPPORT CALL “GROWTH STRATEGIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPANIES IN THE DECOMMISSIONING OF WIND TURBINES”

2.1. TARGET AUDIENCE: DECOMMISSIONING WIND TURBINES VALUE CHAIN

This support call is open to all stakeholders involved in the **decommissioning of wind turbines**, both **offshore and onshore**, spanning the entire value chain. We invite participation from companies, organizations, and professionals who are active in any stage of the process, from **decommissioning planning** to **recycling** and **new product development**.

Eligible participants include but are not limited to:

- **Wind farm operators and owners** responsible for dismantling and managing end-of-life turbines.
- **Decommissioning service providers** specialized in the safe and efficient dismantling, removal, and transportation of wind turbine components.
- **Recycling and material recovery companies** that focus on sustainable and innovative recycling of turbine parts, including blades, towers, and electrical components.
- **Supply chain partners** offering logistics, handling, and waste management services tailored to the wind energy sector.
- **Manufacturers and developers** creating new products and technologies from recycled turbine materials, contributing to a circular economy.
- **R&D institutions and consultants** involved in improving decommissioning practices, material recovery techniques, and circular design strategies for wind turbines.

This initiative aims to foster innovation and collaboration throughout the decommissioning process, ensuring a sustainable transition from decommissioned wind turbines to new, environmentally responsible products and technologies. By supporting all players in this ecosystem, we aim to create a circular and resilient wind energy sector.

2.2. WHAT WE OFFER: BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR DECOMMISSIONING WIND TURBINES

We offer targeted coaching through a business accelerator designed specifically for companies and organizations in the wind turbine decommissioning value chain. This program aims to help you optimize your business models, integrate circular economy principles, and identify new market opportunities as you transition through the decommissioning process.

The program consists of three key phases:

1. April - mid July 2025: Inspirational group Sessions

- In early April, the program will start with a group session tailored to the key challenges in the wind turbine decommissioning value chain. The sessions will bring together participants to discuss relevant topics such as circular business model strategies, value chain design, decommissioning tools and resources.

2. June – August 2025: 1-on-1 Coaching

- From early June, each participant or consortium will move into the 1-on-1 coaching phase. During this period, our expert coach will work closely with you to analyse and refine your business model, following the Business Model Canvas framework.

3. September 2025: Finalization & Action Plans

- Business Model Refinement: By early September, participants or consortia will have worked through key aspects of their business models, with a focus on sustainable decommissioning practices and circular economy integration.
- Presentation of Action Plans: In September, participants will present their finalized business models and action plans. These plans will outline the strategic steps for growth and innovation, ensuring readiness for real-world implementation.
- Feedback & Follow-up by the end of September

3. Application

3.1. ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

3.1.1. Eligibility conditions

Proposals will be eligible only if all the following conditions are met:

- Applicants must have a BE VAT number
- Applicants must be companies developing innovative products or technologies that are or can be positioned on the decommissioning wind turbine value chains;
- Applications must be written in English (applications partially / fully written in another language are not eligible);
- Applications must be submitted through the web-based system available at <https://www.bluecluster.be/decom> by **January 31st 2025, 5 pm CET**;

3.1.2. Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of eligible applications will be based on a set of criteria:

Evaluation criteria	Details
1 – Value Proposition	Applicants must present a well-developed value proposition that demonstrates tangible progress and potential, with a clear plan for implementation and scalability within the wind turbine decommissioning value chain.
2 – Relevance to Belgium decommissioning wind turbine value chains	Proposals will be evaluated on their relevance and contribution to the Belgian wind turbine decommissioning value chain, with preference given to projects that strengthen local partnerships, enhance regional capabilities, and create value within Belgium's circular economy."
3 - Cooperation	Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate strong potential for cooperation across the value chain, fostering partnerships and collaborations that enhance innovation, sustainability, and efficiency in the decommissioning and recycling of wind turbines.

Table 3 - Evaluation criteria

3.2. CALL PLANNING

The Call will be launched on **November 13nd 2024, 17.00 CET**.

More information about the call timing is summarised in the following table:

Call opening and closure dates	Evaluation – Contract dates (indicative)
<p>Call Opening: 13/11/2024, 17:00 CET</p> <p>Call Closure: 31 JANUARY 2025, 05:00 PM CET</p>	<p>Evaluation: 1 month</p> <p>Contracts: to be signed within 1 month after the results have been announced</p>

Table 4 - Call planning

3.3. APPLICATION FORM & PROCESS

Interested companies will apply [here](#) by **January 31th 2025, 17:00 CET**.

Only proposals submitted via this link will be evaluated and only if they have been submitted within the deadline.

4. Evaluation and selection process

4.1. SCORING SYSTEM

Evaluation criteria	Details	Maximum Score
1 – Value Proposition	Applicants must present a well-developed value proposition that demonstrates tangible progress and potential, with a clear plan for implementation and scalability within the wind turbine decommissioning value chain.	10
2 – Relevance to the Belgian wind farm decommissioning value chain	Proposals will be evaluated for their relevance to the and contribution to the Belgian wind farm decommissioning value chain and, with preference given to projects that strengthen local partnerships, enhance regional capabilities, and create value within Belgium's circular economy.	10
3 – Collaboration	Priority will be given to applicants that demonstrate strong potential for collaboration across the value chain, fostering partnerships and collaborations that enhance innovation, sustainability, and efficiency in the decommissioning and recycling of wind turbines.	10
Total		30

Table 5 - Scoring system

Evaluation scores will be awarded based on these criteria. The maximum score for each criterion will be 10 points. Each criterion is rated between 1 and 10 points; no half-points are allowed. The threshold for each individual criterion will be 6 points. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores will be 18 points. The total score is comprised by adding the scores of the three criteria and will be maximum 30 points.

In case of proposals reach equal scores, the one with a higher score under criterion 3 will prevail. If two proposals have equal scores and the same score under criterion 3, the prevailing one would be the one with a higher score under criteria 2.

The meaning of the scores with respect to the evaluation criteria is as follows:

- **1 to 2 - Poor.** The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.
- **3 to 4 - Fair.** While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses.
- **5 to 6 - Good.** The proposal addresses the criterion well, but with at least one moderate weakness.
- **7 to 8 - Very good.** The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although with minor weaknesses.
- **9 to 10 - Excellent.** The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Shortcomings are minor.

4.2. EVALUATION PROCEDURE

A two-step assessment procedure will be followed safeguarding the principles of transparency and equal treatment as described below:

- **Eligibility check** of the Application Form
- **Evaluation** of the Application Form by the Ready4decom partners as presented in section 4.1.

Each application will be assessed by representatives of the Ready4decom partners (2 reviewers per application). The assessment period shall take maximum 30 days, starting from the closing date of the call. The applicants will receive an e-mail about the outcome of the assessment directly after the assessment is finalised along with instructions for the next steps if awarded. The successful applicants will be requested to sign a formal Contract within 30 days from the notification of the project approval. Other applications will be rejected.

4.3. ENQUIRIES AND COMPLAINTS

Any complaints against the project selection process must be submitted by the applicant to your local contact point (cf. section 1.3) within 5 calendar days after the announcement of the Open Call results. Your email should include the following information:

- Application name
- Lead contact name and details
- Object of your complaint
- Information and evidence of the alleged breach

The Evaluation Committee will examine the complaint based on the information brought forward by the applicant, will assess the case, and decide whether the complaint is justified or not and will inform the applicant and the consortium on the decision taken. If the complaint is considered justified, the Evaluation Committee will notify the evaluators to re-evaluate the Service application. The evaluators will then provide the Evaluation Committee with an updated assessment. The final decision on the complaint will be communicated by the Evaluation Committee to the applicant in writing within 20 working days from the date of submitting the complaint. This decision will be final, binding to all parties and not subject to any further complaint proceedings within the programme if the complaint is based on the same grounds. For technical issues concerning the submission procedure, please contact info@blauwecluster.be.

5. Monitoring

The companies selected for the business support will be monitored throughout the implementation period. Companies that do not send delegates to the sessions, are excluded for the further guidance and will have to pay a no show fee.

Ready4decom partners reserve the right to ask to the beneficiary for additional documentation during the monitoring period.

6. Legal aspects

6.1. CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

GDPR compliance: The [General Data Protection Regulation \(2016/679/EU\)](#) guarantees that the processing of data is carried out in compliance with the fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the dignity of the data subject with reference to confidentiality, personal identity and the right to data protection.

By applying, the applicant agrees on the storage and use of its personal data for the execution of the Ready4decom objectives and work plan. The Ready4decom consortium commits to handling personal data and company data confidentially except for the call results, which may contain information about successful Ready4decom applications (names of project partners and scope description (as provided by the project partner).

The processing of data that Ready4decom intends to carry out will be based on lawfulness and correctness in the full protection of its rights and its confidentiality pursuant to the general principles of the GDPR and its art. 24. Therefore, the competitors are informed of the procedure that the data provided by the applicants will be treated exclusively with reference to the procedure for which they submitted the documentation.

The applicants can exercise their rights towards the data controller, pursuant to article 12 of the GDPR. For any inquiries regarding the processing your personal data, please contact Bart Hillewaert bart.hillewaert@blauwecluster.be. Application, selection and evaluation will be performed under the appropriate ethical conduct and will respect the confidentiality of the information received.

6.2. GENDER EQUALITY

Ready4decom seeks gender balance. Therefore, applicants are invited to take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in the implementation of the action. They must aim for a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including supervisory and managerial levels to the extent possible.

6.3. FINANCIAL CAPACITY

The company applicant must have the capacity to carry out the actions described in their proposals and to properly manage the business support granted to them.

Each company must be in alignment with the following situations:

- ✓ Is no bankrupt or being wound up, is not having affairs administrated by the courts, has not entered into an arrangement with creditors, has not suspended business activities, is not the subject of proceedings concerning those matters or is not in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations ;
- ✓ Is in compliance with its obligation relating to the payment of social security contributions and the payment of taxes, in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which it is established ;

- ✓ Is not subject to a conflict of interest in connection with the grant.

6.4. VISIBILITY

For dissemination and use of results generated through the business support from Ready4decom, the beneficiaries must acknowledge the EU support, displaying the European flag (emblem) and funding statement (also include the disclaimer) as indicated below. As well must credit the Ready4decom partners through proper citation and visibility of logos:



6.5. DOUBLE FUNDING

The applicant cannot apply for and/or receive funding outside of Ready4decom for a similar project that could lead to a potential double funding of the same action. The Ready4decom Consortium may carry out the necessary control actions with other EU-funded projects to verify that there is no double funding ongoing.

7. Disclaimer

Purpose: This text is explaining the Ready4decom Support call for information purposes only. No rights can be claimed based on this document.

Funded by the European Union, views and opinions expressed are however those of the author only and does not necessarily reflect those of the European Commission or the European Innovation Council and SME Executive Agency (EISMEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

Mistakes or inconsistencies: The Ready4decom consortium is not responsible for any mistakes or misinterpretations that this text may cause. In the case of inconsistencies, the Ready4decom partnership will determine the steps to be taken, in cooperation with the applicant concerned.

Consequential damages: In no event shall either party be liable to the other or any of its affiliates for any consequential, incidental, indirect, special, punitive, or exemplary damages (including, without limitation, lost profits, business, or goodwill) suffered or incurred by such other party or its affiliates in connection with this innovation support mechanism, even if advised of the possibility of such damages.