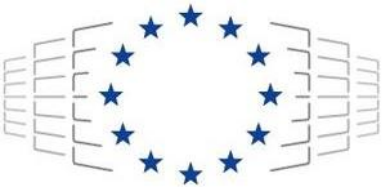
DIGITAL-EUROHPC-JU-2023-SME-01

FORTISSIMO PLUS

Project Number: 101163317

D5.2

First Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Report



This project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 101163317. The JU receives support from the Digital Europe Programme.

Work package:	WP5	Success Stories, Dissemination and Interaction with the HPC Ecosystem
Author(s):	Tina Črnigoj Marc	Arctur
	Nataša Hribernik	Arctur
Approved by	Project Management Team	<Date of approval>
Reviewer 1	Claudio Arlandini	Cineca
Reviewer 2	Wolfgang Ziegler	scapos
Dissemination Level	PU - Public	

Date	Author	Comments	Version	Status
2025-09-05	Tina Črnigoj Marc, Nataša Hribernik	Initial draft	V0.1	Draft
2025-10-6	Tina Črnigoj Marc, Nataša Hribernik	Pre-final version	V0.2	Draft
2025-10-15	Tina Črnigoj Marc, Nataša Hribernik	Pre-final version, addressing reviewers' comments	V0.3	Draft
2025-10-27	Tina Črnigoj Marc, Nataša Hribernik	Final improvement	V1.0	Final

Dear reader, please note that this document represents the submitted deliverable to the European Commission (EC). The review process of the EC is ongoing and once the reviewed document is available, it will be uploaded here.

List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
B2B	Business-to-Business
BDVA	Big Data Value Association
CoE	Centre of Excellence
(E)DIH	(European) Digital Innovation Hub
DoA	Description of Action
EEN	Enterprise Europe Network
ETP4HPC	European Technology Platform for High Performance Computing
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
HPC	High-Performance Computing
HPDA	High-Performance Data Analytics
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LLM	Large Language Model
M	Month
ML	Machine Learning
NCC	National Competence Centre
OC	Open Call
p.a.	per annum
p.m.	per month
SME	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise
T1, T2	Type 1, Type 2
WP	Work Package

Executive Summary

Deliverable D5.2 – First Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Report presents an overview of the activities and results of *Work Package 5 (WP5): Success Stories, Dissemination, and Interaction with the HPC Ecosystem*, achieved during the first 18 months of the project (M1–M18).

The main objective of the FFplus project is to enhance the global competitiveness of European industry by enabling Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups across Europe to adopt advanced High-Performance Computing (HPC) services and generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.

WP5 supported all work packages by providing dissemination materials and implementing communication activities with the aim of:

- Promoting the open calls (OC1–T1 and T2, OC2–T1)
- Showcasing past Fortissimo success stories
- Encouraging the uptake of HPC and generative AI technologies for business

The Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are presented, along with identified deviations, which have been successfully mitigated.

All data collected and progress achieved during this reporting period are presented and detailed in the following chapters.

Table of Contents

List of Figures

List of Tables

1 Introduction

FFplus is the successor to previous Fortissimo projects (Fortissimo 1 and 2 [1], FF4EuroHPC [2]) and fosters the adoption of HPC and AI for SMEs and startups across Europe, demonstrating the business benefits and impacts of incorporating HPC and AI into real business models. The overall objective of the FFplus project [3] is to enhance European competitiveness by enabling SMEs to perform efficiently using HPC (e.g., simulations, computational modeling, and data-intensive analytics), AI, and Large Language Models (LLMs).

The dissemination and communication of the project activities and the results aim to raise awareness of the open calls and the benefits of using advanced technologies, as well as to motivate potential HPC users to adopt such approaches. The communication activities have focused on the six open calls and success stories, that will be created following the successful completion of the sub-projects,, i.e. business experiments and innovation studies.

FFplus goals are:

- Providing the participating SMEs with an opportunity to uptake HPC and AI for their business;
- Creating, publishing and promoting success stories that show the clear business benefits and full potential of HPC, AI and LLMs for SMEs throughout Europe;
- Promoting and scaling the business, social and environmental impact through the entire industrial ecosystem;
- Interacting with the wider European HPC ecosystem, including National Competence Centres, Digital Innovation Hubs, HPC-related entities and EU projects, to exchange knowledge, promote the HPC uptake in industry, boost European industrial strength and support the digital transformation of European industry.

The target groups addressed include industrial users, particularly SMEs; domain experts; HPC/HPDA/AI experts and providers of HPC infrastructure; NCCs; relevant SME associations and networks; DIHs; and domain-specific associations from various industrial sectors across different European countries, as well as start-up associations and newly established AI factories.

All project partners are actively involved in WP5 and contribute to the project's overall achievements. In addition, sub-project partners play an important role in communication activities, including the production of videos, preparation of blog posts, and, subsequently, the creation of success stories.

Within WP5, five deliverables are planned to be submitted. The first deliverable *D5.1 Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Plan* [4] was submitted in June 2024 and contains the dissemination plan, including milestones, performance indicators, and the due time frame. This plan will be adjusted during the project lifetime, based on the evolving needs and preferences of the target audience and project activities.

Deliverables *D5.3 and D5.4 are the first, the second and final Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Reports* that will provide the results achieved in the project lifetime. The last

four deliverables *D5.5, D5.6, D5.7 and D5.8*, which are the *Success Story Booklets*, will represent the Success Stories that will be created throughout the project lifetime; meanwhile, *D5.9* are *Success Stories Videos*, which will be delivered throughout the project lifetime.

The KPIs for the first 18 months of the project were achieved, and all planned activities were carried out according to the dissemination and communication plan.

2 Major Achievements

In this reporting period, the following main activities were achieved:

- A new, appealing visual identity was developed and presented in the Brandbook [5].
- A new project website [3] was developed (under the in-kind contribution by project partner Arctur).
- Visually appealing promotional materials such as: project poster, flyers, business cards, roll-up, gadgets, social media and web graphics were developed, to make the FFplus project visible.
- Promoting the first Open Call for Business Experiments and Innovation Studies (OC1-T1 and OC1-T2) and the second Open Call for Innovation Studies (OC2-T2) of the FFplus project through various communication channels: Websites, social media, newsletters, press releases, emailing and events/conferences was done.
- Templates for the presentation of FFplus Business Experiments and Innovation Studies on the project website were developed and delivered to sub-project partners.
- Presenting new sub-projects from OC1-T1 and OC1-T2 on the project website was done, and promoted through the FFplus social media channels.
- Raising awareness about the business benefits of using HPC and advanced technologies through the previous Fortissimo Success Stories and best practices from the European HPC ecosystem, specifically NCCs content, was done.
- The project social media profiles on LinkedIn [6], X[1] and YouTube [7] were created for project communication. Accordingly, the social media scheduling calendar was developed and used for efficient social media management.
- FFplus partners actively participated in several conferences, events and other meetings, and presented the project activities.
- Three issues of the FFplus newsletter were created and published through the MailChimp tool [8], and four issues were published through the LinkedIn newsletter, to spread the information about the project, Fortissimo success stories, the Open Calls and events. All issues were published on the project website [8].
- Five press releases were written and disseminated among channels for project publicity.
- *D5.1 Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Plan* was written and submitted [4].
- A list of the collaboration partners was developed: 276 entities were identified. Furthermore, a tighter collaboration (in several activities) was established with 27 entities.
- Different approaches have been tested to establish strong collaboration with other projects and entities within the European HPC landscape, NCCs and DIHs. According to that, an analysis of defined entities was done, and further activities and timelines for contribution were defined.
- Regular WP5 Telcos were held (12 in total) with project partners to plan, report, discuss and advance WP5 activities.

[1] An X FFplus Profile was updated at the beginning of the project, and was updated with content by early February 2025. Due to external circumstances, the consortium decided to close the X profile in February 2025.

- The first project review presenting WP5 work was successfully held in Luxembourg on July 8th, 2025.

2 Work Performed

This section provides an overview of the tasks in WP5 and outlines the work performed within each. As Task T5.3 Open Call Promotion overlaps with Task T5.1 Dissemination, Outreach and Communication Strategy, including the Collaboration Plan, the description and KPIs for T5.3 are incorporated into the T5.1 overview.

WP5 consists of four main tasks:

- Task 5.1 – Dissemination, Outreach and Communication Strategy, incl. Collaboration Plan (Led by Arctur)
- Task 5.2 – Interaction and Collaboration with the HPC Ecosystem (Led by HLRS)
- Task 5.3 – Open Call Promotion (Led by scapos)
- Task 5.4 – Success Stories (Led by Arctur)

The first three tasks are running during the whole project lifetime; meanwhile, task T5.4 has not started yet, since it starts in M18.

2.1 Task 5.1 Dissemination, Outreach and Communication Strategy, including Collaboration Plan

This task covers all activities related to communication (internal with project and experiment partners, and external to target groups), dissemination (about the project activities, open calls, and success stories), and collaboration (with specific entities defined in advance).

To support the effective implementation of this task, the Communication Plan was developed in M2 and presented in Deliverable *D5.1 Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Plan.* Although the KPIs were defined at higher levels compared to the previous FF4EuroHPC project, partners are demonstrating strong engagement in project activities. Current metrics already indicate that some KPIs are likely to be overachieved before the end of the project. Consequently, new KPIs will be established (as shown in Table 1), and the Communication Plan will be updated accordingly.

Communication Channels	KPI & Target Values as per GA	KPI Status M18	New KPIs[2]	Time Frame
Website[3]	#Visitors 7,000 p.a.	**#Visitors 38,000 (approx. 25,000 p.a.)**	#Visitors 25,000 p.a.	By M48
Website[3]	#Page views 1,500 p.m.	**#Page views 76,256 (approx. 4,485 p.m.)**	#Page views 4,500 p.m.	By M48
Brochure	#Updates 3	**#Updates: 2**	#Updates 6	By M36
Poster (on request)	#Updates 3	**#Updates: 2**	#Updates 6	By M48
Social Media - X[4]	#Followers total 300	**#Followers total 326**	No further KPIs will be recorded due to Channel closure.	By M36 (50% by M12, 25% more by M24, total by M36)
Social Media - X[4]	#Tweets total 500	**#Tweets total 334**	No further KPIs will be recorded due to Channel closure.	
Social Media - X[4]	#Impressions 200 p.m.	**#Impressions 14,683 p.m. (avg.)**	No further KPIs will be recorded due	

[2] KPIs were initially set during the proposal phase based on the experiences and evaluations of previous Fortissimo projects, and were established at relatively high targets. Nevertheless, thanks to strong promotion of the project by the partners in collaboration with all supporting entities, several of the planned KPIs have already been nearly achieved or even exceeded during M1–M18. Therefore, we have decided to continue all promotion and dissemination activities and to raise the KPIs as suggested in Table 1. Communication and Dissemination Plan as well as the metrics tables will be updated accordingly.

[3] Please note, the FFplus website was published in M2, therefore, the statistics include KPIs for M2-M18.

[4] For X Channel, we only provide statistics until February 2025. Since the channel was closed, no further statistics will be recorded.

			to Channel closure.	
Social Media - LinkedIn	#Followers total 500	**#Followers 1,735**	#Followers total 2,400	By M48
Social Media - LinkedIn	#Posts total 100	**#Posts total 278**	#Posts total 700	By M48
Social Media - LinkedIn	#Impressions 200 p.m.	**#Impressions 10,458 p.m. (avg.)**	#Impressions 10,000 p.m.	By M48
Social Media - YouTube	#Video Views 7,000 p.a.	**#Video Views = 9,194 (6,100 p.a.)**	#Video Views 7,000 p.a.	By M48
Social Media - YouTube	#Videos published 15	**#Videos published 8**	#Videos published 30	By M48
Newsletters	#Issues 5	**#Issues 4**	#Issues 20	By M48
Newsletters	#Subscribers 150	**#Subscribers MailChimp 309; LinkedIn: 489**	#Subscribers MailChimp 380; LinkedIn 1,000	By M48
Podcast	#Podcast 0	**#Podcast 2**	# Podcast 30	By M48
Articles in sector magazines / papers	#Articles 10	**#Articles 13**	#Articles 25	5 by M30; 20 by M48
Blog	#Issues 20	**#Issues 23**	#Issues 50	By M48
Press releases	#Press releases 3	**#Press releases 2**	#Press releases 8	By M48
Clippings	#URL 10	**#URL 102**	#URL 300	By M48

Visits to trade fairs, user groups, webinars, conferences, workshops, biger events, other events	#Events 5	**#Events 62**	#Events 120	By M48
Task 5.3 –Identification of relevant collaboration entities	#Relevant entities 15	**#Relevant entities 275**	#Relevant entities 275	Until M48
Task 5.3 – Successful interactions/collaborations with entities – no. of entities	#Relevant entities 10	**#Relevant entities 27**	#Relevant entities 35	Until M48

Table 1: Activities, KPIs set in the GA, KPIs achieved in M18, and new proposed KPIs.

The activities carried out are described in detail below.

2.1.1 Visual Identity

To create a visually appealing identity for the project and to clearly distinguish it from the previous Fortissimo projects, a new visual identity was developed. It is based on the Fortissimo blue colour scheme. The typography used in digital media (e.g. the website) is Ingra, while internal documents use the Calibri Light font.

In addition, a new logo was developed and provided in all applicable versions (colour, black, white, and monochrome). This enables the use of the most appropriate logo colour for different backgrounds, ensuring optimal visibility.

The leading image, referred to as the digital mountain, will be used across all project-related channels and materials where appropriate. Project templates (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, meeting minutes, attendance sheets, deliverable templates, and reports) were designed in Month 1 (M1) and delivered to both project and sub-project partners.

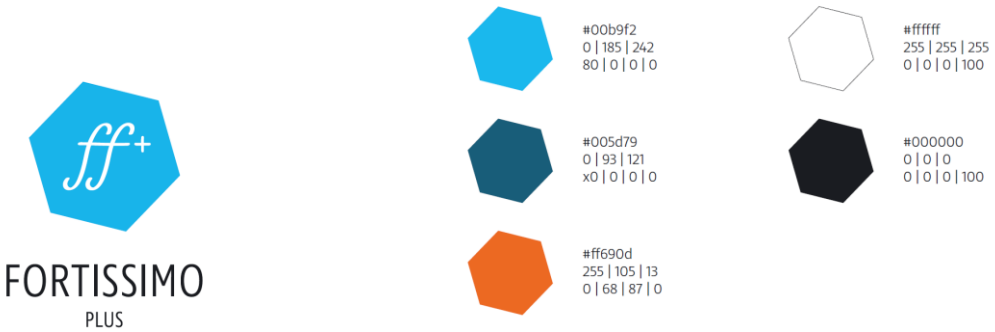


Figure 1: FFplus logo, Colour Scheme and Lead Image.

The FFplus Project Brandbook, which includes all designs and guidelines, was created and is regularly updated with additional information and materials, such as flyers, posters, roll-ups, gadgets, and more. The Brandbook and project logo are also available on the project website [5].

To properly communicate the project funding, the Digital Europe Communication Guidelines need to be respected.

All materials (where applicable) must include:

- Funding entity logo, i.e. EUROHPC JU
- EU emblem
- Funding statement: »This project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 101163317. The JU receives support from the Digital Europe Programme.«

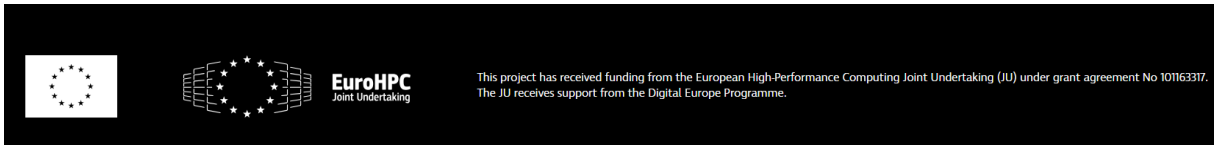


Figure 2: EU emblem, EUROHPC JU logo and funding statement included in the FFplus website and documents.

2.1.2 Website

The FFplus project website [3] serves as the primary communication channel for all users. In the *"specific cost eligibility conditions for the DIGITAL-EUROPE-JU-2023-SME-01"* call, text was requested, specifying that no additional cost for the project website is offered, partners decided the new FFplus project website will be developed and maintained by the partner ARCTUR at no cost to the project. With the new FFplus project's visual identity defined, a new URL (www.ffplus-project.eu) was registered to distinguish the project from previous Fortissimo projects [1], [2].

A new one-pager was published at the start of the project on May 1st and was replaced with the new official website on June 20th, 2024 (M2).

The project website remains the main entry point for industry, NCCs, DIHs, and other relevant stakeholders interested in Open Call information, success stories, or other HPC-related information. It will include the following menu:

- About the project
- Open Call
- Experiments
- Success Stories
- Partners
- News & Events
- Multimedia
- Specific menu sections will be offered later, e.g. Experiments and Success Stories, as soon as the content is provided. Menu and Content about the Open Call will be modified accordingly to the Open Call requests.
- The website will be maintained and hosted by Arctur and will remain available for an additional 5 years after the project's end.

FORTISSIMO

DRIVING SME AND STARTUP INNOVATION BY UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF HPC AND GENERATIVE AI

FFplus is a European initiative highlighting and promoting the adoption of High-Performance Computing (HPC) by SMEs and start-ups across Europe. The scope of the targeted actions includes both the solution of business challenges through computational methods on HPC systems and the use of supercomputing resources for the development of (generative) Artificial Intelligence (AI) software solutions and services. The computational methods encompass a large range of possibilities: modelling and simulation, data analytics, machine learning, and AI – all options empowering SMEs through enhanced innovation and competitiveness. The strategic objective of using supercomputers for generative AI is to facilitate and strengthen the technological development of European SMEs in that important area.

ENHANCING INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE EUROPEAN INDUSTRY

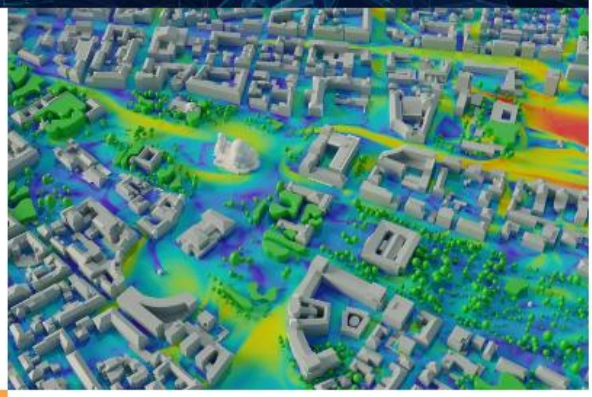
FFplus is a successor of previous Fortissimo projects (Fortissimo, Fortissimo-2, FF4EuroHPC), which have directly addressed how to overcome the barriers for SMEs by utilising HPC, HPDA or AI to optimise or develop products or processes and aimed to strengthen the global competitiveness of European industry.

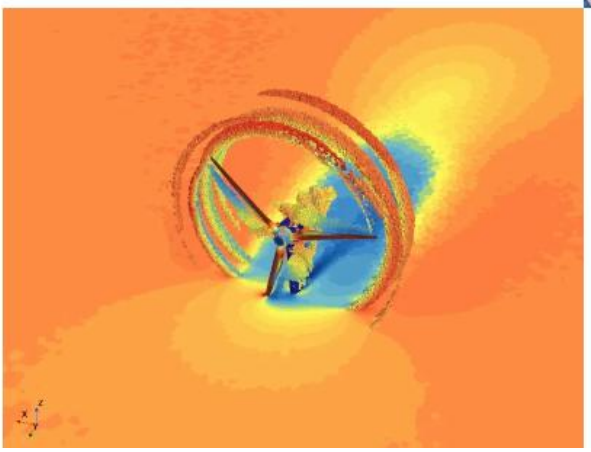
During the FFplus project (2024-2028), six Open Calls will be published to acquire business experiments and innovation studies, targeting the highest quality experiments involving innovative, agile SMEs, **showcasing the transformative potential of HPC and generative AI.** Proposals will address business challenges faced by European SMEs and startups from various industrial sectors.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FFPLUS SUB-PROJECTS!

Through the first Open Call, 37 sub-projects received funding — 18 Innovation Studies and 19 Business Experiments. The 19 funded Business Experiments consist of a total of 43 organisations, including 34 SMEs and 9 other organisations from 15 countries. The 18 funded Innovation Studies involve a total of 36 organisations, including 20 SMEs and 16 other organisations from 14 countries.

Learn more!





CREATING INSPIRING SUCCESS STORIES

The publication of success stories from the experiments, showing the benefits and impacts of adopting HPC in the SMEs business models, and from the innovation studies, showing the effect of adopting large-scale HPC resources for the development of generative AI, will take place during the project duration.

Within the Fortissimo projects, 121 success stories were produced in collaboration with 310 partners from over 20 European countries.

Get inspired by Fortissimo success stories here!

COLLABORATION WITH NATIONAL COMPETENCE CENTRES AND DIGITAL INNOVATION HUBS

FFplus represents a key tool for the National Competence Centres (NCCs) and Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs) to foster their work with SMEs and to facilitate the widening of industrial HPC user communities and service providers in Europe.

The National Competence Centres (NCCs) are the central points of contact for HPC and related technologies in 32 European countries.

Find the list of all NCCs here.

NEWS

2. October 2025

FFplus partners involved in the EUROCC2 AHM in Tallinn and EUROHPC User Days in Copenhagen

15. September 2025

The launch of the 2nd FFplus Open Call for Innovation Studies has been rescheduled to December 2025

17. July 2025

FFplus on the Road: Insights from Key Events

SEE ALL

EVENTS

8. October 2025 - 9. October 2025
Amsterdam, Netherlands
World Summit AI

22. October 2025 - 22. October 2025
Stockholm, Sweden
Nordic HPC Summit

18. November 2025 - 21. November 2025
Vilnius, Lithuania
Big Data Conference Europe

SEE ALL

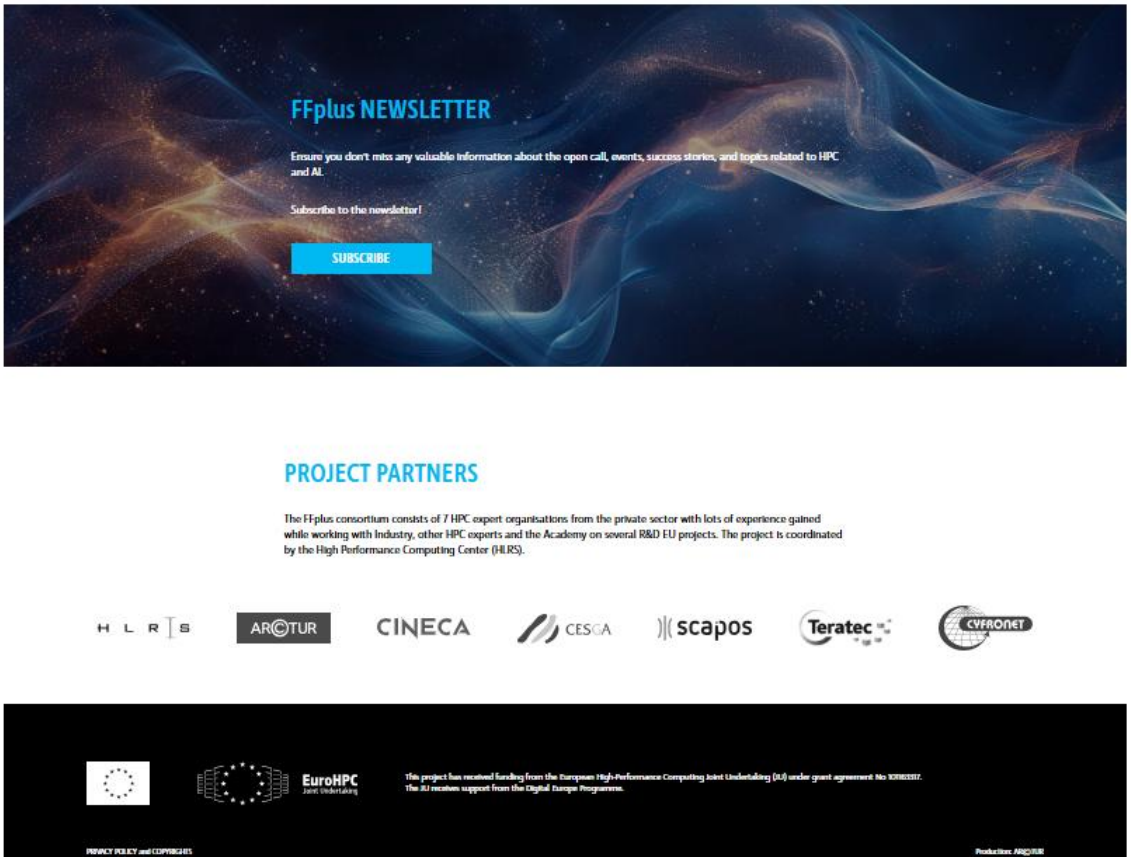


Figure 3: FFplus website is published on the domain www.ffplus-project.eu.

The KPIs planned and achieved are available in Table 1, including KPIs for M2-M18.

2.1.3 Social Media

The social media channels X, LinkedIn [6], and YouTube [7] were originally established during the FF4EuroHPC phase and have achieved exceptionally high engagement. To maintain this success, these channels have continued to be actively updated and refreshed with the new visual identity.

The LinkedIn and X profiles have been regularly updated with two to three posts per week. To ensure consistent and well-planned communication, a social media content calendar has been established, and content is prepared in advance.

The FFplus profile on the X platform was closed in February 2024, while LinkedIn remains the main social media channel for sharing project updates and other relevant content. Partners discussed the possibility of opening a secondary channel, such as Bluesky; however, experience from other EU R&D projects shows that the platform is not widely used and is primarily recognised within research and academic communities. As the main target audience of FFplus is the industry, it was decided not to invest additional resources in establishing and managing a Bluesky account.

Partners are focusing on creating valuable video and blog content, which is disseminated through the LinkedIn and YouTube channels. In addition, a podcast series will be developed and published on appropriate platforms, such as Spotify, in the coming weeks.

The KPIs planned and achieved are available in Table 1.

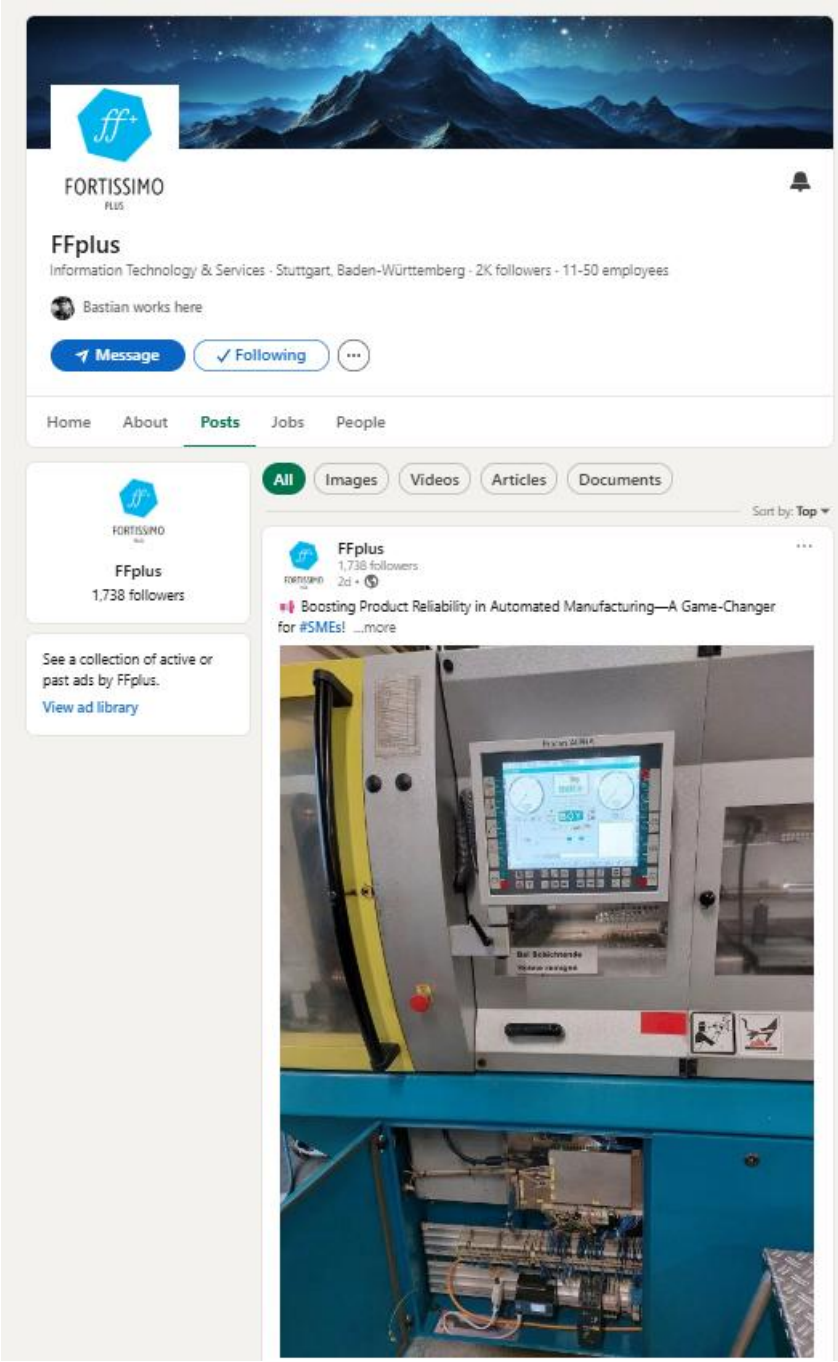


Figure 4: FFplus profile on LinkedIn.

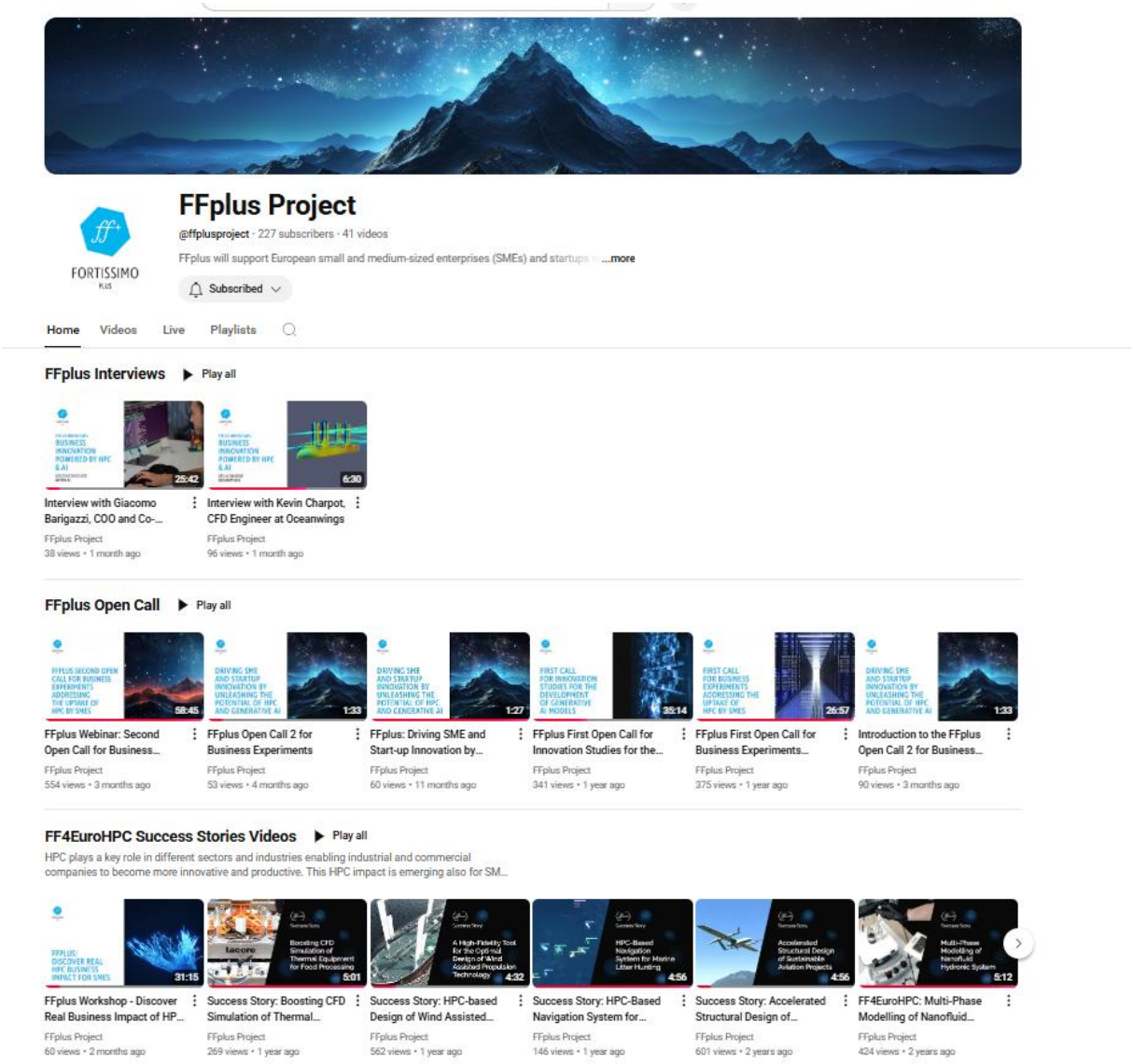


Figure 5: FFplus profile on YouTube.

2.1.4 Newsletter

The newsletter represents an important communication tool for disseminating information, raising awareness, and maintaining engagement with the project's stakeholders. It plays a key role in sharing updates about project progress, highlighting Success Stories, and promoting Open Calls. Beyond this, newsletters help strengthen community building, foster transparency, and ensure that valuable project outcomes reach a wide and relevant audience, including industry partners, researchers, and policymakers.

A new newsletter layout was designed using the MailChimp tool [9], as it enables easy embedding of a subscription form on the project website and provides comprehensive analytics for performance monitoring. Each issue of the newsletter includes at least three sections, such as updates on project activities, information on upcoming HPC and AI-related events, Open Call announcements, and Success Story features.

In addition to MailChimp, a newsletter activity has also been established directly on the LinkedIn FFplus profile. Four issues have already been published, attracting a high number of subscribers. While the first MailChimp newsletter was distributed to approximately 250 subscribers, the first LinkedIn issue reached 433 subscribers within only three weeks.

The LinkedIn newsletter has proven to be a particularly powerful communication channel, as it allows anyone with a LinkedIn account to easily subscribe and access the content. Moreover, it benefits from LinkedIn's built-in networking dynamics and sharing features, which help increase visibility, reach new audiences, and reinforce the project's online presence.

All newsletters are also archived and available on the project website [8].

The KPIs planned and achieved are available in Table 1.

Dear Reader!

Summer in Full Swing – and So Is FFplus!

While many are taking a well-deserved summer break, the FFplus team is hard at work driving innovation forward. **The first 37 FFplus sub-projects are progressing steadily,** integrating HPC and/or AI into their workflows to transform bold ideas into impactful, real-world solutions.

A key milestone this season is **the launch of the second Open Call for Business Experiments, which opened in early June and remains active until August 26th.** This call offers new opportunities for SMEs—especially those with no prior HPC experience—to tackle pressing business challenges with the support of cutting-edge digital tools.

But that's not all! We're also gearing up **to announce the second Open Call for Innovation Studies,** aimed at SMEs and Start-ups already working with generative AI and requiring access to large- to extreme-scale HPC resources.

Stay tuned!

FFplus Webinars Highlighted Opportunities in FFplus Open Call for Business Experiments

The FFplus partners delivered three informative webinars to promote and explain the FFplus Open Call 2 for Business Experiments, offering SMEs across Europe a chance to benefit from funding and access to high-performance computing (HPC) infrastructure.

To support interested applicants, the FFplus team has made the following materials available here:

- FFplus Open Call 2 for Business Experiments Webinar Video
- Presentation Slides
- Open Call Info Page
- Info about EuroHPC JU Access Schemes and Calls
- Fortissimo Success Stories

Key Open Call Details

- Call offered to SMEs and startups from Europe and Horizon Europe-eligible countries that have had no prior use of, or experience with, HPC services.
- Consortium includes up to 5 partners (including one SME and 1–4 supporting partners such as SMEs or public/research institutions).
- Funding available: up to €200,000 per proposal (covering all participants).
- Submission deadline: August 26th, 2025, 17:00 CET.

SMEs, Receive Support from the Nearest National Competence Center!

Need Support for your FFplus proposal application?

Whether you're:

- Developing an innovative idea
- Searching for partners to support your sub-project
- Looking for guidance on your FFplus proposal content
- Unsure which hardware or software best fits your use case
- Planning to apply for the EuroHPC JU Access Calls

...your nearest National Competence Center (NCC) is here to help!

NCCs offer expert advice, technical support, and access to a wide network of HPC and AI resources tailored to your needs. Don't hesitate to reach out and take advantage of their support!

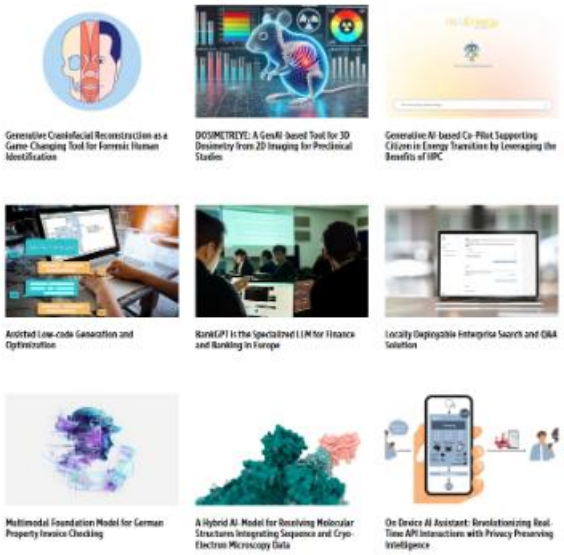
Find your nearest NCC here.

Business Experiments and Innovation Studies Have Been Introduced to the Public

Through the first Open Call, 37 sub-projects received funding — 18 Innovation Studies and 19 Business Experiments.

All subprojects are now presented on the FFplus website and will be presented through the FFplus LinkedIn profile.

Learn more about Business Experiments
Learn more about Innovation Studies

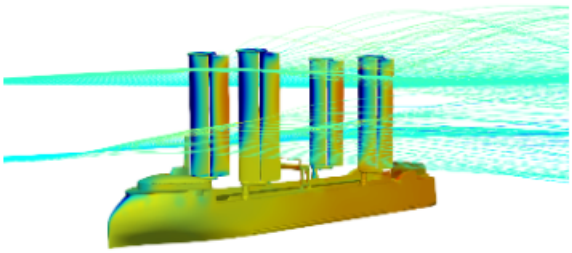


A FF4EuroHPC Success Story "High-Fidelity CFD Workflow for Optimizing Wind-Assisted Propulsion Systems" was published in the latest Futurities magazine

Oceanwings, a French SME, develops Oceanwings® — an articulated wingsail system that significantly reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for maritime transport. To optimize Oceanwings® for various vessel types and sizes, Oceanwings needed a high-fidelity aerodynamic evaluation method scalable across numerous configurations. Traditional CFD tools posed limits in terms of licensing cost, workflow automation, and scalability.

Within the FF4EuroHPC experiment, **an OpenFOAM-based workflow was developed in collaboration with PoliMi, CINECA, and ToolsPole.** The solution integrated a custom command-line interface to automate large-scale CFD simulations on HPC systems. This replaced GUI-based processes with a fully scriptable, batch-oriented system.

Read the whole article here.



Meet FFplus Partners at events!

Over the past month, FFplus partners have actively participated in and organised several events and meetings.

- On June 26th & 27th, the consortium gathered **in Milan, Italy, for a productive all-hands meeting,** reflecting on progress so far and planning the next steps.
- On Tuesday, 8 July, the FFplus consortium **gathered in Luxembourg for the project's first review** — which was successfully passed.
- At this year's **ISC25 conference in Hamburg,** taking place 10-13 June, Tina Črnigoj Marc, FFplus Communication Lead and Project Manager at Arctur, took the stage at the EuroHPC Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) booth to present the FFplus project and its Second Open Call for Business Experiments.
- FFplus was present at **Startup Summit BW 2025** on June 2 through representation in the Ecosystem-Area at the Internationalisierungs-booth, together with FFplus partner HLRS/HammerHAI.
- On Tuesday, 1 July 2025, the Fortissimo/FFplus community gathered online for a dynamic **one-hour webinar titled *"Discover Real HPC Business Impact for SMEs"***, organised by partner TERATEC. Have a look at the webinar video here.
- On Thursday, 17 July 2025, NCC Italy hosted an insightful **webinar titled *"Best Practices for a Successful FFplus Proposal"***, aimed at equipping National Competence Centres (NCCs) and their SME stakeholders with practical tools and strategies to enhance their FFplus project applications.
- The **SSC-Services GmbH Summerfest AI 2.0 took place in Stuttgart** on July 17th. FFplus Coordinator Dr. Bastian Koller (HLRS - High-Performance Computing Center Stuttgart) presented FFplus project and the Open Call.

Innovation

Success stories explain how SMEs addressed real business challenges and developed solutions with the help of HPC, showcasing the clear business benefits and impacts of adopting HPC in their operations.

The use of HPC makes it possible to tackle a computational problem Italian SME GTS met during its service for recovering plastic litter in the sea: optimising the plastic litter recovery strategy, forecasting the position of hundreds of detritus floating in the sea with suitable accuracy in space and time.

Protecting seas and oceans against litter is becoming a global concern and there is a growing need worldwide for more efficient, clean and autonomous technologies to identify and collect marine detritus, especially plastics, in a systematic and repetitive way.

Watch the success story video here.

Get inspired - Read the Success Stories Articles!

Let´s Stay Connected!

Ensure you don't miss any valuable information about the open call, events, success stories, and topics related to HPC and AI.
Follow FFplus on social media.

LinkedIn
YouTube

This project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 101163317.
The JU receives support from the Digital Europe Programme.

Runtime: 01.05.2024 - 30.04.2028
Funding: EU-Digital Europe Programme
Granting Authority: EuroHPC JU
Total Grant Amount: 29,999,678.81 EUR
Website: www.ffplus-project.eu

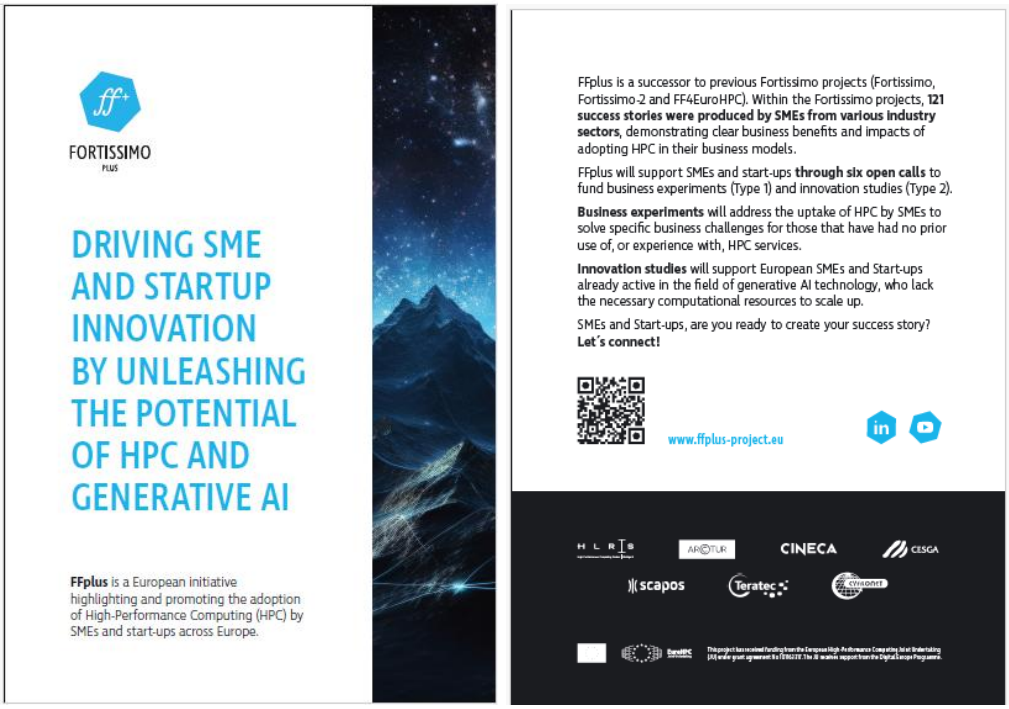
Figure 6: FFplus Newsletter #3, MailChimp.

2.1.5 Promo Materials

To promote the project, Open Calls, and Success Stories, highly engaging and visually appealing promotional materials with tailored communication messages have been developed. These materials include flyers, promotional cards, posters, and roll-ups (available in both digital and print formats) and are distributed directly to target groups through the FFplus project communication channels — including the website, email campaigns, newsletters, and social media — as well as at relevant events.

In addition, initial promotional gadgets were designed and used to raise awareness of the project at events and exhibition booths.

All promotional materials are adaptable and will be customised or updated upon request throughout the project's lifetime to ensure alignment with ongoing activities and communication priorities.



DRIVING SME AND STARTUP INNOVATION BY UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF HPC AND GENERATIVE AI

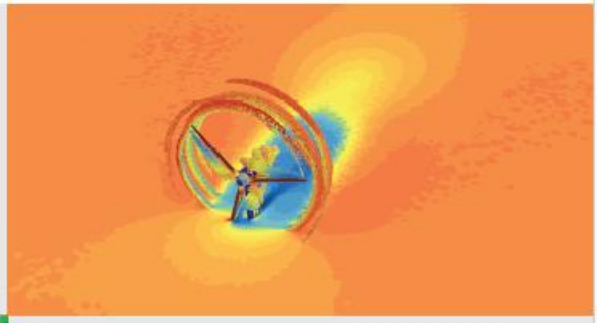
FORTISSIMO PLUS

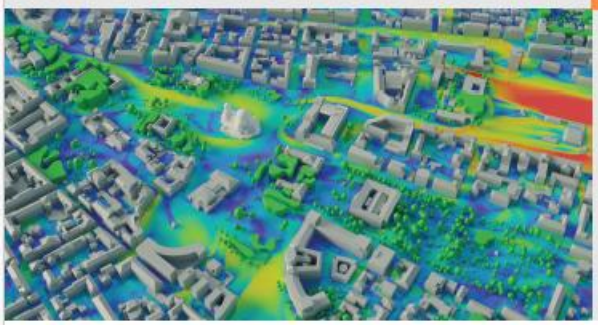
FFplus is a European initiative highlighting and promoting the adoption of High-Performance Computing and generative AI by SMEs and start-ups across Europe.

FFplus will support SMEs and start-ups **through six open calls** to fund business experiments (Type 1) and innovation studies (Type 2).

The First FFplus Open Call for Business Experiments was Successful: **19 sub-projects were selected for funding**, consisting of a total of 43 organisations from 15 countries.

Business experiments will address the uptake of HPC by SMEs to solve specic business challenges for those that have had no prior use of, or experience with, HPC services.





The First FFplus Open Call for Innovation Studies was Successful: **18 sub-projects were selected for funding**, involving a total of 36 organisations and 16 other organisations from 14 countries.

Innovation studies will support European SMEs and Start-ups already active in the field of generative AI technology, who lack the necessary computational resources to scale up.

FFplus 2nd Open Call for Innovation Studies

Opening date: 3 December 2025

Submission Deadline:
25 February 2026, 17:00 (Brussels time)

Expected duration of participation: 10 months

Funding available: € 4,000,000.00

SMEs and Start-ups, are you ready to create your success story?

Let's connect!

@FFplusproject

www.ffplus-project.eu

HLRS ARCTUR CINECA CESGA scapos Teratec CYFRONET

EuroHPC

This project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 101163317. The JU receives support from the Digital Europe Programme.

Figure 7: FFplus flyer (top), poster (middle) and promo card (bottom).

2.1.6 Blog Posts, Press Releases, News Items

To raise awareness of HPC- and AI-related topics among all target groups, from beginners to experts, varied and engaging content is being developed and made publicly available, including blog posts and articles. These materials are created in collaboration with sub-project partners, former FF4EuroHPC sub-project partners, as well as FFplus partners and other collaborators who can contribute valuable insights and content.

Fortissimo sub-project partners (from both FF4EuroHPC and FFplus) have shared their work and experiences through blog posts and video interviews, while other collaborators have contributed relevant content related to the Fortissimo projects, the application of HPC, AI, and LLMs in business, and the Access Calls offered by EuroHPC JU [10].

In addition to written content, a series of short informative videos has been produced and disseminated across various digital channels, as video has proven to be one of the most engaging and widely consumed content formats for online audiences.

To ensure effective communication of project activities and results, 33 news items have been written and published on the FFplus website. Throughout the project's implementation, five press releases were prepared, published, and distributed to international media outlets. To monitor project visibility in digital and print media — including online portals, websites, TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines — 102 media clippings (URLs) have been collected.

The planned and achieved KPIs are presented in Table 1.

PANDORA: DIGITAL TWINS AND AI FOR CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

28. August 2025

Cardiovascular surgery, particularly operations on the ascending aorta, is among the most delicate procedures in medicine. Aortic aneurysms are one of the most severe cardiovascular conditions: they involve a dangerous dilation of the aorta—the main vessel carrying blood from the heart to the rest of the body—which can eventually rupture with fatal consequences. When they occur in the ascending tract (Figure 1), the portion of the aorta emerging directly from the heart, the risk is especially high, and surgical intervention is the standard of care. In such cases, the diseased segment is replaced with a vascular graft made of Dacron, a synthetic and durable material designed to restore normal blood flow.

The number of these reparative surgeries is expected to grow significantly in the coming years. **According to the latest European guidelines,** the threshold for surgical treatment has been lowered: while in the past intervention was recommended once the aneurysm diameter exceeded 55 mm, today the critical size has been reduced by 5 mm. Even stricter criteria apply to patients with genetic predispositions, bicuspid aortic valves, or other comorbidities, meaning that more patients will now be eligible for earlier surgical intervention.

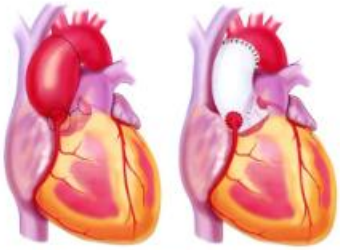


Figure 1: Ascending aortic aneurysm and aortic replacement

Although clinical practice is evolving with more stringent criteria, outcomes remain challenging: **around 20% of patients require a secondary surgery within 10 years due to complications or device-related issues.** This suggests that, in the near future, we may face a growing pool of patients not only undergoing their first procedure but also requiring re-intervention, adding further pressure on healthcare systems and surgical teams.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Digital Twin technologies are now opening the door to a new era of surgical planning. While existing platforms allow clinicians to measure anatomical features from CT or MRI scans, not all can predict how devices will perform once implanted.

This is the gap that the PANDORA project—and its main partner, LivGemini—aims to address in the cardiovascular field.

Within PANDORA, supported by the **Italian company RBF Morph SRL, the Signal and Image Processing Laboratory (LTSI) in Rennes, and the National Institute of Applied Sciences of Lyon,** LivGemini is developing a software prototype capable of transforming medical images into a patient-specific Digital Twin of the aorta. Using this interactive solution, surgeons will be able to virtually test different vascular grafts and immediately view predictive results on stress distribution, graft deformation, and coronary flow. Behind the scenes, these insights are powered by high-performance computing (HPC) simulations, compressed into surrogate models that deliver answers in near real time. Importantly, all of this occurs within the hospital environment, ensuring patient data remains private and fully compliant with regulations. A first prototype of the software solution is shown in Figure 2.

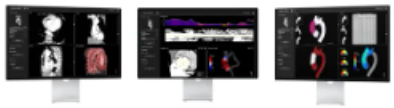


Figure 2: Prototype of the software solution for replicating the aortic aneurysm surgery.

LivGemini's expertise in Digital Twin development builds on years of research carried out in previous European projects, most notably MeDITATe, where several of the researchers now involved in PANDORA were also active. During MeDITATe, the idea of applying in-silico modelling to cardiovascular surgery emerged, driven by unmet needs expressed directly by surgeons. Since then, the team has consolidated strong expertise in combining numerical simulations, AI-driven models, and clinical workflows. What sets LivGemini apart is its close interaction with the clinical world: the team collaborates daily with surgeons, attends operations, and observes procedures first-hand in order to design solutions that are truly aligned with surgical practice and constraints. **This continuous dialogue ensures that the Digital Twin technology developed within PANDORA is not only scientifically advanced but also clinically relevant and directly applicable in real-world settings.**

The team is now working on **predictive models that can provide surgeons with reliable, patient-specific insights before surgery.** Beyond AI-driven segmentation—performed with deep learning architectures such as U-Net to extract accurate 3D reconstructions of the aorta from CT data—the team is developing computational simulations that reproduce the full surgical scenario. These simulations are not limited to the prosthesis itself: they even model the suturing threads used to anchor the vascular graft to the native aorta. This level of detail enables investigation, with unprecedented accuracy, of how the prosthesis adapts to each patient's anatomy, how local stresses are distributed, and how the graft will perform over time. By integrating these high-fidelity numerical simulations with surrogate modelling techniques, PANDORA aims to deliver fast, clinically interpretable predictions that directly support surgical decision-making.

Such high-fidelity simulations, once integrated into surrogate models, can generate predictions within clinical timeframes. **This capability translates into tangible benefits for hospitals: fewer complications, shorter operating times, and reduced need for costly re-interventions.** For medical device manufacturers, it opens the possibility of bundling predictive planning software with their devices, strengthening competitiveness and clinical support.

The first application focuses on ascending aortic aneurysms, but the platform has been designed with scalability in mind, allowing future extensions to other cardiovascular interventions such as valve surgery or atrial procedures. This vision is already supported by early collaborations with the University Hospital of Rennes in France and Policlinico Tor Vergata in Italy, which are assisting with the first steps of clinical validation. **Through these joint efforts, the combination of AI segmentation, predictive models, and in-silico simulations developed within PANDORA is being translated into a practical tool that enables clinicians to test different options before entering the operating room, reducing uncertainty and improving surgical planning.**

Learn more about the PANDORA sub-project here.

The main partner in the project is LivGemini, an Italian innovative start-up and winner of the 2023 Italian Innovation Award in the MedTech sector. The company develops software based on the integration of Digital Twin and Artificial Intelligence to support cardiovascular surgeons in diagnosis and pre-operative planning.

Author: Leonardo Geronzi, Co-Founder & CEO, LivGemini

Figure 8: An example of the blog post.

2.1.7 Articles Published in Sector Magazines

Our experience from previous Fortissimo projects has shown that Success Stories are among the most effective and well-received communication materials. They provide valuable insights not only to SMEs and start-ups but also to the entire HPC value chain. Project activities and Success Stories are presented in the form of articles published in sector-specific and technical magazines, as this format appeals to industry readers — ranging from top management and engineers to developers and other technical professionals.

To date, excellent collaboration has been established with Futurities Magazine, an engineering simulation-focused publication, in which several Fortissimo Success Stories have been featured. Three articles have appeared in Futurities Magazine, highlighting selected FF4EuroHPC Success Stories and introducing the FFplus Open Calls.

In addition, ten further articles have been published in various other magazines.

All articles are listed below:

1. Innovation in business: HPC as an opportunity for SMEs. ASHPC24 Book of Abstracts 2024. Published 1.07.2024 [11].
2. FF4EuroHPC: SME Innovation Through HPC. ASHPC24 Book of Abstracts 2024. Published 1.07.2024 [11].
3. Superračunalništvo za super produktivnost in inovativnost podjetij. Računalniške novice. Published 17.07.2024 [12].

4. Offene Ausschreibungen von FFplus. Gauß-Allianz Infobrief. Published 9.08.2024 [13].
5. Förderung von KMU-Innovationen durch Höchstleistungsrechnen und generative KI. IT Region Stuttgart News. Published 8.08.2024 [14].
6. Visokozmogljivo računalništvo in generativna umetna inteligenca za inovativnost in konkurenčnost podjetij. Monitor. Published 9.10.2024 [15].
7. FFplus Holds First Open Call for HPC and AI Applications in Industry. InSIDE Magazine. Published 1.11.2024 [16].
8. Superkomputery w biznesie - jak przyspieszają rozwój firmy. Baza wiedzy PFR. Published 17.03.2025 [17].
9. The Changing Face of Fortissimo: An Interview with Guy Lonsdale. HLRS Annual Report. Published 16.04.2025 [18].
10. A decade of enhancing the innovation potential of European SMEs. Futurities Magazine - Year 22 n. 1 Spring 2025. Published 16.04.2025 [19].
11. High-fidelity CFD workflow for optimizing wind-assisted propulsion systems. Futurities Magazine -Year 22 n. 2 Summer 2025. Published 17.07.2025 [20].
12. Novi krog razpisa Fortissimo Plus za podjetja: za razvoj in inovacije štirje milijoni evrov. Primorske Novice. Published 30.07.2025 [21].
13. FFplus project. ETP4HPC Handbook of European Projects. Published 21.08.2025 [22].

High-fidelity CFD workflow for optimizing wind-assisted propulsion systems

by Giorgio Provinciali[1], Kevin Charpot[1], Tina Črnigoj Marc[2]
1. Oceanwings - 2. Arctur

Oceanwings, a French SME, develops Oceanwings,® an articulated wingsail system that significantly reduces fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions for maritime transport. To optimize the Oceanwings system for different vessel types and sizes, the SME required a high-fidelity aerodynamic evaluation method adaptable to a wide range of configurations. Traditional CFD tools were limited in terms of licensing costs, workflow automation, and scalability.

As part of the FF4EuroHPC experiment, a new OpenFOAM-based workflow was developed in collaboration with the Polytechnic of Milan (PoliMi), CINECA, and ToolsPole. This integrated a customized command-line interface to automate large-scale CFD simulations on HPC systems. It replaced GUI-based processes with a fully programmable, batch processing-oriented system.

A rich dataset of aerodynamic performance parameters was generated within a broad design space, requiring over 350,000 CPU hours. Each configuration involved the use of steady-state RANS simulations using the SST k-omega turbulence model and optimized meshing and calculation strategies in a parallelized manner. The domain topologies and boundary conditions were then modified to reflect realistic wind angles and vessel interactions.

We integrated the CFD results into the BREVA platform from ToolsPole. The platform combines simulation results with a Bayesian optimization engine developed by USI. This enabled us to identify the optimal trim parameters for the Oceanwings and maximize aerodynamic thrust under various wind conditions.

Oceanwings has streamlined the CFD-HPC workflow enabling the company to analyse thousands of configurations per vessel in days instead of weeks without relying on commercial software licenses. This allows the company to provide customized sail configurations for yachts, cargo ships, and hybrid vessels, and to supply its AI-based control software with high-fidelity aerodynamic data.

As a result, Oceanwings expects its control algorithms to improve the aerodynamic efficiency of the Oceanwings product by about 10%. This solution enables faster design iterations, improved responses to customer specifications, and a compelling business case for entering new ship categories. The experiment demonstrates how open-source tools and HPC infrastructure can provide SMEs engaged in maritime innovation with democratic access to advanced simulation capabilities.

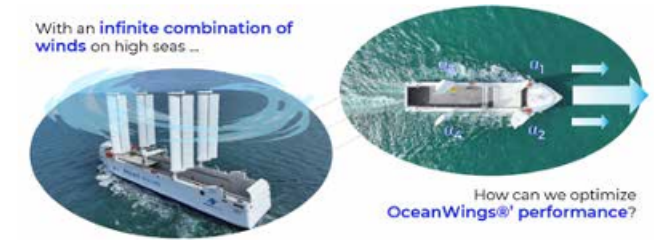


Fig. 1. The challenge of optimizing wind propulsion at sea. This real photograph shows a vessel equipped with four Oceanwings, surrounded by different wind directions. It highlights the combinatorial complexity of optimizing performance at sea.

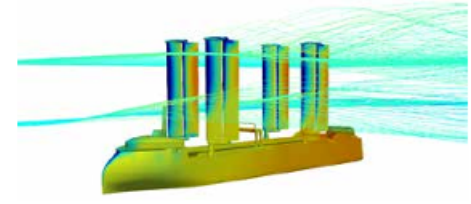


Fig. 2. CFD analysis of the flow lines around the Oceanwings. A visualization of the airflow around a vessel equipped with four Oceanwings, displaying the flow lines and pressure curves at an apparent wind angle of 30°. It demonstrates the realistic aerodynamic interactions between the sails and the superstructure.

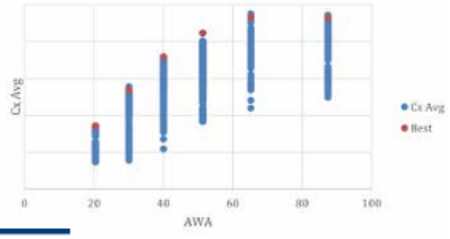


Fig. 3. Thrust coefficient vs. apparent wind angle. This graph shows the average non-dimensional thrust (Cx) coefficient in relation to the apparent wind angle for different trim configurations. The optimal configuration is highlighted to demonstrate the significant performance improvement that can be achieved through optimized trimming.

The success story presented in this article was developed during the first tranche of the FF4EuroHPC Project. FF4EuroHPC supports the competitiveness of European SMEs by funding business-oriented experiments and promoting the adoption of advanced HPC technologies and services. The experiment is an end-user-relevant case study demonstrating the use of cloud-based HPC (high-performance computing) and its benefits to the value chain (from end-user to HPC-infrastructure provider) to address SME business challenges requiring the use of HPC and complementary technologies such as HPDA (high performance data analytics) and AI (artificial intelligence). The successful completion of the experiment has created a success story that can inspire the industrial community.

For more information:
Tina Crnigoj Marc - Arctur; FFplus Communication lead
tina@arctur.si

The FF4EuroHPC project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No. 951745. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme and from Germany, Italy, Slovenia, France, and Spain. FFplus project has received funding from the European High-Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (JU) under grant agreement No 101163317. The JU receives support from the Digital Europe Programme.

The FFplus project has released its second open call for business experiments for SMEs and startups

Throughout the project, SMEs and start-ups will receive support through six funding calls for business experiments (Type 1) and for innovation studies (Type 2).

The business experiments aim to encourage SMEs to adopt high-performance computing (HPC) to address specific business challenges, even if they have no prior experience with HPC services.

The resulting sub-projects will perform "business experiments" that demonstrate to the broader European SME ecosystem how HPC adoption solves business problems and positively impacts businesses through the use of HPC-based computational methods. The key outputs will be success stories that promote, communicate, and disseminate the business impact of HPC adoption within the SME ecosystem.

Proposals are sought that address the business challenges of European SMEs in various application domains. SMEs whose adoption of advanced HPC services will have the greatest business impact will be prioritized. SMEs with an academic focus or that only have long-term potential are outside the scope of this call.

Key call details

Submission deadline: August 26th, 2025 at 17:00 Brussels local time

Expected duration of experiments: maximum of 15 months with a targeted commencement date of January 1st, 2026

The total budget for all sub-projects funded through this call is €4 million.

Several funding constraints and eligibility conditions apply. For more information, see the full announcement on the project website www.ffplus-project.eu.

Figure 9: Example of the Article, published in the Futurities Magazine [20].

2.1.8 Events

The primary aim of promoting the FFplus project at events is to increase its visibility and further advance the Fortissimo mission. This includes disseminating information about the benefits of using HPC and AI in business and highlighting the role of EuroHPC JU within the European HPC ecosystem — both as a project funder and as a co-funder of state-of-the-art supercomputers. Events also provide valuable opportunities for visitors to actively engage with speakers and network with participants, either in person or via digital meeting rooms facilitated by online

platforms. Furthermore, participation in events allows FFplus partners to connect directly with representatives of the project's target groups.

An event plan is prepared and regularly updated to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness, particularly to support the timely promotion of upcoming activities. In addition to promoting the project and Success Stories at on-site events, the core partners have organised webinars to promote Open Calls and present Success Stories, while also actively participating in other relevant events to reach all target groups. These include major gatherings such as the EuroHPC Summit and ISC High Performance.

To further engage with industry stakeholders, partners have promoted the project at several industry-focused events, including the Startup Academy in Kraków (Poland), Start-up BW Summit in Stuttgart (Germany), and the Research2Business Fair in Bologna (Italy).

During the first phase of the project, the main focus was on promoting Open Calls, while in the second half of the project's lifetime, communication efforts will concentrate on disseminating newly developed Success Stories.

Sub-project partners are also encouraged to contribute as speakers at events organised by the FFplus Consortium or other relevant collaborating entities (e.g., NCCs, DIHs, EuroHPC JU). Examples include the HPC User Forum and events such as the North Primorska Chamber of Commerce: Support to SMEs for Open Calls for Digitalisation and Digital Transformation.

Partners actively participated in and (co-)organised 62 events of various formats, including major conferences (300 visitors or more), smaller conferences, internal meetings, webinars, workshops, trade fairs (booth), poster presentations, and B2B meetings. The list of all events is provided in Table 2.

#	Event title	Organized by (partner, project, working group, initiative - please specify)	Presented aspect OR Benefits for FFplus (in ref. to the WPx)	Date of the event	Location
1	Superračunalništvo in umetna inteligenca – potenciali za boljši svet	Arctur, Goriška knjižnica	HPC and AI for industry and research	30.05.2024	Nova Gorica, Slovenia
2	2nd TQCI International Seminar on Benchmarks for Quantum Computers	Teratec		4-5.06.2024	Reims, France
3	10th ASHPC24 Conference	NCC Austria, NCC Slovenia	HPC 4 SMEs	11.06.2024	Grundlsee, Austria
4	Open Call 1 webinar for NCCs	scapos, Arctur	FFplus Open Call	19.06.2024	online
5	Poland AI Ecosystem Meetup	NVIDIA	FFplus Open Call	19.06.2024	Warsaw, Poland
6	Open Call 1 webinar for NCCs	scapos, Arctur	FFplus Open Call	20.06.2024	online
7	Innovation Drivers 6 „Smart Solutions: Innovation durch KI und Datenvisualisierung" (closed industry stakeholder event, organised by IT region Stuttgart)	HLRS	FFplus Open Call, FF4EuroHPC success stories	24.06.2024	Stuttgart, Germany
8	Startup Summit BW	HLRS	FFplus Open Call, HPC4SME, success stories	11.07.2024	Stuttgart, Germany
9	Open Call 1 webinar #1	scapos, Arctur	FFplus Open Call	1.07.2024	online
10	Open Call 1 webinar#2	scapos, Arctur	FFplus Open Call	1.07.2024	online
11	EU finančna klinika EDIH DIGI-SI	Arctur, DIGI-SI	FFplus Open Call, HPC4SME, success stories	30.07.2024	online
12	Open Call 1 webinar #3	scapos, Arctur	FFplus Open Call	08.07.2024	online
13	Open Call 1 webinar #4	scapos, Arctur	FFplus Open Call	08.07.2024	online
14	53rd International Conference on Parallel Processing	NetAPP, E4, NSF	FFplus Open Call	12-15.08.2024	Gotland, Sweden
15	New TQCI Seminar on the industrialization and deployment of quantum computing technologies: how to scale up?	Teratec		5.09.2024	Paris, France
16	FARETE	Confindustria ER	FFplus project, Open Calls	4-5.09.2024	Bologna, Italy
17	Visit of Europa Union Germany at HLRS	HLRS	FFplus project, success stories, Open Call 2	1.10.2024	Stuttgart, Germany

18	HPC roundtable 24	DO IT systems	FFplus project, Open Calls	10.09.2024	Torino, Italy
19	EuroHPC JU user day	EuroHPC JU	FFplus project, Open Calls	22-23.10.2024	Amsterdam, Netherlands
20	SC24	conference committee?	FFplus project, Open Calls	17-22.11.2024	Atlanta, USA
21	New TQCI Seminar - Interested in future possibilities in Quantum Computing and Quantum Sensing ?	Teratec		13-14.11.2024	Palaiseau,France
22	Data Science Summit	Data Science Warsaw and the Academic Partners Foundation	FFplus project	22.11.2024	Warsaw, Poland
23	Dnevi slovenskega superračunalniškega omrežja	NCC SLING - Arctur	FFplus project, success stories	5.12.2024	Ljubljana, Slovenia
24	Introduction to the Albanian public entities - meeting in Tirana 12.2.2025	Arctur	FFplus project	12.02.2025	Tirana, Albania
25	Workshop: AI in Action: Transformative Strategies for Business Productivity (Day 1)	Arctur, NCC SLING	FFplus project	11.03.2025	online
26	Poles are not geese and have their own large langiage models	Cyfronet	FF plus project	27.02.2025	Krakow Poland
27	Workshop: AI in Action: Transformative Strategies for Business Productivity (Day 2)	Arctur, NCC SLING	FFplus project	25.03.2025	online
28	EuroHPC Summit	EuroHPC JU	FFplus project, Open Calls	18-20.03.2025	Krakow Poland
29	North Primorska Chamber of Commerce: support to SMEs for Open Calls for digitalization and digital transformation	Arctur, Chamber of Commerce	FFplus project, Open Calls	26.03.2025	Nova Gorica, Slovenia
30	Krakow Technology Park meeting under KPT Booster project	Cyfronet	FF plus project, Open Calls	27.03.2025	online
31	KU KDM 2025 Conference	Cyfronet	FF plus project, Open Calls	4.04.2025	Zakopane, Poland
32	Data&AI Warsaw Tech Summit 2025 conference	Cyfronet	FF plus project	9.04.2025	Warsaw, Poland
33	CAE Grand Challenge	carhs	FFplus project, Open Calls	8-9.04.2025	Hanau, Germany
34	Superračunalništvo, AI in LLM: Ključ za dvig konkurenčnosti v poslovanju	NCC Slovenia	FFplus project, Open call	14.05.2025	online
35	Space Connect meeting in Krakow	ESA and Krakow Technology Park, Polish EDIH	FFplus project, Open call	7.05.2025	Krakow Poland
36	Podjetja na poti inovacij: HPC, AI, LLM	NCC Slovenia	FFplus project, Open Call	15.05.2025	online
37	Teratec Forum	Teratec	FFplus	21-22.05.2025	Paris, France
38	Carpathian Fest	The Rzeszow Regional Development Agency S.A. and the Podkarpackie Science and Technology Park "Aeropolis"	FF plus, Open call	21-22.05.2025	Rzeszów, Poland
39	KETs 2025 I EU Brokerage Event	EU Brokerage event	FFplus	20.05.2025	Strassbourg, France
40	ASHPC25	NCC Austria, NCC Slovenia	FFplus project, Open Calls	19-22.05.2025	Rimske terme, Slovenia
41	Infoshare	Infoshare Sp. z o.o. and Fundacja Infoshare	FFplus project, Open Calls	27-28.05.2025	Gdansk, Poland
42	Women in Tech	Perspektywy Foundation	FFplus project, Open Calls	4-5.06.2025	Warsaw, Poland
43	ISC25	conference committee / booth?	FFplus project, Open Calls	11-13.06.2025	Hamburg, Germany
44	AI Startup Hunt	Polish Develeopment Fund	FFplus project, Open Calls	13.06.2025	Warsaw, Poland
45	FFplus Webinar OC2-T1 public #1	Arctur, scapos	FFplus project, Open Calls	17.06.2025	online
46	FFplus Webinar OC2-T1 for Slovene SMEs, NCC SLING Slovenia	Arctur, NCC SLING	FFplus project, Open Calls	18.06.2025	online
47	FFplus Webinar OC2-T1 for NCCs	Arctur, scapos	FFplus project, Open Calls	18.06.2025	online
48	FFplus Webinar OC2-T1 public #2	Arctur, scapos	FFplus project, Open Calls	23.06.2025	online
49	Research2Business fair	EDIH ER2Digit	FFplus project, Open Calls	25.06.2025	Bologna, Italy
50	Start up BW Summit		FFplus project, Open Calls	11.07.2025	Stuttgart
51	Webinar for Discover Real HPC Business Impact for SMEs	TERATEC	FFplus Open Call, FF4EuroHPC success stories	1.07.2025	online
52	Webinar for Spanish SMEs 1.7.	CESGA	FFplus open call	1.07.2025	online
53	Best Practices for a Successful FFplus Proposal	CINECA, NCC Italy; scapos	FFplus Open Call	17.07.2025	online
54	Vivitech	Vivatech	FFplus project, Open Calls	11-13.06.2025	Paris, France
55	First Forum for Supercomputing and Future Technologies	NCC Germany	FFplus project - funding opportunities for SMEs and start-ups	2.12.2024	Stuttgart, Germany
56	HPC User Forum	HLRS, Hyperion Research	Fortissimo Plus (FFplus) Program Update	24.10.2024	Stuttgart, Germany
57	Fortissimo Plus Info Day	Cyfronet	Opan Call 2, Type 1	15.07.2025	online
58	SSC-Services GmbH Summerfest AI 2.0	HLRS	Fortissimo Plus (FFplus) Program Update	17.07.2025	Stuttgart, Germany
59	Startup Academy	Startup Academy	FFplus project, OC2T1	4.07.2025	Krakow, Poland
60	Code Europe	Code Europe	FFplus project	1.07.2025	Krakow, Poland
61	Webinar: Open Call 2 - T2 for NCCs Members	FFplus	FFplus, OC2-T2	15.9.2025	online
62	EUROCC2 & CASTIEL2 AHM in Tallin, ET	EUROCC2, FFplus	FFplus, OC2-T2	22.9.-25.9.	Tallin, Estonia

Table 2: List of Events M1-M18.

2.2 Task 5.2 – Interaction and Collaboration with the HPC Ecosystem

This task encompasses all activities aimed at fostering successful collaborations with various entities across the European HPC ecosystem. Building on the collaboration network established during the FF4EuroHPC project phase, a detailed mapping exercise was carried out for FFplus, identifying 276 entities relevant for potential collaboration.

Priority was given to cooperation with NCCs, EuroHPC JU, European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) — particularly those thematically connected to HPC and AI — and newly established AI Factories. Among these, the NCCs remain the most strategic collaborators, as their partners can actively support industry engagement, participate in sub-projects, and contribute to knowledge transfer and capacity building, thereby adding significant value to the execution of FFplus activities.

As secondary collaborators, entities such as Chambers of Commerce, Startup Accelerators, Technology Parks, and Centres of Excellence (CoEs) were identified, along with other relevant players in the EU HPC ecosystem, including ETP4HPC and BDVA. Plans for continued collaboration with these stakeholders have been developed, resulting in a comprehensive list of suitable partners and a clear outline of their respective roles and potential contributions.

During the first phase of the project, collaboration efforts primarily focused on the promotion of Open Calls, the creation of blog content, and participation in events. In the second half of the project, the emphasis will shift towards promoting Success Stories and disseminating the results achieved.Potential collaboration activities include:

- Promoting the project's Open Calls and Success Stories;
- Co-organising events involving FFplus core or experiment partners;
- Developing and sharing communication materials;
- Co-authoring and publishing articles, blogs, and papers in magazines, digital media, or on collaborators' websites;
- Exchanging information through collaborators' newsletters, websites, and social media platforms.

Collaboration with EuroHPC JU and relevant governing bodies (e.g., the European Commission) has continued in the same manner as in previous projects. FFplus partners contributed to the EUROHPC Summit in Poland this year. Meanwhile, the EuroHPC JU team participated in the Open Call webinar organised by FFplus partners to introduce HPC Access Schemes and also contributed to the related blog post. Additionally, both parties share information through social media, newsletters, and websites.

During this reporting period, 28 NCCs supported FFplus activities by promoting the Open Calls via their websites or social media channels, while 9 NCCs established closer collaboration by also contributing to events, newsletters, blog posts, and interviews. Furthermore, 8 EDIHs supported the promotion of Open Calls, with 3 EDIHs engaging in more intensive cooperation, contributing to events and newsletter content.The list of collaborators will be continuously

updated throughout the project's lifetime to reflect evolving project needs, collaboration opportunities, and the broader requirements of the EU HPC Ecosystem.

2.3 Task 5.3 – Open Call Promotion

To effectively promote the Open Calls and increase their visibility among potential applicants, a range of coordinated activities was carried out by the core partners, with the support of various collaborators, to reach the most relevant audiences.

The Open Call promotion activities focused on the following key actions:

- Development of promotional materials such as (e)flyers, graphics, animations, and videos, prepared in collaboration with WP2 (Open Call Management), which is responsible for developing the Open Call guidelines.
- Publication of Open Call information on the FFplus website, updated in line with each specific Call.
- Dissemination of promotional materials and information through collaboration networks, including NCCs, DIHs, EEN, and others—via events, email campaigns, and additional communication channels.
- Organisation of webinars, on-site events, and workshops for NCCs, collaborators, SMEs, and start-ups to explain the Call objectives, scope, evaluation criteria, and priorities.
- Preparation and distribution of press releases to contributors, media outlets, and through the core partners' websites.
- Communication via social media and newsletters of the FFplus project, core partners, and collaborators.
- Target audience characteristics—including company size, industrial sector, job function, and EU country—were defined and used to guide paid LinkedIn promotions aimed at boosting Open Call visibility.

All materials and communication activities were aligned with the Open Call guidelines and schedule. As the Open Calls are open for a limited period, the "Open Calls" section of the website, along with its subsites "Business Experiments" and "Innovation Studies", was updated accordingly for each Call.

Throughout the project's lifetime, three tranches of Type 1 (Business Experiments) and Type 2 (Innovation Studies) Calls will be implemented, resulting in a total of six Open Calls. Following the evaluation process, information on the submitted and funded proposals was collected, analysed, and disseminated to the public through press releases and news items.

Open Call promotion timelines - done:

Open Call 1 – T1 and T2: M3–M5 (July–September 2024)
Open Call 2 – T1: M14–M16 (July–September 2025)

Upcoming Open Calls:

Open Call 2 – T2: M20–M22 (December 2025 –February 2026)
Open Call 3 – T1: M28–M30 (September - November 2026)
Open Call 3 – T2: M39–M41 (July - September 2027)

2.4 Task 5.4 – Success Stories

Success Stories are the key outputs of the FFplus project, produced following the successful completion of each sub-project. A Success Story highlights the tangible business benefits achieved by experiment partners in Business Experiments and the competitive advantages gained through Innovation Studies. These stories demonstrate the potential value for businesses across various industrial sectors in adopting advanced HPC, HPDA, and (generative) AI services. Their overarching aim is to raise awareness within both industrial and research-oriented communities and to encourage the wider adoption of modelling, simulation, HPDA, analytics, and LLM-based solutions in areas where such technologies have not yet been implemented.

For organisations in relevant industrial sectors, Success Stories provide concise and accessible information outlining the business challenge, the implemented solution, and key technical aspects. This format allows readers to understand the context, assess the impact, and identify opportunities to adopt similar approaches within their own operations.

Story Types

- **Type 1 – Business Experiments**

These Success Stories will describe the challenges addressed by experiment partners and illustrate how they implemented HPC, AI, ML, or other advanced digital technologies in their business processes. They will also present the resulting business benefits, along with the economic, social, and environmental impacts achieved during the experiment phase.

- **Type 2 – Innovation Studies**

These Success Stories will be presented separately. While maintaining a focus on HPC's business impact, greater emphasis will be placed on the technical development of generative AI, including Large Language Models and foundation platforms. They will explain the potential deployment and usage within general or targeted application domains, and the broader implications for European industrial, commercial, governmental, and societal systems, including future applications not yet foreseen.

Development Process

At the start of the OC1-T1 and OC1-T2 sub-projects, relevant materials were collected, and preliminary content was prepared to present each sub-project on the FFplus website and across

social media channels. Upon successful project completion, a full Success Story will be developed.

To facilitate this process, WP5 has:

- Developed content templates and guidelines for sub-project partners;
- Established a shared repository on BSCW for content submission and review;
- Assigned Arctur as the coordinator of Success Story production, with support from other project partners.
- Employed professional copywriter and production team to develop hi-quality materials.

The content will be prepared by sub-project partners and subsequently refined by a professional copywriter to ensure high-quality, engaging, and accessible storytelling. Final design, layout, and video production will be carried out by a professional production team, producing both digital and print materials.

All materials will be used for promotional purposes and must not contain any sensitive or proprietary business information. Partners will be notified in advance about upcoming material collection phases and will be required to contribute content for the development and dissemination of Success Stories.

All Success Stories will be disseminated through multiple communication channels, including: the FFplus project website, e-flyers and booklets (digital and print), newsletters, social media (LinkedIn, YouTube), and videos. Additionally, the stories will be featured as articles in sector-specific or technical magazines, appealing to a diverse industrial readership — from senior management and engineers to technical professionals.

Estimated timelines for Success Story generation and production[5]:

- Open Call 1
  Type 1: M24-M26 (April – June 2026)
  Type 2: M18-M20 (October – December 2025)
- Open Call 2
  Type 1: M38-M40 (June – August 2027)
  Type 2: M38-M40 (June – August 2027)
- Open Call 3
  Type 1: M54-M56 (October - December 2028)
  Type 2: M58-M60 (February – April 2029)

[5] Since the Open Calls have been delayed, the production of Success Stories and Deliverables will also be postponed accordingly, as their development must follow the revised Open Call schedule, as presented internally in September 2025. Meanwhile, partners already prepared the new Deliverable timelines proposals for the GA Amendment in July, which differ from the ones in October (since the OC2-T1 proposals' information was not available at that time). The timelines might change during the project lifetime.

Once finalised, all Success Stories materials will be published on the FFplus website.

Estimated Booklet Publication Schedule[5]

Innovation Study Booklet #1: M34 (February 2027)

Experiment Booklet #1: M26 (June 2026)

Innovation Study Booklet #2: M60 (April 2029)

Experiment Booklet #2: M56 (December 2028)

3 Deviations, Milestones and Deliverables

3.1 Deviations

During the project lifetime, the following deviations were identified and successfully mitigated:

1. The FFplus profile on the X channel was closed due to external circumstances affecting engagement, communication, and management of this social media platform. This action did not affect FFplus project activities or objectives. Instead, the focus shifted to communication through LinkedIn and YouTube, with Spotify planned as the main platform for podcast episodes.
2. Success Stories production timelines and Deliverables *D5.4–D5.9 (Success Stories Booklets)* were rescheduled, as the Open Call execution and evaluation process was delayed. A new Open Call schedule has been established, and Success Story production will follow the Open Call execution to ensure the delivery of high-quality materials.
3. Some of the KPIs set in the Grant Agreement were already exceeded, despite being based on experiences from previous Fortissimo projects. The Fortissimo projects have gained a strong reputation over more than a decade and are well recognised within the EU ecosystem. To address this, new KPIs were defined and will be presented in the updated *D5.1 Communication, Dissemination, and Collaboration Plan*, as shown in Table 1.
4. During the first project review, the reviewers made the following recommendation: Dissemination strategies should continue to evolve to engage a broader and more diverse community beyond the currently targeted stakeholders. A more focused engagement and outreach plan should be developed, with clear objectives defined for each stakeholder group, including National Competence Centres (NCCs), Digital Innovation Hubs (DIHs), AI Factories, and SME associations. Particular attention should be given to underrepresented and widening countries, where participation remains limited. In particular, dissemination efforts to date are acknowledged, and the geographical distribution of open call applicants represents a clear improvement compared to previous Fortissimo projects. However, as mentioned, further progress is

needed to increase participation from wider countries. To support this, it is recommended that the project implement more targeted stakeholder engagement measures, including: Strengthening collaboration with chambers of commerce and industry associations, as committed to in the Grant Agreement and expanding engagement with European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) beyond those already involved through Fortissimo Plus beneficiaries.

Response to the recommendation:

Based on the current experience with Call-2-Type-1 where 367 proposals were received, we do not aim at a further increase in the number of proposals. Instead of reaching out to even more organisations to promote the call, we will further analyse the geographical reach of the call and specifically target organisations in countries that are underrepresented (e.g., through their EDIHs, NCCs, AI Factories/AI Antenna). In terms of success story promotion, all collaborators listed in the recommendation will be further evaluated and mapped, with a tailored set of activities defined for each user. Priority will be given to newly established AI Factories and SME and industry associations.

3.2. Milestones

The list of milestones is provided below, as presented in the GA:

Milestone Number	Milestone Name	Means of Verifications	Due Date
21	Success Stories HPC Uptake for SME Business Benefits – Tranche 1 published	Published on the website, according with the eflyers	M26
22	Success Stories HPC Use for generative AI Platforms from EU SMEs – Tranche 1 and 2 published	Published on the website, according with the eflyers	M34
23	Success Stories HPC Use for Generative AI Platforms from EU SMEs – Tranche 3 Published	Published on the website, according with the eflyers	M47
24	Success Stories HPC Uptake for SME Business Benefits – Tranche 2 and 3 published	Published on the website, according with the eflyers	M48

Table 3: Milestones for WP5.

3.3 Deliverables

Deliverable Number	Title	Lead	Type	Dissemination Level	Due Date	Status
D5.1	Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Plan	Arctur	Report	Public	M2	Submitted
D5.2	First Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Report	Arctur	Report	Public	M18	In Progress
D5.3	Second Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Report	Arctur	Report	Public	M36	-
D5.4	Final Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Report	Arctur	Report	Public	M48	-
D5.5	Success Story Booklet 1st edition, Type 1	Arctur	Report	Public	M26	-
D5.6	Success Story Booklet 1st edition, Type 2	Arctur	Report	Public	M34	-
D5.7	Success Story Booklet 2nd edition, Type 2	Arctur	Report	Public	M48	-
D5.8	Success Story Booklet 2nd edition, Type 1	Arctur	Report	Public	M48	-
D5.9	Success Stories Videos	Arctur	Report	Public	M48	-

Table 4: Table of Deliverables for WP5.

4 Conclusion

This deliverable outlines the work carried out by WP5 during the first 18 months of the project. It summarises all activities and achievements implemented in line with the D5.1 Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Plan and the Description of Action (DoA), and explains any deviations from the original plan.

Communication and dissemination activities have been conducted regularly in accordance with the D5.1 plan, with all dissemination materials and channels — including the project website — continuously updated.

All Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) set for this period have been achieved and are presented in detail in the respective chapters. As some KPIs have already been exceeded, new indicators have been defined and are presented in Table 1.

During the project lifetime, the following deviations were identified and successfully mitigated:The X channel was closed, and communication efforts were refocused on the LinkedIn and Spotify platforms.

- The Success Story production timelines and Deliverables *D5.4–D5.9 (Success Story Booklets)* were rescheduled due to the postponement of the Open Calls.
- Several KPIs defined in the Grant Agreement were exceeded; therefore, new KPIs were introduced.
- Following recommendations from project reviewers, partners will continue to expand engagement to reach a broader and more diverse community, giving particular priority to newly established AI Factories as well as SME and industry associations.

Three deliverables are planned for submission in the upcoming period:

- D5.5 – Success Story Booklet (Type 1, 1st edition) – Month 26
- D5.6 – Success Story Booklet (Type 2, 1st edition) – Month 34
- D5.3 – Second Dissemination, Communication and Collaboration Report – Month 36

In the next reporting period, dissemination and communication activities will focus on the promotion of upcoming Open Calls and the creation and dissemination of Success Stories.

5 References

[1] "Fortissimo project," [Online]. Available: https://www.fortissimo-project.eu/. [Accessed September 2025].

[2] "FF4EuroHPC project," [Online]. Available: https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/ . [Access September 2025].

[3] „FFplus project," [Online]. Available: https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/. [Access September 2025].

[4] N. H. Tina Crnigoj Marc, "FFplus project - T5.1 Dissemination, Outreach and Communication Strategy incl. Collaboration Plan," June 2024. [Online]. Available: https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/about/reports/. [Access September 2025].

[5] "FFplus project - Brandbook," [Online]. Available: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ffplus-project.eu/file/8339443601696771_ff-2B_brandbook.pdf. [Accessed September 2025].

[6] „FFplus LinkedIn," [Online]. Available: https://www.linkedin.com/company/43366020/. [Access September 2025].

[7] "YouTube - FFplus Project," [Online]. Available: https://www.youtube.com/@ffplusproject. [Access September 2025].

[8] „FFplus project - Newsletters," [Online]. Available: https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/multimedia/newsletters/. [Access September 2025].

[9] MailChimp, „MailChimp," [Online]. Available: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ffplus-project.eu/file/5360459814195934_ff-2B_newsletter-1.pdf. [Access October 2025].

[10] FFplus, „FFplus - Blog," [Online]. [Access October 2025].

[11] T. I. A. Tina C Marc, „ASHPC24," 1 July 2024. [Online]. Available: https://ashpc.eu/event/23/attachments/12/47/BOOKLET_ASHPC24.pdf.

[12] A. Tina Č. Marc, „Računalniške novice," 17 07 2024. [Online]. Available: https://racunalniske-novice.com/superracunalnistvo-za-super-produktivnost-in-inovativnost-podjetij/.

[13] H. Sophia Honisch, „Gauß-Allianz Infobrief," 9 08 2024. [Online]. Available: https://gauss-allianz.de/en/info_letter/119.

[14] H. Kristine Bäcker, „IT Region Stuttgart News," 08 08 2024. [Online]. Available: https://it.region-stuttgart.de/news/foerderung-von-kmu-innovationen-durch-hoechstleistungsrechnen-und-generative-ki/ .

[15] A. Tina Č. Marc, „Monitor,“ 9 10 2024. [Online]. Available: https://www.monitor.si/novica/visokozmogljivo-racunalnistvo-in-generativna-umetnainteligenca-za-inovativnost-in-konkurencnost-podjetij/235189/.

[16] H. Christopher Williams, „InSide Magazine,“ 1 11 2024. [Online]. Available: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.ffplus-project.eu/file/8539034913863873_gcs-magazin_inside-autumn_2024_final_.pdf.

[17] P. Dabrowska, „Baza wiedzy PFR,“ 17 03 2025. [Online]. Available: https://startup.pfr.pl/artykul/superkomputery-w-biznesie-jak-przyspieszaja-rozwoj-firmy.

[18] G. L. Cristopher Williams, „HLRS,“ 16 04 2025. [Online]. Available: https://www.hlrs.de/news/detail/the-changing-face-of-fortissimo-an-interview-with-guy-lonsdale.

[19] G. L. T. Č. M. Bastian Koller, „Futurities Magazine,“ 16 04 2025. [Online]. Available: https://www.enginsoft.com/magazine/.

[20] K. C. Tina Črnigoj Marc, „Futurities Magazine,“ 17 07 2025. [Online]. Available: chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.enginsoft.com/assets/pdf/newsletter/futurities2025-2.pdf.

[21] A. Tina Č. Marc, „Primorske novice,“ 30 07 2025. [Online]. Available: https://primorske.svet24.si/primorska/goriska/novi-krog-razpisa-fortissimo-plus-za-podjetja-za-r/.

[22] E. Pascale Garnier, „ETP4HPC,“ 21 08 2025. [Online]. Available: https://etp4hpc-handbook.online/ffplus/.

[23] „FF4EuroHPC,“ 2020. [Online]. Available: https://www.ff4eurohpc.eu/. [Access 2022].

[24] „Fortissimo,“ 2021, [Online]. Available: https://www.fortissimo-project.eu/. [Access 2022].