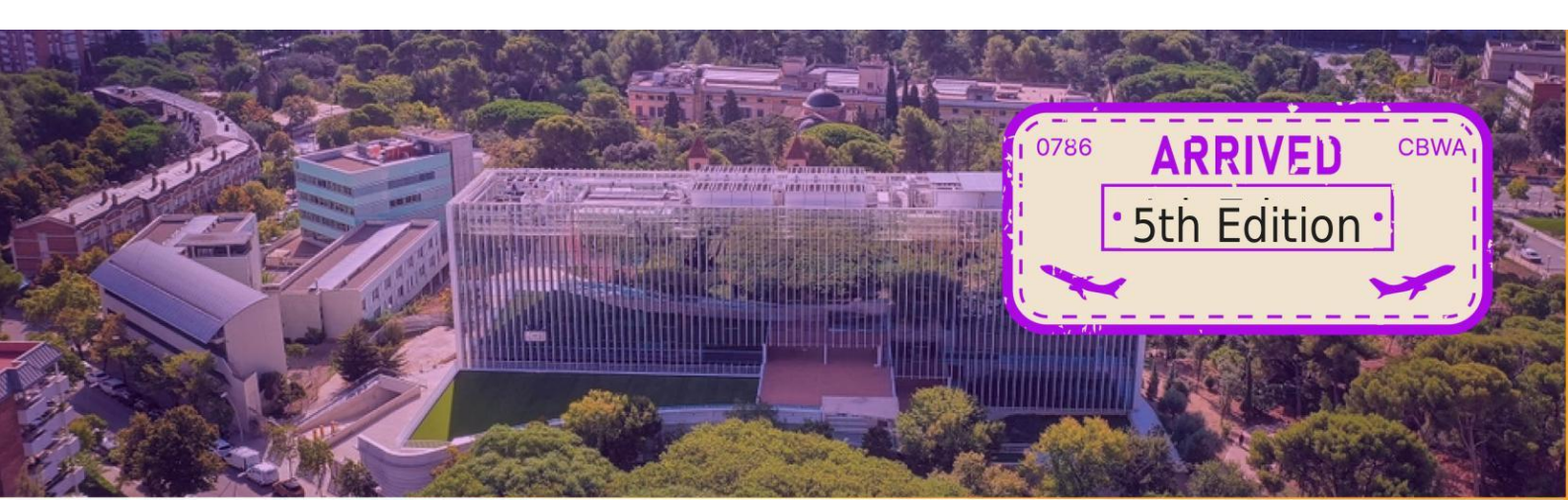




BSC & X4HPC PRESENT:

INNOVATION JOURNEY

THE CROSSROAD BETWEEN **ENTREPRENEURSHIP,**
SUPERCOMPUTING AND **AI**

**FROM TECH SPIRIT BARCELONA
TO THE MWC 2027 PITCH COMPETITION**

7 FULL DAY SESSIONS · ONE DAY A WEEK · FROM 2 DEC 2026

Organized and promoted by:



EuroHPC
Joint Undertaking



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Introduction

Innovation Journey is a programme that enables researchers to develop an entrepreneurial mindset. It gives them the skills and tools to take their technology out of the lab and closer to the market.

Over seven sessions, each team works on its own project through hands-on workshops. Participants learn how to identify a market opportunity, validate a business model, protect their intellectual property, find funding and pitch to investors. Mentors support the teams throughout the programme. Some of the workshops are led by professionals from the sector, who share their first-hand experience of bringing technology to market.

What to expect?

1. Development of **innovation** projects based on the use of HPC and AI technologies
2. **Immersion** in the ecosystem of start-ups and spin-offs and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in general
3. **Understanding** how products fit in the market and how to anticipate the needs of customers
4. **Exploration** of different business models that enhance the implementation of HPC and AI technologies
5. Monitoring of sustainable **go-to-market strategies** and the creation of licensing agreements
6. Exposure to a cross-section of ideas within a **tight-knit group of researchers**
7. **Connecting** with the leading players in the technological ecosystem
8. **Empowerment** around the process of creating a company from scratch or bringing innovation outside academic settings

Whom is it intended for?

The 2026 edition of the Innovation Journey aims to promote entrepreneurship among researchers of the X4HPC network, the BSC AI Factory and BSC whose technology uses or connects to AI.

It is relevant to point out that the sessions will suit **any scientist or team of scientists** (up to 3 people) interested in entrepreneurial projects or knowledge transfer.

If you are a young researcher or a PhD student, you are also encouraged to apply.

Objectives

The main goal of the Innovation Journey is to equip scientists with an entrepreneurial mindset and give them the tools and knowledge to create impact and take their technology to market.

Each team will comprise a select group of scientists with entrepreneurial attitudes representing different scientific fields using HPC and AI technologies.

The programme will mix theoretical lectures, interactive workshops and external visits. In every session, we will get out of the lab to visit start-ups, SMEs and companies, as well as key players in the deep tech ecosystem: researchers, entrepreneurs and investors.

This innovative curriculum will simulate a real go-to-market journey. Our business experts will guide participants through the theory behind each step to ensure a deep understanding of the main concepts and processes.

Location

The location of the sessions may vary. Sessions will take place at the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (Plaça Eusebi Güell 1-3, 08034 Barcelona) or Pier07, with punctual external visit to the Barcelona ecosystem. The location of each session will be confirmed in advance.

The programme is launched at Tech Spirit Barcelona (2 December 2026) and the final takes place at MWC Barcelona 2027.

Format

The sessions will take place weekly: in December on Thursdays (kick-off on 10 December and Session 1 on 17 December) and from January on Tuesdays (12 January to 23 February 2027). There are no sessions between 25 December and 6 January. All sessions will be in English.

Example of a session day:

9:30 to 10:15 · Executive seminar

A short theory block on the main topic of the session such as road to market, funding, IP strategy

10:15 to 13:00 · Hands-on workshop

Teams apply the tools to their own project, with the support of the facilitators and mentors.

13:00 to 14:00 · Lunch and networking

Time to share projects with the Innovation Journey community. *Lunch will be provided by the Program Organization*

14:00 to 16:30 · Key player talk or visit

A talk by, or a visit to, a key player of the spin-off and start-up ecosystem (one per day).

How can I apply?

Please see the requirements for your application in the [How to Apply document](#), follow the instructions and fill in [the application form](#); we will discard any application that does not follow the set criteria.

- ★ Applications open on **13 October 2026** and close on **6 November 2026 at 23:59 (CET)**.
- ★ Results will be sent by email on **18 November 2026**.
- ★ Please save the date of **2 December 2026**: the programme is launched at Tech Spirit Barcelona.
- ★ Should you have any doubts, please contact: techtransferoffice@bsc.es or x4hpc@bsc.es

Programme

Innovation Journey: 2 December 2026 to MWC Barcelona 2027

Session	Date	What we will do
Launch	Wed 2 Dec 2026	Tech Spirit Barcelona Official launch: the team is presented to the ecosystem
Kick-off	Thu 10 Dec 2026	Welcome to the Journey Meet the other teams, the programme and your mentors. Start drafting a one-page summary of your project.
Session 1	Thu 17 Dec 2026	Identifying opportunities Turn your research into a market opportunity: the problem it addresses, its potential users and how well it meets their needs. Each team leaves with a customer interview plan.
Break	25 Dec to 6 Jan	No sessions
Session 2	Tue 12 Jan 2027	Defining and validating the business Value proposition, business model and business case, tested against the results of your customer interviews. Start planning the next steps to validate your idea.
Session 3	Tue 19 Jan 2027	Building the venture Company creation, intellectual property protection, technology transfer agreements with your research centre and the roadmap to market.
Session 4	Tue 26 Jan 2027	Leading yourself and the team Self-management, team dynamics and decisions under uncertainty. Complete your one-page project summary for the MWC project catalogue.
Session 5	Tue 2 Feb 2027	Funding in tech Public and private funding options for technology projects, and how to match them to each stage of your project.
Session 6	Tue 9 Feb 2027	Pitching to investors Your story, the structure of your pitch deck and first rehearsals for Demo Day.
Rehearsal	Tue 16 Feb 2027	1-to-1 pitch rehearsals Full runs with real timing, mentor feedback and practice with jury questions.
Demo Day	Tue 23 Feb 2027	All teams pitch A jury of investors, sector experts and the BSC team chooses the top 3 projects.
Final	1 to 4 Mar 2027	MWC Barcelona 2027 The top 3 projects pitch on stage in front of the international ecosystem.

What's next?

Future action plans **after the completion of the programme** may include:

- Access to acceleration programmes
- Access to X4HPC funding for IP valorisation, Business Plans and Mentoring
- Other services such as leads on public and private investment opportunities
- 2 mentorship sessions to elaborate an action plan to continue to bring your technology closer to market, adapted to your Technology Readiness Level and your ambition as an entrepreneur



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