

HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-02: Expanding Investment Ecosystems*Potential contribution by Barcelona ConTech Hub / ITeC (as consortium partner)*

Deadline: 20 January 2026

Concept & Alignment with the Call

The **Barcelona ConTech Hub**, co-founded by **ITeC (Catalonia Institute of Construction Technology)**, is exploring participation as a consortium partner under the call **HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-02 – Expanding Investment Ecosystems**.

The call aims to strengthen and connect European investment ecosystems, particularly in **deep tech**, by improving access to finance, investor capacity, and cross-border coinvestment. The construction sector, traditionally one of the least technologically transformed industries, is now facing an unprecedented shift. Challenges such as **labour shortages, low productivity, and the growing demand for affordable and sustainable housing** are accelerating innovation and attracting a new wave of **ConTech (Construction Technology)** startups and investors across Europe.

The **ConTech Hub** can contribute to these goals by acting as a connector between **deep tech innovation and the built environment**, mobilising actors who can turn this transformation into economic and societal impact. Through its established ecosystem of startups, corporates, and investors, and as co-founder of the **International ConTech Network (ICN)**, the Hub provides a ready-made platform to strengthen cross-border collaboration and investor engagement in this emerging domain.

Proposed Contribution

Within a consortium, the **Barcelona ConTech Hub / ITeC** can contribute as:

- **Ecosystem connector**, engaging ConTech startups, investors, and innovation stakeholders from multiple EU and associated countries.
- **Network mobiliser**, leveraging the **International ConTech Network (ICN)** to ensure balanced participation from both innovation-leading and emerging regions.
- **Event organiser and outreach partner**, hosting European *Investment Fora*, roadshows, and matchmaking events in collaboration with local and international partners.
- **Investor capacity builder**, organising **capacity-building sessions and knowledge exchanges** to familiarise investors with ConTech opportunities, technologies, and ESG standards.
- **Communication and visibility leader**, supporting dissemination, storytelling, and the promotion of European results.
- Contributor to a **digital ConTech Investment Platform**, facilitating *dealflow visibility* and access to innovation pipelines across Europe.

These activities directly support the objectives of the call to **expand cross-border investment ecosystems** and bridge gaps between regional innovation capacities.

Expected Added Value

These contributions directly align with the objectives of the call and will help scale up Europe's cross-border investment ecosystems in ConTech.

- Integration of the **construction and built environment** sector into Europe's broader **deep tech investment landscape**.
- Strengthened visibility and connectivity of ConTech startups and investors through a digital **dealflow platform** and cross-border events.
- Enhanced capacity of **moderate and emerging regions** to attract investment and coinvestment.
- Broader participation of traditional industry actors in technological innovation aligned with EU priorities on **sustainability, circularity, and housing affordability**.
- Long-term sustainability and scalability through the **International ConTech Network (ICN)**, ensuring continuity beyond the project's lifetime.

Partnership Interests

The ConTech Hub / ITeC seeks to join consortia coordinated by experienced organisations in **investment ecosystems, cluster collaboration, or innovation policy**. Potential partners include:

- Innovation agencies, accelerators, and cluster organisations.
- Investor networks, business angel associations, and venture funds.
- RTOs and universities specialised in innovation mapping and policy analysis.
- Digital platforms or media partners with expertise in investment visibility and community engagement.

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