Cyber Ireland,
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Ireland.

Kim McKayed
CEO & Co-Founder
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Dogpatch Labs, Dublin
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25/3/2025

Non-binding letter of support for [ACRONYM] proposal under the Digital Europe Programme call topics: **DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07-KEYTECH - Development and Deployment of Advanced Key Technologies, DIGITAL-ECCC-2024-DEPLOY-CYBER-07-CYBERSEC-02 - Support for Implementation of EU Legislation on Cybersecurity and National Cybersecurity Strategies (2024)**

Dear Kim,

I, the undersigned, Eoin Byrne, confirm on behalf of my organisation, Cyber Ireland, that we are interested in supporting your proposals for the projects "**Development and Deployment of Advanced Key Technologies**" and **"Support for Implementation of EU Legislation on Cybersecurity and National Cybersecurity Strategies",** which you are leading on behalf of your organisation, Protostars.ai, for submission under the above call.

Cyber Ireland is the national cybersecurity cluster organisation of Ireland, an industry representative body for the cybersecurity sector. The cluster brings together over 200 member organisations nationwide, including Irish start-ups and SMEs, MNCs, Universities and training providers, as well as government agencies, non-for-profits and investors across the cybersecurity ecosystem (see list of members here).

The cluster's mission is to connect the cybersecurity sector to drive business growth through collaboration, talent development and innovation.

We aim to making Ireland a leading cybersecurity hub, a key part of which is preparing the Irish market and companies for EU cybersecurity regulation such as the Cyber Resilience Act (CRA) and NIS2. Advanced key technologies can address challenges for regulated entities, and their supply chain, as well as companies requiring certification. Target supports are required for EU start-ups and SMEs to assist them prepare and comply with these regulations, without unmanageable costs and ensuring they can remain internationally competitive.

Cyber Ireland supports the need for this EU Cyber Resilience Platform & Programmes to build traction securely, gather mass audience on the EU market, and tackle twin challenges of EU cyber resilience and SME financial inclusion.

We are a member of the European Cyber Security Organisation, and Eoin Byrne, Cluster Manager is the chair of the ECSO SME to Market Working Group.

Should the European Commission fund the proposals, we agree to support the twin project proposals by Associated Partnership.

Cyber Ireland will support the projects by participating as a member of the **Advisory Board** at its annual meeting and foresee the following contributions:

- Providing strategic, independent advice and feedback, in line with our expertise, on the project plans, directions, practicality and report to project's General Assembly and perform other occasional duties as required, approximately once a year.
- Participating in relevant knowledge exchange activities to advance the field and enhance the project's impact, approximately 1 to 2 times per year.
- Connecting the project with Ireland's cybersecurity sector and ecosystem in Ireland, providing industry expertise and feedback, in particular from cybersecurity start-ups and SMEs.
- Disseminate the project outcomes to the cybersecurity ecosystem through Cyber Ireland's network, communication channels (monthly newsletter of >3.000 contacts and LinkedIn with >11,000 followers) and events (such as the Cyber Ireland National Conference with 500 delegates from private and public sector).

Cyber Ireland is keen to continue building connections with like-minded bodies across European, which this project will provide. Cyber Ireland are a member of the European Cyber Security Organisation (ECSO) and I, Eoin Byrne, chair of the ECSO SME to Market Working Group.

We believe that by providing this support to Protostars, our join efforts will ultimately support the ECCC's vision of achieving common criteria of cybersecurity across member states. We would be very happy to work with and both learn from and steer your group's efforts.

Sincerely,

Eoin Byrne
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Dr Eoin Byrne,
Cluster Manager,
Cyber Ireland
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