

# CALL FOR AI STARTUPS

Scientific Validation · Investment Access · European Positioning  
*Science-first. Responsible by design. Built for real-world impact.*

## Europe's Scientific & Investment Gateway for AI Startups

*Not just validation — access to capital, corporates, and European positioning*

### What is SCAIS?

#### It is the first Scientific Selection Criteria for Artificial Intelligence Startups

It is not a pitch competition

It is not an accelerator

It is not a commercial contest

#### It is a curated platform connecting scientifically validated AI startups with investors, corporates, and European innovation ecosystems.

SCAIS operates with independent scientific criteria, no conflict of interest, and applies the R4 Responsible AI Framework — Based on the Responsible AI Framework published by IEEE Systems Man, and Cybernetics Society (IEEE SMC), a globally recognized reference in the field, and internationally referenced across institutional and multilateral environments.

#### Beyond evaluation, SCAIS acts as a gateway to investment, pilots, and long-term positioning in the European AI ecosystem

With the collaboration of INTEC, Fundación Europea para la Innovación y Aplicación de la Tecnología.

### Scientific & Decision AI Committee

Guided by an independent committee composed of members from the UGR and IEEE, ensuring scientific rigor, evaluation integrity and strategic alignment.

#### UGR

**Prof. Enrique Herrera-Viedma** — CAI General Co-Chair, Vice-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer

**Prof. Jesús Chamorro** — AI/Computer Science

**Prof. Pedro Castillo** — Computer Architecture/AI

#### IEEE

**Prof. Ming Hou** — IEEE Representative, Human-Centered AI & Cognitive System

**Prof. Giancarlo Fortino** — IEEE Representative, Systems/Computing

## What SCAIS Validates

- Real AI foundations — not as a feature, but as the core of the product or solution
- Responsible and Trustworthy AI (R4 Framework): Responsibility, Reliability, Robustness, Resilience
- Real-world market relevance and impact potential
- **Business scalability and investment readiness**
- Team quality and execution capacity

## Why Apply — What You Get

### Scientific Validation

- IEEE + UGR independent evaluation
- R4 Responsible AI Framework
- Positioning aligned with EU AI Act and trustworthy AI standards

### Access to Capital

- Direct exposure to venture capital, corporate venture and public funding instruments
- Curated investor matchmaking
- Participation in an investment-ready deal flow environment

### Business Opportunities

- Access to corporate partners and pilot opportunities
- Connection to European innovation and funding ecosystems

### Visibility & Positioning

- Pitch on stage
- Participation in AI Business Forum
- Positioning among European AI leaders, policymakers and industry

### Long-Term Value

- Inclusion in SCAIS portfolio
- Integration into a growing European AI Startup Portfolio

### Awards & Strategic Opportunities

- Investor Fast Track
- Corporate Pilot Opportunity
- Responsible AI Certification Path (EU alignment)
- SCAIS Scientific Excellence Award
- Responsible AI Distinction — IEEE & UGR

## Who Can Apply — Startup Typology

It is open to AI-native Startups whose core value lies in artificial intelligence as a foundational technology — not as an add-on or a secondary feature.

**AI must be core, not a feature**

Applications are organized in three complementary tracks:

### TRACK A — Early AI-native ventures (0–2 years)

Early-stage Startups, typically pre-seed or seed, including spin-offs and science-based ventures with strong technical foundations.

- Origin: university, research centre or deep-tech ecosystem
- Stage: pre-seed or seed, no full commercial validation yet
- Strength: demonstrable scientific and technical depth
- ∞ **SCAIS goal: visibility, credibility and access to the investor ecosystem**

### TRACK B — Responsible scale ventures (2–4 years)

Startups with initial market validation, early traction or pilot activity, and a clear path toward responsible scale.

- Stage: early growth, with at least one active client or pilot
- Strength: validated technology and market understanding
- ∞ **SCAIS goal: scientific seal that reinforces credibility with investors and corporates**

### TRACK C — Investment Ready Startups

Startups prepared for investor interaction and growth:

- Revenue and/or active funding round
- Clear go-to-market strategy
- Scalable business model
- ∞ **SCAIS goal: connect high-quality startups with investment opportunities**

Note: Age is a guideline, not a strict rule. A 3-year-old Startup with a strong scientific profile may apply to Track A if its product maturity justifies it. The Committee evaluates substance, not timelines.

## Not Eligible

- Startups where AI is only superficial, auxiliary or cosmetic
- Mature scale-ups already consolidated in major startup circuits
- Purely commercial ventures without a solid AI or technical core
- Projects without minimum technological coherence or execution capacity

## Evaluation Criteria — The R4 Framework

1

### AI-native Core Technology

Is Artificial Intelligence truly central to the product, architecture or solution?

2

### Technical Robustness

Is the technological approach coherent, credible and well-constructed?

3

### Responsible & Trustworthy AI — R4 Framework

Responsibility — Ethical design, human impact and risk mitigation · Reliability — Consistent and accurate system performance · Robustness — AI behavior under stress, uncertainty or changing conditions · Resilience — Capacity to adapt, recover and improve over time

4

### Market Relevance

Does the solution address a meaningful and realistic need or opportunity?

5

### Team Capability

Does the team have the technical and strategic capacity to execute?

6

### Traction & Validation

Users, pilots, revenue — evidence of real-world validation

7

### Scalability & Market Potential

Growth capacity and market size — ability to scale responsibly

8

### Investment Readiness

Preparedness for funding and investor interaction

SCAIS evolves from Scientific Validation to venture-grade selection

## Strategic Context — Why Europe, Why Now

- The EU AI Act is redefining the market — compliance is becoming a competitive differentiator
- Trust is becoming a competitive advantage for AI companies in Europe and globally
- **Responsible AI is becoming investable AI**

SCAIS sits at the intersection of Science, Regulation, and Investment

## Key Dates

30 March	Call for Startups SCAIS 2026 opens
10 April	Application deadline — evaluation period begins
17 April	Final selection of a TOP 10 finalist Startups announced
Until 30 April	Final confirmations and onsite program preparation
8–9 May	<b>SCAIS 2026 onsite — Granada · Pitches · Matchmaking · Business Forum · Roundtables</b>

## How to Apply

Submit your application in English through the online form at:

<https://amconferences.eventsair.com/sebgar/scais2026/>

- Attach a project summary (max. 5 pages, Word or PDF format)
- Complete the R4 Framework section: Responsibility, Reliability, Robustness, Resilience
- Questions: [scais@ieeecai2026.org](mailto:scais@ieeecai2026.org)

**Application process optimized for Clarity and Accessibility  
Participation is 100% free...!**

### Final Positioning

*This is not about participating in another Startup event*

**It is about becoming part of the first generation of scientifically  
validated and investment-ready AI Startups in Europe**

## Contact — SCAIS 2026

### SCAIS Core Team

[scais@ieeecai2026.org](mailto:scais@ieeecai2026.org)  
[www.ieeecai2026.org](http://www.ieeecai2026.org)

### IEEE CAI 2026

University of Granada (UGR)  
Granada, Spain · 8–10 May 2026

*1531 · 2026 · 2031 — Five editions. Five years. Five centuries of history in service of responsible innovation.  
IEEE CAI comes to Granada. SCAIS stays. Sustainability over Legacy.*

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