

Focus Competitiveness

**A multi-stakeholder proposal for a single
Automotive Partnership at European level**

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This proposal to establish a **dedicated Partnership for the Automotive sector** in the next EU budget is based on the idea outlined in the Automotive Action Plan published by the European Commission.

The instrument should build on the successes of the pre-competitive research and innovation ecosystems of 2Zero, CCAM, Batt4EU, while integrating automotive specific aspects from other partnerships.



Why this initiative? To build a strategic instrument to enhance the **competitiveness, technological sovereignty, innovation power and sustainability** of the European automotive sector.



Vision and key characteristics of the Partnership

We believe the new partnership should be guided by the following principles:



Strategic objectives

The core mission should be to reinforce the global competitiveness of the automotive industry and Europe as an innovation powerhouse, to safeguard jobs and create economic growth in the EU.

- The partnership should also contribute to address societal challenges such as Carbon Neutrality, Circular Economy, Resilience and European technology sovereignty.



Accelerate market deployment

- Exploiting the whole innovation value chain from applied research to industrialisation, that is also open to disruptive technologies.



Industry and impact driven partnership

- High-level steering involving both industry leaders and the European Commission.
- Governance involving the entire innovation value chain.



Support for innovation-friendly regulation

- Provide input to shape forward-looking, innovation-enabling regulatory frameworks.

To implement these principles, the new partnership should have the following governance features:

Simplified and agile



- An agile, streamlined, flexible, and low-bureaucracy governance model, allowing to gain speed in programme definition and projects implementation.

Autonomous and accountable governance structure



- A single governing body empowered to define programme priorities, budget distribution, and select implementation instruments.
- The governance structure should include all relevant actors from private sector, research community and public authorities.

Inclusive and flexible project participation



- Open access to a broad range of stakeholders, including SMEs and start-ups, supported by flexible implementation schemes.

Synergies with other funding programmes



- Effective coordination/interaction with partnerships, initiatives, and funding programmes, both at European and national level (such as IPCEI or CEF).

Flagship initiatives



- In addition to the research and innovation projects directly performed under the partnership, the partnership should also initiate/support/contribute to “flagship initiatives” which go beyond pre-competitive research collaboration and aim to roll out innovation to the European society.



Key elements for future Competitiveness of Automotive Industry



CLEAN MOBILITY

ELECTROMOBILITY AND GRID INTEGRATION, USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY CARRIERS, BATTERY AND HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGIES



DIGITAL MOBILITY

CONNECTIVITY
AUTOMATED MOBILITY SERVICES



DESIGN, MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION

INNOVATIVE, FLEXIBLE AND AUTOMATED MANUFACTURING, DEVELOPMENT, METHODS AND TOOLS

SDV, E/E, SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE, BUILDING BLOCKS AND INTERFACES

AI SUPPORTED DESIGN, MANUFACTURING, VEHICLES FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES + DATA + CYBERSECURITY

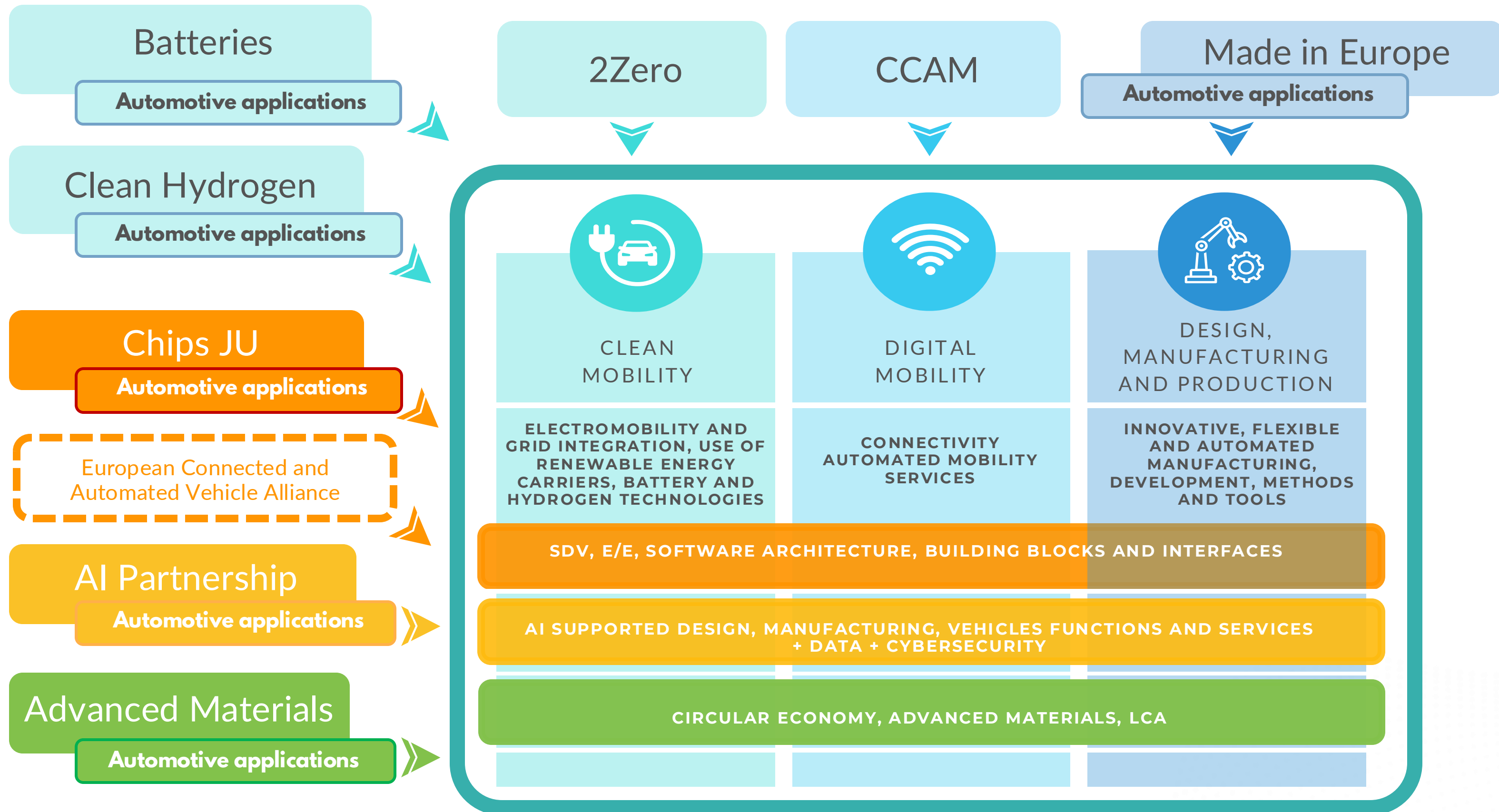
CIRCULAR ECONOMY, ADVANCED MATERIALS, LCA



SOCIETAL IMPACTS

- COMPETITIVENESS
- JOBS AND GROWTH IN THE EUROPEAN UNION
- RESILIENCE
- SOVEREIGNTY AND REDUCED DEPENDENCIES
- SUSTAINABILITY

Simplification of the Partnership landscape in the next MFF / Competitiveness Fund / FP10



Signature Ceremony of the MoU



**Let's get together to
build the next
automotive
partnership**

**New Memorandum of
Understanding (MoU)**
Brussels
12 September 2025

**EC-Vice-President Tzitzikostas, Commissioner Zaharieva,
With Christian Merkt (CCAM), Franz Geyer (BEPA) and Stephan Neugebauer (2Zero)**

Memorandum of Understanding

- Signed by the EC (Commissioners Zaharieva and Tzitzikostas), EGVI Afor2Zero, CCAM and BEPA on 12th September.
- **4 main deliverables** expected:



“A joint EU vision for the technological competitiveness of the EU automotive sector” delivered by December 2025.



“An overview of the international R&I context in the automotive sector, with particular focus on the areas essential for EU competitiveness” delivered by December 2025.



“A Joint SRIA, capable of implementing the R&I aspects of the Vision and building as appropriate on Sides’ existing results and individual SRIAs, along with inputs from other relevant stakeholders” delivered by June 2026.



“An overview of the existing R&I programmes and initiatives at EU, national and regional levels, relevant for the automotive sector and can contribute to the objectives of the SRIA” delivered by June 2026.

A **Drafting Team** has started to develop content for the three pillars:

1
Clean Mobility

2
Digital Mobility

3
**Design,
Manufacturing
and Production**

Multi-stakeholder approach involving experts from industry, research providers, academia and associations.

First content proposals for:

- **Vision**, for achievements to be reached by 2035
- Key **bottlenecks** / blocking points in the current R&I landscape: addressing them would be priorities to improve the competitiveness of the Automotive Industry in Europe
- **Focus areas** in which Europe could be competitive with the rest of the world and get leadership
- Potential for **Flagship ideas** going beyond R&I to support deployment activities

Characteristics of **Flagship ideas**:

- **Going beyond** pre-competitive research
- **Building on results** from pre-competitive research projects
- Identification of **business opportunities**
- Large-scale demonstration including **multi-stakeholder investments** from
 - Industrial players, from different sectors
 - Public authorities (EU, Member States, Regions and Cities)
 - Infrastructure providers

Examples already proposed by ERTRAC:

**TransEuropean
Road Transport Corridor**

**Recycling Factory of
the Future**



THANK YOU



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