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Topic: Charter of Access

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 27 July 2026, the European Commission has adopted a Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research and Technology Infrastructures to speed up and simplify companies' access to Europe's world-class infrastructures.

Built around six voluntary principles, the Charter aims to improve businesses' access to cutting-edge laboratories, scientific equipment, pilot lines and other advanced facilities.

By reducing administrative, legal and information barriers, the Charter aims to help startups, scaleups and other companies access the expertise, equipment and services they need to test, validate and scale innovative products more efficiently. In doing so, it is expected to shorten time-to-market, foster innovation and contribute to Europe's competitiveness, supporting the objectives of the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy and the European strategy on research and technology infrastructures.

The Charter's six key principles are designed to improve the access conditions for businesses to research and technology infrastructures:

1. Increased **visibility and availability** of services
2. **Transparency** and quality of services
3. **Simplified** contract and agreement procedures
4. Safe **intellectual property management**
5. **Tailored support** to companies
6. **Cooperation** between infrastructures and access to data

OVERVIEW

1. Increasing the visibility and availability of services

The Charter aims to make it easier for companies to identify and access necessary services.

- Evolve services in line with user demand and technological developments.
- Harmonise service descriptions where possible.
- Raise awareness of the value of services for industrial users.
- Ensure information on the services and capacities of research and technology infrastructures is transparent and searchable in a user-friendly way.

2. Transparency and quality of services

High-quality services are essential. Infrastructures are expected to provide comprehensive information on their services ensuring that their users can make informed decisions.

- Offer high-quality services supported by transparent processes to ensure credible and trusted outcomes.
- Provide accurate, up-to-date, and comprehensive information on the scope, performance, and availability of services.
- Enable users to make informed choices through clear and accessible service information.
- Deliver services in line with communicated specifications, timelines, and quality benchmarks.
- Foster trust, accountability, and comparability across research and technology infrastructure providers.

3. Simplified contract and agreement procedures

The Chart proposes that research and technology infrastructures have transparent and simple processes for contracts and agreements, meaning less paperwork and clear guidelines on what to do and expect.

- Adopt transparent and efficient contract and agreement procedures.
- Clearly define the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of all parties.
- Include, where applicable, clauses on intellectual property rights, confidentiality, data protection, liability, and dispute resolution

4. Safe IP management

The Charter wants to ensure that the rights of their owners are protected while using these infrastructures.

- Establish clear guidelines for intellectual assets and intellectual property rights.
- Define intellectual property ownership in contracts and agreements.

- Protect users' trade secrets through appropriate safeguards.
- Ensure confidentiality, secure data handling, and restricted access to sensitive information.

5. Tailored support to companies

Providing tailored support for EU companies and fostering regional innovation ecosystems to help Europe to stay a leader in global technology and innovation.

- Provide tailored support to industrial users, including startups and scaleups.
- Ensure support is open, transparent, and non-discriminatory.
- Reduce administrative and technical barriers.
- Respond to industrial timelines.
- Strengthen EU technological sovereignty and regional innovation ecosystems.

6. Cooperation between infrastructures and access to data

Encouraging collaboration among different infrastructures, so European companies have wider access to a variety of services and data, beyond borders and sectors.

- Foster cooperation and interoperability across services and platforms.
- Facilitate transnational, multisite, cross-sectoral, and multidisciplinary access.
- Promote efficient data access, sharing, process alignment, and collaborative innovation.
- Ensure confidentiality, data and intellectual property protection, and high cybersecurity standards.
- Apply the FAIR principles to shared data (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable).

Endorsing the Charter

Research and technology infrastructures are invited to share a good practice related to infrastructure access for companies by endorsing the Charter here: [EUSurvey - Good Practices of Research and Technology Infrastructures](#).

To support the uptake and implementation of the Charter, the Commission has launched an outreach campaign including a series of webinars, events and an open repository for good practices. More information can be found here: [Improving access for industrial users to research and technology infrastructures](#).

Background

The Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research and Technology Infrastructures is an action stemming from the [EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy](#), which aims to make the EU the best place in the world to launch and grow technology-driven innovative companies. In addition, the Charter is closely linked to the [European strategy on research and technology infrastructures](#), seeking to reinforce Europe's world-class research and technology infrastructures and make them even more integrated and accessible to a wider range of users.

The principles of the Charter were developed on the basis of a comprehensive open consultation process. The Charter is complementary to the [European Charter for Access to Research Infrastructures](#).

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REFERENCES

- (1) [Communication from the Commission C\(2026\) 5174 Charter of Access for Industrial Users to Research and Technology Infrastructures](#)
- (2) [New Charter boosts access for companies to cutting-edge research and technology infrastructures in Europe](#) 28 July 2026
- (3) [Charter of access for industrial users to research and technology infrastructures](#)
- (4) [Factsheet](#)