

## Giving away your blueprint for free is the best idea any company could have

*Open-source software gave rise to a billion-euro economy. We believe open-source hardware is the radical approach needed to propel our global societies out of the COVID-19 pandemic and into a more sustainable future for all.*

The EU funded project OPENNEXT invites Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) to join the upcoming open-source hardware (OSH) demonstration phase. **OPENNEXT will take 12 companies from idea to tested prototype and commercial roadmap using open-source principles and tools.** This will take place in close collaboration with a best-fit makerspace partner and diverse experts from the OPENNEXT consortium. Applications are accepted until November 5th.

The COVID-19 pandemic has manifested the weakness of our global supply chains. The ongoing climate crisis is calling for new solutions. In order to realise radical innovation for a more sustainable future, we can no longer wait for the ships to dock or for the patent lawyers to get on with their job. That is why OPENNEXT is looking to fundamentally change how we create products.

OPENNEXT started with six pilots in Autumn 2020. Amongst others, the results include the first solar electric [car add-ons](#) customized by existing and potential customers, new open-source products built for [upcycling wood waste](#) and [a community-built science lab](#) directly in your pocket. The demonstrator phase will employ the tools and best-practice examples developed in the pilot phase to support the SMEs in their product development journey. The long-term goal is to establish a global, open-source hardware ecosystem.

For more, go to [www.opennext.eu](http://www.opennext.eu)

### **When are the collaboration projects planned for?**

Between January and May 2022.

### **When is the application deadline?**

November 5th, 2021

### **Who is behind OPENNEXT?**

OPENNEXT is made up of 19 partners from seven European countries. Our areas of expertise span business and data management, design processes, and maker spaces.

### **How is OPENNEXT funded?**

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 869984.

### **PRESS CONTACT**

*For more info on pilots, quotes, visuals and contacts, please reach out to:*

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