**Open Call — International Demonstration Cluster**

**Call opens: 13 May 2025**

**Submission deadline: 09 June 2025**

**1.  Purpose of the call**

eBRT2030 aims to validate the next generation of zero-emission Bus Rapid Transit (eBRT) solutions through six European demonstrations and one international demonstration and replication cluster in Latin America and Africa.

The cluster builds on a flagship pilot in Bogotá, with additional small-scale demonstrations in selected cities across Africa, Latin America and Asia. Through this open call, the **eBRT2030 project seeks to expand to** **3 new additional small scale demonstrations**.

Selected partners will co-develop, test, and showcase eBRT2030 innovations (including vehicles, smart charging, IoT solutions, last-mile connectivity, fleet management, and other tools) in live operations, feeding data back to the European demos and accelerating global deployment.

**2.  Who can apply?**

* **City authorities / transport agencies** and **public or private PTOs** operating (or planning) BRT/e‑bus corridors in Africa, Latin America, Asia or the Caribbean.
* Commitment to deploy at least a **feasibility study plus a small-scale‑ pilot (e.g. 13 ‑ebuses‑, charging point or ITS application)** during 2025–2026, using the project’s s ‑funds and local co‑financing.
* Ability to provide operational data and engage in joint capacity building‑ activities with the eBRT2030 consortium (UITP, UEMI, OEMs, universities, etc.).

**3.  What is offered?**

| **Support package** | **Details & reference in Grant Agreement** |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| **Technical mentoring & digital twin‑ planning** | Access to simulation & planning tools (WP3) and expert coaching to optimise routes, charging and fleet size |
| **Seed funding‑ (up to €120 000 per city/operator)** | EU grant under the “financial support to third parties” provisions for hardware, civil works, data collection or local start‑ups  |
| **Innovation** | Vehicle/charging technology and operations, IoT platform & smart charging suite validated‑ in EU and Bogota demos  |
| **Capacity building & peer exchange** | Study visits to EU demo sites, online workshops and customised training   |
| **Global visibility** | Results featured in the eBRT2030 policy guidebook and international conferences  |

**4.  Expected commitments from winners**

* Team-up with the eBRT2030 consortium and the international cluster exchange.
* Deliver a feasibility study and implement the agreed small-scale demonstration by month 12.
* Share KPI data (energy, GHG, punctuality, ridership) according to the WP6 data protocol.
* Acknowledge EU funding in all local communication.

**5.  Evaluation criteria**

| **Criterion** | **Weight** | **Key aspects** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Relevance & ambition** | 30 % | Alignment with eBRT2030 objectives: –10 % cost/km, –70 % GHG, –10 % congestion |
| **Technical & financial viability** | 25 % | Realism of pilot concept, co‑financing secured, TCO considerations |
| **Local impact & replication potential** | 25 % | Scale‑up plans, links to national ZEB policies, socio‑economic benefits |
| **Capacity & governance** | 20 % | Experience of city/PTO team, stakeholder engagement, data‑sharing readiness |

**6.  Timeline**

* **13 May 2025** — Call launch
* **30 May 2025** – Informative webinar with Q&A (tbc)
* **9 June 2025, 17:00 CET** — Deadline for electronic submissions.
* **June 2025** — Eligibility check & remote evaluations.
* **Early July 2025** — Online hearings with shortlisted applicants.
* **31 July 2025** — Notification of results & start of MoU negotiations.
* **September 2025** — Kick‑off workshop with new cluster members.

**7.  How to apply**

1. Fill out the **Application Package** (guidelines, templates, budget sheet).
2. Provide and endorsement from the city and/or public transport authority if submitted by a third party (e.g. university).
3. Submit your Application via email to: Flavio Grazian, Project Coordinator, UITP at flavio.grazian@uitp.org by 9 June 2025, 17:00 CET.

**8.  Contact & support**

* **Technical & eligibility questions:** oliver.lah@uemi.net

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**Annex**

 **Applicant information**

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| **Organisation** |
| Name of the Organisation |  |
| Type of Organisation (e.g. local administration, transport authority, transport operator, research institute etc.) |  |
| **Address** |
| Street & Nr |  |
| Postal code |  |
| City |  |
| Country |  |
| **Contact information** |
| Title (Mr/Ms/Mx) |  |
| First Name |  |
| Last Name |  |
| Tel. |  |
| Email Address |  |
| **Site characteristics** |
| Please describe your ambitions regarding BRT deployment, what services or innovation you plan to initiate, upgrade or expand and how these are expected to complement the existing public transport services and wider multimodal transport systems – 500 words max |
|  |
| Please describe the city, district or urban area where you consider initiating, upgrading or expanding BRT services (e.g. geography, population, functionality etc.) - 250 words max |
|  |
| Any Other elements you would like to include? |
|  |
| Please describe to what extent your ambitions will contribute to sustainable urban mobility planning goals and related objectives in terms of sustainability, safety, accessibility and inclusivity, and – in case you apply as private entity - to what extent you plan to cooperate with local administrations and partner organisations – 250 words maximum |
|  |
| **Areas of interest** |
| Please indicate (X) which eBRT2030 use cases are of specific interest / innovation. For more information check the eBRT2030 website: <https://ebrt2030.eu/> |
|  |
| Please describe the intended budget for the foreseen activities and a tentative breakdown for them– 250 words maximum (budget cap at 120 000 EUR). Service contracts will be issued in line with the Horizon Europe rules and regulations. The Contracts’ breakdown in details will include three key components:- rent for eBuses for the demonstration phase - facilitation, co-development and assessment - access, operations and last-mile connectivity  |
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