

## EU Recognizes High-Potential Tech Projects with STEP Seals

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The European Commission has unveiled the first list of projects awarded the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Seal. This prestigious recognition highlights innovative projects in clean and resource-efficient technologies, as well as deep and digital technologies.

The 130 projects selected for the STEP Seal represent the cutting edge of European innovation. They include initiatives focused on offshore wind energy, hydrogen technologies, space exploration, and artificial intelligence.

By awarding the STEP Seal, the European Commission aims to increase the visibility of these projects and facilitate their access to public and private funding. This recognition will help these projects attract investment and accelerate their development.

Welcoming the announcement, EU commissioner for budget, anti-fraud and public administration Piotr Serafin said that the 130 projects showcase "Europe's ingenuity and commitment to reducing our strategic dependencies while boosting our competitiveness".

"The STEP Seal is more than just a badge – it serves as a bridge between promising ideas and the support they need to thrive, whether through public or private investment," Serafin added.

The European Commission's commitment to supporting innovation and technology is evident through its various initiatives, including the Innovation Fund, the Digital Europe Programme, the European Defence Fund, the EU4Health program, and Horizon Europe. These programs provide crucial funding and support for projects that contribute to Europe's economic and technological competitiveness.