

NOTA DE PRENSA

PRESS RELEASE

Through Bizkaia Open Future, an innovative solution is sought to enable smart, efficient and automated management for inputting material

GHI SMART FURNACES SETS A TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGE TO OPTIMISE THE LOADING PROCESS FOR ITS ROTARY FURNACES

- This is the ninth call for proposals to be conducted through the Bizkaia Open Future open innovation programme. Proposals may be submitted by entrepreneurs, startups, SMEs, universities and/or technological centres
- The period for candidates to submit their proposals via <http://bizkaia.openfuture.org> will begin on 28 October and end on 28 November
- The winning project will be able to conduct a real pilot scheme of its proposal and obtain an additional prize of 15,000 euros awarded by the Biscayan Provincial Council

Bilbao, 28 October 2019.- GHI Smart Furnaces has turned to Bizkaia Open Future, an initiative of the Biscayan Provincial Council and Telefónica, in order to optimise its production processes. The industrial engineering firm – engaged in supplying equipment for melting, heat treatment and heating metals – has set a technological challenge to find an innovative solution that enables it to manage the loading of material into its rotary furnaces smartly, efficiently and in real time.

Through this open innovation challenge, GHI Smart Furnaces, located in Galdakao (Biscay), seeks to identify determining factors in optimising the moment the rotary furnace is loaded and to automate, as much as possible, decision making which is currently carried out manually. The solution would mitigate the potentially subjective nature of the human factor in making decisions about the loading process.

With the title “How can new technologies help GHI Smart Furnaces to optimise the process of loading its rotary furnaces?”, this open innovation challenge attempts, among other goals, to find solutions to issues such as how to signal the instant for optimum loading, identify the determining factors which must be complied with, and find usage patterns for efficient loading management for the rotary furnace. This challenge is the ninth to be launched by Bizkaia Open Future, an initiative of the Biscayan Provincial Council and Telefónica which was created four years ago to support the Biscay-based industrial sector in its digital transformation.

The winner of this edition will be able to carry out real pilot testing of the winning project funded by GHI Smart Furnaces, obtain an additional prize of 15,000 euros and access grants from the Biscayan Provincial Council, provided that they meet the relevant conditions. The submission period for entries for the open innovation call by GHI Smart Furnaces begins today and will end on 28 November. Any entrepreneurs, startups, SMEs, universities and/or technological centres which would like to take part in this call may sign up at <http://bizkaia.openfuture.org>.

About GHI Smart Furnaces

GHI Smart Furnaces, based in Galdakao, is an industrial engineering firm engaged in supplying equipment for melting, heat treatment and heating metals.

GHI Smart Furnaces offers comprehensive, bespoke solutions which include industrial furnaces, turnkey plants, technical support, digitalisation and consultancy services. Its commitment to industry 4.0 enables the firm to offer its customers innovative and efficient technology.

The firm has provided equipment to hundreds of companies from different sectors, such as the automotive, aeronautical, railway, steelworks and renewable energy sectors, among others, which together add up to more than 8,000 products and services worldwide. It has over 80 years' experience in designing, manufacturing, assembling and implementing industrial furnaces. This has established it as a global benchmark in segments such as aluminium recycling, heat treatment, hot-stamping and rim and wheel manufacturing plants.

It is able to assist any company in the world, obtaining optimum results in terms of efficiency and performance.

About Bizkaia Open Future

Bizkaia Open Future is aimed at industry in general and has become the link between new local and international entrepreneurial talent and the companies in the province.

Since its launch, Bizkaia Open Future has set eight challenges from leading companies and organisations related to the province as part of its Open Innovation programme. Velatia, OSI Ezkerraldea Enkarterri Cruces-Hospital Universitario Cruces, Dibal, Ingeteam, Tecuni, Sidenor, IMQ and Consorcio de Aguas Bilbao Bizkaia received over 240 proposals from the Basque Country, the rest of Spain and around the world.

The Commercial Acceleration Programme aims to boost the development of the business of technology-based startups and SMEs which have technological solutions that have been launched onto the market or validated internally with customers, which dovetail with the Telefónica portfolio and are in line with its commercial strategy but which require acceleration in terms of building closer relationships with customers.

About Open Future

Telefónica Open Future, as part of the Open Innovation division, is a network composed of over 50 innovation hubs, present in Spain and Latin America. A global platform designed to create business opportunities connected to entrepreneurs, investors and public/private partners from around the world.

<https://www.openfuture.org/>

Contact:

Aitziber Diez, Communication Officer, Economic Advancement Department.

Telephone: 944067822

Email: aitziber.diez@bizkaia.eus

Rafael Ossa, Communication Officer, Telefónica

Telephone: 944883661

Email: rafael.ossaateaga@telefonica.com

@OpenFuture_Biz

<http://bizkaia.openfuture.org>

Adriana Torres Naranjo -MSC Engineering (INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Department at GHI Smart Furnaces)

Telephone: 689 144 889

Email: atorres@ghihornos.com