

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE OPEN CALL FOR PROJECTS AND COLLABORATORS FOR THE LAB 5 *THE MECHANICS OF TRUTH* COLLABORATIVE PROTOTYPING LABORATORY.

1. INTRODUCTION

LAB 5 *The Mechanics of Truth* is the fifth in a series of laboratories developed by Medialab Matadero since 2022. Conceived as multidisciplinary spaces for research and collaborative production, each LAB offers a recurring programme of artistic projects, workshops, seminars and other public activities related to Medialab's main lines of research.

The primary activity of each LAB is the **Collaborative Prototyping Laboratory (LPC)**, an intensive two (2)-week seminar during which **five (5) experimental projects** related to the themes proposed within the framework of *LAB 5 The Mechanics of Truth*, are developed collaboratively.

The purpose of this international public call for proposals is to select **five (5) projects** and a maximum of **twenty (20) collaborators** who wish to participate in and help develop them.

The call is open to participants from anywhere in the world and from any discipline. Once the projects and collaborators have been selected, the list will be published and five interdisciplinary teams formed. A group of experts in the themes covered by the call will act as mentors throughout the laboratory, assisting in the development of the projects.

An online question and answer session, open to anyone interested in applying for this call, will be held on Thursday **28 May 2026** at 6pm. The link to the session will be posted on the Medialab Matadero website.

The LAB 5 **Collaborative Prototyping Laboratory** will take place from Mondays to Saturdays **from 12 to 25 November 2026**, inclusive, at the Medialab facilities at Matadero Madrid.

The public presentation of the developed projects will take place **between 26 and 28 November 2026** during the **OpenLAB** public event.

2. PURPOSE

In accordance with the principles of transparency, equality, and concurrence, and in line with the programmes organised at Medialab Matadero, the purpose of this call is to select a **maximum of five (5) projects and twenty (20) collaborators** (up to 4 collaborators for each of the 5 projects) for their development within the framework of LAB 5 *The Mechanics of Truth*.

Proposals submitted in response to this call must necessarily be open to the participation of collaborators interested in participating in their development, who will be selected on the basis of their skills and capacity to contribute to the development of the projects.

3.-LABORATORY THEMES

The annual LAB 5 programme, which revolves around the theme ***The Mechanics of Truth***, aims to address the technological elements currently used to delimit the disputed territory surrounding that which is considered a fact. In recent years, new mechanisms for questioning shared reality and producing alternatives have emerged. While these are sometimes used to challenge power, at other times they are used to reinforce it. At the same time, forms of artistic research that operate in this new context have been emerging and consolidating. LAB 5 analyses how these processes impact the public sphere, democratic health, aesthetic production, and the social bond.

LAB 5 ***The Mechanics of Truth*** functions as a framework or platform that convenes creators and researchers who observe these transformations as they happen, so that they can share ideas and concrete practices of representation and intervention. The operational objective is to support transdisciplinary forms of art-related creation, emerging aesthetics, science, technology, and social intervention, as well as to provide accessible and attractive instruments of analysis. This framework is aimed both at the general public, through the activation of public debate on particularly significant contemporary technological phenomena, and at a professional audience, by offering opportunities for training and project development.

We accept all kinds of proposals, from the most technical to the most speculative, and at any stage of development, from incipient ideas to projects in their final stages of definition and testing. Projects must benefit from the collaborative and co-creation environment offered by Medialab.

Please visit www.medialab-matadero.es to consult the three approaches offered by the LAB 5 mentors as a guide. These will explore different facets related to the theme of The Mechanics of Truth.

4.-LABORATORY OPERATION

During the Collaborative Prototyping Laboratory (LPC), ideas will be tested and collaborative projects developed by working in interdisciplinary groups formed by several collaborators and coordinated by the project promoter. The groups will have the support and advice of mentors invited by Medialab and a workspace in which to develop each project.

The role of the promoters is to put forward a proposal that is sufficiently open so that it can be developed collaboratively. That is to say, it can evolve on the basis of the contributions of the other members of the group. The promoters must also be able to activate the group in order to channel, through the project, the collective intelligence generated by the interaction between the different profiles involved.

The role of the collaborators is to contribute their knowledge in a collaborative working environment and to apply their perspective to the suitable development of the project for which they have been selected.

Collaborators are fundamental to Medialab's approach to and development of its LPC, which are conceived as multidisciplinary workspaces in which the exchange of knowledge and informal learning are encouraged in an environment of horizontal relationships between mentors, project promoters, and the collaborators themselves. Collaborators can join the development team of one or more of the selected proposals according to their interests, contributing their knowledge and ideas while learning from the other members of the group and the workshop mentors.

Notwithstanding the above, it is recommended that collaborators focus on only one proposal in order to ensure their full commitment to it throughout all phases of the workshop.

The laboratory will be run using free and open software as much as reasonably possible, that the projects will be based on open standards, and that the results will be available under Creative Commons licences that encourage their re-appropriation, reuse and distribution.

The laboratory will be conducted in English and Spanish, without formal translation.

At the conclusion of the laboratory, the resulting projects will be presented to the public during the **OpenLAB** festival, which will take place on 26, 27 and 28 November 2026 at Matadero Madrid.

5.- PARTICIPANTS AND PROJECTS

This call is aimed at individuals of legal age from Spain and abroad, with any level of qualification and from diverse disciplines such as design, art, architecture, urban planning, economics, film, photography, journalism, digital media, environmental sciences, philosophy, engineering, social studies, political science, programming, materials science, activism, or any other field.

It is essential to have at least a **medium-high level of English** that allows for fluent communication with other participants and does not require consecutive translation in meetings.

Projects

Proposals may be submitted individually or collectively, without requiring the formalisation of a legal relationship between collective members. In the case of more than one person submitting a project jointly, a representative must be appointed. The other members of the collective must delegate the rights of representation to this individual, who will serve as the authorised representative for all contractual matters. All this is without prejudice to the internal relations between them for the fulfilment of the obligations of this call. Should another member of the project wish to take part in the laboratory, they should register separately as a Collaborator, stating the name of the project and collective to which they belong. Their participation will be subject to the decision of the jury of this call. Apart from the representative, no more than one person will be selected per collective.

Each participant or team may submit as many proposals as they wish.

6. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Medialab Matadero will set up an Evaluation Committee comprising 4 professionals from outside the institution (the members of the mentoring team), the LAB 5 Curator, Bani Brusadin, and a member of the Medialab team.

The committee will be chaired by the Head of Programming at Medialab Matadero. A Madrid Destino legal services officer will act as secretary, attending committee meetings and recording the results of the jury's deliberations. The secretary will be allowed to speak, but not to vote.

The Matadero Madrid Contracting Body, acting on the instructions of the Artistic Direction of Matadero Madrid, has the power to appoint committee members and designate new members and substitutes for each of them, as required.

The decisions of the Committee members will be adopted by the majority of the participating members. In the event of a tie, the person acting as Chair shall have the casting vote. The regulation of the Evaluation Committee will be governed by the rules established for collegiate bodies by Law 40/2015 of 1 October on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

Projects

After eliminating those candidates who do not meet the participation requirements or have not submitted the required information and documentation in the entry form, as per section 11 of this regulatory framework, the Evaluation Committee will select the five (5) winning projects from all those submitted. They will also select at least two (2) substitutes to replace any of the winning projects in the event of withdrawal or disqualification.

Collaborators

Once those candidates who do not meet the participation requirements or have not submitted the required information and documentation in the entry form, as per section 11 of this regulatory framework, have been eliminated, the Evaluation Committee will select a maximum of twenty (20) collaborators, up to four (4) for each of the five (5) projects selected in this call, and at least one substitute to replace any of the above in the event of withdrawal or disqualification.

Exclusion due to non-compliance with the requirements and the evaluation are the exclusive competence of the Evaluation Committee.

The decision of this evaluation committee will be communicated on or after 15 July 2026 through the website www.medialab-matadero.es and to the beneficiary or beneficiaries at the address provided.

7. SELECTION CRITERIA

Criteria for the assessment of projects:

- Relevance to the overall objectives and the theme of the call *The Mechanics of Truth*, as set out in point 3.
- Innovative and experimental nature.
- Clarity of the proposal and suitability in terms of the laboratory's collaborative methodology and time frame.
- Adaptations of previously existing projects may be submitted, as long as they are substantial and relevant to the theme of the laboratory and their authorship is open to the participation of collaborators.
- The selection committee will value the proposal's consideration of social, ecological and/or environmental impact issues.
- Disruptive proposals capable of breaking with pre-established frameworks of thought will be valued positively.
- The jury will also assess and positively value the variety of approaches and backgrounds, and their integration into the selected proposals.

Criteria for the selection of collaborators:

Collaborators will be selected based on their profiles, seeking to achieve a balance with the group in terms of gender, origin, knowledge, approaches, and interests. The following criteria will also be taken into account:

- Coherence between the applicant's training and skills and the laboratory objectives.
- Potential contribution to the development of the selected projects.

8. DURATION

- Proposals for projects and collaborators may be submitted until **14 June 2026** at 11:59pm CEST.
- The outcome of the selection process for projects and collaborators will be communicated to the successful applicants for confirmation purposes by telephone or email and will be published on the Medialab Matadero website from 15 July 2026.

- The activities of **LAB 5 *The Mechanic of Truth*** will take place between **May and November 2026**. For more information about the programme, please visit www.medialab-matadero.es

9. UNDERTAKINGS OF THOSE SELECTED

- Individuals or collectives selected as project promoters undertake to attend the laboratory every day.
- Those selected as collaborators undertake to attend at least 80% of the total workshop (10 days). Those collaborators whose travel and/or accommodation expenses are covered, must undertake to attend the entire workshop during the specified opening hours.
- Preparatory meetings will be held online between September and November 2026, prior to the start of the Medialab laboratory.
- The laboratory will take place from Monday to Saturday, between 10am and 6pm. Small, informal activities will be organised from time to time after 6:30pm. Attendance at these casual events is optional.
- Selected individuals or collectives undertake to submit all required documentation and sign the acceptance of participation in **LAB 5 *The Mechanics of Truth***, as per section 11.1, within 5 working days of the communication of the result of the selection.
- Selected individuals or collectives also undertake to agree upon the project production plan.
- Furthermore, they undertake to complete and ensure proper documentation of the proposed projects.
- Selected projects must accept and encourage the participation and inclusion of collaborators. Participants must be open to evaluating new perspectives, incorporating modifications and improvements, and taking into account feedback from collaborators and mentors.
- All project documentation (plans, designs, photographs, etc.) will be published under a Creative Commons licence that allows for reuse in future projects.
- All code generated by participants must be published in public repositories and made available under a free licence that allows it to be reused.
- All group members who have participated in the development of the project within the context of the laboratory will be included in the credits of the project.
- The promoters of the selected projects undertake to deliver a **final public presentation** of the developed project, together with the collaborators who have participated in the group, at the **OpenLab** public event to be held

between **26 and 28 November 2026 at Matadero Madrid.**

- Participants undertake to remove any material left over after the project, once the OpenLAB has concluded and no later than 5 December 2026. After this date, Medialab will recycle or destroy any such materials.
- Participants undertake to maintain a respectful attitude towards all other persons participating in the laboratory. Expressions of hatred or intolerance regarding gender, race, ethnicity, disability, social position, sexual orientation, religion, or origin will not be accepted. Sexist attitudes or sexually harassment will not be accepted.
- Participants must comply with the rules governing the use of Matadero Madrid spaces.

The award bestowed on the selected projects may be rescinded in the event of serious non-compliance with the essential commitments established in these terms and conditions. In such a case, Madrid Destino will communicate the termination of the project to the promoter, who will have 10 days to submit such arguments as they may deem appropriate.

On the basis of a report from the legal department, the contracting authority will notify the measures taken, which may include forfeiting the remainder of the resources allocated to the call. In the case of collectives, such termination will apply to all members, who will be jointly and severally liable for their obligations. Communication shall be considered to have been made to all the members of the collective when it has been notified to their spokesperson or representative.

In the event that a successful candidate needs to withdraw, they must give sufficient notice.

In an event of force majeure, none of the parties will be obliged to fulfil their respective commitments. Any such decision shall be deemed to be a case of force majeure, in accordance with Article 1105 of the Civil Code, unless otherwise provided for by applicable legislation. Should such an event occur, Madrid Destino will be responsible for carrying out an assessment in each case, following a report from Medialab Matadero.

10. TRAVEL, ACCOMMODATION, SUBSISTENCE, AND PRODUCTION EXPENSES:

Upon request, for selected participants residing outside the Community of Madrid, Medialab will manage and cover:

- Travel and accommodation costs for up to three (3) project promoters. In the case of collectives, only the expenses of one member will be covered.
 - o Travel expenses: return travel from your place of residence to Madrid, which will be arranged directly by Medialab Matadero. Please note that petrol and mileage expenses are not covered under this open call.
 - o Accommodation expenses: up to a maximum of 21 nights' hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis.

- A maximum of five (5) travel and (5) accommodation costs for selected collaborators.
 - o Travel expenses: return travel from your place of residence to Madrid, which will be arranged directly by Medialab Matadero. Please note that petrol and mileage expenses are not covered under this open call.
 - o Accommodation expenses: up to a maximum of 21 nights' hotel accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis.

In any case, to support local creation, the organisers will seek a balanced participation of projects and collaborators from the Community of Madrid, the rest of Spain, and abroad.

During the laboratory, from Monday to Saturday between 12 and 25 November, participants will be provided with one meal and one coffee break per day.

Project production materials will be made available at the centre, including: stationery, basic manual fabrication materials, 3D printing materials, and laser cutting materials (cardboard and wood), amongst others. Participants may also request further materials up to a maximum value of €200 per project.

11. APPLICATION DEADLINE AND REQUIRED INFORMATION:

All those interested in participating in the call must complete and **submit the form that appears on the website medialab-matadero.es before 14 June 2026 at 23:59 CEST.**

Proposals may be submitted in Spanish or English, with preference given to the latter if the applicant speaks both languages.

Information requested in the form (*required field):

About the applicant:

> I want to present a Project (individual/collective).

> I want to be a Collaborator

- Personal and contact information (of the representative if you are submitting a collective project)*
- Biographical summary*
- Motivation and expectations*
- Knowledge and skills you can bring to the workshop (not merely technical)*
- City and country of residence*
- Travel requirement yes/no*
- Need for accommodation yes/no*

About the project:

- Project title*
- Summary of the project* in Spanish and English, (this summary will be published on the Medialab website in both languages if the project is selected).
- Keywords*
- Project background and inspirational projects*
- Previous support or funding received by the project*.
- Description of the project and objectives that can be achieved during the residency, including:
 - Technical requirements
 - Development phases
 - Description of the profiles of the collaboration required by the project

Attachments.

- Graphic documentation of the project.
- Link to a brief presentation video (in Spanish or English). It can simply be a video recorded with a mobile phone:
 - To present collaborators: up to 2 minutes.
 - To present promoters and their projects: up to 3 minutes.

Others:

- Comments.
- How did you hear about this call?

11.1. DOCUMENTATION TO BE SUBMITTED IF YOUR PROJECT IS SELECTED

- A copy of a valid identity document (DNI, NIE, or passport).
- A duly signed document confirming acceptance of your participation in the Collaborative Prototyping Lab. In the case of collectives, this document will be forwarded to the designated representative.
- If several individuals are applying jointly with the same project, the aforementioned documentation must be submitted by each member of the collective. In any case, both the application and the subsequent binding document must be signed by all group members, unless they have granted express power of attorney to one or more of their members to act as their legal representative. In any event, access to the spaces provided for the development of the project may be limited to the number of members of the collective that Medialab Matadero considers viable.
- A copy of the rules governing the centre and the use of the space, duly signed, must be submitted to the designated representative.

In addition, participants whose travel and/or accommodation expenses are covered must provide the following documentation:

- Spanish citizens residing in Spain must submit the appropriate municipal registration certificate. Foreign citizens and Spanish citizens residing outside Spain must submit an affidavit stating their full residential address.

Once the Acceptance Form has been signed, pursuant to the protocols of the Madrid Destino Safety and Emergency Department, the designated representative will receive the following Occupational Risk Prevention documentation from the Sub-directorate for Self-Protection and Coordination of Business Activities (CAE):

- Risk Assessment of the spaces that make up the Matadero cultural centre managed by Madrid Destino.



- Emergency Measures for the four spaces that make up the Matadero cultural centre managed by Madrid Destino. The designated representative must sign an acknowledgement of receipt and send it to the assigned technician at the following address: seguridadprevencion@madrid-destino.com. CBA and Self-protection technician, Self-protection and CBA sub-directorate, Safety and Emergencies Department, Madrid Destino, Cultura, Turismo y Negocio, S.A., Calle Conde Duque 9-11, 1ª Planta. 28015, Madrid. Cultural and Sports Area. Madrid City Council.

11.2. FINAL DOCUMENTATION ON THE PROJECT DEVELOPED

- Updated project description.
- Specifications relating to the composition, functioning, code, evolution from the original idea to the final prototype, and any other relevant information to aid understanding of the project.
- Graphic, photographic and audiovisual documentation produced as a documentary record of the development of the project during the laboratory.
- A list of reference materials used during the development of the project.

These materials will form the basis for the publication of the project on the Medialab website and via other potential media channels.

12. INTELLECTUAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Participants are responsible for the originality and authorship of the projects they submit and guarantee that they legitimately hold all intellectual and industrial property rights thereto. In this respect, they guarantee the peaceful use thereof by Madrid Destino and expressly release it from any liability for any direct or indirect damage or harm arising from their failure to comply with this guarantee. This is without prejudice to any unauthorised third-party material.

The authors and collaborators (or, where appropriate, participants who are the legitimate holders of the rights required to develop the project) hereby authorise Madrid Destino to use, in whole or in part, the various elements of the project and, where applicable, its results (whether text, images, graphics or videos) exclusively for the promotional and biographical purposes of Madrid Destino. In other words, the rights to publish brochures, catalogues or publications compiling the activities of Madrid Destino in both paper and digital

format, and to promote its activity. Commercial exploitation is therefore expressly excluded.

The authorisation is granted for the maximum period permitted by law and has a worldwide geographical scope.

Once the projects have been selected and throughout the course of the activity, authors are obliged to allow any other participants in the activity to use their work as the basis for other derivative works.

Likewise, the final result of the project may be considered a collective work.

Unless otherwise stated, intellectual property content will be licensed under Creative Commons By-SA. The licence may be viewed at the following link: <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/>. However, the authors may license their contents under any other licence, preferably an open-source one, to ensure wider dissemination. This must be clearly indicated in the corresponding publication or work.

13. PARTICIPANT'S IMAGE RIGHTS

Participants acknowledge that they may appear in images (photograph, video, etc.) taken in relation to their artistic project for subsequent informative or promotional dissemination of Madrid Destino's activities, and they hereby authorise such use.

Likewise, they accept that their image may be used in catalogues or other documents compiling the activities of Matadero or Madrid Destino.

All of this is subject to the provisos and limitation on uses and applications that may infringe upon the right to honour in the terms set out in Organic Law 1/1982 of 5 May on the Civil Protection of the Right to Honour, Personal and Family Privacy, and One's Own Image. Any other use outside the above scope is expressly excluded from this authorisation.

14. DATA PROTECTION

Madrid Destino guarantees participants that their personal data will be processed in accordance with current legislation and to this end informs them that they will be incorporated into a file owned by Madrid Destino under the following terms:

Data controller: Madrid Destino Cultura Turismo y Negocio, S.A., with a registered address in Madrid, Calle Conde Duque, 9-11 de Madrid (postcode 28015).

Data Protection Officer: dpd@madrid-destino.com

Purposes: To manage and comply with the relationship established (including the management of the legal agreement, formalisation and storage of agreements and deeds, accounting administration, compliance with invoicing and tax obligations, and for transparency and control purposes).

Storage period: Storage will be limited to the period necessary to comply with the contractual relationship and the statutory period for civil, criminal, administrative and any other actions that may arise from the activity or service provided.

Recipients: The Tax Agency and other public bodies, in compliance with tax, transparency and control obligations; financial entities for management of collections and payments; and judicial authorities. Transparency obligations require Madrid Destino to publish, on its website, a list of all the contracts that it enters into, therein stating the signatories, the purpose of the agreement, its term, any modifications made, the parties obliged to perform the services or activities, and the agreed financial obligations.

Lawful basis: Public call for proposals

Rights: Rights to access, rectification, erasure, data portability and restriction of data processing or objection may be exercised by sending an email to dpd@madrid-destino.com, with the subject "MEDIALAB/MATADERO". The person making the request must identify themselves using their official ID document. You may also file a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD).

15. ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES AND PROCEDURES

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of the content of the regulatory framework, as well as the agreements and the final decision of the Evaluation Committee. Failure to comply with this regulatory framework will result in the exclusion of the participant from this call.

16.- RESERVATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Madrid Destino reserves the right to take any initiative that contributes to the greater success of the open call, even if it is not regulated by this regulatory framework. This shall not entitle anyone to claim compensation.

Madrid Destino reserves the right to cancel this call at any time and for any reason and to make modifications and/or add subsequent annexes to it, provided that these are justified and communicated publicly and specifically to the candidates.

Madrid Destino reserves the right to disqualify any participant who acts in an abusive and fraudulent manner, or who deceives, conceals or falsifies the participation data or in any way fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this regulatory framework.

Madrid Destino shall not be held responsible for any possible fortuitous eventualities that may affect the course of the call, such as technical traffic errors, internet connection failure or congestion.

17. CONFLICT RESOLUTION.

To resolve any issue or dispute arising out of the call, please write to Madrid Destino so that both parties may reach an amicable resolution.

Should an amicable settlement not to be reached, the parties, expressly waiving their own jurisdiction, submit themselves to the Courts and Tribunals of the city of Madrid.

Should you have any queries regarding the call, please write to info.m@medialab-matadero.es, stating as the subject “*LAB 5 The Mechanics of Truth*” call for tender”.

Madrid, 23 April 2026