

Announcement

4th German-Swedish Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

Project applications and national funding applications will be accepted
until May 11th, 2021

1. Scope

Vinnova and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) intend to support joint German-Swedish research and development projects (R&D projects) in order to develop innovative products, processes or technical services from all technology and application areas. Funding will be available for R&D projects in which new products, technical services or processes will in subsequent steps generate sustainable solutions with high market potential.

In Germany, funding is provided through the Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM). In Sweden, funding is provided through the national funding programme for SMEs with German cooperation partners.

Vinnova, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems, and AiF Project GmbH, ZIM project management agency on behalf of the BMWi, will assist the project partners with basic information during the submission of project proposals, in the evaluation and in the implementation phase. All results will be announced by September 29th, 2021.

2. Call Structure

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for R&D projects until May 11th, 2021 according to the following procedures used by Vinnova and ZIM, specified in attachments (Sweden) and the ZIM Guidelines (Germany).

2.1. Financing

Eligible project participants from Germany and Sweden will finance their costs from the funding schemes applicable for this call set by Vinnova and the German funding programme ZIM and complementarily from their own resources. Provision of funding from one funding agency will neither indicate that funding from the other funding agency will be provided, nor bind the other national scheme in its provision of funds to the eligible project participants.

2.2. Minimum requirements

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technology-based services. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- The partners must include at least one Swedish and one German SME.
- Participation of further research organisations and other companies are welcome as additional partners or subcontractors according to each country's funding schemes.
- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is not funded by Vinnova or ZIM. They follow the financing rules including procedures and the funding regulations of these partners' countries of origin.
- The project should focus on the development of new products, technical services or processes which will in subsequent steps generate solutions with high market and commercialisation potential.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and differentiated value proposition resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial lead, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- Project duration should in principal not exceed 2 years and should not begin later than October 27th, 2021.
- The project should demonstrate a balanced technological contribution by the participants from both countries and must be equally significant to all participants.
 - In a project with two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute more than 70% of total person months to the project.
 - In a project with more than two cooperating partners, no partner may contribute more than 50% of total person months.
 - All research organizations involved in the consortium may altogether not contribute more than 50% of the total person months.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria may apply to the present announcement in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

3. Submission

Between the opening of the call on February 10th, 2021 and the call deadline on May 11th, 2021 all participants file one short common proposal in English language (Proposal Application Form), legally signed by all organisations participating in the project and a draft Consortium Agreement

(not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners (also in English). These documents have to be submitted electronically to Vinnova via the e-service “Intressentportalen” <https://portal.vinnova.se> (Swedish applicants) and to zim-international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de (German applicants).

The minimum requirements for the Consortium Agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Description of the project aims, scope, role division and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with person months (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement)
- A clause that provides for all partners to be informed if third parties are involved in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and foreground)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- Joint final reporting is to be done according to the regulations set by ZIM and Vinnova
- If research organisations from Germany are involved, a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The Consortium Agreement (called Project Agreement in Vinnova’s terminology) shall be consistent with Vinnova's and ZIM's terms and conditions for funding.

In addition to the common proposal, project partners who want to apply for funding within this call must submit a national application according to the respective rules (see below).

The Proposal Application Form as well as additional country-specific information and requirements are available at www.zim.de/schweden and at Vinnova’s homepage for this call www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/hitta-finansiering/

3.1 Sweden

A description is pre-defined in the standard call text. The project plan required by Vinnova (“Projektbeskrivning”) can be submitted either in Swedish or in English. For information and instructions see Vinnova’s webpage for this call. Applications must be submitted to Vinnova no later than 14:00 CET on May 11th, 2021.

3.2 Germany

Every German partner submits an individual ZIM application to AiF Projekt GmbH. Every German SME, in accordance with the relevant EU regulations, as well as medium-sized companies with less than 500 employees (full-time equivalents), which carry out R&D for the development of innovative products, processes or technical services, are eligible to apply. Other medium-sized companies with less than 1000 employees are eligible to apply for funding if they cooperate with at

least one SME in accordance with EU regulations whose project is being funded. Research and technology organisations are eligible to apply as cooperation partners of eligible companies.

Detailed criteria for submitting applications and the ZIM application form can be found on the ZIM website (www.zim.de); you may also contact AiF Projekt GmbH directly as described below. The application must be written in German and comply with the regulations of the ZIM guideline.

The national funding organisations Vinnova in Sweden and AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany will be available to supply all interested parties with all relevant information.

3.3 Decision and project start

It is expected that applicants will receive the decision regarding their grant by their national funding organizations on September 29th, 2021. If funding is granted, the project is to be started by October 27th, 2021 at the latest. Projects should not start before October 8th, 2021.

Consultation with the national funding organizations is highly recommended at an early stage.

Contact



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