Joint Nordic Hydrogen Research programme

“Nordic hydrogen valleys as energy hubs – by 2030 and 2040”

Due to maintenance of the Application Portal – Insights – it will be closed today Wednesday 30th August and reopen on Monday 12th September. Please register your project in Insights after 12th September 2022. The thematic scope will not be affected.

Nordic Energy Research will organise a Webinar on 9th October 2022 to address questions you might have towards finalising your applications.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact us! You may also consult our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section below:

Frequently Asked Questions:

Important: If the eligibility criteria are not met, the application will dismissed.

Please note that all requirements listed in the Call must be met in order for applications to be forwarded to external evaluators. Before submitting the application, check eligibility criteria and national regulations (Appendix 1).

Q: Should research proposals focus on primarily investment in technology and infrastructure?

A: NER are seeking projects that “*assess technological, safety and socio-economical barriers for a hydrogen, ammonia and e-fuel based transition.* Projects should identify and outline ambitious pathways towards 2030 and 2040 hydrogen value chains and infrastructure in energy hubs.

Q: Can non-Nordic partners participate in the project?

A: We welcome involvement of non-Nordic partners, but their involvement should be on a strictly in-kind/self-financing basis.

Q: How much money can each consortium receive?

Each consortia can apply for up to 20 mNOK. Consortium members from one country may receive up to 10 mNOK from their respective national financier. NER will provide to-up if applied funding exceeds 10mNOK.

Q: What is meant with «Private Companies»?

A: The term «private company» refers to any commercial entity that may have a role in creating a value chain for a hydrogen, ammonia and e-fuel based transition. This could for example be; technology providers, energy utilities, infrastructure owners, transportation companies ports etc. This formulation does not exclude directorates, government agencies etc.

Q: Is the involvement of private companies mandatory?

A: Involvement of private companies is an eligibility-criteria and therefore mandatory. You should have at least two private companies from to different Nordic countries providing substantial in-kind contribution.

Q: Will it be possible to engage sub-consultants from the Nordic countries for specific minor tasks in the project (e.g., data delivery, dissemination support etc.) that are paid from one of the partners or should all actors (getting part of the funding) be included as partners?

A: We understand and accept the need for including sub-consultants to perform special tasks that are needed. They should be specified in the application but does not have to be included as full-fledged partners.

Q: Our application to this Call will primarily be "Industrial Research". According to State- Aid-Rules, an industrial partner can receive up to 50 percent support. Would it be possible to receive an additional 15 percent support for cost related to international/Nordic collaboration?

A: This issue should be addressed to the national funding organisation. In the "national eligibility check" the national funding organisation will consider if industry partners are eligible for the sought support in accordance with the State-Aid-Rules.

An example from the national regulations for Norway;

https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/funding-from-the-research-council/Conditions-for-awarding-state-aid/

If National regulations allows for de-minimis and State Aid, and a National Party have exhausted their budget, NER Co-Funds can be used. However, the sum of National funding a and NER Co-Funds cannot exceed € 200,000 of de minimis aid over a rolling period of three fiscal years.

Q: Which hourly rates should be applied?

A: This Call does not specify hourly rates. You may use the rates used in the respective Nordic countries as guidance. The team of external reviewers will consider if hourly rates, number of hours and also distribution of working hours between highly experienced (senior) and less experienced (junior) staff match the expected outcome/output of the application.

Q: What are required to be considered for support from each Nordic country?

A: In order to be eligible for funding, applicants have to meet both the general Eligibility criteria as well as respective National Regulations (see annex 1 to Call for further details).

Q: What is considered "substantial in-kind contribution?

A: The Call text refers to "substantial in-kind contribution". We would regard an in-kind contribution 10 percent of the overall project cost of a project as "substantial". To be more precise; if consortium A applied for 20 million NOK we would expect that all partners in total provided at least 2 million NOK as in-kind - in addition to the funds provided. Higher levels of in-kind contributions might strengthen the application further.

Q: What is considered a research performing organisation (RPO)?

A: A research performing organisation is an entity, irrespective of its legal status (organised under public or private law) or way of financing, whose primary goal is to independently conduct fundamental research and/or applied research (industrial research and experimental development).

An example of RPOs from Research Council of Norway:

https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/apply-for-funding/who-can-apply-for-funding/research-organisations/approved-research-organisations/

"**Senior Researcher**"
With the term senior researcher, we refer to a person with an extensive experience in leading research projects of this kind, extensive list of peer-reviewed articles and the equivalent to a PhD-level degree. In academia, a senior researcher would typically be an associate professor or professor.

Authorised signature

The project owner (lead institution) and projects partners must provide signatures from persons with authority to commit the institutions to binding agreements (for instance Head of Department). Both name and position within the organization should be stated clearly (typed letters) in the Letter of Intent.