

NMTEP - clarifications

(Questions received up to 14th October 2020)

Important: Before submitting the application, check eligibility criteria and national regulations (Appendix 1) before sending in. If the eligibility criteria are not met, the application will be dismissed.

Q: Is industry involvement mandatory?

A: Industry-involvement is an eligibility-criteria and therefore mandatory.

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 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 10 million NOK we would expect that all partners in total provided at least 1 million NOK as in-kind - in addition to the funds provided. Higher levels of in-kind contributions might strengthen the application further.

Other clarifications from NER:

While research institutions must lead the projects, it is encouraged to include partners from industry and non-governmental partners where relevant.» This formulation does not exclude directorates, government agencies etc.

Eligibility

Please note that all requirements listed in the Call must be met in order for applications to be forwarded to external evaluators.

“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.

[During NMTEP Webinar: questions and answers](#)

Q: To what extent are regulatory and legal issues a part of what is referred to as multi-disciplinary framework specified in the Call Text?

A: Regulatory and legal aspects could be part of a project, but we would assume that is secondary to meeting the overall task of introducing and deploying one of three different types of low emission propulsion systems. Thus, legal questions could be a relevant aspect of the project, yet, the main focus must be within the outlined scope.

Q: What info has to be in the letter of commitment - budget, project name?

A: A Letter of Commitment should contain the project name and confirm the Project Owner or Partners nature of contribution to the project (personnel and resources). Signed by a person with authority to commit the institutions to binding agreements (for instance Head of Department).

Q: Is a data management plan required? (this is common in several European projects)

A: No, we do not require one. However, how you handle data ought to be mentioned in the project description, but we do not require a specific plan.

Q: What is maximum funding for a project?

A: Maximum funding is 10 million NOK for each consortium.

Q: The team description template seems to be ordered like one team is involved in one WP - this is not the case for our consortium. Should we still use the template and "modify"

A: In the section "Research project → Project organisation and implementation ", it should be described how the role of each work package in the overall project and how each of these are implemented (what and how). In the section "Competence → Teams" each WP team (often consisting of members across organisations) should be presented (who, and with what competence).

Q: How balanced does the project budget split have to be between the countries?

A: We do not require any specific split. It is up to the external experts to see whether the share of each project partner seems suitable for the project plan. We do not however have any formal requirements.

Q: Is collaboration (and possibly funding) outside the Nordics possible / acceptable? - In addition to collaboration in the Nordics.

A: In general, funding is limited to partners in the Nordic region. Collaboration with partners outside of the Nordic region is encouraged, but involvement should be on an in-kind basis unless otherwise advised by the national funding organisation.

Q: Project Administrator: is that typically the same person as the project manager (e.g. Professor)?'

A: Usually, the project administrator holds an administrative and economic position in the organisation with the authority to commit the organisation/institution financially and legally, for example a Department head. Sometimes this is the same person acting as programme manager, but quite often it is not.

Q: We have two partners from the same university (in projects that counts as one partner) - but different departments. That requires two letters of commitment from each dept., correct?

A: Yes, one from each.

Q: We have a Norwegian project with one Swedish partner, what does the Swedish partner have to do?

A: They need to submit a letter of commitment; they should also check Annex 1 and look at the national regulation for Sweden. This applies for partners/countries.

Q: Is hydrogen production relevant?

A: It can be relevant if it refers to the use of hydrogen in maritime transport if an adequate link between hydrogen and the scope of the project is made. Hydrogen production in itself may be out of the scope, but if the link to maritime transport is made, it can be a relevant aspect of the project.