

# Innovation Project for the Industrial Sector

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## ● COMPLETED

**Application type:** Innovation Project

**Application deadline:** Open-ended

**Relevant thematic areas for this call:**

[Industry and services](#), [Enabling technologies](#), [Oceans](#), [Petroleum](#), [Energy, transport and low emissions](#), [Land-based food](#), [the environment and bioresources](#)

**Target groups:** Industry

**Funding scale:** NOK 2 000 000-16 000 000

**Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals:**

NOK 1 500 000 000. This amount may be adjusted.

**Project duration:** 24-48 months

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This call will close on 15 December 2020. The call for "Innovation Project for the Industrial Sector" for 2021 will be published on 1 December, with the opportunity to submit project grant applications from 4 January 2021.

**30 October:** Due to an extraordinary high volume of project grant applications, and despite recent stimulus packages from the government, our annual budget for grants under this call will be exhausted by the end of October 2020.



In effect, the Research Council of Norway will unfortunately not be able to grant funding for project applications received after 30th October. In the event that our budget will be increased, we may be in a position to further process project grant applications and fund these under the 2020 call. If our budget will not be increased, grant applications received during the remains of 2020, may still be submitted. Those applications may then be transferred to 2021 and entered as an application under the new call that will come into effect from January 2021.

We will have more information about the situation as soon as it is available.

**5 October:** For the thematic area "Petroleum", the funding for 2020 is now allocated. The next opportunity will be in 2021.

## Purpose

Innovation Projects for the Industrial Sector is a funding instrument providing grants to business led innovation projects that make extensive use of research and development (R&D) to arrive at an innovative solution to a problem or opportunity in industry. Innovation Projects intends to deliver economic value for all companies and project partners involved, and for society at large from funding environmentally sustainable innovations and disseminating new knowledge.

The aim of this call is to stimulate companies in industry to invest in and utilize R&D as a crucial part of their innovation strategy for sustainable competitive advantage and growth.

[Call for proposals](#)

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Enabling technologies

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Petroleum

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Land-based food, the environment and bioresources

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## About the call for proposals

The Research Council is announcing a total of up to NOK 1.5 billion in grants for Innovation Projects in Industry. This funding is intended to encourage companies to invest in R&D that can increase competitiveness, restructuring and value creation. Projects are to contribute to sustainable development in keeping with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Innovation Projects are also to lead to additional socio-economic benefits through e.g. the sharing of research-based knowledge and activities to address societal challenges.

This call for proposals, encompasses the full breadth of the Norwegian business sector, and includes all regions and branches of industry. The Research Council is seeking project proposals from all fields of research, technologies, problem areas or markets as well as from companies of all sizes.

This call is open-ended, i.e. it does not have a fixed submission deadline and project grant applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis. Accepted applications will be processed in batches at regular intervals. For more information, see below under section “Administrative procedures”.

This call for proposals constitutes a funding scheme that is notified to the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

Funding awarded under this scheme is granted in accordance with Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014). In addition, the common provisions set out in Chapter 1 of the regulation must also be applied. [For more information about the regulations see here.](#)

This funding scheme is practised in compliance with the EEA state aid rules. This means that conditions and concepts laid forth in this call are to be interpreted in keeping with corresponding conditions and concepts in the state aid rules. In the event of conflict between the text of the call and the state aid rules, the latter shall take precedence. The text of the call may be adjusted for this same reason.

State aid may not be given to an undertaking which is subject to an outstanding recovery order following a formal decision by the EFTA Surveillance Authority or the European Commission that state aid received is illegal and incompatible with the internal market. Nor may support be granted to an enterprise that is defined as an “*undertaking in difficulty*” under the state aid rules.

The call for proposals has been approved as an aid scheme by The EFTA Surveillance Authority (ESA) with the reference: GBER15/2020/R&D&I.

The Norwegian language version of this call for proposals is the legally binding version. In the event of the need for significant changes to the call the Research Council will provide notification three months in advance.

## Who is eligible to apply?

This call is open to companies that have been issued an enterprise number under the Norwegian Register of Business Enterprises and that carry out economic activity in Norway. Public enterprises that carry out activities of an industrial or business nature may also serve as the formal applicant.

The formal applicant (company/public enterprise) will be the designated Project Owner under the contract with the Research Council.

Sole proprietorships and research organisations are not eligible to serve as a formal applicant.

## Who can participate in the project?

### Requirements relating to the Project Owner

- The Project Owner must be a company or public enterprise that carries out activities of an industrial or business nature and has been issued an enterprise number under the Norwegian Register of Business Enterprises.

The Project Owner must secure funding for the project and make provisions for the utilisation of the the results from the innovation project.

### Requirements relating to collaboration and roles in the project

- The Project Owner (a company) must carry out the project together with at least one other partner. Partners may be either a company partner or a supplier of R&D services. All project partners (other than the Project Owner) must be listed in the section for “Project partners and R&D suppliers” in the application form. [More information about partners and R&D suppliers is available here.](#)
- The Project Owner (a company) may carry out the project in a binding collaboration with other companies (company partners) in Norway. These companies will have an eligible part of their project costs funded by the Research Council, which means the participating companies will become recipients of state aid. As a general rule, such partners must fulfil the criteria set forth under the section “Who is eligible to apply?” to be able to receive funding.
- Norwegian and international R&D and scientific organisations may take part in the project as R&D Suppliers responsible for carrying out specific R&D activities commissioned by partner companies involved in the project. Suppliers of R&D services to the project may not claim any rights to results from the project.
- Other international and public sector stakeholders may participate in the project, but are not eligible for funding from the Research Council.
- A project participant may only be assigned a single role in the project. This means that the Project Owner and any partners (company partners) may not take on a role as a R&D supplier in the same project, and vice versa.
- The Project Owner or one of the partners can not be in an interdependent relationship with any of the R&D suppliers in the project. I.e., where both entities are part of the same corporation. The "arm's length principle" must be observed when engaging R&D suppliers.
- Companies (Project Owner and partners) participating in the project that are interdependent and mutually related will be considered as one entity and as a single recipient of funding in accordance with the state aid rules.
- Because of the partner model and the collaborative nature of Innovation Projects it is expected that the participants share relevant and useful knowledge from the project and facilitate among themselves mutual exploitation of the project results.

### Typical characteristics of a funded project

- An Innovation Project for the Industrial Sector build on a unique and innovative idea by one or more of the partner companies in the project. The results from the project may create value in the form of a new product, service or production process, or a new means of delivering products and services. Innovation in this context may also entail significant improvements or new characteristics of existing products, services or processes at the companies.
- The companies collaborating the project typically have a need for new knowledge or new technology in order to deliver the intended innovation. The knowledge or technology is to be developed through R&D activities using recognised methodology. The project's R&D activities must satisfy the definition of either “industrial research” or “experimental development” as set out in [the state aid rules.](#)
- The project has access to the expertise needed to carry out the R&D activities. The Project Owner (company) or collaborating company partners in the project may contract suppliers of R&D services to perform R&D tasks. R&D

suppliers may be research organisations (universities, university colleges, research institutes) or other independent suppliers of R&D services. The project may use R&D suppliers from outside Norway when this is seen as expedient. Doctoral candidates may be affiliated with the project through separate agreements with the appropriate degree-conferring institutions.

- The scope and risk profile of the project is such that the companies would not be able to carry out the project without Research Council funding. This means that funding from the Research Council is a critical incentive for the partnering companies in the project to invest in and go through with riskful but necessary R&D activities. Project funding from the Research Council may also be instrumental in helping companies obtaining follow-up investments from private risk capital investors.
- The project incorporates clear aims and objectives and a concrete plan for its R&D activities and for utilising the results. Results from the project including, knowledge and intellectual property that are not bound by protection or confidentiality agreements are disseminated via relevant publications and other relevant dissemination channels.

## What can you seek funding for?

Certain expenses and expenditures i.e costs are qualified for funding and only those pertaining to certain R&D activities under the project. The Research Council does not provide funding for operational business activities including activities associated with the commercial exploitation of the R&D results, such as: protection of intellectual property rights, market surveys and marketing, and testing and completion of new products or services. Such costs are therefore not to be included in the project budget.

It is possible to seek funding to cover part of the costs incurred by companies for their R&D activities performed under the project. This encompasses support for a company's own expenses for performing R&D activities itself and costs for procurement of R&D services from R&D suppliers.

Project costs are actual costs in the project, and are categorised as follows:

- **Direct project expenses:** costs related to project implementation, for example, payroll costs for project staff.
- **Indirect project expenses:** costs related to the project's share of the cost of rental of office space, IT/telephone and other joint administrative services for personnel, accounting and financial management.

In the budget section in the application form, the project budget is to be broken down into the following cost categories:

- Payroll and indirect expenses: costs associated with the company's own R&D activities under the project itself. Please refer to [the Research Council's guidelines for budgeting of Payroll and indirect expenses](#).
- Procurement of R&D services: costs associated with contracting R&D suppliers to perform R&D activities.
- Equipment: costs related to the operation and depreciation of scientific equipment necessary for the execution of the project.
- Other operating expenses: costs associated with other activities that are necessary in order to perform R&D activities under the project.

The budgeted project costs must comply with the description set out in Article 25(3) of the General Block Exemption Regulation.

### Scope of funding

The Research Council requires that for a project application to be taken into consideration the grant funding scope must be a minimum of NOK 4 million in total and with a project period of 2–4 years. The maximum amount of funding available from the Research Council for a project is NOK 16 million. The maximum amount available for certain thematic areas under the call will be lower.

The level of support (aid intensity) available for a company's project costs will depend on the project's content and the type of R&D activities as defined in the state aid rules. These include rules pertaining to the size of the company, the project's research activities and forms of collaboration. The level of funding from the Research Council may therefore vary from 25 per cent to 80 per cent in the grants awarded. For applications awarded funding the final grant amount will be determined in conjunction with contract negotiations.

### Conditions for funding

According to the state aid rules, support to an undertaking constitutes state aid.

An "undertaking" in this context is defined as any actor that carries out an economic activity consisting of offering

products or services on a given market. When an undertaking receives support to cover a portion of its project costs, either in the role as Project Owner or as a partner in the project, this support must be awarded in accordance with Article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation for state aid (Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014).

This funding scheme is to be practised in compliance with the EEA state aid rules. This means that conditions and concepts are to be interpreted in keeping with corresponding conditions and concepts in [the state aid rules](#). In the event of conflict between the text of the call and the state aid rules, the latter shall have precedence. The text of the call may be adjusted for this same reason.

- If the project is awarded funding, the participating companies must submit a declaration confirming that they are qualified to receive state aid.
- Other public funding to the project, or to activities under the project, will affect the amount of funding that the Research Council can provide.
- Allocated state aid of EUR 500 000 or more will be listed in a public registry.
- If the project application is awarded funding, the Project Owner must submit a revised project and grant application in accordance with the conditions set forth by the ruling body in the Research Council. The revised application will incorporate updated and supplementary information about the project and participating partners.
- For awarded projects, the project must commence no later than four months after the awarded grant was announced. Awarded projects with approved funding that have not started by this date may lose their grant.

The Research Council's conditions for grant funding are set out in [the General Terms and Conditions for R&D Projects](#). Projects awarded funding under this call, are among other things, required to submit accounting reports annually documenting incurred project costs and their financing.

## Relevant thematic areas for this call

This call for proposals encompasses the full breadth of the Norwegian business sector and includes all regions and branches of industry. Grant applications will

not be limited to any specified fields of research, technologies, problem areas or markets or to companies of a certain size.

Grant funding for projects come from various Research Council budget allocations for R&D support and funding for research and innovation in industry. These monetary allocations for funding come with thematic priorities and objectives for value creation and are presented under the relevant thematic areas below (use the designated arrow to expand each thematic area). For more information about priorities under the individual thematic areas, see the respective Research Council programme funding documents (links provided on the right-hand side). Applicants are encouraged to read these documents to understand the basis for the Council's qualitative assessment and prioritisation of grant proposals.

The monetary amounts listed under each thematic area indicate how much has been budgeted for R&D support and funding for research and innovation in industry within a given topic of this call. The budgetary amounts may change during the period the call remains open.

The Research Council strives to achieve a balanced project portfolio within the specified topics and thematic areas in the call and across different industry sectors and fields of R&D.

### Industry and services

This thematic area is targeted towards large segments of the Norwegian business sector, and funding is available for projects within a wide range of disciplines, technology sectors and business sectors. 

*Building, construction and mining, Finance and banking, Health industry, ICT industry, Processing industry, Travel and tourism, Media and culture, Retail/wholesale, Manufacturing industry, Other services*

Please remember to select the topics most relevant to your project proposal in the grant application form. The chosen topics are merely for guidance to help the Research Council in planning the application review process

## Sustainable value creation in Norwegian trade and industry

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects across the full breadth of Norwegian trade and industry. Projects are to reflect and support the companies' own strategies and challenges.

Project support is to enhance value creation through the development of new, knowledge-based trade and industry and the renewal and restructuring of established trade and industry. Funding is available for projects in all sectors, disciplines and technology areas not encompassed under other thematic areas in this call.

Projects that can contribute particularly to the transition to a greener society, for example within circular economy, sustainable production and consumption or new business models, may be given priority.

When assessing grant applications, the Research Council will attach importance to projects involving broad-based collaboration, for example between actors along a value chain or across sectors and thematic areas/subjects, that will allow sharing and dissemination of knowledge to enable a greater number of companies and communities in Norway to benefit from the project results.

The Research Council seeks to achieve a balanced project portfolio that accommodates the full range of industry and service areas, also across different branches, sectors, subject areas and along value chains. We also seek to incorporate companies or constellations of companies and regions that are inadequately represented in the portfolio.

For more information about priorities for this thematic area, please see the work programme (link on the right).

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 630 million for projects relating to "Sustainable value creation in Norwegian trade and industry".

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## BIA work programme

The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [BIA work programme \(pdf\)](#).

### Enabling technologies

This thematic area is targeted towards nanotechnology, microtechnology and advanced materials. 

*Nanotechnology/advanced materials*

#### Nanotechnology, microtechnology and advanced materials

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects for the development of knowledge and technology within the areas of nanotechnology, microtechnology or advanced materials.

Projects are to include measures for integrating RRI (Responsible Research & Innovation) into research practice to achieve sustainable innovation and value creation in the business sector. The main research question addressed in the grant application must involve at least one of the following priority areas:

- renewable energy;
- the environment and climate;
- improved health and medical technology;
- increased value creation and innovation based on Norwegian natural resources;
- expanded insight into the impacts of nanomaterials on human health and ecosystems.

For more information about priorities for this thematic area, please see the work programme (link on the right).

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 60 million for projects relating to “Nanotechnology, microtechnology or advanced materials”

## NANO2021 work programme

The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [NANO2021 work programme \(pdf\)](#).

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## Oceans

This thematic area is targeted towards maritime industries, aquaculture, fisheries, the seafood industry and ocean technology across ocean-based industries. 

*Aquaculture, Fisheries, Marine sector, Maritime sector, Havteknologi på tvers*

Please remember to select the topics most relevant to your project proposal in the grant application form. The chosen topics are merely for guidance to help the Research Council in planning the application review process.

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### Maritime industries

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects that help to increase value creation in the maritime industry. The objective is to work within a sustainable framework to enhance competitiveness, strengthen the capacity for restructuring and improve interactivity and knowledge transfer between the R&D community and the industry.

Funding is available for projects within all the priority areas related to maritime activities and offshore operations:

- opportunities in the ocean industries;
- autonomous and remote-controlled vessels;
- digital transformation of the maritime industry;
- promoting greener maritime activities/green shipping;
- safety and security at sea;
- the Arctic and northern areas.

As a part of its Covid-19 response, the Government has granted a one-off grant of NOK 65 million to green shipping. The measure aims at reducing emissions from maritime transport and at green restructuring within the maritime sector. New technologies and solutions are important to reduce emissions in the maritime sector, and to reach the government's ambition to halve greenhouse gas emissions from domestic shipping by 2030. The funds will go to innovation projects related to green shipping.

To carry out full-scale testing of experimental technology on vessels/at facilities in commercial operation, funding is available for demonstration projects in which several industry actors collaborate on equipping commercial vessels with new technology concepts for testing and further development. The aid intensity for such demonstration projects will generally be limited to 25 per cent of project costs, since this is R&D activity classified as “experimental development” under the state aid rules.

Within this thematic area, priority will be given to projects involving research tasks that require integrated efforts from a variety of stakeholders in order to achieve project objectives, and in which research findings will be of benefit to a wider range of companies within the industry.

To be considered for funding, projects with a small number of participating companies will need to achieve high marks for the assessment criterion “Excellence” or must lead to significant positive societal impacts.

For more information about priorities for this thematic area, please see the work programme ([link on the right](#)).

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 165 million for projects relating to “Maritime industries”. This includes the abovementioned NOK 65 million one-off grant.

### MAROFF work programme

The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities

- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: The [MAROFF work programme \(pdf\)](#).

## Contact persons

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### **Aquaculture**

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects within all relevant areas of the aquaculture industry, including processing of aquaculture products.

Project funding may be sought by producers as well as industry suppliers. Within this thematic area, priority will be given to project proposals that help to achieve the objectives for sustainable growth and development of the Norwegian aquaculture industry.

For more information about priorities for this thematic area, please see the work programme (link on the right).

This funding will be distributed over a project period of maximum 36 months. A maximum NOK 6 million may be sought.

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 40 million for projects relating to “Aquaculture”.

### **Development of fish feed based on Norwegian ingredients**

Access to new, sustainable feed ingredients that meet the fish's nutritional requirements and have a low climate footprint is one of the aquaculture industry's biggest challenges ahead. In the third package of financial measures to address the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak, the Government has added a one-time grant of NOK 20 million for research into the development of fish feed based on Norwegian ingredients.

This funding will be distributed over a project period of maximum 36 months. A maximum NOK 6 million may be sought.

## HAVBRUK work programme

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The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [HAVBRUK work programme \(pdf\)](#).

## Contact

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### **Fisheries and other marine industries including processing of harvested seafood**

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects seeking to generate knowledge about ecosystems in the ocean and coastal areas and the impact of pressures from human activity. Projects are to strengthen the basis for sustainable management and value creation based on marine resources and other ecosystem services, and may be aimed at the entire value chain for wild organisms, from harvesting to processing to markets.

Within this thematic area, priority will be given to projects that help to develop solutions and technology, including digital solutions, for advances in the fisheries industry, the marine processing industry and among companies using marine resources to produce energy or new marine products. Cooperation between actors across the ocean industries will be viewed in a positive light when assessing grant proposals.

For more information about priorities for this thematic area, please see the work programme (link on the right).

This funding will be distributed over a project period of maximum 36 months. Projects may seek maximum NOK 2 million per year for a total amount of NOK 6 million.

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 20 million for projects relating to “Fisheries and other marine industries including processing of harvested seafood”.

### **MARINFORSK work programme**

The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [MARINFORSK work programme \(pdf\)](#).

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### **Ocean technology across ocean-based industries**

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects encompassing the development and exchange of expertise and technology across the ocean-based industries, i.e. maritime industries, aquaculture, fisheries, offshore oil, gas and renewable energy, as well as new ocean-based industries.

Grant applications must explain the type of development and/or exchange of expertise/ technology between the ocean industries that the project will advance and specify the ocean industries for which the expertise or technology development will be relevant. Projects are expected to incorporate collaboration between actors across the ocean industries, and the involvement of end-users in the cooperation is particularly encouraged.

When prioritising projects for funding, importance will be attached both to the assessment of scientific merit for

each individual grant application and to the priorities for the relevant budget purposes stipulated for ocean industries.

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 16.6 million for projects relating to “Ocean technology across ocean-based industries”.

## Petroleum

This thematic area is targeted towards upstream petroleum activities.



### Petroleum research

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects within the following priority areas:

- Priority area 1: Reducing greenhouse gases, energy efficiency and the environment;
- Priority area 2: Subsurface understanding, including use of CO<sub>2</sub> for enhanced oil recovery (EOR);
- Priority area 3: Drilling, completions and intervention;
- Priority area 4: Production, processing and transport;
- Priority area 5: Major accidents and the work environment.

In addition, priority will be given to the following cross-cutting priorities: digitalisation, reducing greenhouse gases and improving energy efficiency, the Arctic areas, and challenges related to the introduction and use of new technology.

Funding is not available for generic projects focusing solely on these cross-cutting priorities. Applicants seeking to address the cross-cutting priorities must link these specifically to one or more priority areas in the list of Priority areas 1–5 above.

Within this thematic area, grant applications targeting the priority areas above, and potentially linked to the cross-cutting priorities, will be viewed as relevant. In addition, funding is available for multiple projects that also address the following strategic priorities:

#### Research cooperation with Canada

Norwegian-Canadian business cooperation through research and technology projects based on research questions relating to the Norwegian continental shelf and offshore Canada. Canadian partners are required to cover their own payroll and direct expenses, but the Research Council may cover relevant project expenses relating to the actual collaboration activities (workshops, travel expenses, etc.).

#### Improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to petroleum activities on the Norwegian continental shelf

Of the funding available under the petroleum-related calls in 2020, a minimum of NOK 35 million is earmarked for projects targeting “Improving energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions related to petroleum activities on the Norwegian continental shelf”. The earmarked funds apply across the calls [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#), “Innovation Project for the Industrial Sector” (this call) and [Demonstration Project for the Industrial Sector](#). At least NOK 10 million is to go towards testing and demonstration of technology for the supplier industry (see “Demonstration Project for the Industrial Sector”).

Examples of areas where there is a need for research, technology development and pilot testing include:

- Heat and power production with higher efficiency and lower greenhouse gas emissions compared to current solutions, such as: gas turbines with higher efficiency; further development of combined-cycle gas turbines; alternative fuels for gas turbines; hybrid solutions for power supply (e.g. wind turbines combined with energy storage systems, etc.); electrification using power from shore.
- Offshore energy systems and management, such as: increased degree of joint operation and remote control; digital solutions that promote optimal utilisation of energy; subsea solutions that reduce energy needs beyond current best practices; optimised production strategies in connection with greenhouse gas emissions; technology and process management that reduces the need for flaring, and technology and processes that reduce non-ETS emissions (which are primarily emissions of methane and NMVOC from cold venting of natural gas, from point sources of emissions at onshore facilities, and from loading of crude oil and petroleum products, as well as emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> from mobile solutions used for exploration drilling; see the Klimakur 2030

(Climate Cure 2030) initiative).

- Socio-economic research and new concepts, ideas and technology that can shed light on or facilitate integrated energy systems promoting low emissions, including solutions that incorporate new midstream energy value chains.

Applicants must give an account of the estimated total emissions reduction for the technology/technologies the proposed project has targeted for development. The grant application must also include a description of the time perspective and framework conditions for implementing the knowledge/technology, viewed in connection with the industry's new climate targets for 2030 and 2050.

For more information about priorities for this thematic area, please see the work programme (link on the right).

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 75 million for projects relating to "Petroleum".

## PETROMAKS2 work programme

The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [PETROMAKS 2 work programme \(pdf\)](#).

### Energy, transport and low emissions

This thematic area is targeted towards sustainable utilisation and consumption of renewable energy resources, development of the energy system and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. 

*Environment-friendly energy*

Environment-friendly energy

#### Environment-friendly energy and low emissions

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects that promote the long-term, sustainable development of the energy system, that enhance the competitiveness of Norwegian trade and industry, and that help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Funding is available for projects within the entire scope of environment-friendly energy and low emissions as defined in the work programme (link on the right). This encompasses the following areas:

- renewable energy (includes among other things solar energy, wind, bioenergy and hydropower);
- the energy system (energy distribution, power infrastructure and markets);
- efficient consumption of energy in buildings and industry;
- energy technologies for transport (includes among other things biofuels, hydrogen and batteries);
- energy policy, economics and sustainability.

The attachment to the work programme provides more detailed information about the individual topics and what will be given priority under each of them. Applicants are encouraged to read the documents.

In addition, priority will be given to projects that incorporate a feasible and ambitious plan for development, industrialisation and scaling, as well as projects with a strong consortium.

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 170 million for projects relating to "Energy, transport and low emissions".

## ENERGIX work programme and attachment

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The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [ENERGIX work programme and attachment \(pdf\)](#).

### Land-based food, the environment and bioresources

This thematic area is targeted towards land-based food and other land-based bioresources



#### Realising the transition to a greener society within land-based food and bioresources

*Under the Government's third package of financial measures to address the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak, the Ministry of Climate and Environment has provided a one-time allocation for research-driven innovation involving low-emissions solutions. In connection with this, the Research Council is seeking projects that promote the development of solutions to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and encourage the transition to a low-emissions or zero-emissions society, as well as projects that lead to solutions to preserve biodiversity.*

Funding is available for R&D-based innovation projects related to land-based food, forests and other land-based bioresources.

If the world is to succeed in limiting global warming, safeguarding biodiversity and ensuring an adequate food supply, we must rethink production, value chains and consumption of food and other land-based bioresources. Trade and industry have a key role to play in this.

Projects must promote the transition to a greener society and help to achieve one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Funding may be allocated to projects that form a basis for a new knowledge-based industrial sector, new jobs and new value chains, or to projects that promote the renewal and restructuring of established trade and industry.

For more information concerning priorities for this thematic area, please refer to the work programme (link on the right).

Budget: The Research Council has set aside roughly NOK 40 million for projects relating to "Land-based food, the environment and bioresources".

## BIONÆR work programme

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The work programme provides an overview of

- challenges, objectives and priorities
- anticipated results, impacts and societal outcomes
- available resources and budget

See: [BIONÆR work programme \(pdf\)](#).

## Contact persons:

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### Research Funding for Agriculture and the Food Industry (FFL/JA)

The Foundation for Research Levy on Agricultural Products (FFL) and the Agricultural Agreement Research Fund (JA) are announcing funding for Innovation Projects involving the four overall agricultural policy target areas:

- Food security and preparedness
- Agricultural production throughout the entire country
- Increased value creation
- Sustainable agriculture with reduced greenhouse gas emissions

More information regarding the FFL/JA priorities will be published on the FFL/JA website in August (see link at right). Grant applications will be processed by the FFL/JA boards in December 2020, and allocations will be granted for 2021.

Budget: Roughly NOK 50 million has been set aside under the Research Funding for Agriculture and the Food Industry (FFL/JA) scheme.

> **Research Funding for Agriculture and the Food Industry (MATFONDAVTALE)**

- agriculture and food
- climate and the environment
- business and economics

Applications for funding for preliminary studies and pre-projects are to be submitted to the Norwegian Agricultural Agency, while applications for funding under the application types “Researcher Project” and “Innovation Project for the Industrial Sector” are to be submitted to the Research Council of Norway.

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## Requirements for this application type

The grant application form must be created and submitted via “My RCN Web”. The grant application, including all attachments, may be submitted in Norwegian or English. This call has an open-ended deadline i.e rolling submission of applications in 2020. A unique grant application may only be submitted once (whereas calls with a fixed deadline may be submitted and resubmitted multiple times up to the submission deadline), and the grant application that is submitted is the one that will be processed.

- The designated templates for attachments are found at the end of this call for proposals. All attachments must be in PDF format and uploaded as an attachment to the grant application form.
- A comprehensive project description must be written using the designated template. All sections of the project description must be completed.
- If the applicant has submitted the same or similar grant proposals to other Research Council calls for proposals, this must be stated in the grant application.
- Applicants must enter at least one project partner in the application form in addition to the Project Owner. Partners may be a collaborating company or an R&D supplier.
- All project costs are to be budgeted in accordance with [Research Council guidelines](#).

### Mandatory attachments

- A project description of maximum 10 pages using the designated template. Please note that there is a new template in effect for 2020.
- Information about partners for the company submitting the grant application (Project Owner) and each of the participating companies (company partners) using the designated template. Please note that there is a new template in effect for 2020.
- CVs for the project manager and other key project participants (e.g. individuals responsible for the project’s work packages) using the designated templates.

For a grant application to be taken into consideration and being processed all requirements stipulated in this call for proposals must be satisfied. Grant applications that do not satisfy the requirements as stated hitherto in this call will be rejected.

Links to websites and documents, as well as other attachments other than those specified above as mandatory, will not be included in the application review process. There is no technical validation of the content of the attachments you upload, so please make sure that you upload the correct file for the selected type of attachment.

## Assessment criteria

Grant applications will be assessed using four criteria:

### Excellence

To what extent does the project represent an ambitious innovation that is supported by relevant R&D activities of high quality?

- To what extent does the innovation represent something new?
- To what extent is the innovation targeted towards clear needs or new market opportunities for the company partners in the project?
- To what extent does the project build on relevant and updated knowledge?
- To what extent does the project employ relevant and recognised R&D methods?
- To what extent are the R&D activities essential for the success of the innovation?

### Impact

To what extent does the project pave the way for significant benefits for the company partners, and lay a foundation for other positive impacts for society?

- To what extent will the project entail a potential for sustainable value creation in Norway with significant economic

benefits for the company partners?

- To what extent can the project have positive external impacts, such as:
  - helping to disseminate knowledge through networks and publications;
  - producing results that can be used by other industries, the public sector or in society at large;
  - leading to an innovation that can address UN Sustainable Development Goals or solve other important societal challenges.
- To what extent are the potential impacts of the project clearly formulated and highly plausible?

## **Implementation**

To what extent does the work plan provide a good basis for implementing the R&D activities and realising the potential for value creation?

- To what extent does the R&D project work plan incorporate appropriate and effective objectives, work packages, milestones, resources and relevant risk assessments?
- To what extent will the project have access to the necessary R&D expertise and adequate capacity to carry out the R&D tasks?
- To what extent does the project reflect the strategic priorities of the company partners and have a project organisation appropriate to the task?
- To what extent does the project manager have appropriate expertise and experience to lead an R&D project targeted towards innovation and sustainable value creation for companies?
- To what extent is the plan for implementation of R&D results and realisation of benefits relevant and appropriate, for instance with regard to:
  - IPR issues,
  - assessment of the competitive framework and market risks,
  - investment needs and plans,
  - needs and plans regarding partnerships for commercialisation or industrialisation,
  - need to develop business models.

## **Relevance to the call for proposals**

To what extent does the project meet the requirements and guidelines set out in the call for proposals?

- To what extent do the company partners in the project meet the requirements and expectations set out in the call for proposals with regard to the Project Owner and project partners?
- To what extent have the conditions set out in the call for proposals with regard to collaboration and specification of roles been met?
- To what extent can support from the Research Council be expected to trigger increased R&D investment among the company partners in the project and provide added value to the project beyond the financial support?
- To what extent is the project in keeping with thematic or budgetary guidelines in the call for proposals, where this is relevant in light of the project's content?

## **Administrative procedures**

Grant applications and mandatory attachments will be made available to external referees in a digital format. These referees will assess the applications that meet the mandatory requirements using three individual criteria:

"Excellence", "Impact" and "Implementation". Each application will be assessed by an expert panel generally comprised of three referees. The panel submits an assessment of the grant application based on each of these three criteria and subsequently arrives at a mark per criterion through a consensus discussion.

Grant applications assigned a mark of 4 or higher for each of the criteria (on a scale from 1–7, where 7 is the highest mark) will subsequently be assessed by Research Council case officers applying a fourth criterion, "Relevance to the call for proposals". The assessment and marks for all four criteria will be consolidated into a single, overall mark that indicates the merit of the project proposal.

The Research Council administration will present the project proposals and their respective marks to the relevant Research Council portfolio boards for a final ruling decision on awarding grant funding. The portfolio boards will attach importance to achieving a balanced project portfolio in the areas under their purview and in relation to ongoing projects and grant applications submitted under other calls for proposals. The boards' assessments will be based on the budgetary framework, the text of the call for proposals and documents referred to in the description of the respective thematic areas. An overview of all ongoing projects is available in [the Project Databank](#).

Each portfolio board will also act in accordance with the Research Council's general policy for allocation of funding, including policy on:

- research ethics perspectives;
- gender equality, giving preference to projects led by women project managers, assuming the quality of the proposal on all common deeming factors being equal (Ceteris paribus);
- sustainable development, giving preference to projects with a positive impact on sustainability and the environment, assuming the quality of the proposal on all common deeming factors being equal (Ceteris paribus);

### Notification of funding decisions

Accepted applications will be processed in batches at regular intervals. For applications submitted by mid-May the project owner and leader will normally be notified of the funding decision by the end of June. Applications submitted by mid-August will normally be notified of the funding decision by the end of September, and applications submitted by mid-October will normally be notified of the funding decision at the latest by the end of December.

Applications submitted between mid-October and 15 December will be notified of the funding decision by mid-February 2021.

A previously unsuccessful grant application can be resubmitted to the on-going call. If the re-submitted application is without significant changes, it will retain the scientific assessment and overall mark made by the external referees and the funding recommendation given to the portfolio board. On the other hand, if a previously unsuccessful grant application is re-submitted but with significant changes to the project and the grant application itself, this application may be assessed again and by a panel comprised wholly or in part by the same calibre referees who assessed the previous version of the application. Applicants who are re-submitting a previously unsuccessful grant application must provide an account of the relevant changes and their significance to the project in Part 4, item 15 of the project description.

All project grants awarded by the portfolio board are conditional. The project owner will be required to provide additional information about the project and project partners before the grant is valid.

## Download templates

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	<a href="#">IP-N Mal for prosjektbeskrivelse 2020.docx</a>	
	<a href="#">IP-N Template for Project Description 2020.docx</a>	
	<a href="#">IP-N Mal for partneropplysninger 2020.docx</a>	
	<a href="#">IP-N Template for Information about Applicant and Partner companies 2020.docx</a>	
	<a href="#">IP-N 2020 CV-mal CV template.docx</a>	

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[Download all](#) 