



Research for a competitive and sustainable battery value chain

The third call for proposals within the Swedish Energy
Agency's Sustainable Battery Value Chain Research Program

This translation is for information purposes only and has no legal force. In the event of discrepancies, the Swedish-language version takes precedence. **The full version of the call including appendices is only available in Swedish.** If there are any uncertainties, please refer to the Swedish text.



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1 About the call

This is the third call for proposals within the Swedish Energy Agency's Sustainable Battery Value Chain research program, which aims to boost Sweden's competitiveness, strengthen its security of supply, and advance ecological and social sustainability through battery-related research and capacity-building.

The principal aim of this call is to foster battery research that contributes to boosting the competitiveness of the Swedish parts of the European battery value chain, delivering a societally cost-effective climate transition, and securing a reliable and resilient supply of energy. Another aim is to encourage international and cross-sector collaboration and capacity building that, over time, stimulate new ways of thinking and strengthen the overall quality of the battery ecosystem. Funding research that helps make the battery value chain more resource-efficient and less vulnerable to disruptions and dependencies is central to the purposes of this call.

This call is open to all proposals that can help deliver the program's intended outcomes, outlined later in this document. We especially welcome proposals for projects in four specified areas, carried out in collaboration with internationally top-tier research groups or companies based either in Sweden or in countries at the forefront of the field, and which incorporate cross-cutting analyses on technology readiness and commercial viability, as outlined further below.

The Swedish Energy Agency will award funding following a competitive selection process, based on an overall, consolidated assessment of the project's quality against the call's evaluation criteria and aims. In cases where the overall assessment is otherwise equal, priority will be given to projects that align with the research areas, cross-cutting analyses and collaborations that are specially welcomed in this call.

Research & Development that strengthens Sweden's competitiveness and security of supply

We particularly welcome proposals that address the following specified research areas:

1. Research within process optimization, material use and new manufacturing technologies that can contribute towards reducing the cost and time needed for scaling battery production, as exemplified below:
 - a. Research on technologies that are used in the manufacture of cells and battery materials, and that is carried out in collaboration with internationally top-tier research groups and companies.
 - b. Research on Advanced AI and digital solutions for controlling, optimizing and improving the efficiency of manufacturing processes, and that is carried out in collaboration with internationally top-tier research groups and companies.



2. Research that can contribute to strengthening the security of supply of raw materials and components, including recycled materials, in the Nordic countries and in Europe, and that is carried out in the form of collaborative projects with internationally top-tier research groups or companies.
3. Research on solid-state battery technologies with high commercial relevance for future applications, and that is carried out in collaboration with internationally top-tier research groups or companies in countries at the forefront of the field.
4. Research on scaling technologies and processes for the recycling of solid-state as well as other types of battery technologies that expected research commercialization within the next ten years, and that is carried out in collaboration with internationally top-tier research groups or companies in countries at the forefront of the field.

Collaboration with countries at the forefront of research

Countries that are deemed to be at the forefront of research within the specified areas and that are viewed as particularly desirable for international collaboration are listed in the table below.

Technology for producing cells and battery materials	Japan (cell, mid-streams, material and production technology, leading environments within manufacturing), South Korea (cell, mid-stream, material and production technology, leading environments within manufacturing) Europe: France, United Kingdom, Germany (leading research environments within manufacturing, pilot lines, and manufacturing technology)
Advanced AI and digital solutions for controlling, optimising and improving the efficiency of cell battery material manufacturing processes	Japan (cell manufacturing know-how), South Korea (cell manufacturing know-how), Germany (battery manufacturing) USA (AI & software development)
Strengthening the security of supply of raw materials and components, including recycled materials, in the Nordic countries and in Europe	Canada (raw materials, mining industry), Nordic countries & Europe (raw materials, mining industry), Australia (raw materials, mining industry)
Solid-state battery technologies with clear commercial relevance for future applications	Japan (leading environments within solid-state battery technologies, at the forefront of development and commercialization), South Korea (at the forefront of R&D on technologies for battery manufacturing), Europe: France, Portugal & Germany (regional leaders & strategic partners),

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	USA (leading academic research & innovation landscapes)
Upscaling of technologies and processes for the recycling of the solid-state and other types of battery technologies that are expected to reach commercialization within the next ten years.	Japan (at the forefront of material research), South Korea (at the forefront of manufacturing technologies), Finland (leading battery recycling & materials landscape & strategic partners), France (leading R&D and demo landscapes for process upscaling, commercial momentum), Germany (leading R&D and demo landscapes for process upscaling), USA (leading academic research & innovation landscapes)

The Swedish Energy Agency may award research funding to entities with no operations in Sweden (international actors), conditional upon the fulfilment of all the criteria listed below:

1. *It can be demonstrated that the entities with no operations in Sweden possess unique expertise that is not available among entities based in Sweden.*
2. *The project is essential for achieving the objectives of the program.*
3. *A clear transfer of knowledge to entities based in Sweden can be achieved.*

The Swedish Energy Agency may deny the award of funding to entities within operations in Sweden even if all the above criteria are deemed to be fulfilled.

Cross-cutting analyses paving the way to technology and commercial readiness

In addition to addressing technical and process development-related research questions, irrespective of whether the project proposal addresses a specially requested area or not, applicants are strongly encouraged to include the following types of analyses within the project plan as either integrated or standalone work packages:

- a. Business readiness and market validation, an analysis of how the project's results interface with market developments, commercialization potential and customer requirements for the technology under investigation.
- b. Value chain resilience and industrial readiness, an analysis of the supply chain readiness, the manufacturing feasibility, and the scalability of the technology under investigation.
- c. Environmental & techno-economic sustainability, an analysis of the environmental and techno-economic performance, covering material and energy flows, resource efficiency, recyclability and the relevant regulatory requirements in different market segments across the value chain of the technology under investigation.

The following special conditions apply to projects that are granted funding:



- The project must submit a deeper analysis of the state-of-the-art within the research areas that are of relevance to the project together with the first status report. The analysis will be made publicly available and should therefore be limited to information that is not confidential. The template for the analysis will be appended to the decision.
- Each funded project must be represented by at least one project partner at the conferences and other activities organised within the program, estimated at one or two occasions per year. The costs associated with such participation are eligible for funding.

In addition to the requirements set out in the Swedish Energy Agency's General Terms & Conditions ("Allmänna villkor", available in Swedish only, please see the Swedish language version of the full call text), the following special conditions apply to projects applying for funding:

- The project leader for the project must either be a researcher who has not yet secured a permanent senior role within academia – such as an assistant professor, postdoctoral researcher or doctoral student – or, where the project coordinator is a company, an employee of that company.
- The project must contribute to the fulfillment of one or more of the program goals, as listed below:
 - a. New and enhanced cost- and resource-efficient battery concepts for energy storage and use in the power system and in vehicle applications have been developed.
 - b. World-leading knowledge and skills have developed among both Swedish researchers and companies in the fields of:
 - Mature and emerging battery technology for power system and vehicle applications.
 - Energy and resource-efficient processes for battery components, battery cells, or raw materials for battery cells.
 - Sustainable and cost-effective recycling processes and recycling methods.
 - c. A close collaboration and an active network between academia and industry have been developed, and battery research activity within Swedish industry and academia has been expanded.
 - d. An expanded Nordic and international research collaboration on the battery value chain has been developed.
 - e. Knowledge relevant for the formation of policy has been produced.
- If the project includes one or more international partners that are applying for funding, the following conditions must be met:
 - a. The total amount of funding requested for all the international partners combined must not exceed 15 % of the total requested funding.



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- b. An international research exchange is undertaken within the project, with a minimum duration of six months, and with priority given to employees of the Swedish project partners that are active within the project.

Funding in this call will be given in the form of grants. A total of approximately 70 million SEK is available for disbursement to the project partners approved for funding. The maximum amount of funding that any single project may receive is limited to 10 million SEK. The total sum of funding for all the international partners combined in any single project is limited to 15 % of the total requested funding.

2 Important dates

Application deadline	Earliest project start date	Latest project end date	Decisions
May 7, 2026	September 1, 2026	December 31, 2030	June to September 2026

The call opens for applications on February 27, 2026.

On the Swedish Energy Agency's application portal "Mina Sidor" the call can be found under the title "**Research for a competitive and sustainable battery value chain.**"

3 Who can apply?

The Swedish Energy Agency invites applications from the following types of entities:

- Companies (legal entities)
- Universities and colleges of higher education
- Research institutes
- Public sector organisations

Projekt som sker i samarbete mellan akademi och näringsliv samt projekt som sker i samarbete mellan forskare från Sverige och internationellt ledande grupper och aktörer i länderna som är områdesledande efterfrågas särskilt (se avsnittet "Forskningssamverkan med internationella områdesledare").

We especially welcome proposals for projects where companies and academic partners collaborate actively, and for projects carried out in collaboration with internationally top-tier research groups or companies based either in Sweden or

in countries at the forefront of the research areas specifically highlighted in this call (refer to the first section in this document).

4 How will the application be evaluated?

Your application will be evaluated against the following criteria specified by the Swedish Energy Agency:

Program Relevance

The degree to which the project contributes to:

- New collaborations between companies in the battery field.
- New collaborations between researchers that are less well-established within the battery value chains, thereby procuring the transfer of knowledge and skills from relevant research fields.
- Increasing the number of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers in the battery ecosystem.
- Increasing the total number of active researchers in the industry.
- Furthering the career development and academic qualification of researchers who have not yet secured stable, senior positions within academia.
- Increased research exchange, both national and international, focusing on junior academic researchers.
- Promoting collaboration on Nordic, European and global levels to meet knowledge, skills and competitiveness needs.
- Increased gender equality in leading positions within academia and industry.
- Addressing research needs within the four research areas specified and specially highlighted in this call.
- Delivering, in a fit-for-purpose and clear manner, the cross-cutting analyses specifically requested in this call on the following themes: business readiness and market validation, value chain resistance and industrial readiness, environmental & techno-economic sustainability.

Scientific Excellence and Innovation Potential

The degree to which the project contributes to:

- New and enhanced cost- and resource-efficient battery concepts for the storage and use of renewable energy in vehicle and power system applications.
- World-leading knowledge, potentially advancing the state-of-the-art and skill development in current and future battery systems for the storage and use of renewable energy in vehicle and power system applications within both the academia and the industry.
- World leading knowledge, potentially advancing the state-of-the-art and skill development in energy and resource-efficient processes for producing components, cells or raw materials for battery cells.
- World leading knowledge, potentially advancing the state-of-the-art and skill development in sustainable, cost-efficient processes and methods for reuse and recycling within both the academia and the industry.



Feasibility

The degree to which the project has:

- A suitable project plan with choices for duration, methodology and budget that are deemed reasonable for addressing the identified problems through the specified activities, work packages, milestones, division of responsibilities, specific project objectives and goal fulfilment plans.
- A project team with the right set of skills and resources for carrying out the project and achieving the specified purpose and objectives.
- Incorporated diversity and gender equality aspects of relevance to the specified areas of enquiry, the proposed solutions, and the expected impacts in its implementation plan.
- Considered gender equality when selecting the project team in terms of both the gender balance as well as the distribution of power and influence between women and men.

Utilisation and dissemination

The degree to which the project contributes to:

- The transmission and utilisation of the knowledge within the battery ecosystem.
- The development of close collaborations and active networks between academic and industrial actors, as well as the expansion of battery research activity within the Swedish industry.

The Swedish Energy Agency will award funding following a competitive selection process, based on an overall, consolidated assessment of the project's quality against the call's evaluation criteria and aims. In cases where the overall assessment is otherwise equal, priority will be given to projects that align with the research areas, cross-cutting analyses and collaborations that are specially welcomed in this call (see the first section in this document for more information).

5 What should your application include

Be thorough when writing your application and attach relevant documents. Read more on what the application should include in the Manual for applying and managing support for research and innovation via Mina Sidor (In Swedish only) (<https://www.energimyndigheten.se/491cfb/globalassets/sharepoint-dokument/process-dokument/publicerade-dokument/manual-for-forskningsansokningar-via-mina-sidor.pdf>).

Attach the CV of the project manager and other key personnel - maximum one A4 page per person.

Attach any figures and images that are referred to in the application form. Note that the project description must be included in the application form and should not be submitted as a separate attachment. Appendices submitted as attachments



should complement, and not duplicate, the information provided in application form.

If the project includes patent-related costs or intellectual property rights, these must be specified in a separate work package in the application. Examples of activities that may be included in such a work package are work on an intellectual property strategy (IP strategy), preparation of patent applications, trademark applications or design protection (however, this does not include annual fees to the Swedish Patent and Registration Office, PRV).

The maximum amount of support available for patent-related costs in this call is SEK 250,000 per project.

To be eligible for such support, the company must meet the conditions set out in Article 28 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014; see the section ‘Innovation grants for small and medium-sized enterprises’ (“Innovationsstöd till små och medelstora företag”) in the full Swedish call text for further information.

To help us process your application more efficiently and quickly, please fill out and append the following certificate to your application:

Certificate declaring previously received support for innovation advisory services and innovation-support services.

The certificate, which is used for assessing whether the costs for innovation support services can be funded in line with the information outlined above can be downloaded on the Swedish home page of the call.

[Information on how the Swedish Energy Agency processes personal data.](#)

6 How to apply

Follow these steps to speed up the processing of your application:

- Use the e-service “Finansiering av forskning och innovation” in Mina Sidor to write your application. (<https://minasidor.energimyndigheten.se>)
- Start by applying for authorization to represent the coordinator, that is, the organization that will coordinate the project, collect the grant payments from the Swedish Energy Agency, and distribute the payments to any other project partners. **Apply for authorization well in advance, as it may take a few days before it is granted.** You will receive an email once your authorization request has been approved.



- After the approval of your authorization request, you will be able to gain access to the form “Ansökan om finansiering av forskning och innovation”, which you must complete and submit by the deadline.

Submit your application no later than 11:59 PM on May 7, 2026. Support will be available until 4:00 PM on the same day.

7 How much funding can be granted?

The maximum amount of funding that any single project may receive is limited to 10 million SEK. The total sum of funding for all the international partners combined in any single project is limited to 15 % of the total requested funding.

The share of the total costs for each project partner that can be funded depends, among other aspects, on:

- The total amount of eligible costs
- Whether or not the project partner is a company or carries out non-economic activities
- Whether or not the project partner is a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME)
- The research category that the project’s activities are considered to fall under.

All project costs must be actual and auditable, which means they must be recorded separately in the accounting. This call provides the following types of grants:

In this call the following types of grants are provided:

- Grants to entities, such as universities, higher education colleges, municipalities and research institutes engaged in non-commercial activities.
- Grants to companies for research and development projects within the following research categories: basic research, industrial research, experimental development and feasibility studies.
- Innovation grants for small and medium-sized enterprises (as set out in section 5).

8 What happens after you have submitted your application?

Your application will be evaluated by an evaluation panel acting in an advisory capacity to the Swedish Energy Agency. The version of the application that is



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submitted by the deadline is the one that forms the basis of the Swedish Energy Agency's evaluation.

The Swedish Energy Agency may, if necessary, ask you to submit complementary information.

The Swedish Energy Agency may also run a credit check on applying companies, projects partners, owners and board members.

While your application is being processed, correspondence will primarily be carried out through Mina Sidor.

The decision to grant or to reject your application will be taken by the Swedish Energy Agency, taking into consideration the outcome of the evaluations. A decision letter including a motivation for the decision will be sent to you through Mina Sidor soon afterwards.

You can follow the status of your application in Mina Sidor. Grants will be paid out as per the payment plan outlined in the decision letter. For more information on payments, see the General Terms and Conditions for Funding attached to the decision.

9 This call is part of the programme The Sustainable Battery Value Chain

The vision of the program is to, through research-related initiatives in the battery sector, *"enable Sweden's contribution to a sustainable European battery value chain."*

The long-term objective of the program is to contribute to competitiveness, security of supply, and ecological and social sustainability through battery-related research and the development of academic expertise. A key premise of the program is to contribute to strengthened and sustained competitiveness for Swedish actors, sustainable electrification of transport, and a resilient energy system through resource- and energy-efficient, system-efficient, and circular processes throughout the battery value chain.

The program funds research projects in areas such as the development of new battery materials and chemistries, recycling, reuse, safety issues, development of methods and tools for battery systems modeling, as well as other related areas such as further development of existing battery materials and chemistries, diagnostics/measurement, control/use, and other battery-related fields relevant to the program's impact objectives. The program also supports system analyses of different battery tracks, knowledge syntheses, feasibility studies, and policy analyses.



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The focus of the program is on strengthening knowledge and expertise in batteries, with an emphasis on academic research and qualifications, increased collaboration in applied research that addresses the need for scaling up technologies and processes in areas where there are industry actors in Sweden, as well as improved knowledge bases for policy and regulatory development.

More information on the program can be found in the full program description, available in Swedish only for the time being. [Forskningsprogrammet: Hållbar batterivärdekedja](#).

Swedish Energy Agency's Sustainable Battery Value Chain research program runs between June 1, 2024 and December 31, 2030 and has an overall budget of 348 million SEK.

10 If you have questions

The Swedish Energy Agency are happy to answer any questions on the call. However, we cannot comment on project ideas or provide recommendations, we can only answer questions related to the call itself.

Please note that it may be more difficult to get assistance on the last open day of the call as many tend to call in then. The Swedish Energy Agency is only available for questions until 4:00 PM on the last open day. After that time, you should not expect to receive help or support.

Please note that applications to this call must be submitted through Mina Sidor. Instructions on how to proceed can be found in the Manual for Research Applications via Mina Sidor (only in Swedish).

For questions on the contents of the call, contact one of the following program managers:

- Gabriel Granström, gabriel.granstrom@energimyndigheten.se, 0165 442 430
- Yawer Jafri, yawer.jafri@energimyndigheten.se, 0165 442 432
- Anna Lock, anna.lock@energimyndigheten.se, 0165 442 321

For technical support or if you have questions concerning authorization to access our services, contact: registrator@energimyndigheten.se

Tel: 016-544 20 00