

# Do you want to contribute to research and innovation for a sustainable and biobased society?

Application deadline 23 June 2021 at 23:59.

**NB!** Support will be available until 16:00 on that date.

Approximately SEK 100 million in funding is available in this call.

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# 1 Introduction

Sweden aims to become a fossil-free welfare nation by 2045. This call for proposals provides funding to projects which, based on sustainable biobased raw materials<sup>1</sup>, have the potential to contribute to solving the energy and climate challenges that Sweden faces as part of meeting this goal. This means that the projects must be relevant to the future energy system, while **at the same time** contributing to solving the climate challenges.

The call relates to research, innovation and commercialisation activities that span from *land to market*<sup>2</sup>. This includes supply and use or conversion of biomass, biobased value chains, biobased systems and sustainability issues relevant to this area, as well as societal and social issues arising from the transition to a fossil-free and biobased society. This may include entire value chains and systems, or specific parts of these.

The call also welcomes intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary projects to help address some of the complex issues in this area. The projects may include system studies, technological development, feasibility studies, and more. Some projects may be broader than the thematic area *land to market* so that it can be related to other areas, such as the transport sector and the electrical grid system. Projects may also aim to increase knowledge and understanding of the opportunities, uncertainties and possible conflict of objectives that may arise in the transition to a biobased economy and a fossil-free society.

This is the first call for proposals within the framework of the Bio+ programme. More information about the programme is available on the Swedish Energy Agency's [website](#).

## 1.1 The programme's outcome objectives

In order to address the challenges of the energy system of the future while **at the same time** contributing to solving climate challenges, the programme has a number of outcome objectives. Your project must contribute to one or more of the following outcome objectives:

- **Resource-efficient solutions**
  - Resource-efficient and cost-effective technologies, products (goods and services) and system services are available. The solutions are competitive and exported on a global market. International standardisation contributes to increased trade.
- **Sustainable value chains**

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<sup>1</sup> The term sustainable, biobased raw materials means biomass produced in a sustainable way from forests, agriculture or aquatic environments, as well as residual products and by-products of processing from industry, agriculture and society, such as sawdust, lignin and pine oil, sewage sludge, and industrial and household waste.

<sup>2</sup> The term "land" in this context includes the possibility of biobased raw materials also coming from seas and lakes.

- Sustainable value chains are available, involving the supply of sustainable biobased raw materials and their transformation into products and solutions that contribute to the transformation of the energy system. The value chains can also include utilisation of by-products and residual products and harmonisation with other biobased products.
- **New constellations of actors**
  - New constellations of actors have been formed, where cooperation and continuous exchange of knowledge take place at both the national and the international level. Resource-efficient biobased system solutions are developed and built up within or as a result of the constellations.
- **High level of competence**
  - Companies and organisations in Sweden can easily recruit in-demand competence in the entire bio field. The national competence at the research level in the field is strong and adapted to meet the needs of society.
- **Effective policies and instruments**
  - The market mechanisms of the bioeconomy work well and interact with the energy system. Regulatory frameworks have been formed based on current sustainability research, societal studies, as well as system economic and socioeconomic analyses.

**Projects can start on 1 January 2022 at the earliest and last until 31 December 2025 at the latest.**

The call for proposals has a budget of **approximately SEK 100 million**.

A common denominator for all applications is that the involvement<sup>3</sup> of needs owners<sup>4</sup> in the projects is required. For natural science and technology projects, the requirement is that there is involvement for projects starting from maturity level 2 or higher on the TRL<sup>5</sup> scale. The higher the project's maturity level, the greater the involvement and participation of the needs owners that is required. However, there may also be a need for projects with no involvement from needs owners, in which case the onus is on the applicant to justify why this is not needed.

The call is broad, but can be divided into projects that predominantly fit into one or both of the following categories:

1. projects aiming to generate knowledge that has societal relevance, such as systems studies or projects that generate new knowledge on sustainability issues.
2. projects aiming to develop and/or commercialise, inter alia, products, technologies or services with market potential.

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<sup>3</sup> Signs of involvement can be a "letter of intent" (LoI), reference group, project participation, co-funding, etc.

<sup>4</sup> In this context, needs owner refers to the actor who benefits from the solution and who will take care of (manage, use, disseminate) the results of the project

<sup>5</sup> TRL: Technology Readiness Level

**Projects aiming to generate knowledge that has societal relevance can include or be based on:**

- Fundamental research and industrial research in natural science and technology (NT).
- Research in humanities and social sciences (HS).
- System-wide studies and analyses may draw on interdisciplinary research, social science and humanities methodologies and theories to increase understanding of how the bioeconomy, bioenergy and sustainable biomass will contribute to the development of the energy system and societal transformation as a whole.
- Combinations of NT and HS.
- Transition
  - E.g. systemic change and phase-out of established fossil- and oil-based systems to circular, biobased systems with respect to e.g. raw material base, infrastructure, industries, production and consumption, as well as associated regulatory framework and practices that enable or hinder systemic change.
- Sustainability
  - Issues related to ecological, environmental and social sustainability. These may include issues related to biodiversity, nature values, land use, carbon stocks and flows, and issues related to nutrient circulation and the management of conflicts between environmental objectives. It can also include issues related to people's sense of participation and trust in the development of society.

**Projects aiming to develop and/or commercialise, inter alia, products, technologies or services with market potential**

- Industrial research.
- Small pilot & demonstration (experimental development) (< SEK 5 million in eligible costs). For projects with more than SEK 5 million in eligible costs, please refer to the [Pilot & demonstration](#) call.
- Feasibility studies.
- Other commercialisation support measures, such as development of a business plan and market strategy, IPR strategy (including patent costs), customer collaboration, financing plan for further development and commercialisation.

## 2 Who can apply?

Any actor who can contribute to achieving the objectives of the call is eligible. For example:

- companies
- public sector organisations
- universities and colleges in the social science, humanities, engineering and natural science disciplines
- institutions

- other relevant actors and stakeholders

Gender equality shall be taken into account in the composition of the project team, in the selection of project manager, and in the implementation, content, objectives and impact of the project.

### 3 Project proposals will be assessed based on the following criteria

The projects described in the applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

#### **Potential**

The main assessment criterion for all projects is the project's potential to contribute to the programme's outcome objectives. In order to achieve the objectives of the programme, the Swedish Energy Agency will also take the composition of the project portfolio into account.

#### **Feasibility and competence**

This criterion assesses the feasibility of the project, including whether it is certain that the collective competence of the project executors is sufficient for the implementation of the project.

#### **Gender equality & sex and gender perspective.**

- How well is gender equality taken into account in the composition of the project team, the division of labour and the working conditions?
- To what extent is the relevance of the inclusion and non-inclusion of the sex and gender perspective clearly explained?
  - If the sex and gender perspective is relevant to the project, how well is it incorporated in the project implementation?

#### **Projects aiming to generate knowledge that has societal relevance**

- The project's communication plan, including a plan for dissemination of results to the relevant target groups.
- How is the involvement of the recipient of results justified? NB! The absence of recipient of results should also be justified.

#### **Projects aiming to develop and/or commercialise, inter alia, products, technologies or services with market potential are assessed according to one or more of the following points:**

- What is the plan for utilisation and dissemination of results?
- How is the involvement of relevant needs owners, actors and stakeholders described?
- How would you describe what successful commercialisation could lead to?
  - Describe the intended customer offering.

- Transition to a sustainable energy system (in relation to existing solutions on the market).
- Level of innovation.
- Commercial need of the customer offering.
- Possibility of scaling up a customer offering.
- Potential for export.

#### **Additional criteria that are of merit in the application**

- Does the project have a broad constellation of actors (intersectoral and/or interdisciplinary)?
- Does the project include collaboration with international actors?
- Is scientific publication via Open Access?

## 4 Delimitations

A common denominator of all projects is that they should be based on sustainable biobased raw materials. To clarify the limits, here are some examples of what is **NOT** included:

- Technical development of CCS<sup>6</sup>, CCU and Bio-CCS. However, the technologies can be included in system studies and as subsystems in different technological concepts based on sustainable biobased raw materials.
- Technological development of electrolysis-based processes (hydrogen and electrofuels). However, the technologies can be included in system studies and as subsystems in different technological concepts based on sustainable biobased raw materials.
- Projects related to the production of hydrogenated vegetable oils (HVO) or equivalent fuels produced from oils or fats.

## 5 How to apply – start early

For this call, applications are submitted via *Mina sidor* [My pages]. On **2 June 2021**, *Mina sidor* will be opened for you to fill in your application.

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

- Use the e-service “*Finansiering av forskning och innovation*” [Funding for research and innovation] on *Mina sidor* to write your application (<https://minasidor.energimyndigheten.se>)
- Start by applying for authorisation to represent the coordinator, i.e. the organisation that will coordinate the project, receive the funding from the Swedish Energy Agency, and pass on the funding to any other beneficiaries participating in the project. Apply for authorisation in good time, as it may

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<sup>6</sup> CCS (Carbon Capture and Storage), CCU (Carbon Capture and Utilisation), Bio-CCS (CCS where the carbon dioxide is of biogenic origin).

take a few days to obtain it. You will receive an email when your application for authorisation has been approved. It is possible to apply for authorisation after 6 April 2021.

- Once you have been granted access to the e-service, you will have access to the form “*Ansökan om finansiering av forskning och innovation*” [Application for research and innovation funding], which you must complete and submit.

Submit the application by **23 June 2021**. Support will be available until 16:00 on that date.

## 6 What should be included in the application?

Enter your application text in the application form on *Mina sidor*. Read more about what to include in the application in [Application instructions](#).

Attach the CVs of the project manager and other key individuals, with each CV maximum one A4 page in size.

Any figures and images referenced in the text can be attached. Note that the project description must be included in the application form, and must not be attached as an appendix. The appendices must clearly supplement the application form and not contain the same information as in the application form.

## 7 How much funding can each project partner receive?

In this call for proposals, a total of **approximately SEK 100 million** is available for the selected project partners.

What proportion of costs each project partner can receive funding for depends on factors such as:

- the amount of eligible costs incurred by the project partner
- whether the project partner is a company or is engaged in non-economic activity
- which research category<sup>7</sup> the activities of the project are deemed to fall under.

Read more in *Annex 1 – Funding intensities*.

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<sup>7</sup> The research categories are feasibility study, fundamental research, industrial research, and experimental development



## 8 What happens after I submit my application?

Your application will be assessed by an evaluation panel of independent experts, acting in an advisory capacity to the Swedish Energy Agency. The version of your application submitted before the closing date of the call is what will be assessed. We will not accept any supplementations after the deadline, except those we explicitly request. The Agency may ask you to supplement the application if we deem this necessary.

The Swedish Energy Agency may perform a credit check on applicant companies.

The Swedish Energy Agency will then decide whether to approve or reject your application, taking into account the assessments of the expert panel. **The decision will be taken in November 2021 at the earliest.** Shortly thereafter, we will notify you of the decision taken and the reasons for it.

You can follow the progress in your case on *Mina sidor*.

## 9 If you are granted funding

The funding is disbursed according to a disbursement plan that is included in the decision found on *Mina sidor*. For more information about disbursement, see *Allmänna villkor för stöd* [General terms and conditions for funding], which accompanies the funding decision.

## 10 If you have any questions

Send an email to [bioplus@energimyndigheten.se](mailto:bioplus@energimyndigheten.se) or contact one of the persons below.

### Separation and conversion processes

Mats Larsson, 016-544 23 14  
Vera Nemanova, 016-544 22 83  
Sofia Andersson, 016-544 24 45  
Benny Fillman, 016-544 21 41

### Supply and sustainability

Anna Malmström, 016-544 22 63  
Kalle Svensson, 016-544 21 09

### Transition, system studies, humanities and social sciences

Michael Novotny, 016-544 06 25

## 11 Annex 1 – Aid intensities

### 11.1 Funding for research and development projects

Funding to companies is granted in accordance with Ordinance (2008:761) on state funding for research, development or innovation in the energy sector. Ordinance (2008:761) enables the Swedish Energy Agency to provide state funding in accordance with Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014<sup>8</sup>.

#### ***Eligible costs under § 12 of Ordinance (2008:761)***

The following are deemed eligible costs if the project activities for which you are seeking funding constitute research or development as defined in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014:

- a) Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed in the relevant project.
- b) Costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, are considered as eligible.
- c) Costs of buildings and land to the extent and for the period used for the project. With regard to buildings, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles, are considered as eligible. For land, costs of commercial transfer or actually incurred capital costs are eligible.
- d) Costs of contract research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project.
- e) Additional overheads and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project.

#### ***Funding to actors performing non-economic activities***

Project partners who do not perform economic activities (such as universities, colleges, municipalities and research institutes, to the extent that the work is performed within the non-economic activities) can receive funding of up to 100 percent of the project partner's eligible costs in the project. Funding to actors engaged in non-economic activities is granted in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's current appropriation directions.

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<sup>8</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of funding compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (EUT L 187 26.6.2014, p. 1).

The following rules apply to indirect costs when the beneficiary performs non-economic activities:

- Universities and colleges may add indirect costs according to the full cost principle they apply.
- Other beneficiaries not engaged in economic activities can receive funding for indirect costs up to a maximum of 30 percent of their eligible direct personnel costs (wage and non-wage labour costs). This also applies if a beneficiary is engaged in both economic and non-economic activities, provided that the project is carried out in the non-economic activity.

### ***Funding to companies***

Funding for research and development projects is granted to companies in accordance with Section 12 of the Ordinance (2008:761) on state funding for research, development or innovation in the energy sector. To be eligible for funding, companies must satisfy the conditions set out in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. A company is any entity, regardless of its legal form, engaged in economic activity. Economic activity means the provision of goods or services on a market. Thus, a company is deemed to be any partnership, association, or entity engaged in a craft or other activity, whether individually or as a family, that is engaged in regular economic activity.

The percentage of the company's eligible costs (referred to as the funding intensity) that the funding from the Swedish Energy Agency may cover is determined by Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. The funding intensity is determined based on, inter alia, the research category which the various research and development activities fall under and the size of the company receiving the funding. Company size is determined in accordance with the rules set out in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, which are also described in the Commission publication User guide to the SME Definition.<sup>9</sup>

Beneficiaries that are companies (beneficiaries engaged in economic activity) may not receive funding for indirect costs. This also applies if a beneficiary is engaged in both economic and non-economic activities, assuming that the project is carried out in the economic activity.

### ***Project activities are divided into research categories***

The maximum funding intensity a company can receive depends on which research category the activities of the project are deemed to fall under. The activities of the project may also be considered to fall under several different research categories. The maximum permissible funding intensities that a company can receive for research and development projects are set out in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. Table 1 below describes the

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<sup>9</sup> The user guide is available on the website of the Publications Office of the EU:  
<https://op.europa.eu/sv/publication-detail/-/publication/756d9260-ee54-11ea-991b-01aa75ed71a1>

different research categories. Table 3 then shows the maximum funding intensities.

Table 1. Classification of research activities in research and development projects<sup>10</sup>

<b>Feasibility study</b>	the evaluation and analysis of the potential of a project, which aims at supporting the process of decision-making by objectively and rationally uncovering its strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, as well as identifying the resources required to carry it through and ultimately its prospects for success.
<b>Fundamental research</b>	experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any direct commercial application or use in view.
<b>Industrial research</b>	the planned research or critical investigation aimed at the acquisition of new knowledge and skills for developing new products, processes or services or for bringing about a significant improvement in existing products, processes or services. It comprises the creation of components parts of complex systems, and may include the construction of prototypes in a laboratory environment or in an environment with simulated interfaces to existing systems as well as of pilot lines, when necessary for the industrial research and notably for generic technology validation.
<b>Experimental development</b>	<p>acquiring, combining, shaping and using existing scientific, technological, business and other relevant knowledge and skills with the aim of developing new or improved products, processes or services. This may also include, for example, activities aiming at the conceptual definition, planning and documentation of new products, processes or services.</p> <p>Experimental development may comprise prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new or improved products, processes or services in environments representative of real-life operating conditions where the primary objective is to make further technical improvements on products, processes or services that are not substantially set. This may include the development of a commercially usable prototype or pilot which is necessarily the final commercial product and which is too expensive to produce for it to be used only for demonstration and validation purposes.</p> <p>Experimental development does not include routine or periodic changes made to existing products, production lines, manufacturing processes, services and other operations in progress, even if those changes may represent improvements.</p>

Please note that if the company to which the Swedish Energy Agency grants funding has received or is receiving funding for the project in the form of other public funding (such as other state, regional or municipal funding), this funding must be taken into account when calculating the amount of funding the company can receive from the Swedish Energy Agency. According to the EU's State Funding regulations, the *total* public funding granted to the company for the same eligible costs may not exceed the maximum funding intensities set out in Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Amount of funding depends on the size of the company***

The maximum funding intensity that a company can receive for research and development projects also depends on the size of the company. If the applicant is a small or medium-sized enterprise, the funding intensity may be increased by 20

<sup>10</sup> The definitions are set out in Article 2(84–87) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. The link is available on the call's website.

<sup>11</sup> See Article 8 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

or 10 percentage points respectively, as set out in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

Company size is determined in accordance with the rules set out in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, which are also described in the Commission publication User guide to the SME Definition.<sup>12</sup>

When assessing company size, the number of employees, annual turnover and balance sheet total must be taken into account, as well as any links the company may have to other companies. To qualify as a small enterprise, a company must have fewer than 50 employees and *either* an annual turnover *or* a balance sheet total that does not exceed EUR 10 million per year. To qualify as a medium-sized enterprise, a company must have fewer than 250 employees and an annual turnover that does not exceed EUR 50 million *or* a balance sheet total that does not exceed EUR 43 million (see below). This is set out in Article 2 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

Table 2. Definition of company size<sup>13</sup>

Size	Number of employees*	Annual turnover <i>or</i> balance sheet total**
Small enterprise	< 50	≤ €10M
Medium-sized enterprise	< 250	≤ €50M resp. ≤ €43M
Large enterprise	≥ 250	> €50M resp. > €43M

\*) The term employees includes not only wage-earning workers, but also owners who work in the company without being employed and consultants who are dependent on the company.

\*\*) Data from last approved financial year are taken into account. For a threshold to be considered passed, the company must have had higher or lower values for two consecutive years.

The company's relationship with other companies also influences the assessment of company size. The most important factors are ownership of the company and the degree of control that other companies exercise over the company. The impact that ownership and degree of control has on the assessment of company size is described in more detail in Article 3 of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 and in the Commission publication User guide to the SME Definition.

The table below shows the maximum funding intensity that can be granted to actors for research and development projects.

<sup>12</sup> The user guide is available on the website of the Publications Office of the EU: <https://op.europa.eu/sv/publication-detail/-/publication/756d9260-ee54-11ea-991b-01aa75ed71a1>

<sup>13</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, Annex 1, Article 2. The link to the Regulation is available on the call's website.

Table 3. Overview of maximum funding intensities

Type of research and development	Small enterprise	Medium-sized enterprise	Large enterprise	Non-economic activity*
Feasibility study	70%	60%	50%	100%
Fundamental research	100%	100%	100%	100%
Industrial research	70%	60%	50%	100%
Experimental development	45%	35%	25%	100%

\*) E.g. universities and research institutes.

### **Supplement to funding intensities for companies**

A supplement of up to 15 percentage points may be granted to companies under certain conditions when the project constitutes effective collaboration<sup>14</sup> between companies or between companies and research and knowledge dissemination organisations, if the project concerns industrial research or experimental development. For such a supplement to be granted, certain specific conditions must be met.

In the case of collaboration between companies, at least one of the companies must be an SME, unless the project is carried out in at least two EU Member States<sup>15</sup>. None of the companies may bear more than 70 percent of the eligible costs.

In the case of collaboration between a company and one or more research and knowledge dissemination organisations, the research organisation must have the right to publish its own research results. The research organisation must also bear at least 10 percent of the eligible costs.

If the project does not constitute effective collaboration, a supplement of up to 15 percentage points may nevertheless be granted if the results of the research project, which relates to industrial research or experimental development, are *widely disseminated* through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

The supplement for SMEs can be combined with the supplement for effective collaboration or with the supplement for wide dissemination. However, the funding intensity may never exceed 80 percent of the eligible costs.

<sup>14</sup> Effective collaboration, as defined in Article 2(90) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, is a collaboration between at least two independent parties to exchange knowledge or technology, or to achieve a common objective based on the division of labour where the parties jointly define the scope of the collaborative project, contribute to its implementation and share its risks, as well as its results. One or multiple parties may bear the full costs of the project and thus relieve other parties of its financial risks. Contract research and provision of research services are not considered forms of collaboration.

<sup>15</sup> Alternatively, in a Member State and a country that is a contracting party to the EEA agreement.

## 11.2 Funding for commercialisation support activities

The Swedish Energy Agency can also fund commercialisation support activities within the framework of research and development projects. In this call, funding for commercialisation support activities can only be granted to SMEs. Describe the planned activities in an appendix on commercialisation support activities.

The maximum amount of funding for activities of this type is SEK 250,000. The maximum funding intensity is 35% for medium-sized enterprises and 45% for small enterprises.

### ***Funding for costs of obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets***

Funding for costs of obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets<sup>16</sup> may be granted to SMEs under Section 15 of the Ordinance (2008:761) on state funding for research, development and innovation in the energy sector. To be eligible for funding, the company must satisfy the conditions set out in Article 28 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

- a) Costs of obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets.
- b) Costs for secondment of highly qualified personnel from a research and knowledge-dissemination organization or a large enterprise, working on research, development and innovation activities in a newly created function within the beneficiary and not replacing other personnel.
- c) Costs for innovation advisory and support services. 3. The funding intensity shall not exceed 50% of the eligible costs.

### ***Funding for other commercialisation support activities***

Funding for other commercialisation support activities not related to the costs of obtaining, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets may be granted to companies in accordance with either Section 2, Paragraph 2 or Section 10 of the Ordinance (2008:761) on state funding for research, development and innovation in the energy sector.

**Start-ups** meeting the conditions set out in Article 22 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 may receive funding for commercialisation support activities in the form of start-up funding through grants.

Start-up funding may be granted to unlisted small enterprises up to five years following their registration. For companies not subject to registration, the five-year eligibility period may be considered to start from the moment when the company either starts its economic activity or is liable to pay tax for its economic activity. A company being unlisted means that the company may not be officially quoted on a stock exchange. However, the company may be listed on an

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<sup>16</sup> The term “intangible assets” refers to assets that do not have a physical or financial embodiment such as patents, licences, know-how or other intellectual property; see Article 2(30) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

alternative trading platform.<sup>17</sup> In addition, for start-up funding to be granted, the company must fulfil all of the following conditions:

- it has not taken over the operations of another company
- it has not yet distributed profits
- it was not formed through a merger.

However, funding for start-ups may not be granted to companies active in the primary agricultural production sector.<sup>18</sup>

### **11.3 Funding from organisations other than the Swedish Energy Agency**

The Swedish Energy Agency's funding to companies often does not cover the full cost of the project activities for which the company is seeking funding. In such cases, the company must either cover the remaining cost itself, or find other private funding in the form of cash.

The part of your company's eligible costs not funded by the Swedish Energy Agency is called co-financing. Please note that no other actor than your company itself can co-finance your company's costs through so-called in-kind contributions. This is because the cost of an in-kind contribution carried out by another actor is not incurred by your company, but by the other actor. In other words, the cost of the other actor's in-kind contribution is not an eligible cost for your company.

Please also note that if an actor other than your company itself is to co-finance your company's costs, such co-financing may not be provided from public (state, regional or municipal) funds. This is because the total amount of public funding for the same eligible costs must not exceed the maximum funding intensities or amounts allowed under the applicable EU regulations.<sup>19</sup> Therefore, if your company has applied for, received or plans to apply for funding from another public funding body for the same costs for which you are applying for funding from the Swedish Energy Agency, you must notify the Agency of this. This is important so as to avoid your company being obliged to repay the funding that was granted.

If your company has applied for, received or plans to apply for funding managed directly by EU institutions without the involvement of Swedish authorities (e.g. programmes such as Horizon 2020 or Cosme), you must also notify the Agency when you apply for funding from us. This is important so as to avoid a potential repayment obligation, as the total amount of funding from EU institutions and the Swedish Energy Agency for the same eligible costs must not exceed the

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<sup>17</sup> See Article 2(76) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. "Alternative trading platform", as defined in Article 2(81) means a "multilateral trading facility as defined in Article 4(1)(15) of Directive 2004/39/EC where the majority of the financial instruments admitted to trading are issued by SMEs". Note that Directive 2004/39/EC has been repealed by Directive 2014/65/EU. References to Directive 2004/39/EC shall be construed as references to Directive 2014/65/EU or to Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 in accordance with Article 94 of Directive 2014/65/EU.

<sup>18</sup> See Article 1(3)(b) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

<sup>19</sup> See Article 8(3) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.



maximum funding intensities or amounts allowed under the applicable EU regulations.<sup>20</sup>

Please note that the Swedish Energy Agency may require higher levels of other funding for beneficiary companies' costs than those required by Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. The Agency may also require other funding from actors engaged in non-economic activities to which the Agency grants funding in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's appropriation directions (such as universities, colleges, municipalities and research institutes, to the extent that the work is performed within the non-economic activities).

If a beneficiary has received other state funding, such as other state, regional or municipal funding, this funding must be marked as public funding in the application form.

#### **11.4 International activities**

The Swedish Energy Agency is restrictive in granting research funding to actors who do not have operations in Sweden. This can be done in exceptional cases if all of the following criteria are met:

- It can be demonstrated that the actors with no operations in Sweden have a unique competence that is not available from actors in Sweden.
- The project is essential to achieving the objectives of the programme.
- A clear transfer of knowledge to actors in Sweden can take place.

The Swedish Energy Agency may deny funding to actors who have no operations in Sweden, even if all of the above criteria are considered to be met.

## **12 Annex 2 – Conditions for approved projects**

The conditions that apply to approved projects will be set out in the funding decision of the Swedish Energy Agency. A description of the conditions is given below.

### **12.1 Definitions**

In these conditions, *beneficiary* is defined as the organisation(s) that, according to the decision of the Swedish Energy Agency, receives funding from the Swedish Energy Agency.

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<sup>20</sup> See Article 8(3) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

In the case of projects with multiple participating organisations, *project partner* refers to the organisations participating in the project (but not to organisations carrying out consultancy work on behalf of the beneficiary).

In the case of projects with multiple project partners, *coordinator* refers to the project partner who coordinates the project, receives the funding from the Swedish Energy Agency and passes on the funding to the other beneficiaries participating in the project in accordance with the Agency's decision.

## **12.2 § 1 General**

The funding is granted to finance the implementation of the project specified in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision on funding.

Beneficiaries are entitled to the granted funds only if the Agency receives the necessary funds from the Government.

The beneficiary must finance the part of the costs not covered by the funding from the Agency from its own resources or from another source of funding. The beneficiary is responsible for funding any cost increases that occur during the project period.

All presentations of the project must state that the work was carried out with funding from the Swedish Energy Agency.

## **12.3 § 2 Coordinator's obligations in the case of projects with multiple project partners**

In the case of projects with multiple project partners, the coordinator has the following obligations, in addition to those applicable to all beneficiaries. The coordinator shall

- be authorised to represent the other beneficiaries of the project in relation to the Swedish Energy Agency
- receive the Agency's disbursement of funding
- transfer the Agency's funding to other beneficiaries in accordance with the Agency's decision on funding
- at the request of the Agency, provide evidence of the distribution of each disbursement between the different beneficiaries
- forward without delay to the other beneficiaries the decisions of the Agency, amending decisions and other information from the Agency relevant to the beneficiaries
- report during the project period in accordance with the decisions and instructions of the Agency pursuant to § 7
- ensure that the Agency is immediately informed if circumstances as specified in § 8 arise
- apply for amendments to the project in accordance with § 8.

## 12.4 § 3 Eligible costs

### 3.1 General requirements

Eligible costs are the costs on which the funding from the Swedish Energy Agency is calculated. Which costs are eligible in a project and what proportion of these costs the beneficiary can receive funding for depends on what grounds the Agency used as the basis for its decision on funding. The grounds are stated in the Agency's decision.

For a cost to be eligible, the following general requirements apply:

- The cost must be reasonable.
- The cost must have been incurred in implementing the project.
- The cost must be actual and auditable, i.e. it must be reflected in the beneficiary's accounts. For example, a beneficiary cannot receive funding for unperfected work. Nor can the cost be estimated.
- The cost must be borne by the beneficiary, which means that a beneficiary may only charge its own booked costs.
- The cost must be determined in accordance with good accounting practice.
- The cost must have been incurred in the project and during the project period indicated in the decision. Costs incurred before or after the project period specified in the decision are not eligible.

In the beneficiary's accounts, the project costs must be reported in such a way that they can be distinguished from the beneficiary's other transactions.

### 3.2 Specifics on wage costs

Direct personnel costs (gross wage and non-wage labour costs) shall be reported as wage costs to the extent that these persons work in the project. Non-wage labour costs refer to statutory social security contributions, compulsory pension contributions, compulsory insurance and contributions, and holiday pay. The wage cost shall be auditable. Time sheets shall be available upon request by the Agency.

- *Beneficiaries that are universities and colleges* may receive funding for direct wage costs according to the full cost principle they apply.
- For *other beneficiaries* (other than universities and colleges), the total eligible wage costs may amount to an average cost of maximum SEK 800/hour. In accordance with the general requirements under 3.1, the cost must be actual, i.e. it may *not* be a flat rate. This means that if the actual wage costs are higher than SEK 800/hour, a maximum of SEK 800/hour is eligible. Conversely, if the actual costs are less than SEK 800/hour, the lower, actual costs must be applied. Average cost means that if a beneficiary has multiple people with different wage levels working on the project, the average wage cost must not exceed SEK 800/hour to be eligible. The calculation must be based on the total actual wage costs divided by the total number of hours spent on the project. If the result of the calculation exceeds

SEK 800/hour, the wage costs must be reduced when reporting to the Agency.

### **3.3 Specifics on indirect costs**

Indirect costs are general overheads that are not incurred as a direct result of the project during the project period. This includes, for example, wages and fees of personnel not specifically involved in the project (such as accounting or administrative staff not specific to the project), office supplies and IT systems.

- *Beneficiaries that are universities and colleges* may receive funding for indirect costs according to the full cost principle they apply.
- *Beneficiaries not engaged in economic activities* can receive funding for indirect costs up to a maximum of 30% of their eligible direct personnel costs (wage and non-wage labour costs). This also applies if a beneficiary is engaged in both economic and non-economic activities, provided that the project is carried out in the non-economic activity, and the beneficiary clearly distinguishes its non-economic activity, its costs and its funding from its economic activity.
- *Beneficiaries that are companies* (beneficiaries engaged in economic activity) may not receive funding for indirect costs. This also applies if a beneficiary is engaged in both economic and non-economic activities, assuming that the project is carried out in the economic activity.

### **3.4 Specifics on consultancy costs**

Remuneration to persons not employed by a beneficiary shall be reported as purchased services (consultancy costs). Purchased services shall be funded at market rates. A project partner within the project may not be a subcontractor to another project partner.

## **12.5 § 4 Grant disbursement**

The disbursement plan is set out in the decision on funding. Grant disbursement is carried out without prior requisition, unless otherwise stated in the decision. The grant covers VAT only where this is incurred as a net cost by the beneficiary. The beneficiary must submit supporting documents for the reported costs if the Swedish Energy Agency so requests. The Agency has the right to withhold disbursement of the funding if the beneficiary has not used up at least 90 percent of the funds previously disbursed in the same project.

## **12.6 § 5 Employment relationship**

The Swedish Energy Agency is not the employer or client of the beneficiary or any other person engaged by the beneficiary for the project. The Agency therefore does not make deductions for taxes, social security contributions, etc.

## **12.7 § 6 Obligation to notify regarding funding**

The beneficiary must immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency if it applies for or receives funding for the project from a source other than the

Agency. This also applies to other changes in the funding of the project compared to what is stated in the Agency's decision on funding.

#### **12.8 § 7 Reporting and follow-up**

Reporting and follow-up must be carried out in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions and the decision on funding.

#### **12.9 § 8 Changes to the project**

The beneficiary must apply in advance and in writing to the Swedish Energy Agency for permission to make changes to the implementation and cost plan set out in the Agency's decision on funding. This applies, for example, to a change of project leader, a change of beneficiary, a change in the project period, a change in implementation or a deferral of reporting to the Agency. Offsets of up to a maximum of ten (10) percent are accepted between the cost types in the cost plan set out in the Agency's decision on funding. The beneficiary must apply to the Agency for changes exceeding ten (10) percent if the amount is greater than SEK 50,000.

The beneficiary shall immediately notify the Agency in writing if the project is cancelled or delayed, if the beneficiary become insolvent, or if any other circumstance of material importance occurs. The beneficiary shall also immediately notify the Agency of any change of name or address.

#### **12.10 § 9 Amendment of the decision**

Amendments or additions to the Swedish Energy Agency's decision on funding shall be made in writing by the Agency in order to be valid.

#### **12.11 § 10 Right to results**

The beneficiary or the holder of the rights to the results has the right to use the project results generated by the project. The project results may be transferred or assigned to another party. However, a beneficiary may not transfer or assign project results, or otherwise take any action, that involves indirect state funding.

#### **12.12 § 11 Right to audit**

The Swedish Energy Agency or another party appointed by the Agency (e.g. a chartered accountant) has the right to monitor the work and to inspect documents containing information on, for example, the technical and economic development of a project. In order to enable auditing, the Agency has the right to issue specific instructions for accounting.

The Agency has the right to follow up on the completed project by requesting a follow-up report to be drawn up and submitted in accordance with the Agency's instructions. Such a report may be requested on three occasions within a ten-year period from the date of project completion.

**12.13 § 12 Repayment of unused funds**

Granted and disbursed funds that have not been used by the beneficiary shall be repfunding to the Swedish Energy Agency. After submission of the final financial report, the Agency will indicate whether there is an obligation to repay and at what amount.

**12.14 § 13 Sanctions**

The Swedish Energy Agency may decide that granted funding shall not be pfunding in whole or in part if

- 1 the applicant caused the funds to be awarded unduly or at an excessive level by providing incorrect information or in some other way;
- 2 the funding was awarded unduly or at an excessive level for some other reason, and the recipient should have realised this; or
- 3 the conditions of the funding have not been complied with.

The beneficiary is liable to repay the funding if any of the grounds referred to in points 1 to 3 above apply. The Agency may then recover all or part of the funding, together with interest in accordance with the Interest Act (1975:635).

In the event that the funding from the Agency constitutes unlawful state funding, the beneficiary is obliged to repay the funding if repayment may not be withheld under EU law. This is stated in Section 3 of the Act (2013:388) on the application of European Union state funding regulations. In accordance with the same Act, the Swedish Energy Agency may then recover all or part of the funding plus interest from the date of disbursement.

The Agency may suspend disbursement of funding if it is considering, but has not yet decided on, sanctions. The Agency may also choose not to disburse funding if sanctions are being investigated against the same beneficiary in another project funded by the Agency.

**12.15 Permission to make information available**

The Swedish Energy Agency makes available information about projects it funds on the Agency's website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)). There, the public can search for information on ongoing and completed research projects using various keywords, such as research subject, research organisation, project title and project manager. The beneficiary is responsible for ensuring that any copyright holder has consented to making the information available and must ensure that the copyright holder has the right to give consent in each individual case. The decision of the Swedish Energy Agency to grant funding is accompanied by a consent form for making information available. By signing the document, the authorised representative of the beneficiary consents/does not consent to information that is not classified as confidential under the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400) and that appears in the project being made available to the public.

**12.16 Consent to personal data processing**

The Swedish Energy Agency makes available information about projects it funds on the Agency's website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)). The decision of the Swedish Energy Agency to grant funding is accompanied by a consent form for personal data processing. By signing the document, the project manager consents/does not consent to their personal data being processed by the Swedish Energy Agency for the purpose of making them available to the public on the Agency's website. More information about how the Agency processes personal data is available on the Agency's website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)).

**12.17 Public document and confidentiality**

In principle, all post and emails to the Swedish Energy Agency become public documents. This means, among other things, that the public and the media have the right to request access to the content. Correspondence and decisions sent by the Agency are also public documents. The right to access public documents that are in the public domain is part of the principle of public access to official documents.

However, the Agency may not disclose information that is classified as confidential under the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act. This means that a document or certain information in a document may be protected by confidentiality. A confidentiality assessment is therefore carried out before a document is released in each individual case.

Confidentiality applies, for example, to information about an individual's business or operating conditions, inventions or research results if it can be assumed that the individual will suffer harm if the information is disclosed.