

## Do you want to contribute research and innovation to the sustainable expansion of wind power?

You can now apply for funding for projects related to the sustainable expansion and business development of Swedish wind power. Projects aimed at developing new solutions or building knowledge in the field are welcome to apply for funding within the framework of this call.

**DISCLAIMER: The English version is a translation of the original in Swedish and is provided as a service and is for information purposes only. In case of any discrepancy, the Swedish original will prevail.**

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## 1 Funding available to projects that contribute to the sustainable expansion and business development of Swedish wind power

By 2045 at the latest, Sweden will shall not have any net emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. To meet the global climate crisis, electrification has been highlighted as one of the key solutions for the necessary energy transition. In Sweden, there is great potential for the expansion of wind power, and wind power is expected to make up the bulk of the new electricity production that will be established over the next 20 years. Long permit application processes also mean that a large proportion of the wind power plants energy that will be operational in the 2040ies is already in the planning stage. The challenges that will arise at later stages must therefore be addressed here and now.

In the long run, this call aims to contribute to the continued expansion of wind power, a key factor for the fulfilment of Sweden's energy and climate goals, while simultaneously promoting an expansion that is ecologically, economically and socially sustainable. The current research and innovation challenges that contribute to this overarching goal and which are prioritised in this call are described below:

- **Conflicts of interest and competition for land use, both on land and at sea**  
The expansion of wind power has an impact on other societal interests, meaning that many suitable sites for establishment are unavailable. From a holistic societal perspective, it will be a major challenge to create consensus and resolve conflicts of interest in an optimal manner. It can also be a challenge to involve all relevant actors in a dialogue on these issues.
- **Resource-efficient Swedish wind power with minimum environmental impact**  
Costs and resource efficiency during the entire life cycle of a wind turbine are key aspects, as is the associated issue of recycling. Major expansion means that we must prepare to build in all parts of the country. Offshore wind power is also likely to be an increasingly important element in the Swedish expansion. To tap into the potential, it is necessary to develop solutions that facilitate this development. It will not be possible, nor would it be economically justifiable, to expand wind power without affecting people and the environment to a certain extent. It will therefore be important to continue working to minimise this impact and to increase knowledge of the effects of wind power, both globally and locally. The cumulative impact and cumulative environmental effects need to be taken into account, but it is a challenge to find good methods for this.
- **A robust electricity grid with a high security of supply demands new solutions and the incentives to utilise them**  
Wind power will need to contribute support services to the electricity grid. Even if solutions are available, the incentives must be in place to implement them. The transmission network is basically at maximum capacity in large parts of the country and

it will also be a major challenge to ensure that the electricity grid expands in parallel with the needs of wind power. The challenges for the electricity system also entail securing income that enables new investments. New applications and demand patterns, Power-to-X, can contribute to situations in which electricity production is either overabundant or insufficient.

The call is aimed at projects that meet the research and innovation challenges above by:

- developing new solutions that can be commercialised and/or used in society (Category A); or
- building the knowledge and expertise available to stakeholders in society (Category B).

The Vindel programme grants aid to research and innovation projects in the field of wind power. Projects that meet the challenges facing the wind power sector by disseminating existing knowledge are therefore excluded from the call.

Through this call, the Swedish Energy Agency anticipates the grants of aid totalling approximately SEK 35 million.

The Swedish Energy Agency's aspiration is to distribute the aid equally over the two categories A ("new solutions") and B ("knowledge and competence").

The maximum aid that can be granted to any single project within this call is SEK 7 million.

Projects that are granted aid through this call may commence no sooner than 1 January 2022 and must be completed no later than 31 December 2024.

Applications to the call shall focus on the aforementioned challenges and be related to wind power. The call is based on the [Swedish Energy Agency's Strategy for Wind Power](#), meaning that the following areas are not covered by this call:

- Floating wind power.
- Offshore North Sea technology.
- Small-scale wind power.

### **1.1 Category A – New solutions**

This category encompasses projects intended to develop or test new solutions that contribute to meeting the challenges that the call seeks to address and that have the potential to develop the Swedish business sector. These solutions may include new products (system solutions, components, materials, concepts, services, etc.) and processes such as new methods for financing, planning, building, maintaining and recycling, as well as other solutions that may contribute to wind power's role in transitioning to a 100% renewable electricity grid for a climate-neutral welfare state.

This category does not cover fundamental research or routine or recurring changes to existing goods, services or manufacturing methods and processes.

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Category-specific requirements	Project groups must include at least one organisation through which future commercialisation or other benefits are intended to be achieved.
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### **1.1.1 Options to submit a draft proposal**

If you apply as a **Category A** project, you have the option to submit a draft proposal that we will offer feedback on before the call closes. This draft need not contain the same level of detail as a complete application.

Please note that the submission of a draft proposal is entirely optional. You are welcome to submit your completed application immediately. We provide the opportunity to submit a draft in order to raise the quality of the submitted applications.

Drafts should be sent via e-mail to the Swedish Energy Agency, to the address [skisser\\_hallbarel@Energimyndigheten.se](mailto:skisser_hallbarel@Energimyndigheten.se). The deadline for submissions is 22 April 2021. Drafts should be written using the form *Skissansökan VindEL*, which you will find in the right-hand column of the call page. The form contains a number of questions related to the call and application. Please respect the maximum limit of five pages for draft proposals. It is not possible to attach appendices.

Based on the submitted draft proposal, you will receive feedback and a recommendation. Here are a few common alternatives that we may recommend:

- Your project proposal is deemed to conform with the call and you are welcome to submit a completed application.
- Your project proposal is deemed to conform with the call although there are a number of flaws. You are welcome to submit a completed application whereupon you will be asked to rectify these flaws.
- Your project proposal does not conform with the call and we recommend that you refrain from submitting an application. You may be referred to one of our other initiatives to which your project proposal would be better suited.

See further information under section 4.

## **1.2 Category B – Knowledge and expertise**

This category encompasses projects intended to increase knowledge and expertise among actors in Sweden. The project should contribute to meeting the challenges that the call seeks to address, although it need not necessarily be intended for commercial applications or uses. Projects within this category may have the long-term potential to lead to innovations that

can be commercialised and, although certain patents may be applied for concerning the results of the project, the results should generally be made public.

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Category-specific requirements	To the extent that it is possible, the results of the project must be published and disseminated via public channels.
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## 2 Who can apply?

The call is aimed at all organisations that can contribute to the areas described above, such as

- companies
- industry organisations
- the public sector
- universities' and colleges' social sciences, humanities, technical and scientific disciplines
- research institutes

Several organisations can participate in a single project, for example to add more perspectives and competences to the project or to increase the dissemination of knowledge or project results between different actors.

Gender equality and diversity shall be taken into account in the composition of the project group, when selecting project managers and in the implementation of the project, in its content, objectives and effects.

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

All applications submitted under this call will be assessed according to the following four criteria. The projects that best meet the criteria will be prioritised for aid. You should therefore be careful to describe how your project contributes to the criteria in your application, as this information forms the basis for assessment. In addition to the following criteria, the Swedish Energy Agency will also weigh up the project against the Agency's project portfolio in the field of wind power and the composition of the projects submitted to the call before approving or rejecting the application.

### 1 The project's potential to contribute to meeting the challenges of the call

For this criterion, the extent to which the project has the potential to contribute to the purpose of the call is assessed, as formulated in the challenges for the call; see section 1. Projects do not need to contribute to multiple challenges in order to be given high scores.

#### 2A Level of innovation (Category A projects only)

This criterion assesses the innovative value of the solution that project intends to develop in terms of:

- how unique the new solution is compared to other available solutions;
- what value the new solution can add; and
- the new solution's potential for groundbreaking change.

#### 2B Scientific quality (Category B projects only)

This criterion assesses whether the project maintains a high scientific standard in terms of:

- how it relates to the current state of knowledge in the field;
- whether it contributes new knowledge and new competence bearers to the relevant challenges;
- whether its implementation is based on scientifically accepted methods: and
- where the project addresses relevant issues, if it has dealt with aspects related to gender equality, gender and diversity.

### 3 Benefits and dissemination

This criterion assesses the extent to which the project is expected to provide actual benefits in Sweden, for example in the form of knowledge and competence building or business development, and the extent to which its results are expected to be disseminated to relevant stakeholders.

- Is there an identified need for the project's results, such as a clear knowledge gap or market potential?
- Does the application include a plan for how the results will be used and disseminated? Will the results be available to all (e.g. through open access publishing)?
- Have the groups that are expected to benefit from the results of the project been identified, and will these have the opportunity to influence or participate in the project?
- If the solution is a product intended to be marketed, does the application describe how the solution will be commercialised or utilised?

### 4 Feasibility and competences

This criterion assesses the extent to which the project is deemed to be feasible, including whether there is assurance that the overall competence of those performing the project is sufficient for its implementation.

- Are the projects goals measurable, specific, well-defined and reasonably ambitious?
- Is the proposed timetable specific and realistic?

- Do the project members have the requisite expertise and correct resources to implement the initiative?
- Have potential risks to the project been identified and, if so, is there a plan to deal with them?
- Is the budget reasonable in relation to the planned activities and objectives?
- How well does the composition of the project consortium address gender equality, gender and diversity?

## 4 How to apply – start in good time

Follow these steps and the processing of your application will be faster:

- Use E-kanalen<sup>1</sup> to write and submit your application
- Start by applying for your personal access to E-kanalen. Apply for access in good time because it may take a few days to get access.
- Write in Swedish or English.
- Always write a summary in Swedish
- Write so that someone who is not expert in the subject can understand what the project is about.

Step by step instructions for submitting the application can be found in the E-kanalen quick reference guide (you can find this at the bottom left of the home page of the E-kanalen).

Submit the application no later than 24:00 on **26 May 2021**. We provide support up until 16:00 on the same day as the call closes.

If you are applying for a Category A project and wish to take advantage of the opportunity to submit a draft proposal, please complete and submit the form *Skissansökan VindEL* via email to [skisser\\_hallbarel@Energimyndigheten.se](mailto:skisser_hallbarel@Energimyndigheten.se). The deadline for submitting draft proposals is **22 April 2021**. The Swedish Energy Agency hopes to be able to provide feedback on all submissions no later than 29 April 2021. However, the number of drafts and the presence of any difficult assessment questions may affect the time it takes to provide feedback.

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<sup>1</sup> A link to E-kanalen can be found on the call's web page.

## 5 What should be included in the application?

Enter your application text in the fields in E-kanalen. Think about justifying how and to what extent your project proposal contributes to all the assessment criteria listed in section 3. For further information regarding what you should include on your application form, please refer to the document *Anvisningar för ansökan*<sup>2</sup>.

Those submitting a draft proposal will also find details of which questions they should answer on the form. The questions relate to the call and the information to be included in a completed application. The idea is that the information in your draft proposal can be more general than in the completed application. For this reason, there is a maximum limit to the number of characters, and it is not possible to attach appendices.

## 6 What proportion of the project's costs can we receive aid for?

The highest possible aid from the Swedish Energy Agency in this call is SEK 7 million per project. A total of SEK 35 million is available for the projects that are granted aid.

The amount of aid that each project participant can receive depends, among other things, on

- the amount of eligible costs that the participant has
- if the participant is an undertaking or does not carry out economic activities
- the category of research that the activities in the project are considered to correspond to (whether the project activities relate to research or development).

### 6.1 Aid for actors that do not carry out economic activities

Actors that do not carry out economic activities (such as universities, higher education institutions, municipalities and research institutes, to the extent that the work is carried out in non-economic activities) can be granted aid up to 100% of the actor's eligible costs in the project. Support is granted in accordance with the current appropriation document for the Swedish Energy Agency.

The following rules apply for indirect costs when the beneficiary does not carry out economic activities:

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<sup>2</sup> A link to the document *Anvisningar för ansökan* can be found on the call's web page.

- Universities and colleges may make a mark-up for indirect costs under the full cost principle they apply.
- Beneficiaries that are not universities or higher education institutions and do not carry out economic activities may receive aid for indirect costs of no more than 30 percent of their eligible direct costs for personnel (salary and payroll costs). This also applies if a beneficiary carries out both economic and non-economic activities, provided that the project is carried out in the non-economic activities.

## 6.2 Aid for undertakings

Aid for undertakings is granted according to the Governmental ordinance SFS 2008:761 (Förordning (2008:761) om statligt stöd till forskning och utveckling samt innovation inom energiområdet). The Governmental ordinance SFS 2008:761 allows the Swedish Energy Agency to provide state aid in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014<sup>3</sup>, as well as so-called *de minimis* aid in accordance with Regulation (EU) No.1407/2013<sup>4</sup>.

Every entity, irrespective of legal form, that carries out an economic activity is regarded as an undertaking. Economic activity means offering goods or services on a market. Thus, entities engaged in craft or other activities individually or within the family, partnerships or associations that are engaged in regular economic activity are considered to be undertakings.

How much aid your undertaking can receive is governed by Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 and Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013. The amount of aid depends *inter alia* on the size of the undertaking and on what project activities your undertaking intends to perform. In some cases, a maximum aid intensity applies and in other cases a maximum amount. The aid intensity is expressed as a percentage of the eligible costs. The size of the enterprise is determined according to the rules of Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014. The rules are also described in the Commission User Guide to the SME definition.<sup>5</sup>

Beneficiaries that are undertakings (beneficiaries that carry out economic activities) cannot be supported for indirect costs. This also applies if a beneficiary carries out both economic and non-economic activities, if the project is carried out in the economic activities.

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<sup>3</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 through which certain categories of support are declared to be compatible with the internal market according to articles 107 and 108 of the treaty (EUT L 187 26.6.2014, p. 1).

<sup>4</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of articles 107 and 108 in the official journal on the European Union's treatment of small aid measures (EUT L 352, 24.12.2013, p. 1).

<sup>5</sup> The User Guide is available through the website of the European Union's publications office:  
<https://op.europa.eu/sv/publication-detail/-/publication/756d9260-ee54-11ea-991b-01aa75ed71a1>

### **6.3 Aid for research and development projects**

The Swedish Energy Agency can grant aid to research and development projects according to paragraph 12 of the Governmental ordinance SFS2008:761. In order for aid to be given, your undertaking must comply with the conditions in article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014.<sup>6</sup> The conditions applying to aid according to article 25 are summarised below.

#### **6.3.1 Eligible costs**

The following costs are eligible costs if the project activities for which you are applying for aid represent research or development according to article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014.

- a) Personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the 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 duration 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.

#### **6.3.2 The activities in the project are divided into research categories**

The maximum aid intensity that an undertaking can obtain depends on the category of research that the activities in the project are considered to correspond to. The activities in the project can also be considered to correspond to several different research categories. The maximum aid intensity that an undertaking can receive for research and development projects is laid down in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. The

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<sup>6</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 through which certain categories of support are declared to be compatible with the internal market according to articles 107 and 108 of the treaty (EUT L 187 26.6.2014, p. 1).

different research categories are described in Table 1. The maximum support levels are then shown in Table 3.

Table 1. Classification of research activities in research and development projects <sup>7</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>	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>	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  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.  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.

### **6.3.3      *The aid intensity depends on the size of the enterprise***

The maximum aid intensity that an undertaking can obtain for research and development projects also depends on the size of the enterprise. If the applicant is a small or medium sized enterprise, the aid intensity may be increased by 20 and 10 percentage points respectively.

<sup>7</sup> The definitions are set out in Article 2, points 84 to 87 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. There is a link on the call's web page.

The size of the enterprise is determined in accordance with the rules set out in Annex I to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. The rules are also described in the Commission User Guide to the SME definition <sup>8</sup>.

When assessing the size of an enterprise, one must take into account the number of employees, annual turnover and balance sheet total, as well as any connections the enterprise may have to other enterprises. To be defined as a small enterprise, the enterprise must employ fewer than 50 persons and must also have *either* an annual turnover *or* balance sheet total not exceed EUR 10 million per year. To be defined as a medium-sized enterprise, the enterprise must employ fewer than 250 persons and must also *either* have an annual turnover that does not exceed EUR 50 million *or* a balance sheet total that does not exceed EUR 43 million (see Table 2 below). This is stated in Article 2 of Annex 1 to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

Table 2. Definition of the size of enterprises<sup>9</sup>

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

\*) Employees refers not only to wage earners but also to owners working in the enterprise without being employees and to consultants in a position of dependence on the enterprise.

\*\*) Information from the latest approved accounting period is taken into account. In order for a threshold to be considered to have been passed, the enterprise must have had higher or lower figures for two consecutive accounting periods.

The enterprise's relationship with other enterprises also affects the assessment of the enterprise's size. The owners of the enterprise and the degree of control that other enterprises exercise over the enterprise are of primary importance. The manner in which ownership and the degree of control affect the assessment of the size of the enterprise is described in greater detail in Article 3 of Annex 1 to Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 and in the Commission's User Guide on the definition of SMEs.

The table below shows the maximum aid intensity that can be provided to beneficiaries for research and development projects.

<sup>8</sup> The User Guide is available on the website of the Publications Office of the European Union: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/756d9260-ee54-11ea-991b-01aa75ed71a1>

<sup>9</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014, Annex 1, Article 2. There is a link on the call's web page.

Table 3. Overview of maximum support levels

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

\*) For example, universities and research institutes that do not carry out economic activities.

#### 6.3.4 Supplements to aid intensity

A supplement of not more than 15 percentage points may, under certain conditions, be given to the undertaking when the project constitutes effective collaboration<sup>10</sup> between undertakings or between undertakings and research and knowledge-dissemination organisations, where the project relates to industrial research or experimental development. In order for such a supplement to be given, certain special conditions must be met.

In collaboration between undertakings, which at least one of the enterprises must be an SME or the project is carried out in at least two EU Member States.<sup>11</sup> None of the undertakings may bear more than 70 per cent of the eligible costs.

In a collaboration between an undertaking 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 account for at least 10 per cent of the eligible costs.

If the project does not constitute an effective collaboration, a supplement of not more than 15 percentage points may nevertheless be given if the results of the research project, which relate to industrial research or experimental development, are *widely disseminated* through conferences, publications, open access repositories or free or open software.

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

<sup>10</sup> Effective collaboration, according to Article 2, point 90 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 refers to 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 several 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>11</sup> Or in a Member State and in a country which is a Contracting Party to the EEA Agreement.

## **6.4 Aid for activities that promote commercialisation**

Within the framework for research and innovation projects, the Swedish Energy Agency can also finance activities that promote commercialisation, such as the development of business plans and market strategies, IPR strategies including patent costs, collaboration with customers and funding plans before continued development and commercialisation.

### **6.4.1 Aid for costs of acquiring, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets**

Aid for costs of acquiring, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets can be provided to small and medium sized enterprises according to paragraph 15 of the Governmental ordinance SFS 2008:761 (Förordning (2008:761) om statligt stöd till forskning och utveckling samt innovation inom energiområdet). In order for aid to be given, the enterprise must comply with the conditions in article 28 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014. The maximum aid intensity that the Swedish Energy Agency can grant is 50% of the enterprise's eligible costs of acquiring, validating and defending patents.

### **6.4.2 Aid for other activities that promote commercialisation**

Aid for other activities that promote commercialisation that do not refer to costs of acquiring, validating and defending patents and other intangible assets can be provided to undertakings either according to paragraph 2 point 2 or paragraph 10 of the Governmental ordinance SFS 2008:761 (Förordning (2008:761) om statligt stöd till forskning och utveckling samt innovation inom energiområdet).

**Start-ups** that comply with the conditions in article 22 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 can receive aid for activities that promote commercialisation in the form of a start-up grant.

Start-up aid to newly started undertakings can be given to unlisted small enterprise up to five years following its registration. The five-year period is calculated from the date of the undertaking's registration. For enterprises that are not that are not subject to registration, the period may be considered to start from the moment when the enterprise either starts its economic activity or is liable to tax for its economic activity. That the enterprise has to be unlisted means that it may not be listed on the official list of a stock exchange, except for alternative trading platforms. In order for start-up aid to be provided, the enterprise must also comply with all the following conditions:

- the enterprise has not taken over the activity of another enterprise
- the enterprise has not yet distributed profits, and
- the enterprise has not been formed through a merger.

Aid for start-ups may not however be given to enterprises that are active in primary agricultural production.<sup>12</sup>

**Small and medium sized enterprises** that do not constitute start-ups undertaking according to article 22 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 may instead receive aid for commercialisation activities in the form of de minimis aid according to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013. The requirements that apply in order for the Swedish Energy Agency to be able to provide de minimis aid appear in point 6.5 below

### **6.5 De minimis aid**

The Swedish Energy Agency can grant de minimis aid according to paragraph 2 point 2 of Governmental ordinance SFS 2008:761. In order for a de minimis aid to be given, your undertaking must comply with the conditions in Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013<sup>13</sup>.

As a general rule, de minimis aid can be provided up to a ceiling of 200,000 euro over a period of three fiscal years, i.e. the previous two fiscal years and the current fiscal year.

However, for undertakings performing road freight transport for hire or reward, the applicable ceiling is 100,000 euro over the same period of three fiscal years, i.e. the current and the two previous fiscal years. Also, for these undertakings, the aid may not be used for the acquisition of road freight transport vehicles.

The ceiling refers to the gross amount, i.e. the amount before deduction of tax or other charge. Note also that if your undertaking is part of a group, the ceiling for de minimis aid covers aid given in Sweden to the entire group.

De minimis aid cannot be provided to undertakings that are active in the fisheries and aquaculture sector<sup>14</sup>, nor to undertakings that are active in the primary production of agricultural products<sup>15</sup>. Nor can de minimis aid be provided to export-related activities. This means that the support cannot be directly linked to the quantities exported, to the

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<sup>12</sup> See article 1.3 b) of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014.

<sup>13</sup> Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of articles 107 and 108 in the official journal on the European Union's treatment of small aid measures (EUT L 352, 24.12.2013, p. 1).

<sup>14</sup> In the fisheries and aquaculture sectors, this means all activities in connection with production, preparation and sales of fisheries and aquaculture products, cf. Regulation (EU) No 1379/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council (EUT L 354 28.12.2013, p.1).

<sup>15</sup> Primary production refers to production, rearing or cultivation of primary products, including harvesting, milking and production of food-producing animals before slaughter.

establishment and operation of a distribution network or to other current expenditure linked to the export activity.<sup>16</sup>

In calculating how much your undertaking can receive in the form of de minimis aid, all de minimis aid that the undertaking has received from all public agencies (government, region or municipality) over the last three fiscal years are added together. Companies applying for de minimis aid shall therefore submit to the Swedish Energy Agency, together with their application for aid, a declaration of all other de minimis aid that the undertaking has received in the last three fiscal years.

## **6.6 Co-financing**

The Swedish Energy Agency's aid to undertakings often does not cover the applicant undertaking's entire cost of the project activities for which the undertaking is seeking aid. When this is the case, the undertaking must either bear the remaining cost itself, or find other private financing in the form of cash funds.

The portion of your undertaking's eligible costs that the Swedish Energy Agency does not finance is called co-financing. Please note that no other actor than your undertaking itself can co-finance your undertaking's costs through so-called in-kind contributions. This is because the cost of an in-kind contribution provided by another actor does not arise within your undertaking, but rather with the other actor. In other words, the cost of the other actor's in-kind contribution is not an eligible cost for your undertaking.

Also note that if an actor other than your undertaking itself is to co-finance your undertaking's costs, such co-financing may not be provided using public (state, regional or municipal) funds. This is because the total public support for the same eligible costs must not exceed the maximum aid intensities or aid amounts that are set out in the applicable EU rules.<sup>17</sup> If your undertaking has applied for, received or plans to apply for aid from another public funding body for the same costs for which you are applying for aid from the Swedish Energy Agency, you must therefore notify the Swedish Energy Agency. This is important, because it prevents your undertaking from later being held liable for repayment of the granted aid.

In the event that your undertaking has applied for, received or plans to apply for aid that is 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 Swedish Energy Agency when you apply for aid from us. This is important in order to avoid any repayment liability, as the total aid from EU institutions and the Swedish Energy Agency for the same

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<sup>16</sup> Article 1.1 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 1407/2013.

<sup>17</sup> See Article 8 (3) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

eligible costs must not exceed the maximum aid intensities or aid amounts that are set out in the applicable EU rules.<sup>18</sup>

Note that the Swedish Energy Agency may impose higher requirements for co-financing of the costs of beneficiary undertakings than required by Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014. The Swedish Energy Agency may also require co-financing of non-economic actors to which the agency grants aid according to the letter of appropriation for the Swedish Energy Agency (e.g. universities, higher education institutions, municipalities and research institutes).

### **6.7 International activities**

The Swedish Energy Agency is restrictive in providing research funding to actors who have no operations in Sweden. This can be done in exceptional cases if all of the following criteria are met:

- 1 It can be proven that the actors who have no operations in Sweden possess a unique competence that is not found among actors in Sweden.
- 2 The project is essential to the achievement of the programme's goals.
- 3 There can be a clear transfer of knowledge to actors in Sweden.

Even if all of the above criteria are considered to be met, the Swedish Energy Agency may still refuse financing to actors who have no operations in Sweden.

## **7 What happens once my application has been submitted?**

Your application will be assessed by the Swedish Energy Agency and a number of external experts engaged by the Swedish Energy Agency. Only the motivation for the application that you have submitted before the call was closed can be taken as a basis for our assessment. Because the funding available in this call is limited, the application will also be assessed in competition with other applicants. It is therefore especially important that you explain in concrete, concise and clear terms that are easily understood by a layman how the project in your application complies with the purpose and assessment criteria of the call. We will not consider any additional information referring to the application submitted after the call has closed. The combined statements of the experts represent an advisory basis for the Swedish Energy Agency.

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<sup>18</sup> See Article 8 (2) of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014.

The Swedish Energy Agency may request that you submit a supplement to the application if this is necessary to enable us to make a decision.

The Swedish Energy Agency conducts a credit check on applicant undertakings.

Based on the above and on the Swedish Energy Agency's assessment of how well your project proposal complies with the criteria for the call, as well as consideration of compatibility with the Swedish Energy Agency's portfolio of projects in the field of wind power, the Swedish Energy Agency will make a decision on your application. The decision will be made on 19 October 2021 at the earliest. The decision will then be sent to you.

## 8 If you are granted aid

Payment of the aid will be according to the payment schedule described in the decision on aid. For more information about payment, see the General conditions for aid sent together with the decision on aid.

## 9 The call is part of the VindEL programme

The VindEL programme aims to contribute to the transition to a sustainable and renewable energy system through research on and development of technologies, systems, methods and issues related to wind power. The programme has a total of SEK 217 million at its disposal over the period 2017-2024.

The intention of the programme is to hold an annually recurring call. This is the fifth annual call for the VindEL programme. Initiatives under the umbrella of the programme address the areas of need identified in the Swedish Energy Agency's Strategy for Wind Power, currently *Resource-efficient Wind Power under Swedish Conditions, the Role of Wind Power in Society and the Environment, Integration in the Electricity Grid, Knowledge Dissemination and Expertise, and Business Development*.

## 10 If you have any questions

The Swedish Energy Agency is happy to answer questions about the call. However, we cannot comment on project ideas, give recommendations or give any advance information. We can only answer questions about the call itself. Applications for Category A projects do however have the option of submitting a draft proposal and receiving limited written feedback, see Section 1.1.1.

Please bear in mind that we tend to receive a great many calls on the final day of the call and that it may therefore be difficult to obtain help at that time. The Swedish Energy Agency's administrators are available for questions but only until 16:00 and the call closes at 24:00.



Datum  
2021-03-15

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The VindEL programme

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## Appendix – General conditions for aid

These general conditions for aid apply unless otherwise stated in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision on aid.

### Definitions

In these conditions, 'beneficiary' means the organisation or organisations that pursuant to the Swedish Energy Agency's decision are receiving support from the Swedish Energy Agency.

In projects with more than one participating organisation, 'project partners' means the organisations taking part in the project (but not organisations that are providing consultancy service on behalf of the beneficiary).

In projects with more than one project partner, 'coordinator' means the project partner that is coordinating the project, receiving the support from the Swedish Energy Agency and forwarding support to other beneficiaries that are participating with the project in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's decision.

### Section 1 General

The support is granted for the purpose of funding the implementation of the project specified in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision concerning support.

The beneficiaries are only entitled to the funds decided on if the Swedish Energy Agency receives the requisite funds from the Swedish Government.

The beneficiary shall fund that part of the costs that are not covered by the support from the Swedish Energy Agency with its own funds or with funds from another funding body. The beneficiary is responsible for funding any cost increases that occur during the project period.

Each time the project is presented, it must be specified that the work has been conducted with support from the Swedish Energy Agency (the name is rendered in English as the Swedish Energy Agency).

### Section 2 The coordinator's commitments in projects with more than one project partner

In projects with more than one project partner, the coordinator has the following commitments, in addition to that which applies to all beneficiaries. It is incumbent on the coordinator

- to have the authority to represent other beneficiaries in respect of the project in dealings with the Swedish Energy Agency
- to receive payments of support from the Swedish Energy Agency

- to transfer support from the Swedish Energy Agency to other beneficiaries in accordance with the agency's decision concerning support
- to, at the Swedish Energy Agency's request, provide evidence that each payment has been distributed among the other beneficiaries
- to immediately pass on to other beneficiaries the Swedish Energy Agency's decisions, amending decisions and other information from the Swedish Energy Agency of relevance to beneficiaries
- to conduct reporting during the project period in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's decisions and instructions as set out in Section 7
- to ensure that the Swedish Energy Agency is informed immediately should the circumstances described in Section 8 arise
- to apply to make changes to the project in accordance with Section 8.

### **Section 3 Costs eligible for support**

#### **3.1 General requirements**

'Costs eligible for support' means the costs that are used to calculate the support from the Swedish Energy Agency. Which costs are eligible for support in a specific project and what portion of these costs the beneficiary is able to receive support for is dependent on which of the grounds for support the Swedish Energy Agency has used as the basis of its decision concerning support. The grounds for support are specified in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision.

These general conditions apply in order for a cost to be entitled to support:

- The cost shall be reasonable.
- The cost shall have arisen for the implementation of the project.
- The cost shall be actual and auditable, which means that it shall be possible to locate in the beneficiary's accounts. For example, it is not possible for a beneficiary to receive support for work that is performed unpaid. The cost may also not be estimated.
- The cost shall be borne by the beneficiary, which means that a beneficiary may only include costs recorded in its own accounts.
- The cost shall be established in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- The cost shall have arisen in the project and during the project period specified in the decision. Costs that have arisen prior to or after the project period specified in the decision are not eligible for support.

The project costs shall be reported in the beneficiary's accounts in such a way that it is possible to differentiate them from the beneficiary's other transactions.

### 3.2 Specific information about payroll costs

Direct staffing costs (gross salaries and payroll overheads) shall be reported as payroll costs to the extent that these people are working on the project. Payroll overheads are statutory social security contributions, obligatory pension provisions, obligatory insurance policies and charges and holiday allowance. Payroll costs shall be auditable. It shall be possible to present time reporting when requested to do so by the Swedish Energy Agency.

- *Beneficiaries that are universities* are able to receive support for direct payroll costs in accordance with the full costing principle that they apply.
- For *other beneficiaries* (that are not universities), the total payroll costs eligible for support can amount to an average cost of up to SEK 800/hour. As set out in the general requirements in 3.1, the cost shall be actual, which means that the cost may not be a standardised cost. This means that if the actual payroll costs are higher than SEK 800/hour, it is a maximum of SEK 800/hour that is eligible for support. Conversely, if the actual costs are less than SEK 800/hour, the lower, actual costs are applicable. Average cost means that if a beneficiary has several people on different salaries working on the project, the average payroll expense may amount to a maximum of SEK 800/hour in order to be eligible for support. The calculation shall be performed on the basis of the total actual payroll costs, divided by the total number of hours spent on the project. If the result of the calculation is over SEK 800/hour, the payroll costs shall be reduced when reporting them to the Swedish Energy Agency.

### 3.3 Specific information about indirect costs

Indirect costs (overheads) are general overheads that do not arise as an immediate consequence of the project during the project period. For example, this applies to salaries and remuneration to staff that are not working specifically on the project (e.g. staff who work in finance or administration that is not project specific), office supplies and IT systems.

- *Beneficiaries that are universities* are able to receive support for indirect costs in accordance with the full costing principle that they apply.
- *Beneficiaries that do not run economic activities* are able to receive support for indirect costs at a rate of up to 30 % of their eligible direct staffing costs (salaries and payroll overheads). This also applies if a beneficiary runs both economic and non-economic activities, provided that the project is conducted as part of its non-economic activities and that the beneficiary clearly differentiates its non-economic activities, its costs and funding from its economic activities.
- *Beneficiaries that are companies* (beneficiaries that run economic activities) are not able to receive support for indirect costs. This also applies if a beneficiary runs both economic and non-economic activities and the project is conducted as part of its economic activities.

### **3.4 Specific information about consultancy costs**

Remuneration to people who are not employed by a beneficiary shall be reported as bought-in services (consultancy costs). Remuneration for bought-in services shall be at the market rate. It is not permitted for a project partner to be a subcontractor within the project to another project partner.

### **Section 4 Payment of grants**

The payment plan is set out in the decision concerning support. Payment of grants takes place without a preceding requisition unless otherwise specified in the decision. The grant only covers value added tax if this arises as a net cost to the beneficiary. The beneficiary shall submit receipts for its reported costs if requested to do so by the Swedish Energy Agency. The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to withhold payments of support if the beneficiary has not utilised at least 90 per cent of the fund already paid for the same project.

### **Section 5 Employer relationships**

The Swedish Energy Agency is not the employer or client of the beneficiary or anyone else they engage for the project. Accordingly, the Swedish Energy Agency does not make deductions for taxes, social security contributions etc.

### **Section 6 Obligation to provide notification concerning funding**

The beneficiary shall immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency if the beneficiary applies for or receives funds for the project from another funding body. This also applies to other changes to the funding of projects compared with that which is set out in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision concerning support.

### **Section 7 Reporting and follow-up**

Reporting and follow up shall take place in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions and decision concerning support.

### **Section 8 Changes to the project**

The beneficiary shall apply to the Swedish Energy Agency in writing in advance for permission to make changes to the implementation plan and cost schedule that are set out in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision concerning support. This also applies to, for example, the replacement of project managers, replacement of beneficiaries, changes to the project period, changes to implementation or extensions to deadlines for reporting to the Swedish Energy Agency. Changes of up to ten (10) per cent between types of cost within the cost schedule set out in the Swedish Energy Agency's decision are acceptable. The beneficiary shall apply to the Swedish Energy Agency for changes that exceed ten (10) per cent if the amount is greater than SEK 50,000.

The beneficiary shall immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency in writing if the project is terminated or delayed, if the beneficiary becomes insolvent or if another circumstance of material significance occurs. The beneficiary shall also immediately notify the Swedish Energy Agency of any changes to names and addresses.

**Section 9 Amendment of a decision**

Amendments or addenda to the Swedish Energy Agency's decision concerning support are only applicable if they are drawn up in writing by the Swedish Energy Agency.

**Section 10 Rights to results**

The beneficiary or the holder of the rights to the results has the right to use results that are generated within the project. The results of the project may be transferred or granted to third parties. However, beneficiaries may not transfer or grant results of projects, or take any action in some other way that results in this becoming a question of indirect state aid.

**Section 11 Right to audit**

The Swedish Energy Agency or a third party appointed by the Swedish Energy Agency (e.g. an authorised public accountant) has the right to monitor the work and to study documents that contain information about, for example, the technical and financial development of a project. The Swedish Energy Agency is entitled to issue special instructions for reporting in order to enable the review.

The Swedish Energy Agency has the right to follow-up completed projects by requesting follow-up reports that are to be structured and submitted in accordance with the Swedish Energy Agency's instructions. Such reports can be requested on three occasions within a ten-year period, calculated from the date of the end of the project.

**Section 12 Repayment of unused funds**

Granted and disbursed funds that have not been used by the beneficiary shall be returned to the Swedish Energy Agency. Following submission of the final financial statements, the Swedish Energy Agency announces whether there is an obligation to repay funds and the amount to repay.

**Section 13 Sanctions**

The Swedish Energy Agency may decide that support which has been granted shall be repaid in full or part if

- 1) the person that has applied for support has, by providing incorrect information or in some other way, caused the support to be granted erroneously or at too high an amount,
- 2) the support has, for some other reason, been granted erroneously or at too high an amount and the beneficiary should have realised this, or
- 3) the conditions for the support have not been complied with.

The beneficiary is obliged to repay if any of the grounds specified under points 1–3 above are applicable. In such cases, the Swedish Energy Agency may demand repayment of the support plus interest in accordance with the Interest Act (1975:635).

In the event that the support from the Swedish Energy Agency constitutes illegal state aid, the beneficiary is obliged to repay the support if repayment is unavoidable under EU law. This is set out in Section 3 of the Act (2013:388) on the Application of the European Union's State Aid Rules. In such cases, the Swedish Energy Agency shall demand repayment of the support plus interest payable from the date on which it was paid out.

The Swedish Energy Agency is able to withhold payment of support until further notice if the agency is considering but has not yet decided on sanctions. The agency is also able to choose not to pay out support if an investigation concerning sanctions in respect of the same beneficiary is ongoing in another project being funded by the Swedish Energy Agency.

## Appendix - Consent to the release of information

The Swedish Energy Agency makes information about projects that it is funding available on its website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)). The general public can search on the website for information about ongoing and completed research projects based on various keywords such as research subject, research organisation, project title and project manager. The beneficiary is responsible for ensuring that the holder of any copyright has consented to the release of this information and shall ensure that the copyright holder is entitled to provide consent in each individual case. A consent form for the release of information accompanies the Swedish Energy Agency's decision to grant funding. By signing this document, an authorised representative of the beneficiary consents/does not consent to information in the project that is encompassed by confidentiality under the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act (2009:400) being released to the general public.

## Appendix - Consent to processing of personal data

The Swedish Energy Agency makes information about projects that it is funding available on its website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)). A consent form for the processing of personal data accompanies the Swedish Energy Agency's decision to grant funding. By signing this form, the project manager consents/does not consent to their personal data being processed by the Swedish Energy Agency in order to be released to the general public via the agency's website. More information about how the Swedish Energy Agency processes personal data can be found on the Swedish Energy Agency's website ([www.energimyndigheten.se](http://www.energimyndigheten.se)).

## Appendix - Official documents and confidentiality

Essentially all mail and email sent to the Swedish Energy Agency becomes official documents. The implications of this include that the public and mass media are able to request to access their contents. Official letters and decisions sent from the Swedish Energy Agency are also official documents. The right to access official documents is part of the principle of public access to official documents.

However, the Energy Agency is not permitted to disclose information that is subject to confidentiality pursuant to the Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act. This means that a document or certain information in a document may be protected by confidentiality. Consequently, a confidentiality assessment is conducted on a case-by-case basis before a document is released.

Confidentiality applies to, for example, information about an individual's business or operational circumstances, inventions or research findings if it may be assumed that the individual will suffer damage if the information is disclosed.