



Information webinar

Clusters of Excellence

Welcome!

VINNOVA

 Vetenskapsrådet

Speakers



**Fredrik Weisner,
Vinnova**

Programme manager, Clusters of
Excellence

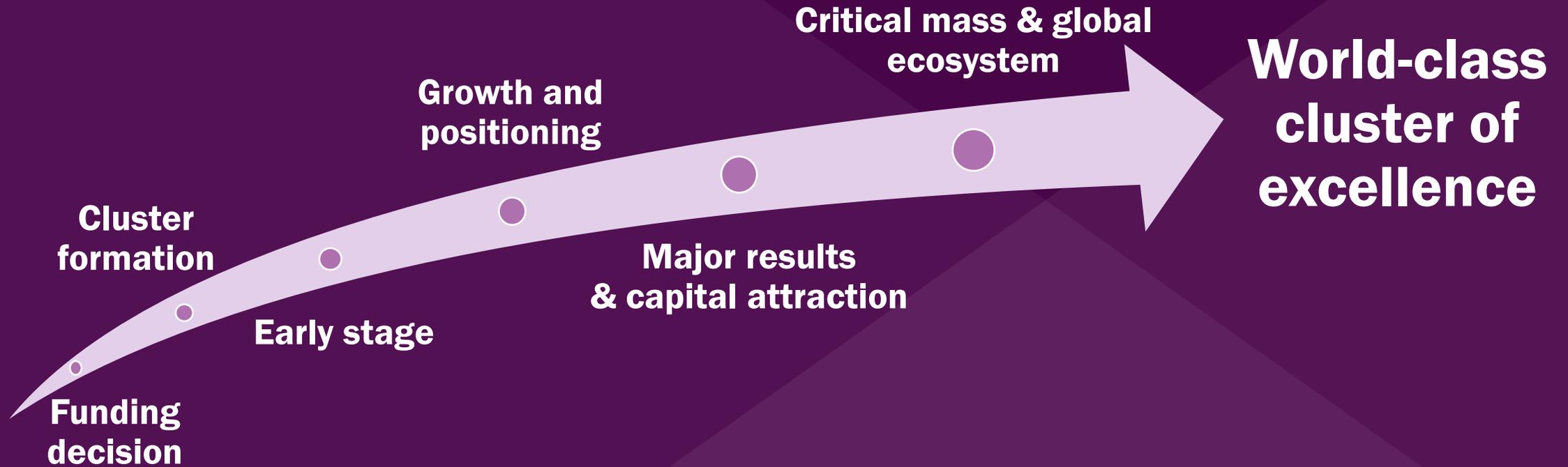
**Marika Edoff,
The Swedish Research Council**

Secretary General, Engineering Sciences



**A joint ten-year initiative to
establish world-leading
clusters of excellence within
groundbreaking technology**

Towards top five in the world 2035



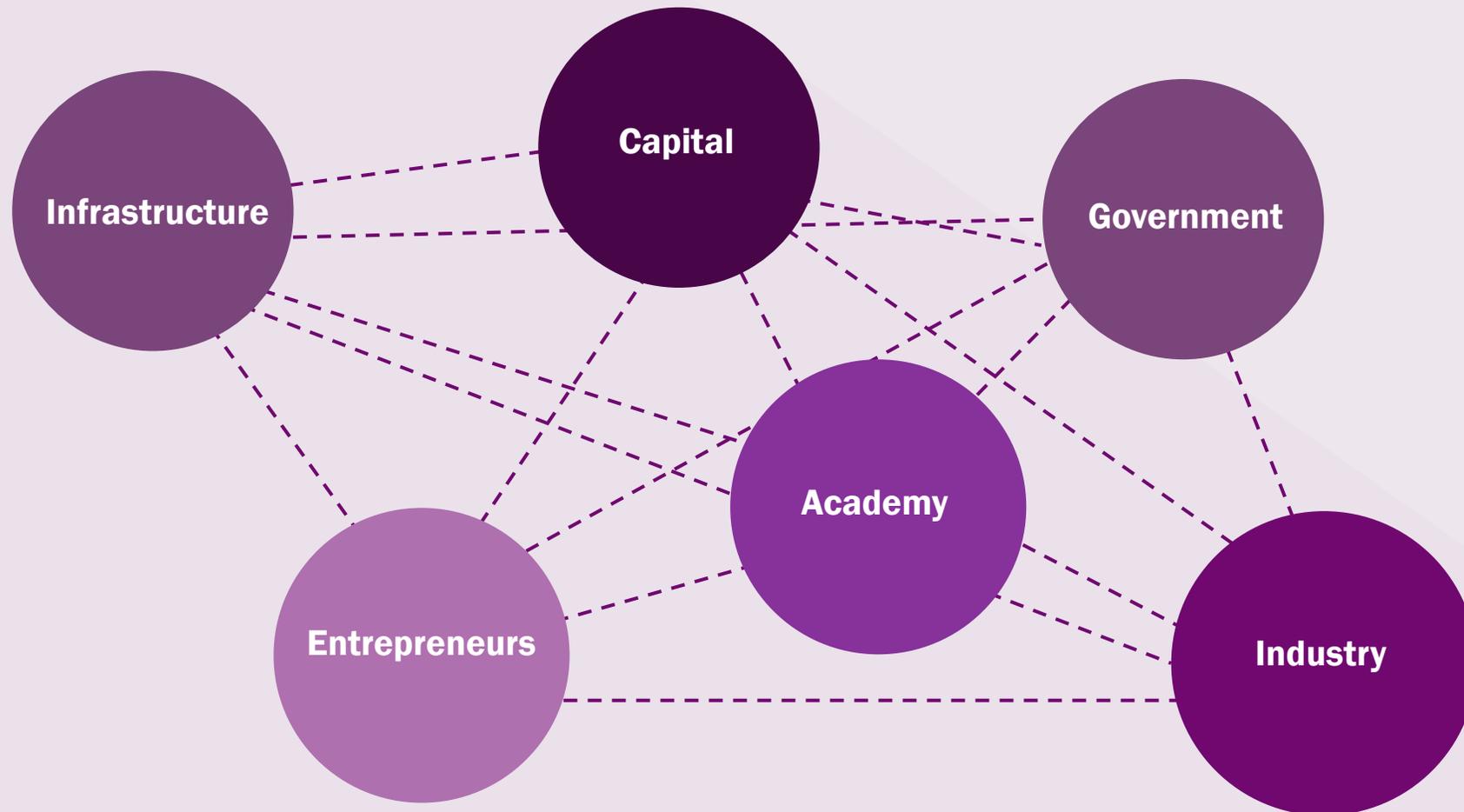
Groundbreaking technologies

- refers to technologies that are based on research breakthroughs with potential for radical and disruptive changes in products, processes, services or systems.
- can enable new capabilities or provide leaps in performance, often with the potential to radically improve entire application areas, value chains, or societal functions.



What is a cluster of excellence?

– a coordinated research and innovation ecosystem united by a common purpose

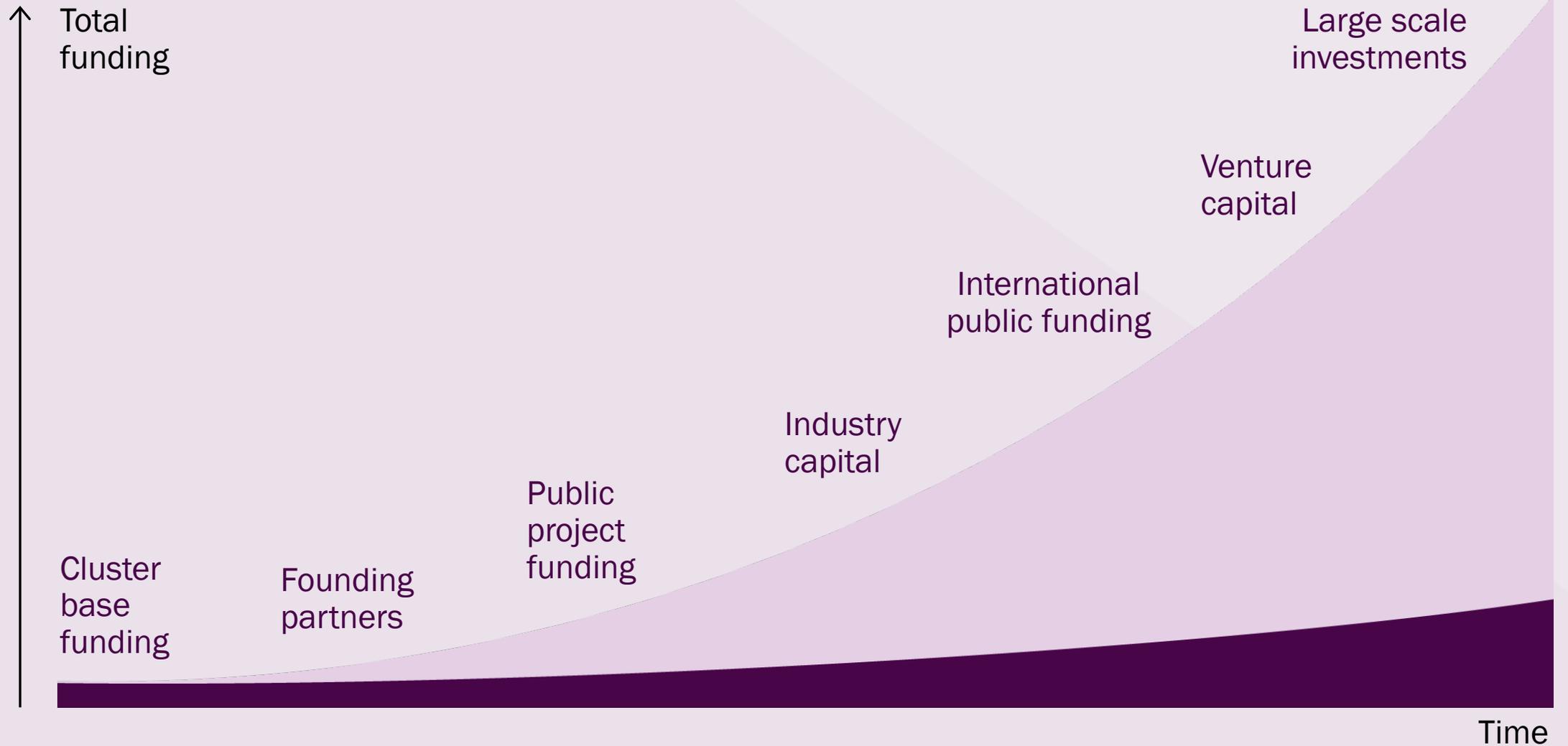


Characteristics of a world-leading cluster of excellence

- Experienced and bold leadership
- World-class technology research
- Capacity to educate and attract talent
- Excellent innovation environments
- Uniqueness & strategic positioning
- Capital attraction & critical mass
- Large and dynamic ecosystem



Seed funding to attract capital



Excellence cluster portfolio

Excellent research and innovation potential in all clusters with a clear vision of being among top five in the world.

- A range of clusters with varying maturity
- A range of research and innovation areas
- Specific goal of strengthening capabilities in fundamental AI

We plan for one more call for clusters in 2027/2028, which may have focus areas.

About 10 clusters to be funded in total.



Call for clusters of excellence 2026

Plan for a cluster - not a project!

Vision, strategy, governance, leadership

Research



Innovation



Ecosystem



Call for clusters of excellence 2026

Joint call summary

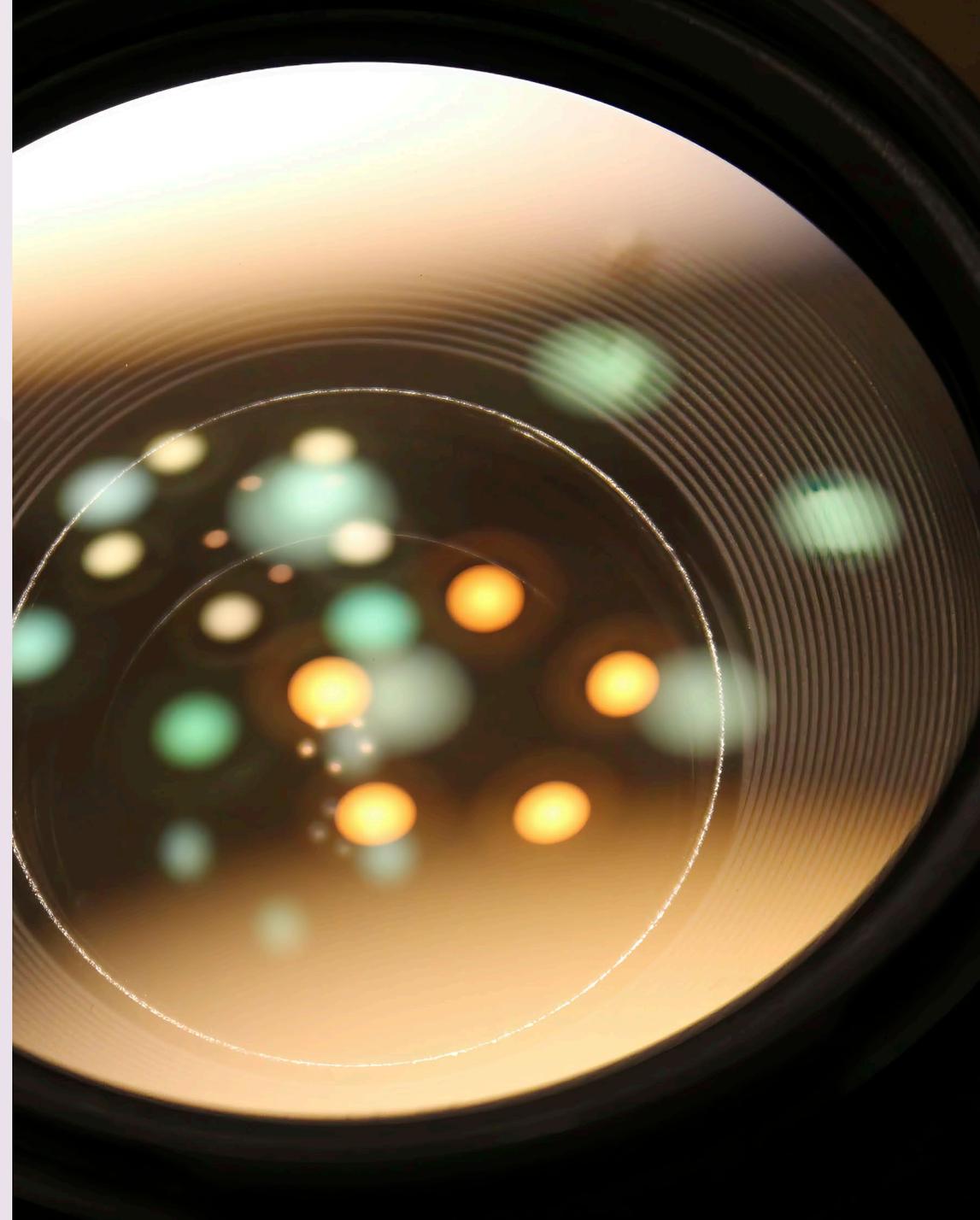
- Call opens April 1 and closes June 3
- Prisma portal (Swedish Research Council)
- Final call information will be available at www.vr.se
- An organization files the application
- Budget at least 40 million SEK/year and cluster



Call for clusters of excellence 2026

Who can apply?

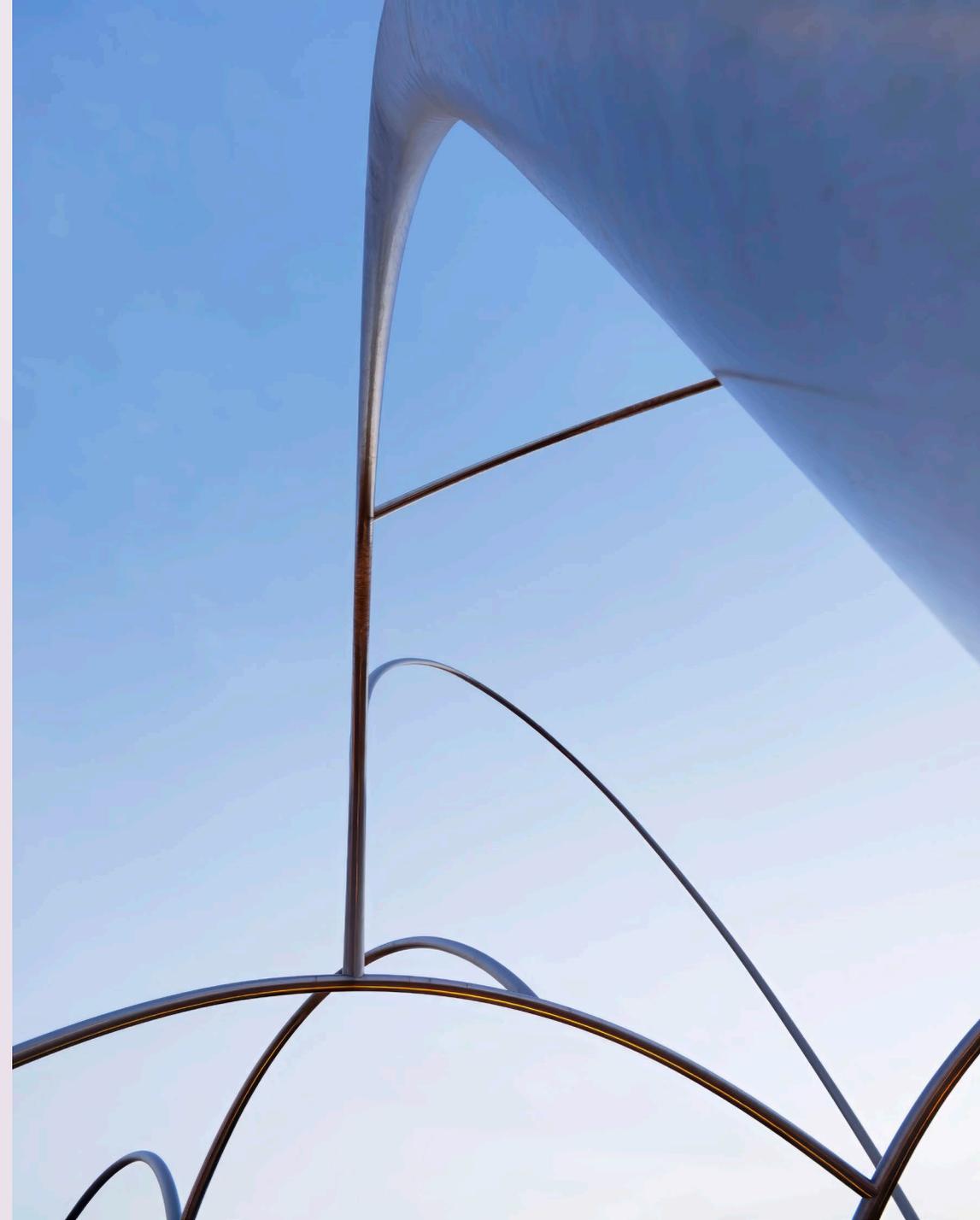
- Project leader (scientific leader) employed by an organization recognized to receive grants from the Swedish Research Council
- 5-15 co-applicants
- Project leader may only participate in one application
- Co-applicants may participate in up to two applications
- Project leader needs to be employed at the applying organization when the cluster starts



Call for clusters of excellence 2026

Other application participants

- Companies, entrepreneurs, other researchers, innovation support actors and others play a crucial role in the application
- Part of the cluster vision, governance and innovation & ecosystem plan
- Essential for proposal credibility
- CVs and Letters of intent are needed



Call for clusters of excellence 2026

Application contents

- Cluster vision and management
- Research plan
- Innovation and ecosystem plan

Vision, strategy, governance, leadership

Research



Innovation



Ecosystem



What can be funded in this call?

- Excellent research
- Early innovation activities
- Cluster organization
- Infrastructure for research and early innovation
- Research school



Humanities and social sciences research in all clusters

- Societies and people are the stakeholders
- Integration necessary to achieve the ambitious goals
- The HS research can have different roles
- Important perspectives to identify and solve risks, threats and other challenges

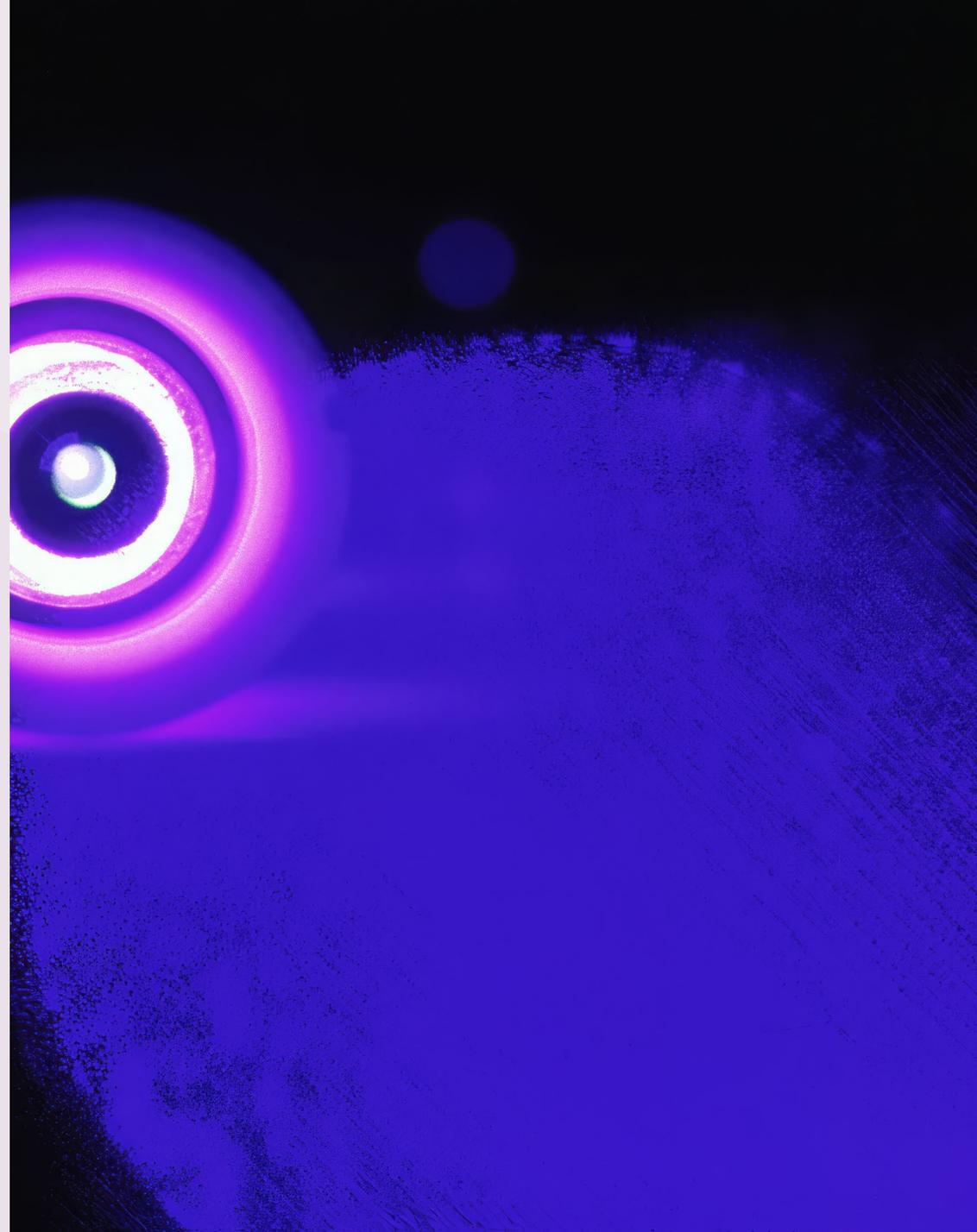
In what way may the groundbreaking technology lead to prosperity, health, freedom, safety, security, resilience or other important personal and societal values?

What can be funded in the innovation plan?

Tailored funding process with Vinnova starts after cluster is selected

- Broad innovation project portfolio
- Funding for participation in EU-projects
- Range of alternatives to build innovation capabilities and environments
- Funding for ecosystem management

No immediate co-funding requirement but very strong capital attraction over time is a key performance indicator



Evaluation of cluster applications

- Evaluation of research excellence - organized by Swedish Research Council
- Evaluation of innovation potential - organized by Vinnova
- About 20 applications get invited to interview



Timeline for 2026 call



Dialogue meetings

- Physical actor-driven matchmaking meetings
- Aiming to help actors strengthen their constellations
- Register on [Vinnova.se](https://www.vinnova.se) at latest four days before the event
- Do you want to arrange a meeting of your own, to discuss a topic or present your future application? We are happy to help with visibility and potentially a venue.

**March 23:
AI**

**March 25:
Connectivity,
semiconductors
and sensors**

**March 26:
Advanced
biotechnology**

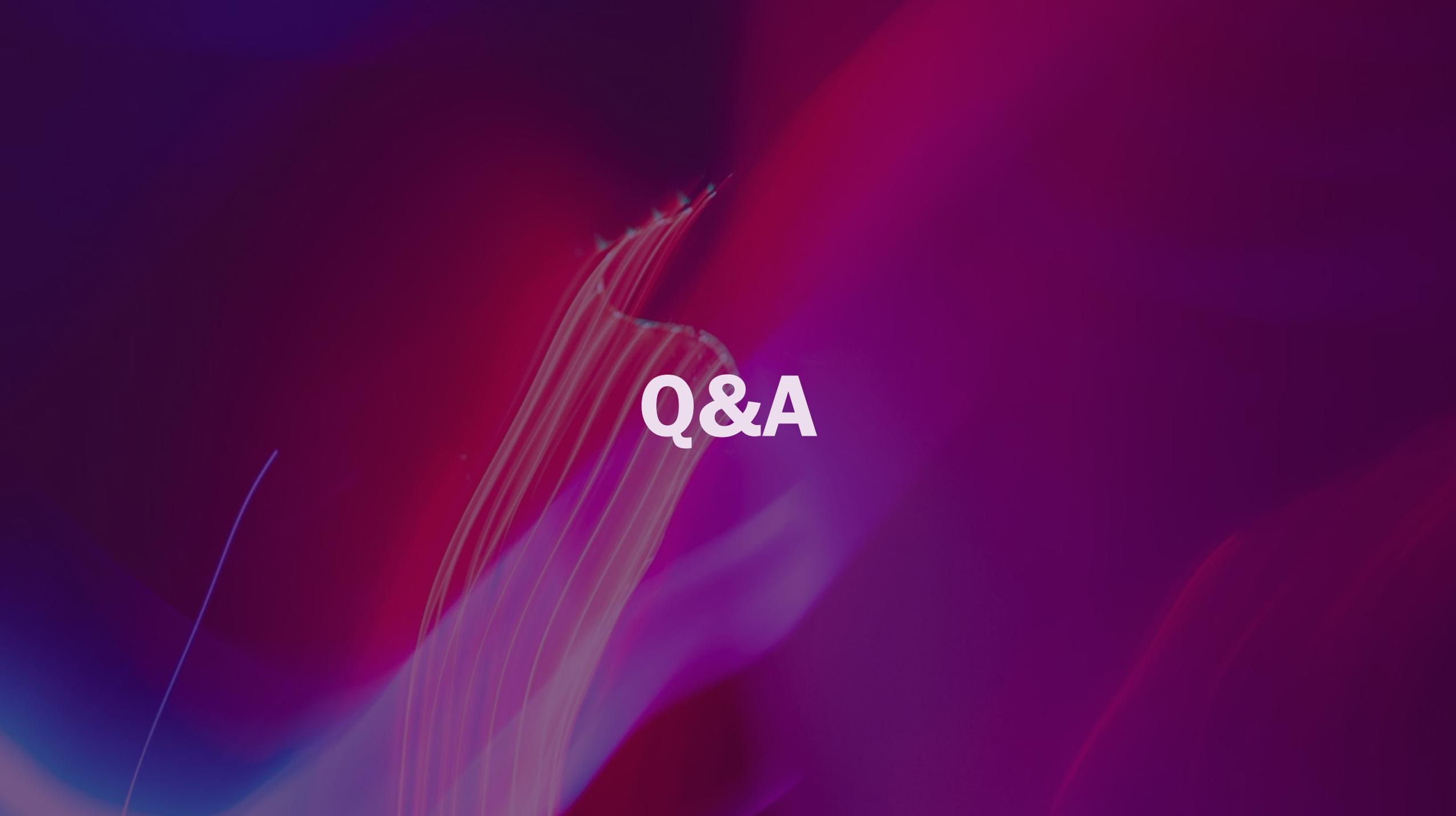
**March 30:
Material
technology**

Get in touch

excellenskluster@vr.se
excellenskluster@vinnova.se

Join our newsletter:



The background features a gradient from deep blue on the left to vibrant red on the right. Several thin, white, curved lines resembling light trails or motion blur sweep across the frame, primarily concentrated in the lower-left and central areas. The overall aesthetic is modern and dynamic.

Q&A

Thank you!