

## Announcement

### **3<sup>rd</sup> German-Swedish Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects by Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)**

Deadline for proposal submissions: November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019

#### **1. Scope**

Germany and Sweden are announcing a Call for Proposals for joint R&D projects, focusing on developing innovative products and applications in all technological and application areas.

Applicants are expected to develop products, technology-based services or methods which will in subsequent steps generate sustainable solutions with market potential and potential to address societal challenges.

Vinnova, the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy through its Central Innovation Programme for SMEs (ZIM) will provide access to public funding for joint projects.

Vinnova and AiF Projekt GmbH (Project management agency for the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy) will assist project partners with basic information during the project proposal, evaluation and monitoring phase.

#### **2. Call Structure**

The call invites partners to present joint proposals for technological R&D projects until **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019** according to the procedures used by Vinnova and ZIM, specified in attachments (Sweden) and the ZIM guidelines (Germany).

##### **2.1. Financing**

Eligible project participants from Germany and Sweden will finance their costs from the funding schemes applicable for this call set by Vinnova and ZIM, and complementarily from their own resources. Please view the specific attachment relevant to Swedish (Vinnova) and German (AiF Projekt GmbH) applicants.

## 2.2. Requirements

Project results will have to contribute to the development of commercial products, processes and/or technical services. The project proposals have to comply with the following guidelines:

- The consortium has to include at least one Swedish and one German SME.
- Participation of further research organisations and other companies are welcome as additional participants or subcontractors according to each country's funding schemes.
- Companies and/or research organisations from other countries may also participate. These partners' participation is not funded by Vinnova or ZIM and has to be included in the common proposal form.
- The project should have an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants from the two countries (e.g. increased knowledge base, commercial leads, access to R&D infrastructure, new fields of application, etc.).
- The project must demonstrate equal contribution of the participants from both sides, and the project must be equally significant to all participants. In a project with two cooperating partners, one partner is not allowed to hold more than 70% of the person months of the project. In projects with more than two partners no partner may contribute more than 50% of the person months. In case one or more research organisations are involved in the consortium, they are altogether not allowed to hold more than 50% of the person months. These rules apply to the whole project consortium and not for only one country.
- Project duration should in principal not exceed 2 years.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present announcement in accordance with the laws, rules, regulations and procedures in effect.

## 2.3. Submission

Between the opening of the call **on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019** and the Call deadline on **November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019** all participants file one short common proposal in English language (**Proposal Application Form**), legally signed by all organisations participating in the project and a **draft Consortium Agreement** (not yet signed) that regulates the terms of cooperation between all partners (also in English). These documents have to be submitted electronically to Vinnova via the e-service "Intressentportalen" <https://portal.vinnova.se> (Swedish applicants) and to [international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de](mailto:international@aif-projekt-gmbh.de) (German applicants).

Additionally, **national applications** as set by Vinnova and ZIM have to be submitted by the call deadline. All project partners who want to apply for funding within this call file a national application according to the national rules and procedures set by ZIM and Vinnova. The Swedish project

partners submit application forms only to Vinnova and the German project partners submit application forms only to AiF Projekt GmbH by post.

The minimum requirements for the Consortium Agreement are:

- Naming of all project partners
- Description of the project aims, scope, role division and differentiation of the subprojects of the partners including their working plans with person months (for this the common application proposals can be declared as part of the agreement)
- A clause that provides for all partners to be informed if third parties are involved in the project
- Regulation of intellectual property rights (background and foreground)
- Basic regulation of joint commercialization and apportioning of benefits
- Joint final reporting is to be done according to the regulations set by ZIM and Vinnova
- If research organisations from Germany are involved, a passage has to be included that allows them to publish their own results without duty to obtain consent from the other partners.

The Consortium Agreement (called Project Agreement in Vinnova's terminology) shall be consistent with Vinnova's and ZIM's terms and conditions for funding.

The Proposal Application Form as well as additional country-specific information and requirements are available at [www.zim.de/internationale-ausschreibungen](http://www.zim.de/internationale-ausschreibungen) and at Vinnova's homepage for this call [www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/hitta-finansiering/](http://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/hitta-finansiering/)

## **Sweden**

A description is pre-defined in the standard call text. The project plan required by Vinnova ("Projektbeskrivning") can be submitted either in Swedish or in English. For information and instructions see Vinnova's webpage for this call. Applications must be submitted to Vinnova no later than 14:00 CET on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## **Germany**

Every German partner files one ZIM application in paper form to AiF Projekt GmbH by post. All German SMEs which perform R&D to develop an innovative product, process or technological service – also in cooperation with research organisations – have the right to apply. More detailed criteria can be found on the ZIM website ([www.zim.de/kooperationsprojekte](http://www.zim.de/kooperationsprojekte) – in German language only). The application has to be in line with the ZIM regulations, e.g. it has to be in German language.

The national funding organisations Vinnova in Sweden and AiF Projekt GmbH in Germany will be available to supply all stakeholders with basic information.

## **2.4 Decision and project start up**

Applicants will receive the decision regarding grant funding by their national funding organizations in the beginning of May 2020 at the latest. If funding is granted, the project is to be started at the latest during the time frame of September 2020.

**Consultation with the national funding organizations is highly recommended at an early stage.**

## **Contact**



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