SPRÅNG CHALLENGE
INFORMATION WEBINAR

The Baltic Marine Watchdog Challenge

11 November 2026

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We are Sweden’s innovation agency

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Our role is to
Indentify, mobilise
and fund
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Together we make it possible to
Think different and
do things differently
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Innovation driven by Ambitious goals



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Big challenges need new approaches.



We are looking for teams ready to test, learn and scale.



From idea to real-world impact.

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The Baltic Marine Watchdog Challenge

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The Baltic Sea – a busy area

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Who watches over us, the environment and our infrastructure today?



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Operational context

- Defined area in the South Baltic Sea, year-round
- Target vessel max 5 knots
- Intermittent GNSS-contested environment.

System requirements

- The system must be fully autonomous
- Land-based central command.
- Audible and visual alarm
- Suspicious activities must be documented
- Comply with relevant regulations
- Relevant parts of STANAG 4817 and FMN

Stage 1 - Patrol a defined area of dense maritime traffic and follow a specified surface target

- Detect and track a specified surface target within the defined Baltic Sea area.
- Assess, log and document a simulated suspicious activity in real time.
- Demonstrate sustained operation during the mission while maintaining navigation, sensing, communication, and safety functions.

Demo in June 2027

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Stage 2 - Patrol a defined area of dense maritime traffic and follow a suspicios surface or underwater target

- Automatically detect, identify, and track an unannounced, unknown suspicious target operating either on the surface or underwater.

- Assess, log and document a simulated suspicious activity in real time.

- Demonstrate sustained operation during the mission while maintaining navigation, sensing, communication, and safety functions.

Demo in November 2027

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Goal

- Demonstrate an autonomous, scalable and resilient maritime surveillance system

- Enhance the maritime situational awareness through detection, classification, tracking and documentation of suspicious surface and underwater activities.

Real world testing



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What we offer

- Access to real world testing and demo sites
- Mentoring of your team during 10 months
- Access to international experts
- Network - investors, business networks and potential future customer

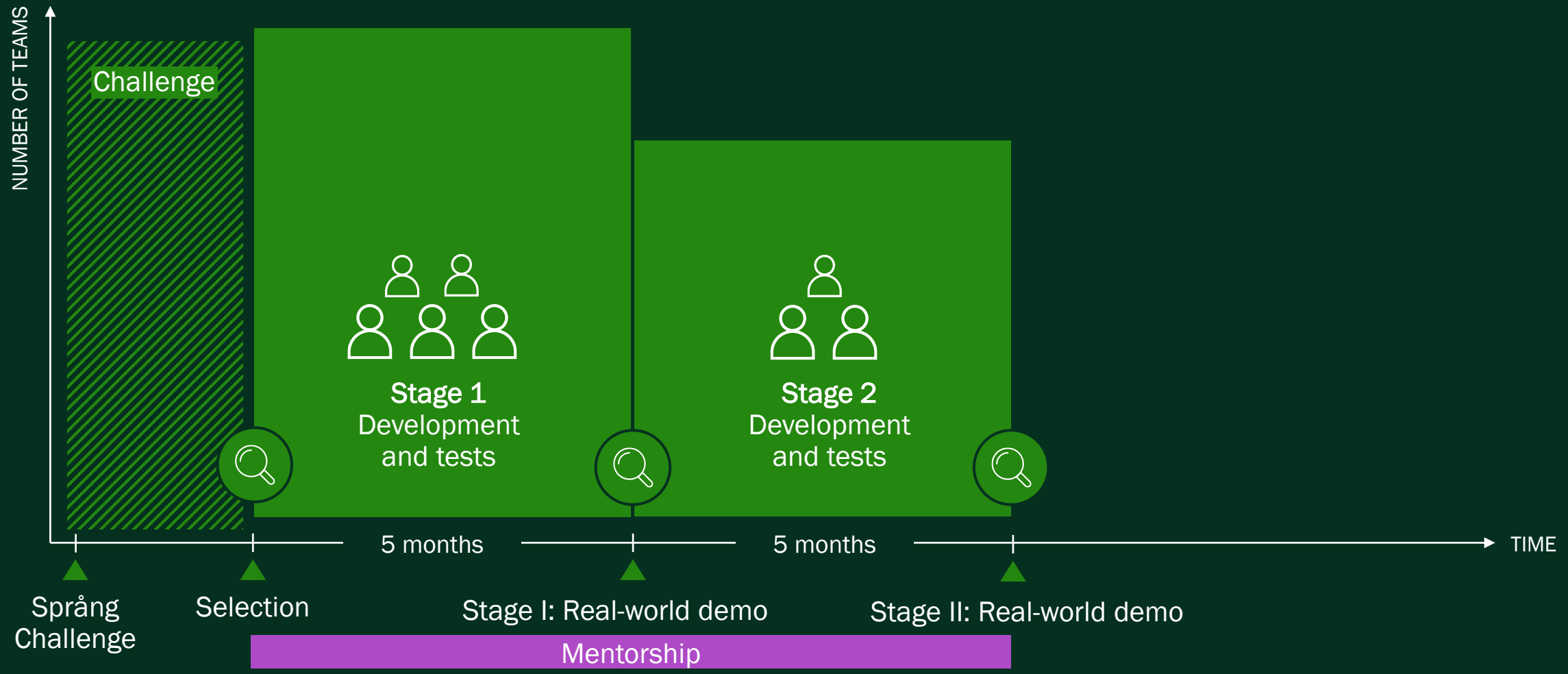
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What you get

- Up to €520,000 in non dilutive funding (over 10 months across 2 stages)
- Fast and easy process - application and during the challenge
- Freedom to test and develop within boundaries
- Help to accelerate your breakthrough solution
- IP stays with you and your team
- Funding based on progress

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Acceleration Instrument



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Who can apply?

You decide what your team should look like, depending on the capabilities you need.

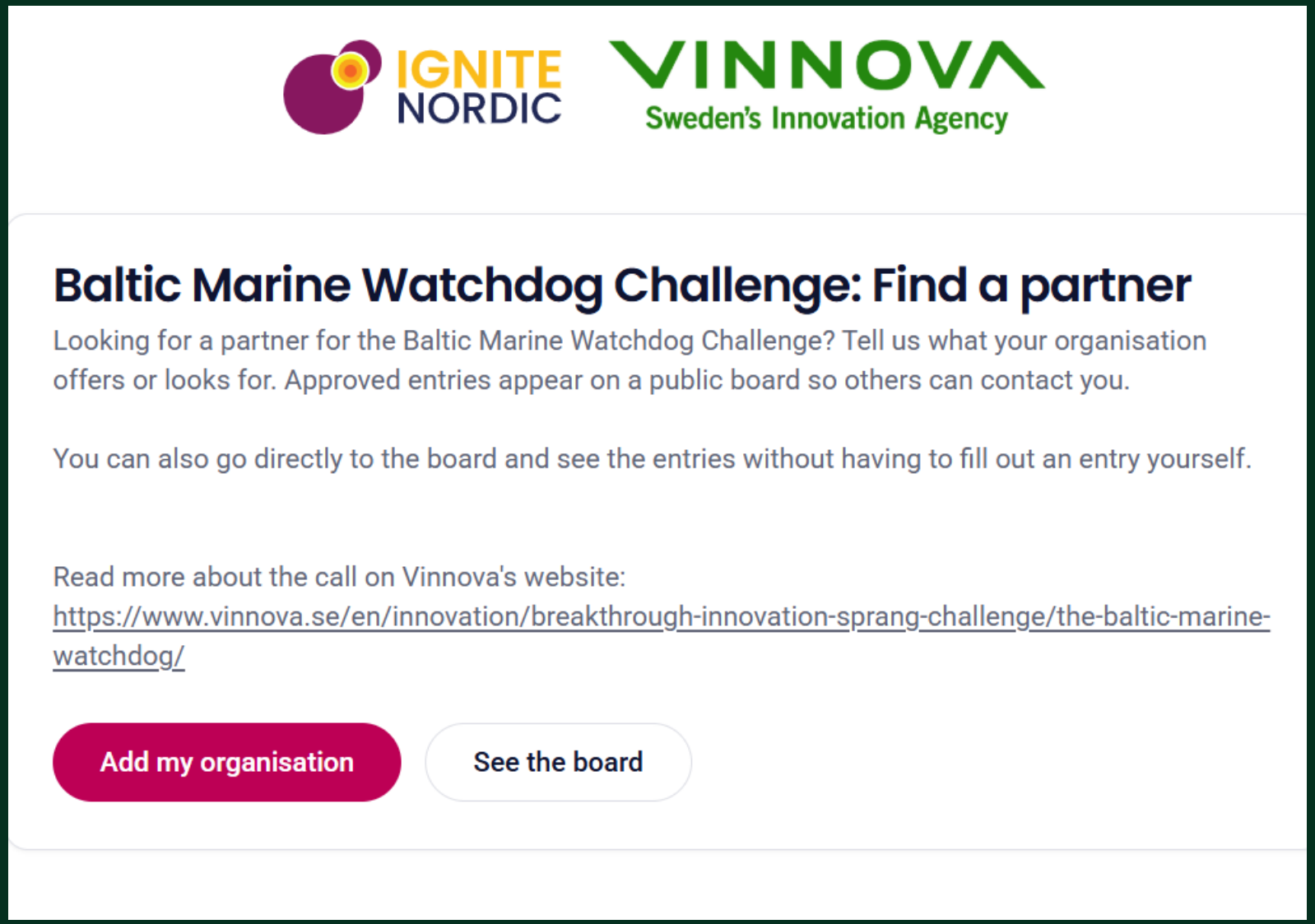
Only legal entities can send in a submission, but you are welcome to cooperate.

Applicants must be headquartered in the European Union, the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) or the United Kingdom.

- Individual team members or collaboration partners may be based outside of these regions

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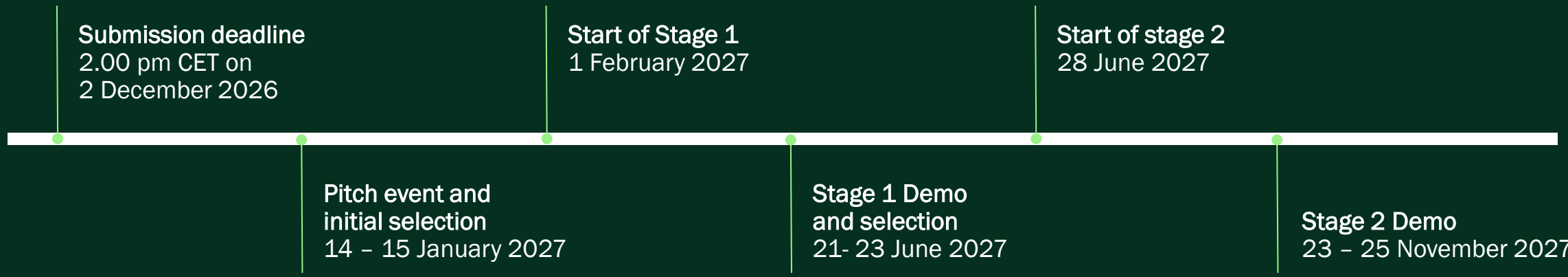




Looking for partners?

- Have a look at our matchmaking board for the challenge!
  - Create a post describing what you offer and what you are looking for, or
  - Browse the existing entries to find potential matches.
- The board is run in cooperation with Ignite Nordic.

Timeline

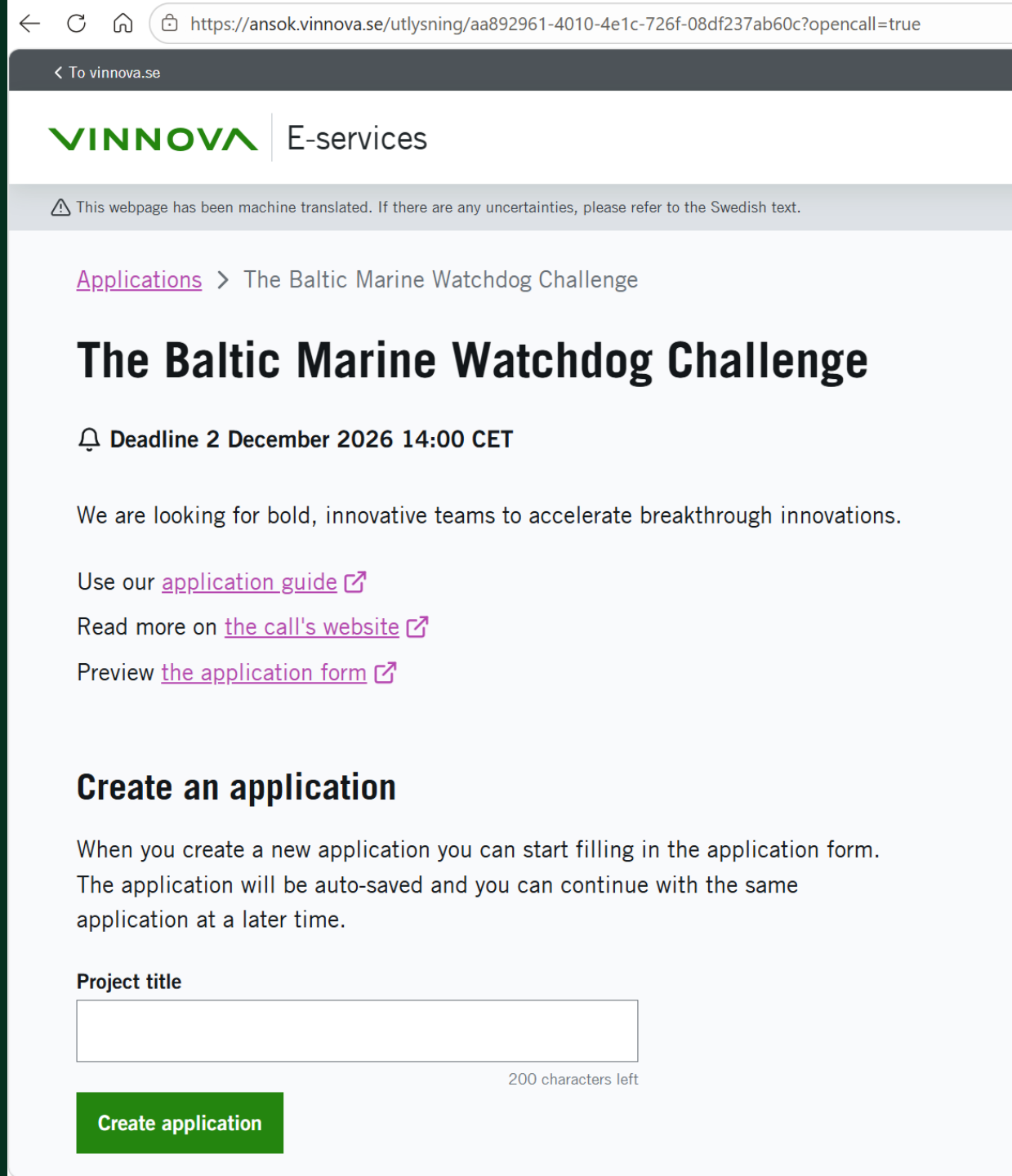


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How to send in a submission

- Read the *Call for submissions* and *Participation Agreement*
- Create an account in Vinnova e-services portal
- Access the online Submission form via link from the Challenge web page
- Add attachments, including the Declaration of Honour, to your submission and sign it.
- Complete your submission before **2.00 pm CET** 2 Dec. 2026

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The selection process

- Step 1: Evaluation
  - Check for submission completeness and compliance with eligibility requirements
  - Evaluation by appointed experts
  - Invitation to pitch event
- Step 2: Selection
  - Team pitches before a jury of recognised experts
  - Selection meeting
  - Contracts sent out and signed



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Evaluation criteria

- To decide whether your team will be admitted to stage one in the Challenge, submissions are evaluated in competition with each other regarding:
  - Their potential to become a breakthrough innovation (Approach).
  - The effectiveness of the proposed work plan (Implementation).
  - The team's ability to execute that plan (Team).
  - The team's economic strategy (Economy).

- Further details in Call for submission
  - Section 3: Objectives and requirements
  - Section 8: Evaluation criteria

Funding conditions

- One legal entity per team sends in a submission, cooperate as you see fit
- Total maximum financing per team: €520,000
  - Stage 1 price cap per team: €170,000
  - Stage 2 price cap per team: €350,000
- We are looking for:
  - Stage 1: 8 – 12 teams
  - Stage 2: 5 – 9 teams
- Renumeration via invoice:
  - 50 % at the beginning of stage 1
  - 40 % two months after the start of Stage 1
  - 10 % after submitting the final report of Stage 1.

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If you are used to public grants

- And you administration is used to it – talk to them.
- They have never seen a program like this before
- They might have the wrong expectations about which rules apply.
- The instrument is called “Pre-Commercial Procurement.“



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If you never had public grants

- You will be fine!



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Intellectual property

- **Intellectual property rights in results created by the teams during the Challenge remain with the teams.**
- Because of State Aid Laws however:
  - Upon request, Vinnova is granted a royalty-free and non-exclusive right to use the results in order to present, demonstrate and exhibit the results to the public through Vinnova's events, reports, activities and publications.
  - For more details, read the Participation Agreement

Tips and tricks

- Plan on dedicating 100% of your time – you will need it.
- Order any required hardware as early as possible.
- Remember that you will have expenses for travel and transport of equipment to Sweden.
- Consider setting up a project agreement
- Don't forget: 2:00 PM CET



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Challenge accepted?



Build the future.



Prove it in the real world.

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Thank you!

contact us at challenge@vinnova.se

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