



Swedish Mining Innovation – Planning Grant

A call for proposals within the Strategic innovation program for the Swedish mining and metal producing industry.

1 Summary

The Strategic Innovation Program for the mining and metal producing industry, Swedish Mining Innovation (formerly called SIP STRIM) is part of a joint venture in strategic innovation areas by Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and Formas. The aim of the venture in strategic innovation areas is to stimulate international competitiveness and sustainable solutions for global societal challenges.

The Strategic Innovation Program Swedish Mining Innovation and Vinnova invite all stakeholders who plan to apply for international financed innovation projects that are within the scope of Swedish Mining Innovation's themes and objectives to apply for a Planning Grant to assist in preparation of the application, building the consortium etc. The Planning Grant has the character of a pre-study study (genomförbarhetsstudie¹).

The call is open from 31 January 2022, and proposals will be assessed continuously until 17 November 2022 at 14:00 when the call closes.

The call covers all areas of the Strategic Research and Innovation Roadmap². The maximum funding for the planning grant is 300 000 SEK. The maximum level of funding is 70% of eligible costs. Note that funding level to individual for-profit companies is governed by state-aid rules¹.

More information about Swedish Mining Innovation is found at www.swedishmininginnovation.se.

¹ Link to description https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer_ny-version_210429_slutlig.pdf

² <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/roadmap/>



2 Who may apply?

The call is addressed to organizations that are planning an application to an internationally financed innovation program (e.g. Horizon Europe, EIT Raw Materials, Eramin, international open innovation challenges etc.). If in doubt regarding eligibility, please contact the Program Office.

3 Description of the call

3.1 Objectives for the call

The objective this call is to initiate new projects financed by international and private funding from, for example, EU or international initiatives that contribute to Swedish Mining Innovation's goals to improve the social, environmental and economic sustainability of the mining and metal production industry and improve Sweden's global competitiveness. Furthermore, international cooperation is promoted.

3.2 Content and implementation

Each planning grant proposal should clearly describe how the leverage project addresses the objective and impacts in Strategic Innovation Roadmap for the Swedish Mining, Mineral and Metal Producing Industry³, describe how the planning grant will be used, and describe how well the leverage project proposal fits the call being applied for.

3.3 Expected results and effects

The planning grant will result in the submission of a proposal to an international funding source (can be public or private funding). The grant should enable an improvement in the quality of the application and therefore the chance of success. This leads to an improvement in Sweden's innovation capacity and advances Swedish innovations in an international context.

4 What do we fund?

4.1 Activities that are funded

The types of project activities that can be funded in this call should be of the nature of pre-studies (Genomförbarhetsstudie⁴). The planning grant is for the purpose of preparing a competitive application with significant Swedish participation in an internationally financed innovation program (e.g. Horizon Europe, EIT Raw Materials, Eramin, international open innovation challenges etc.).

Approved project activities are, for example:

³ <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/roadmap/>

⁴ https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer_ny-version_210429_slutlig.pdf



- Developing the project idea
- Identifying and engaging new partners
- Writing of the application

What is not funded in this call are, for example:

- Applications based on ideas that are not consistent with Swedish Mining Innovation's objectives
- Projects that do not aim to submit an application for international financing
- Technical development
- Applications that would lead to direct commercial use within the leverage project, i.e. the leverage project being applied for should not exceed TRL 7.

4.2 Funding and co-financing

Maximum funding for a planning grant is 300 000 SEK. The minimum co-financing level is 30% of the total budget. Co-financing may be in-kind or, in the event of more than one partner as cash or in-kind. Foreign entities are not eligible for funding but may contribute to co-financing requirement.

4.3 Eligible costs and state aid rules

In this call, the state aid rules apply to for-profit companies. The funding basis for the planning grant is for Pre-studies (genomförbarhetsstudie). The table below summarizes the maximum funding level for the overall project and funding limitations to individual partner categories. Information regarding eligible costs⁵, state support to companies⁶, and terms and conditions of funding are on Vinnova's website⁷. See the appendix for example of funding and budget calculation.

Max. funding for total planning grant (all partners)	Maximum funding to individual for-profit companies			Max. funding to academia, research, not-for-profit and public sector
	Large	Medium	Small	
70%	50%	60%	70%	100%

⁵ See: <https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/20201201-anvisning-till-villkor-om-stodberattigande-kostnader-guide.docx-.pdf> (also available in English)

⁶ <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>

⁷ <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/terms-and-conditions-for-our-funding/>

5 Timetable

The following dates apply for the call.

Call open 2022

Call opens:	31 January 2022
Call closes:	17 November 2022 at 14.00
Date of decision:	Continuous
Earliest date of project start:	Continuous
Last date of project start:	9 December 2022

6 Formal requirements

For a proposal to be eligible for assessment in accordance with the criteria stated in 8.2, the following requirements must be met:

- Planning grant partner(s) receiving funding must be Swedish legal entities.
- The proposal must contain everything requested in Section 8: project description and CV(s).
- The planning project should start no later than 9 December 2022 and the maximum duration of the planning project is 8 months.

7 Submission and Assessment

7.1 Application and Assessment process

The assessment process is designed to identify if the planned leverage project fits Swedish Mining Innovation's objectives, if the international call chosen is appropriate and the planning grant project is likely to improve the leverage project application's quality.

The assessment of the proposal is made by representatives from the Swedish Mining Innovation program office and Vinnova.

The evaluation and decision-making process is as follows:

1. The project description with all required attachments is sent to Lawrence Hooey at the Program Office.
Lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se
2. Vinnova and the Program Office decide if the planning grant will be approved based on the assessment criteria.
3. The applicant is informed of the decision.
4. After approval, the grant project is input via a dedicated link to the Vinnova eServices portal (Intressentportal) provided by the Program Office.
5. The Program Office reviews the submission in the portal prior to the application sending to Vinnova for final approval.
6. Vinnova reviews the application and if there are no irregularities, formally approves.
7. The applicant is informed by Vinnova of the formal approval. The

project can start immediately once formal approval has been received.

7.2 Assessment criteria

Planning project applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

Potential

- Contribution of the leverage project to Swedish Mining Innovation's objectives, in particular relevance for the Swedish mining sector.
- The relevance and suitability of the leverage project for the intended international financing call.

Feasibility of the planning project

- Quality of organizational structure, methods and implementation.
- Credibility in work plan and budget.
- Resource allocation (distribution of personnel & between partners if relevant etc.).

Stakeholders

- Competence and relevant experience of the individual planning grant members
- Relevance of the consortium being identified (or planned) for the leverage project to the call's requirements
- Participation level of Swedish organizations in the leverage project proposal

8 Project description contents

The project description is the main application form. The contents are described below. It is recommended to contact the program office (Lawrence Hooey) before starting to write the application.

Project description:

- The project description should be a maximum of three A4 pages (font size 12 pt). It may be written in Swedish or English and contain the following headings:
 - **Project title** *in Swedish and English*
 - **Purpose and goal of the planning grant**
 - *Short description of the leverage project proposal and*
 - *Description and relevance of the call the leverage project proposal to be submitted (why this call / funding source?)*
 - **Potential of the leverage project**
 - *Summary of the previous results or projects on which the leverage project will be based and how the leverage project relates to and further develops them in support of Swedish Mining Innovation objectives.*
 - *The application should describe the leverage project's TRL level,*

defined according to TRL description in the appendix.

- *Planned composition of the leverage project consortium (if not all partner's know, then what type of actors are you seeking).*
- **Execution of the planning project**
- *Project plan for the planning project, including activities, schedule, budget, resources and deliveries.*
- **Consortium of the planning project**
- *Composition of the consortium with defined roles. This may be one or more organizations. The planning grant project leader does not have to be the coordinator that is planned for the leverage project. Also list any organizations that will be involved but are not formal partners in the planning grant.*
- *Organisation number and address for all partners involved in the planning project.*

CV: CV attachment with relevant CV for key personnel (at least 1 person). Each CV must be maximum two A4 pages.

9 Terms and conditions

For the call, Vinnova's general terms and conditions applicable at the date of decision apply for contributions. The terms contain rules on reporting, project agreements, follow-up, audits and conditions for payment, etc. The terms are found under "Terms and Conditions" on Vinnova's website⁸. Additional special conditions may apply to individual projects.

Special condition: The project coordinator will inform the Swedish Mining Innovation Program Office (Lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se) when the leverage project proposal is submitted, and then of the outcome.

10 Confidentiality

Applications received by Vinnova become public documents however Vinnova does not release data of individual business or operating conditions, inventions and research results in cases where it can be assumed that the individual could suffer damage if the information were to be made public. Further information on privacy rules during application is found on Vinnova's website.

Documents sent to the Swedish Mining Innovation program are not covered by Vinnova privacy policy.

⁸ <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/terms-and-conditions-for-our-funding/>

11 Contacts

Contact persons regarding the focus and content of the call:

Lawrence Hooey, Technology and Innovation Manager, Swedish Mining Innovation

Tel. 076 129 6602

E-mail: lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se

Contact person regarding the administrative issues and Vinnova regulations:

Tobias Kampmann

Tel. 08 473 32 46

E-mail: tobias.kampmann@vinnova.se

Contact for questions about the application service:

IT-support of Vinnova

Tel: 08 473 32 99

12 APPENDIX – funding and budget calculation example

The maximum funding is 300 000 SEK. The funding level (stödnivå) is maximum 70% for the overall planning grant. Note that it is not necessary to apply for the maximum of 300 000 SEK funding.

Overall project co-financing requirement:

The budget for the planning grant including co-financing for the maximum funding is (minimum):

Total budget: $300\ 000/0,7 = 429\ 000\ \text{SEK}$

The co-financing is then $429\ 000 - 300\ 000 = 129\ 000\ \text{SEK}$

This applies for universities, not-for-profit institutes and NGOs, public sector organizations as well as for Small companies who are eligible for state aid up to 70% of eligible costs.

State-aid rules for medium and large companies:

For Medium and Large companies, they can receive up to 60% and 50% funding respectively according to state-aid rules. If they are applying for the grant, then the co-financing required is:

$300\ 000/0,6 - 300\ 000 = 200\ 000\ \text{SEK}$ in co-financing (medium sized company)

$300\ 000/0,5 - 300\ 000 = 300\ 000\ \text{SEK}$ in co-financing (large company)

If there is a combination of partners, both the state-aid limitations to individual partners and overall project funding level conditions must be met.

13 APPENDIX – TRL Level

- TRL 1 – basic principles observed
- TRL 2 – technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 – experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 – technology validated in lab
- TRL 5 – technology validated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 6 – technology demonstrated in relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 7 – system prototype demonstration in operational environment

Maximum TRL of 7

- TRL 8 – system complete and qualified*
- TRL 9 – actual system proven in operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies; or in space)*