



Swedish Mining Innovation – Internationalization grant

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

The Strategic Innovation Program Swedish Mining Innovation and Vinnova invite stakeholders who are developing international contacts in areas of importance for the Swedish mining and metals-producing industry. The call covers all areas of the Strategic Research and Innovation Roadmap¹. The purpose of the grant is to enable travel for meetings and site visits, with a goal to develop collaboration, joint projects and facilitate technology transfer. Internationalization projects have the character of a pre-study (genomförbarhetsstudie²).

The organizations eligible for the grant are SMEs, research organizations (institutes, universities), NGOs and public sector organizations.

The call is specifically aimed at, but not limited to, giving organizations opportunities to participate in Innovation Days being organized with Business Sweden:

Sweden-Canada Innovation Days, 3-4 October 2023, Montreal

Sweden-USA Innovation Days, 10-12 October 2023, Tucson

Sweden-Australia Innovation Days, end of November 2023 (tbc), Perth

Key Dates for submission of applications to the call:

Call opens on 2 May 2023.

There are three deadlines to apply:

¹ <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/roadmap/>

² Link to description https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer_ny-version_210429_slutlig.pdf



Call Close 1): 31 May, 2023 (deadline to apply for Tucson)

Call Close 2): 25 August, 2023 (deadline to apply for Montreal)

Call Close 3): 21 September, 2023 (deadline to apply for Perth)

Dates of decision: at latest 10 days after each call closing date.

Applications for support not related to the Innovation days may be submitted by any of the call closing dates.

The maximum funding for the internationalization grant is 70 000 SEK per organization. The maximum aid intensity (level of funding) is 70% of eligible costs for SMEs, research organizations, public sector organizations and NGOs. Large companies are not eligible for the grant. The aid intensity to individual for-profit companies is governed by state-aid rules³. Medium-sized companies are eligible for 60% funding under funding basis “genomförbarhetsstudie”. De minimis funding up to 70% funding level may be used for medium-sized companies.

2 Who may apply?

The call is addressed to organizations that have an interest in developing new international collaboration for development of technologies that supports the goals of Swedish Mining Innovation to be world-leading in sustainable mining technology. Applicants must be legal entities registered in Sweden.

Organizations applying are expected to have done some background work to prepare for meetings with foreign organizations. The following types of organizations are eligible for funding: SMEs, research organizations, public sector organizations and NGOs. Large companies are not eligible.

3 Description of the call

3.1 Objectives of the call

The objective of the call is to catalyze cooperation with international organizations which will lead to joint projects, technology transfer and also promote Sweden as a leading innovation partner.

Participation in one of the following events are encouraged but not specifically required to apply:

- Sweden-USA Mining Innovation Days, Tucson, USA (10-12 October 2023)
- Sweden Canada Innovation Days, Montreal, Canada (3-4 October, 2023)
- Sweden Australia Innovation Days, Perth, Australia (November tbc, 2023)

³ https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/tabell-stodnivaer_ny-version_2206.pdf

3.2 Content and implementation

Each Internationalization proposal should identify the need for international cooperation, motivate the relevance of the international organizations and people to be met and demonstrate the value in having a physical meeting. There must be a demonstrated background work with a meeting plan or plan to participate in the Innovation Days listed in 3.1.

3.3 Expected results and effects

The internationalization grant will result in continued dialogue, with the goal of initiating cooperation in the form of joint projects or other collaborations and knowledge exchange. The grant is intended in particular to promote collaboration with target countries with large mining industries to improve Sweden's competitiveness, innovation capacity and promote rapid development and adoption of innovations that support sustainability globally in the mining and metal production sector.

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 grant supports the following activities:

- Personnel costs,
- Indirect costs,
- Direct travel costs.

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

- Applications based on ideas that are not consistent with Swedish Mining Innovation's goals,
- Commercial activities,
- Technical development costs/research activities,
- Fees for attendance at conferences, trade-shows and similar.

4.2 Aid intensity and co-financing

The aid intensity⁵ for an internationalization grant is 70% for all eligible organization types. The maximum funding per organization may not exceed 70 k SEK.

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

⁵ Aid intensity = Funding/total budget *100

The project budget including co-financing is based on:

- Eligible personnel costs (direct & indirect) of maximum 60 hours/participant [i.e. 40 hours travel and meetings + 20 hours preparation & follow-up & reporting],
- Eligible indirect costs,
- Eligible travel costs.

Each organization applying may include up to 2 people in the application.

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 internationalization grant is for pre-studies (genomförbarhetsstudie) whereby small companies may have up to 70% funding of eligible costs and medium-sized companies up to 60%. For Medium-sized companies funding via de minimis is also possible. Information regarding eligible costs⁶, state support to companies⁷, and terms and conditions of funding can be found on Vinnova's website⁸.

Contact SMI program office if you have any questions.

5 Timetable

The following dates apply for the call. There are three deadlines to apply:

Call Close 1):	31 May, 2023 (deadline to apply for Tucson)
Call Close 2):	25 August, 2023 (deadline to apply for Montreal)
Call Close 3):	21 September, 2023 (deadline to apply for Perth)
Decision:	within 10 days after each call closing date.
Project start date:	Upon approval of the application
Project end:	Latest end date is 31 Dec 2023.

6 Formal requirements

For a proposal to be eligible for assessment the following requirements must be met:

- Internationalization grant applicants must be Swedish legal entities.
- The project description must be submitted using the template provided⁹.
- The CVs of participants must be submitted (maximum 1-page per person, no template is available).
- Projects must end by 31 Dec. 2023.

⁶ See: <https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/anvisning-till-villkor-om-stodberattigande-kostnader-20232.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>

⁸ [vinnovas-general-terms-and-conditions-for-grants---2023-single-participant-engelsk-version.pdf](https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/regler-och-villkor/dokument/vinnovas-general-terms-and-conditions-for-grants---2023-single-participant-engelsk-version.pdf)

⁹ The project description template is available here: <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/calls/>

- Maximum funding per organization is 70 k SEK.
- The maximum aid intensity is 70%.
- For medium-sized companies de minimis funding may be used for 70% funding level. Include the completed certificate of minor support (de minimis stöd)¹⁰
- SMEs may be requested to provide the modellförsäkran form¹¹ (only upon request by Vinnova)

7 Submission and Assessment

7.1 Application and Assessment process

The assessment process is designed to identify if the internationalization grant is well motivated, including a relevant composition of participants from Sweden and the international personnel and organizations to be met, and there is considerable added value in attending a physical meeting. The selection process will take into consideration the goal for gender balance in the overall delegations to the Innovation Days.

The assessment of the proposal is made by representatives from the Swedish Mining Innovation Program Office, Business Sweden, and Vinnova.

The evaluation and decision-making process is as follows:

1. The project description and required attachments are sent to Lawrence Hooey at the Program Office by the deadline.
Lawrence.hooey@swedishmininginnovation.se
The project description is the main application form. The application form is available from Swedish Mining Innovation website.¹²
2. Swedish Mining Innovation Program Office, Business Sweden and Vinnova will assess and rank all applications.
3. The applicant is informed of the decision.
4. Accepted applications will be input the project into Vinnova's portal (a link will be sent by the Program Office) and then reviewed and formally approved by Vinnova.

7.2 Assessment criteria

Internationalization project applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

Potential

- Contribution to innovation in areas of importance for Swedish Mining Innovation (see the roadmap¹³) and future export potential of innovations

¹⁰ <https://www.vinnova.se/globalassets/huvudsajt/sok-finansiering/gora-ansokan/dokument/intyg-om-stod-av-mindre-betydelse-juli--19.docx>

¹¹ For definition of SME and modellförsäkran form see <https://www.vinnova.se/sok-finansiering/regler-for-finansiering/statligt-stod/>

¹² <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/calls/>

¹³ <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/roadmap/>

especially related to sustainability.

- Potential to build joint projects & deepen international collaboration
- Potential for knowledge and experience exchange

Preparations

- Readiness to engage in international collaboration
- Quality of background preparation
- Suitability of the budget

Stakeholders

- Competence and relevant experience of the organization and individual grant participants
- Relevance of the foreign organizations / organization types to be met
- Gender aspects of the team and division of power and influence between men and women

8 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 website¹⁴. Additional special conditions may apply to individual projects.

Special conditions:

- 1) A short report (maximum ½ page) suitable for dissemination via e.g. LinkedIn and the SMI Newsletter, will be prepared for Swedish Mining Innovation within one week of the Innovation Day or other meeting.
- 2) A short (maximum 1 page) report to SMI Program office describing outcome and future collaboration plans and potential at the end of the project.
- 3) For all communications about the grant, it must be stated that the work has been carried out within the Strategic Innovation Program Swedish Mining Innovation, a joint program from Vinnova, the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Research Council Formas.

9 Confidentiality

Applications received by the Swedish Mining Innovation program become public documents. However, commercially sensitive information will not be released. Given the nature of the call, commercially sensitive information should not be included in the application or dissemination material.

¹⁴ <https://www.vinnova.se/en/apply-for-funding/rules-for-our-funding/terms-and-conditions-for-our-funding/>

10 Contact

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