

Call for
Proposals

16.1.2009

NORTHERN EUROPEAN INNOVATIVE ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMME

2009-2012

2nd CALL FOR PROPOSALS



The Academy of Finland, Research Council of Norway, Swedish Energy Agency, Danish Council for Strategic Research, Estonian Science Foundation, Projekträger Jülich and Nordic Energy Research

invite research proposals for the programme Northern European Innovative Energy Research (N-INNER 2)

Background for the second N-INNER call

There is a strong and growing consensus that existing technologies will not deliver the necessary solutions to ensure reliable energy supplies, enjoy continued economic growth and protect the environment. This was emphasised by the former IEA Executive Director Claude Mandil already in April 2003 during the IEA workshop "Linking Basic Science and the Development of New Energy Technologies";

"Science can affect technology in profound but unforeseen ways, and lead to the development of new clean energy choices. With these new clean technologies, a much better balance of energy security, environmental protection and economic growth can be achieved".

The business as usual approach will not generate the rate of technological breakthroughs that Europe needs. Rather, rapid and radical innovation is crucial to address the rapidly growing energy demand, the global climate concerns and the recognition that many of the present energy resources are finite. The role of science and better linkages between basic research and energy technology programmes could help bring about the breakthroughs needed. Thereby, basic science plays a key role in delivering new ideas to the knowledge creation and diffusion, contributing to assure that research ideas get to the market.

The objectives of N-INNER

As most of the countries in Northern Europe have small science communities, they may get more value from scarce public resources by building trans-national cooperation, creating synergy and critical mass and thereby contributing to excellence and quality in innovative energy research.

The key objectives of the research programme are to produce new, innovative and non-conventional scientific knowledge in sustainable, clean and efficient energy technologies and systems, and to develop and sustain capabilities in these fields.

The programme Northern European Innovative Energy Research (through the calls N-INNER 1 and N-INNER 2) aims to support research activities and to increase networking and multidisciplinary cooperation among researchers in the involved countries.

The objectives of N-INNER are hence:

- To produce new and innovative scientific knowledge for new, secure, clean and affordable energy systems;
- To create synergies between basic and applied energy research communities;
- To increase mobility of young researchers and doctoral students;
- To strengthen the linkages between basic energy research and energy technology programmes in the involved countries; and
- To contribute to the quality and competitiveness in innovative energy research.

Thematic focus and research scope

N-INNER invites researchers to develop and present unconventional, innovative and visionary ideas for new sustainable energy technologies and systems. There are no restrictions on the scientific fields of the projects funded by N-INNER except that the research scope should address the challenges related to develop secure, sustainable and affordable energy systems.

Possible research topics are related to renewable energy systems and energy efficiency in society, industry, distribution, production and buildings contributing to combating climate change.

German partners taking part in this call should preferably direct their projects towards basic research into industrial processes for energy efficiency.

Priority will be given to innovative research ideas with a significant involvement of multidisciplinary consortia or combinations of different sectors (social, economical, technical etc.) in the project. The programme aims at being complementary to other national or regional R&D programmes and not as funding in addition.

Information about projects which are supported within the first call may be found at <http://www.nordicenergy.net/section.cfm?id=3-0&path=19,70>

Co-operation requirements

N-INNER is open to researchers and research groups at academic institutions and research institutes within the participating countries – Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway and Sweden.

The research consortium should include partners from at least three of the participating countries. The researchers are strongly encouraged to form multi- or interdisciplinary research consortia.

Table 1: Outline of the call

Call: Northern European INNovative Energy Research (N-INNER 2)
Type of research: Innovative energy research
Open for: Researchers/ research groups at academic institutions and research institutes within the participating countries (private/ industrial cooperation/ co-funding is allowed and endorsed, but not required).
Consortium: A consortium should include partners from at least three different countries
Funding modalities: According to national terms.

Funding

Funding will be available from national funding organisations (see Table 2 below). Projects can be funded for a maximum of 3 years. The national funding organisations will jointly provide funds of around 5.8 million € to support the call.

Funding will be as a “distributed pot”. Each partner will be funded by his/her national funding agency/council.

The programme is financed through national programmes in participating countries. Some restrictions may occur due to national directives or limitations by the financing national programmes. For further information about national limitations, please consult your national contact.

Table 2: Funding 2009-2012

Participant name	Country	Approximate funding €
Academy of Finland (AoF)	Finland	1 000 000
Research Council of Norway (RCN)	Norway	1 200 000
Swedish Energy Agency (STEM)	Sweden	1 000 000
Danish Council for Strategic Research	Denmark	1 300 000
Estonian Science Foundation	Estonia	200 000
Projekträger Jülich	Germany	1 000 000
Nordic Energy Research (NER)		100 000
Total		5 800 000

Two-stage call for proposals

The selection process involves two stages:

Stage 1: Pre-proposals are welcome from 16th January 2009 to **15th March 2009**.

An electronic form is to be used – it is available on <http://dev1.zetta.no/www-nordicenergy-net/call/>

Representatives of the participating funding organisations will perform the selection of the pre-proposals to be submitted to stage 2. The results will be available in the end of April 2009.

Stage 2: Invitation to Submitters of pre-proposals that pass the first stage selection to write a full proposal to be invited to stage 2. Deadline for **full proposals is 25th May 2009**. An extended electronic form available on www.nordicenergy.net is to be used.

An international panel of experts will review the scientific quality of the full proposals and its opinion will form the basis for the selection of projects. Projects can start as soon as the funding decisions are made, and latest in the end of 2009.

Table 3: Call schedule

Call opened – invitation for pre-proposal	16 th January 2009
Last date for submitting pre-proposals	15 th March 2009
Selection of pre-proposals to be invited to submit full proposals	End of April 2009
Last date for invited Full Proposals	25 th May 2009
Evaluation of Full Proposals	End of June 2009
Funding decisions	September 2009
Projects starting latest	Before end of 2009

Contracts

The funded projects are obliged to have three contracts:

Administrative contract

- between Nordic Energy Research and the project owner concerning administrative obligations regarding annual and other reporting, different project presentations, participation in final programme evaluation etc.

Consortium agreement

- between the participating research organisations regarding the co-operation rules, IPR etc. A model agreement is available on the following site: <http://www.nordicenergy.net/upl/2ndcallcooperationagreement.doc>

Financial contract

- each project participant must enter into a financial agreement with his/her funding agency.

Guidelines for applicants

Formal requirements are:

- An appropriate distribution of tasks between project partners.
- The formal applicants must represent an institution /organisation in Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway or Sweden with a responsible person mentioned by name.
- The proposed project team must consist of a consortium with at least three different countries represented (Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Norway or Sweden).

Evaluation criteria for pre-proposals are:

- Relevance to the scope and objectives of the programme;
- Quality of research and international collaboration;
- Degree of innovativeness, novelty and applicability;
- Possible impact on society.

Additional evaluation criteria for the full proposals are:

- Project compatibility with the research programme;
- Scientific quality and innovativeness of the research plan;
- Feasibility of the research plan and well documented project management skills of the proposed project manager;
- Competence, potential and expertise of the applicant/consortia;
- Applicant's/research team's/consortium's international contact network;
- The value added generated by the consortium for the involved countries
- Multi- or interdisciplinarity.

Projects with a feasible project plan and documented project management skills of the proposed project manager will be prioritised.

N-INNER encourages international co-operation in that the projects should have international connections to other relevant projects/activities.

Eligible activities and costs

Key activities shall contribute to consolidating and developing the knowledge base in new energy technologies and systems.

Activities may comprise combinations of:

- Research activities
- Ph.D. and Post-Doc grants
- Workshops, courses and seminars
- International scientific conferences (Participation and/or organisation)

The project period commences before the end of 2009 and must be finished by 31.12.2012.

Eligible costs for projects under N-INNER are:

1. Personnel costs (Ph.D., Post.Doc, subsistence) according to national guidelines
2. Travel expenses according to governmental rules of the home country
3. Meeting costs – direct costs for conferences, seminars, meetings and workshops (without overhead)
4. Smaller equipment costs
5. Other costs (e.g. dissemination)

Contact information

For further information, please contact:

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