

Call for project proposals: *Pioneering research and innovative solutions for carbon capture, utilisation, and storage*

INNO-CCUS pool 3

Application Deadline: May 28, 2025, at 12:00 noon.

Project duration: Minimum one year. Projects are expected to start within the first half of 2026 and must be concluded by May 31, 2029.

Total budget for this call: Approximately DKK 50 million.

Investment per project: No minimum or maximum limit per project for this call. The Board of Directors expects to be able to fund between 3 and 10 projects.

TRL levels: Between 3 and 8 (applies to projects focussing on technological development aspects)

The call details and application process are described in sections 1-7 below and in other call-related documents as listed in section 6.

1. About INNO-CCUS

The INNO-CCUS Partnership was established as part of the Danish Government's strategy "[Green solutions of the future — Strategy for investments in green research, technology, and innovation](#)," along with three other national partnerships supported by the Innovation Fund Denmark under the Innomission Program.

We aim to accelerate the green transition and significantly contribute to achieving the Danish climate goals on CO₂ reduction through innovative carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) solutions. CCUS alone will not secure the transition to a fossil-free society and negative greenhouse gas emissions, but we cannot halt global overheating without CCUS.

INNO-CCUS is a mission-oriented public-private partnership that engages partners from small and large private companies, universities and knowledge institutions, public bodies, and other relevant stakeholders. Our objective is to facilitate and advance the development and implementation of CCUS technologies that will secure the efficient, safe, and sustainable deployment of CCUS solutions — both environmentally, socially, and economically. Apart from initiating and co-funding collaborative research and development projects, we unite our partners in partnership activities such as workshops, conferences or webinars to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange and mutual learning in the INNO-CCUS partnership.

We are guided by the [Danish CCUS roadmap](#), which describes different pathways toward realizing the necessary greenhouse gas emission reductions through CCUS. Within this framework, we financially support the most ambitious and innovative projects that best contribute to realizing our mission.

The INNO-CCUS research and innovation projects are organized in five workstreams across the CCUS field:

1. Chemical CO₂ capture
2. Biological CO₂ Capture and Storage
3. Geological CO₂ Storage
4. CO₂ Utilisation

5. Society and Systems analysis

The workstreams and current project activities within each workstream are described in further detail [here](#).

2. What is called for?

The INNO-CCUS partnership has already initiated 30 projects across the CCUS value chain, and with this call, we wish to sustain and build on these efforts and keep momentum. We are looking for cross-sectoral collaborative research and innovation projects in the technology readiness level (TRL) scope of 3-8¹. More information on the TRL scale can be found [here](#).

We call for proposals for innovative, ambitious, collaborative research and innovation projects that can accelerate the development CCUS solutions and potentially contribute substantially to the Danish climate targets for 2030 and 2050, as outlined in the [Danish CCUS roadmap](#). The projects should focus on creating ambitious results with high-value impact, whether in the form of new knowledge, improved and new processes, systems, products, or solutions. The application must clearly explain how the proposed project will contribute to the roadmap's ambitions and identified innovation needs.

Project proposals must address challenges within one or more of the five INNO-CCUS workstreams. When selecting projects for funding, the INNO-CCUS Partnership will also consider the balance of the entire INNO-CCUS project portfolio and other national CCUS innovation projects. Applicants should therefore note current national research and innovation activities in the CCUS field and - where relevant - address potential synergies or complementarities between existing projects and the proposed new project. A comprehensive but non-exhaustive list of national CCUS research and innovation projects can be seen [here](#)

It is a priority of INNO-CCUS to build capacity for the future CCUS industry. We therefore encourage applicants to include early-stage researchers in project proposals and to actively support the development of entrepreneurial competencies in young researchers and innovators for instance through PhD projects embedded in project proposals and with affiliations to and supervision from both academia and industry.

It is essential to balance CCUS initiatives with other environmental, social, and sustainability challenges. To ensure a comprehensive approach and realistic assessment of implementation implications, all project proposals must integrate elements from workstream 5, Society and Systems Analysis (SSA), which represents a social science and humanities perspective, a system integration and -analysis, or a societal coupling perspective. For proposals within workstreams 1-4, SSA must constitute at least 10% of the requested funding from INNO-CCUS.

3. Who can apply?

Any legal entity (such as an enterprise, a research institution, an NGO, or a public institution) in or outside Denmark and directly involved in the project activities is eligible to apply, participate in, and receive funding from the INNO-CCUS partnership. However, the main applicant of a project proposal must be a Danish participant as defined by having a Danish CVR number.

The project consortium must include at least one partner which is a knowledge institution² and one

¹ The TRL specification only applies to project proposals focussing on technological development aspects.

² Including the Danish GTS-institutes, universities, university colleges, sector research institutes and other

industry partner. Still, attention should be given to engaging all stakeholders relevant to the proposed project. To strengthen Danish entrepreneurial industry capacities within CCUS and to draw on expertise and experience from abroad, we encourage applicants to include partners from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as well as international partners when relevant to the project.

Some organizations may be disqualified from receiving funding from INNO-CCUS according to the rules on state aid or due to EU sanctions. Please see section 8.1. of the [Innomission Guidelines 2023](#) for details.

INNO-CCUS is committed to promoting equal opportunities and diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, interested parties from all backgrounds regarding ethnicity, religion, gender identity, age, nationality, neuro-diversity, or disability status are encouraged to apply for funding from the partnership.

4. What and how much can be applied for?

INNO-CCUS can co-fund salaries and other expenses directly related to the project activities or to activities contributing to CCUS capacity building, for example through entrepreneurial PhD activities.

A maximum of 75,0% of the total project expenses may be financed by INNO-CCUS.

Funding from INNO-CCUS is granted in accordance with the EU rules on state aid and will either be categorized as block-exempted aid covered by Article 25 of the GBER or de minimis aid covered by the de minimis regulation.

All project participants must co-fund project expenses.

Specific maximum funding rates and other budgetary rules apply to the individual project partners depending on:

- What type of organisation the partner represents
- Whether the partner organisation carries out economic or non-economic activities
- Whether the funding is under the GBER or de minimis regulation
- Whether the partner organisation carries out industrial research or experimental development.

Please see the document *“Funding Rates, Cost Categories and State Aid Rules, INNO-CCUS 2025”*, which can be downloaded [here](#), for further explanations, specific maximum funding rates per type of partner and other budgetary rules and restrictions.

The total budget for this call is approximately DKK 50 million. Within that amount, there is no upper or lower limit to the budget of proposed projects, but the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors expect to be able to fund 3-10 projects.

5. What are the requirements?

All projects and project proposals must:

- Address one or more of the innovation and development needs or challenges identified in the [Danish CCUS Roadmap 2024](#) and this call text
- Include at least one partner from a knowledge institution and one industry partner

independent research and advisory institutions such as The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS). See the document *“Funding Rates, Cost Categories and State Aid Rules, INNO-CCUS 2025”* for details.

- Have secured co-financing of at least 25,0%
- Start at least at TRL 3 and reach a maximum of TRL 8 in the project period (applies to workstreams 1-4)
- Have a project duration of at least 1 year and start no later than during the first half of 2026
- End no later than May 31, 2029.
- Dedicate at least 10% of the INNO-CCUS funded budget to topics or perspectives within Society and Systems Analysis of relevance to the project
- All project participants must accede to the INNO-CCUS Partnership Agreement upon confirmation of successful application and prior to receiving the first instalment of funding from INNO-CCUS
- Adhere to all formal requirements as stated in this call text, the application template and appendices, the Innomission Guidelines 2023 and the Instructions for INNO-CCUS applicants, pool 3 projects.

6. What must be included in the application?

Applications must be written in English using the INNO-CCUS pool 3 application template and the appendix templates listed below.

The maximum text limit is 30,000 characters for the project proposal, including spaces but excluding mandatory tables.

Only the appendices listed below can be included in the application

All applications must be submitted via “Filkassen” no later than 12:00 noon on May 28, 2025, and must include the following documents:

1. Key Application Information
2. Application
3. Appendix A – Figures, pictures, tables. Max. 5 pages (*optional*)
4. Appendix B – Partner motivation
5. Appendix C – Key persons incl. 1-page CVs
6. Appendix D – Gantt chart
7. Appendix E - Budget

Mandatory templates for all application documents can be downloaded [here](#).

Please follow the instructions on file format and titles as specified in the document “Instructions for INNO-CCUS applicants, pool 3 projects”.

The INNO-CCUS partnership does not accept applications in which a successful outcome is dependent on receiving additional funding (e.g. projects that involve financing in multiple phases).

Other documents relevant to the application:

- Process for funding INNO-CCUS pool 3 projects
- Assessment criteria for INNO-CCUS pool 3 projects
- Instructions for applicants, INNO-CCUS pool 3
- Funding Rates, Cost Categories and State Aid Rules, INNO-CCUS 2025
- Guidelines Innomission, 2023
- Danish CCUS Roadmap

- State of CCUS (national project overview)

All documents can be downloaded [here](#).

7. How is the application evaluated?

After the application deadline, the INNO-CCUS Secretariat will conduct an eligibility check of all applications to ensure that they comply with the formal requirements and that all requested information has been received. Failure to comply with the requirements specified in sections 3-6 of this call text and with the instructions in the application and budget templates will result in the application receiving an administrative rejection without substantive consideration.

All eligible applications will then undergo an assessment based on the following four main criteria:

- 1: Quality of the idea**
- 2: Impact**
- 3: Quality of execution**
- 4: Strategic fit to the INNO-CCUS mission and roadmap**

A detailed description of these evaluation criteria is available in the document “Assessment criteria for INNO-CCUS pool 3 projects” to be found [here](#).

International peers will evaluate criteria 1-3, and the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will evaluate criteria 4.

The assessments by international peers of criteria 1-3 are subject to consultation (in Danish: “partshøring”). The applicants will receive the assessment reports from the international experts and are allowed to submit a consultation response to be considered by the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors in their further assessment process.

Based on the assessment results on all four criteria, the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will invite a number of project proposals for brief interviews, before making the final funding decision.

The INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will make the final decision regarding which projects to fund, and applicants will be notified of the result in writing (e-mail). Before notifying the applicants, the Innovation Fund Denmark will ensure that the decision is compliant with state aid rules and with the regulations and conditions pertaining to the Innomission Program.

With calls currently open for both pool 3 and pool 4 projects, the INNO-CCUS partnership is giving applicants with project proposals fitting the themes and requirements of both calls the opportunity of having the application evaluated under both calls under certain conditions. The document “Process for funding INNO-CCUS pool 3 projects” available for download [here](#), describes this and all other elements of the evaluation process in more details.

Contact info

For questions, please get in touch with the INNO-CCUS secretariat at application@inno-ccus.dtu.dk. Please note that the secretariat is not allowed to advise on the specific content of an application, and neither is the Board of Directors.