

# Process for funding INNO-CCUS pool 3 projects

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

Budget: approximately DKK 50 million

In this document actions on the part of the INNO-CCUS Partnership, unless otherwise specified, will be conducted by the Partnership Director, drawing on resources at her disposal and seeking approval by the Board of Directors as and where required.

The Innomission Partnerships and the projects funded by the above mentioned call are governed by the [Guidelines Innomissions 2023](#).

## **a. Call text and application format**

The call text and application form will invite applicants to demonstrate that:

1. The proposed work is innovative and breaks new ground
2. The expected outcome will have significant impact in areas relevant to the [Danish CCUS Roadmap 2024](#)
3. The project team is excellent in terms of knowledge and experience in relation to the proposed work and has the required competences and capacity
4. The proposal is efficient, that is, the expected achievements are commensurate with the requested resources
5. The proposal is effective, that is, there is reasonable confidence that the set objectives will be met.

The call will be published on the INNO-CCUS' webpage and LinkedIn.

The application template will reflect the above-mentioned elements and the call text, and will set specific requirements for content, length and format of the application.

Applications must be submitted via "Filkassen". Detailed instructions on how to upload the application in Filkassen will be included in the call-related documents.

Applications that do not meet the formal requirements as stated in the call text and application template will be administratively rejected without prior active consideration.

Applications that meet the formal requirements will proceed to substantive evaluation based on the submitted material. No supplementary material will be accepted after the deadline.

## **b. Assessment criteria**

All applications that meet the formal requirements will be assessed 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

Criteria 1-3 are evaluated by international experts.

Criteria 4 is evaluated by the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors.

All four criteria contribute to the overall assessment of the individual application.

A more detailed account of the elements of the four criteria can be found in the document “Assessment Criteria for INNO-CCUS pool 3 projects”.

### **c. Assessment and consultation process**

At least two recognized researchers will evaluate each proposal and give motivated scorings for evaluation criteria 1 (*Quality of Idea*), 2 (*Impact*) and 3 (*Quality of Execution*) in review reports. Applicants have the possibility of naming peers or organisations that they wish to exempt from evaluating the proposal in question due to risk of impartiality.

Applicants will be invited to comment on these review reports within two weeks of having received the reports. The main purpose of this consultation process is to enable the applicants to address potential factual errors or misunderstandings on the part of the reviewers, which will then be taken into account in the further evaluation of the proposal.

The INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will assess the project applications in relation to criteria 4, (*Strategic fit to the INNO-CCUS mission and roadmap*). This includes qualitative assessments of the proposals’ relevance for the ambitions and innovation needs laid out in the Danish CCUS Roadmap and prioritized in the call text as well as portfolio-based considerations of the composition of the entire INNO-CCUS project portfolio, and considerations in relation to other project or initiatives (See “[State of CCUS](#)” for a comprehensive, but non exhaustive overview). The strategic fit assessment of each proposal will be conducted by two board members.

Members of the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors cannot participate in the assessment of project applications in cases with conflict of interests, cf. the INNO-CCUS Rules and Procedures on Impartiality for the Board of Directors, which can be found on the INNO-CCUS website. Board Members must actively declare if they have conflict of interests with any project applications. Applicants can indicate in their applications if they see potential conflicts of interests with any of the members of the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors, which can be found [here](#).

Should a situation arise where it is not possible – for instance due to conflicts of interest – for the Board of Directors to assess an application’s strategic fit to the INNO-CCUS mission and roadmap, the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will decide on appropriate course of action to ensure impartial and objective assessment of the proposal in relation to criteria 4.

### **d. Shortlisting and Interview**

If more than 20 eligible applications have been received, a shortlist of the 20 best ranked applications or up to 3 x the available budget - but not less than 12 applications - will be compiled by the INNO-CCUS Partnership based on the international experts’ review reports and scorings. Outliers in scorings as well as applicants’ consultation responses will be considered. The shortlisted applications will

undergo assessment by board members of the strategic fit with INNO-CCUS mission and roadmap and any call-specific priorities. Applications can be added to the shortlist for strategic portfolio-related reasons, hereby expanding the shortlist.

A number of the shortlisted applicants will be invited to brief interviews with the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors. Interviews with selected project proposals are expected to be held during the first weeks of October. Information on final interview dates will be included in the e-mails from the INNO-CCUS secretariat when confirming receipt of the application, thus ensuring sufficient time for applicants' calendar planning.

### **e. Transferral of applications between pool 3 and pool 4 calls**

The applications for INNO-CCUS pool 3 and pool 4 will be processed in parallel, and with the same deadline for applications and the same timeline for the evaluation and decision process. Both calls call for proposals for cross-sectoral, collaborative research projects. Though different in thematic priorities, most formal requirements are identical for the two calls, and some projects may thematically fit with both calls. Therefore, applicants are given the opportunity to allow their application to be transferred from either of the application pools to the other under certain circumstances and under the condition that the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors agrees that the application in question fits within the strategic framework of the other call. This procedure will allow the Board of Directors to optimize the budget for both calls and will ease the application process for applicants with project proposals fitting with both calls. This also means that the total number of applications being considered for each call consists of both the applications submitted directly and solely for that call and the applications submitted under the other call that meet the conditions for potential transfer.

The conditions that must be met for a project proposal to be transferred from one call to the other are:

- The main applicant has given consent to a potential transfer to the other call (a tick box in the 'Key Application Information'-template) and given additional information in the 'Key Application Information document' regarding the relevance of the project for themes of the other call.
- The proposal meets all formal requirements of the other call.
- The proposal addresses aspects, challenges or solutions relevant to the themes asked for in the other call text and can be evaluated by the assessment criteria of the other call.

If the above conditions are met, the proposal in question will be fully assessed by the external evaluators regarding criteria 1-3 in relation to the primary call that the application was submitted under. However, the evaluators will also make a qualitative statement relating their assessment of the application to the context of the other call.

When assessing the application in relation to criterium 4 (strategic fit with INNO-CCUS) the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will assess the proposal in relation to both calls. Transfer of applications between calls will only be relevant in case the number of qualified and relevant applications exceeds the available budget for either one or both calls.

Please see the detailed call documents for the specifications and requirements of either call.

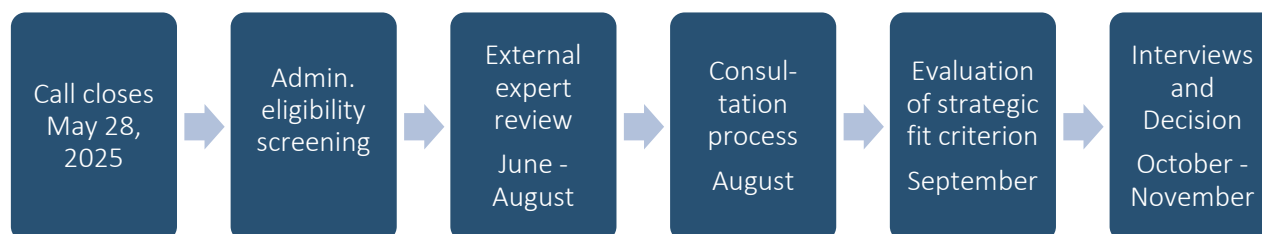
## **f. Decision**

The INNO-CCUS Board of Directors makes the final decision on which projects to grant funding. Each application will be discussed and decided upon individually, observing the rules of procedure regarding potential conflicts of interest. The entire Board of Directors will participate in the final discussions and deliberations about the full pool 3 project portfolio.

A representative from Innovation Fund Denmark participates as an observer at the meetings of the Board of Directors where selection/prioritization of projects takes place.

When the Partnership Board of Directors have selected which project proposals to grant funding, the Innovation Fund Denmark is responsible for formalities check regarding compliance with conditions and regulations pertaining to the Innomission funding scheme, including adherence to rules about state aid.

Indicative timeline for the application and evaluation process:



Final funding decision letter will be sent to applicants after state aid regulations check by Innovation Fund Denmark, expectedly late November 2025.

## **g. Administrative support during the application phase**

Any questions regarding the call documents prepared by the INNO-CCUS Partnership should be directed to the INNO-CCUS Secretariat at [application@inno-ccus.dtu.dk](mailto:application@inno-ccus.dtu.dk). The secretariat is not allowed to advise on the specific content of an application, and neither can the Board of Directors.

## **h. Fitting project budgets to available investment budget**

The INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will seek to fund projects from the top of their list of prioritized projects. Final approval is dependent on each project partners' accession to the Partnership Agreement and the conditions specified in project agreements. The Board of Directors may decide to fund a lesser amount than applied for, requiring adjustments to the project.

Should a project default during negotiations or prior to signature of the project agreement, it is at the discretion of the Board of Directors to decide if the next project on the list should be selected for funding.

## **i. Rejections**

Letters of rejection will be sent to applicants who are not selected for funding. The letter will refer to the evaluation criteria and be sent to the main applicant by e-mail.

## **j. Objections**

Any issues or objections regarding failure by the INNO-CCUS partnership to comply with rules regarding impartiality, equal treatment, consultation process and unbiased assessment must be directed to Innovation Fund Denmark.