

Call for project proposals: *Accelerating Systemic Impact across the Danish CCUS Value Chain*

INNO-CCUS pool 5

Application Deadline: June 22, 2026, at 12:00 noon.

Project duration: Minimum one year. Projects must start in the second quarter of 2027 (March 1 to June 1) and must be concluded by August 31, 2031.

Total budget for this call: Approximately DKK 69 million.

Funding per project: Minimum DKK 3 million, no maximum budget limit per project, but we expect to fund between 5 and 10 projects.

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 and our mission-driven approach

As a mission-driven partnership funded by the Innomission Program under Innovation Fund Denmark, INNO-CCUS is committed to advancing carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) solutions for achieving Denmark's climate goals. Our future carbon-neutral society depends on reaching a point where CCUS technologies and infrastructure have been upscaled and optimized to such an extent that market forces themselves drive further deployment. We support this transition through targeted research and innovation projects that bring together partners from companies, knowledge institutions, public bodies, and other relevant stakeholders in developing cutting-edge CCUS technologies and solutions. Our efforts are guided by the [Danish CCUS Roadmap](#) from 2024 and our recently developed [Impact Framework](#), which jointly outline the strategic and technological pathways for unlocking the full potential of CCUS in Denmark. The Danish CCUS Roadmap will be updated during 2026, and the Impact Framework is therefore the main strategic frame of reference for applications under this call.

The INNO-CCUS Impact Framework identifies three critical value chain-based inflection points that reflect system-level transformations necessary for CCUS to become a central pillar of the carbon-neutral future Denmark:

Inflection Point 1: CO₂ transport and geological storage remove the primary system bottlenecks (CCS).

Inflection Point 2: Carbon dioxide removal (CDR) solutions mature to enable credible and scalable deployment.

Inflection Point 3: Captured carbon becomes competitive feedstock in industrial value chains (CCU).

Each inflection point involves a wide range of development needs within different domains that will have to be addressed in the transition towards the carbon-neutral future society. To navigate strategically and mission-oriented in this context, INNO-CCUS targets different development needs in our calls for innovation projects.

2. What is called for?

For this call, we have identified a number of strategic learning questions relating to the three inflection points. Each strategic learning question identifies various development needs, methodological bottlenecks, and knowledge or technological gaps.

We invite applicants to respond to these learning questions in ambitious research and innovation projects that will strengthen and accelerate Denmark's journey toward scalable, cost-effective carbon capture, storage and utilisation.

Theme 1: Addressing current challenges in the CCS value chain

Uncertainty in storage capacity and lack of standardisation for shared CCS/CCU infrastructure pose significant challenges, hindering an interoperable CO₂ network for long-term deployment. A well-integrated CO₂ infrastructure, including geological storage sites, is essential for enabling CCS solutions to contribute as needed to Denmark's climate goals.

Parallel to addressing key issues within infrastructure and storage, energy efficient CO₂ capture from industrial point sources is a key component of Denmark's climate strategy. While first-generation capture technologies are being deployed, they face significant challenges in cost, energy efficiency, and adaptability - especially for smaller emitters and decentralised sources. Acceleration of the development of next-generation CO₂ capture technologies that enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and expand the range of viable capture solutions is needed.

The strategic learning questions listed below define some of the knowledge gaps that need to be addressed to unlock scalable CO₂ transport, storage, and capture solutions. Project applications under this theme must relate directly to one or more of these learning questions.

Projects must fall within TRL (Technology Readiness Levels) 3–8. Activities addressing technologies in the mid-TRL range (approximately TRL 4–7) are expected to be most relevant for this theme.

1.1. Where is the greatest potential for expanding Denmark's CO₂ storage capacity, and how can geological assessments reduce uncertainty about site scalability and maturation?

While ~10 primary storage sites have been identified, their scalability remains uncertain. We invite project applications that contribute to expanding geological storage options, i.e. by assessing additional geological formations, advancing new methods for storage site development, advancing risk assessment, and injectivity modelling to de-risk investments and support long-term storage planning.

1.2. What are the key technical and regulatory requirements for establishing a harmonised and interoperable CO₂ infrastructure in Denmark?

Variations in CO₂ purity affect pipeline integrity and storage performance, creating regulatory challenges. Projects addressing this learning question should work to support a unified CCS and CCU network that ensures interoperability, regulatory alignment, increasing investment certainty.

1.3. What are the key enablers for optimizing CO₂ transport and storage through digital solutions and process integration?

Projects addressing this learning question should develop tools such as AI-driven models and digital twins to optimise CO₂ transport networks, risk assessment, and injection planning. Real-time MRV solutions enhance transparency and safety, ensuring security across the value chain. By combining

predictive analytics and process optimisation, projects enable optimised planning, cost efficiency, and infrastructure resilience.

1.4. How can CO₂ capture processes be optimised to minimise energy consumption and improve efficiency?

CO₂ capture remains energy-intensive and costly, limiting its widespread adoption. This learning question explores advanced heat recovery, system optimisation, and integration with industrial energy streams to reduce energy consumption and operational costs. It also supports the development and maturation of next-generation capture technologies, such as low-energy solvent systems, solid sorbents, membrane-based separation, and cryogenic capture. By improving process efficiency and reducing reliance on chemical-intensive solutions, this initiative ensures a more sustainable and scalable approach to CO₂ capture.

1.5. How can modular and decentralised CO₂ capture systems be designed to enable cost-effective deployment for smaller and mid-size emitters?

Decentralised emitters, such as bioenergy plants and waste incineration facilities, often face economic and logistical barriers to CO₂ capture. Project addressing this learning question should support the innovation and development of modular capture units, allowing flexible, scalable, and cost-efficient solutions for smaller point sources. Supporting technologies and innovations such as advanced process monitoring and digital or AI-driven control systems could be explored to optimise capture performance across diverse industrial settings, ensuring efficient operation and adaptability.

Theme 2: Maturing CDR solutions - scalable and verified nature-based carbon removal

Achieving Denmark's long-term climate targets requires credible and durable negative emissions. Denmark has significant potential to lead in biological and nature-based solutions (NbS) for CO₂ sequestration, a key component of the Danish CCUS Roadmap. This theme is prioritized in this call for its strategic importance in shaping future Danish ecosystems and carbon management strategies. With the Green Tripartite Agreement supporting afforestation, land-use transitions and nature restoration, projects under this theme can directly inform key decisions across these areas while also advancing broader NbS pathways such as biochar, soil carbon, and enhanced weathering.

For this call, focus is on the need to assess reduction potentials and sequestration timespans while also ensuring that nature-based sequestration is scientifically robust, economically viable, and positioned for integration into carbon markets and policy instruments. Projects submitted under this theme must have focus on carbon removal. This is summarised in the three strategic learning questions below.

Projects must fall within TRL 3–8. Activities addressing technologies in the mid-TRL range (approximately TRL 4–8) are expected to be most relevant for this theme.

2.1. How can nature-based carbon storage be optimised to enhance long-term stability and resilience?

To support the optimisation and scaling of NbS-based CO₂ storage, projects should deepen the understanding of biological system dynamics across diverse ecosystems, identifying key drivers of long-term carbon retention. Resilience must be considered beyond climate-related stressors, including land-use pressures, biodiversity interactions, and other systemic risks, to ensure sustainable and scalable carbon storage outcomes.

2.2. How can carbon sequestration in nature-based systems be accurately quantified, monitored, and

verified?

Credibility of nature-based sequestration relies on robust measurement and verification systems. Projects should advance cost-effective, scalable, and reliable approaches for carbon stock assessment, with a focus on standardising verification protocols, improving documentation practices such as remote sensing, and enabling alignment with - or contributing insights relevant to - emerging certification frameworks, including the EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework.

2.3. What management practices and interventions can enhance CO₂ uptake and storage in natural ecosystems?

To maximise carbon uptake, we invite project applications to investigate management strategies including species selection, genetic optimisation, and microbial interventions. Projects could also explore ecosystem-level practices to improve retention and enhance long-term sequestration efficiency across a range of NbS contexts.

Theme 3: Carbon based materials for circular technology innovation (CCU)

As Denmark scales up CCUS, carbon storage in products offers a supplement to geological storage by integrating CO₂ into durable materials, with the dual purpose of ensuring long-term sequestration while reducing reliance on fossil-based carbon. This approach aligns with Denmark's decarbonisation and circular economy goals by enabling negative emissions and supporting CO₂ utilisation in industrial applications. However, significant research and innovation are needed to ensure material stability, process efficiency, and market viability before widespread industry adoption.

The aim of this theme is to advance research in CO₂-based materials, long-term carbon stability, and life cycle assessments (LCA) to close knowledge gaps. It addresses three key strategic learning questions as listed below.

Projects must fall within TRL 3–8. Activities addressing technologies in the mid-TRL range (approximately TRL 4–8) are expected to be most relevant for this theme.

3.1 How can CO₂-based materials be developed and scaled for long-term carbon storage?

Denmark must develop scalable and durable CO₂-derived materials for applications such as concrete, chemicals, polymers, and industrial feedstocks. Project applications addressing this learning question should focus on optimizing CO₂ conversion processes, enhancing biochar applications, and improving synthesis methods to ensure cost-effectiveness and scalability.

3.2 What factors influence CO₂ storage durability in materials, and how can storage conditions be optimised to prevent re-release?

To maximise long-term CO₂ retention, projects must address the key factors that affect storage stability. This includes optimizing material composition, improving carbon stabilisation mechanisms, and developing protective formulations that minimise degradation over time. Addressing these knowledge gaps will provide a scientific foundation for enhancing storage security and ensuring CO₂ remains sequestered under varying conditions.

3.3 How can life cycle assessment (LCA) and circularity models enhance the effectiveness of CO₂ utilisation?

To quantify carbon retention and environmental impact, project applications should develop LCA methods, circularity models and disposal strategies. These efforts will support certification and regulatory compliance, ensuring CO₂-derived materials contribute to net-negative emissions while

optimizing reuse and disposal.

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 institution¹ and one industry partner. In some cases, an industry partner can be replaced by a non-industry partner, for instance public institutions, municipalities or NGO's – if such a partner is more relevant for the implementation or uptake of results and outcomes of the project. Still, attention should be given to engaging all stakeholders relevant to the proposed 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 [Guidelines Innomission 2025](#) 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 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:

- The type of organisation (private company, university, etc.)
- 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 carries out industrial research or experimental development.

Please see the document “*Funding Rates, Cost Categories and State Aid Rules, INNO-CCUS 2026*”, which can be downloaded [here](#), for further explanations, specific maximum funding rates per type of partner and other budgetary rules and restrictions.

¹ Including the Danish GTS-institutes, universities, university colleges, sector research institutes and other independent research-based institutions such as The Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS). See the document “Funding Rates, Cost Categories and State Aid Rules, INNO-CCUS 2026” for details.

5. What are the requirements?

All projects and project proposals must:

- Address one or more of the learning questions listed in the call text.
- Include at least one partner from a knowledge institution and one industry partner. In some cases, an industry partner can be replaced by a non-industry partner, for instance public institutions, municipalities or NGO's – if such a partner is more relevant for the implementation or uptake of results and outcomes of the project.
- Have secured co-financing of at least 25,0% of the total project expenses
- Start at least at TRL 3 and reach a maximum of TRL 8 in the project period (only relevant for projects with a focus on technological development aspects)
- Have a project duration of at least 1 year and start during the second quarter of 2027 (earliest possible start date is March 1 and latest possible start date is June 1)
- End no later than August 31, 2031.
- 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 2025 and the Instructions for INNO-CCUS applicants, pool 5 projects.

6. What must be included in the application?

Applications must be written in English using the INNO-CCUS pool 5 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. Text exceeding this limit will be administratively deleted before the application is sent for assessment.

Only the appendices listed below can be included in the application.

All applications must be submitted by mail to application@inno-ccus.dtu.dk no later than 12:00 noon on June 22, 2026, 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 – Key persons incl. 1-page CVs
5. Appendix C – Partner motivation
6. Appendix D – Gantt chart
7. Appendix E - Budget

Mandatory templates for all application documents can be downloaded [here](#). Any pages exceeding the limit stated for individual appendices will be administratively deleted before the application is sent for assessment.

Please follow the instructions on file format and titles as specified in the document “Instructions for applicants - INNO-CCUS pool 5”.

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 5 projects
- Assessment criteria for INNO-CCUS pool 5 projects
- Instructions for applicants, INNO-CCUS pool 5
- Funding Rates, Cost Categories and State Aid Rules, INNO-CCUS 2026
- Guidelines Innomission, 2025
- INNO-CCUS Impact Framework
- 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: Strategic fit to INNO-CCUS**
- 2: Quality of the idea**
- 3: Impact**
- 4: Quality of execution**

A detailed description of these evaluation criteria is available in the document “Assessment criteria for INNO-CCUS pool 5 projects” to be found [here](#).

The INNO-CCUS Board of Directors will evaluate criterion 1, and international peers will evaluate criteria 2-4.

The assessments by international peers of criteria 2-4 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 online interviews. Project applicants not invited for interview will receive a rejection letter by e-mail.

When selecting projects for funding, the INNO-CCUS Board of Directors 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. A non-exhaustive overview can be seen [here](#). Where relevant, applicants should address potential synergies or complementarities between existing projects and the proposed new project. We here especially note

that 12 new projects under INNO-CCUS will be starting in the first half of 2026 – brief description of these will be available on our website during April to May for ease of reference.

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.

8. 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.