

Call Grand Solutions 2024

Digitalization, technology and innovation (TECH)

Application deadline, phase 1: 24th April 2024 12:00 CET

Project duration: 1-5 years

Total budget for the call: Minimum 149.9 MDKK¹

Innovation Fund Denmark investment per project: From 5 MDKK to 40 MDKK

Maximum Innovation Fond Denmark investment level: 75.0 of the total project budget

1. About the Grand Solutions programme

The Grand Solutions programme invests in ambitious and preferably interdisciplinary research and innovation projects that can create new, specific solutions to important, politically prioritized societal challenges and create value throughout Denmark. To the extent possible, the Grand Solutions programme invests in projects carried out in close collaboration between research institutions and the business community or public customers of solutions, for instance municipalities and regions. Innovation Fund Denmark encourages cross-disciplinary projects in all parts of the value chain – from foundational research (in Danish: grundlagsskabende forskning) to industrial research and experimental development.

Within the Grand Solutions programme, a two-phase application model will be adopted. Phase 1 is a request for a letter of interest and open to all interested applicants, whereas phase 2 is a request for a full application and only open by invitation.

Applicants for phase 1 will be invited to phase 2 if two conditions are met:

- a) Innovation Fund Denmark evaluates their letter of interest from phase 1 as an interesting and relevant proposal.
- b) The number of invited applications will result in an approximate success rate of 30-50% within phase 2

Innovation Fund Denmark distributes the available funds in open competition between projects that demonstrate the greatest positive effect while at the same time contributing to growth and employment in Denmark.

The distribution of the funds for this call originates from the current Finance Act and the agreement on the disposition of the Research Reserve (see links under section 5: Guidelines and inspiration).

Read more about the Grand Solutions programme [here](#).

¹ The Innovation Fund Denmark may at its discretion decide to increase the overall budget for this call, particularly in case of excess funds when faced with a substantial list of qualified applications in this call that cannot be funded within the original budget.

2. Aim of the call

With the Grand Solutions 2024 TECH call, Innovation Fund Denmark will strengthen research and innovation in a number of important areas within digitalization, new technologies and innovation, such as, but not limited to:

- Robot and drone technology
- Production technology
- Automation
- Materials technology
- Particle research
- Semiconductors, micro- and nanochips
- Space-oriented technology
- Cyber and information security
- Big data and artificial intelligence
- Responsible use of digital technology

The call supports projects along the entire value chain – from early-stage foundational research, through applied research, to projects demonstrating digitalization, new technologies and innovation.

Projects originating from research disciplines like social sciences and humanities focusing on topics such as ethical issues, transparency, regulatory aspects and responsible use of digital technology are very relevant in this call and are expected to support that the technology's potential is utilised as best as possible, with minimal risks and threats, and to the benefits of citizens, businesses and the Danish society.

The projects can, among other things, support the development of digital solutions for the benefit of the green transition, health and welfare and Denmark's security. The research can also create new knowledge, for instance about the importance of digitization for people and society, etcetera.

Finally, the aim of the call is to contribute to Denmark, in an intensified international competition for TECH development, being able to retain and attract talent and to improve its international competitiveness. This may take place through active involvement in the projects of organisations that Denmark is a member of, for instance CERN, ESO, EMBL, ESRF, EU-XFEL, ESS etcetera.

Note: For projects with a strong focus on artificial intelligence, please also see the Grand Solutions call on Artificial intelligence (AI).

3. Decision criteria

The three overall decision criteria are:

- Quality of idea – the quality of the research and innovation
- Impact – value creation during and after the project
- Quality of execution – efficiency in the project execution and the implementation of results

Further information about the decision criteria can be found in the Guidelines for Grand Solutions Phase 1 and Guidelines for Grand Solutions Phase 2. Please note that the evaluation criteria differ in the two phases (see link in section 5: Guidelines and inspiration).

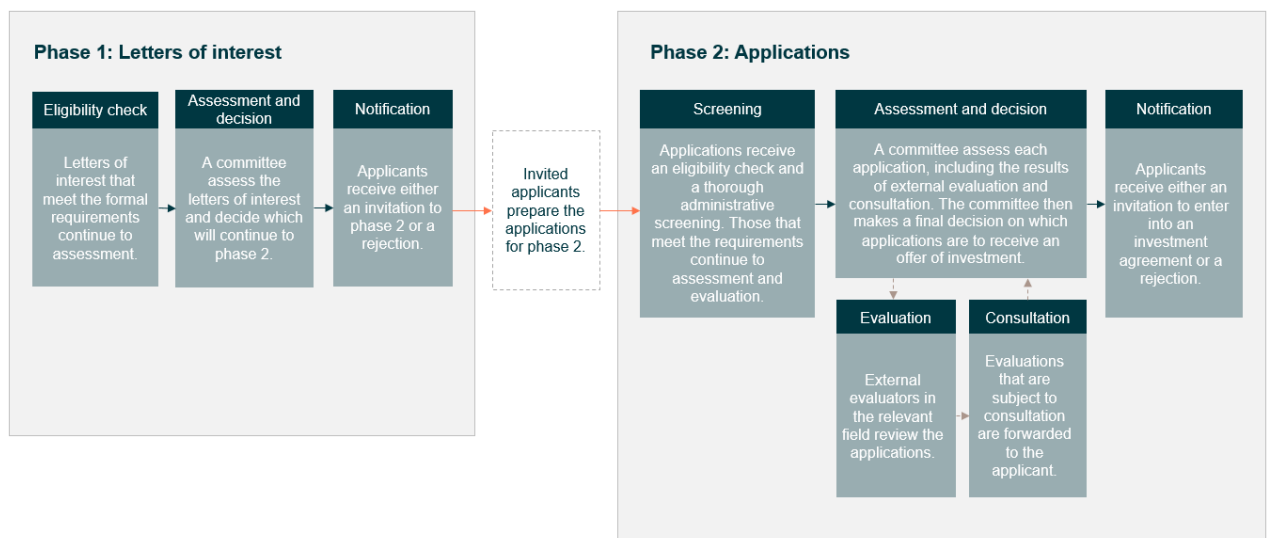
4. Evaluation process

Innovation Fund Denmark has introduced a new application and evaluation model from 2024, involving a two-phase application model and a new governance model for evaluating the received applications.

Phase 1: Letters of interest to Grand Solutions must be submitted via www.e-grant.dk, which is the application portal of Innovation Fund Denmark. The call opens in e-grant on 28th February 2024.

Phase 2: Invited applicants for phase 2 must submit an application via www.e-grant.dk. The call opens in e-grant on 9th July 2024.

The evaluation process is described in detail in the Guidelines for Grand Solution Phase 1 and Guidelines for Grand Solutions Phase 2.



Timeline:

- Deadline for letter of interest for phase 1: 24th April 2024
- Response to the applicants applying for phase 1: no later than 9th July 2024
- Deadline for full applications for phase 2: 18th September 2024
- Response to the invited applicants applying for phase 2: no later than 12th December 2024

Applicants are notified of the decision via www.e-grant.dk. E-grant has prepared a FAQ that can be accessed [here](#).

5. Guidelines and inspiration

Applicants within this Grand Solutions call must take into account the following:

- [Guidelines for Grand Solutions Phase 1](#)
- [Guidelines for Grand Solutions Phase 2](#)

The following can be used as inspiration to the application within the present TECH & AI call:

- [Finance Act 2024](#)
- [Disposition of the Research Reserve 2024 \(in Danish\)](#)
- [UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#)

6. Contact

Innovation Fund Denmark hosts regular webinars and Q&As on Grand Solutions where everyone is welcome to participate. Registration for upcoming webinars and Q&A sessions takes place via Innovation Fund Denmark's website.

Frequently asked questions to Grand Solutions and related answers can be found on Innovation Fund Denmark's website [here](#).

6.1. Contact Information

For questions regarding formalities, Innovation Fund Denmark's Investment Officers may be contacted. In connection to this, please note that Investment Officers or other employees of Innovation Fund Denmark are not allowed to answer specific questions regarding project content or ideas.

The following Investment Officers may be contacted regarding questions to this Grand Solutions call:

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7. About Innovation Fund Denmark

Innovation Fund Denmark accelerates Danish research and innovation to solutions that strengthen Danish society's competitiveness and sustainability. We do this by investing in researchers, companies and entrepreneurs who create value, jobs and solve societal challenges – and by realizing potentials in the innovation system.

Innovation Fund Denmark wants to promote diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, all interested applicants, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender identity, disability status, age or professional areas, et cetera, are encouraged to apply for the fund's programmes.