

Grand Solutions Call 2019

Circular Plastics Economy

Application deadline: 20 August 2019 at 12:00 CET
Grand Solutions: Typical duration 2-5 years
2019 budget: DKK 50 mill.

Innovation Fund Denmark invests in ambitious and targeted strategic research and innovation projects that creates new solutions, technologies and valuable new knowledge.

Innovation Fund Denmark is willing to share the risk with the project partners, when the level of knowledge, value creation, project efficiency and implementation of the results is correspondingly high.

IFD's objective with the call "Circular Plastics Economy" is to invest in knowledge-based projects that lead to increased recycling of plastics, and which at the same time have great potential for value creation for Danish companies and society and contribute towards a more circular economy and green growth. Reference is also made to FORSK2025, which constitutes the basis and guideline for IFD's implementation.

The Danish society and industries generally have a strong green profile and are leaders in many environmental technologies in the export market as well as the Danish market.

Plastics handling and recycling is recognised as a global challenge. Denmark, however, is not yet at the forefront in this area.

The challenge and opportunities for green growth have been highlighted by a number of studies, including IFD's analyses, in the government's action plan and by new EU regulations for recycling plastics, which come into force in 2030.

Objective

IFD wants to invest in prospective research and innovation projects that can help achieve the vision of a circular plastics economy benefitting Denmark and the environment.

With this call, "Circular Plastics Economy", IFD wants to strengthen Denmark's position as a future leading environmental technology nation in the field of plastics recycling and handling by, for example, creating solutions that provide sustainable value for companies and society and at the same time benefitting the environment, wildlife and nature, in addition to reducing the carbon footprint.

Investment Strategy

IFD invests in projects at all stages of the research and innovation value chain and in interdisciplinary solutions, taking into consideration the entire product lifecycle and not only optimising single process steps or operations.

Also, IFD invests in both the good project that lacks the final steps to make it ready for successful introduction to the market or for implementation and in the early strategic research project where targeted efforts and cooperation with the most competent international and/or Danish partners from relevant professional disciplines are crucial.

IFD's investments often do not take a project all the way through the value chain. Therefore, it is crucial that the project partners themselves have the ability to lift the result onto the market or ensure implementation - or have investors who can invest in or take over the project after IFD's investment period.

Investment Areas

Investments are made in all the elements, whole as well as isolated, of the circular plastics economy, with the clear perspective that ultimately, total solutions can be achieved that can function in practice and which can be self-supporting in the long term.

Examples of relevant elements can be chemical technology, unit operations, sorting, transportation and handling, design, production, incentive and business models, consumer behaviour and legislation.

Based on IFD's report, "The New Plastics Economy" (see below), IFD has chosen to prioritise plastic from households as well as construction and industry.

Assessment Criteria

- The overall assessment criteria are:
- Excellence - Quality of research and innovation
- Value creation during and after the project period
- Efficiency of project execution
- Implementation of results

In connection with applications for the Grand Solutions 2019 "Circular Plastics Economy", value creation is to be understood in broad terms as targeted activities that lead to increased growth and employment through e.g. development of new products and services, creation of more and more intelligent jobs, increased productivity, fewer societal costs, reduced resource consumption or environmental impact as well as to solutions to major societal problems.

The partners must account for the specific and preferably quantitative value creation of the project. Value creation should not be understood as just monetary value, but may also be e.g. increased quality of life,

cleaner environment, etc. It is the applicant's responsibility to account for the different types of value creation.

From IFD's side, great emphasis will be the potential of the project to create measurable value for Denmark and the Danish society. The project potential must be significant and result in new solutions or products, e.g. by development and use of new unconventional business models, methods, smart regulations, etc.

Specifically, the applications will be assessed based on the qualities of the project in terms of research and innovation in a global perspective in relation to an articulated or latent need, state-of-the-art, directly competing or closely related scientific or technological solutions, the scalability of the solution, technical, regulatory and market risks, the risk management of the project plan as well as feasibility. In addition, the development rate, the effective use of invested resources, managerial and professional skills and the subsequent effective implementation of the project results nationally and/or globally will be carefully assessed. The value creation of the project will be assessed in relation to the size of the investment.

Likewise, it will be emphasised that the project's beneficiaries/end-users and core stakeholders contribute to the formation of the project, participate in the project or are otherwise directly involved in the project, e.g. through investments.

In addition to the above assessment criteria, reference is made to "Guidelines for Grand Solutions". Allocation of funds will be made on the basis of the 2019 Finance Act.

Selected projects are invited to interviews taking place in October 2019. Applications not invited for interviews and thereby rejected will be notified at the end of September. Final decision on the application is notified at the end of November 2019 with project start in Q1 2020.

Guidance – Links

- [Guidelines for Grand Solutions 2019](#)
- [Guidelines for e-grant](#)
- [National Budget 2019](#)
- [2019 Agreement on Allocation of the Research Reserve as well as other research priorities](#)
- [FORSK2025, including the listed indicators for the allocation of funds](#)
- IFD Investment strategies for [Industry 4.0](#), [ICT and Digitalisation](#), [Energy](#), [Health](#), [Environment](#), [Bioresources](#), [Tourism](#) and [Trade, Services & Society](#)
- [Innovation Fund Denmark 2015 Strategy](#)
- [UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#)
- ["Advisory Board for circular economy Recommendations for the Government", June 2017 \(in Danish\)](#)
- ["Plastics without waste – The Government's plastics action plan", December 2018 \(in Danish\)](#)
- ["The new plastics economy", Innovation Fund Denmark, McKinsey & Company, January 2019](#)
- [A European strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy](#)

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