

# Webinar

## Strategic Defence Initiative 2026–2029

7 May, 2026

# Agenda

10.00 - 10.45: Strategic research and innovation centres

- Purpose
- Framework
- Application process
- Evaluation criteria
- Assessment and decision
- Questions

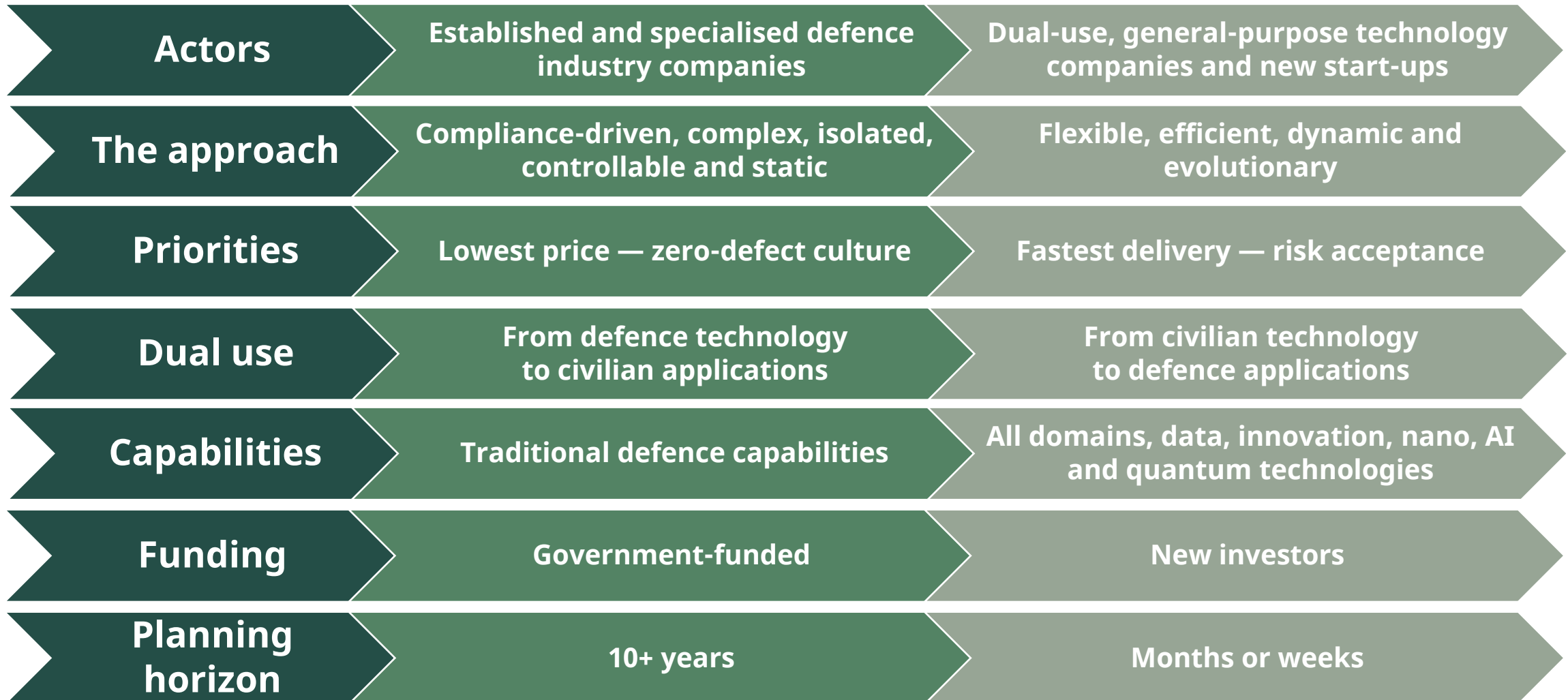
10.45 - 11.00: **BREAK**

11.00 - 11.30: Grand Solutions - Defence technology and innovation

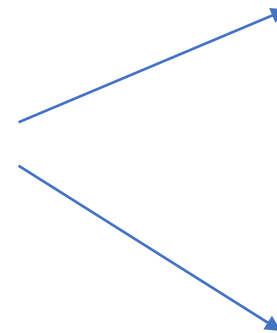
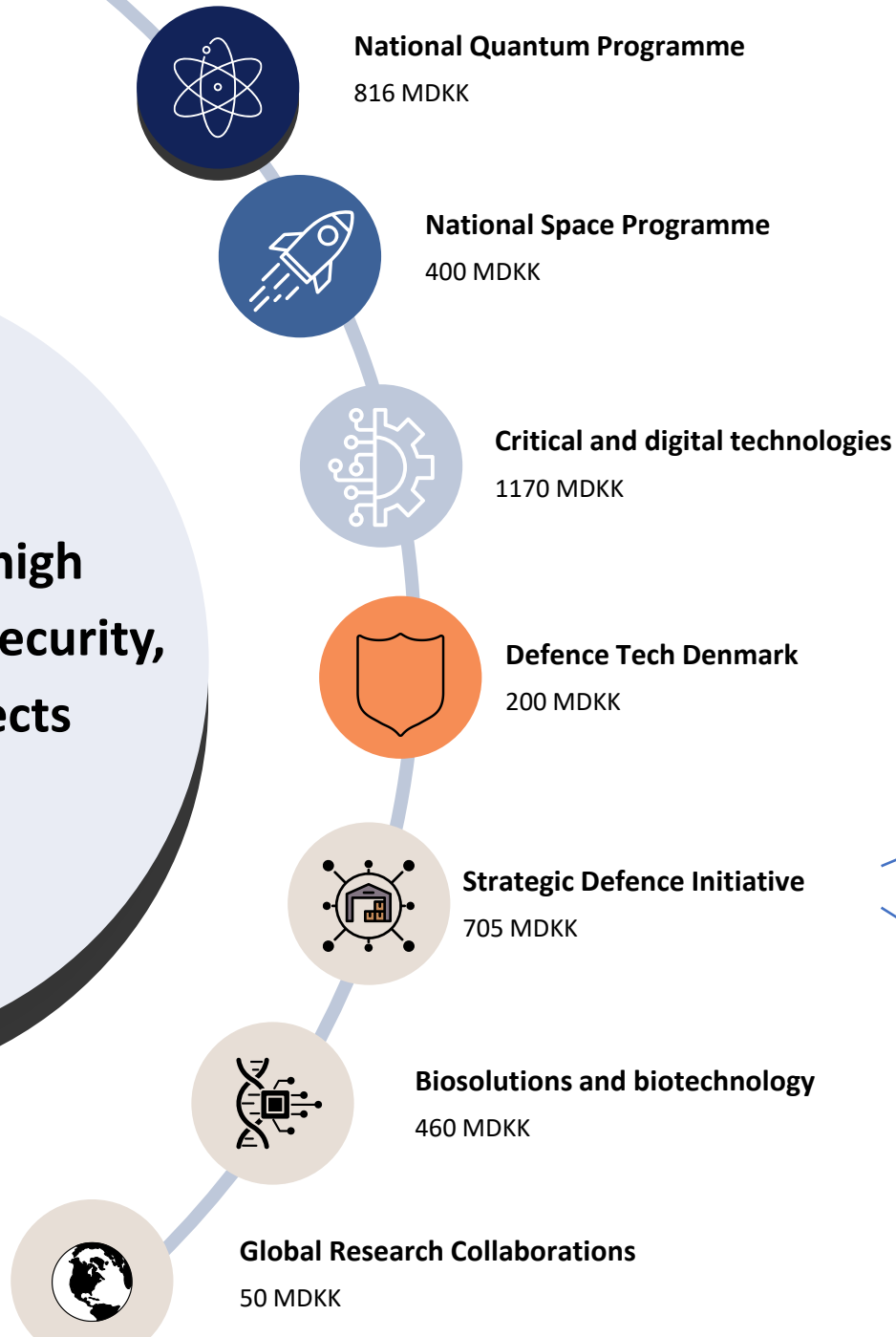
# A paradigm shift in the defence industry

Source: Carsten Hasenfuss, Danish Forsvarsattaché in Sweden

*The overall security policy situation — including the direct threat from Russia and the United States' strategic shift in focus towards the Indo-Pacific and China — has changed the role and operating conditions of the defence industry*



**IFD initiatives with high potential for Defence, security, and resilience projects**



**Up to four strategic research and innovation centres 2026–2029 (585 MDKK)**

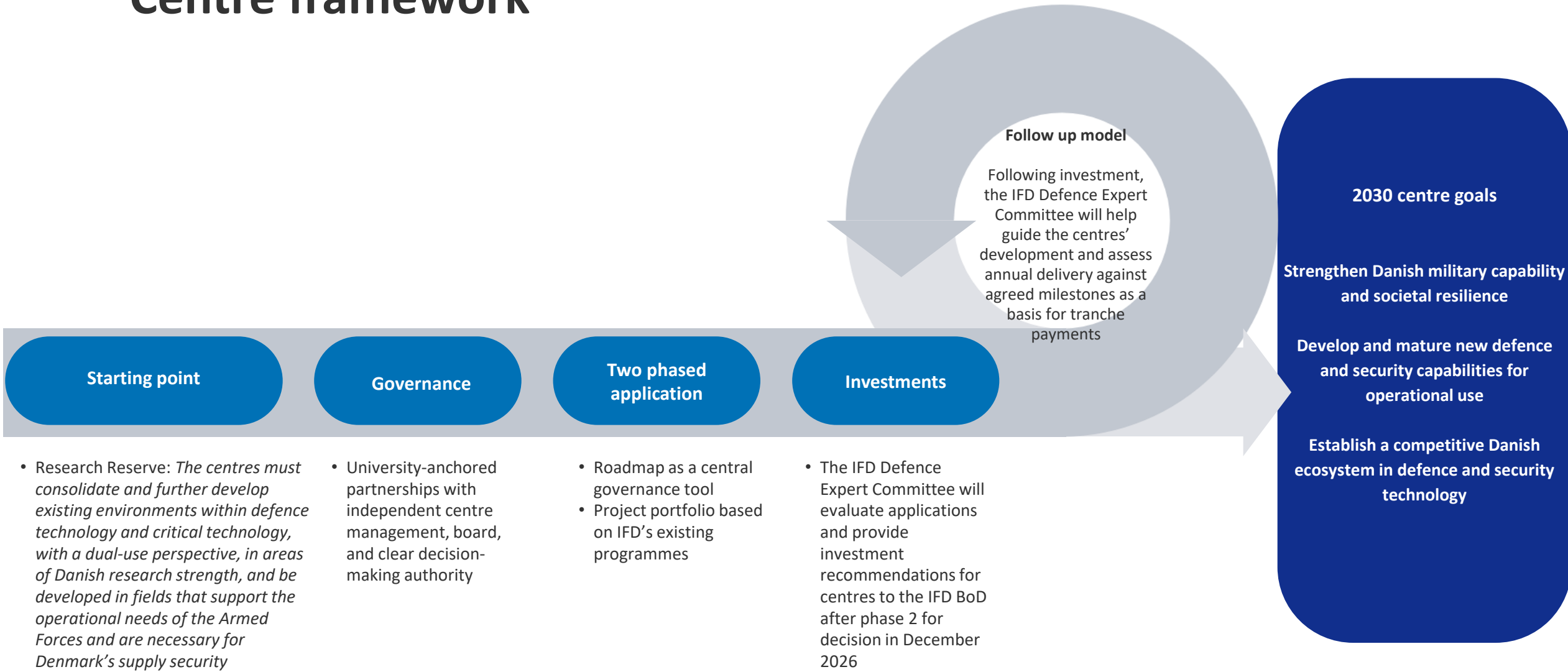
**Grand Solutions defence projects 2026 (105 MDKK)**

## About the centres

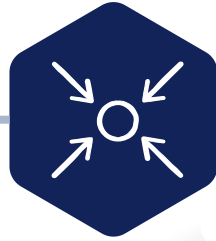
- Based on existing Danish research strengths and focus on areas that both support the operational needs of the Armed Forces and are critical to Danish supply security.
- Broad national partnerships built on a challenge-driven approach, bringing together key stakeholders from research, industry, and public authorities to collaborate on the development of technologies critical to Denmark's defence and security
- Project portfolio based on high TRL-levels (5-9) organised around milestones and tipping points



# Centre framework



## Two linked grant streams



### Center

Establishment, management and operation of a research and innovation centre



### Projects

Development and ongoing prioritisation of research and innovation projects organised within a project portfolio

A single consolidated 4-year grant covers centre structure, facilities, development activities, communication, administration, and management, with annual disbursements

The main applicant (university) is responsible for contracting with IFD, as well as the centre's financial and administrative management, coordination, leadership, and operations in line with the approved roadmap and project portfolio

Each centre will establish a board responsible for overall strategic development, including approval and maintenance of the roadmap and prioritisation of the project portfolio

Portfolio of relevant projects based on IFD's existing programmes. Funds are disbursed to the main applicant on the individual programme

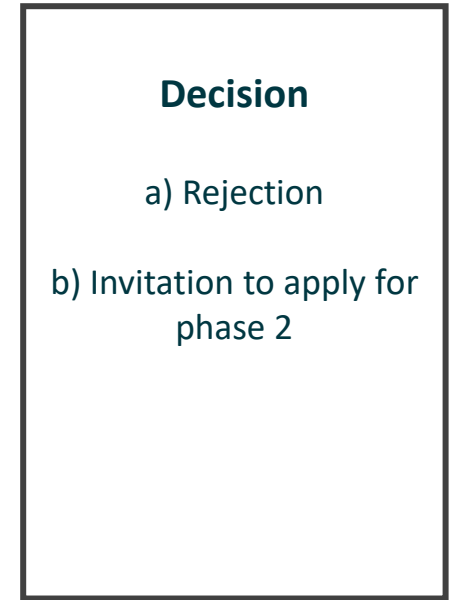
The centre is responsible for the professional evaluation, prioritisation, and follow-up of projects. IFD is responsible for financial controlling, compliance, and state aid management etc.

Funding beyond the first year is reserved as separate pools and disbursed in annual tranches within the centre's proposed programmes, subject to approval by the IFD Defence Expert Committee

# Phase 1 | How it works



Letters of interest  
incl. roadmap are  
received



Call deadline  
30 June 2026

August 2026

# Phase 1 | Evaluation criteria

*To what extent the letter of interest clearly and successfully addresses the following sub-criteria:*

## Quality of idea

- Strengths and ecosystem
- Relevance to operational needs and strategic alignment
- Portfolio logic and mission-driven approach
- Portfolio balance and technological maturity

## Impact

- Overall impact and effect on operational capabilities
- Ecosystem and national capacity
- Industrial development and solutions
- Objectives and long-term effects

## Quality of execution

- Partnership and competencies
- Leadership and governance
- Project portfolio and implementation
- Resources and budget
- Risk and robustness

# Assessment

IFD Defence Expert Committee: 5-10 members



## All committee members:

- possess solid and extensive knowledge and recent experience within one or more specific professional fields related to the theme
- possess a high level of proficiency in English, including with respect to technical terminology within the theme
- able to obtain security clearance

## In addition, the member must meet either all of the following conditions.....:

- have for a number of years been actively engaged in research at a scientific level and be at least at associate professor or senior researcher level, thereby meeting the requirements for a recognised researcher
- in the above capacity, be or have recently been affiliated with a foreign research institution
- represent a country or organisation that can be characterised as an alliance partner to Denmark

## ..... or meet all of the following conditions:

- have substantial experience with the commercialisation and implementation of research results from the private or public sector in Denmark, and preferably also internationally
- be or have recently been employed in the private or public sector within a domain considered to fall under the Theme
- be able to assess the commercial and societal impact of project applications and portfolios, as well as their strategic relevance for Denmark

# Timeline

	Date
Call opened in e-grant	1 May
Application deadline Phase 1	30 June
Response to applicants	Mid August
Expected start of Phase 2	Mid September
Expected deadline of Phase 2 applicants	Early November
Response to applicants	Mid December



# Important remarks

- Investment rates vary, consult guidelines
- Phase 2 is only open by invitation
- Official call text and guidelines remain the authoritative basis for applications
- Innovation Fund Denmark cannot pre-assess specific centre ideas, consortia or applications during this webinar

## Contact information:

Klaus Bruun Gunnestrup: [klaus.bruun.gunnestrup@innofond.dk](mailto:klaus.bruun.gunnestrup@innofond.dk)

Mette Toft Bangsø: [mette.toft.bangsoe@innofond.dk](mailto:mette.toft.bangsoe@innofond.dk)

# Questions from the audience

