

RESEARCH CALLS 2018

Before applying to calls 2018-R or 2018-C, please carefully read the following three documents:

- **Research Calls 2018 (this document)**
- **Specific instructions for each call**
- **Technical Guide 2018-RC**

OPEN RESEARCH CALLS

This year, the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB) has three open research calls:

- 2018-N** Open call to apply for **long-term** funding and **SNSB commitments** for participation in **international space missions**.
- 2018-R** Open call to apply for **short-term research projects** (maximum 3 years) and support to **PhD positions** (4 years).
- 2018-C** Open call to apply for **career support** in the form of a dedicated grant for the salary of a young researcher.

You may submit proposals in response to Call 2018-R and Call 2018-C with overlapping science goals and overlapping salary requests.

No BR call for the balloon and rocket programme is planned for 2018.

TARGETED CALLS

The following targeted calls concern continuation of running activities and are available only on invitation by SNSB:

- 2018-S** Continuation of support to space projects for which SNSB has already made a long-term commitment.
- 2018-X** Swedish operations and support of ESA space missions that are extended beyond the nominal phase

SNSB AS A RESEARCH FUNDING AGENCY

The task of the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB) as research funding agency is to provide means for high quality, internationally competitive space research (incl. Earth Observation) in Sweden. The projects supported by SNSB may concern observations and experiments in space, analysis of data obtained from space missions, the development of instruments and analytical tools for scientific use in space, participation in the scientific and technical operations of projects in space and preparation of such projects. SNSB has special responsibility to support research projects taking advantage of the possibilities that derive from Sweden's national and international space ventures.

The support to research has in the past addressed a breadth of thematic areas, including:

- Astrobiology
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Atmospheric Sciences
- Earth Observation
- Fundamental Physics
- Life and Physical Sciences using space environment (e.g. microgravity, radiation)
- Space Physics, Solar System Physics
- Technology Research in preparation of space research missions

However, please note that the open calls are not limited to these areas.

Type and extent of support

The research grants provide traditional research support, with funding at the disposal of a university entity or research institute ("förvaltande organ") during the period of contract, in accordance with a standard contract from SNSB. The grant is intended for carrying out research according to the project plan in the application and is normally intended for salaries, instruments, purchased services, etc.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Principal applicant

The principal applicant is required to be, or be eligible to become, affiliated to a Swedish University or research establishment in Sweden where the project work is to be carried out.

SNSB will not consider proposals whose applicants have outstanding final reports or economic contract reports from previous grants.

Research contracts are issued only to researchers who have a PhD degree. Applicants who do not have a PhD but expect to receive it shortly may nevertheless submit a research proposal. In this case SNSB must receive no later than October 1 a copy of the PhD certificate or a written confirmation from the head of department/institute that the principal applicant has applied for the PhD degree. Lacking such confirmation, the application will not be further considered.

A research grant is normally contracted to a research leader who is younger than 67 years. If the principal applicant will reach this age during the proposed project duration, then the application should contain a plan for the future transfer of leadership of the project to a younger person. If a university department or institute wishes to receive funding for research leaders above the above limits, then the case must be clearly stated, e.g. in a letter from the head of department.

By signing a research application, the principal applicant certifies that all co-applicants stand behind the application.

Co-applicants

For projects involving close collaboration with other research groups, it is possible to include in the application co-applicants with a different affiliation than the principal applicant, including affiliations outside Sweden. However, the sought funding must normally concern activities and costs in Sweden. If funding is sought for work and activities outside Sweden or if support is sought for persons affiliated outside Sweden, this must be clearly specified and justified in Enclosure 2 of the application.

Gender aspects

The number of female researchers using space-based platforms is still rather small in Sweden. SNSB therefore encourages the scientific community to contribute towards more women becoming willing and able to commit themselves to successful research projects. Without waiving quality requirements, SNSB will consider gender as one of several boundary conditions when evaluating applications within open calls.

LANGUAGE

The applications can be written in **Swedish** or **English**. However, many members of the SNSB advisory committees do not understand Swedish and most external expert reviewers are drawn from the international research community. Thus, SNSB may need to have proposals received in Swedish translated to English. Applicants are advised to carefully consider using English in the application in order to make sure that their intents are conveyed without a translational interface.

However, please note that the title and summary of the proposed project should be supplied in both languages (see Form C).

MODULES

A proposal may be divided into 1-3 modules. Form B and Forms F1-F4 are prepared for this, and if you use more than one module than please make sure that this is reflected in a corresponding sub-sectioning of Enclosure 1. There are two main reasons for using more than one module, as explained in the following two sections.

Collaboration between research groups

If the proposed work is to be conducted in collaboration between research groups at two or three departments/institutes in Sweden, it is possible to include the total research programme as a single research application. The forms are prepared for up to three modules, which can be carried out at different places. In this case, the principal applicant submits a full digital and paper proposal. For each secondary location the local project leader (co-applicant) submits a paper version of Forms A and B of the same proposal with original signatures of the local project leader and local head of department/institute.

Semi-independent blocks

A research project to be carried out at a single site may also be divided into two or three modules, if it naturally divides into semi-independent blocks. These may correspond to different levels of ambition, different phases of a programme, or activities of different types. Such modules must be presented in Enclosure 1 as components of a single structured proposal. If the parts are more independent and different in character, then submission of more than one proposal is favoured. As general rule, if you believe all modules ought to be evaluated by the same set of international experts, then include them in a single proposal. If they can be assessed independently and peer reviewed by different sets of experts, then submit separate research applications instead.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON INFORMATION REQUESTED ON FORMS

Abstract

Each project is to have an abstract of 100-250 words giving a brief and clear description of the research proposed. The abstract must be included on Form C, but may also be repeated as part of Enclosure 1, if appropriate.

Suggestions on evaluators

To broaden the basis of SNSB's scientific peer review process, applications should generally include names and contact information for three international experts on the subject of the proposal (Form B). The three experts should be free from conflict of interest with respect to the applicants and their research groups. The three experts must not all have the same gender. Please, do not repeat the same set of proposed names every year.

Other funding sources

It is mandatory to include on Form D information on all grants awarded to the applicant and his/her research group, as well as all funding requests submitted by the applicant/research group to other funding agencies (informative titles of projects required). It is also mandatory to specify in the application forms the degree and the manner in which the activities of the applicant will be supported by the home institution and/or other funding agencies.

Additional support required

If there are foreseen additional costs of the project in addition to the sought amounts, then tick the appropriate box on Form A. In Enclosure 2, describe all additional support required to accomplish the proposed project, e.g. management support, industrial work, and cost items that cannot be estimated at this point in time.

ENCLOSURES

In addition to the forms, a proposal must contain a set of enclosures. For details, see the instructions for the individual call. Please note that a cover page is available for each enclosure, and that these contain detailed instructions for that enclosure.

SUPPORT TO SALARIES

A significant portion of the research funding that SNSB allocates is used for salaries. SNSB is in no case an employer or responsible for the staff of the research projects. Instead, SNSB grants can be used by the administration entity (“bidragsförvaltande organ”), e.g. a university, for salaries and associated social fees for its staff. The employment rules of the administration entity apply to the involved staff. SNSB grants may also be used to hire external consultants with appropriate expertise for the research project.

Staff costs

In the following steps to seek funding of staff, please be aware that some of the early steps have automatic numerical consequences on Forms F1-F4:

1. Specify the appropriate percentage(s) for indirect costs of staff on Form B.
2. Explain the basis for estimating future salaries in the box at the bottom of Form E (for example a yearly percentage increase).
3. Fill in the upper part of the table in Form E.
 - a. If employment of a new unspecified person is intended, then put “NN” as name and skip unknown items.
 - b. Specify the social fees (“arbetsgivar- och premieavgift”) prescribed at the administration entity (percentage).
 - c. Fill in monthly salaries for all relevant years (this is the only place in the forms where the unit is kr)
4. On Forms F1-F4, fill in the number of months and the fraction of time to be spent on the research project for each person.
5. In Enclosure 2, specify clearly the role and responsibility of each person proposed to work on the project. It is important to justify the need for the proposed staff.
6. Enclose CV’s to the extent required by the cover sheet of Enclosure 4.

External consultants

Most calls (2018-C is an exception) allow you to seek funding for hiring consultants. The reasons for this and the role of the consultant in the proposed project must be clearly specified in Enclosure 2. On Forms F1-F4, you can enter the associated costs either on the last row under “Staff costs” or further down under services, depending on the local rules for indirect costs.

AFTER SUBMISSION

Applications written in accordance with all three instruction documents will be examined by the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) of SNSB, often supplemented by external expert reviewers.

Decisions and contracts

In general, calls with deadlines before mid-April (the open N call and most targeted calls) are normally assessed by SAC at its meeting in May-June. SNSB grant decisions may follow soon after, or may come later in the calendar year.

For calls with deadline after mid-April (the open R and C calls) the final recommendation by SAC can be expected in November, usually followed by an SNSB decision within a few days.

All applicants of open calls can expect feed-back on their proposals by the end of the year. Successful applicants will also receive a contract for signatures by the same time-frame.

Open Access to optimize impact of research

SNSB adheres to the basic principle that results and data stemming from publically funded research must be made available on line to other researchers and the general public free of charge without unnecessary time delay. Objectives are to ensure that other scientists will be able to use data in future for other projects and more scientific value of investments as an evident part of the knowledge society.

Publication of results

Researchers supported, partly or fully, from research grants from SNSB shall make all reasonable efforts to make sure the results are published in esteemed international journals. The publications must acknowledge support from the Swedish National Space Board (SNSB). Results of original research must be made freely available on line for reading and downloading within 6 months from original publication. A copy of publications with associated metadata standards must be placed in a repository within 6 months from original publication.

Data Policy

A data management plan is required for projects where new raw data collection constitutes a major component.

Routines for reporting

Yearly Statements, Final Report and Economic Accounts are to be delivered in accordance with specifications in the contract.