

Q&A Proof of Concept 2023 call

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I have used SciLifeLab infrastructure, I am eligible for this grant?

No, being one of the 4 000 projects that SciLifeLab infrastructure processes annually does not guarantee eligibility.

If there is an international team, e.g. Sweden-US, would that result in a lower score due to the international nature?

Not per se, however, the link and the benefit to Sweden shall be clear.

Can an individual researcher from outside Sweden apply?

Eligible to apply are scientists that are employed at a Swedish

Is it OK if a co-applicant, i.e. not the main PI/applicant, lacks grants from a Wallenberg Foundation or a relevant SciLifeLab connection?

Yes, this is OK. The main applicant must full-fill the eligibility criteria's, co-applicants need not to.

We are a constellation of 3 people applying for the project. Shall the other 2 participants be listed as co-applicants in the online submission form? If yes, should their CV be attached and where?

Yes, include the other two persons as co-applicants. Include their CV in a combined single pdf file. PI should be the main applicant, i.e. not post-doc or assistant.

How important is the track record of the applicant vs the project proposal?

The focus is on the innovation and not on the academic track record of the applying scientist. You just need to be able to describe a credible science-based innovation. New entrepreneurs are most welcome to apply, so entrepreneurial experience is not required.

Can we submit a proposal around a product which was already supported by an ERC proof of-concept grant?

Yes, you can apply even though you already have an ERC PoC grant but the differences should be clear and distinguished.

Is it an advantage to have funding from other sources, e.g. VR?

Funding from additional sources is not part of the evaluation process, however, it is important to clarify how the PoC grant contribute compared to other funding streams.

What TRL stage should the project address?

Project at TRL stage of 2-4, i.e. they should not be too early.

Will submitted applications be public documents like in VR?

No. The applications will be handled by KAW and will not be public documents. Applications will be protected by confidentiality. The reviewers will have to sign a confidentiality agreement before receiving the applications.

Will SciLifeLab and KAW provide template confidentiality agreements?

SciLifeLab and KAW will not provide confidentiality agreements. Contact your local innovation office for support: <https://www.scilifelab.se/innovation-coaching/>

How can I identify an external partner who can verify the potential commercial value of the product?

Contact your local innovation support office for guidance: <https://www.scilifelab.se/innovation-coaching/>. SciLifeLab and KAW do not provide matchmaking in this regard. It is important to define the value beyond academia. Take care not to disclose confidential information.

Regarding external party validation, does that not interfere with potential IP and patent protection?

It is important to learn how to explain the uniqueness without disclosing confidential details. Contact your local innovation offices to get support, guidance and templates for agreements: <https://www.scilifelab.se/innovation-coaching/>

What IP form is expected for a technology implemented in a software?

You should describe this in the very same way as any innovation, including the market, unique positioning and opportunity of your product, the IP etc. Usually IP is the code itself, so indicate how the software was developed, means of protection and who owns it.

Can the PoC funding be used to fund application for IP protection/patent application.

No, the grant cannot finance IP protection/patent applications.

Could you please specify in detail how the grant may be used (salary, new team member, reagents, equipment, local cost, overhead, travel costs, and software licences) and therefore what can be included in the budget?

KAW allows for 20% of granted amount to be used for indirect costs and rent. Yes, you can use the grant for what is mentioned above, however, if you use the grant for salary, it must be in line with the rules and regulations at your university.

Will this grant be coordinated with support from the innovation offices?

No. Individual applications will not be coordinated with the innovation offices; however, the innovation offices have been alerted about this grant program and they will provide support to applicants when possible. We encourage the applicants to contact the local innovation office.

KAW will not notify the innovation offices of the approved or declined applications. Awarded scientists are free to notify their innovation offices.

Can an academic researcher apply if the IP already has been transferred to a startup company?

No. An academic researcher can apply, however, not for the IP that has been transferred to the startup company. She/he can apply for a project generating new IP.

Can an academic lab apply even if a spin-off company around the proposed product has been created recently even though the final product is not fully defined/validated/commercialized?

The academic lab can apply even though they have a company, however there should be a clear scientific question. The grant is purely academic so there needs to be a distinguished line between the academic work that is connected to the project in the application, and the ongoing work in the company.

If a researcher is already involved in a start-up, can he/she still participate with an early phase project if this will be conducted in their labs?

Yes. The grant is purely academic, however, a researcher already involved in a start-up can still apply. In this case, the researcher should clearly state the scientific question and the link to academia.

If a start-up company have the methodology, can the PoC be used for a case-study developing a product using this methodology?

The grant should not overlap with something that is clearly product development in a company setting. It is important to describe both the content and the context of the PoC and if there is already commercial activity associated with the innovation.

What is the composition of the evaluation committee?

The Evaluation committee has been selected within the SciLifeLab and KAW community. No international or industry representatives have been selected. All reviewers must sign a confidentiality agreement.

What happens during the coaching step?

During the coaching step, the WALP team at KAW will discuss the suggested actions and budget and support the framing of the idea, in order to create the best case for the

pitch session and the final WALP selection. Not all projects entering the coaching process necessarily get funded.

Is it OK to use the funds for engaging services or recruiting staff in a different European country?

The grant should not be a means to recruit staff to the lab. Moreover, the connection and benefit for Sweden shall be clearly explained.

You mentioned before the possibility to hire consultants. But if the grant does not cover innovation analysis, they will not cover a regulation expert, correct?

Correct. The grant does not cover innovation analysis. However, it can cover salary for regulation experts if the experts are procured (upphandlade) by your university.