

Call for project funding in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

The Excellence Initiative Nano (EI Nano) welcomes applications for short-term projects, with deadline **31 August 2022**, which involve three categories:

- High impact, high risk research
- Industrial collaborations
- Instrument building

Granted projects can receive a maximum amount of 750 kSEK from the EI Nano and funds must be spent during the calendar year 2023. Only one project application can be submitted per researcher as the main applicant, and the **main applicant is required to be a Nano PI** (listed on our webpage). This constraint does not extend to co-applicants. However, funding has to stay at Chalmers and granted projects should always benefit the Chalmers Nano area. Further explanations of the three bullet points above are given below.

Explanations of categories above

High impact, high risk projects are exploratory activities that aim at launching new research activities in the Nanoscience and Nanotechnology area which, if successful, have large potential but that are associated with a great deal of uncertainty. We encourage but do not require *interdepartmental collaborations* that are carried out by researchers from at least two different departments at Chalmers and where cross-disciplinarity is a key ingredient of the project. A second aspect that we encourage are *cross-generational collaborations*, involving both junior and senior researchers (for example new collaborations between an Assistant Professors and an established Professor).

Industrial collaborations are joint projects between at least one Chalmers group and an industrial or research institute partner. The project should establish a new contact with industry and should have a clear research component. The industrial partner or institute has to provide at least 25% of the total project funding. In kind contributions from the industry partner are accepted. A letter of intent from the external party clearly stating its role in the project and its financial commitment, as well as a description of the partner environment, are required.

Instrument building projects support building of new or modification of existing research instruments in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology that will provide a competitive edge in one or several active fields of the EI Nano and that is not a simple assembly of off-the-shelf components. The application should provide details about and targeted performance of the planned instrument, new research activities enabled by the instrument and the foreseen user group. The application should also give an overview of similar or related instruments at Chalmers, in Sweden, or available commercially.

Please note that the instrument grants can only be used for salary costs or minor expenses that appear as a consequence of the construction of a new instrument or modification of existing one. We ask the applicant to create a budget that in a rigorous way explains how possible depreciation of the instrument will be covered beyond the support from EI Nano during 2023 (and encourage the applicant to contact the division/department economy office or equal for this matter). Please submit this budget as an appendix together with the application (appendix pages don't count in the total number of pages for the proposal).

All types of applications must describe

- Goals, methods, and expected outcomes of the project highlighting the novelty of the proposed research and the potential impact.
- How the project strengthens the EI Nano.
- Involved personnel and their roles. Funds are neither allowed to be used for scholarships nor to hire new graduate students.
- Budget, including support from other sources. As mentioned above, the funding cannot be used for depreciation costs extending over the funding period (2023).

An application *not exceeding three pages* must be submitted as a PDF document by e-mail to michael.eriksson@chalmers.se, by August 31, 2022. Incomplete applications cannot be considered for funding. Please write "EI Nano short-term proposal" in the subject line of the e-mail. If you have any questions, please contact us via nano@chalmers.se.

The budgeted funding for this call is approximately 3.5 MSEK. Each project application will be evaluated by at least two internal evaluators and the ranking of the projects will be made by the steering group based on these evaluations. The funding decisions will be made by the end of September 2022. Please note that we are not able to send out any feedback to your applications.

The main applicants of the granted proposals are expected to present their project work during one of the EI Nano events, such as the yearly community building activity, and we welcome if they are available for future reviewing of this funding scheme.

We are looking forward to receiving your research proposals!

Janine Splettstösser and Christoph Langhammer

NB: Upon receipt of your application, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you have not received the e-mail within 48 hours, please contact nano@chalmers.se without delay.