



Navigating energy funding opportunities for Q1+Q2 2025

A White Paper by 1st Mile

Some grants awarded in December '24 to applications written by 1st Mile



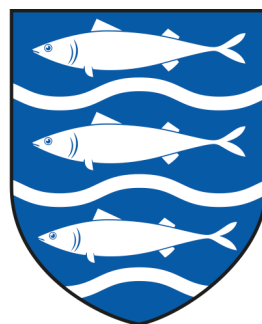
DKK 10m

KiteX

Program: EUDP

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU Wind



DKK 35m

Aabenraa Kommune

Program: Fonden for Retfærdig
Omstilling

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU Wind, DTU Sustain,
ARWOS, EUC Syd, Port of
Aabenraa, European Energy,
Aabenraa Fjernvarme



DKK 16m

DTU/Bollfilter

Program: Innovation Fund Grand
Solutions

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU Sustain, Plug
Power, Biofuel Technology,
Green2x

With hundreds of opportunities, finding the way through the jungle of funding for energy projects is difficult and time-consuming.

1st Mile has simplified the process by doing the heavy lifting – filtering and analyzing the opportunities for the next half year – and collected the curated information in this white paper.

This is a living document. Refer to www.1stmile.dk for the latest version.

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About this document

The green transition is on the top of both Danish and European political agendas. Research, development and demonstration are prerequisites to bring new, green technologies to the market at competitive costs.

Thus, **there is an abundance of government grants available** for research and for bringing down technological and financial risks for companies that aim to bring new innovations to the market.

However, **it is very complicated to navigate** between the different options, and not least **to evaluate how your project fits to the different programs** and estimate your chances for getting a grant.

The first half year of 2025 has **exceptionally many calls and deadlines for green energy**. 1st Mile has read through them all, and in this white paper we have collected an **overview** to guide potential applications towards the right program or programs.

We have selected the most relevant calls and present an overview of them, but before you decide on applying, reach out for an evaluation of your particular project to a given program at soren@1stmile.dk or +45 40446714

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Overview of funding programs

Summary of available programs, criteria, and deadlines, divided by funding category

What are you searching for?

Funding opportunities are grouped into 3 categories to help identify the best match for your project. Each category serves specific purposes.



1. Project grants

These grants support work hours plus expenses for equipment and materials, typically for pilot or demonstration plants.

Examples include EUDP, MUDP, Horizon Europe, and the Danish Innovation Fund Grand Solutions.



2. Equity grants

These “grants” provides equity in exchange for ownership shares and are thus comparable to capital from investors.

Examples include EIC Accelerator, which has a mix of significant project grant and an attractive equity as its hallmark, and STEP.



3. CAPEX grants

This type of grant helps bring down the financial exposure for first-of-a-kind plants and processes by financing a percentage of the CAPEX.

Examples include EU Innovation Fund and the Danish “Investeringsordningen til Grøn Industriproduktion”.

Funding category 1: Project grants

For research, development, and demonstration projects



These grants support **work hours** plus **expenses for equipment and materials**, typically for pilot or demonstration plants.

Project grants are the most common form for support for **research, development, and demonstration** and proposals are almost always **collaborations between partners**. We recommend enough partners to ensure a solid skills and competence base, but no more than can be efficiently managed in both the proposal and execution phases. Most of our projects have 2 to 6 partners.

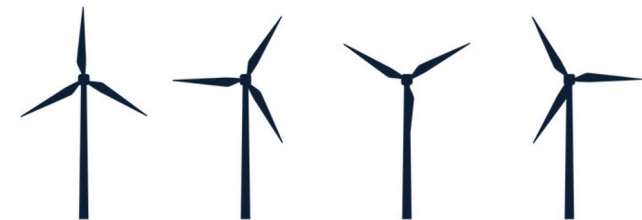
Watch out for a good match with your maturity level and the program and study the Technological Readiness Level ([link](#)) a funding program targets. Also make sure that you apply for grant sizes that fit with the program – and be aware that the ambitions of the project must match the requested grant size.

Read the manual. Make sure you are inside the scope before committing to the work involved in submitting the application.

EUDP

Energy Technology Development and Demonstration Program

- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the EUDP program if you:
 - Are aiming to develop and demonstrate **energy technology**
 - Have or seek a great partnership with 2-6 partners
 - Look for a grant of **5-50 million DKK**
 - **TRL: 4-8**
 - Can start the grant writing process in December or January
- Application process
 - Application (deadline: March 3rd)
 - Addressing the evaluators' feedback (usually 6 weeks after the deadline)



Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply (HORIZON-CL5-2024)

Call under Horizon Europe (1)

- Consider Horizon Europe if you:
 - Are involved in research and innovation projects addressing global challenges, including energy
 - Have or seek a **collaborative project** with multiple partners across EU member states
 - Are looking for substantial funding opportunities with varying grant amounts
 - Can start the grant writing process in January
- Deadline: **February 4th, 2025**
- Relevant calls are presented in the next page



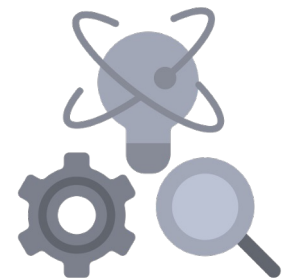
Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply (HORIZON-CL5-2024)

Call under Horizon Europe (2)

Calls on CCUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DACCS and BECCS for CO2 removal/negative emissions. Link• CCU for the production of fuels. Link
Call on ocean energy systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical technologies for the future ocean energy farms. Link
Calls on renewable fuels/energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of next generation synthetic renewable fuel technologies. Link• Market Uptake Measures of renewable energy systems. Link• Support to the activities of the SET Plan Key Action area Renewable fuels and bioenergy. Link
Calls on wind	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minimisation of environmental, and optimisation of socio-economic impacts in the deployment, operation and decommissioning of offshore wind farms. Link• Demonstrations of innovative floating wind concepts. Link
Calls on solar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Efficiency of PV in Production, Use and Disposal. Link• PV-integrated electric mobility applications. Link• Innovative, Community-Integrated PV systems. Link• Digital tools for CSP and solar thermal plants. Link
Call on biofuels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of smart concepts of integrated energy driven bio-refineries for co-production of advanced biofuels, bio-chemicals and biomaterials. Link

Innovation Fund Denmark – Grand Solutions

- Calls can be found [here](#)
- Consider Grand Solutions if you:
 - Are engaged in ambitious research and innovation projects with high potential impact
 - Are seeking significant funding (target grants should be DKK 10-40m)
- Application process:
 - Letter of interest (deadline: 19th March 2025)
 - Application (deadline: 19th August 2025)
- 2025 call for green solutions: see next slide



Innovation Fund Denmark – Grand Solutions

Call	Aim of the call
<u>Space technology</u>	Up to 90% funding for low TRL projects in areas like space-based green solutions, quantum communication, security, and AI-driven space data use. Projects must include an industrial partner and state aid rules are applicable.
<u>Quantum technologies</u>	Quantum projects from research to demonstration, with 90% support. E.g. exploring new quantum phenomena, developing quantum-based technologies, or addressing barriers. Collaboration is required, but industrial partners are optional. Projects must show long-term potential.
<u>Critical and digital technologies</u>	Funding to enhance national security, competitiveness, and welfare. Focus areas: semiconductors, robotics, materials, particle research, AI, cyber security, digital inclusion. Projects promoting collaboration with international research organizations, and addressing data ethics are prioritized.
<u>Biotechnology and biosolutions</u>	Funding to promote sustainable solutions and EU competitiveness. Many focus areas, including: bio-based production, alternative proteins, biorefining, enzymes, climate-resilient crops, bioenergy, biostimulants, CO ₂ reduction, advanced medical technologies, and more.
<u>Green research, technology and innovation</u>	Call in two parts. Part A, «Green Research, Technology, and Innovation» (109M DKK) is focused on 7 themes - energy, energy efficiency, agriculture, transport, environment, biodiversity, and sustainable behavior. Projects should address climate, biodiversity, and circular economy, with interdisciplinary approaches encouraged. Part B, «Energy Systems Research» (30M DKK) is focused on sector coupling, renewable energy integration, and cross-border energy systems, including hybrid projects like energy islands. Applicants can apply to either part, with flexibility to consider applications across both.
<u>Life science, health, and welfare technology</u>	Focus areas: include new drugs, digital health, AI-driven medical equipment, welfare technology, and mental health solutions. Collaboration between research and industry is encouraged, with research adhering to ethical guidelines.

MUDP

Environmental Technology Development and Demonstration Program



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider MUDP if you:
 - Are developing innovative technologies addressing environmental, climate, or nature challenges
 - Focus areas on water management, circular economy, biodiversity, or reducing hazardous substances
 - **TRL: 4-8**
 - Are seeking funding for development, testing, or demonstration of environmental solutions
- Grant amounts up to **DKK 5-10 million**
- Deadlines: Development and demonstration projects April 9th, 2025; lighthouse projects August 27th, 2025

Funding category 2: Equity grants

Equity-based funding for scaling up



These grants are designed to contribute to the equity of a company. In contrast to project grants **they fund the company (not a project) and are giving in exchange for ownership in the company**. Thus, they are comparable to any other type of equity investment in a company, but with the significant difference that the funding program is never the lead investor.

An equity grant therefore adds further capital to a funding round that is driven and lead by other investors, typically with specific domain knowledge.

As equity grants provides capital to the business, a full **growth plan and business strategy** for the company are required, exactly as when a venture fund or other investors are approached.

There are no Danish equity grants available, but the EIC Accelerator and the EIC STEP programs provide up to €10m and €10-30m respectively in equity. They can only cover a maximum of 50% of a funding round, so significant funds can be raised using these programs.

In many ways these programs have smoother processes and are more predictable than when working with traditional VCs, so they are worth pursuing for particularly scale-ups.

EIC Accelerator



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the EIC Accelerator program if you:
 - Are a start-up or SME with a game-changing product, service, or business model
 - TRL: 5+
 - Have the ambition and commitment to **scale up**
 - Are seeking substantial funding, with **grants up to €2.5 million and equity investments up to €10 million**
- Can be Open or one of the Challenges
 - Energy-related challenge 2025: "Waste-to-value devices: Circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals and materials"
- Application in 3 phases: short proposal, full proposal (deadlines: March 12th, October 1st), interview

EIC STEP Scale Up



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the EIC Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Scale Up Scheme if you:
 - Own a single startups, SMEs, small mid-caps, or are an investors on behalf of eligible companies
 - Are seeking major Investments, up to **EUR 10-30 million**
 - Work with digital and deep tech, green technologies, or biotechnologies
 - Can benefit from access to business acceleration services
- Process:
 - Applications are reviewed on a **continuous** basis, 4-6 weeks
 - EIC Jury Interview for selected candidates
 - Results communicated 2 weeks after the interview

Funding category 3: CAPEX grants

Funding for first-of-a-kind plants and new technologies



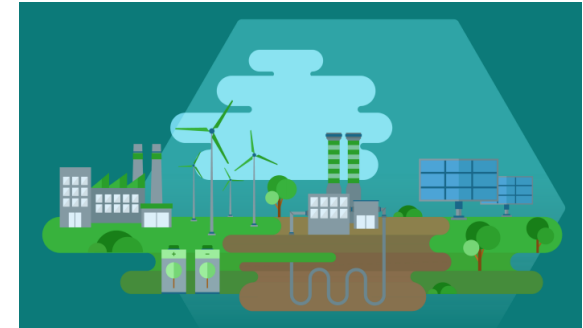
When building **FOAKs (First of a kind) plants and systems based on a new technology**, the investment is typically very high compared to mature and well-proven technologies. The purpose of CAPEX grants is to bring down the investment, so that the business case becomes attractive to those investing the capital in the FOAK. The hypothesis behind this is that the next plants will be cheaper and less risky, and thus attractive to investors – but to get to there investors need a hand with the FOAK.

Whereas the project grants support R&D projects and the equity grants support the company, the CAPEX grants support the investment in the first commercial plant of its kind.

Often these grants are given on the basis of **very comprehensive applications**, so we recommend them to **mature companies** with a full set of the skills and capabilities needed, particularly within finance and business development.

Of particular interest is the EU Innovation Fund where small scale projects refer to CAPEX investment of less than €25m, medium scale projects to €25-100m and large scale above €100m.

Innovation Fund EU



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider Innovation Fund EU if you:
 - Have solutions ready for market commercialization in energy-intensive industries.
 - Highly innovative technologies and big flagship projects within renewable energy, energy-intensive industries, energy storage, or CCUS
 - Are seeking substantial funding (grants depend on scale, **from below €25m CAPEX to €100m+ CAPEX**)
 - Can comply with the detailed application and selection procedures
 - TRL 7-9
- **Deadline: 24 April 2025, 17:00 (CET)**

EIFO's Investment Scheme for Green Industrial Production

«Investeringsordningen til Grøn Industriproduktion»

- Consider EIFO's investment scheme if you:
 - Produce wind technology or electrolyzers in Denmark, manufacture key components for wind technology and Power-to-X, or extract/produce critical raw materials related to these technologies
 - Can prove that your project could also receive funding in another country.
 - Are targeting establishment or expansion of production facilities (not installations like wind farms)
 - Need **direct grants of up to 15% of eligible costs**
- Application deadlines and further details will be announced by the Ministry of Industry, Business, and Financial Affairs



Overview

	Project grants				Equity grants		CAPEX grants	
Grant name	EUDP	Horizon Europe CL5	Grand Solutions	MUDP	EIC Acc.	EIC STEP	EU Innovation Fund	EIFO
Scope	Develop and demonstrate energy technology	Collaborative projects for global challenges. Many calls.	Ambitious research. Many calls.	Develop and demonstrate environmental solutions.	Scale up game-changing product, service, model	Digital and deep tech, green technologies, biotechnologies	Energy solutions ready for market commercialization.	Establishment/expansion of wind tech, electrolyzer, PtX
Max grant	DKK 5-50m	Depends on call	DKK 10-40m	DKK 5-10m	Grants: €2.5m Equity: €10m	€10-30m	<€25m - €100m+ CAPEX	15% of eligible costs
TRL	4-8	Depends on call	Depends on call	4-8	5+	Depends on call	7+	-

Key takeaways



Start early

Begin preparations at least three months before the deadline.



Leverage partnerships

Collaborate with research institutions and industry partners to strengthen your proposal.



Engage experts

Work with experienced grant writers to refine your application.

Contact us for more information

Our team can provide you with further guidance. Book an informal meeting with us by reaching out to soren@1stmile.dk

About us

- At 1st Mile, we specialize in **securing grant funding**. Since our founding in 2007, we've helped clients raise over **€300 million** in grants from both **Danish and EU funding programs**. With a highly experienced team, we offer support in **managing and writing research, development, and commercialization documentation**, for projects to move from concept to market.
- We **focus on energy-related funding programs**, ensuring our clients are well-positioned for success in this competitive sector. Our expertise spans across programs like **EUDP, EU Innovation Fund, MUDP, Innovation Fund Denmark, Horizon Europe**, and more.
- With a **success rate of over 80%** in key programs like **EUDP**, we provide tailored, high-impact services that deliver results. We collaborate with clients at every stage, from initial scoping to application writing and post-grant project management.



Why 1st Mile

We have the competences and capacity to ensure a high hit rate for applications

1st Mile has been writing applications since 2007

Raised +€300m in grants from Danish and EU programs

Specialises in energy funding programs; 75-80% of all our work

Highly trained and experienced 10-person team

This is all we do

Extensive network of partners

90% of all customers are companies

Very high hit rate
(EU +50%,
EUDP +80%)

Annually submits +25 large applications (grant +€1m) annually



With 17 years in business, 1st Mile has secured funding for numerous projects for companies in Denmark and Europe*

 AST <small>Advanced Substrate Technologies</small> DKK 10 million EUDP	 Dynelectro DKK 8.6 million EUDP	 COBOD DKK 30.5 million EUDP	LED LBOND DKK 9.6 million EUDP	 KITEMILL DKK 18 million Horizon 2020 SME	TOPSOE DKK 75 million EUDP
 ROPE ROBOTICS DKK 16.9 + 18 + 12 million Grand Solutions + Horizon 2020 SME + Grand Solutions	 RELBOND DKK 10 million EUDP	FORSYNING — Danmark DKK 30 million EU Innovation Fund	 MAERSK SUPPLY SERVICE DKK 47 million EUDP	 amager ressource center DKK 30 million EUDP	 KVASIR DKK 10 million EUDP
 Dall Energy <small>NEW BIOMASS TECHNOLOGIES</small> DKK 18 million Horizon 2020 SME	 THEEYETRIBE DKK 13 million Grand Solutions	WEPTOS® DKK 12 million EUDP	 Nordetect DKK 0.5 InnoBooster	 aarhusvand DKK 20 million EUDP	Welltec® DKK 19 million EUDP

*Non-exhaustive list of grant amounts for successful applications

Your 1st Mile Team

Covering all aspects of proposal development and writing



**Søren
Houmøller**

Founder, owner, CEO,
M.Sc., E*MBA

An entrepreneur in spirit, Søren Houmøller left his job managing the corporate venture arm of Ørsted in 2007 to found 1st Mile. Since then, he has written hundreds of successful funding proposals.

Graduating from DTU in 1995 with a master thesis in pyrolysis and gasification of biomass, he has spent three decades working on innovation within green technologies.

As a former VC and current business angel, he quickly sees the opportunities in new technologies, understands the potential value in them, and how to capture it to secure funding.



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