



# Navigating energy funding opportunities for Q1-Q2 2026

A White Paper by 1st Mile

# Our recent results

Funding wins that shape the future

# 2025 supercases in strategic funding

*Funding wins that shape the future*



**DKK 180m** secured from  Energistyrelsen



[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



**DKK 103m** secured from  EIFO



# Some grants awarded in June '25 to applications written by 1<sup>st</sup> Mile

LED iBOND



**DKK 6m**

LED iBond

Program: EUDP

[More information](#)

Partners: HortiAdvice, Aarhus University, Legro Gartneri, Hjortebjerg Plant Licence

**DKK 22m**

Kvasir Technologies

Program: Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling

[More information](#)

Partners: DTU, Fredericia Maskinmesterskole

**DKK 11m**

DTU Wind and Energy Systems

Program: EUDP

[More information](#)

Partners: Watts, Enfor Energinet Systemansvar, Green Power Denmark, Neogrid, PowerLabDK

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](http://www.1stmile.dk) for the latest version.

This version: October 1st 2025

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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 end of 2025-beginning of 2026 have **exceptionally many calls and deadlines for green energy**.

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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 can be 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: 3-8**
- Application process
  - Application (deadline exp. **beginning of March 2026**)
  - Addressing the evaluators' feedback (usually 6 weeks after the deadline)

# Fonden for Retfærdig Omstilling (FRO)

*The Just Transition Fund*

- [Link to open calls](#)
- Consider applying for FRO if you have a green technologies project near commercialization (TRL 5-9)
- Financial support is typically 50-80% of costs.
- Application is relatively short but demanding.
- Focus: Danish goals of carbon neutrality + development of Northern and Southern Jutland.
- Deadlines and grant amounts depend on the call.

# GUDP

*Environmental Technology Development and Demonstration Program*



- [Link to call](#)
- Consider the GUDP program if you:
  - Work within the **food, agriculture, fisheries, or aquaculture sectors**
  - Have a market-oriented project promoting green and economic sustainability
  - Seek funding from **DKK 250,000 to DKK 15 million**
  - At least one green + one economic impact
- Project types
  - Development/Demo projects: Up to 5 years, DKK 250,000–15M
  - Network projects: 1–2 years, 50% of costs, DKK 250,000–2M
- Deadline: Exp. February 2026

# SparEnergi

*Danish Investment Support for CO<sub>2</sub>-Intensive Companies: investing in green transition*



- [Link](#)
- **TRL 7–9** (commercially available technologies or late-stage pilots that reduce fossil fuel use)
- Grant amount:
  - 500 DKK per ton CO<sub>2</sub> saved
  - Up to 60% of eligible project costs
  - Grant range: 10,000–112 million DKK
- **The pool normally opens in January. Then it is first-come, first-served until funds are exhausted (no deadline). If the pool receives new funds, the pool will reopen with a notice of at least 14 days.**
- Purpose: support projects in CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive industries to reduce fossil fuel consumption and prepare for the upcoming CO<sub>2</sub> tax (2025–2030)
  - E.g. Gas boiler replacements with heat pumps or district heating, Process optimization, Internal heat recovery

# HORIZON Europe

## *General information*

- Horizon Europe is the European Union's flagship funding program for research and innovation, running from 2021 to 2027 with a significant budget aimed at tackling major societal challenges, enhancing Europe's competitiveness, and fostering scientific excellence
- Relevant call themes (not exhaustive) detailed in the next slides
- [Find more calls in the Funding & Tenders portal](#)



# HORIZON Europe

## *Pillars and horizontal actions*

### Pillar I – Excellent Science

- European Research Council (ERC)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
- Research Infrastructures (ESFRI and related actions)

### Pillar II – Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

- This pillar is organised into thematic *clusters*, for example:
  - Cluster 1: Health
  - Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
  - Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
  - Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space
  - Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility
  - Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment
- It also includes the *Missions* of Horizon Europe (climate adaptation; cancer; 100 climate-neutral and smart cities; healthy oceans, seas and waters: soil health and food)

### Pillar III – Innovative Europe

- European Innovation Council (EIC: Pathfinder, Transition, Accelerator) → see Equity Grants in this document
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and Knowledge & Innovation Communities (KICs)

### Horizontal Actions

- Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence (WIDERA)
- Reforming and Enhancing the European Research Area (ERA)
- International Cooperation Actions

# HORIZON Europe

## Types of actions

1st Mile can help with these

<p><b>TRL 3-5</b></p> <p><b>RIA</b></p> <p>R&amp;D basic and applied research, tech.dev. and integration, testing, demonstration, validation in lab or simulation environment</p>	<p><b>TRL 5-7</b></p> <p><b>IA</b></p> <p>R&amp;D prototyping, testing, demo, piloting large-scale product validation/market replication</p>	<p><b>TRL 7-9</b></p> <p><b>IMDA</b></p> <p>Innov.deployment + scaling up</p>	<p><b>NO TRL</b></p> <p><b>CSA</b></p> <p>Coordination actions to help HE objectives + promote cooperation</p>
<p><b>NO TRL</b></p> <p><b>Co-Fund</b></p> <p>Co-fund national/regional R&amp;I programmes, not individual projects</p>	<p><b>NO TRL</b></p> <p><b>TMA</b></p> <p>Research training, career development</p>	<p><b>NO TRL</b></p> <p><b>PCP</b></p> <p>Help public-sector buyers procure R&amp;D for solutions that do not exist yet (R&amp;D procurement)</p>	<p><b>NO TRL</b></p> <p><b>PPI</b></p> <p>Help buyers procure market-ready innovation</p>

# HORIZON Europe

*Some relevant calls*

## 20 January 2026 – Batteries, Cities & Transport

<i>Call</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Topic</i>
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2-01	IA	Sustainable, design-to-cost batteries & efficient manufacturing (Batt4EU)
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2-04	RIA	Advanced materials/cell design & manufacturing for mobility batteries (Batt4EU)
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2-05	IA	Accelerated testing for battery ageing/reliability/safety (Batt4EU)
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D5-17	IA	Real time monitoring of emissions from vessels and port activities to enforce emission limits in waterfront cities
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-03	RIA	Environment perception for real world CCAM operations
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-04	RIA	Integration of human driving behaviour in CCAM systems
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-05	RIA	Approaches, verification and training for Edge-AI building blocks for CCAM Systems
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-06	IA	Federated CCAM data exchange platform

# HORIZON Europe

*Some relevant calls*

## 20 January 2026 – Batteries, Cities & Transport

<i>Call</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Topic</i>
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-07	IA	Innovative construction and maintenance for resilient and sustainable transport infrastructure
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-08	IA	Freight transport and logistics digital innovation
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-10	IA	Inland waterway transport in smart shipping and multimodal logistics chains
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-13	RIA	Safety of Cyclists, Pedestrians and Users of Micromobility Devices
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-14	RIA	Predicting and avoiding road crashes based on AI/big data
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6-15	RIA	Icing in sustainable aviation
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-01	IA	Large-scale production of advanced biofuels & RFNBOs
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-02	RIA	Competitiveness/energy-security of advanced fuels value chains
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-05	IA	Thermal energy storage for solar thermal plants/systems

# HORIZON Europe

*Some relevant calls*

## 17 February 2026 – Energy, Renewables, Buildings & Industry

<i>Call</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Topic</i>
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-07	RIA	Reliability & O&M for wind energy systems
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-08	RIA	Minimise environmental impacts of offshore wind
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-10	IA	Perovskite PV commercialisation & manufacturing equipment (EUPI-PV)
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-12	RIA	Extend lifetime of c-Si PV modules (EUPI-PV)
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-18	IA	Next-gen distribution substations for resilience
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-19	IA	Gen-AI powered digital spine of the EU energy system
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-20	IA	Tools/services to manage & empower energy communities
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-22	IA	Underground Thermal Energy Storage in dense urban areas
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-24	RIA	New CO <sub>2</sub> capture technologies

# HORIZON Europe

*Some relevant calls*



## EU-wide data-driven solutions to real problems

🧠 **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

It funds projects that develop data-driven solutions that: 1) develop FAIR data infrastructure for agriculture; 2) support decision-making in agriculture; 3) support policy-making in agriculture.

🇪🇺 **Funding details:** 300,000€ per partner, 500,000€ (if several Danish partners are involved)

Ideal for any org. developing agricultural data solutions—AI, modelling, EO, digital tools—as part of a consortium with at least other 2 countries (this does not eat at the budget of the Danish company). No specific TRL.

# HORIZON Europe

*Some relevant calls*

## DIGITAL & AUTOMATIC UP TO AUTOMATED TRAIN OPERATIONS

### In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

To develop and demonstrate the next generation of automated and digital train control systems for Europe, incl.: remote driving, perception systems, and new braking and communication solutions.

 **Funding details: €33,1M**

Who should apply: Consortia of 3, min. 3 different countries.

Deadline: 11/02/2026

# HORIZON Europe

*Some relevant calls*

## NETWORK MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND CONTROL & MOBILITY MANAGEMENT IN A MULTIMODAL ENVIRONMENT AND DIGITAL ENABLERS

### In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

Builds Europe's cross-border TMS + planning tools + digital twin + data space — for all trains.

 **Funding details: €22,4M**

Who should apply: Consortia of 3, min. 3 different countries.

Deadline: 11/02/2026

# Inter-project grants under EOSC Gravity

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

It funds small pilot projects (6 months) that: 1) Build a scientific demo that shows how European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) helps researchers, or 2) Test onboarding a service to an existing EOSC Node.

 **Funding details:** 50,000€ per project

Who should apply: Universities, research institutes, RI providers, data platforms, EOSC Node candidates

Deadline: 18/02/26



# Enrolment call of the EOSC Tripartite Governance

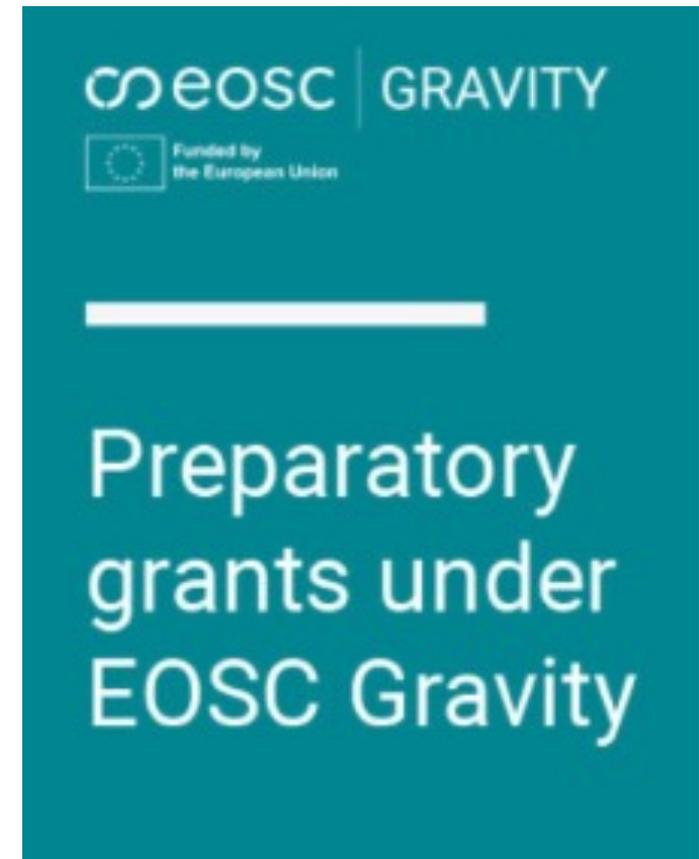
🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

It gives money to prepare a Project Charter to become a "Node" in the larger EOSC org.

💰 **Funding details:** 50,000€ per project

Who should apply: Organisations interested in becoming a Node but not ready

Deadline: 18/02/2026



# Digital Europe

FFplus

## 🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This call funds SMEs and startups to *develop or customise generative AI models using European high-performance computing (HPC) systems, through short, 10-month innovation studies focused on solving a concrete business problem.*

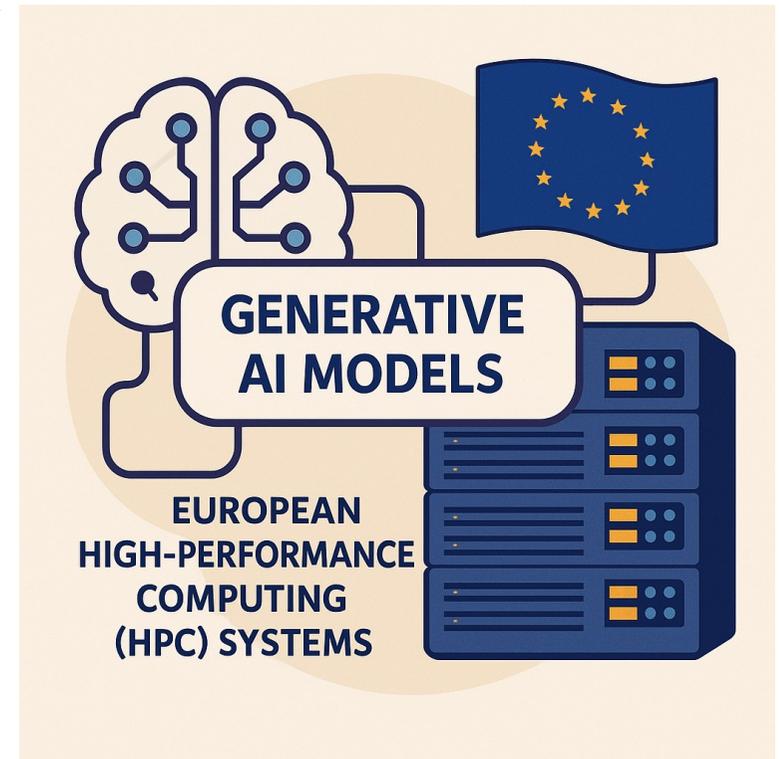
## 💰 Funding details

Up to €200,000 for the SME (main participant)

Up to €300,000 total for the entire consortium

Only SMEs/start-ups with already expertise in AI, ML, data processing, HPC:

Deadline: 25/02/2026



# Digital SME support actions

*European Digital Media Observatory Hubs*

## 🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

The EU wants to fund national or regional “EDMO hubs” that fight disinformation. A hub may cover: one country (e.g., Denmark only), or multiple if their media landscapes are similar. Every funded hub must: Monitor and analyse the online information ecosystem; Watch elections and crises; Produce fact-checks; Do investigations; Run media literacy & public awareness activities.

## 📄 Funding details

750,000€ per project.

Who should apply: Any legal entity part of a min. of 2 org. consortium. The consortium should include fact checkers. No TRL/no R&D.

Deadline: 03/03/2026



# Digital SME support actions

*Data Space for Manufacturing*

## 🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This call funds projects that collect massive amounts of high-quality manufacturing data so that Generative AI models can be trained to solve real industrial problems in Europe.

## 💰 Funding details

€3M per project.

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 3 across 3 different countries. Ideally a manufacturing SME/mid-cap (data provider), an AI/IT developer (data user), a data intermediary, with a research/tech institute or AI Factory.

Deadline: 3/3/26



# Digital SME support actions

*Deployment of cutting-edge multi-modal AI-based solutions in medical imaging*

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This grant funds the deployment/validation of AI tools in real clinical settings for Cancer. The project must run clinical validation studies in several EU countries. It is deployment-focused, not research-focused. The tools must already be technically mature and ready to validate and implement.

## Funding details

€14,4M per project.

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 7 across 7 different countries.

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Digital coordination and support actions

*European Advanced Digital Skills Competitions*

## 🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This funding is for organising six major EU-wide tech competitions for students, across: 1) Artificial Intelligence; 2) Virtual Worlds; 3) Quantum Technologies; 4) Semiconductors; 5) Destination Earth (climate modelling supercomputing); 6) One extra area chosen by the consortium

## 💰 Funding details

7 000 000 € per project.

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 3 across 3 different countries. Larger consortia are common for this type of action.

Deadline: 3/3/26



# Digital coordination and support actions

*ELEVATE: European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies*

## 🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

The funding is to build and run the European League of Advanced Digital Skills Academies (ELEVATE) — a governance and coordination structure that creates shared EU advanced-digital-skills ecosystem working together efficiently. It is not funding training programmes themselves. It is funding the ecosystem that supports them.

## 💰 Funding details

7 200 000€ per project

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 3 across 3 different countries.

Larger consortia are common for this type of action.

Deadline: 3/3/26



# Digital coordination and support actions

*Apply AI: GenAI for the public administrations*

## 🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

The funding is for a coordination project that helps public administrations across Europe scale, replicate, and adopt Generative AI solutions that were developed in EU-funded GenAI pilot projects. The funding is NOT for building new GenAI systems. It is for helping governments reuse the GenAI tools already being piloted.

## 📄 Funding details

€1.8M per project

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 3 across 3 different countries.

Deadline: 3/3/26



# Digital coordination and support actions

*Secretariat of the European Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Alliance*

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This grant funds the team that will run, organise, and coordinate the new European alliance for connected and autonomous vehicle technologies.

## Funding details

€1M per project



Who should apply: Consortia of min. 3

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Digital coordination and support actions

*Supporting the Network of National Contact Points (NCPs) of the Digital Europe Programme*

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This grant funds the coordination, training, and support system for National Contact Points (NCPs) of the Digital Europe Programme (DEP). This grant is NOT for applicants to run digital projects, build technology, or develop new services. It is only for strengthening the network of NCPs themselves.

## Funding details

€1,8M per project

Who should apply: Only digitaliseringssterlsen should apply (PLUS 2 more NCPs from different EU/associated countries).

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Digital simple grants

*Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)*

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This call funds the continuation and strengthening of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) — local centres that help SMEs and public sector organisations adopt digital technologies, especially AI.

## Funding details

between EUR 1M and EUR 3M per project.

Who should apply: This call is not open to new hubs. You can only apply if you are an existing EDIH or an EDIH that previously submitted a proposal and received a Seal of Excellence.

Deadline: 3/3/26



# Digital simple grants

*Virtual worlds test beds*



 **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

The funding pays for building and operating a European testbed facility where companies and public organisations can test virtual-world solutions in real conditions. The testbeds are for either industrial or societal solutions.

 **Funding details**

between EUR 8 000 000 and EUR 9 000 000 per project.

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 4 across 3 different countries.

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Digital simple grants

*Data ingestion capacities and data services for the European Genomic Data Infrastructure in the European Health Data Space: data tools*



## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

developing software tools/services that make it easier, safer, and faster for Europe to collect, clean, manage, and use human genomic data. This includes tools for data quality, data preparation, data access, security, privacy, compliance, and citizen control.

## Funding details

between €5M per project.

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 5 across 5 different countries.

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Digital simple grants

*Collaboration platform for the European connected and autonomous vehicle of the future*

 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This grant funds the creation of a collaboration platform that will help the European automotive industry work together on the next generation of digital car technologies.



 Funding details

€3,5M per project.

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 3 across 3 different countries. The ideal candidate is a large, well-established European automotive industry association or alliance. In Denmark, no single organisation is big enough to coordinate the whole EU automotive sector, but Danish organisations can join as partners (not coordinators).

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Digital grants for procurement

*Data ingestion capacities and data services for the European Genomic Data Infrastructure in the European Health Data Space: data storage and processing capacity*

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This call funds the infrastructure needed to store and process huge amounts of human genome data for the European 1+ Million Genomes initiative. Because genome data is extremely large and highly sensitive, Europe needs secure, scalable, and connected (federated) storage and analysis systems. This call pays for building and expanding those systems across EU Member States

## Funding details

EUR 17,5M per project

Who should apply: Consortia of min. 5 across 5 different countries.

Deadline: 3/3/26

# Creative Europe

*Perform EU*

## **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

test and implement new, better ways for performing arts to tour in Europe. It's a meta-grant: The EU gives one big grant and that team gives out smaller grants.

## **Funding details**

EUR 2M

Who should apply: An experienced performing arts organisation (or consortium).

Deadline: 15/01/26

# InnoMatch project



## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

This grant supports EIC-funded startups to test their innovation with a real customer (a “Buyer”) — either a public authority or a private company.



**Funding details: EUR 60K**

Who should apply? Any Danish SME or startup previously funded through EIC Accelerator, Pathfinder, or Transition

Deadline: 4/2/2026

# 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.

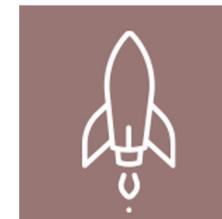
An equity grant therefore adds further capital to a funding round that is driven and lead by other investors, typically with specific domain knowledge.

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.

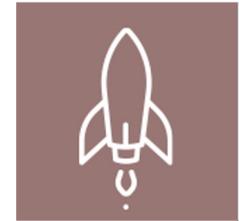
# EIC Accelerator Open



- [Link to call](#)
- This call funds high-risk, high-impact startups and SMEs with grants (up to €2.5M) and/or equity investment (up to €10M). Technology starting point is TRL 5+. Small mid-caps can apply for equity-only. Individuals planning to found an SME can also apply.
- 🇪🇺 Funding details: Grant up to €2.5M + Equity investment €1–10M
- For deep-tech startups/SMEs needing capital to reach commercial stage and at TRL6-8
- Deadlines: 7/01/2026; 04/03/2026; 06/05/2026; 08/07/2026; 02/09/2026; 04/11/2026



# EIC Accelerator Challenge 1

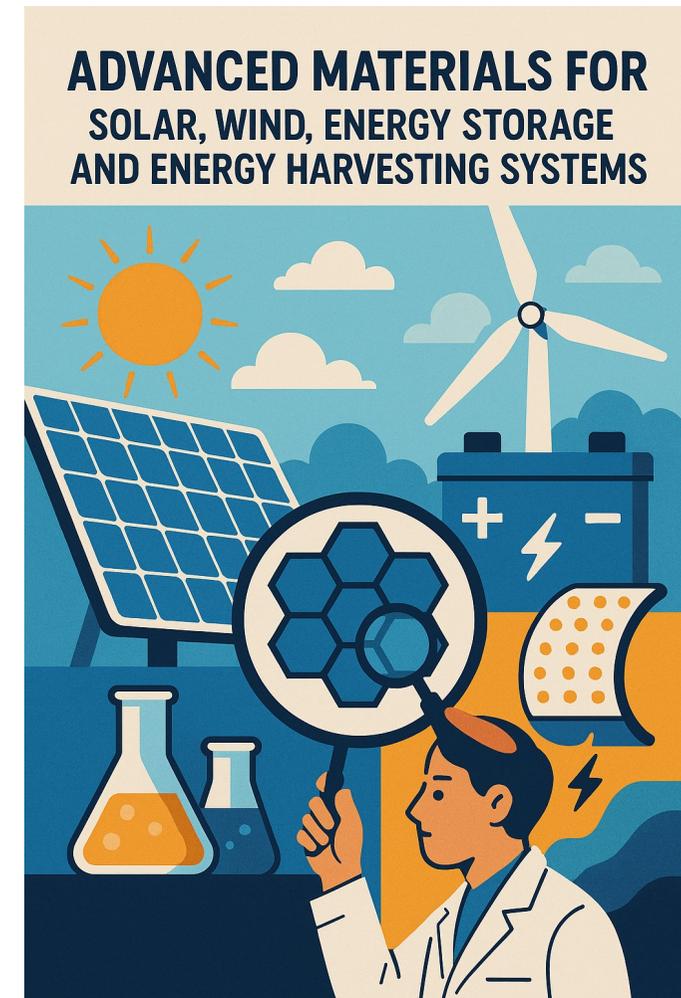


🧠 **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

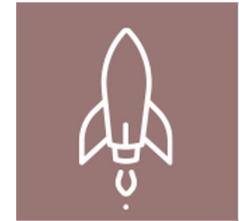
Funds start-ups and SMEs that develop advanced materials designed specifically for: Solar, wind, energy storage and energy harvesting systems.

💰 **Funding details:** Grant up to €2.5M + Equity investment €1–10M

For deep-tech startups/SMEs needing capital to reach commercial stage and at TRL6-8



# EIC Accelerator Challenge 2

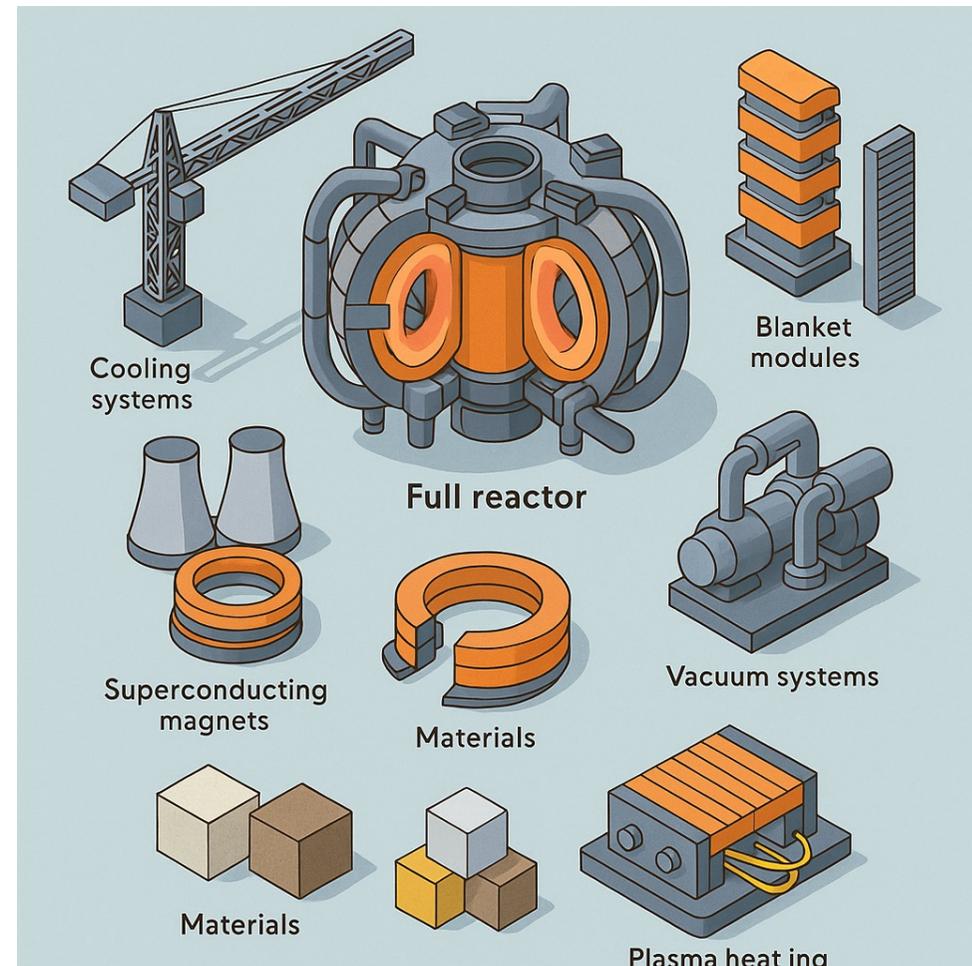


 **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

Funds start-ups and SMEs that are developing materials, components, systems, or full reactor concepts needed for viable fusion plants.

 **Funding details:** Grant up to €2.5M + Equity investment €1–10M

For deep-tech startups/SMEs needing capital to reach commercial stage at TRL4+



# EIC Accelerator Challenge 3



 **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

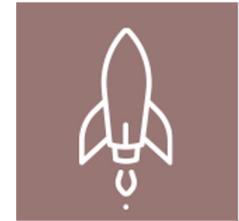
Funds start-ups and SMEs that are developing innovations that use biotechnology to regenerate agricultural soils and replace harmful chemical practices.

 **Funding details:** Grant up to €2.5M + Equity investment €1–10M

For deep-tech startups/SMEs needing capital to reach commercial stage and at TRL6-8



# EIC Accelerator Challenge 4



🧠 In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

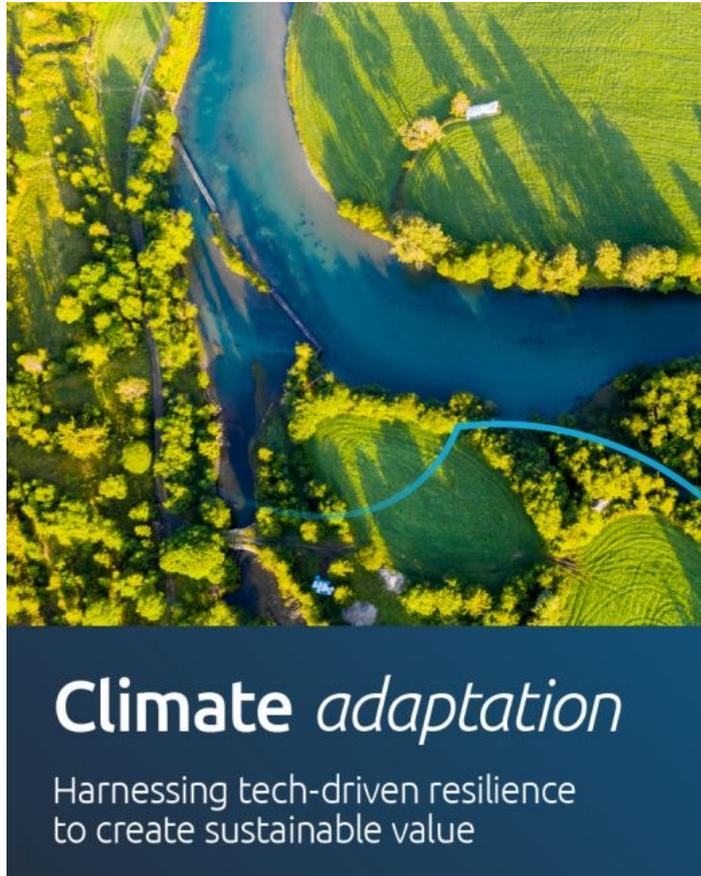
Funds start-ups and SMEs that are developing innovations that contribute to securing strategic raw materials.

📄 Funding details: Grant up to €2.5M + Equity investment €1–10M

For deep-tech startups/SMEs needing capital to reach commercial stage and at TRL6-8



# EIC Accelerator Challenge 5



 **In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?**

Funds start-ups and SMEs that are developing innovations that contribute to climate adaptation, addressing 1) extreme heat in cities, 2) climate smart agriculture, 3) water scarcity, 4) coastal protection

 **Funding details:** Grant up to €2.5M + Equity investment €1–10M

For deep-tech startups/SMEs needing capital to reach commercial stage and at TRL6-8

# EIC STEP Scale Up



- [Link to call](#)
- A large-scale equity investment scheme for companies already entering a major growth/scale-up phase. Companies must work within: digital solution, clean technologies, or biotech.
- 🇪🇺 Funding details: €10–30 million equity
- Only SME or small mid-cap (< 500 employees) with already a private investor covering at least 20% of the round.
- Deadline: 25/11/26



# 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: April 2026, knowing it usually takes months to prepare this kind of applications
- In 2025, 1st Mile has been selected by the Danish Energy Agency as one of the few consultancies qualified to screen and validate applications for the EU Innovation Fund.

# Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

*An EU infrastructure funding instrument that provides co-funding for large infrastructure*

- Doesn't belong to any of the Funding Categories above
- TRL 9 (some components at TRL 7-8 allowed)
- Programmes:
  - CEF Energy: new/upgrading cross-border energy infrastructure in Europe – Deadline: **12 March 2026**
  - CEF Transport: new/upgrading transport infrastructure in Europe – Deadline: **4 March 2026**
  - CEF Digital
- [Link](#) to open calls

# Open CEF calls

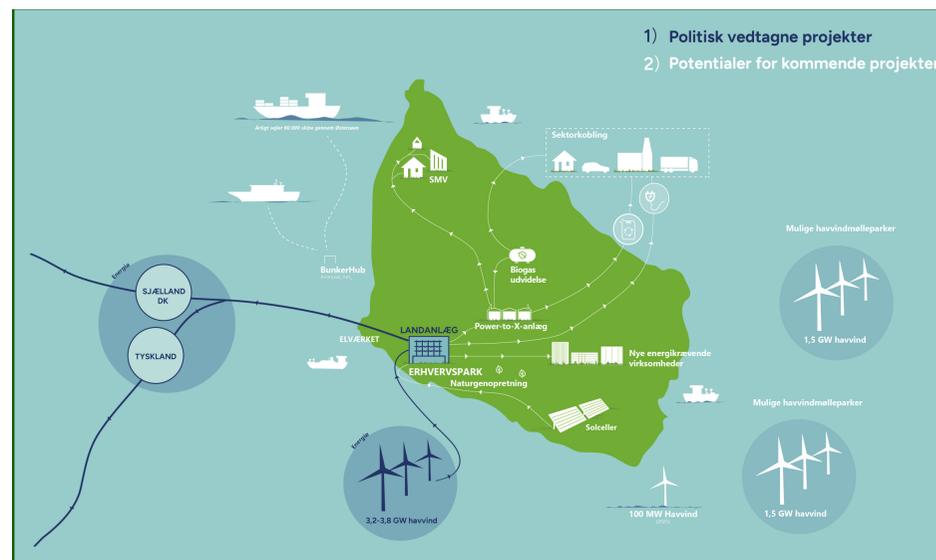
CEF-E-2026-CBRENEW-WORKS

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

The call funds construction/implementation (works) of Cross-Border Renewable Energy Projects that are already on the CB RES list (in DK, only Bornholm Energy Island) and that enable renewable energy generation across borders but are not commercially viable without EU support. It funds real infrastructure.

Only organisations part of the Energy Island Bornholm OR that can get the promoter of the project involved.

Deadline: 12/03/2026



# Open CEF calls

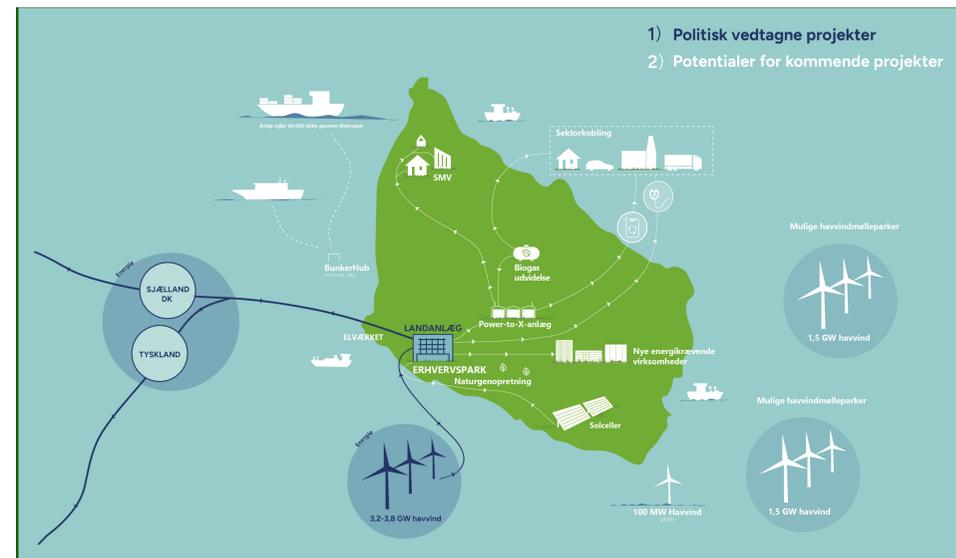
CEF-E-2026-CBRENEW-STUDIES

## In One Sentence: What Is This Call About?

The call funds preparatory studies (not construction) needed to advance an already-approved CB RES (in DK, Bornholm Energy Island only) toward implementation and Final Investment Decision, including feasibility, design, permitting, risk assessment, and cooperation arrangements between the involved countries.

Only organisations part of the Energy Island Bornholm OR that can get the promoter of the project involved.

Deadline: 12/03/2026



# 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](mailto: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 **€500 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*

1<sup>st</sup> Mile has been writing applications since 2007

Raised +€500m 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

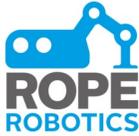
90% of all customers are companies

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\*

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

\*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.



**Maria Battistel**  
Scientific Lead, ph.d.



**Marta Neves**  
Sustainability Lead, ph.d.



**Jonathon Carey**  
Energy Markets Consultant



**Beate Warberg**  
PA & Office Manager, M.Sc.



**Anna Nichele**  
Financial Consultant, M.Sc.



**Olaf Broby**  
Senior Project Manager, E\*MBA