
Q: Does the industrial collaborator have to be a Swedish company?

Swedish industry is preferred, as the funding is intended to benefit Sweden. The company does not need to be Swedish-owned, but it should be actively operating and have a research presence in Sweden — so that the PhD student and the industrial partner can interact and collaborate meaningfully. There may be exceptions in fields where no relevant Swedish company exists. As a starting point, look for a Swedish-based partner first.

Q: Do research institutes count as industrial partners?

No. Research institutes are generally classified as academic partners. RISE, for example, is considered an academic partner. Borderline cases may exist — if you are unsure how your institute would be classified, contact the SwedNess team before assuming it qualifies as an industrial partner.

Q: Is ESS considered an industrial partner?

No. ESS is not classified as an industrial partner for the purposes of this call.

Q: What happens if not enough applications are received — will there be a second round?

No decision has been made on this. The intention is to fill all 16 PhD positions in this round. If applications fall short, the situation would be discussed with VR, and a second round would likely be considered — but nothing has been formally agreed.

Q: When will results be announced?

The aim is to have results before the end of 2026, with projects starting in early 2027. The exact timeline depends on how long the evaluation process takes, including any need to recruit additional panel experts for highly specialised topics.

Q: Any general advice for applicants?

Start early. Conversations with industrial partners take time, and getting agreements and paperwork in place often takes longer than expected. Reach out

with any questions as they arise — it is better to clarify early than to discover an issue close to the deadline.

Q: The support letter from my intended industrial partner will likely take too long to pass through the company before it can be signed at an appropriate level. It is possible to submit a letter of intent or similar instead?

SwedNess is aware that for some companies the process of getting a signed support letter with the details requested by us can be a long process. To alleviate this issue, we allow submissions of a letter of intent, indicating the expected involvement of the industrial partner, instead of a support letter. In such cases the applicant *must submit a complementary support letter* (signed at the appropriate level at the industry partner), detailing the involvement of the partner including co-financing, *by November the 30th* to be eligible to receive funding.

This document is updated periodically as new questions are received. For further enquiries, contact Mikael Andersson mikael.andersson@kemi.uu.se.