

Project Application

Evaluation

Swedish Electromobility Centre

Stage V



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Granting Funding for Research Projects at SEC

As there are three different spheres of interest/parties that jointly contribute to the research at the Swedish Electromobility Centre (SEC) taking place and succeeding, we need to keep the three parties' result interests in the collaboration separate and assess them. SEC has also laid down joint objectives for operations, the fourth interest, which must also be considered when an overall assessment of each project application is made. These four perspectives and objectives are described briefly below.

1. National perspective – Swedish Energy Agency

The Swedish Energy Agency contributes with SEK 92,25 million for stage V. These funds come primarily from taxpayers, and the interest of the Swedish Energy Agency is therefore to give taxpayers value for money. This can be achieved by industry growing and generating more jobs and/or important knowledge. Another important aspect is the transition to a fossil-free society.

Questions should be asked about the following matters:

- Production of commercially interesting results that lead to higher employment in the industry.
- Transition to a fossil-free society.
- Production of important knowledge/examination of licentiates and doctors.

2. Academic perspective – University partners

Participating universities and institutes of higher education conduct research in several important fields that concern electromobility, and they possess great expertise in fields such as *Power engineering, Electrochemistry, Automatic control engineering, Structural engineering, Materials technology* and *Numerical analysis & Optimisation*. One of the most important tasks of universities and institutes of higher education is to teach and examine PhD students. During Stage V, participating universities and institutes of higher education and research institutes also contribute SEK 31,5 million in cash funds and perform various research assignments via contributions in-kind worth an additional SEK 59,5 million.

The following questions should be asked:

- Can the project contribute to PhD students graduating from universities/institutes of higher education?
- Does the project build important scientific activities?
- Can the project contribute to publication in internationally recognised journals?

3. Industrial perspective – Industrial partners and stakeholders

The industrial companies involved in the project operate on a competitive market. They are all more or less involved in the development of vehicles, infrastructure, systems and components in the field of electromobility. The companies contribute to SEC Stage V with SEK 25,25 million in cash funds and SEK 68,5 million of various contributions in-kind. Industry's primary interest in participating in SEC is developing better or new products that companies can then market and sell for their own benefit.

The following questions should be asked:

- Does the project help solve important challenges and meet needs that the industrial partners have?
- Will the project lead to the generation of commercially interesting results that can lead to increased sales of components, subsystems or entire systems in the field of electromobility for at least one of the companies involved in the project?
- Will there be potentially patentable results?

4. The Centre's perspective – Joint activities

To achieve our vision, we have a number of Success Criteria, Objectives and Indicators (**Appendix 1**). SEC funds three different types of projects; *Pre-studies*, *Research projects <2 years* and *Research projects ≥2 years*. These projects must contribute in various ways to achieving our objectives according to the specifications below. Maximal number of pages is indicated, excluding first page, CV and annex. Applicants have the possibility to include one appendix (max 3 pages) with images and tables, supporting the project description.

Pre-studies

Application: Max. 5 pages (excl. front page)

Requirements:

- Aim to contribute to one or more of SEC's objectives.
- Expertise building and the basis of a larger project for which funding may also be applied for from another funding body. If this leads to further work, this must be associated with SEC.
- It is a strong recommendation that the applicant has discussed the project proposal with theme leaders prior to applying in order to align with the thematic area.

Delivery:

- A final report as per template with results, conclusions and proposals for continuation.
- Yearly financial and scientific reporting according to SEC instructions.

Research projects <2 years

Application: Max. 10 pages (excl. front page)

Requirements:

- Aim to contribute to one or more of SEC's objectives.
- Expertise building and the basis of a larger project for which funding may also be applied for from another funding body. If this leads to further work, this must be associated with SEC.
- Publish reviewed articles in international journals/at international conferences.

Strong

recommendation:

- It is a strong recommendation that the applicant has discussed the project proposal with theme leaders prior to applying in order to align with the thematic area.
- Fund parts of PhD student projects. The PhD students should participate in SEC's *PhD Student Network* and SEC's planned PhD courses.

Recommendation:

- Offer an interdisciplinary research environment.
- Involved in projects with other centres, research organisations and major international collaboration projects with operations that can be linked to SEC.
- Give an account of the possibility of patent applications.

Delivery:

- A comprehensive final report as per template with results, conclusions and proposals for continuation. The report must clearly state how the requirements and (strong) recommendations have been met.
- Yearly financial and scientific reporting according to SEC instructions.

Research projects ≥2 years

Application: Max. 15 pages (excl. front page)

Requirements:

- Aim to contribute to one or more of SEC's objectives.

- Expertise building and the basis of a larger project for which funding may also be applied for from another funding body. If this leads to further work, this must be associated with SEC.
 - Must meet at least one of the following criteria. The project must:
 - Plan and work to ensure that the researcher or PhD student will work for a limited time on site at one of the industrial partners.
 - Plan and work for international exchange.
- Touch on and collaborate with expertise from a field other than its main field.
- Publish reviewed articles in international journals/at international conferences.
- Fund (parts of) PhD projects. The PhD students should be involved in the *PhD Student Network* and SEC's planned PhD courses.
- The applicant must have presented the project proposal at a theme area meeting prior to submitting the application, in order to align with the thematic area.

Strong
recommendation:

- Offer an interdisciplinary research environment.
- Involved in projects with other centres, research organisations and major international collaboration projects with operations that can be linked to SEC.

Recommendation:

- Give an account of the possibility of patent applications.
- PhD students that are funded in-kind should participate in the project.

Delivery:

- A comprehensive final report as per template with results, conclusions and proposals for continuation. The report must clearly state how the requirements and strong recommendations have been met.
- Yearly financial and scientific reporting according to SEC instructions.

The following questions should be asked:

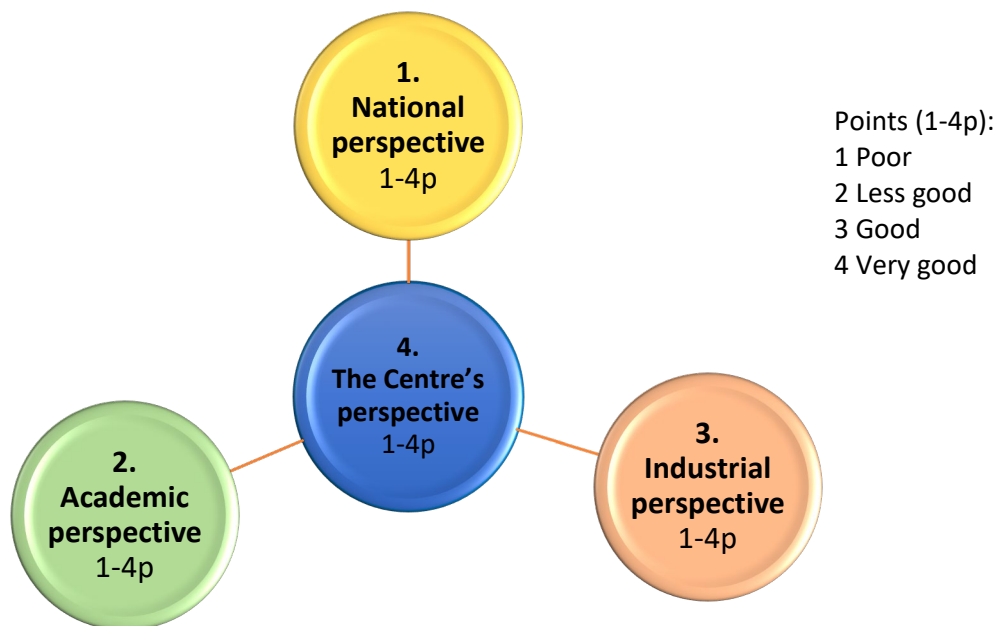
- Will the project contribute to the Vision?
- Will the project contribute to the objectives for Stage V (**Appendix 1**)?
- To which indicators will the project contribute (**Appendix 1**)?

Assessment criteria

In order for all parties in the project to receive a dividend for their interests and for the project's joint objectives to be met, each project should assess on a points scale. The assessment must also be accompanied by supporting reasons, for example:

- Planned publications [Yes/No; number].
- High/low relevance.
- Relevant research group behind the application.
- No/strong commitment from industry.
- Great need for expertise in the field.
- Good from gender perspectives.

The perspectives can be described using the figure below. Each perspective is assigned between 1–4 points, depending on how well the research project meets the interests of the various spheres, i.e. how suitable the project is to receive funding.



All *Full Partners* and *Program Partners* of the Centre assess the project applications based on the four different perspectives: *Academic*, *Industrial*, *National* and the joint objectives of the *Centre*. In addition, *Theme Leaders* will assess the project applications regarding the fulfilment of the Theme Area Road Maps. Partners participating in a project application will not participate in the evaluation of that project.

Each partner has a vote for each perspective and assign points to them using the points scale above. Then all the votes for one perspective are combined and the average value becomes the final value for each perspective. This is entered in a table as shown below.

| Perspective | Points (1-4) |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| 1. National perspective | XX |
| 2. Academic perspective | XX |
| 3. Industrial perspective | XX |
| 4. The Centre's perspective | XX |
| Total points | XX |

The project should not have received any one(1)-point responses in order to be considered for funding. The total score is only supporting the evaluation, if a project is considered to be very important from one or more perspective(s), it can be recommended for financing even though it did not have the highest total score.

Based on the assessment the *Full Partners* will decide on a recommendation for funding.

Appendix 1 – SEC objectives

All SEC projects must contribute to meeting the Centre’s overall aim. Six objectives with associated targets have been formulated to measure how well this is achieved. All must have been met by the time SEC Stage V has been completed (28 February 2027). There are also a number of indicators that must be monitored and reported in annual reports and at the end of the stage, **Table 1 for Stage V**. The objectives and the indicators have been chosen so that together they provide a picture of the scientific excellence of the research and its importance to companies, both in terms of results and the need for qualified workers, as shown below.

Objectives 1 – Interdisciplinary projects

80% of all projects that last for two or more years and are funded by SEC must meet at least one of the criteria below:

- The project must plan and work to ensure that the researcher or PhD student will work for a limited time on site at one of the industrial partners. SEC also encourages industrial researches to work at one of the academic partners for a limited time within the project.
- The project must plan and work for international exchange.
- The project must touch on and collaborate with expertise from a field other than its main field.

Objectives 2 – Interdisciplinary research environment

SEC must offer researchers, PhD students and those working on degree projects from industry an interdisciplinary research environment. The industrial parties must also have the opportunity to participate in SEC’s planned PhD courses.

Objectives 3 – Scientifically competitiveness

SEC’s projects must be scientifically competitive internationally. SEC must, on average over the period of the stage, publish at least thirty reviewed articles in international journals and/or at conferences every year.

Objectives 4 – Dissemination of knowledge & research findings

The subject groups must convene subject group meetings three times a year, and SEC must arrange an activity that concerns all subject areas every year.

Objectives 5 – Collaboration

SEC must be involved in at least two projects with other centres or research organisations or major international collaboration projects with operations that can be linked to SEC.

Objectives 6 – Competence supply

Half of SEC-funded research projects that last for two years or more must be PhD student projects. The PhD student should be involved in the *PhD Student Network* and SEC’s planned PhD courses.

Table 1. Indicators that are monitored annually for Stage V.

| KPI Focus | Key Performance Indicator | Total Stage V | SEC overall | Theme | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------------|-------------|-------|----|----|----|----|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Scientific quality and | Peer reviewed journal articles & conference contributions | 150 | - | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| | Post docs meriting | 15 | - | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|--|-------|-------|----|----|----|----|----|
| competence building | PhD & Licentiate examina | 25 | - | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | International collaborations | 10 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Master thesis | 100 | - | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Knowledge sharing | SEC annual conference | 5 | 5 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | Thematic workshops | 75 | - | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| | Cross-thematic workshops | 25 | - | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| | SEC attention in relevant media i.e. impact stories | 10 | - | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Reports presented to the program council incl.thesis | 100 | - | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Gender Balance | Equality (ratio between women and men) | 40/60 | 40/60 | - | - | - | - | - |
| | University workshops | 10 | 10 | - | - | - | - | - |

Appendix 2 – Gender equality strategy (From Stage IV)

Objective

The goal for *Swedish Electromobility Centre (SEC)* is a gender balance of 40/60. This is a challenge as our technology area has a clear male dominance.

From the Program Description:

“ Gender equality for those how work at SEC is an issue we work actively with, and a reasonable balance is something we strive for. The issue of gender equality has a high priority for the centre’s operational management and the Program Council and the goals is 40/60 distribution on accordance with the program description.”

In addition to the goal of gender equality, SEC considers it important to combat all forms of discrimination and promote equal rights and opportunities for all individuals regardless of transgender identity or expression, ethnicity, religion or other belief, sexual orientation or age in accordance with the Discrimination Act.

Action plan based on the different parts of the Centre

Program Council

The full partners member has 45% female and 55% male. Thus, meets the centre’s objectives.

The centre’s management

At present, the management consist of 100% women, but with a deputy director, the gender balance is expected to improve. Here, the universities should jointly seek a balance between men and women when deputy principals are proposed.

Theme leaders

10% women and 90% men. Here, future work is needed to identify suitable female candidates at each university. For the coming stages, the goal must be to increase the number of women further. During Stage III, 100% were men, but then we only had four theme leaders. In Stage IV we have ten. The fact that we have not succeeded in finding more women again reflects the male majority in our field of technology; in the next stage, the balance should be improved.

Theme researcher

Gender equality, together with other aspects such as merit and a suitable background, should be considered when we appoint theme researchers.

Project activity

The gender equality aspect was already considered in the application for a project. The project information shows that "gender equality" is one of the indicators that the SEC monitors. The goal is to reach 40/60. The distribution of men and women in the project group, as well as the distribution of funding between men and women, must be stated in each project application. We do not expect every project group to be equal between men and women, however, this information is essential for the center as a whole. We will compile and follow up this information to keep track of what it looks like.

When project applications are evaluated, “gender” is one of the points included in our evaluation template. In the project's final report, the participants must state in their project information how many women and men have been included in the project, and how the project funds have been distributed between each gender.

Evaluation of applications

It is the program council that will evaluate the project applications that come in. Here the gender balance is even. There is a majority of men in the field of electrical engineering, which is reflected in which applications reach the SEC and in what the gender distribution looks like within the projects. The goal of 40/60 can therefore be difficult to achieve when it comes to the distribution of money, but by being aware of this, we can follow up on what the distribution looks like in reality each year. We want to increase equality as much as possible. In this work, it is important that the SEC ensures that the program council has relevant knowledge about gender equality. This means, for example, that they are informed prior to the evaluations of the applications regarding gender equality. We use material from "Gender equality aspects of research applications" (from the gender equality coordinator at Chalmers):

1. What is the **gender distribution** among participants?
2. What is the gender distribution if you look at the different participants' positions regarding responsibility?
3. What development opportunities are there for participating men/women, for whom participation is meritorious and which have non-meritorious positions?
4. How is money and other **resources** distributed in the application: who/who receives money, who receives heavy administrative tasks and who represents at conferences?
5. What **knowledge-enhancing** initiatives are planned within the framework of the application; for example, workshop on gender mainstreaming, to bring in a gender expert to get help to analyze gender equality perspectives on research, etc.?
6. Is it possible to see gender equality aspects that are about **benefit/enforcement** in the extension of the application?
7. What is the gender distribution of intended **users** of a possible product, whose working life /everyday life can be affected? (Based on the fact that the Swedish labor market is gender segregated, men and women have different transport patterns and take different part in the unpaid home and care work.)

Our responsibility

We consist of many partners from both academia, industry and government. The SEC is not an employer. It is the responsibility of each partner's employer to ensure that the workplace is equal and free from discrimination. What we as a center can do is to distribute the resources in an equal way, and to strive to achieve equality for the users of the technical solutions generated through the center. Transparent recruitment to important functions within the center is also important. We can promote gender equality by, for example, inviting lecturers to our events.

If any form of harassment comes to our knowledge, we must act by contacting the employer. Again, the SEC is not an employer, but as a financier, we have an obligation to ensure that the funds are handled responsibly.

Another part of increasing gender equality is to schedule meetings within the SEC at times that make it possible to combine professional life with toddler life. This means that all meetings can be attended via Skype if you do not have the opportunity to participate physically, for example at lunch-to-lunch conferences. We must also actively work to reduce the risk of stress that results in burnout, as burnout is something that mostly occurs among women.

Links

<https://www.do.se/arbetsgivare-ska-forebygga-diskriminering/forebygga-sexuella-trakasserier-och-trakasserier>

<https://www.do.se/kunskap-stod-och-vagledning/stodmaterial-forebygga-diskriminering/arbetslivet/sexuella-trakasserier-och-trakasserier-pa-jobbet>

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