



Strålsäkerhetsmyndigheten

Swedish Radiation Safety Authority

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The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority announces research funding focusing on nuclear waste products

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) hereby announces research funding for projects concerned with residual wastes from nuclear activities.

The announcement concerns a total of 8.5 million SEK for use during the years 2025 – 2029. The sum is preliminarily planned to be distributed as 0.5 million SEK for the year 2025 and 2 million SEK per year for 2026 – 2029. The total amount is intended to fund multiple applications.

The application must be received by the SSM **no later than April 15, 2025**.

Please note that this is a translation of the original Swedish announcement. Any differences in subject matter between the two texts are unintended. If there are conflicts between the two texts, the original text in Swedish shall have precedence.

Scope and focus of the announcement

The SSM annually announces funding for research within the authority's identified research areas. This announcement is addressed to universities, research institutes and companies in Sweden. International universities, research institutes and companies are also invited. The funding is intended for research relevant for residual wastes from nuclear activities in Sweden.

Research areas prioritised by SSM in this announcement are mainly those that concern risks and safety in the decommissioning of, and the final disposal of residual waste products from nuclear facilities in Sweden. The term “residual waste products” refers to what is covered by the term “restprodukter” in the Swedish law concerning the financing of residual wastes from nuclear activities (Lag (2006:647) om finansiering av kärntekniska restprodukter). Examples of research areas could be the technical barriers in the Swedish geological final disposals, geosphere issues related to final disposal,

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biosphere issues and consequence analysis for final disposal, and issues in social sciences regarding final disposal. Interdisciplinary collaboration within and between universities, research groups, research institutes and companies are encouraged by SSM.

The announcement includes, but is not limited to, the following examples of research areas

- Methods for adequate characterization of radioactive waste prior to final disposal or clearance.
- Theoretical studies of phosphorus-copper interactions – influence of phosphorus on the creep properties of copper.
- Hydrogen charging of copper studied with high resolution and detection capability.
- Nano-SIMS measurements of phosphorus in copper (high-resolution analyses of the localization of phosphorus in grain boundaries in copper).
- Studies of natural analogues to investigate the stability of smectite.
- Oxidation number of chromium in Cr-doped fuel and its impact on the long-term properties of the fuel in a final repository.
- Studies of the frequency and size of postglacial faults.
- Analysis of C-14 modelling and consequence analysis calculations for the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste.
- Archiving and information preservation linked to updating SSMFS 2008:38 on archiving at nuclear facilities, but also linked to SSM's regulations on final disposal and other nuclear facilities.

The announcement concerns funding for doctoral positions, post-doctoral positions or research projects.

SSM may for administrative reasons decide a timetable for the funding that differs from the spread of budget over time proposed in an application. Each application will be considered in its entirety; that is to say, SSM does not intend to fund only part of an application.

Maximum amounts

Doctoral positions corresponding to four years full-time position can be funded with 1.25 million SEK per year and position, i.e. in total 5 million SEK.

Post-doctoral positions corresponding to two years full-time position can be funded with 1.5 million SEK per year and position, i.e. in total 3 million SEK.

Research projects can be funded with a maximum of 1.5 million SEK in total.

Scope and format of the application

Each application must include two files: a completed application form and a project description.

Application form is available here: [Ansökningsblankett för forskningsmedel](#)

The project description should be named “Project Description” and the applicant’s surname, and should comprise a maximum of ten A4 pages containing the following information:

- Project summary



- Project plan that presents a well laid-out proposal for how the research will be conducted (specific goals, background, theory/hypotheses, methods, work plan, relations to possible other applications or funding, research questions to be answered, potential significance of the project, references)
- Description of how results are to be communicated
- Schedule with milestones and budget distributed over relevant calendar years
- Curriculum vitae (CV) for the applicant (max. two A4 pages)
- References to a maximum of three own publications of importance to the application

In addition to the maximum ten A4 pages, a separate file with a maximum of three own publications of importance to the application can also be attached. The appendix should be named "Publications" and the applicant's surname. Only articles or equivalents that have been published or accepted for publication may be included.

The complete application including appendices shall be sent electronically to the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority using the e-mail address registrator@ssm.se with a copy to maria.norden@ssm.se. Please indicate reference **SSM2025-960**. The application must be signed by the head of department or equivalent for where the research is to be conducted. The general terms and conditions of the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority apply to contractual agreements for research funding.

The project should be completed and reported no later than September 30 the final year.

Assessment of applications

Incomplete or late applications will not be assessed.

The examination of applications received by the Authority takes place among a group of experts, and according to SSM's criteria for assessing research projects, which are

- relevance to SSM's research objective (relevans inom strålsäkerhetsområdet), how well the project fits SSM's mission within the research area of the announcement (weighted by 40 %),
- scientific quality (vetenskaplig kvalitet) of the project in comparison to quality and depth of the issue under study, (weighted by 20 %),
- competence (kompetens) within the project in comparison to what is assessed to be necessary in order to ensure sufficient quality (weighted by 20 %), and
- feasibility (genomförbarhet), how realistic it is that the project reaches its goal and can be completed in time (weighted by 20 %).

Assessments made using the above criteria establish a foundation that constitutes the basis for decision. Where assessments made using the above criteria lead to two or more applications being equivalent, other aspects such as equal opportunities and the division of funds between universities may be taken into account. The overall aim of the assessment process is for SSM to achieve a balance across its research funding, with a suitable division between research providing operational support and competence support, as well as between funding of longer and shorter-term projects.

To avoid undue bias and/or conflicts of interest, awarded funds may not be used for the salaries of persons who currently have, or in the last two years have had, assignments for Svensk Kärnbränslehantering AB (SKB), for Posiva Oy, or for any of their owners or affiliated companies. Neither are applicants permitted to have performed research for SKB or Posiva with a similar orientation to that proposed in the application.



The Authority aims to make a decision **no later than June 13, 2025**.

Applications are public documents

SSM is an agency of the Swedish state and as such is subject to the principle of public access to official records. This means, among other things, that everyone has right to access non-classified public records (known as handlingsoffentlighet). As a general rule, records that come into, go out from, or are drawn up by the Authority become public documents and may be requested for release.

Questions may be addressed to

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