



5G/6G, AI, AND QUANTUM COMPUTING DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENTS AND MICROELECTRONICS FUNDING CALL

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1. Background

The Sustainable Growth Program for Finland related to the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) aims to accelerate the development of competitiveness, investments, increased competence levels, and research, development, and innovation. It specifically focuses on promoting the green transition and the digital change.

The goal of measures related to the program is to support the economy to change towards a carbon neutral society. The digital change is the program's horizontal goal, which is supported in several sections of the program, with one of the program's four areas being wholly directed at accelerating digitalization and the data economy.

Test environments of a high service level are key elements in the program in accelerating technological development and productization cycles. One of the goals set is protecting Finnish and European competitiveness by improving existing testing, experimentation and innovation environments, and by building new environments to open up opportunities for companies and researchers to test advanced applied solutions in real and controlled operating environments.

6G, AI, and quantum computing are the most important factors in the technological competitiveness of the future. At present, Finland has a strong position in these technologies and their application. Protecting competitiveness requires significant national inputs, the use of European investments, and strategic cooperation globally. To be an attractive environment for companies' RDI investments and a partner in EU and other international cooperation, Finland must offer competitive conditions and infrastructures for the cooperation required to develop leading technologies.

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2. Funding call for building or developing testing, experimentation, research and innovation environments that promote the development of 5G/6G, AI, and quantum computing and advancing microelectronics

For 2023, Business Finland will open a new funding call for projects aimed at building or developing test, pilot, research, and innovation infrastructures that promote the development of 6G, AI, and quantum computing and advancing microelectronics.

The funding call will open on February 20, 2023 and applications for it must be submitted by April 28, 2023.

Decision-making will follow Business Finland's normal assessment and decision-making process. Decisions on the projects to be funded will be made by the end of 2022.

Projects funded by the European Union's Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) under the Finnish Sustainable Growth Program must be completed by the end of 2025.

The budget for the funding call is 7 000 000€ and it enables launching two to four test, pilot, research, or innovation infrastructure projects that will significantly serve SMEs, the Finnish export sector, and related research. The funding granted in this funding call will not burden the quota for the temporary EUR 2,300,000 Covid-19 aid scheme authorized by the Commission, nor the de minimis quota for companies.

2.1. General goals of the funding

The following general goals have been set for testing, experimentation, research and innovation environment projects for 6G, AI, and quantum computing and microelectronics carried out within the scope of the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland and the EU Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF):

- Creating competitive development environments in Finland for Edge AI, future telecommunications technologies, and the application of quantum computing
- Improving the opportunities of Finnish organizations to participate in building European AI testing and experimentation facilities (AI TEF)
- Modernizing the Finnish 5G test network infrastructure and operating models, taking into account new advanced network architectures and technologies (e.g., 6G), as well as the needs of sector-specific applications
- Creating a development environment for the software required for quantum computing
- Lowering the threshold for companies to apply leading technologies, and increasing companies' RDI investments in these areas
- To promote competitiveness of Finnish microelectronics industry
- Increasing cooperation between companies and research institutions
- Increasing the engagement of Finnish companies and research institutions in EU programs that develop leading technologies, and in resulting European and global innovation and value networks

2.2. Focus areas in selecting projects for funding

Business Finland will focus on the following when selecting projects for funding:

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- promotes 5G/6G evolution, AI utilization, quantum computing or microelectronics
- promotes the achievement of the goals listed in the previous section
- promotes the creation of domestic and European synergies
- impact on the SMEs' opportunities to participate in developing these technologies and related business
- impact on companies engaged in Finnish exports or seeking export markets
- companies' participation and investments in the development and use of infrastructure that
- fulfills the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) requirements
- comply with EU and national environmental legislation as required
- compliance with Business Finland's current general funding criteria for the form of funding sought

In addition, the different forms of funding in the funding call have specific weights, which are listed below in the description of each type of funding.

2.3. Special criteria for RRF funding under the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland

In funding decisions, Finland complies with all valid state subsidy regulations and guidelines, and addresses DNSH technical guidance C(2021) 1054 final.

Due to environmental objectives, certain types of content or applications are not eligible for funding. The following cannot be funded in the funding call:

- (i) Activities within the scope of the EU Emissions Trading System (ETS) that result in estimated greenhouse gas emissions above the benchmark for free allocation, as defined in the Commission Implementation Regulation (EU) 2021/447¹
- (ii) Activities related to fossil fuels, including refining and further use²
- (iii) Activities related to landfills, incineration plants and mechanical-biological processing plants
- (iv) Activities involving long-term waste disposal that may harm the environment

The projects must fulfill relevant and binding environmental regulations valid in the EU and at a national level. Projects to be funded shall meet the selection and eligibility criteria of the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) Technical Guidance 2021/C58/01. The DNSH criteria are presented in Appendix (APPENDIX 1).

Business Finland will select the projects to be funded in accordance with the criteria of the open funding call. The eligibility criteria and the use of an exclusion list guarantee that the selected projects comply with the "No Significant Harm" principle (2021/C58/01) in the Technical Guidelines and comply with EU and national environmental legislation as required. The selection criteria include the quality and suitability of the project, its future direct and indirect impact on business, its suitability for national and EU strategies, and the quality of the project consortium. The assessment will also cover the quality and impact of the RDI activities and their contribution to digitalization.

If the greenhouse gas emissions achieved in supported activities are not clearly below the applied benchmark values, the reasons why this is not possible must be described. The benchmark values for greenhouse gas emissions applied to activities within the scope of ETS are set out in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/47.

² An exception to this procedure are projects related to electricity and/or heat production and natural gas transmission and distribution infrastructure that correspond to the principle of "no significant harm" in Annex III to the Technical Guidelines (2021/C58/01).

The 5G/6G, AI and quantum computing development environments investment and development package supports digitalization 100% at the level of the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland. Projects funded under this funding call must meet the criteria for promoting digital transformation set out in measure 021c of Annex VII to Regulation (EU) 2021/241 establishing the Recovery and Rehabilitation Support Facility³.

2.4. Types of funding summarized

The funding call offers three separate forms of funding.

Funding for research infrastructures

Business Finland may grant research infrastructure funding for building or developing research environments that are engaged in financial activities and are intended for basic or industrial research. Research infrastructures may also have parallel, non-economic public research. However, economic use must always account for more than 20% of the research infrastructure. Business Finland may provide funding for costs related to investments made in the research infrastructures.

Funding for infrastructures of innovation clusters and for supporting the activities of innovation clusters

Business Finland may grant innovation cluster funding for building or developing testing, experimentation, research and innovation environments that are maintained by innovation clusters formed and organized by innovation organizations in cooperation, and for supporting the activities of innovation clusters. Innovation clusters must operate commercially and on market terms. Innovation clusters cannot engage in publicly funded non-economic activities. Business Finland may grant support for costs related to the innovation clusters' infrastructure investments and operating costs. The support is granted to a cluster organization, which is defined by the innovation cluster and carries out the cluster's activities.

Funding for Co-Innovation projects that promote the development of 6G, AI, quantum computing and microelectronics infrastructures, and Co-Innovation structured RDI-projects in microelectronics

Business Finland may grant research, development and innovation funding for research projects per Business Finland's Co-Innovation funding service. Co-Innovation projects funded under this funding call must be linked to creating, developing or improving the technological capacity of widely available testing, experimentation, research or innovation infrastructures that promote cutting-edge technologies.

2.5. Funding for research infrastructures

Business Finland may grant funding for building or developing research infrastructure. The costs eligible for funding are those related to investments in research infrastructure.

³ Investments in advanced technologies such as high-performance computing and quantum computing capabilities/quantum communication capabilities (including quantum encryption); microelectronics design, production and system integration; next-generation European data, cloud, and edge computing capacities (infrastructures, platforms and services); virtual and augmented reality, deep technology and other advanced digital technologies. Investments for securing the digital supply chain.

2.5.1. Requirements for research infrastructure funding

- The funded research environment or part of it is intended for a research community for conducting basic or industrial research.
- The funding requested is limited to the percentage of the research infrastructure's investments available for basic or industrial research. Funding cannot be directed to other uses of the infrastructure.
- The research environment foresees extensive economic use by SMEs and other companies, and at least 20% of its planned use is economic use.
- The share of own funding that corresponds to the percentage of economic use is private funding
- The applicant has secured own funding to cover both economic and non-economic use
- The opportunity to use the research environment is open based on transparent and non-discriminating terms and conditions.
- A market price is charged for the economical use of the research environment.
- The funded environment must remain in the use presented in the funding decision at least until the funded investment has been fully depreciated in accounting or for at most 10 years.

2.5.2. Research Organization Applicant – Determining the nature of use for the research infrastructure, the amount of funding applied for and the financing required from the applicant itself

As part of the funding application, the research organization must provide an estimate of how the use of the research infrastructure is distributed, according to the nature of that use. Research infrastructure use is divided into three different categories and the estimate for each is expressed as a percentage of the overall capacity. The distribution of the use of the research infrastructure affects its eligibility for funding, the eligible costs, the amount of Business Finland's funding, the amount of financing required from the applicant for the project's costs, and the nature of the funding required. The estimate is a mandatory part of the application.

The breakdown based on the following categories of use:

Public research use is defined as the research infrastructure's use for the basic activities of research organizations (education, R&D activities, and the dissemination of information) when protected results will remain the property of the research organization and public research results will be disseminated efficiently.

Economic research use is defined as the sale of research infrastructure capacity to companies for basic or industrial research. With regard to sales of the research infrastructure capacity maintained by the research organization, the intended use determines whether the case is considered economic use or public research use. A sale to another research organization or to another unit in the same research organization is considered economic research use if the intention is to conduct contract research within the scope of economic activities. Selling directly for the company's use is always economic use.

The sale of research infrastructures maintained by companies is also always economic use, regardless of the buyer or use.

Other economic use covers any use of the infrastructure other than the above public or economic research. Other economic uses typically involve the sales of infrastructure capacity for the purposes of product development, product testing, quality assurance, compatibility testing, compliance verification, prototyping, pre-production, small series production, etc.

The distribution of the type of use is indicated in a specific section of the application form in the following format:

Public research use	xx%
Economic research use	yy%
Other economic use	zz%

Determining the nature of use

If the applicant is a research organization and the research infrastructure has public research use in addition to economic use, the share of the infrastructure's economic use must exceed 20% for the infrastructure to be eligible for funding in this funding call. Figure 1. shows the distribution of use into the three categories described above. The green segments in the figure must exceed 20% of the total.

The distribution of the research infrastructure's use must be monitored over its economic lifetime, and changes in it must be reported to Business Finland. The economic lifetime is the investment's depreciation period in accounting or a maximum of 10 years. A higher than expected rate of economic use during the monitoring period may lead to recovery of the support.

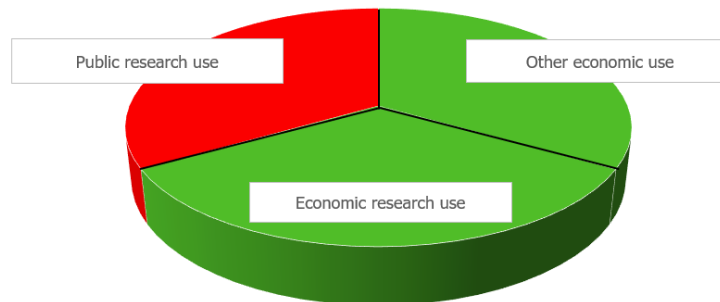


Figure 1. Distribution of the research infrastructure's use between economic (green) and public research use (red)

The general objective of the RRF infrastructure funding call is to mobilize research infrastructure that is of interest to companies and best serve their research needs. Therefore, the extent of economic use in the foreseeable future is the key selection criteria in selecting projects for funding. Applicants are encouraged to develop proposals that maximize the project's relative share of economic use.

Eligible costs and BF-funding

If the research infrastructure fulfills the economic use requirement described above, the applicant must next estimate the amount and type of financing it will cover itself based on the distribution of use.

The funding granted by Business Finland can only be used for the percentage of infrastructure costs used for research, i.e., the sum of the yellow segments in Figure 2. The red segment, i.e., the portion of the costs of other economic uses, is covered entirely by the applicant.

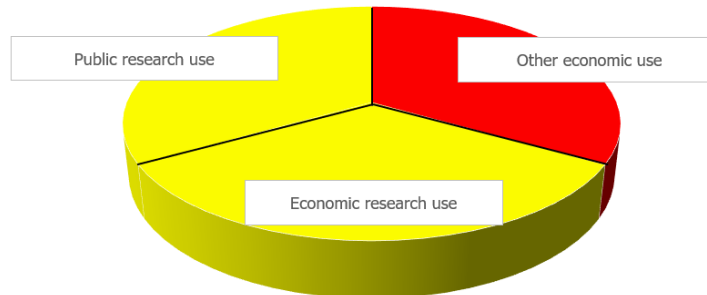


Figure 2. The share of research use eligible for funding (yellow) in the total costs of the research infrastructure

Figure 3 shows the shares of Business Finland’s funding and the applicant’s own financing in the total costs of the infrastructure. Business Finland can fund 50% of the infrastructure costs of economic research use and public research use, i.e., half of the costs indicated by the yellow segments in Figure 2.

Amount of financing funded by the applicant

Half of the costs indicated by the yellow segments will be covered by the applicant’s own financing for the project. The share of economic research use in the applicant’s financing (the lower yellow segment in Figure 3) must be covered with private financing, and the share of public research use in the applicant’s financing (the upper yellow segment in Figure 3) may consist partly or wholly of public funding. In addition, the applicant must wholly cover the share of other economic use (the red segment in Figure 3) with private financing. Funding from European Commission programs and funds can also be part of the project’s total funding, provided that it does not result in overcompensation, in which case the total funding from Business Finland and the Commission would exceed 100% of the project’s total cost.

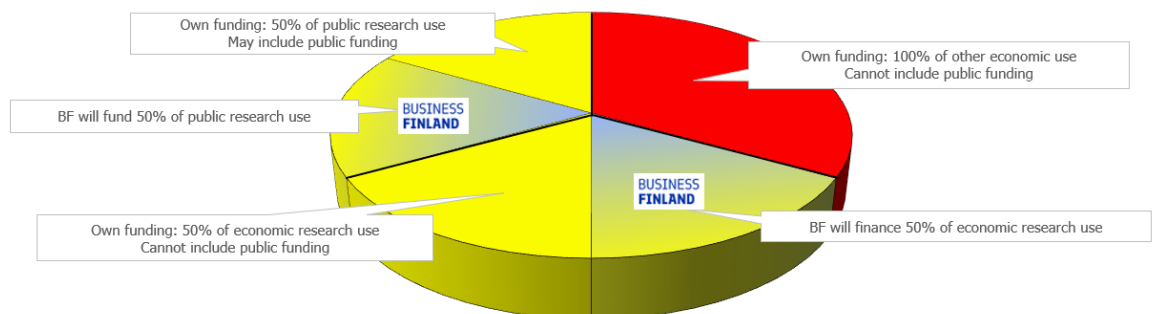


Figure 3. Distribution of project funding by infrastructure use

For example:

The total budget for the research infrastructure is EUR 2,000,000. Infrastructure use is distributed in the following way:

Public research use	50%
Economic research use	25%
Other economic use	25%

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The share of the infrastructure's economic use is 25% + 25%, which equals 50% of total use. The economic use exceeds the minimum requirement (>20%), and therefore it is possible for Business Finland to fund the project.

The research use of the infrastructure is 50% + 25%, which equals 75% of the total use. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the plan's budget, or EUR 1,500,000, is eligible for funding. EUR 1,000,000 of this funding is directed at public research use, and EUR 500,000 is allocated for economic research use.

If the funding decision is favorable, Business Finland's support for the research infrastructure would be 50% of the costs associated with public research use, i.e., EUR 500,000, and 50% of the costs related to economic research use, i.e., EUR 250,000. **Business Finland's total support for the applicant could be EUR 750,000.**

In the application, the applicant should indicate guaranteed own financing of EUR 1,250,000 for the project, consisting of the following:

- Public or private financing of EUR 500,000 for the share of public research use
- Private financing of EUR 250,000 for the share of economic research use
- Private financing of EUR 500,000 for the share of other economic use

In this example, the applicant would need at least EUR 750,000 of private financing to cover its own contribution. The remaining EUR 500,000 may be either private or public financing.

2.5.3. Applicant Company – Determining the nature of use for the research infrastructure, the amount of funding to apply for, and the financing required from the applicant itself

As part of the funding application, the applicant must provide an estimate of how the research infrastructure's use is distributed, according to the nature of that use. The use is divided into two different categories, and the estimate for each is expressed as a percentage of the overall capacity of the infrastructure. The distribution of the use of the research infrastructure affects the eligible costs, the amount of Business Finland's funding, and the amount of financing required from the applicant for the project's costs. The estimate is a mandatory part of the application.

The distribution is based on the following categories of use:

Basic or industrial research use is the sale of research infrastructure capacity to organizations or companies for basic or industrial research.

Other economic use is all use of the infrastructure, other than the research use described above. Other economic uses typically involve the sales of infrastructure capacity for the purposes of product development, product testing, quality assurance, compatibility testing, compliance verification, prototyping, pre-production, small series production, etc.

The distribution of each use is indicated in a specific section of the application form in the following format:

Basic or industrial research use	xx%
Other economic use	zz%

An applicant company does not need to differentiate between public and economic research uses (definitions in paragraph **Error! Reference source not found.**) if the service is offered to all customers on the same terms and at the same market price. If a company provides research infrastructure services to research organizations for public research in a way that deviates from normal terms, the applicant must provide an estimate of the share of public research use and describe the main features of the deviating terms. For example, a company can offer their environment to research organizations at a lower price than for other users. The deviating terms may not result in other public support being directed to the research infrastructure. For example, charging public organizations a higher price for using the infrastructure would be a hidden public subsidy.

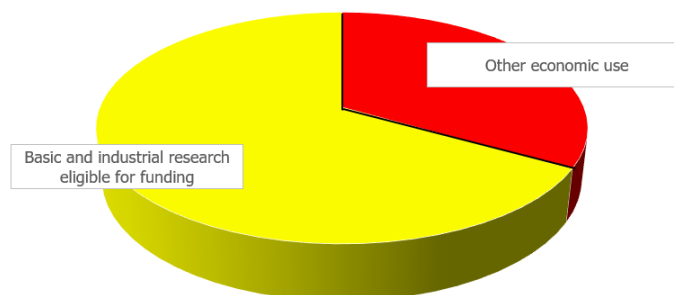


Figure 4. The distribution of the use of the research infrastructure maintained by the company for research and other economic uses and the share of the project costs eligible for funding (yellow)

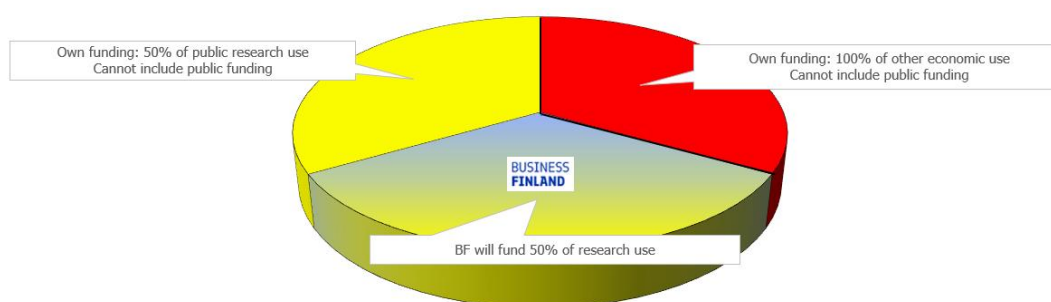


Figure 5. Breakdown of project funding by use of the infrastructure

Eligible costs

The funding granted by Business Finland can only be used for the percentage of infrastructure costs from research, i.e., costs corresponding to the yellow segment in Figure 4. The red segment, i.e., the portion of the costs of other economic uses, is covered entirely by the applicant.

Project funding

Figure 5 shows the shares of Business Finland's funding and the applicant's own financing in the overall costs of the infrastructure. Business Finland can fund 50% of the infrastructure costs for basic and industrial research use, i.e., a total of half the yellow segment in Figure 4. The applicant will cover half of the costs in the yellow segment. The financing allocated to the project by the applicant must be private financing. The applicant must also wholly cover the share of the costs of other economic use (the red segment in Figure 5) with private financing. Funding from European Commission programs and funds can also be part of the project's total funding, provided that it does not result in overcompensation, in which case the total funding from Business Finland and the Commission would exceed 100% of the project's total cost.

For example:

The total budget for the company's planned research infrastructure is EUR 2,000,000. Infrastructure use is distributed in the following way:

Basic and industrial research use 60%

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Other economic use 40%

The company plans to make research infrastructure capacity available to research institutions for public research on more favorable terms and has estimated the amount of this use in the overall infrastructure capacity.

Public research use with different terms and conditions 15%

The 60% share of costs corresponding to research use is eligible for funding. In this example, the eligible project costs would be EUR 1,200,000.

In case of a favorable funding decision, **Business Finland's maximum support** for the research infrastructure could be 50% of the eligible costs, or **EUR 600,000**.

In the application, the applicant should indicate **EUR 1,400,000 of private financing of its own for the project**.

2.5.4. Costs eligible for support and the amount of funding

Business Finland may provide funding for building or developing a research environment. Eligible costs can include investments in tangible and intangible assets provided for in the project plan. In addition to purchase costs, eligible costs include personnel and travel costs, overheads, and purchased services that arise from the implementation of the investments.

Eligible costs can include:

- installation of hardware and/or software
- hardware and/or software deployment
- training staff for the deployment of research infrastructure
- building up and designing service processes for the research infrastructure

The share of costs associated with other economic uses (defined in paragraphs 2.5.2 or 2.5.3) in the total infrastructure cost are not eligible. Costs excluded from the support are calculated as a percentage of the total cost of the investment project.

Business Finland's support accounts for a maximum of 50% of eligible costs. Support for research infrastructures is a grant. Any other public support directed at the research infrastructure's economic activity will reduce Business Finland's funding.

Funding will be paid to cover the realized costs of the project on the basis of the accounts submitted with interim and final reports. No funding will be disbursed in advance. The funding of research infrastructure projects for economic research use follows the general funding terms and conditions for Business Finland's research infrastructure funding: [Terms and conditions for funding research infrastructure projects](#).

If the research infrastructure is also funded by Business Finland's funding for public research, it is governed by the terms and conditions of funding for public research: Terms and conditions of funding for public research. In addition, the funding decision may contain specific terms and conditions related to the forms of funding concerned.

The distribution of the research infrastructure's use for public research use, economic research use, and other economic use must be monitored throughout the economic use of the infrastructure and reported to Business Finland annually or immediately if there are significant changes in the use profile. The economic lifetime is the investment's depreciation period in accounting or a maximum of 10 years. Changes in the

distribution of use during the monitoring period may lead to the recovery of funding, if the maximum amount of public support is exceeded as a result of these changes.

As infrastructures and the required approaches for measuring capacity may differ significantly case by case, the applicant must also describe how the use will be measured and monitored.

2.5.5. Who can apply for and receive funding?

Business Finland may provide funding for organizations responsible for building, maintaining, and operating a research environment. The funded organization may be a limited liability company, cooperative, association, an enterprise of municipalities and towns, a research institution, university or higher education institute.

A group of several organizations may submit parallel applications to apply for research infrastructure funding for a joint infrastructure consisting of several partial infrastructures, provided that the partial infrastructures form a coherent operational entity. The term "coherent operational entity" refers to an implementation, in which partial infrastructures are necessary for producing a service provided through the infrastructure, with no partial infrastructure being able to provide the service on their own without the other partial infrastructures.

In an entity in which partial infrastructures can also independently produce the research service provided, research infrastructure funding must also be applied for separately, and the applications will be assessed as separate infrastructures. Business Finland will address cooperation with other infrastructures as a broader networking of the infrastructure.

2.6. Funding for building and improving the testing, experimentation and innovation environments of innovation clusters, and for supporting the activities of innovation clusters

Innovation clusters are cooperation bodies formed and organized by innovation actors in order to increase cooperation between the actors involved in the cluster, to improve the exchange of knowledge and know-how within the cluster, to accelerate the cluster's innovation activities, to promote multinational cooperation, and to increase the number of actors involved.

Business Finland may grant innovation cluster funding to support the operation of innovation clusters and investments related to the construction or development of test, pilot, research, and innovation environments maintained by the cluster.

Innovation cluster funding granted by Business Finland is intended to support the operating conditions of the cluster organization implementing the cluster's activities and infrastructure in its early stages when the utilization rate of cluster services is still low and the preconditions for income-funded cluster activities do not yet exist. The funding aims to cover the losses caused by the initial under-utilization of the cluster organization. The funding may not be used to subsidize the price of cluster services or otherwise be passed on to the users of the cluster's services.

2.6.1. Requirements for funding

- The testing, experimentation, or innovation environment is underpinned by an organized community of innovation actors (innovative new, small, medium, and large companies, research and dissemination organizations, non-profit organizations, and other economic actors), whose members utilize the environment.
- Membership with the cluster and the right to use the environment are provided for the innovation organizations openly based on transparent and non-discriminating terms and conditions.
- The members of the innovation cluster have formed a cluster organization that operates a test, pilot, or innovation environment and is also responsible for its construction, further development, and maintenance, as well as the planning and implementation of the innovation cluster's other activities.
- The applicant for funding is the cluster organization described above (at the application stage, the application can be submitted by a substitute organization agreed on by the cluster, if the formation of the cluster organization is in progress at the time the application is submitted)
- The innovation cluster will offer testing, experimentation, innovation environments, and other services to the cluster participants on commercial terms. It will charge a market-based price, which allows the cluster's revenue-funded operation with a target utilization rate based on a realistic estimate.
- Public aid is not used to subsidize the price of services provided by the innovation cluster or otherwise transferred to the users of the innovation cluster's services.
- The research environment foresees extensive use by SMEs and other companies.
- The applicant has secured private financing for the part of the project to be financed by the applicant itself.
- Investments in the funded environment must remain in the use presented in the funding decision at least until the funded investment has been fully depreciated in accounting or for at most 10 years.

2.6.2. Costs eligible for support and the amount of funding

Business Finland may provide funding for building or developing a testing, experimentation, research or innovation environment that is part of a cluster organization's activities. Eligible costs are direct investments made toward this end in the cluster's infrastructure, including tangible and intangible assets and related costs necessary for their efficient implementation and use.

Costs related to investments may include, for example:

- installation of hardware and/or software
- hardware and/or software deployment
- training of staff for infrastructure deployment
- creation and design of infrastructure service processes

In addition to investment support, the innovation cluster may also be granted operating aid for a limited period. Operating aid may be granted:

- for promoting the activities of the innovation cluster to improve the cluster's cooperation and information exchange
- for providing and channeling services for the cluster's innovation organizations

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- for marketing the innovation cluster to increase the cluster and improve the visibility of its activities
- for the management of the cluster's infrastructure
- for organizing training programs, workshops, and conferences that support knowledge sharing, networking, and multinational cooperation

Business Finland's support accounts for at most 50% of costs eligible for support. Business Finland's support for innovation clusters is a grant. The remainder of the costs must be covered by the applicant through private funding. Any other public funding allocated to the innovation cluster will reduce Business Finland's share of funding.

Funding will be paid to cover the realized costs of the project on the basis of the accounts submitted with interim and final reports. No funding will be disbursed in advance. The funding of innovation cluster projects follows Business Finland's general funding terms and conditions for innovation cluster funding.

The economic lifetime of a cluster organization's investments funded by Business Finland is the depreciation period of the investment in accounting or a maximum of 10 years. During this period, Business Finland must be notified in advance of changes in the investments' intended use. If the intended use changes, Business Finland can recover the funding granted for the investments.

For monitoring and payment of operating aid, the beneficiary shall keep separate accounts for cluster activities, showing the costs incurred from cluster activities and income from the use of the cluster's infrastructure, services, and its participation in activities. Operating support during the funding period may not exceed the cumulative loss resulting from the operation of the cluster. The final level of operating aid at the end of the operating aid period may be less than 50%, and Business Finland may reduce the amount of support to be paid or recover already paid aid so that the maximum amount of allowed operating aid is not exceeded.

2.6.3. Who can apply for and receive funding?

Business Finland can only fund a cluster organization that is responsible for cluster operations (see paragraphs 2.6 and 2.6.1). The cluster organization may be formed in various ways. It may be a part of an existing organization separated by means of accounting or an organization established specifically for this purpose. The funded organization may be a limited liability company, cooperative, association, an enterprise of municipalities and towns, a research institution, university or higher education institute.

The funding applicant is a cluster organization. Technically, an innovation cluster funding application may also be submitted by a substitute organization selected by the innovation cluster members, if the formation of the cluster organization is still ongoing. The cluster organization must exist at the latest when the funding proposal is submitted for decision-making.

2.7. Funding for Co-Innovation projects that promote the development of 6G, AI, quantum computing and microelectronics infrastructures, and Co-Innovation structured RDI-projects in microelectronics

Business Finland may provide funding for Co-Innovation projects that promote the creation or development of testing, experimentation, research, or innovation infrastructures. RRF infrastructure funding is granted for Co-Innovation projects that mainly consist of basic and/or industrial research. Funding may be granted for an infrastructure plan that is strongly future-oriented and requires significant research inputs before the infrastructure can be implemented in practice. Funding may also be granted for an existing infrastructure that requires significant research inputs to raise it to a whole new level.

Business Finland may provide funding also for Co-Innovation structured RDI-projects contributing to advancement of the microelectronics industry in Finland.

2.7.1. Requirements for funding

- Co-Innovation projects have a clear link to the development of broadly available infrastructures that promote leading technologies.
- Research conducted in a Co-Innovation project and the consortium engaged in the project have a well-defined common goal that serves to promote of infrastructure operations.
- The project mainly consists of basic and/or industrial research.
- The results of the project's public research have wide applicability
- The applicants have a plan for how to use the results in infrastructure operations
- Business Finland's general criteria for Co-Innovation projects are met
- The selection criteria for microelectronics RDI-projects include the quality of the project consortium, quality and impact of the RDI-activities, contribution on digitalization, the quality and suitability of the project, its future direct and indirect impact on business, compatibility with the IPCEI core ideas, and its suitability for national and EU strategies.

2.7.2. Costs eligible for support and the amount of funding

Funding granted within the scope of this funding call follows Business Finland's normal support levels for Co-Innovation projects. Costs can be accepted per the general terms and conditions of Business Finland's research funding and company RDI funding.

The funding of projects through the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) is always a grant. In the case of company R&D projects, funding is only available for projects where industrial research accounts for more than half of the costs. Projects that mainly involve experimental development cannot be funded under the RRF.

It is not possible to fund infrastructure investments in Co-Innovation projects. The depreciation of equipment required for research work over the duration of the project can be funded at our discretion.

Business Finland's terms and conditions for companies' RDI funding:

[Funding terms and conditions for companies' R&D projects](#)

Business Finland's terms and conditions of funding for research organizations:

[Funding terms and conditions for research organizations](#)

2.7.3. Who can apply for and receive funding?

Business Finland may provide funding for organizations that are involved in a Co-Innovation consortium through their own sub-project. The funded organization may be a limited liability company, cooperative, association, an enterprise of municipalities and towns, a research institution, university or higher education institute.

More information about Business Finland's Co-Innovation funding:

Innovation Funding Agency Business Finland

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<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/for-finnish-customers/services/funding/cooperation-between-companies-and-research-organizations/co-innovation>

3. Applying for funding

3.1. Types of applications

3.1.1. The company is applying for research infrastructure funding

Basic applicant and application information is completed in the Business Finland online service.

The funding service is selected as follows:

- Research Infrastructure

Under "Programs and other connections," select "RRF – Finland's Sustainable Growth Program" for your application and then the "RRF – 5G/6G, AI, Quantum Development Environments" identifier in the menu.

The application must be submitted no later than the funding call closing date in chapter 4.

3.1.2. The research organization is applying for research infrastructure funding only for economic activities

If the research organization applies for research infrastructure funding only for economic activities, the application is submitted in the same way as the company's application for research infrastructure funding (see paragraph 3.1.1).

Because the Academy of Finland and Business Finland's infrastructure funding calls are closely related, there is a need for coordinated cooperation and exchange of information about applications between these organizations. If you allow Business Finland to exchange information about your application with the Academy of Finland, we kindly ask you to add the following text to the Free-form cover note field on the application form:

"We give our consent to Business Finland to exchange information related to the application and its processing with the Academy of Finland. The above consent does not apply to the information in the application or its supporting documents marked as "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION."

The applicant must ensure that the "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" marking is clear and its scope unambiguous.

3.1.3. The research organization is applying for research infrastructure funding for both public research and economic activities

If a research organization applies for research infrastructure funding for both public research and economic activities, the funding will require two separate applications. Basic applicant and application information is completed in Business Finland's online service.

The funding services are selected from:

- "Research infrastructure" **and**
- "Public research networked with companies"

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Under "Programs and other connections," select "RRF – Finland's Sustainable Growth Program" for your application and then the "RRF - 5G/6G, AI, Quantum Development Environments" identifier in the menu.

The "Research infrastructure" application is used to apply for funding for the percentage of economic research use and the "Public research networked with companies" application is used for the share of public research use.

Applications are filled in with the same content. The budgets in the applications and the amount of funding applied for will be divided among the applications in proportion to the estimated economic and public research use.

Business Finland makes two separate funding decisions based on these applications.

The application must be submitted no later than the funding call closing date in chapter 4.

Because the Academy of Finland and Business Finland's infrastructure funding calls are closely related, there is a need for coordinated cooperation and exchange of information about applications between these organizations. If you allow Business Finland to exchange information about your application with the Academy of Finland, we kindly ask you to add the following text to the Free-form cover note field on the application form:

"We give our consent to Business Finland to exchange information related to the application and its processing with the Academy of Finland. The above consent does not apply to the information in the application or its supporting documents marked as "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION."

Please ensure that the "CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION" marking is clear and its scope unambiguous.

3.1.4. The company or research organization is applying for innovation cluster funding

Basic applicant and application information is completed in the Business Finland online service.

The funding service is selected as follows:

- "Research, development and piloting"

Under "Programs and other connections," select "RRF – Finland's Sustainable Growth Program" for your application and then the "RRF – 5G/6G, AI, Quantum Development Environments" identifier in the menu.

The application must be submitted no later than the funding call closing date in chapter 4.

Please note: Innovation cluster activity is always an economic activity. This never involves parallel funding by Business Finland for public research (cf. paragraph 3.1.3).

3.1.5. The companies and research organizations are applying for Co-Innovation project funding

Basic applicant and application information is completed in the Business Finland online service.

The funding service is selected as follows:

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- Company as Coordinator: Co-Innovation, main application and Co-Innovation, company participant
- Company as a participant: Co-Innovation, participant
- Research organization as coordinator: Co-Innovation, main application and Co-Innovation, research participant
- Research organization as a participant: "Co-Innovation Research Participant"

Under "Programs and other connections," select "RRF – Finland's Sustainable Growth Program" for your application and then the "RRF – 5G/6G, AI, Quantum Development Environments" identifier in the menu.

The application must be submitted no later than the funding call closing date in chapter 4.

3.2. Beneficiary Notification to PRH

The applicant for funding must ensure that the beneficiary notification is submitted to the Finnish Patent and Registration Office (https://www.prh.fi/en/kaupparekisteri/beneficial_owner_details.html)

3.3. Project plan

3.3.1. Research infrastructures and innovation clusters

In addition, the application is accompanied by a project plan, which includes at least the items described in the table of contents. Project plans must follow the structure and headings provided below:

Basic information

Applicant:

Funding call: RRF – 5G/6G, AI, Quantum Development Environments

Form of funding: Research Infrastructure / Innovation Cluster / Co-Innovation

Infrastructure plan

Overview of the infrastructure

Infrastructure services offered to customers

(Research Infrastructures only) Measuring the research infrastructure's use

(Innovation Clusters only) The Innovation Cluster's initial composition and its members' contribution to it

(Innovation Clusters only) Cluster organization

Main elements of transparent and non-discriminatory policies

(Research Infrastructures only) Commitments received during the application phase from innovation actors that will use the infrastructure and their possible contributions to the plan.

Investment plan

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Tangible and intangible investments in the infrastructure

Other measures related to investments

(Innovation Clusters only) The action plan that is used to apply for operating aid

Project

Schedule

Cost estimate

Funding

Resourcing

Business plan

Target users/customer base

Targeted development of activities and activity volume

(Research Infrastructures only) The distribution of operation into public research use, economic research use, and other economic use

(Research Infrastructures only) How will you ensure the continuation of operations on a long-term basis?

(Innovation Clusters only) How and when are operations planned to become profitable?

Impacts on innovation activities

What impacts do you consider the infrastructure to have on Finnish innovation activity?

How the infrastructure affects SMEs and the Finnish export sector

Applicant's other project plan content

3.3.2. Co-Innovation projects

A project plan is created for Co-Innovation projects as per Business Finland's normal Co-Innovation project practice, consisting of a joint plan submitted as an appendix to the Co-Innovation coordinator's main application and a project plan per participant, submitted by each party as an appendix to their participant application.

A specific requirement for an RRF infrastructure funding call is to add one paragraph to the Co-Innovation Coordinator's joint plan describing how the Co-Innovation project will contribute to the creation or development of a long-term testing, experimentation, research, or innovation infrastructure that will diversify and accelerate innovation activities.

In addition to the normal direct export effects of a Co-Innovation project, the applicant must also assess the indirect effects of the aforementioned infrastructure on the Finnish export sector's export expectations.

4. Schedule and briefing

The funding call will open on: February 20, 2023

The funding call will close on: April 28, 2023

Decisions on which projects will be funded will be made by the end of 2023

Projects must be completed by the end of 2025.

Go to the funding call page:

<https://www.businessfinland.fi/en/whats-new/calls/2023/rrf-infrastructure-funding-call>

Additional information about the funding call is provided by

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Business Finland
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APPENDIX 1: More information about the Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) requirement

Each project funded through the Sustainable Growth Program for Finland must meet the DNSH requirements. The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) requires that no measures do any significant harm to the environment. Economic activities are considered to cause significant harm to the following:

- a) climate change mitigation,
 - *where that activity leads to significant greenhouse gas emissions;*
- b) climate change adaptation,
 - *where that activity leads to an increased adverse impact of the current climate and the expected future climate, on the activity itself or on people, nature or assets;*
- c) the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources, where that activity is detrimental
 - *to the good status or the good ecological potential of bodies of water, including surface water and groundwater; or*
 - *to the good environmental status of marine waters;*
- d) the circular economy, including waste prevention and recycling, where
 - *that activity leads to significant inefficiencies in the use of materials or in the direct or indirect use of natural resources such as non-renewable energy sources, raw materials, water and land at one or more stages of the life cycle of products, including in terms of durability, reparability, upgradability, reusability or recyclability of products;*
 - *that activity leads to a significant increase in the generation, incineration or disposal of waste, with the exception of the incineration of non-recyclable hazardous waste; or*
 - *the long-term disposal of waste may cause significant and long-term harm to the environment;*
- e) pollution prevention and control,
 - *where that activity leads to a significant increase in the emissions of pollutants into the air, water or land, as compared with the situation before the activity commenced; or*
- f) the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems, where that activity is
 - *significantly detrimental to the good condition and resilience of ecosystems; or*
 - *detrimental to the conservation status of habitats and species, including those of Union interest.*

Example responses to DNSH forms are available at

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FI/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218\(01\)&from=FI](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/FI/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021XC0218(01)&from=FI) p. 16

The Sustainable Growth Program for Finland: <https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/handle/10024/163176> Appendix 3, pages 470–471.