

BUSINESS FINLAND EXPECTATIONS AND FUNDING

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NSF GLOBAL CENTERS

Use-Inspired Research Addressing Global Challenges through the Bioeconomy



- Each year, the US National Science Foundation (NSF) organizes thematic international Global Center programs.
- This year the call for funding is focused on challenging bioeconomy topics for future solutions.
- The aim is to increase research cooperation between Finland, the United States and four other countries participating in the program.
- Finnish companies and research organizations are invited to participate in the international NSF Global Centers call.
- In Finland, the program is funded by Business Finland and Research Council of Finland, whose contributions may complement each other.



Bilateral with US or Multilateral including US

Global Center Projects are:

- NSF plans to fund 5-7 Global Centers projects.
- Each country public funding is about 5 million €.
- The estimated size of the 5-year Global Centers program in six countries is about € 100 million.
- Business Finland has earmarked €7 million and the Academy of Finland €3 million.
- All NSF Global Center consortia projects must have an US Lead Partner and Primary Investigator.
- Bilateral Global Centers with US are possible, but multilateral Global Centers are preferred.
- Finland is preparing to fund two Finnish consortia of €5 million as part of the international NSF Global Centers project consortium.



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BUSINESS FINLAND EXPECTATIONS

- **Global Centers boost world class research leading to improvements in a wide range of scientific and technological fields of bioeconomy.**
- **The aim is to create a strong research base to produce breakthrough innovations and solutions for Finnish companies addressing global challenges.**
- **In Global Centers Use-Inspired approach includes Stakeholders, Industry, Community and Policymakers.**
- **For Business Finland the main Use-Inspired group is the Industry.**
- **Business Finland expects companies to actively participate in the Global Center Projects to build their future success on world class research on bioeconomy and biotechnology.**
- **Biofoundries is the expected as the main topic to attract Finnish companies.**

BUSINESS FINLAND FUNDING

Co-Innovation - Business Finland is joint research funding for joint activities between companies and research organizations that enable them to increase their competitiveness and generate significant new international business. 80 % funding for research partners.

- Requires at least three Finnish companies and one or more research organizations applying for funding. The companies can be large companies, SMEs or start-ups with credible expertise and sufficient resources. Co-Innovation is the favored funding scheme.

Co-Research - Business Finland projects can build bridges between basic research and industrial research in companies and focus research on topics relevant to Finnish companies. 70 % funding.

- Funding is targeted at disruptive and strategic projects and those that develop future competences as basis for companies own development projects.

Funding for research and development is funding for an individual company or group of companies for ambitious industrial research.

- Company funding in Co-Innovation follows this funding.
- Max. 60 % Grant funding for SME and max. 50 % for Large companies.

How does Co-Innovation funding work?

Consortium has ambitious goals and sufficient expertise and resources to achieve them

- The joint project must include at least one Finnish research organization and three Finnish companies, of which at least two have applied for funding for their R&D projects from Business Finland and projects can be funded.
- Priority is given to high-quality projects and ecosystems supporting the growth and internationalization of SMEs, and/or renewal of large companies.

Company funding is granted in accordance with the regular funding options and levels offered to companies

- Normal R&D project evaluation criteria
- Grants or Loans
- The company must have sufficient resources and self-financing to carry out the project.

Companies make a R&D application or participation notification to a public research project

- Funding level of research project is 70-80% (in exceptional cases 60%, if there is no international cooperation).
- The duration for the research project is typically 2-3 years.
- Continuous application time; there can be also theme calls or submission deadlines.

BUSINESS FINLAND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Start to build the Finnish and International Consortia ASAP!

- **The Finnish consortia partners and project is clearly described in the NSF main proposal submitted by the US Primary Investigator to NSF by 11th June 2024**
- Finnish applicants must submit their funding application by 11th June 2024 through the Business Finland online service.
- The Finnish application includes:
 - Application forms of all partners applying Business Finland funding
 - Finnish consortium project plan describing the Finnish consortia work in more detail
 - The international consortia project plan submitted to NSF
 - Company partners include the above and also a company specific project plan and the international consortium project plan.
- To ensure a smooth processing of applications, all Finnish applicants should contact Business Finland as early as possible.
- The Eligibility and Fundability check is in June, International Panel in July, Funders Meeting in August for Recommendations to National Funding by end of 2024.

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THANK YOU !

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE NSF FUNDING CALL

<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/global-centers-gc/nsf24-556/solicitation>

FURTHER INFORMATION

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