



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

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# Call for proposals

# VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming

A call for proposals under the programme

**Mobility for Growth**

VERKET FÖR INNOVATIONSSYSTEM - SWEDISH GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY FOR INNOVATION SYSTEMS

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## 1 Executive summary

The call **VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming** is for funding incoming mobility of experienced researchers *in possession of a doctorate or at least four years' full-time equivalent research experience*. The researcher should be outside Sweden at the time of the application and spend at least 67 percent of the project duration in Sweden.

The aim of all international collaborative projects between organisations from the private and/or public sectors is to strengthen the qualification opportunities for the researcher.

Increased active involvement for the individual is ensured through strong commitment expressed in supporting letters from the formal applicant (the Swedish organisation) and the collaborating international organisation.

The grant is intended to fund half the salary of the researcher (project leader) for the duration of the project. It also covers additional relevant and justifiable costs relating to mobility.

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## 3 Definitions

Applicant	Swedish organisation which also receives the grant.
Private sector	Industry, small and medium sized enterprise (SME), research institutes.
Public sector	University, college, public organisations.
Host	Swedish organisation.
International organisation	Organisation located outside Sweden.
Researcher	Project leader in a proposal.
VINNMER Marie Curie Fellow	Researcher funded as project leader in this call.

## 4 The programme in brief

VINNOVA – the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems - is Sweden's innovation agency. Our mission is to promote sustainable growth by improving the conditions for innovation and funding needs-driven research. The overall objectives of the Mobility for Growth programme are to significantly enhance the innovativeness of the private and public sectors and promoting cross-sector mobility. An essential element is to actively include the importance of human capital.

In 2012 VINNOVA commences its Mobility for Growth programme. Its overall objective is mobility and support for individual career development through mobility. The programme is the funding mechanism for incoming and outgoing transnational mobility for experienced researchers (including a reintegration phase for outgoing mobility) and it promotes active international collaborations between organisations.

Overall programme objectives

- *Intersectorial mobility* - Promoting mobility between the private and public sectors.
- *Transnational mobility* - Promoting researcher mobility and developing attractive careers.
- *Qualified future leaders in R&I* - Advancing training and skills demand through enhanced human resource management in highly competitive environments.
- *Equal opportunities* – Advocating and promoting better work/life and gender balance through flexible working arrangements under full employment contracts.
- *Supporting mobility as a merit* – A mobile career should be a strong future merit in all sectors conducting R&I.

For greater understanding, we strongly recommend reading the full programme document before applying. Please see: <http://www.VINNOVA.se/mobility>

## 5 The call in brief

VINNOVA has opened a call for proposals within the Mobility for Growth programme entitled **VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming**. It is one of several parallel calls currently open within the programme.

VINNOVA hereby invites researchers and organisations to submit project financing proposals under the call **VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming**. The final date for application is published on the web.

No budget has been earmarked for this call; rather, decisions on proposals within the programme as a whole will be accommodated within the programme’s overall budget:

VINNOVA funding 2013-2017: SEK 120 million.  
 EU funding via Marie Curie Actions 2013-2017: EUR 10 million.  
 Co-financing from applicants: SEK 100-150 million.

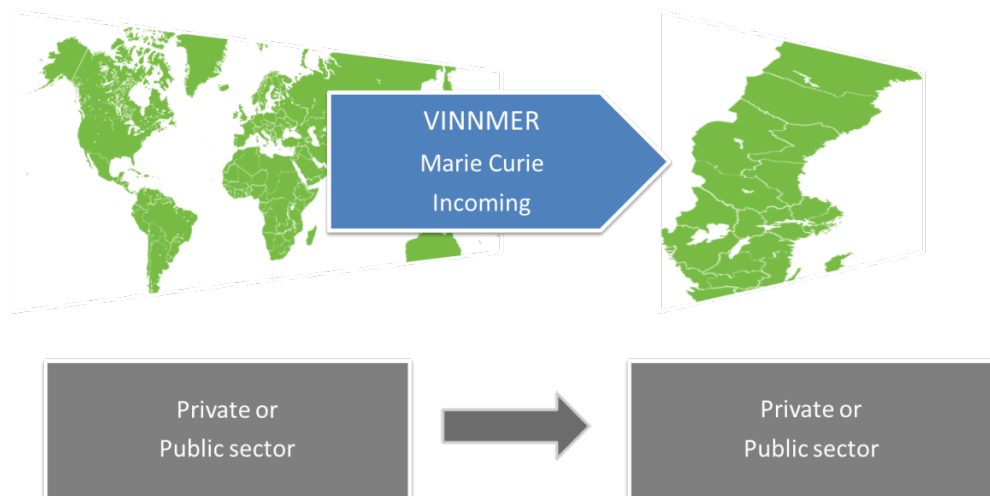
At least 100 researchers are expected to be made VINNMER Marie Curie Fellows throughout the Mobility for Growth programme.

Information on this call, plus terms and conditions of participation, appear in the call text below and at: <http://www.VINNOVA.se/mobility>. These pages also contain up-to-date information on proposal submission times and a link to the electronic application function.

Please note: VINNOVA reserves the right to alter the text of this call for proposals at any time during the call and without prior warning. However, no changes will be made in the four weeks prior to each deadline. It is therefore recommended that applicants download up-to-date information on the calls’ website prior to each deadline.

## 6 Who is this call intended for?

The call, *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming* targets internationally experienced researchers currently working outside Sweden *who have a doctorate or at least four years’ full-time equivalent research experience* in collaborating with private and/or public sector organisations. For highly experienced researchers (*more than ten years’ full-time equivalent research experience*) collaboration is optional.



The call targets international researchers interested in transnational mobility as a career development option, as well as Swedish private or public R&I organisations (as host organisations) which promote and invest in key people and value-collaboration between private and public sectors as a pathway to success.

The call promotes gender equality, as noted in VINNOVA’s mission statement. Underrepresentation of gender among researchers can be given strategic priority in areas where there is great need to equalise such imbalances.

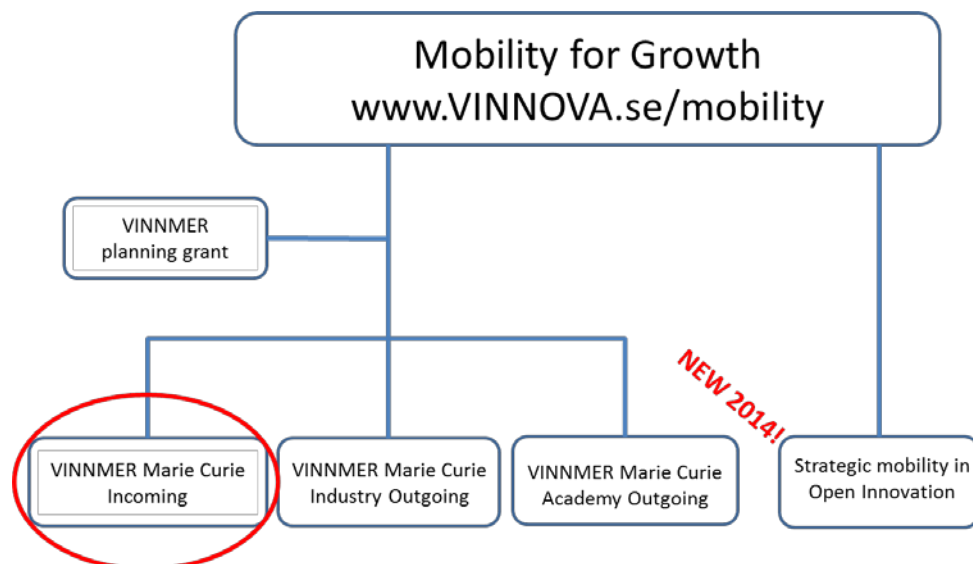
The Swedish-based organisation is the applicant and formal recipient of the grant but the researcher should be the project leader for the research project and the main author of the application.

The call, *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming* and the programme Mobility for Growth is co-financed by the European Union through the Marie Curie Action. No individual researcher may benefit from more than one Marie Curie Action at a time. Researchers who already have ongoing EU funded Marie Curie fellowships may only start a VINNMER Marie Curie fellowship after completing their first fellowship. Current or former VINNMER Fellows may not apply to *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming*.

## 7 Description of the call

### 7.1 Background

The relationship between this call and other Mobility for Growth calls is illustrated by the following figure:



## 7.2 Purpose

The purpose of the *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming* call is to strengthen qualification opportunities for international researchers through increased mobility opportunities, by visiting and working in Swedish host organisations.

The overall objective is to contribute significantly to private-public or public-public sector collaboration and mobility as well as career development for highly qualified future leaders, in all sectors of the economy, with innovation skills in applied and needs-driven research.

## 7.3 Content and realisation

The *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming* call is aimed at two categories of researchers:

- **Internationally experienced researchers**, >4 years of research experience, collaborating between organisations *required* within the project, fellowships for 12-36 months, with at least 67% of the project time spent in Sweden.
- **Highly experienced researchers**, >10 years of research experience, *optional* collaboration between organisations within the project, fellowships for 12-36 months, with at least 67% of the project time spent in Sweden.

The mobility actions are open to all nationals and relate only to transnational movement of researchers with strong support from their host organisations. A researcher under incoming mobility must be employed by one or more Swedish host organisations and have one or more cooperating international organisation(s) supporting the structural impacts. An incoming phase would typically last 8-36 months. The mobility types defined here are suited to long-term cooperation between at least two organisations; one from which the researcher originates and one or more collaborating organisations.

A highly experienced researcher (>10 years of research experience) under incoming mobility must be employed by a Swedish host organisation and *optionally* have a cooperating international organisation. The highly experienced incoming mobility researcher is not necessarily expected to present an organisation-to-organisation cooperation, but this is possible. Incoming highly experienced researchers should strengthen career development at a very high level i.e. support the establishment of senior research positions within the private or public sectors.

## **7.4 Recommendations to applicants**

### **Responsibilities of individual researchers**

In setting up a proposal the individual researcher should be the project leader; they are expected to implement the majority of the work with the active support of their organisations. The researcher is also expected to actively develop the collaboration for the duration of the project. This will hopefully result in a unique experience which makes a substantial contribution to their experience and career development. When a project ends, the aim is for collaborations to continue, deepen and/or be complemented by additional collaborations. The main qualification comes from the experience of working in a new organisation and benefitting from the experiences achieved by other leading individuals. This should clearly, concisely and practically connect frontline international research with private or public sector needs.

At the same time, it is also important for the researcher to be scientifically qualified for a future career and for research director posts in the private or public sector. An important criterion of the proposal is also that a career development plan should be established for each researcher and that this should be continuously updated and implemented in practice. Training courses in non-scientific skills such as management, scientific presentations, publishing etc. are essential elements in the career development plan. Our experience shows this to be best encouraged and implemented by host organisations.

### **Crucial cooperation between organisations**

Cooperation between different organisations is strongly recommended and important to the evaluation. For highly experienced researchers, cooperation between organisations is optional. The organisations involved should be international leaders in their fields and/or have important complementary qualities in relation to each other. Long-term cooperation should be an integral part of each project and should provide for comfortable re-integration at the project end. The ambition of the programme is to strengthen long-term cooperation between organisations which counteracts scientific fragmentation and strengthens scientific excellence. The project should interact not only with the two cooperating organisations but with the organisation's internal diversity. A suitable host organisation should represent a strong private-public partnership in which the researcher contributes to and interacts with the whole organisation, not just one entity. This essential element should broaden the views and skills of the researcher, as well as their career opportunities.

### **Highly flexible programme design**

Based on vast experience of earlier mobility programmes, the design of the Mobility for Growth programme is extremely flexible. Suggestions for qualification opportunities are strongly encouraged, provided they are in keeping with the aims of the programme. The programme has been designed to facilitate collaboration/mobility between private and public sectors. Different subject fields





or organisations have different collaborative mechanisms and so the programme is highly flexible on this point. The programme does not limit mobility (such as specific countries or regions), since all individuals have a unique situation with unique career needs to which the fellowship must adapt. The only eligibility criteria are that a fellow undertakes a transnational mobility within a set period. There are no fixed numbers for any categories in the programme; this means the programme can adapt to the needs of individual applicants and researchers.

#### **Planning grant recommended**

To secure a strong, long-term commitment between two participating organisations, the Mobility for Growth programme offers a planning grant of up to SEK 50 000 to cover travel costs for the researcher and enable them to establish a solid relationship between two organisations as a basis for preparing a high quality, full proposal. It is expected that a planning grant will be followed by a full application. The grant may also be used for visiting alternative organisations to hold discussions and thus select ones which offer the best conditions for qualifying the individual project leader/researcher. We strongly recommend applying for a planning grant support as experience shows that projects initiated this way have a higher success rate when the time comes to move from contract to full project implementation, see separate call. <http://www.VINNOVA.se/mobility>

#### **7.5 Expected programme impacts - Objectives**

On an overall level, VINNOVA's financing should promote sustainable growth in Sweden. The programme impacts are an expression of what VINNOVA expects the programme to promote. In terms of result targets, the overall programme (2012-2017) should yield over 100 experienced researchers with opportunities for further researcher qualifications and career development.

Key impact elements are:

*Short term (during the programme)*

- Interview/questionnaire shows the value of the programme to the individual's qualification during the project.

*Medium term (five years after programme conclusion)*

- At least 25 projects have resulted in international collaborations with the private sector which have lasted beyond project conclusion.
- At least 15 projects have resulted in lasting international collaboration between public sectors.
- 80 percent of the VINNMER Marie Curie Fellows have boosted their careers.

*Long term (10 years after programme conclusion)*

- At least 25 VINNMER Marie Curie Fellows are in leading positions in the private or public sectors.

## 8 Call for proposals budget

There will be no fixed budget for each call; rather, this will depend on the quality of the proposals and the overall programme budget:

VINNOVA funding 2013-2017: SEK 120 million.

EU funding via Marie Curie Actions 2013-2017: EUR 10 million.

Co-financing from applicants: SEK 100-150 million.

It is expected that a total of at least 100 VINNMER Marie Curie Fellows will be awarded throughout the Mobility for Growth programme.

## 9 Schedule

The dates for final application can be found on the web. Please see <http://www.VINNOVA.se/mobility> for updated information.

## 10 Formal application requirements

We recommend applying for a planning grant, in order to be able to prepare a complete proposal for *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming*. Please see <http://www.VINNOVA.se/mobility>.

An application will only be considered eligible upon meeting all the following conditions:

General formal criteria:

- Template(s) used.
- The application is complete (i.e. requested administrative forms and proposal description both present).
- The project should be consistent with the direction of the call/programme and clearly contribute to the fulfilment of its goals.

The researcher:

- At the call deadline, the individual researcher must either hold a doctorate (regardless of the time taken to complete doctoral studies) or have at least four years' full-time (or equivalent) research experience. This may include the research training after the degree/diploma which allowed them to embark on a doctorate in the country awarding the degree/diploma, or in the host country (regardless of whether a doctorate was planned).
- At the proposal submission deadline, the researcher must not have resided or conducted his/her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Sweden (the country of the host organisation) for more than 12 months in the three years immediately prior to the call deadline.

The project:

- The project must be initiated no later than 12 months of the proposal assessment.
- The project must be implemented within 12-36 months.
- Details must be submitted on how the researcher's remaining salary is to be financed.

At least 50 percent of the total salary costs for the project leader should be guaranteed by the applying Swedish organisation during the project. In practice, these costs may be shared by involved organisations as evidence of active support given to the researcher. Other VINNOVA grants cannot be used to finance the remaining salary. Examples of additional active support which can be given to the researcher by the involved organisations are:

- Access to key lab facilities, instrumentation etc.
- Mentorship.
- Networks.
- Reduced costs/bench fees etc.
- Use of strategic funding.
- Financial support of research activities (may not be covered by VINNMER funding).
- Leadership training courses.
- Professional administrative support.

The grant cover:

- Max. 50% of salary incl. Swedish employment fees.

The grant may also cover (relevant and reasonable) additional costs relating to mobility:

- Travel.
- Per diem.
- Increased living costs.
- Extra support for fellows with families e.g. school fees.
- Training and conference fees.
- Financial support for PhD students mentored by the researcher in the international organisation to enable mentoring at the Swedish organisation (max. SEK 50 000/year/student for travel costs, subsistence and accommodation).
- Other relevant costs (to be specified).

## 11 Assessment

### 11.1 Assessment process

Complete proposals are assessed by VINNOVA via the Mobility for Growth Programme Board, assisted by independent international experts/peers. International peers carry out distance evaluations on an independent personal basis, as renowned representatives of their scientific field. The evaluations by peer reviewers are then summarised and prioritised by the Programme Board and presented to the programme staff for implementation.

VINNOVA then takes a decision on funding and notifies all applicants.

### 11.2 Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will determine VINNOVA's decision on financing of project proposals:

#### Relevance

- Strategic importance of the research field considering such things as future economic growth in the area.
- Need to achieve equality impacts in the area for the underrepresented gender.
- Potential and synergies of the collaboration and the mobility for which the project is aiming (international, private sector, public sector etc.).

#### R&I Quality

Assessment of:

- long and short-term strategy and content of the collaboration between the different organisations and between the researcher and these organisations;
- research and innovation quality, (including any interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary aspects of the proposal) methodology, originality and innovative nature of the project;
- qualification value to the individual;
- position of participating (Swedish and international) organisations in an international comparison.

### **Feasibility**

- Practical arrangements (including administration) for implementing and managing the project.
- Additional active support for the individual researcher.

### **Exploitability/Utilisation**

Assessment of:

- how the researcher's qualification affects the planning of their continued career and their opportunities for implementing the new knowledge from the qualified and applicant organisations;
- benefit to the R&I organisation (and associated private and public sectors) of enhanced collaboration with prominent organisations abroad in the short and long term;
- the benefit of enhanced collaborations involving private and public sectors in terms of social benefits or commercial exploitability in companies/the public sector.

Assessment of need for better gender balance in higher positions (such as professor, research director and the like) can be carried out when documentation is provided. Proposals within areas with a high level of need for better gender distributions can result in strategic decisions which promote the underrepresented gender so as to equalise gender imbalances.

VINNOVA attaches great importance to applicants providing clear details of whether and how the project relates to current or planned activity within the EU's Framework Programme and other more major international efforts.

## **12 Application**

### **12.1 How to apply**

Applications are submitted electronically through the application service on VINNOVA's e-Services Portal (Intressentportalen). This can be accessed on the Calls for Proposals page of VINNOVA's website.



N.B The application portal is in Swedish, so researchers are advised to contact the Swedish host organisation for assistance if needed.

To submit an application, you must first create a user account with VINNOVA, then use it to log into the application service. If you already have a VINNOVA user account, please use this.

Please note that applications should be received no later than 14.00 CET on the final application date. No additions may be made to applications after this unless VINNOVA requires them.

For information about the content of the application, see “Application content” below.

In case of questions about the electronic application function, please contact VINNOVA’s IT Support: +46 8 473 32 99, [helpdesk@VINNOVA.se](mailto:helpdesk@VINNOVA.se). IT Support is open weekdays, 08.00-16.30 CET.

## 12.2 Application content

Please note that proposals to *VINNMER Marie Curie Incoming* should focus on the individual researcher. The applicant should describe clearly when, where and for how long the qualification will be held and what specific areas of the project content that result in enhanced qualification. Accordingly, pure or traditional “project proposals” may not be assessed by the Mobility for Growth Programme Board.

It is strongly recommended that researchers contact the personnel department of their applicant organisations at the preparation phase of the proposal, in order to complete the budgetary section.

The application portal comprises a number of electronic forms for completion by the applicant. A complete proposal should include:

- Application form.
- Project description.
- Supporting letters from each organisation involved (see below).
- Personnel appendix (see below).

Additional appendices:

- Calculation of OH costs (**mandatory** for projects involving universities).
- Ethical issues table (**mandatory** for projects using hESC).
- Document explaining why hESC are needed, their origin and the quantity to be used (**mandatory** for projects using hESC).

**The supporting letters** (max. two pages each, A4 with 12-point typeface) **should be written and signed by the respective parties.** The letters should include the following and preferably be written in English:

- The Swedish host organisation (the formal applicant and grant recipient) should describe its international position, its view and the supporting activities/resources of the qualification opportunities and associated international collaborations. It should also describe the applicant R&I organisation's resolve and capacity to establish and, in the long term, develop/maintain collaboration with the relevant organisation abroad.
- The international organisation should describe its international position and evaluate the collaboration, describe the international organisation's resolve and capacity to establish and, in the long term, maintain collaboration with the applicant Swedish organisation. It should also describe additional support for researcher qualification etc. (optional for highly experienced researchers without collaborations).

**The personnel appendix** should include an up-to-date CV for the researcher (project leader). It should be max. five (5) A4 pages with 12-point typeface.

**The project description** (i.e. a description of the activities included in the qualification opportunity) should be a maximum of five (5) A4 pages with 12-point typeface excluding the mandatory tables. **Please use the table template on the website.** The project description should include the following and preferably be written in English:

<b>Project title</b>	
<b>Summary</b>	
<b>Relevance</b>	<p>Describe the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic importance of the field considering such aspects as future growth in Sweden.</li> <li>• Potential to achieve equality impacts in the area for the underrepresented gender.</li> </ul>
<b>Description of the organisations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The applicant R&amp;I organisation and its international standing, plus the benefit of enhanced collaboration with prominent organisations abroad in the short and long term to the R&amp;I organisation (and associated companies and the public sector).</li> <li>• The international organisation (private/public sector) with which a collaboration is to be established; the organisation's international standing and excellence and areas of strength which complement the applicant Swedish organisation.</li> </ul>
<b>Project description</b>	<p><b>Project plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal and strategy.</li> <li>• Research originality.</li> <li>• Action plan and timetable incl. clear subsidiary goals.</li> <li>• Practical arrangements incl. administrative support.</li> </ul> <p>The plan should state clearly how the collaboration which directly includes the researcher is to be run in the short and longer terms, what the researcher plans to work on in the host organisation, which activities are to be carried out during the project, who will be carrying them out and their scope (time and cost).</p> <p><b>Budget</b> incl. the following posts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Salary incl. Swedish employment fees.</li> <li>○ Travel costs.</li> <li>○ Per diem.</li> <li>○ Increased living costs.</li> <li>○ Family costs e.g. school fees.</li> <li>○ Training and conference fees.</li> <li>○ Travel costs etc. for own PhD students.</li> <li>○ Other (to be specified).</li> <li>○ Details on how the researcher's remaining salary is to be financed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Preliminary career/development plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of how the researcher is expected to develop his/her skills as a researcher (preliminary career/development plan within the applicant organisation). The career/development plan is to be</li> </ul>



	<p>continuously updated during the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of how this qualification will affect the researcher's future career.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of risk factors and a consequence and probability assessment for each one.</li> <li>• Any obstacles to publication of the results (in the case of qualification with companies).</li> </ul>
<b>Exploitability/Utilisation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benefit of enhanced private/public sector collaborations in terms of social benefits or commercial exploitability in private/public sector.</li> <li>• Opportunities for synergies between the Swedish and international organisations in the short and longer terms etc.</li> </ul>

### 13 Terms and conditions

Terms and conditions for funded projects are available at:  
<http://www.VINNOVA.se/mobility> under call page (to the right):

Annex II – conditions stated by the EU that projects need to follow  
 Annex III – conditions stated by the EU that projects need to follow  
 VINNOVA's general terms and conditions for grants – 2014

### 14 Confidentiality

VINNOVA is subject to the principle of public access under Public Access to Information and Secrecy Act.

For more information (currently only available in Swedish), see “Legal information” <http://www.VINNOVA.se> below under “About VINNOVA”.

## 15 Contact

Additional information about the call can be obtained from:

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The contact for questions relating to the application portal is:

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