

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS CALL 2019-N

## **Open call to researchers in Sweden to apply for long-term funding and SNSA commitments for participation in international Space Science and Earth Observation space missions**

**These Instructions should be read carefully by all applicants.**

**You are also expected to read the two general documents:**

- **Research calls in spring 2019**
- **Technical guide 2019**

### **2019-N**

Open call to researchers in Sweden to apply for long-term funding and SNSA commitments for participation in international Space Science and Earth Observation space missions

#### **Deadlines<sup>1</sup>**

Digital version: 2019 April 16, 17:00<sup>2</sup>

Paper version: 2019 April 16, 17:00<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Two submissions are mandatory, both a digital submission and a paper version with original signatures. See Technical Guidelines for details.

<sup>2</sup>Maximum size of attached PDF document: 5 megabyte

<sup>3</sup>Swedish postal stamp of the preceding working day is sufficient.

## **NEWS**

A letter of support is required from the host university / institute regarding support to the project (see cover sheet for Enclosure 2).

## **GENERAL**

### **Phases of space projects and types of support**

In order to further involvement of Swedish researches in international research missions in space it is important for the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) to have a portfolio of support types for the typical phases and activities of such involvement:

1. Early planning, formation of consortia of scientists.
2. Writing of mission and instrument proposals, early technology development, work in competition with other mission candidates.
3. Design and building of hardware, development of software, detailed planning in preparation of the operational phase.
4. Operation of software and instruments during the operational phase. Calibration and validation of space data. Archiving of scientific data.
5. Exploitation of science data from space for own research.

SNSA has a continuously open call for support to travel and organisation of events, which allows researches to apply for support of activities under point 1 above.

The annual R calls of SNSA allow researchers to apply for support of activities according to points 1-2 above. Such support is limited to three years with no SNSA commitments for later phases.

The N call described in this document allows researchers to apply for support for phases 3 and 4 above. Submission of such a proposal can be made during phase 2. A successful proposal may result in a long-term commitment from SNSA (more than 4 years). SNSA may also enter into agreements with international partners concerning delivery of essential hardware, software or other work that is essential for the realisation of the space mission. Before making such commitments, SNSA may also enter into negotiations with the host university/institute where the work is to be carried out. It is beneficial to an N proposal to have a letter of support from the host entity regarding its support to the project, including science exploitation (phase 5). For projects which already has long-term SNSA support, it is possible to use this call to request support for increased levels of ambition and previously unforeseen activities.

SNSA does not normally make any commitments for the science exploitation phase (5) in advance. Such support may be sought from other funding agencies or in response to the annual SNSA R calls.

### **Research disciplines**

This call is open to all research disciplines that can utilize data acquired on space-based platforms.

## **Examples of previous support**

The following types of long-term support has been funded by SNSA in the past:

- Ground-based calibration or validation of measurements by instruments on a satellite, which are essential to the goals of the instruments.
- Development of software, algorithms, data handling procedures, or instrument simulations required for a specified international space mission.
- Design and construction by research groups of scientific instruments, or parts thereof, for flight on a specified international space mission.
- Industrial work which contributes to a specified international space mission, and which supplements work by researchers in Sweden on the international project.

## **Funding period**

Fill in Forms F1-F4 for the number of years (maximum 4 years) for which reasonable detailed cost specifications can be made. Justify these costs and estimate the costs for all phases of the project in Enclosure 2 (normally much longer than 4 years for new projects).

## **Support letter and commitments from the host university / institute**

It is mandatory to include a letter of support from the host university/institute in Enclosure 2 of the proposal. This should specify the support and facilities offered to the proposed project. It is an advantage if the letter also specifies support during the science exploitation phase, which is beyond the normal commitment period of SNSA.

## **Extended deadline**

In cases where a planned international space mission is foreseen to undergo a significant evolution or decision step after the nominal deadline of this call, please contact SNSA with this information. SNSA may in such cases grant an extended deadline.

## **CONTENTS OF A RESEARCH APPLICATION**

### **Application forms**

A proposal must contain the following set of forms:

- Form A (with signatures on paper version)
- Form B (Administrative information)
- Form C (Abstracts)
- Form D (Other sources of funding)
- Form E (Staff overview)
- Form F1-F4 (Sought amounts)

## **Enclosures**

A cover sheet is provided for each of the following types of enclosures that can be appended to the proposal:

1. Description of the proposed contribution to an international space project (mandatory)
2. Specification of Costs (mandatory)
3. Progress Report (not required for new projects)
4. Curricula Vitae (mandatory)

The cover sheet must be the first page of each enclosed enclosure. These sheets specify rules for the contents of each enclosure.

## **SNSA HANDLING OF SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS**

Applications written in accordance with these instructions will be assessed by the SNSA Science Advisory Committee (SAC).

### **Criteria for evaluation**

The following criteria are considered by SNSA in the evaluation process (in no particular order):

- Benefits to Swedish research (both among applicants and from a broader national perspective) of the proposed participation in the international project.
- Established relationships with the space agency or scientific consortium planning for the space mission, and the roles and responsibilities of the applicants within the project.
- Strong research environment, competitiveness and international standing of the applying researchers.
- Credibility of the implementation plan, including costs, schedule, work packages and risk assessment.
- The novelty of the project and its potential to renew, develop and promote future national and international research efforts.
- The potential of the project – whilst maintaining high scientific quality – to increase the number of women active in research.
- The extent to which the host university/institute supports the project, in particular the exploitation phase.
- The extent to which the proposed project fits within the budgetary constraints of SNSA.
- For running projects requesting additional commitments, the achievements made so far are considered.