

SNSA RESEARCH CALLS

The Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA, *Rymdstyrelsen*) has a number of calls for proposals related to its research programme. These are summarized in this document. The actual calls can be found via the web link <https://www.rymdstyrelsen.se/forskning/utlysningar/>.

Please note that there are also SNSA calls closer to applications (see <https://www.rymdstyrelsen.se/innovation/utlysningar/> for more information). *These calls are outside the scope of this document.*

SNSA AS A RESEARCH FUNDING AGENCY

The task of the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) as research funding agency is to provide means for high quality, internationally competitive space research in Sweden (incl. Earth Observation) in Sweden. SNSA has special responsibility to support research projects taking advantage of Sweden's geographical position, European cooperation, and expertise in the Swedish space industry.

Most of the research supported by SNSA utilizes instrumentation in space or prepares for such research. Research opportunities offered by ESA programmes are also supported (e.g. research on sounding rockets, parabolic flights and drop towers). Research opportunities provided by other international space organizations is also supported. SNSA has dedicated calls within the Balloon and Rocket Programme and the National Research Satellite Programme.

In the past, the support to research has addressed a breadth of thematic areas, as listed below. However, please note that support is *not* limited to these areas.

- Astronomy, Astrophysics and Astrobiology
- Atmospheric Sciences
- Earth Observation
- Fundamental Physics
- Life and Physical Sciences using space environment (e.g. microgravity, radiation)
- Space Physics, Solar System Physics
- Technology Research in preparation of space missions

TYPES OF CALLS

Nomenclature of calls

SNSA research calls generally have a short designation made up of the year of the call, a dash, followed by 1–3 letters identifying the type of call. For example, "Call 2019–C" was a call in 2019 dedicated to career support ("C call").

Open annual calls

The Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) usually issues the following calls in January–March, with deadlines in March–May:

C calls Open calls to young researchers to apply for dedicated **career support** (2–6 yrs).

R calls Open calls to apply for support of **research projects** (maximum 3 years) and **PhD positions** (4 years).

N calls Open calls to apply for **long-term** funding and **SNSA commitments** for participation in **international space missions**.

Less frequent open calls

The following calls are not issued every year. Instead, the timing of the calls is based on the cost profiles of granted projects and the availability of suitable funding.

BR calls Open calls within the **Balloon and Rocket Programme**.

IFS calls Open calls within the **National Research Satellite Programme**.

T calls Open calls for support to **Technology Research** for general space applications.

Targeted calls

Based on the open calls described in the previous sections, SNSA sometimes makes long-term commitments stretching over longer time spans than a contract period. In such cases, towards the end of one contractual phase, the agency issues targeted calls to researchers with an invitation to specify costs for the next phase within specified limits. Three types of targeted calls are currently used as needed:

P calls Targeted calls for **phase 2** of **career support**.

S calls **Continuation** of support to **international space projects** based on previous commitments from SNSA.

X calls Continued operations in support of **extended ESA Science missions**.

Continuously open calls

SNSA has three continuously open calls related to the research programme. Submitted proposals are assessed as soon as possible after submission. The three calls address:

- Support of proposal writing for EU Framework Programme funding
- Support of events and travel in preparation of space research missions
- Support of planning for future international space research missions

The information provided on the following pages is not directly applicable to the continuously open calls. Instead, see the rules for these three individual calls.

IMPLEMENTATION OF PRISMA IN 2020

The Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) has initiated cooperation with the Swedish Research Council (VR) concerning implementation during 2020 of the software system Prisma for administration of research funding and other agency activities. The current plan is described below.

Calls 2020-N, 2020-R, 2020-C, 2020-BR, 2020-S, 2020-X

These calls are planned to use the traditional SNSA procedures to invite researchers to put together research proposals using Excel forms and manual combination of PDF documents, just like in previous years. However, successful applicants who are granted funding must be prepared to register in Prisma and take some actions to incorporate the grant in the Prisma system. Subsequent administration of the grants, starting from January 2021, is planned to be made with Prisma.

Call 2020-T

This call is planned to be the first SNSA research call fully implemented within Prisma, including the call and the application process through the Prisma web portal.

Continuously open calls

These calls are likely to be transferred to Prisma during 2020.

WHO CAN APPLY?

Principal applicant

The principal applicant is required to be, or be eligible to become, affiliated to a Swedish University or research establishment in Sweden where the project work is to be carried out.

SNSA will not consider proposals whose applicants have outstanding final reports or economic contract reports from previous grants.

Research contracts are issued only to researchers who have a PhD degree. Applicants who do not have a PhD but expect to receive it shortly may nevertheless submit a research proposal. In this case SNSA must receive a copy of the PhD certificate or a written confirmation from the head of department/institute that the principal applicant has applied for the PhD degree. For calls with a deadline in May, the confirmation must reach SNSA by October 1 (for other situations, please consult with SNSA staff). Lacking such confirmation, the application will not be further considered.

A research grant is normally contracted to a research leader who will remain younger than 68 years of age during the first calendar year of the grant. If the principal applicant will reach the Swedish LAS-limit during the proposed project duration, then the application should contain a plan for the future transfer of leadership of the project to a younger person. If a university department or institute wishes to receive funding for research leaders older than the above limits, then the case must be clearly stated, e.g. in a letter from the head of department appended to the proposal.

By signing a research application, the principal applicant certifies that all co-applicants stand behind the application (this may change with the introduction of Prisma).

Co-applicants

For projects involving close collaboration with other research groups, it is possible to include co-applicants with a different affiliation than the principal applicant, including affiliations outside Sweden. However, the sought funding must normally concern activities and costs in Sweden (exceptions may be allowed, e.g. for career applications in accordance with rules of that call). If funding is sought for work and activities outside Sweden or if support is sought for persons affiliated outside Sweden, this must be clearly specified and justified in the cost enclosure of the application.

Gender aspects

The number of female researchers using space-based platforms is still rather small in Sweden. SNSA therefore encourages the scientific community to contribute towards more women becoming willing and able to commit themselves to successful research projects. Without waiving quality requirements, SNSA will consider gender as one of several boundary conditions when evaluating applications within open calls.

LANGUAGE

The applications can be written in **Swedish** or **English**. However, most members of the SNSA advisory committee do not understand Swedish and most external expert reviewers are drawn from the international research community. Thus, SNSA may need to have proposals received in Swedish translated to English. Applicants are advised to carefully consider using English in the application in order to make sure that their intents are conveyed without a translational interface.

However, please note that the title and summary of the proposed project should be supplied in both languages.

AFTER SUBMISSION

Applications submitted in response to calls with a deadline are assessed by the Science Advisory Committee (SAC) of SNSA, often supplemented by external expert reviewers and programmatic constraints from SNSA.

Additional information

In case new information becomes available after the proposal deadline, applicants may inform SNSA (e-mail written in English) to allow the new information to be taken into account. For example, information on new schedules for space missions or allocation of telescope time (please include proof) can be conveyed in this way. Please note that applicants are not allowed to use this avenue to improve their proposals with information that should reasonably have been available at the deadline.

Decisions and contracts

In general, calls with deadlines in March-April are assessed by SAC at its meeting in May-June. SNSA grant decisions may follow soon afterwards or may come later in the calendar year.

For calls with deadline in April-May the final recommendation by SAC can be expected in November, usually followed by an SNSA decision or announcement within a few days.

In some years, formal rules related to limits on commitments for future years ("bemyndiganderam") may force the formal grant decision to be postponed to early January.

All applicants of open calls can expect feed-back on their proposals after the grant decisions.

GRANTS

Type and extent of support

The research grants provide traditional research support, with funding at the disposal of a university entity or research institute ("förvaltande organ") during the period of contract, in accordance with a standard contract from SNSA. The funding for a calendar year is normally provided as monthly instalments. Individual contracts are normally limited to the support of four year's of work, but SNSA can make longer-term commitments when appropriate.

Publication of results, data policy and open access

SNSA adheres to the basic principle that results and data stemming from publically funded research must be made available on line to other researchers and the general public free of charge without unnecessary time delay. The objectives are to ensure that other scientists will be able to use data in future for other projects and to bring more scientific value of investments as an evident part of the knowledge society.

Publication of results

Researchers supported, partly or fully, from research grants from SNSA shall make all reasonable efforts to make sure the results are published in esteemed international journals. The publications must acknowledge support from the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA). Results of original research must be made freely available online for reading and down-loading within 6 months from original publication. A copy of publications with associated metadata standards must be placed in a repository within 6 months from original publication.

Data Policy

A data management plan is required for projects where new raw data collection constitutes a major component, and it must be outlined in the proposal.

Reporting

Grant holders must report in accordance with specification in the grant contract, which usually involves the following:

- Yearly Statements ("årlig avstämning") on a simple one-page form.
- Financial Contract Report ("ekonomisk kontraktsredovisning") at project closure.
- Final Report (slutrapport") at the end of the project.

Forms and further information are available at

<https://www.rymdstyrelsen.se/forskning/blanketter-for-rapportering/>

The process of reporting will change after the introduction of Prisma.