Apply for AIDA On-site development project funding

Analytic Imaging Diagnostic Arena (AIDA) is a national arena for research and innovation on analytic image-based diagnostics. AIDA is a cross-disciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration aiming for large-scale usefulness from Artificial Intelligence (AI) in healthcare. The arena scope includes tailormade IT systems and relevant human expertise, firmly rooted in a realistic healthcare environment. AIDA is part of the national Strategic Innovation Program Medtech4Health, a joint initiative by VINNOVA, Formas and the Swedish Energy Agency. More information can be found at medtech4health.se/aida.

A main part of the AIDA initiative is to host efforts from the entire country, aiming to contribute to development and adoption of AI methods in imaging diagnostics. We hereby announce an opportunity to participate in AIDA with on-site development projects.

Opportunity for on-clinical-site development projects

This initiative is directed to AI-based decision support development in late phases of prototype development and/or early phases of product development, within AIDA's scope of imaging diagnostics. AIDA will here support efforts to refine a solution while being immersed in an actual healthcare environment. The AI solution must already be mature and complete in terms of the core analytics task (classification, detection, segmentation, etc). In terms of Technology Readiness Level (TRL) this opportunity approximately refers to solutions having achieved TRL5 and aiming for TRL6-7 (see the Medtech4Health TRL guide).

A mandatory requirement is that the project work to a large extent is performed on the physical premises of clinical counterparts, hence the headline on-site development. Efforts could include, for instance, calibration/configuration for the prerequisites and data of the clinical counterparts, development of clinical-grade user interaction, and integration with local clinical IT systems. High-realism evaluation of clinical usefulness is to be an integral part of the effort.

AIDA welcomes proposals from groups of researchers or innovators primarily from industry. Academic groups can also apply but must then describe a feasible path towards actual clinical deployment after the project, if successful, through commercialization or other mechanisms.

Proposals need to include a defined project with concrete activities and a time plan. AIDA encourages that proposals connect to other existing AIDA projects or parties, in particular clinical fellowships. State such connections clearly in the application.

AIDA expects project proposals with a total cost budget between 100 - 300 kSEK. The total annual budget for AIDA on-site development projects is tentatively 1,5 MSEK, and the corresponding budget for VINNOVA funding is about 0,6 MSEK.

Terms

The level of funding from AIDA/VINNOVA is 25-50% of the project cost, where the upper limit is determined by the general regulations for this type of project ("Experimental development") and the proposing party, see the VINNOVA guide. The application must be approved and signed by the respective department manager of all clinical counterparts involved.

The project should start within 3 months from the call deadline and end at the latest Dec 31, 2020.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following meriting criteria:

- Potential
  - Topic relevance for AIDA
  - Potential for clinical usefulness
  - Technology readiness level relevance for call
  - Contributions to, and benefits from, the AIDA connection
- Actors
  - Constellation of organizations

- o Expertise of individuals
  - o Gender equality, both in terms of staffing and influence
- Practical feasibility
  - o Time plan and budget
  - o Access to suitable expertise in given time frame

At least 50% of the work hours of technical developers in the project must be spent on-site with clinical counterparts. Healthcare staff involved in the project can also receive funding.

A foundational part of AIDA is knowledge exchange with all AIDA partners, why proposals should include plans to spend time at the AIDA offices at CMIV. A suggested level would be to participate with at least one representative at each two-day AIDA meet-up, organized approximately eight times per year.

In addition to the AIDA-specific rules, general VINNOVA terms apply for allowed cost types, cost levels, funding levels etc. The costs are defined according to the general VINNOVA standard, a full description is found here (in Swedish): Guide om stödberättigade kostnader.

Application procedure

Proposals should be described using the template available on medtech4health.se/aida. The proposal is submitted to the Arena Director Claes Lundström at claes.lundstrom@liu.se. Incoming proposals are then refined in a dialog with the Arena Director. After the dialog, the Arena Director brings the finalized proposal to the AIDA Steering Group for decision. The proposing party is entitled to request decision from the Steering Group even if the Arena Director does not consider the proposal finalized. The AIDA Steering Group reserves the right to award a smaller amount of funding than what a proposal asks for or to make part of the funding dependent on a specific condition, such as sharing data within AIDA.

AIDA currently plans for several batches of accepting proposals 2018-2020. The deadlines for submitting proposals will be announced on medtech4health.se/aida.

Please note that if a proposal is submitted close to the deadline, there is little time for dialog regarding the proposal. Therefore, we recommend submitting a first version well in advance of the deadline. Also note that AIDA will accept high-quality proposals until the budget is reached, which means that there is no guarantee of future rounds of accepting proposals.