

Apply for AIDA innovation 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 tailor-made 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 innovative development projects.

Decision support project opportunity

AIDA welcomes proposals from groups of researchers and innovators, from both academia and industry, that aims to develop AI-based decision support methods for imaging diagnostics. Proposals are expected to include one or more components of: analysis method development, annotation method development, and method evaluation by clinical staff. A close collaboration with clinical counterparts is required. AIDA funds can be used for healthcare staff, either within a decision support project, and/or through a connected AIDA clinical fellowship.

The expected total size of each project proposal is 500 - 1000 kSEK. There is also a possibility to apply for a pilot effort of about 200 kSEK. The total annual budget for AIDA decision support projects is tentatively 6 MSEK, and the corresponding budget for VINNOVA funding is about 3 MSEK.

Terms

The maximum level of funding from AIDA/VINNOVA is 50% of the project cost. In addition, each project will be entitled to a free-of-charge allotment of AIDA's central resources for computation and storage. The project should start within 3 months from the respective call deadline and end at the latest Dec 31, 2020.

Project proposals will be evaluated according to three groups of meriting criteria:

- Potential
 - Topic relevance for AIDA
 - Potential for clinical usefulness
 - Scientific excellence/uniqueness
 - Contributions to, and benefits from, the AIDA connection
- Actors
 - Constellation of organizations
 - Expertise of individuals
 - Gender equality, both in terms of staffing and influence
- Practical feasibility
 - Time plan and budget
 - Access to suitable expertise in given time frame

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 that at least 10% of the project man-hours is spent at CMIV; the higher level, the higher the application will score in the AIDA exchange criteria. The CMIV time is preferably centered around the recurring two-day AIDA meet-ups, 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 templates 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 may mean that planned occasions may be cancelled, or that additional occasions will be opened.