Proposals for AIDA innovation projects

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. 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 here describe an opportunity to participate in AIDA with innovative development projects.

Opportunity for Innovation projects

AIDA welcomes proposals from groups of researchers and innovators, from both academia and industry, that aim to develop AI-based decision support methods for imaging diagnostics. Proposals are expected to include efforts relevant for innovation development within the AIDA scope, such as analysis method development, annotation method development, method evaluation by clinical staff, etc. A close collaboration with clinical counterparts is required. AIDA funds can be used for healthcare staff, either within an innovation project, and/or through a connected AIDA clinical fellowship.

Examples of previous projects of this type can be found on the [AIDA web page for innovation projects](#).

AIDA expects project proposals with a **total** cost budget between 500 - 1000 kSEK (which AIDA funding would partially cover, see below). There is also a possibility to apply for a pilot effort of ~200 kSEK.

Terms

The maximum level of funding from AIDA/VINNOVA is 50% of the project cost.

The project should start within 3 months from the respective call deadline (though vacation period exceptions are possible) and should not be longer than 24 months.

Each project will be entitled to a free-of-charge allotment of AIDA's central resources for computation and storage.

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. Approved projects will be required to participate at the "AIDA Days" events (6-8 times per year) as follows: Participation means physical presence whenever an on-premise meeting is arranged, otherwise remote. At least one

representative of the project should participate at each AIDA Days. All project members with substantial efforts in the project should participate in at least one AIDA Days during the project.

In order for a proposal being a continuation of a previous AIDA project to be approved, a final report for the previous project must have been filed before the proposal deadline.

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. General EU conditions on funding levels in government subsidies also apply, which may affect industrial partners (in Swedish): Regler för statsstöd

Application procedure

Proposals should be described using the templates available on medtech4health.se/aida. The proposal is submitted to the Arena Director at aida-director@medtech4health.se. Incoming proposals are then refined in a dialogue with the Arena Director – a dialogue that can include assistance to find suitable project partners. After the dialogue, 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 recurring rounds of accepting proposals. 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 may not be time for dialogue 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.