



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*  
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

23 June 2009

## Announcement

### FRAMTIDENS FORSKNINGSLEDARE

#### Individual Grants for Future Research Leaders

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) has allocated 18 grants of a total of SEK 10 million each (incl. overhead), covering a period of five years.

#### Vision

The aim of the Foundation in launching this programme is to support and promote young scientists who have the potential and the ambition to become future leaders of academic and/or industrial research in Sweden.

The vision of the Foundation of a future research leader is a scientist of the highest standing who in addition displays a potential for leadership and management, an understanding of the process of implementing research results and who is prepared at a later stage of the research career to assume responsibility for constellations larger than her/his own research group.

#### Scope

According to its statutes the Foundation shall promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international standards with a view to enhancing Sweden's future competitiveness by supporting basic as well as applied research in natural science, engineering and medicine. Currently, the Foundation prioritises such research that can be applied in the following areas:

- Biotechnology, drug discovery and development, bioengineering
- Systems, information and communication technologies
- Materials development
- Manufacturing technologies

This programme is open to young scientists from Sweden as well as from other countries. The grant is intended for innovative research at a Swedish research organization – university or public or private non-profit research institute – of the choice of the grantee. The grant is primarily intended for building a research group and maximum 50 % of the grant may be used to cover the recipient's own salary. To promote academic mobility, Swedish applicants are encouraged to locate their research at a Swedish department or group other than the one where their PhD was earned.

The grantees will participate in a leadership training programme jointly with the grantees of the programme "Future Interdisciplinary Research Leaders". Participation in this leadership programme is mandatory.

Out of each grant, SEK 300 000 will be withheld at SSF to be used by the grantee for commercialization of results from the project.

### **Eligibility**

- Applicants must be born in 1970 or later. (This is valid even though adjustment for parental leave after the PhD may be made as stated below).
- Applicants must have obtained their PhD degree within the period 1 January 2004 – 31 December 2006. The only exception is for applicants with a degree date before 1 January 2004 who, upon request, can submit documentation for parental leave *after* the PhD that effectively corresponds to the difference in dates.
- Applicants currently working outside Sweden must be prepared to work full-time at a Swedish research organization.
- Applicants may apply to the two programs “Future Interdisciplinary Research Leaders” and “Future Research Leaders”. However, if successful within both programmes, the applicant subsequently will have to choose which one to join. Please observe that the requirements for the two respective programmes differ from one another.

### **Selection procedure**

The proposals will be reviewed in a three-step procedure:

1. The proposals will be reviewed by national expert panels. The plan is to select about 60 proposals to continue to the second step.
2. The selected proposals will be reviewed by international reviewers with broad experience and recognition. Based on the reviews, an Evaluation Committee will select a number of applicants to be invited to interviews.
3. The highest-ranked applicants will be interviewed with regard to leadership and potential impact of the proposed research. The Board of SSF will make the final granting decision based on recommendations by the Evaluation Committee.

Justifications (evaluation reports) for the rejection of proposals will be provided only for applicants participating in the second step.

### **Evaluation criteria**

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- Scientific quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research
  - Scientific track record and potential of the applicant
  - Leadership potential and management skills of the applicant
  - Strategic relevance of the proposed research to Swedish industry and/or society and potential for utilisation of the results of the proposed research
  - Innovation potential, experience and communication skills of the applicant
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International research experience is a merit. The Foundation strives for a reasonably equal balance between female and male grantees.

### Submission of proposals

The proposal shall be written in English and submitted via the Foundation's electronic application portal: <http://apply.stratresearch.se>, by no later than **2 pm on December 1, 2009**. The application portal will open September 7, 2009. The proposal shall, among other information specified in the portal, include:

- Research plan
- Scientific track record
- Strategic relevance
- Leadership philosophy
- Curriculum vitae
- List of selected publications
- Present and pending grants
- Indicative budget, including co-funding (if existing) from the recipient organisation
- Letters of Recommendation; One letter shall be written by a scientist established outside Sweden and one letter by a scientist established in Sweden. Neither of them should be a former thesis supervisor of the applicant.
- PhD diploma

No additional material will be accepted after December 1. Note that this also includes letters of recommendation – and the fact that these shall not be provided separately from the recommender but make up part of the application as such.

### Preliminary time schedule

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|---------------------------------|---|
| • September 7, 2009             | Application portal open                       |
| • December 1, 14.00 hours, 2009 | Application deadline                          |
| • January - April, 2010         | Expert panels review                          |
| • April - July, 2010            | International review                          |
| • August - September, 2010      | Evaluation committee review                   |
| • Week 40 (4-8 October), 2010   | Interviews with the highest-ranked applicants |
| • December 2010                 | Decision by the SSF Board                     |
| • January 2011                  | Earliest project start                        |

The next announcement is planned to take place in 2012.

### Contact at SSF

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*Please note that the Foundation is subject to the Principle of Public Access to Official Records (Offentlighetsprincipen). Thus, applicants should avoid submitting material that they do not wish to be made public, e.g. information that could prevent patenting.*

