

## Instructions for submission of Unsolicited Proposals to CORC

Issued: April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (updated March 2023)

Submission: This program has a continuous, open submission

### **Introduction and scope**

The Novo Nordisk Foundation CO<sub>2</sub> Research Center (CORC) is an international center of excellence in fundamental research and early technologies for CO<sub>2</sub> capture and conversion for storage and use. The center research is interdisciplinary and includes chemical and life sciences, and modeling to develop new platforms for mitigating greenhouse gas-induced climate change.

The purpose of considering 'Unsolicited Proposals' for funding is to respond rapidly to emerging ideas or opportunities that are outside current open, defined Calls for Proposals. The proposed projects should be exceptional, innovative, and complementary to ongoing research or other activities that are of strategic interest to CORC. Notably, projects should be clearly different from those that would be considered in regular funding cycles. Projects can also include high risk, high reward research. While few constraints are provided here to collect broadly also unconventional ideas and projects, a larger emphasis is placed on projects that use chemical, biological, or a combination of both sciences to significantly advance CORC's mission on mitigating greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>) at scale.

Applicants should have excellent academic credentials and track record of scientific productivity. Research will be conducted at Aarhus University or at any of the satellite institutions.

No specific limit to funding is set for unsolicited proposals, however, proposals with a lower budget have a higher probability to be funded. Interdisciplinary research teams are encouraged but are not required.

### **Proposal Submission**

**Full proposals can only be submitted upon invitation after consulting with CORC leadership. Only if found suitable, a full proposal may be submitted.**

The proposal should describe the overall concept, the innovation and potential impact at scale, the technical part of the project, as well as preliminary and feasibility data if available. The proposals will be evaluated by the CORC Strategic Grants Council (SGC) and CORC leadership.

Proposals must be self-contained with no links to additional information and include the following:

- 1-page including title, affiliation and contact information of PI or PI team, and a summary of the proposal.
- Up to 8-page technical description of the project, including figures, tables, budget, and references. The technical description should include concept data and describe succinctly the uniqueness of the project, why the proposal cannot be submitted via regular solicitations, how it complements ongoing CORC research, the potential for scalability, as well as the expected impact on mitigating GHG.
- A 2-page CV for the PI or all Co-PIs, including references to the 5 most relevant publications plus 5 additional publications.

**Only proposals where a full proposal was encouraged should submit in the system (<https://nnf-corc.grant.nu/profile/>).**

### **Proposal Selection**

The selection process identifies high quality projects that substantially contribute to achieving CORC's mission. The review will occur in three phases.

Phase 1: Proposals applicant will present the proposed project to SGC in a 1 h in-person discussion. If needed proposals will be sent out for additional independent technical outside review.

Phase 2: SGC will submit a recommendation to CORC leadership.

Phase 3: CORC leadership selects appropriate proposals.

It is expected that decisions will be announced no later than 6–8 weeks after submission.

Applicants are discouraged to submit proposals that (i) are incremental in scope, (ii) a continuation of ongoing research, (iii) do not significantly complement ongoing CORC research, or (iv) do not have the potential to impact GHG-dependent climate change at scale.

### **Eligibility for Funding**

Applicants need to hold an academic appointment at or be affiliated with Aarhus University or the associated satellite universities.

### **Project Funding and Duration**

There is no limitation for the period of funding, however, a funding end needs to be included in the proposal. One no-cost extension for up to one year past the original end date of the award may be requested. The budget should include direct costs only.

### **Project Reporting**

Yearly, the PI of a funded project is required to prepare a 3-page annual interim progress report as well as present a 1.5 h progress presentation to the Directors and SGC.

### **Contacts**

Applicants should contact Director Alfred Spormann ([aspormann@corc.au.dk](mailto:aspormann@corc.au.dk)) or co-director Troels Skrydstrup ([ts@chem.au.dk](mailto:ts@chem.au.dk)) for feedback on suitability. Any questions regarding the application formalities should be emailed to [grants@corc.au.dk](mailto:grants@corc.au.dk).