

Instructions for submission of Group Leader Proposals

Issued: April 25th, 2022

Proposals Due: **May 9th, 2022**, or **July 31st, 2022** – both dates **at 2 pm**.

Interview for first deadline: mid-May (week 20 and week 21) 2022

Interview for second deadline: mid-August (week 33 and 34) 2022

Notification for first deadline: June 2022

Notification for second deadline: September 2022

Earliest possible start date for first deadline: August 1st, 2022

Latest possible start date for first deadline: December 1st, 2022

Introduction and scope

The Novo Nordisk Foundation CO₂ Research Center (CORC) is an international center of excellence in fundamental research for CO₂ capture and conversion for storage and use. The center research is interdisciplinary and includes chemical and life sciences to develop new science and early technology platforms for mitigating greenhouse gas-induced climate change.

This call seeks to identify highly talented young scientists at the advanced postdoc or Assistant Professor level to conduct fundamental research that substantially complements ongoing research in CORC (<https://corc.au.dk/research-co2>).

Research should use chemical, biological, or a combination of both sciences to significantly advance CORC's mission on mitigating greenhouse gases (CO₂, CH₄) at scale. This program seeks to provide seed funds for starting careers of a young promising scientist. Research should be innovative and highly competitive, and explore new, potentially high-risk, high-reward ideas.

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

The total project funds are up to DKK 7.500.000 for a period of up to 4 years.

This call is open until July 31, 2022.

Proposal Submission

Applicants should submit a proposal by May 9th or by July 31st, 2022. 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 submitted 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 the PI and a summary of the proposal.
- 8-page technical description of the project, including figures, tables, and references. The technical description should include concept data and describe succinctly the uniqueness of the project, how it complements ongoing CORC research, the proposed research, the potential for scalability as well as the expected impact on mitigating GHG.
- Budget, including budget justifications, must be made in the "CORC grants budget template", which can be downloaded at <https://corc.au.dk/funding>. Eligible costs are salary for two full-time academic employees (PhD students or postdocs), tuition fee, travel/conferences, small equipment, publication costs and operating expenses. Applicants in non-tenured positions can apply for their own salary, and this should not be included in the total amount stated above.
- A 2-page CV for the PI or all Co-PIs, including references to the 5 most relevant publications plus 5 additional publications.
- Proposals should be compiled as a single pdf and sent to grants@corc.au.dk by 2 pm on the date of submission (May 9th or July 31st).

Proposal Selection

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

Phase 1: Proposals will be screened by the SGC and CORC leadership for suitability, and appropriate proposals will be selected for phase 2.

Phase 2: Successful applicants will present their proposed research to the SGC in a 1.5 h in-person (online) discussion. If needed, proposals will be sent out for additional independent technical review.

Phase 3: The SGC will submit to CORC leadership a ranked list of proposals for funding.

Phase 4: CORC leadership selects appropriate proposals.

It is expected that zero to four proposals will be funded in this call, and applicants will be informed on funding by June 2022 (May deadline) or September 2022 (July deadline).

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 be affiliated with or plan to perform the proposed research at Aarhus University or CORC's associated satellite universities.

Project Funding and Duration

Projects will be funded for a period of up to four years. The budget should include direct costs only. The hosting department/institution will be entitled to a bench fee and coverage of administrative and technical support, which will be calculated after the decision of funding.

Project Reporting

PI's of funded projects are required to prepare a 3-page annual interim progress report and a 1-hour progress presentation to the Directors at the end of the first year and a 3-page final project report and a 1-hour final presentation.

Contacts

Applicants are encouraged but not required to contact Director Alfred Spormann (aspormann@corc.au.dk) or co-director Troels Skrydstrup (ts@chem.au.dk) for feedback on suitability before submitting. Any questions regarding the application formalities, should be emailed to grants@corc.au.dk.