

Q&A
DEFENCE AND SECURITY INNOVATION CENTERS

The following document contains Q&A concerning the announcement of Defence and Security Innovations Centre and the webinar held at 7th of May 2026.

Question	Answer
<p>Can a single university act as the administrative host/main applicant for more than one centre under this call, provided that they represent different research strengths and areas of expertise? Or is it expected that each university, as a general rule, may only submit one centre application?</p>	<p>There is no limit to the number of applications in which an organisation may participate as a partner or administrative host. However, applicants should of course be mindful of whether they have sufficient resources to carry out the task effectively and accurately should they be invited to Phase 2 and beyond.</p>
<p>Each centre — similarly to the Innomissions — will consist of a project portfolio. The call text states that “the centres’ scientific evaluation and prioritisation of projects must take place [...] according to procedures that ensure transparency, impartiality and traceability in the basis for decision-making”. Could Innovation Fund Denmark elaborate on how you envisage a university role in Phase 1 in relation to the establishment of the project portfolio and these procedures?</p>	<p>Centres will receive a grant for the operation of the centre itself. One of the key tasks in this regard is to manage a project portfolio within the thematic areas. A separate grant will be allocated to the project portfolio. Phase 1 applications must define the foundation for the project portfolio and the governance structure underpinning its assessment and adjustment — for example in cases where a project appears unlikely to result in solutions capable of delivering the intended real-world impact of a development project.</p>
<p>If the centre first is established in 2027, how does Innovation Fund Denmark view the duration of the grant period, including the possibility of extending the grant towards 2030?</p>	<p>This will follow the call text and guidelines. Any discussion of a possible extension can only take place once it is considered relevant and would be subject to a specific assessment.</p>
<p>It is stated that the funding rate for the centres is 90%. Does this funding rate also apply to Grand Solutions projects that form part of the centres’ project portfolio?</p>	<p>The funding rate depends entirely on the nature of the supported activities, the types of partners involved, and the applicable state aid framework. Where centres choose to include Grand Solutions projects within their portfolio, the standard guidelines for Grand Solutions projects will apply as usual.</p>
<p>Regarding the call for Strategic Research and Innovation Centres. The call states that the majority of the board must consist of representatives from industry. Would a RTO/GTS institute count as an industry representative?</p>	<p>GTS institutes are not considered to be industry partners or companies. This is also reflected in the call text. When we refer to industry, we mean the defence industry — understood as</p>

	<p>companies that commercialise solutions aimed at, or very close to, the end user (including subcontractors), and whom engage in some form of production and sales within the industry. In this context, GTS institutes are defined according to their knowledge and research role, where they naturally act as consultants or development partners to the industrial partners. The same understanding applies to the centre boards. It is the responsibility of the applicant to clearly explain the considerations and decisions underlying the proposed governance structure.</p>
<p>Is there a need for security clearance for the researchers (as applicants)? specially for non-EU citizens? if yes, which countries</p>	<p>Centres need to have their own security setup if working with and handling classified information. Beside this the URIS guidelines should be considered relevant.</p>
<p>Roadmaps for specific technology areas are typically classified RESTRICTED or above as they highlight gaps in capabilities and plans for closing them. How will you address this?</p>	<p>Roadmaps defined as a part of an application to be shared with the IFD Defence Expert Committee need to be at a strategic level meaning they would most likely not contain classified information (please see call text and guidelines). In each centre the specific nature of activities will define the need for security also concerning centre boards who need to be able to direct activities and projects in close operation with centre management.</p>
<p>The list of 10 critical tech for the EU includes "Nuclear fusion technologies, reactors and power generation". Is this also including nuclear fission?</p>	<p>IFD is technological neutral regarding to topics. But we strongly encourage to look at the call text regarding Danish research strengths, as applicants must argue for the chosen area(s). Inspiration could be found within international priorities coming from EU coalitions og NATO priorities.</p>
<p>Please clarify the connection between Centres and the Grand Solutions project proposals. The slide concerning two linked grant streams indicated that the centres are responsible for projects. Do all GS projects need to be bound to or administered by a centre?</p>	<p>GS projects announced in 2026 are not expected to be associated with the centres. This GS 2026 call is a possibility to work on defence-related projects even before any centres have materialized.</p>
<p>Are this call relevant for private research?</p>	<p>The centres should organize around all key stakeholders both public, private, academic and commercial (see the call text). We expect to see all relevant sectors within an area represented in the centres but it is all up to the centres to define this in an application.</p>

Innovation Fund Denmark

<p>Do you expect to fund establishment of new test facilities (or upgrades for existing ones) through this grant?</p>	<p>It is possible to apply for funding for new test facilities. A centre application on an area of interest should define and specify the need for new test facilities in the application if this need to be developed.</p>
<p>How many centres do you plan to invite to Phase 2?</p>	<p>There's no specific number of applications we expect to invite to phase 2. We are able to fund up to four centres under this call.</p>
<p>How are the centres different from the IFD Missions approach?</p>	<p>In the green missions we have delegated all authority over both academic and project related decisions to the mission partnerships. This gives a lot of administration in the missions and we have tried to minimize this. The centres will have a more flexible model where areas concerning academic priorities, impact focus and project management still is in the centres, but Innovation Fund Denmark will be responsible for certain tasks (see guidelines).</p>
<p>Should the centres be focused on one defence technology e.g. drones, cybersecurity etc? And can international partners be part of the centres or do the partners need to be Danish?</p>	<p>Partners does not need to be Danish (see call text). Regarding number of focus areas for a centre it will be up to any applicant to consider when applying.</p>
<p>kindly supply link to text on Danish Strengths?</p>	<p>There is no text on specific Danish strengths. It is up to applicants to provide the case and argument for an area in the application.</p>
<p>How are the four centres expected to work alongside each other? Are they intended to focus on different defence areas or are they primarily organised by geography?</p>	<p>Centres are expected to be national centres. The centres are expected to be aligned and learn from each other.</p>
<p>Will the slide decks be available after the webinar?</p>	<p>Yes</p>