

Minutes from the Board Meeting of the Innovation Fund Denmark's Board on 21 April 2026, 13.00 - 16.00

Present from the Innovation Fund Denmark Board:

- Anders Eldrup
- Christian Ketels
- Philipp Schröder
- Peter Holme Jensen
- Mette Glavind
- Charlotte Rønhof
- Henrik Breitenbauch
- Morten Novak Bro
- Sine Reker Hadrup

Present from the secretariat:

- Cecilie Brøkner
- Søren Asp Mikkelsen
- Michael Friis Lindinger
- Eva Hansen
- Klaus Bruun Gunnestrup (agenda item 2.1)
- Lars Zederkof (agenda item 3)
- Torben Midtgaard (agenda item 3)
- Anne-Mette Iversen (agenda item 3)
- Asger Narud (agenda item 4.1-4.5)
- Marie Friis Madsen (agenda item 4.3)
- Vibeke Schrøder (agenda item 4.6)
- Mette Toft Bangsø (referent)

Other participants:

- Dorte Rye Olsen, Chair for TRACE (agenda item 4.2)
- Anette Juhl, Director for TRACE (agenda item 4.2)
- Arvid Sihm, Head of Strategy and Funding (agenda item 4.2)

BoD meeting 1 – 21 April - 2026

1.1 Welcome and update from chairpersonship

Minutes from item 1.1 are not published, as the information is confidential

1.2 Conflict of interest

Prior to the meeting, the BoD members had declared any potential conflicts of interest in relation to the agenda items. At the meeting, they were asked whether they had anything to add to their previous declarations, cf. Rules of Procedure §31, subsections 2 and 3. No declarations were made.

1.3 Approval of agenda and participants

Decision: BoD decided to approve the agenda and participants.

2. Strategic outlook

2.1 Strategic Defence Programme

The BoD was presented with the framework and call texts for the Strategic Defence Initiative under the Research Reserve 2026–2029, under which IFD has been tasked with establishing up to four university-anchored research and innovation centres. The initiative is implemented through two tracks: (i) Grand Solutions projects in 2026 targeting normal TRL levels (Track 1), and (ii) multiannual research and innovation centres for 2026–2029 targeting higher TRL levels (Track 2). The call texts remain subject to final legal and administrative review. The BoD discussed the call texts for both tracks and highlighted, among other things, the importance of strong governance in Track 2.

Decision: The BoD approved the call text for Track 1: Grand Solutions Defence Projects.

Decision: The BoD approved the call text and Phase 1 guidelines for Track 2: Research and Innovation Defence Centres, subject to the incorporation of the requested adjustments for the BoD. The BoD authorised its designated representatives to approve the final adjustments on behalf of the BoD. Subsequently, the Secretariat may publish the call.

Decision: The BoD approved the Terms of Reference for the IFD Defence Expert Committee.

3. Strategic domain discussion: Startup & SME programmes

3.1 Reform of the Industrial Researcher, Innoexplorer, Innofounder and Innobooster

BoD discussed the current purpose and framework of the Industrial Researcher, Innoexplorer, Innofounder and Innobooster programmes in light of the urgent need for higher competitiveness in Denmark and Europe and changing priorities in the ecosystem, including the new innovation mandate for Danish Universities.

Decision: The BoD approved the proposed five overarching principles for adjustments to the designs of the Industrial Researcher, Innoexplorer, Innofounder and Innobooster programmes and emphasized the importance of including ecosystem-fit and scale-up modalities.

3.2 Pilot: Simplified evaluation model for Innobooster

BoD discussed a simplified evaluation model for Innobooster to be implemented for the remainder of 2026 in order to increase efficiency in the evaluation process.

Decision: The BoD approved the simplified evaluation model for Innobooster for 2026, including setting the threshold for second evaluation at ≤ 3.33 .

Decision: The BoD approved the adjusted Innobooster guidelines, implementing the simplified evaluation model.

4. Programme development

4.1. Missions call text

Asger Narud presented the background for the proposed call text for the missions, including the implementation of measures aimed at reducing the administrative burdens while strengthening the focus on impact. He further outlined five proposed adjustments, including using a biannual call text cycle up till 2030.

Decision: The BoD approved the call text and guidelines for the 2026 disbursement of funds for the four green Innomission partnerships, and decided to leave the investment rate at 75 pct. for all A-activities.

4.2. Missions: Dialogue with TRACE

Minutes from item 4.2 are not published, as the information is confidential

4.3. New Strategic Global Research Programme: Global Research Collaboration

Marie Friis Madsen presented the background for the proposed call for a new strategic programme on global research collaboration under the Research Reserve 2026–2029 with 50 MDKK allocated in 2026, including three focus areas—quantum technologies, biosolutions, and space. Canada, South Korea, and Japan were proposed as partner countries.

Decision: The BoD approved scope, guidelines and call text for Global Research Collaborations, including partner countries and technological focus areas.

4.4. Calibration of international engagement

The BoD was briefed on the proposal to calibrate international engagement, including participation in a joint quantum call and whether to commit to this year's annual call under the European Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP).

Decision: The BoD decided to join a Canada-led quantum research call with the Nordics and G7 countries.

Decision: The BoD decided not to commit to this year's annual call in the European Clean Energy Transition Partnership (CETP) to enable operational capacity to deliver on the proposed quantum call, but remain a CETP partner.

4.5. Updated annual guidelines for International Collaborations – wider access to organisations from Greenland

The BoD was presented with the updated annual guidelines for international collaborations, which introduce the possibility of funding Greenlandic enterprises subject to prior written approval from the Fund's secretariat. The BoD briefly discussed the proposal.

Decision: The BoD approved the annual revision of the Guidelines for International Collaborations and the Annex to the Guidelines, including introducing the possibility of funding Greenlandic enterprises.

4.6 TDU Quantum

The BoD was briefed on the proposed call text and guidelines for the new program on Quantum Test and Demonstration Facilities (TDF), intended to strengthen Denmark's leading position in quantum technology and enhance the national ecosystem's competitiveness in the EU and beyond.

Decision: The BoD approved the call and guidelines for the new program on Quantum Test and Demonstration Facilities (TDF).

5. State of the Nation

Minutes from item 5 are not published, as the information is confidential.

6. BoD circle of trust

The secretariat left the meeting while BoD discussed confidential topics.