

ODIN Call Guidelines

2026 Grant Type 2A

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Version 1: 3 July 2026

Version 2: 6 July 2026. Slight update to Section 3.5.2 for clarity

Facts about the call

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME: ODIN Grant Type 2A provides **top-up funding** for new research activities, expanded partnerships, and increased openness in previously funded ODIN projects. The grant is funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed activities add value within one of the following four scope areas:

- Cardiometabolic and Cardiovascular diseases (CMD & CVD)
- Infectious diseases
- Regenerative medicine
- Disease-agnostic platform technologies and research tools/methods for broader healthcare applications (must also be linked to one of the scope areas mentioned above)

Open sharing requirement: Project knowledge and results must be shared openly, without IP protection on the funded outputs.

Total amount available for granting: **DKK 4 million.**

Grant type 2A: up to **DKK 1.5 million** for up to 1 year.

For-profit company partners cannot receive funding.

23/08 23:59
CEST

UPLOAD IDEAS TO
WORLDLABS FOR
MATCHMAKING

13/09 23:59
CEST

FINAL DEADLINE FOR
UPLOAD OF IDEAS TO
WORLDLABS

24/09 15:00
CEST

SUBMIT
APPLICATION

Dec

DECISION
LETTERS

Ideas uploaded by 23 August can be included in the facilitated matchmaking. Final WorldLabs deadline: 13 September.

Start date: Within 6 months of 2A grant award (June 2027).

Who can apply: Projects must include, at a minimum, an eligible main applicant from a partner university and at least one industry partner. Additional partners from universities, hospitals, non-profits, and companies are welcome.

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1. CALL OVERVIEW

1.1 PURPOSE

These guidelines describe the process and requirements for applying for ODIN Grant Type 2A (2026). They outline the scientific scope, eligibility criteria, application steps, review process, and obligations for funded projects.

The Open Discovery Innovation Network (ODIN) is a national Danish programme designed to foster and support collaboration across academia, non-profit organisations and industry in early-stage, exploratory, precompetitive research with relevance to drug discovery and/or clinical diagnostics, addressing unmet medical or technological needs.

ODIN operates under a unique funding framework. All projects must be co-created by academic and non-profit researchers together with at least one for-profit company partner, ensuring that research questions and project design are shaped jointly from the outset. Funding is allocated exclusively to academic and other non-profit participants. In addition, all results and data generated during ODIN projects must be shared openly, without intellectual property protection or usage restrictions, to maximise re-use and downstream innovation. These conditions are integral to the programme and apply to all funded projects.

The **Novo Nordisk Foundation** supports the ODIN Grant Type 2A, which is a top-up grant for ODIN projects. Grant Type 2A **projects must include new activities** that extend or build on the previously funded ODIN project (Grant Type 1 or Pilot project) and are related to the 2026 Scientific Scope.

These guidelines are authoritative for the ODIN Grant Type 2A (2026) call, but they are not exhaustive. Detailed templates, instructions, and formal requirements are provided via WorldLabs. For assistance or clarification, please contact the **ODIN Secretariat** at odin@au.dk.

The most current version of this document is available on WorldLabs at:
<https://www.worldlabs.org/opportunity/2026-grant-2-a-application/resources>

1.2 SCIENTIFIC SCOPE 2026

ODIN focuses on areas that hold a strong potential for the Danish ecosystem and global health in general. The overall focus is on the early, explorative (i.e., precompetitive) phases of drug discovery and clinical diagnostics development. Highly innovative, high-risk projects are encouraged.

Grant Type 2A applications must demonstrate clear added value within the 2026 ODIN Grant Type 2A Scientific Scope, even if the previously funded ODIN project was funded under a previous scope.

Projects may address any of the following areas:

Cardiometabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases (CMD and CVD)

Development of innovative approaches to better understand, prevent, diagnose, and/or treat diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels, as well as cardiometabolic conditions, including diabetes, obesity, and their interrelated risk factors.

Infectious Diseases

Advancing research and technologies to address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases, including novel approaches to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Regenerative Medicine

Development of cutting-edge therapies and technologies to repair, replace, or regenerate damaged tissues and organs.

Disease-Agnostic Platform Technologies and Research Tools/Methods*

Innovative technologies, tools, and methods that enable advancements in drug discovery, drug delivery, and/or clinical diagnostics across a broad range of therapeutic areas. These platforms should provide foundational innovations that can be adapted or applied to multiple disease contexts.

*Such platforms/tools/methods must be linked to one or more of the other areas. This must be clearly explained within the application.

1.3 ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to receive the ODIN Grant Type 2A, the project must meet the following criteria:

- Be related to a previously funded ODIN project (Grant Type 1 or Pilot project). *
- Fall within the current ODIN Grant Type 2A Scientific Scope.
- Increase the value of the original ODIN research and potential outcomes through new activities such as work package(s), new research or follow-on research related to the previously funded ODIN project.
- Additional activities related to open sharing, e.g., open journal publication for newly acquired data or adding accessibility features to open databases, may also be included in the budget but cannot stand alone.
- Data created during the new project timeline must be openly shared as soon as possible, with the primary outputs shared no later than 6 months after the conclusion of the grant.
- If the previously funded ODIN project has ended, the primary data from that project must already have been published openly, at a minimum in Zenodo.

*The related ODIN projects are not required to have reached their original end date before applying for or receiving Grant Type 2A, provided that the new activities can occur concurrently without disrupting the timeline or deliverables of the previously funded ODIN project.

2. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

2.1. OPENNESS, VALUE CREATION & UNIVERSAL USE RIGHTS

ODIN supports open, precompetitive research collaborations in which universities, industry, and other partners agree to share project knowledge, data, and results openly as soon as possible, without intellectual property protection on project outputs. This enables others, including the participating partners, to build on the results for downstream innovation after the project's end. Proprietary information brought into the project from outside the collaboration may be shared among the partners where relevant but remains proprietary. Only results created within the ODIN project are required to be openly shared.

PRECOMPETITIVENESS

In ODIN, precompetitive research refers to collaborative research carried out before commercial competition becomes relevant. It typically addresses foundational questions, shared industry challenges, or methods, data, and tools of broad relevance. As such, the results are openly shareable and useful beyond the immediate project partners.

Projects are expected to create value broadly, beyond the immediate project partners, and to address challenges of relevance to multiple companies or to the wider sector. Project outputs should be usable by others without depending on highly proprietary technologies or methods. Applicants should therefore aim to make their project broadly applicable and of value beyond a single company or consortium. ODIN does not support projects that depend on confidentiality, require IP protection or restricted access to create value, or are designed primarily for the benefit of a single company, product, or organisation.

Open results and data generated through early-stage high-risk research can provide a generic knowledge foundation that others, including companies, may use for downstream innovation and for developing new products and services.

Data and results generated in a project must be shared openly as soon as possible. This can be done through Zenodo (https://zenodo.org/communities/odin_dk/), other relevant databases, and open-access publishing in preprint archives and journals. Grantees will receive a manual for open sharing of project outputs and be invited to participate in a course on open data management.

2.2 CO-CREATION & APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

Strong partnerships and interdisciplinarity between co-applicants and company partners are essential to ODIN projects. The participants are encouraged to proactively seek out new project partners at the idea stage, so that the project idea, project design, and application can be co-created in a way that reflects the needs and contributions of each partner.

The ODIN Secretariat can provide support for project applications, including identifying relevant ideas, resources, or partners. It can also offer guidance on how particular competencies, technologies, or resources may be matched to relevant projects. This support draws on a network of skilled academic ambassadors across the partner universities, as well as contacts within industry.

While the Secretariat does its best to connect people and companies to relevant projects, it cannot guarantee a match.

This year ODIN hosts the following events in relation to the ODIN Grant Type 2A Call:

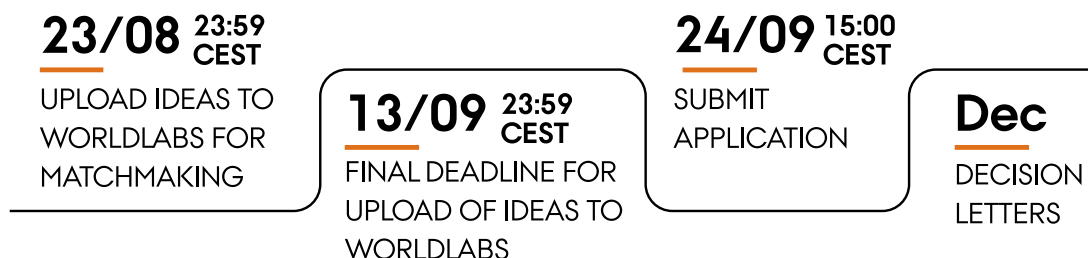
- 20 August: Introduction to 2026 ODIN Grant Type 2A
- 10 September: [Application Q&A, 2026 ODIN Grant Type 2A](#)

2.3 WORDLABS COMMUNITY AND APPLICATION PLATFORM

WorldLabs hosts the free ODIN online community and application process. Through the platform, applicants and other interested partners can create a profile, share project ideas and resources, identify potential collaborators, and submit funding applications. The WorldLabs sign-up page is available at www.worldlabs.org/odin. Please see *Appendix 1* for further information about WorldLabs.

3. THE CALL IN DETAILS

3.1 DEADLINES IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS



3.2 APPLICATION STEPS

The following steps are mandatory for all applicants to complete:

3.2.1 Upload a Project Idea

Project ideas within the scope of the call must be uploaded to the Marketplace within the ODIN online community (<https://www.worldlabs.org/c/odin/mkt/ideas-challenge>). As openness is a core element of ODIN, the upload of project ideas is a required step in the application process.

All ideas must be shared on WorldLabs no later than 13 September. If support is needed in identifying relevant partners, the idea must be posted by 23 August to allow the ODIN secretariat to assist with the matchmaking process.

If you or your team have posted an idea in a previous call round and wish to use the same concept for a Grant Type 2A application, the post must be updated to include ‘2026’ and ‘Grant Type 2A’ by the deadline.

3.2.2 Contact Local Development Advisor

A local development advisor from the main applicant’s university must be consulted to assess whether the project appears to be precompetitive, does not appear to violate any existing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and that any knowledge created within the project can be shared openly. It is the applicant’s responsibility to contact the relevant local development advisor in good time (we recommend at least 3 weeks before the application deadline) to allow sufficient time for this assessment.

Local Development Advisors:

Organisation	Contact	Email address
SDU	Liv Thomsen	litho@sdu.dk
DTU	Elias Zafirakos	eliza@dtu.dk
UCPH	Hanne Junker Elmelund	hanne.elmelund@adm.ku.dk
AU	Find your relevant contact here	
AAU	Kristian Bering (Chemistry and Bioscience)	kbe@bio.aau.dk
	Freja Suhr Malmberg (Clinical Medicine)	fsm@dcm.aau.dk
	Camilla Böhme Kristensen (Health Science & Tech)	camillabk@hst.aau.dk

3.2.3 Consider Legal, Regulatory and GDPR Requirements

Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the project can be carried out in compliance with applicable legal, ethical, regulatory, and GDPR requirements, and should consider the timelines or workarounds required when planning the project start date and activities. This includes, e.g.:

- GDPR obligations for personal, clinical, health or genetic data.
- Consent, ethics approval, biobank approval or institutional registration.
- Whether samples/data are anonymised/pseudonymised, and whether this affects sharing.
- Data, material or sample transfer agreements.
- Cross-border transfer of samples, materials or data.
- Software, database or license restrictions.
- Prior funder, collaborator or company agreement restrictions.
- Limits on whether raw data can be shared openly.

If there is uncertainty about what is required or how long approvals may take, the main applicant is strongly encouraged to discuss the project with a relevant legal, GDPR, or compliance specialist from their organisation before submission. If hospitals or clinical samples are involved, it may also be useful to consult the related regional support function.

Responsibility for obtaining all necessary approvals and ensuring compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements rests with the applicants. Failure to secure required approvals may delay project start or, in exceptional cases, lead to termination of the grant.

3.2.4 Project Application

Once a strong project idea and a relevant consortium have been established, the project partners from industry and academia must collaborate to develop the idea into a full ODIN research project, with all project partners playing an active role.

The application must be submitted through WorldLabs by the main applicant. Each company partner must provide a Letter of Support (LoS). Applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the relevant [application documents](#) at an early stage. Further information about WorldLabs is provided in *Appendix 1*. If questions remain, the ODIN Secretariat will be happy to assist.

3.3 PROJECT TEAM REQUIREMENTS

This section defines the minimum eligibility requirements and programme conditions for ODIN Grant Type 2A (2026). Teams consist of an eligible main applicant, at least one for-profit company partner, and optional co-applicant(s).

The project team shares responsibility for the scientific direction, coordination, and delivery of the project. They participate in internal project governance and decision-making and may contribute to defined deliverables and outputs. All partners are expected to actively contribute to the co-creation and execution of the project, and must agree to comply with ODIN's open, precompetitive, and IP-free framework. If the project is granted, the main applicant, co-applicants and company partners must sign the ODIN Project Agreement which sets out the requirements for open sharing of knowledge created within the project.

Applications that do not meet these requirements will be rejected without scientific review.

3.3.1 Main Applicant

Eligibility

The main applicant must:

- Have been at least a co-applicant on the related ODIN project, but not necessarily the main applicant.
- Hold a permanent (time-unlimited) or tenure-track contract at a level equivalent to associate professor or full professor.
- Be employed at one of the five Danish partner universities:
 - Technical University of Denmark
 - University of Copenhagen
 - University of Southern Denmark
 - Aalborg University
 - Aarhus University

If the main applicant is dual affiliated, for example with a hospital, the second organisation only needs to be included as a co-applicant if it is requesting a budget.

Responsibilities

The main applicant submits the application using their personal WorldLabs profile. If the project is granted, they act as the Grant Recipient and hold overall responsibility for project coordination, reporting, and financial administration on behalf of the project team.

Budget

Main applicants may not receive salary except in rare instances (see *Section A2.1*); however, they are eligible to receive a portion of the ODIN grant budget to support their research team's activities.

Restrictions

An individual may be involved in a maximum of three active ODIN-funded projects, including one active ODIN Grant Type 1 project as Main Applicant.

3.3.2 Industry (Company) Partners

All ODIN Grant Type 2A projects must include active participation from at least one for-profit industry/company partner. For-profit company partners are considered formal project participants and contribute to the scientific development and execution of the project. For the purposes of ODIN, the terms *company* and *industry* are used interchangeably.

There is no limit to the number of projects in which an individual company may participate.

Company Partners:

- May be of any location and size (from start-ups to multinational corporations), provided they are established as legal entities in a business registry in any country.
- Must participate through in-kind contributions to the project (e.g., expertise, materials, data, platforms, or access to facilities) as defined in their Letter of Support.
- May not receive funding from the ODIN grant and are not part of the project's budget.
- Are not required to provide direct financial support beyond in-kind contributions.
- Are not subject to direct project reporting obligations, as all formal scientific and financial reporting is handled by the main applicant on behalf of the project team.
- Must sign the ODIN Project Agreement if the project is granted.

Company In-Kind Contributions and Letter of Support

The nature and scope of in-kind contributions should be determined by the project team and aligned with the scientific objectives of the project. Contributions are expected to be proportionate to the company's size, capacity, and role in the project and should reflect meaningful engagement rather than symbolic participation. No fixed monetary value is required for these in-kind contributions.

Each company partner must provide a LoS indicating why they want to participate in the project and how they will contribute. The relevance and adequacy of the proposed in-kind contribution will form part of the evaluation of the application.

Subcontractors Are Not Part of the ODIN Project Team

Company partners and subcontractors serve fundamentally different roles within ODIN projects. Company partners are part of the ODIN project team. They are active collaborators with a scientific or strategic interest in the project outcomes. Subcontractors are engaged to perform a specific service for the project partners. Subcontractors do not participate in the internal sharing of project knowledge, have no rights to data created within the project, and are therefore not part of the ODIN project team. They do not provide a LoS. For more information, see *Section A2.4*.

3.3.3 Non-profit Companies

Non-profits may participate as a company partner (see *Section 3.3.2*) if they are contributing in-kind only and they are not requesting any grant funding. Note that at least one for-profit company must also participate. Non-profit companies that are participating as company partner must provide a LoS.

Non-profits participate as co-applicants if they are included in the budget as a funding recipient, regardless of additional in-kind contribution (see *Section 3.3.5*). Non-profit companies that are participating as co-applicants may *optionally* provide a LoS to elucidate their interest and any additional in-kind support.

3.3.4 Joint Academic/Company Affiliation

In some cases, academic or clinical researchers may have formal or informal affiliations with companies, particularly spinouts or industry collaborations. To safeguard the integrity of the programme and ensure compliance with national rules on impartiality, applicants may not be financially or personally affiliated with any company partners within the same project. Persons affiliated with such companies may participate as either a (co-)applicant OR company partner, but not as both within the same project.

All applicants with company affiliations must comply with the Danish Public Administration Act (Forvaltningsloven) Consolidated Act 2014-04-22 No. 433, Part 2, on rules of ineligibility.

In addition, all potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed at the time of application and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

3.3.5 Co-Applicants

In addition to the main applicant and industry partner(s), projects may include co-applicants contributing to the scientific work.

Co-Applicant Organisations

Co-applicant organisations may be based in Denmark or internationally and may **receive a portion of the ODIN grant**. Eligible co-applicant organisations include:

- Public universities.
- Public/non-profit hospitals.
- Non-profit companies/organisations.

Each co-applicant organisation must sign its part of the application budget, regardless of whether they are requesting ODIN funding or not. If the project is granted they must sign the ODIN Project Agreement.

If multiple departments from the same organisation are part of the project, they should be listed as individual co-applicants to differentiate their roles and budgets.

Co-Applicant Team Leader

Each co-applicant organisation must have a designated team leader. The team leader must hold a position at the level of associate professor or above, or an equivalent academic, clinical, or organisational role appropriate to the type of institution. For hospitals, this may include a clinical researcher or clinician with equivalent seniority. For non-profit companies or organisations, the team leader may be a senior researcher, executive, or equivalent.

An individual co-applicant team leader may be involved in a maximum of three active ODIN-funded projects overall.

If a co-applicant has dual university/hospital employment and requires separate budgets for each organisation, the organisations must be listed as separate co-applicants.

3.3.6 Important Notes Regarding Teams

- The main applicant on the Grant Type 2A project must be associated with the related previously funded ODIN project as either main applicant OR co-applicant.
- Co-applicants and company partners on Grant Type 2A applications are not required to be affiliated with the previously funded ODIN project.
- The main applicant is expected to inform and coordinate with the team from the previously funded ODIN project before applying for Grant Type 2A, in order to ensure alignment and avoid conflicts or duplication of effort.
- Non-profit companies may participate either as co-applicants or as company partners, but not as both.
- Although multiple applications for Grant Type 2A may stem from the same previously funded ODIN project, only one Grant Type 2A may be funded per previously funded ODIN project per call round. See Section 3.5.2.
- All participants within the project team must sign the non-negotiable Project Agreement if the project is awarded funding.

3.4 ELIGIBLE COSTS

Each project may apply for up to DKK 1.5 million, allocated to academic and other non-profit participants only. Industry partners participate through in-kind contributions. Due to the rules and regulations of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, **no funding may be allocated to for-profit company partners**. For a full breakdown of eligible costs to be budgeted, see *Appendix 2*.

- **SALARIES**
 - For eligible personnel
 - Only for hours spent on ODIN project work
- **OPERATING EXPENSES**
 - Consumables, facilities & services
 - Sample handling/processing
 - Subcontractors
 - External accountant, where required
- **MINOR EQUIPMENT (capped)**
- **OUTREACH & DISSEMINATION (capped)**
 - Conference participation for presentations
 - Travel for project- & ODIN-related activities
 - Database storage fees
 - Open publication costs
- **BENCH FEES (capped)**
- **DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (capped)**

3.5 SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW PROCESS

3.5.1 Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed individually by eligible members of the ODIN Project Review Committee (PRC) through an online review process. The PRC consists of representatives from both academia and industry covering all scientific scope areas.

Reviewers will consider and base scores on the following criteria when assessing applications:

Scientific Scope: How relevant is the project within the 2026 ODIN Scientific Scope?

Note: A proposal will be administratively rejected if more than half of the reviewers deem the project as not relevant to the scientific scope.

Scientific Excellence: How strong and innovative is the project's scientific rationale and methodological approach to addressing the defined unmet need within drug discovery and/or diagnostics? Is the scientific plan credible, feasible, and well-structured to deliver the proposed outcomes?

Interdisciplinarity and Industry Engagement: Does the project bring together sufficient and relevant expertise across scientific disciplines and sectors, with clear and meaningful engagement of for-profit company partners through active in-kind contributions, to create a well-rounded and collaborative research effort?

Value Creation for the Project Partners: To what extent will the project's results be useful and valuable for the participating partners for further research, development, and/or future innovation activities, including (but not limited to) downstream relevance to drug discovery and/or diagnostics?

Breadth of Value Creation (beyond the team): To what extent will the project's results be useful and valuable beyond the immediate project partners/team, including for broader academic research, industrial innovation by third parties, and others? The highest-rated projects will have clear innovation pathways for industry.

Openness: How well does the project align with ODIN's model, with precompetitive results that are suitable for sharing, a robust plan for open dissemination, and no built-in dependencies that would restrict the use of the outputs?

Budget: Is the proposed budget realistic and proportionate to the project's aims, activities, and expected outputs?

3.5.2 Nomination and Decision

Based on the total PRC scoring, the Secretariat prepares a ranked overview of applications for the Steering Group, including overall scores, criterion-level scores, budget information, and relevant portfolio considerations.

The Steering Group consists of representatives from both academia and industry and is responsible for the strategic direction of the platform. The Steering Group has the final mandate to determine which projects to fund. In making the final funding decision, the Steering Group considers the PRC

scoring, the available call budget, and the overall ODIN project portfolio, including, where relevant, scientific scope balance, participants, gender, and risk profiles.

If two or more applications are related to the same previously funded ODIN grant, only the highest-scoring application among them will be eligible for nomination.

Once the Steering Group has made a collective decision on which projects to grant, the ODIN Secretariat sends out decision letters to all applicants. Successful applicants will receive information stating the terms of the grant and will begin the process of receiving each partner's signature on the Project Agreement. Unsuccessful applicants may apply again in the next ODIN call if the project is within that call's scope.

It is not possible to provide detailed personal feedback on the PRC scoring, and rejection decisions cannot be appealed.

You can read more about ODIN's governance on the website, and rules of procedure for the PRC and Steering Group can be [downloaded here](#).

3.6 LEGAL TERMS

If a project is awarded funding, implementation is governed by the Grant Letter and Project Agreement, which define the grant recipient's responsibilities, reporting and payment procedures, dissemination obligations, and conditions for continuation or termination of funding. Applicants should familiarise themselves with these obligations before applying. All projects must comply with the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

3.6.1 Grant Letter

A grant letter will be issued to the main applicant via email, which describes the formal expectations of the ODIN grant. The Grant Letter is a binding document that specifies call- and project-specific conditions and may be updated between call years. A version of this letter can be found on the ODIN website or [download here](#).

3.6.2 Project Agreement

If the project receives funding, all partners must sign the Project Agreement in accordance with their local rules of delegation. The Project Agreement is non-negotiable, as it has been previously defined by ODIN partner universities and company partners. The Project Agreement template can be found on the ODIN website or [download here](#).

3.6.3 Open Dissemination and Publication Requirements

ODIN expects funded projects to actively disseminate their knowledge created within the project through openly accessible scientific publications, databases and other relevant channels, including reference to the specific grant number on all documents.

Examples of open dissemination include, but are not limited to:

- All publications related to the project must be open access.
- Submitted manuscripts must be made available as preprints whenever possible.

- Knowledge created within the project must be published in open online databases as soon as possible, and at the latest 6 months after conclusion of the grant.

To ensure the data is useful and reusable, all projects must follow the [FAIR principles](#) and share their data under a CC BY, CC0 or software license, allowing use by others. Granted projects will be invited to a workshop on Data Sharing & Openness to ensure good practices.

ODIN also has a dedicated community on [Zenodo](#), a free, open-access, catch-all research repository operated by CERN, where all project data — including datasets, software, and publications — are made publicly available.

In addition to open sharing in public databases, projects should aim to produce at least one openly published, peer-reviewed article from the project. Publications should be submitted as preprints whenever possible.

3.6.4 Discontinuation

If a project fails to make the necessary progress or it is discovered that its aim is not achievable, the Steering Group can choose to terminate the project and discontinue funding. In the unlikely event that the ODIN Steering Group terminates a project, ODIN does not assume liability for personnel or other costs incurred after project discontinuation.

3.6.5 Administrative Review and Rejections

The ODIN Secretariat may allow for minor administrative fixes to applications within a brief timeframe after the call deadline, at its own discretion. The ODIN Secretariat reserves the right to administratively reject an application, without peer-review, if the application does not meet the requirements set out in these call guidelines.

3.6.6 Privacy Policy

All applicants and all application material that is not part of the open process on WorldLabs will be treated confidentially. Please consult the Privacy Policy for further information on how the applications and personal data are handled. The Privacy Policy can be found [here](#).

3.6.7 Changes to the Guidelines

The information provided in these guidelines is subject to change and may contain errors or omissions. The Secretariat reserves the right to modify, update, or amend these guidelines at any time without prior notice. Changes and version history will be indicated within the document. Substantial changes will be communicated via WorldLabs or email. The ODIN Secretariat and Aarhus University accept no liability for discrepancies arising from the use of these guidelines.

APPENDIX 1: WORLDLABS FAQ

A1.1 Posting your Idea/Challenge/Resource on WorldLabs

Do I have to post an idea on the Marketplace?

Yes and no. Applications must be linked to a post in the ODIN Marketplace. Applications that are not clearly linked to an idea/challenge/resource posted in the Marketplace will be administratively rejected without review. However, you are welcome and encouraged to join projects that are posted by others, so you don't necessarily have to create your own post.

An application may only be linked to a post if the poster is part of the application or has explicitly agreed to the use of the post in the application. Applications linked to a post without such involvement or agreement will be administratively rejected.

Where and how do I post?

Posts must be uploaded to the ODIN Marketplace: <https://www.worldlabs.org/c/odin/mkt/>

The **IDEAS & CHALLENGES SECTION** allows members to post specific research ideas and/or problems that they would like to solve within the ODIN framework. A template is available on WorldLabs if needed.

The **RESOURCES OFFERED SECTION** allows members to showcase their unique skills, tools, or technologies that may be relevant for a variety of ODIN projects.

Edits can be made after posting. If a post was published in a previous call round, you may edit it to show your interest in the current call round. However, some questions may have been altered or added for the new call round, so carefully read through your previous responses and edit as needed.

Who can make a post?

Anyone may post an idea, challenge, or resource on WorldLabs, including main applicants, companies, co-applicants, and researchers. Importantly, **teams do not have to be fully formed** before posting. The Marketplace can (and should) be used as a tool to find partners/resources.

What should be posted?

WorldLabs posts are expected to be high-level and non-confidential and should include a brief description of the idea or challenge, how the potential outputs might be broadly useful, and resources and partners both available and needed. Importantly, **ideas do not have to be fully formed** before posting. As new partners join, it is expected that the project will develop further and **may change significantly**.

When should the post be made?

The deadline for posting your idea on WorldLabs is specified in the call guidelines. Please note that you may still participate in a call after the idea/challenge/resource deadline by joining projects posted by others.

You are strongly encouraged to post as early as possible. Early posting provides more time for partner identification, dialogue, and project development, and increases the likelihood of forming a strong, well-balanced team and project.

What should I do after posting?

Be proactive! The best use of WorldLabs is in finding and connecting with potential matches yourself. Use filters to search through others' posts in the Marketplace or search the ODIN [WorldLabs members](#) to find relevant people. You can send and receive messages directly through the platform. Check back often to make sure you haven't missed a message.

Do all applicants and company partners need a WorldLabs profile?

No. Co-applicants and company partners do not need a WorldLabs profile to be part of an application. However, the main applicant must submit the application through WorldLabs, and all applications must be linked to a WorldLabs post.

Can one idea, challenge, or resource lead to more than one application?

Yes. A single idea, challenge, or resource posted in the ODIN Marketplace may lead to more than one application. However, the poster or team involved within the original idea, challenge, or resource must in each case be actively involved in the application.

A1.2 Submitting your application via WorldLabs

As partners become involved, the project idea will evolve. Once the team is set with a good idea and the right competencies, the partners must collaborate to translate the idea into a co-created ODIN project where everyone plays an active role, including all applicants and industry partners.

When and where do I submit my application?

The application must be submitted by the main applicant via [ODIN WorldLabs 'Opportunities'](#). Additional information, templates, and guidance will be provided directly within the WorldLabs application page. Most of the relevant information can also be found on the ODIN website (open-odin.dk/about/documents).

I cannot find the application opportunity on WorldLabs. What should I do?

Some application opportunities on WorldLabs may be unlisted and are therefore not visible to all users. Eligible applicants will receive a direct link to the relevant opportunity well before the application deadline. If you are unsure about whether you should have access, please contact the ODIN Secretariat at odin@au.dk.

What should be included in my application?

The specific requirements depend on the call you wish to participate in. You can find the relevant information in the specific call guidelines and within the resources section of the specific call on WorldLabs.

APPENDIX 2: BUDGET REQUIREMENTS

Each Grant Type 2A project may apply for up to DKK 1.5 million, allocated to academic and other non-profit participants only. Industry partners participate through in-kind contributions. Due to the rules and regulations of the Novo Nordisk Foundation, **no funding may be allocated to for-profit company partners.**

The budget must be realistic, cost-effective, and directly related to the project activities. All costs must be necessary for the implementation of the project and must be presented using the provided template. ODIN may reject or request revision of budgets that include unclear, non-justified, or ineligible costs.

A2.1 Salaries

ODIN may fund salaries for certain academic/non-profit personnel working on the project, provided that:

- Salary is charged only for hours spent on the ODIN project work.
- Their role and contribution are clearly described in the application.
- Time allocation is realistic and proportional to the project plan.

Eligible salary categories:

- Scientific/academic employees with time-limited contracts, e.g., postdoctoral researchers, assistant/associate professors on fixed-term contracts, research assistants, and occasionally PhD students (see ‘PhD Students’, below).
- Researchers employed at non-profit companies or organisations, provided that the organisation participates as a co-applicant.
- Technical and administrative staff (TAP) supporting clearly defined, project-specific activities within an applicant or co-applicant team. Permanently employed TAPs are eligible, provided their contract is dependent on securing external project funding.

Exception for Certain Time-Unlimited Academic/Clinical Staff

Where an applicant in a time-unlimited (permanent) academic or clinical position is required to secure research-related salary from external funds, ODIN may cover a limited salary contribution for project management and supervision, capped at a **maximum of two months’ salary per individual**. This must be clearly noted and justified in the application.

PhD Students

PhD students and their salary may be included in ODIN projects only in justified cases where their involvement is appropriate to the project and team. In most cases, scientific contributions are expected to be provided by postdoctoral researchers or more senior staff.

If PhD salary is requested:

- ODIN covers only salary costs corresponding to the actual time spent on the ODIN project.
- ODIN does not cover any other PhD programme-related costs or non-project activities, including enrolment/tuition or PhD school fees, coursework or training, teaching obligations, or time spent on general PhD programme requirements not directly attributable to the ODIN project.
- Any remaining ODIN-related PhD salary will not be covered by ODIN if the project is terminated early.
- A statement (template provided) must be signed by the relevant organisational authority (e.g., head of department or PhD School) in the full application confirming that:
 - All non-ODIN PhD costs and any salary costs not attributable to the ODIN project are fully secured at the time of application.
 - The PhD will comply fully with ODIN's open framework.

A2.2 Minor Equipment

Equipment purchases may be included up to a maximum of DKK 75,000 per project, provided the equipment is necessary for the execution of the ODIN project and clearly justified in the application. Eligible examples include small laboratory instruments, specialised hardware components, or dedicated computing equipment required for project activities. Equipment may not be purchased from for-profit company partners.

A2.3 Operating Expenses

Operating expenses may be included where they are necessary for project execution and are not already covered by bench fees, such as:

- Laboratory consumables and materials directly related to the project.
- Access to relevant facilities or services.
- Project-specific sample handling and processing.
- Software or licenses necessary for the project, subject to ODIN openness requirements.
- Other direct project expenses that can be justified and documented.
- External accountant (up to DKK 50,000) per partner not covered by 'Rigsrevisionen'.
- Subcontractor fees (see *Section A2.4*).

A2.4 Subcontractors in ODIN

Subcontractors provide specific, well-defined services on a transactional basis (e.g., data analysis, specialised technical services). Subcontractors do not participate in project co-creation, have access only to the data strictly necessary to perform the contracted task, and have no strategic interest in project outcomes. Subcontractors may be paid through the grant.

An organisation may not participate in the same project as both a company partner and a subcontractor. Paid subcontracting should be used only where the required expertise or service is not available within the project team and must be clearly justified in the application.

A2.5 Bench Fees

The Project Supplement Agreement (Projekttillæg) does not apply to ODIN grants. Instead, bench fees are applied. A 'bench fee' may cover research-related operating expenses associated with a salaried scientific employee actively working on the project (e.g., laboratory supplies, specialist training, fieldwork, equipment hire, and maintenance). Bench fees may only be used for project-related expenses that cannot be allocated to another budget category. They do not cover overhead costs (e.g., rent, administrative support, representation, social contributions).

Cap and Eligibility

Bench fees in ODIN are automatically capped at a maximum of DKK 8,000 per month (DKK 96,000 per year) per full-time salaried scientific employee actively working on the project. Bench fees do not apply to technicians/TAP.

The application must clearly specify the expenses covered by each 'bench fee'. To be eligible, the fee must be part of the general expense policy of the applicant's organisation/department and must apply independently of the funding source. Note that the document may have a different name, particularly in organisations outside of Denmark. Applicants should consult their individual organisation's finance department or research support unit for guidance.

Documentation in Case of an Audit

Partners claiming bench fees are responsible for complying with their organisational policy and must provide the document upon request. The main applicant, as grant recipient, must ensure that relevant documentation of the applicable bench fee policy can be provided in the event of an audit.

A2.6 Dissemination

Dissemination costs can be covered up to DKK 75,000 per project when necessary for project execution and ODIN requirements. This includes:

- ODIN-mediated training, reporting, events, or other activities (typically 1-day events within Denmark, 1-2 per year)
- Project-related collaboration visits between partners
- Conferences with presentations related to the ODIN project
- At least one publication in an open access journal (Fees must be paid within the grant timeline)
- Open database storage fees (Fees must be paid within the project timeline)

A2.7 Direct Administrative Expenses (Max. 5%)

Administrative support may account for 5% of the total budget for each applicant and is automatically calculated in the budget forms. This fee covers administrative expenses related directly to the project, such as accounting, salary payments, purchasing, hiring, and financial reporting on the project. The fee does not replace or duplicate other budget categories and must not be used to cover general organisational overhead.

Applicants who do not require administrative expense coverage can remove this charge within the budget template by setting the percentage to zero.

A2.8 No Double Financing

ODIN does not allow double financing of costs. This means that costs may not be charged to the ODIN grant if they are already covered by other funding sources, including organisational core funding or other grants. Applicants and grantees are responsible for ensuring that no costs are funded more than once and that all budgeted costs clearly comply with these guidelines.

A2.9 Summary of Costs Not Covered by ODIN

- Funding for-profit company partners.
- Salary costs not attributable to ODIN project-related hours, including teaching.
- General organisational overhead (i.e., rent, electricity, water, maintenance, etc.).
- PhD programme costs and non-project PhD activities.
- Patent applications or other activities intended to restrict access to results.
- Representation and hospitality expenses not directly required for project execution or dissemination.
- Costs already covered by other funding sources or related to unfinished work from the original ODIN project, including writing and publication costs for papers based solely on outcomes from the original ODIN project.

APPENDIX 3: CHECKLIST

Please familiarise yourself with the call documents well ahead of the submission deadline, as the application process includes steps that require involvement from partners and/or support functions at all project partners' local universities. Templates are provided, please check below to see if their use is mandatory.

Documents can be downloaded on [WorldLabs](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE STEPS

☐ **Approval from the project team from the previously funded ODIN project**

Discuss and get approval for the plan for the 2A project from the project team from the previously funded ODIN project.

☐ **Post idea on WorldLabs**

Ideas uploaded by 23 August can be supported in matchmaking.
Final deadline for posting ideas on WorldLabs: 13 September 2026.

Template
provided

☐ **Finalise project team**

Must include at least the eligible main applicant and one for-profit company partner.

☐ **Contact local development advisor**

Contact the main applicant's local development advisor to have them assess that the project appears to be precompetitive, that it does not appear to violate any existing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and that any knowledge created within the project can be shared openly.

☐ **Ensure legal compliance**

Consider whether the project requires legal, GDPR, ethical, regulatory or contractual approvals, or agreements, and if timelines could be affected. Contact legal or compliance specialist at the main applicant's organisation if relevant.

APPLICATION

☐ Application

The application must be submitted via WorldLabs by 15:00 on 24 September 2026. A template is available for offline use, if preferred.

Template
provided

☐ Curriculum Vitae (CV)

From the leader of each applicant group and main researcher/employee of each company. Max. 2 page per person. Upload as PDF.

☐ Letter of support

From each involved for-profit company partner confirming their interest in the ODIN project application, including a description of their specific in-kind contributions. Upload as PDF.

Template use
mandatory

☐ Gantt chart

With work packages and activities for all participants, including milestones, recruitment, ethics approval and data sharing timelines. Upload as Excel and PDF.

Template use
mandatory

☐ Signed Budget

Must be approved and signed by all heads of department, or equivalent, for each applicant organisation, to ensure that the individual budgets comply with local budgeting rules. Upload as Excel and PDF.

Template use
mandatory

☐ PhD student documentation (if relevant)

Please see *Section A2.1*.

Template use
mandatory

☐ Figures

Recommended. 2 pages saved in a single PDF.