

Call for Proposals #3

Kompetenscentrum Vägteknik (KCV)

To secure a long-term competence within road technology, the Swedish Transport Administration has decided to initiate and fund the Swedish Competence Centre in Road Technology (Kompetenscentrum vägteknisk, KCV). KCV aim to contribute to increased competence, increased knowledge, high quality education, high quality research, and increased attractiveness for the subject road technology. The work is performed in close collaboration between different actors within education, research, the public sector, and the private sector (consultants, industry). The research within KCV is organised in four multidisciplinary thematic research areas:

- Health, environment and climate effects
- Road condition assessment and prediction of its evolution
- Sustainable and resource effective roads
- Digitalisation, automation, and electrification for a modern road infrastructure

KCV is announcing this call for proposals for funding new research projects. In this call the Swedish Transport Administration has earmarked approximately SEK 33 million to fund projects that lead to increased competence and knowledge in road technology in Sweden.

Applications are submitted in a two-step process. Applications for Step 1 must be submitted no later than April 11, 2025.

Focus of Call for Proposals #3

The third call is based on KCV's research agenda (see www.kcvag.se) with a special focus on **robustness and resilience**. **Robustness** in this context refers to *the ability to prevent, withstand, and manage internal and external risks, extraordinary events, and crises from various perspectives*. **Resilience** refers to *the ability of materials, functions, and systems to anticipate, manage, and withstand different pressures, shocks, disruptions, and disasters of a physical, economic, political, environmental, and climatic nature in a timely and efficient manner. This is achieved by strengthening, recovering, improving, and restoring materials, structures, and functions*.

A robust and reliable road network is a fundamental prerequisite for efficient, safe, energy-efficient, and environmentally and climate-sustainable transports, and thereby a well-functioning society. KCV seeks projects that can contribute to creating a more robust and resilient road network, capable of handling potential disruptions and contributing to a safer road transport system. All four of KCV's research areas are open for projects that contribute to new expertise and knowledge.

Projects should include research activities that lead to increased competence and knowledge in road technology in Sweden and contribute to openly published knowledge in the form of scientific articles or reports within organizations' own publication series. Projects should also relate to the Swedish Transport Administration's research needs¹.

This call is open for research projects from basic research to applied research (up to and including TRL level 6) and includes licentiate and PhD projects².

¹ The Swedish Transport Administrations research needs is available in their research and innovation plan for 2024 – 2029. For more details see: <https://urn.kb.se/resolve?urn=urn:nbn:se:trafikverket:diva-12505>

² 2 TRL stands for Technology Readiness Level and is an indicator for the maturity of technology with a scale from 1 – 9. For more information and definitions for each level see <https://www.swedishmininginnovation.se/sv/utlysningar/trl-niva/>

This call prioritizes collaboration between KCV partner organizations, especially in new constellations. Projects that bring together participants who have not previously collaborated should be particularly prioritized. However, projects can build on previous collaborations, but the project team should be complemented with new partners on equal terms.

Individuals with multiple organizational affiliations may only represent one organization in the project application. KCV's partner organizations are considered full-fledged co-applicants and cannot act as subcontractors.

Scope and Budget

This call is directed at employees of KCV's partner organizations Chalmers University of Technology, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Luleå University of Technology, Lund University and the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI). Projects may also include participants outside KCV's partner organizations. In such cases, projects that receive co-funding from participating organizations will be prioritized. All state aid regulations must be observed.

A total of approximately SEK 33 million is available for projects receiving funding. It is expected that around **4 – 10 projects** will be funded, with a maximum duration of four (4) years.

The total project cost must be reported using the budget template (see below). This total budget should include any co-financing. For KCV partners, no co-financing is required. For external partners, co-financing requirements depend on state aid regulations and are determined by the type of research and company size. For more information, refer to the Swedish Transport Administration's website³.

Funding disbursements will occur up to three times per year, based on project progress. The final installment is paid after approval of the final report and presentation of the project at KCV's results conference. An approved final report may also be a licentiate thesis or doctoral dissertation for corresponding projects.

Project Application Requirements

For Step 1:

Applications must meet the following criteria to be considered for Step 1:

- The main applicant must be from one of KCV's partner organizations: Chalmers University of Technology, KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Luleå University of Technology, Lund University and the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI).
- As base for the assessment of the application, the following are required in step 1 applications:
- The application must be structured as a concise project proposal with a simplified budget overview. It must include a preliminary start and end date for the project. The primary research area and knowledge field must be specified. The application template for Step 1 must be used without modifications (the template can be found at www.kcvag.se). Applications must be submitted electronically in PDF format by April 11 at 23:59 to ansokan@kcvag.se.

For Step 2:

Further instructions for Step 2 will be provided after the evaluation of Step 1 applications.

³ [Lämna forsknings- och innovationsförslag - Bransch](#) – See the document under the header "Stödnivåer för företag och stödberättigande kostnader"

Evaluation and Decision Process

Only the version of the application submitted before the deadline will be evaluated. No additions or modifications will be accepted unless explicitly requested by KCV. If complementary information is requested, prompt responses are required.

The evaluation process for submitted proposals is according to the following steps:

- Step 1 applications are assessed by Swedish Transport Administration specialists, who evaluate how well the applications align with the administration's research needs. Applicants may be invited to pitch their proposal to the evaluation panel. Further instructions will be provided after the deadline of Step 1.
- KCV's board sets a threshold for evaluation. Applications exceeding this threshold are invited to submit a Step 2 application.
- Step 2 applications are assessed based on scientific quality and alignment with KCV's research agenda.
- KCV's board finalizes the prioritization list and submits it to the Swedish Transport Administration, which makes the final funding decisions based on financial availability and prioritized projects.

Contact Information

For questions regarding this call, please contact: info@kcvag.se