**Call for funding for core facilities within research for the time period 2022-2024**

**Background**
Central investments in core facilities for research funded by Karolinska Institutet (KI) and Region Stockholm, through the Research Council and the Research Committee, have been prioritized over a longer time period. Resources are made available in regular cycles where resources are announced in 2021 for funds available in 2022-2024.

The mission for core facilities is to provide advanced methodology and technology as a service to researchers, which is why co-authorship of scientific articles must not be a requirement.

An established core facility is typically expected to have significant incomes from paying customers.

The main applicant should be the one who is proposed as director. A co-applicant can be named and should then be the person responsible for the scientific development of the core facility (if this is not the director).
Call 2021
The call is aimed at core facilities with existing support from KI/Region Stockholm and welcomes new initiatives for core facilities of strategic importance for KI/Region Stockholm.

The call has a broad scope, targeting current and future core facilities within KI’s and Region Stockholm’s entire operations.

The call includes:

1) Operational costs. Under operational costs, it is also possible to apply for costs for depreciation 2022-2024 for equipment/instruments with a cost for purchase corresponding to less than SEK 2.5 million (SEK 345 million total for 2022-2024).

2) Funds for expensive equipment/instruments, defined as a cost for purchase of equipment/instrument in excess of SEK 2.5 million and may in special cases consist of systems of several instruments. You can apply for future and current costs for depreciation. KI/Region Stockholm reserves the right to reduce the awarded funding if (partial) funding is received from other sources for the same purpose.

Please note that only core facilities that receive funding under 1) can receive funding for expensive equipment/instruments. The total amount available is SEK 60 million.

Application
The application must be made electronically. The form is available in KI Prisma during the application period, February 17th – March 23rd, 2021. The application opens at 10 am on February 17th and closes at 2 pm on March 23rd.

Evaluation criteria
The application will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Deliveries/results of the activities: number of projects, customers scientific articles, courses given – this criteria is not relevant for new facilities
2. Strategic importance for research within KI/Region Stockholm
3. Resource efficiency: other financiers, how it is proposed to finance the activities with customer fees – This criteria is weighted lower
4. Clarity and transparency: access, customer fees
5. Future plans
6. For applications involving expensive equipment/instruments, justify the importance of the equipment/instrument for the activities
The application should include

- Complete name of the core facility and where relevant abbreviation
- Where the core facility is organized – KI (department), Region Stockholm (organisational entity)
- The organization of the core facility (Director, scientifically responsible, etc.)
- Contact information and link to website (for established core facilities and if available for proposed new core facilities)
- Popular science summary about 1/2 A4 page

Activities 2019-2020
(Max 1 A4 page, Times new roman, 12 pt + uploaded tables)

- Describe briefly methods and techniques provided during the requested period as service as well as activities at an overall level (specified in table as outlined below).
  - Project number (or equivalent), PI (customer), organization (e.g. department), method/technology, invoiced cost.
- Projects/customers' scientific deliveries (as specified in table as outlined below).
  - PI (customer), organisation (e.g. institution), customers scientific articles or equivalent (Mark a maximum of 10 that specifically indicates the contribution of the activities to research within KI/Region Stockholm). In cases of co-authorship from the core facility this must be motivated.
- Financial summary according to template.

For new initiatives applying for resources to run a core facility, describe how activities have been established including methods and techniques made available and how the activities have interacted with researchers outside the own research group within KI/Region Stockholm. If relevant, describe user fees and scientific articles.

Future activities 2022-2024
(max 2 A4 pages, Times new roman, 12 pt)

- Describe techniques and methods proposed to be provided as a service during the period for which resources are applied. How is continuous technology and method development ensured, as well as competence and knowledge building? Specify.
- Describe, where appropriate, interactions with other core facilities as well as regional, national and international research infrastructures.
- Describe, where relevant, how the needs addressed in the application correspond to similar services provided in other ways to researchers within KI/Region Stockholm. How is any overlap minimized? Place the proposed activities in a local and regional context. Specifically, duplication of activities at two different geographical sites must be specifically justified.
- Describe the proposed financial model applied at the overall level. What is financed by customer fees, what is proposed to be financed from the current call and what is financed, if relevant, from other resources?
  - Budget according to provided template.
- When funding is applied for equipment, justify the function and importance of the equipment for the operation, for example in terms of technological and methodological cutting edge and/or efficiency. If applicable, please indicate whether the same or similar equipment is provided to researchers at KI/Region Stockholm elsewhere. How is any overlap minimized? Place the proposed equipment in a local and regional context. Specifically, duplication of equipment on two different geographical nodes must be specifically justified.
Customer relations for the periods 2019-2020 and 2022-2024
(max 2 A4 pages, Times new roman, 12 pt)
For new initiatives applying for resources to run a core facility, only for the period 2022-2024. For the points below, be clear about if, and in that case how, future activities (2022-2024) will evolve from previous operations (2019-2020).

- Customer fees: list fees for service provided.
- Availability: describe opening hours if relevant, how to contact the core facility, how to order service and queuing system.
- Co-authorship: in particular, justify any co-authorship on scientific articles where data has been generated within the core facility.
- Communication/Information: describe how the core facility informs about, and communicates, its operations.
- Education: describe how the core facility trains customers and participates in educational activities within and outside KI/Region Stockholm (connection core facility activities to education).

Evaluation group
Conflict of interest rules, in accordance with the “kommunallagens regler” (1991:900) will be applied in the evaluation process.

Decision process
Preliminary decisions on funding will be taken in June, 2021, by the Research Council and the Research Committee, respectively. Formal decisions on funding will taken as part of the regular budget process in late autumn, 2021.

If you have any questions, please contact cfcall2021@ki.se

If funding is proposed
If the application is approved for funding, instructions will be given on how:
- Allocated funds should be accounted for and regularly reported
- Template for annual report of activities
- Information about which administrative program to be used

Welcome with your application!