

Call for cross-border innovation and research pilot project proposals within HALRIC

Summary of the call

Hanseatic Life Science Research Infrastructure Consortium (HALRIC) works to strengthen the research and innovation capacity in the Life Science sector of the Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak-Hamburg region. This will be achieved by increasing and broadening the use of research infrastructures such as MAX IV, ESS, DESY, and European XFEL as well as cutting-edge complementary infrastructures e.g., Cryo-EM, advanced biological MS, and 7Tesla-MR. This call supports innovation and research initiatives that demonstrate cross border utilization of research infrastructures.

The proposed pilot project should be within the field of Life Science. Furthermore, it should use a minimum of one Research Infrastructure or contribute to advanced know-how at a Research Infrastructure at the HALRIC partner organizations.

A pilot project would typically apply for support for 6 months and on average be reimbursed with EUR 35.000. Note that this is the reimbursement and not the total salary cost of the pilot project. However, projects with another duration or budget will also be considered.

Key dates

HALRIC accepts applications on a rolling basis through 30 September 2025.

Upcoming deadlines are:

17 September 2024

28 November 2024

Contact information

Questions regarding the HALRIC consortium and the call can be directed to:

Maria Sundh (HALRIC operational manager): ms@mva.org

Kajsa M. Paulsson (HALRIC project director): kajsa_m.paulsson@med.lu.se

For more information, see the [HALRIC website](#).

Aim of the call

A favorable research and innovation environment with easy access to multidisciplinary approaches is increasingly important to meet current and future challenges within Life Science, such as developing therapeutics for rare diseases, personal medicine, as well as for prevention of disease with the development of e.g., vaccines. The Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak-Hamburg (ÖKS-Hamburg) region has, on a global scale, unique Research Infrastructures, both in terms of large-scale facilities (MAX IV, ESS, DESY, and European XFEL) and cutting-edge complementary infrastructures (Cryo-EM, advanced biological MS, and 7Tesla-MR). With these advanced infrastructures comes advanced know-how and technology for sample production and preparation, as well as data processing and analysis.

The Hanseatic Life Science Research Infrastructure Consortium (HALRIC) works to connect researchers, the know-how, and the complementary Research Infrastructures of the ÖKS-Hamburg region to contribute to creating a hub for Life Science research and innovation, which is at the forefront globally.

The aim of this call is two-fold:

1. To accelerate the use of strategic Research Infrastructures in the ÖKS-Hamburg region by companies, hospitals, and universities.
2. To connect researchers and Research Infrastructures within the ÖKS-Hamburg region.

See below for more information about evaluation criteria.

Eligibility information

Financial support can be awarded to the following organizations: Aarhus University, DESY, DTU, EMBL, ESS, European XFEL, Hamburg Universität, Lund University, Malmö University, MAX IV, Rigshospitalet, Skåne University Hospital, University of Copenhagen, University of Oslo, and Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf.

Collaboration constellations that include partners from outside the partnership (e.g., industry and/or clinics) are strongly encouraged. However, collaborators outside the HALRIC partnership must cover their own expenses and cannot be reimbursed through this call.

State aid

Industry involvement is one of the evaluation criteria of HALRIC pilot projects. The company will not receive direct financial support from HALRIC but will collaborate with the partner organizations on the joint pilot project, which are receiving public funding – and this could raise the question of state aid. However, HALRIC pilot projects are considered exempt from the state aid rule, because the projects are considered research collaborations jointly undertaken by the company and the research organizations. For HALRIC pilot projects to comply with this exemption a collaboration agreement between all the pilot project partners needs to be drafted before the pilot project can start. For more information regarding state aid, see the guide on how to interpret EU state aid rules on the [HALRIC pilot project webpage](#).

Budget information

Employment costs are the only eligible costs of the pilot project and as such, are the only costs that can be included in the budget form that should be used for the application.

At the time of application submission, the applicant needs to have funding for the employment costs of the involved participants of the pilot project. At the end of the pilot project employment costs will

be reimbursed with 40% (for Norwegian partners 50%) through external funding from Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak.

A typical HALRIC pilot project is granted EUR 90.000 in total which equals app. EUR 35.000 in reimbursement.

Different collaboration models can be considered, for examples see below:

1. Researcher/technician works full time (100%) in the pilot project whereas the main supervisor/senior researcher allocates 20% and the co-supervisor allocates 30% of their time respectively.
2. Researchers who e.g., are affiliated with a hospital and who do research part-time can apply for less than 100% in the pilot project.
3. A collaboration between two senior researchers and no younger researcher/technician, where 20% of their time respectively is allocated to the pilot project.

In the application form and the budget form please indicate the actual time % that you will spend on the project on the row/column “percentage time/working in the project” and the entire salary, not just the expected refunded amount (i.e. if you plan to spend 100% write 100%). The budget form will automatically calculate the 40% (50% for Norwegian partners) reimbursement you will receive based on your activity level.

It is also possible to be a collaborator in a pilot project without receiving reimbursement from the HALRIC project. Indicate this by answering “NO” to the question “Are you applying for reimbursement from HALRIC” in the application form. In the budget form indicate this by setting your salary to EUR 0.

All participating organizations who are expecting reimbursement for their time in the pilot project must provide contact information of minimum one financial officer from their respective organization.

Each of the partner organizations in HALRIC eligible for reimbursement (see “Eligibility information”) has a travel budget that can be used for travel between pilot project participants and Research Infrastructures. To apply for travel budget, contact the representative at your respective organization listed in appendix 1 at the end of this document.

Application process information

The application form and the budget form, available on the [HALRIC pilot project webpage](#), must be used. All page limitations must be followed.

All proposals will need the signature of the department head or equivalent from each participating organization who will be reimbursed through the project, to ensure that the initial employment costs are available. The signatures go on the budget form.

Applications should be submitted by email in searchable pdf files to info@halric.eu.

Application review information

Final evaluation and decisions on proposals will be taken by the HALRIC pilot project committee. Representatives on the committee are listed on the HALRIC pilot project website.

The HALRIC pilot project committee will consider each of the criteria below, listed in no particular order:

Priority 1 – cross-border collaboration

To promote cross-border as well as complementary use of the Research Infrastructures the proposed projects should, as a minimum, include participants from two different countries.

Priority 2 - industry and/or clinical research

Priority will be given to pilot projects that include an industry collaborator and/or clinical research, as that is today underrepresented within the group of users of Research Infrastructures. Industry involvement is one of the parameters that the HALRIC project as a whole is measured by, and the company's CVR/organization/VAT number will be an indicator which is included in the report to the HALRIC financier EU-Interreg.

Priority 3 - innovation potential

The pilot project needs to be innovative in the sense that it has the potential to contribute to the development of a new product, process, technology or introducing concepts or instrumentation that are novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense. This includes creative application of ideas and existing research infrastructure to solve a challenge, e.g., establishing new ways of analysis or new phenomenon and findings in Life Science.

Priority 4 - new project constellation

Projects based on new collaboration constellations between researchers in the ÖKS-Hamburg region and/or new users of the experimental techniques will be prioritized.

Priority 5 - feasibility

It must be clear that the pilot project is feasible within the timeframe of the proposed project period and that it includes the appropriate manpower and competences.

Priority 6 – the use of more than one infrastructure

Pilot projects combining more than one research infrastructure will be prioritized.

Award information and conditions

Applicants will be notified following the decision by the HALRIC pilot project committee.

The project must be started within 3 months after the approval by the HALRIC pilot project committee.

Granted applications must provide abstracts which can be publicly available and should therefore be written in a simple and easy-to-understand language without too many scientific terms.

Recipients of funding will be required to submit a report. A template for the report is available on the HALRIC website and must be used. The report should be completed no later than two months after ended project and sent to the project management at info@halric.eu to confirm completion of the project.

Articles that are published as a result of the HALRIC pilot project collaboration should include the following acknowledgement:

“We acknowledge the funding by the EU Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak project 'Hanseatic Life Science Research Infrastructure Consortium' (HALRIC)“

Deadline

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis through 30 September 2025.

Applications are reviewed and granted by the HALRIC pilot project committee and representatives on the committee can be found on the HALRIC pilot project webpage.

Upcoming deadlines are:

17 September 2024

28 November 2024

About HALRIC

Hanseatic Life Science Research Infrastructure Consortium (HALRIC) is a cross-border innovation project. The goal of the project is to increase the innovation capacity in the ÖKS-Hamburg Life Science sector via increased access to and use of cross-border front end technologies, instruments, expertise, and data handling solutions.

The consortium involves 21 partner organizations and together with the Life Science industry of ÖKS-Hamburg, it constitutes the full spectrum of organizations needed for public-private collaborations (universities and research institutes, large-scale research infrastructures, life science organizations, hospitals, and the regions).

The project is funded by Interreg Öresund-Kattegat-Skagerrak.

Appendix 1: Applying for HALRIC travel budget between pilot project partners and Research Infrastructures

In case your pilot project benefits from travelling between partners and/or Research Infrastructures there is a possibility to inquire travel budget from your own partner organization if it is one of the eligible organizations withing HALRIC (see “Eligibility information” in the call text). The representatives for each organization responsible for handling inquiries regarding travelling are listed below and please contact both representatives, if there are two, at your respective organization after your application has been approved. If your organization does not have a representative in the list yet, then contact HALRIC Head of project operations Maria Sundh at ms@mva.org.

HALRIC travel budget representatives:

Organization	Representative 1	Representative 2
Aarhus University	T.D	
DESY	T.D	
DTU	Anders Bjorholm Dahl (abda@dtu.dk)	Mette Joy Tew (mete@dtu.dk)
EMBL	T.D	
ESS	T.D	
European XFEL	Robert Feidenhans'l (robert.feidenhansl@xfel.eu)	Deike Pahl (deike.pahl@xfel.eu)
Hamburg Universität		
Lund University	Kajsa M Paulsson (kajsa_m.paulsson@med.lu.se)	Michaela Rydahl (michaela.rydahl@med.lu.se)
Malmö University	Tautgirdas Ruzgas (tautgirdas.ruzgas@mau.se)	Lei Shen (lei.shen@mau.se)
MAX IV	Marjolein Thunnissen (marjolein.thunnissen@maxiv.lu.se)	Aleksandra Zawierucha (aleksandra.zawierucha@maxiv.lu.se)
Region Hovedstaden	Jakob Dissing Øster (jakob.oester@regionh.dk)	
Skåne University Hospital	Sofia Moberg (Sofia.Moberg@skane.se)	Stina Bladh Jonasson (Stina.BladhJonasson@skane.se)
University of Copenhagen	Michael Gajhede (mig@sund.ku.dk)	Andreas Christian Krogh Holm (andreas.holm@sund.ku.dk)
University of Oslo	Nikolina Sekulic (nikolina.sekulic@ncmm.uio.no)	Mette Kvernland (mette.kvernland@ncmm.uio.no)
Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf	T.D	