Project leaders within Zenith,
Departments at LiTH,
Members of the Zenith board

PROJECT APPLICATION FOR Zenith 2026

Applications for project funding for 2026 (both current and new projects) shall be submitted **no later than 2025-09-08**. Target applicants for new projects are researchers who have not yet reached a Senior Associate Professor (Swe. Biträdande Professor) position, have a *teacher's* position[1] with main employment at LiTH for no less than 1 year at project start. The funding is aimed at researchers with about 2-4 years of research experience after PhD, approaching or having reached docent. The time after PhD is not a strict requirement but will be factored into the assessment. Further information can be found at `http://zenith.lith.liu.se`.

Applications shall be submitted via the EasyChair submission system on `https://easychair.org/my/conference?conf=zenith26`. Any submissions after the deadline will not be considered for funding. All submitted documents must be merged into 1 single PDF file. The submitted application is considered an internal document and is not public. The applications will be reviewed at a meeting on **2025-09-29**.

Applications for new projects (including projects with planning funding)

The description below applies to applications for new projects *and* projects that during the previous year have had planning funding. Planning funding typically corresponds to 1/2 of a regular Zenith grant. For projects with planning funding, it is important to relate to any instructions from the board given at the last application review.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact a board member no later than 2 weeks before the decision meeting to discuss the project who then will be the project rapporteur. Contact information can be found at `http://zenith.lith.liu.se`. If you need help selecting who to contact, contact Erik Frisk (`erik.frisk@liu.se`).

In general:

- A template for the application document can be downloaded from the Zenith website.

- Projects with planning funding shall apply using the template for new projects.

- All applications for new projects are asked to preliminary book 10:30-14:30 on 2025-09-29 for an interview with the board.

- A person/project is nominally funded for 5 years, approved one year at a time based on continuation applications. There is also an extended half-time evaluation during the third year.

- A Zenith grant includes

  - Research funding, 600 000 SEK/year

  - Participation in a leadership program

An application for a new Zenith project shall contain the following parts and be approximately 5 pages (excluding CV, LOI, and references):

- A description of the project background.

---

[1]This means post-doc, assistant professor, or associate professor.

- The project's position with respect to the international research frontier and relevance to industry and/or society.

- A description of the research environment in which the project is performed.

- A description of the project vision from a three-year perspective and also long-term with respect to research activities, independence, and plans to form an independent research group.

- A description of the proposed project's connection to industry or society by describing the connections to one or several partners, including contact persons.

- It is strongly encouraged that one, or several, letters of intent from concerned partners are included in the application. A description of the forms of collaboration is also recommended.

- A detailed plan, including objectives and activities, for the first year.

- A budget for all five years of the project. From the budget, it shall be clear which researchers/PhD students that are partly financed by the project. A limited part of the funding can be used to visit collaborating companies with the purpose of developing the project and disseminating project results.

  It is required to use the full cost calculation template available at `https://liuonline.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-ekonomi/SitePages/Kalkylmallar.aspx`.

- An overview of other grants that are intended to support the project.

- CV for the intended project leader.

Applications for continued funding of existing projects with full funding

Applications shall include a project report of about 2-3 pages (excluding budget) with the following content:

- A description of the project background, including industrial or societal motives.

- A description of the long-term objectives of the project.

- A description of the current project status and the results that have been achieved.

- A description of collaboration with industry and/or society by naming partners, contact persons, and forms of collaboration.

- List of publications. Identify those that are explicitly related to your Zenith project.

The project report can consist of the description that has been linked to the Zenith website under the condition that the project description is updated. In addition to the project report, the application shall include:

- A detailed plan including objectives and activities for the upcoming years.

- A detailed economic account of how the grant has been used so far. For the first continuation application, report from January 1 until application day. For the remaining continuation applications, include year-by-year reports between applications.

- Attach an up-to-date budget for the remainder of the project. It is required to use the full cost calculation template available at `https://liuonline.sharepoint.com/sites/intranet-ekonomi/SitePages/Kalkylmallar.aspx`.