



ENOVA

Research and Development of Energy and Climate Technologies Scheme

State aid Reference no.:

12/2017/R&D&I

1. State

Norway

2. Title of aid scheme

Research and Development of Energy and Climate Technologies Scheme (The Scheme).

3. National legal basis

Parliamentary Decision of 5 April 2001¹ on the basis of a proposition by the Ministry of Petroleum and Energy of 21 December 2000² The Parliamentary Decision amends the Energy Act of 29 June 1990 No 50 (Energiloven).

¹ Odelstingets vedtak til lov om endringar i lov 29. juni 1990 nr. 50 om produksjon, omforming, overføring, omsetning og fordeling av energi m.m. (energilova). (Besl.O.nr.75 (2000-2001), jf. Innst.O.nr.59 (2000-2001) og Ot.prp.nr.35 (2000-2001)).

² Ot.prp.nr.35 (2000-2001)

The following scheme provides the legal cover for award of support in line with the General Block Exemption Regulation. The scheme does not provide any additional funding or budget.

4. EEA legal basis

All aid³ provided under this Scheme will be within the limits set out in Article 25 of Commission Regulation (EU) No 651/2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market in application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty (General Block Exemption Regulation).

A full version of the Regulation can be found at:

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2014.187.01.0001.01.ENG

Summary information relating to the Scheme has been registered with the Commission under reference SA 12/2017/R&D&I

5. Definitions

For the purpose of the Scheme the definitions laid down in Chapter 1 Article 2 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) are applied by Enova.

6. Objective of the Scheme

The Scheme will promote and support initiatives for more innovative, efficient and greener technologies. The overall objective is to incentivize and accelerate experimental development of new technologies within the field of renewable energy production, energy efficiency, security of supply and reduced GHG emissions stemming from production processes or from a greener value chain. Aid will only be awarded to research projects that fall within the

³ State aid granted by the EFTA States under the Act referred to in point 1j of Annex XV of the EEA Agreement

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category of applied research, more specifically in the category of experimental development.

Programmes under the scheme will target different sectors and technologies based on identified market barriers and the interaction with other public funding measures (e.g. Innovasjon Norge and Forskningsrådet).

7. Eligible Costs

The costs of the project must be transparent and directly and exclusively related to the project.

The eligible costs allocated to experimental development projects under the Scheme are the following:

- personnel costs: researchers, technicians and other supporting staff to the extent employed on the project;
- costs of instruments and equipment to the extent and for the period used for the project. Where such instruments and equipment are not used for their full life for the project, only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible.
- costs of buildings, to the extent and for the duration period used for the project. Only the depreciation costs corresponding to the life time of the project, as calculated on the basis of generally accepted accounting principles are considered as eligible.
- costs of contractual research, knowledge and patents bought or licensed from outside sources at arm's length conditions, as well as costs of consultancy and equivalent services used exclusively for the project;

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- additional overheads and other operating expenses, including costs of materials, supplies and similar products, incurred directly as a result of the project

The eligible costs must be specified at the time of application.

8. Aid Intensities

Supported activity	Small enterprise	Medium-sized enterprise	Large enterprise
Experimental development	45 %	35 %	25 %
- Subject to effective collaboration between undertakings (with at least one SME) or - Subject to wide dissemination of results ⁴	50 %	40 %	40 %

9. Notification Threshold

Aid awarded under this scheme shall not exceed the threshold of EUR 15 million per project.

10. Body authorized to implement the Scheme

Enova SF⁵ is the authorized body to implement the Scheme.

⁴ the results of the project are widely disseminated through conferences, publication, open access repositories, or free or open source software.

⁵ <https://www.enova.no/about-enova/about-enova/259/0/>

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11. Scope of the Scheme

The scheme will be open to undertakings that are registered in Norway and supports projects that are located in Norway or in the Norwegian economic zone.

Aid will not be granted to undertakings that are:

- Subjects to a pending recovery order at the time the application is submitted to Enova; or
- In financial difficulties at the time the application is submitted to Enova.

12. Duration of the Scheme

The scheme will run from 1st January 2017 until December 31st 2020.

13. Budget for Aid under the Scheme

The annual budget for the Scheme is estimated to maximum 150 MNOK.

Should the budget for this scheme increase, Enova will inform the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

14. Form of aid

All aid awarded under the Scheme will be transparent and in line with criteria set out in Article 5 of the GBER. Aid will be awarded by way of grant.

15. Eligible activities to be supported under the Scheme

There is no automatic entitlement to support from the Scheme. All support is subject to rigorous due diligence appraisal and internal approval by Enova and all projects

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shall be assessed against the conditions of the scheme and the criteria set out by Enova in the relevant programme.

The Scheme supports activities/projects that:

-fall within the category of experimental development as defined in the GBER point (86)

The projects may comprise development, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation of new products, processes or services that fall within the field of energy and environmental protection.

The primary objective of the projects under the Scheme shall be to make further technical improvements to products, processes or services that are not substantially set.

-have defined innovation objectives

Only projects with defined objectives for technology development and innovation will be eligible for aid.

16. Transparency

Only aid for which it is possible to calculate the precise amount of the aid at the point at which it is awarded will be provided under the Scheme.

17. Incentive effect

Aid recipients must demonstrate that the aid is required for projects to proceed by submitting a written application before work on the project or activity has started. The application will as a minimum contain the following information:

(a) Name and size of the undertaking receiving the aid;

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- (b) Description of the project, including its start and end dates;
- (c) Location of the project;
- (d) List of project costs;
- (e) Form of aid and amount of public funding needed for the project.

18. Cumulation

In determining whether the notification thresholds and the maximum aid intensities are respected, the total amount of State aid for the activity or project shall be taken into account. The total amount of State aid may be comprised of local, regional, national or other funds managed and controlled by Norway as a contracting party to the EEA Agreement⁶.

EU funding that is understood as centrally managed and outside the direct and indirect control of Norway will not be taken into account for the calculation of the notification thresholds and aid intensities.

The total amount of public funding, which includes State aid and EU funding together and is granted in relation to the same eligible costs should not exceed the most favourable funding rate⁷ laid down in the applicable rules of EU/EEA Law.

Aid provided under this Scheme will not be cumulated with any de minimis aid in respect of the same eligible costs, if such cumulation would breach the applicable aid intensities.

⁶ Ref. Structural Funds which qualify as State aid

⁷ The term "funding rate" is broader than "aid intensity". It refers to the ratio of the total amount of public funding (State aid and EU funding together) to the eligible costs for a specific project

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19. Reporting and Monitoring requirements

Enova will follow the requirements on reporting and monitoring as they are described in articles 11 and 12 of the GBER.

Detailed records with the necessary information and supporting documentation will be maintained for 10 years from the date of the last award of aid under the Scheme.

Enova will provide the EFTA Surveillance Authority with all the information and documentation it considers necessary to monitor the application of the GBER within 20 days of such request from the Authority.