

Sweden trailblazes the way for sustainable energy entrepreneurs amidst COVID-19

EIT InnoEnergy and Skellefteå Kraft launch accelerator programme to drive energy innovation in Northern Sweden

Skellefteå, Sweden – 17 June 2020

[EIT InnoEnergy](#) has partnered with [Skellefteå Kraft](#), municipality-owned power company in Skellefteå, Sweden, to launch the Accelerate Skellefteå Project. The call for start-up project will offer applicants from across Europe the opportunity to grow their sustainable energy businesses in Sweden, as part of a green economic recovery post-COVID-19.

Home to Northvolt's battery production plant – the largest single site investment in Europe – and investing in a multi-billion-euro development programme for smart and sustainable infrastructure, Skellefteå is quickly becoming an innovation hub for renewable energy. This makes the city an attractive launch pad for energy start-ups.

Launched today, the call for applications is searching for innovation start-ups across the entire energy value chain and will close on 23 August. Successful applicants will be part of a three-month tailored programme offering access to a broad range of services, such as supply chain development, business validation, revenue and pricing models, and technology and industrialisation support. The successful start-ups will also have the opportunity to collaborate closely with EIT InnoEnergy and Skellefteå Kraft to support the city's, and the entire region's energy transition.

Kenneth Johansson, CEO of EIT InnoEnergy Scandinavia said: *“At a time where, naturally, the conversation around the energy transition took a slight back seat, we are determined to continue to support start-ups to accelerate Europe's green economic recovery. With the announcement of the European Green Deal, there has never been a better time to drive sustainable energy innovation.*

“By partnering with ambitious municipalities like Skellefteå, that are striving for change, we can make an impact – paving the way for a greener future. Sweden has been at the top of the EU Innovation Index for several years and Northern Sweden greatly contributes to this success. With

multi-billions of planned sustainable investment over the next 20 years – the region is at the cusp of an accelerated transition and we're ready to make that happen."

EIT InnoEnergy signed a partnership with Skellefteå municipality last year to support its plans and is already involved in several projects across the city, including the smart and sustainable development of local infrastructure.

Joachim Nordin, CEO at Skellefteå Kraft commented: *"We are pleased to announce this programme and to partner with EIT InnoEnergy, with its excellent track-record of supporting start-ups across Europe. Together, we aim to accelerate the energy transition in Sweden and to provide innovative start-ups with valuable business opportunities. Skellefteå is quickly becoming a centre of gravity for energy technology innovation in Sweden. With the continued support of EIT InnoEnergy, we plan to make it a world leader in green energy innovation."*

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About EIT InnoEnergy

EIT InnoEnergy is the innovation engine for sustainable energy across Europe.

We support and invest in innovation at every stage of the journey – from classroom to end-customer. With our network of partners, we build connections across Europe, bringing together inventors and industry, graduates and employers, researchers, and entrepreneurs, businesses, and markets.

We work in three essential areas of the innovation mix:

- Education to help create an informed and ambitious workforce that understands the demands of sustainability and the needs of industry.
- Innovation Projects to bring together ideas, inventors, and industry to create commercially attractive technologies that deliver real results to customers.
- Business Creation Services to support entrepreneurs and start-ups who are expanding Europe's energy ecosystem with their innovative offerings.

Bringing these disciplines together maximises the impact of each, accelerates the development of market-ready solutions, and creates a fertile environment in which we can sell the innovative results of our work.

InnoEnergy was established in 2010 and is supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

<https://innoenergy.com/>

About Skellefteå Kraft

Skellefteå Kraft was founded in 1906 and is one of Sweden's five largest electricity producers and the largest of Sweden's municipality-owned power companies. 3 772 GWh of electricity was produced in 2019, with a major part coming from northern hydropower and wind power, as well as from renewable sources

Skellefteå Kraft is fully owned by the municipality of Skellefteå and is living proof of the importance of endurance when growing a renewing society.

We are taking responsibility for the future by investing in renewable energy. Furthermore, we are interested in involving other actors by supporting research that develops renewable technologies and through new collaborations.

<https://www.skekraft.se/about>