



Information webinar

# Clusters of Excellence

Welcome!

VINNOVA

 Vetenskapsrådet

# Speakers



**Fredrik Weisner,  
Vinnova**

Programme manager, Clusters of  
Excellence

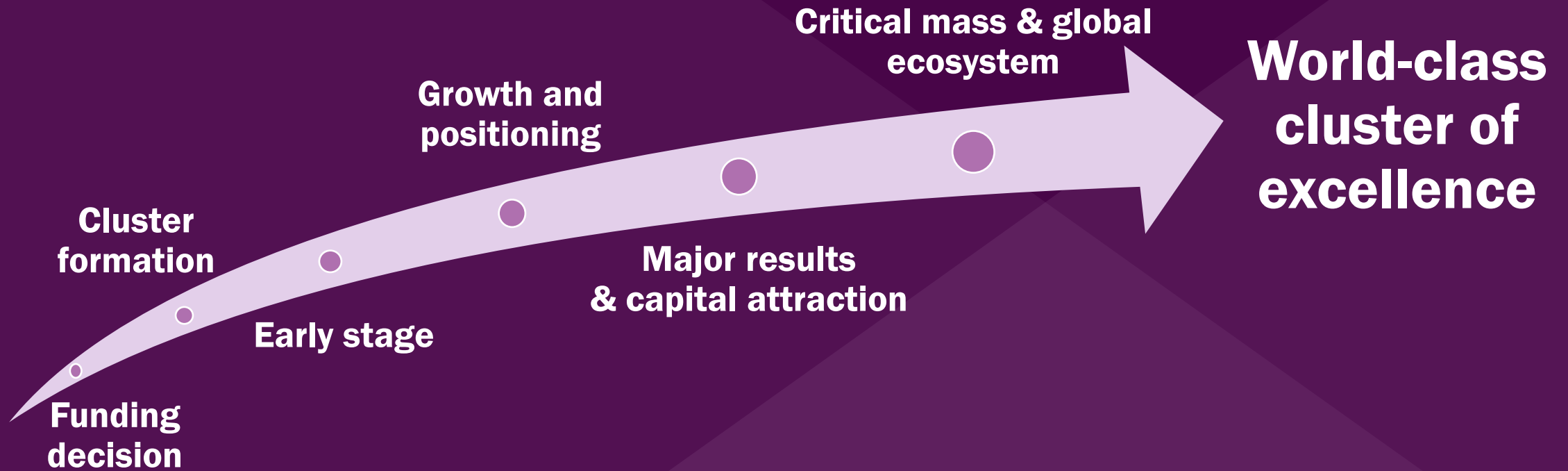
**Marika Edoff,  
The Swedish Research Council**

Secretary General, Engineering Sciences



**A joint ten-year initiative to  
establish world-leading  
clusters of excellence within  
groundbreaking technology**

# Towards top five in the world 2035



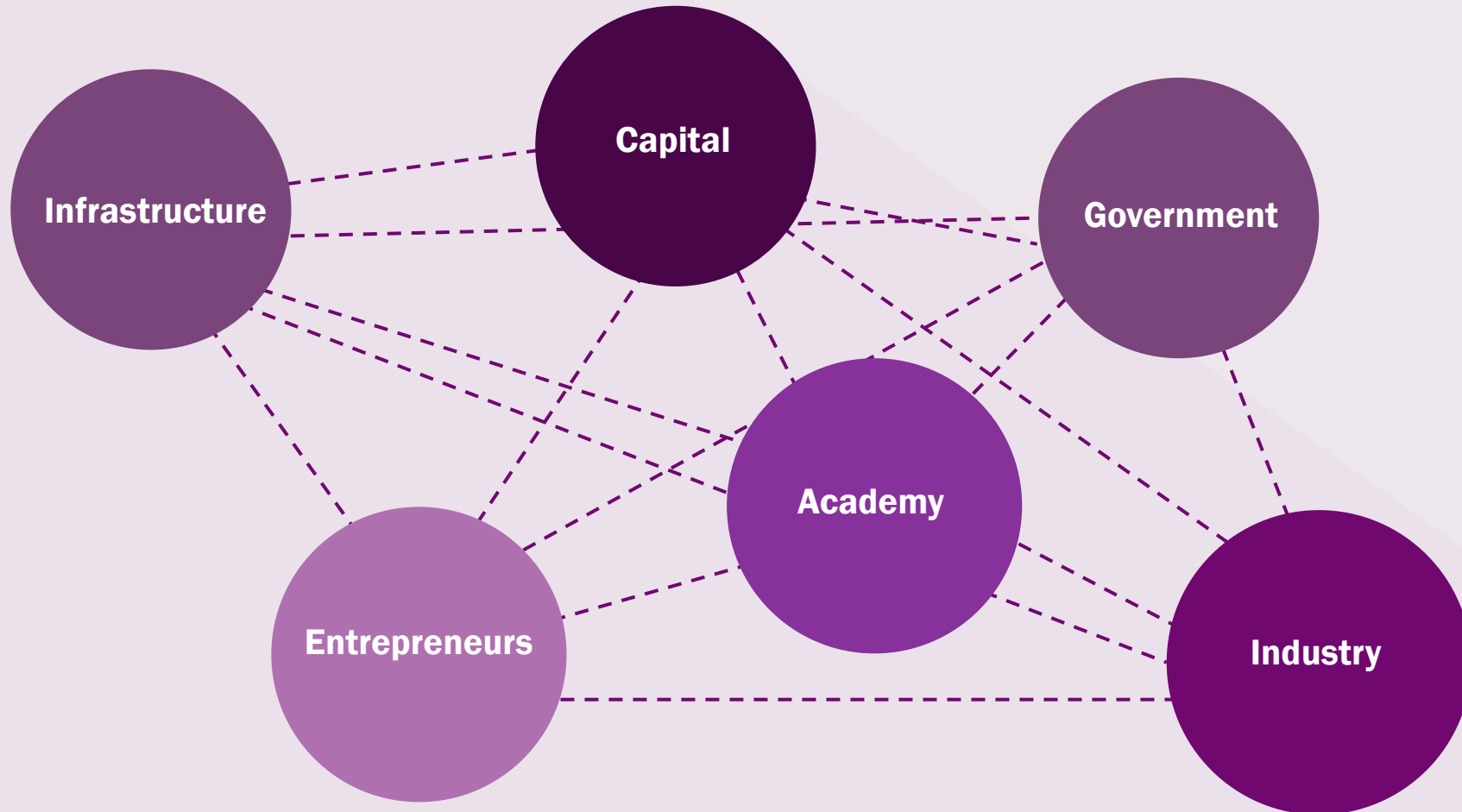
# Groundbreaking technologies

- refers to technologies that are based on research breakthroughs with potential for radical and disruptive changes in products, processes, services or systems.
- can enable new capabilities or provide leaps in performance, often with the potential to radically improve entire application areas, value chains, or societal functions.



# What is a cluster of excellence?

– a coordinated research and innovation ecosystem united by a common purpose

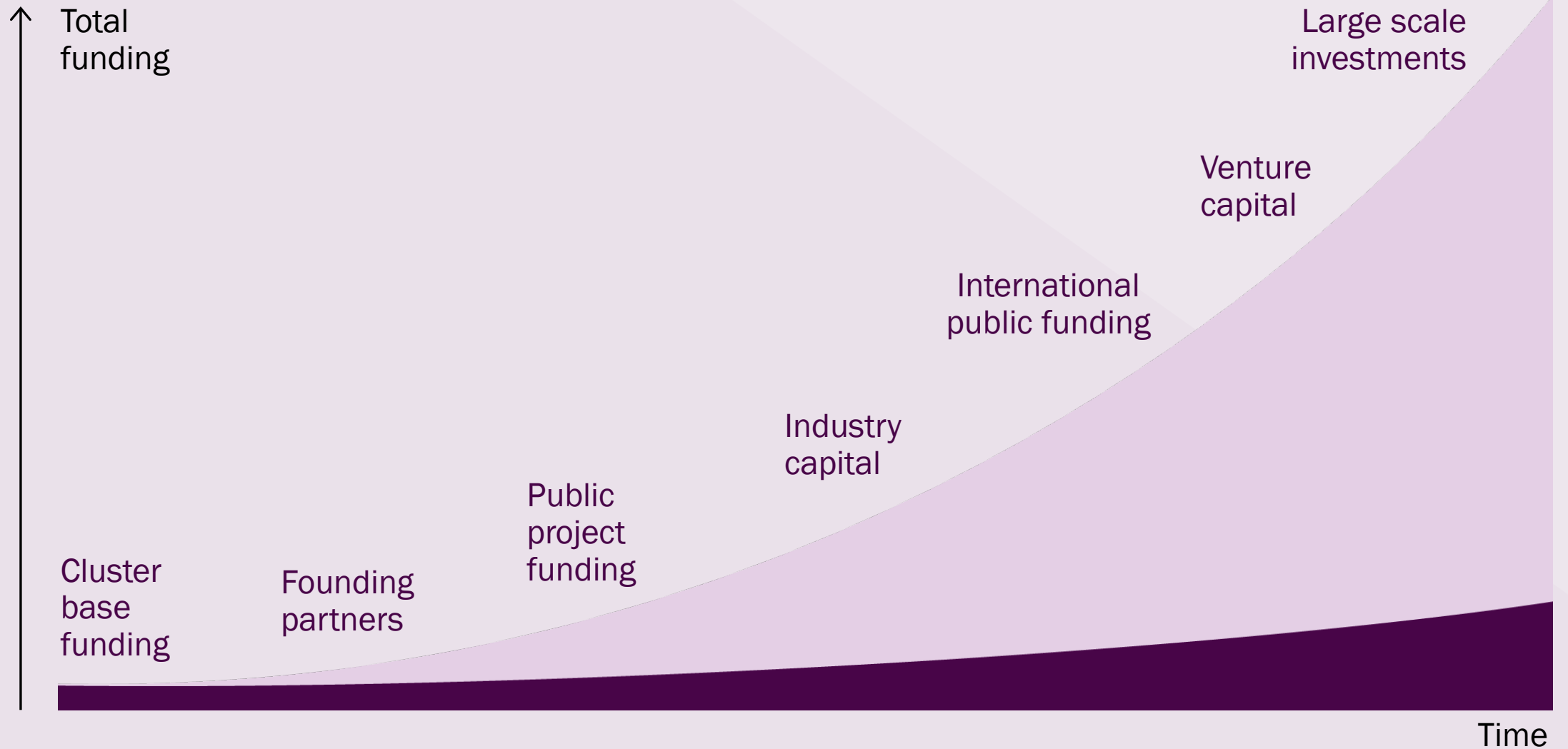


# Characteristics of a world-leading cluster of excellence

- Experienced and bold leadership
- World-class technology research
- Capacity to educate and attract talent
- Excellent innovation environments
- Uniqueness & strategic positioning
- Capital attraction & critical mass
- Large and dynamic ecosystem



# Seed funding to attract capital



# Excellence cluster portfolio

Excellent research and innovation potential in all clusters with a clear vision of being among top five in the world.

- A range of clusters with varying maturity
- A range of research and innovation areas
- Specific goal of strengthening capabilities in fundamental AI

We plan for one more call for clusters in 2027/2028, which may have focus areas.

About 10 clusters to be funded in total.



# **Call for clusters of excellence 2026**

# Plan for a cluster - not a project!

Vision, strategy, governance, leadership

Research



Innovation



Ecosystem



# Call for clusters of excellence 2026

## Joint call summary

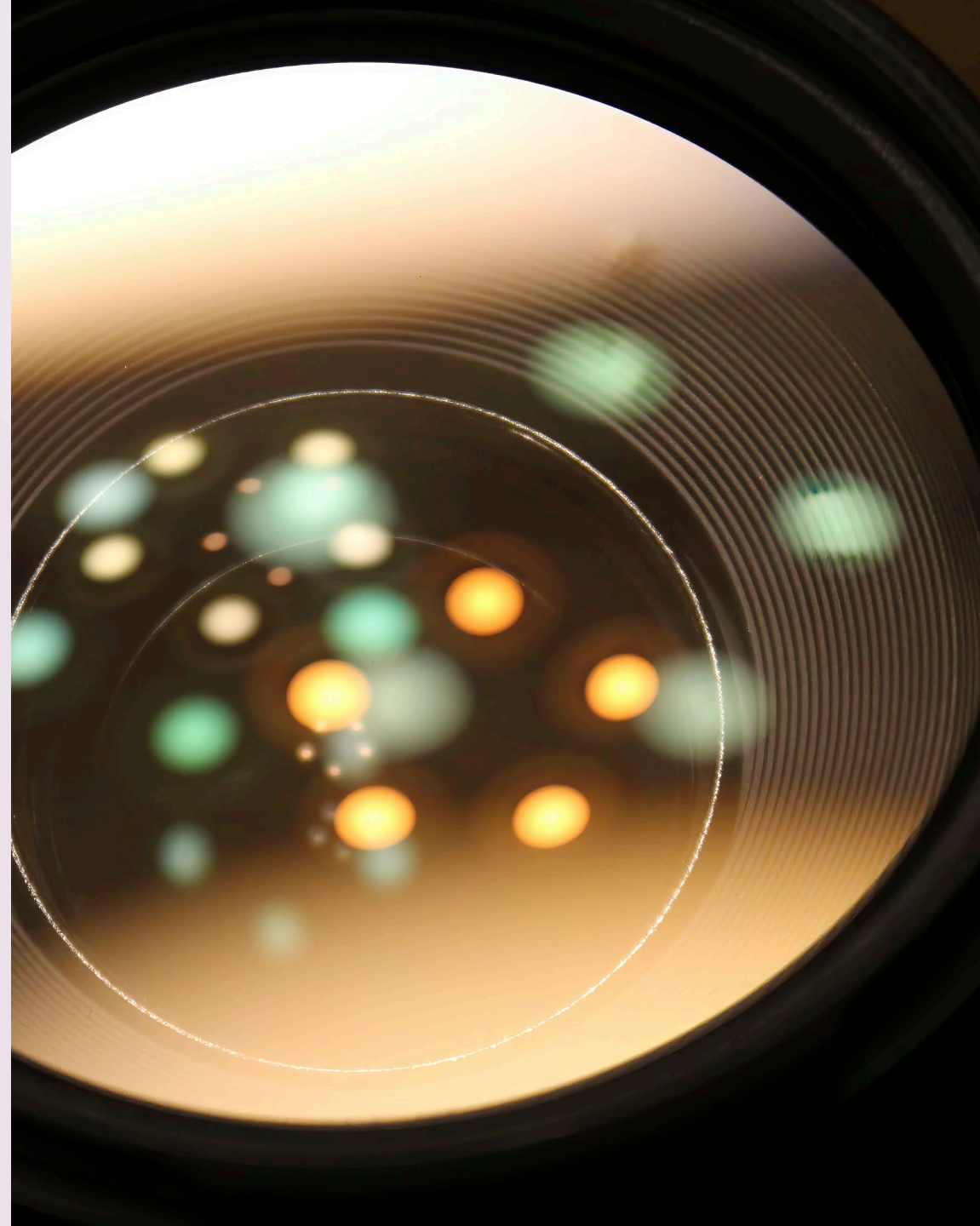
- Call opens April 1 and closes June 3
- Prisma portal (Swedish Research Council)
- Final call information will be available at [www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se)
- An organization files the application
- Budget per year and cluster:  
**Research funding, SRC:** 40 to 100 million SEK.  
**Innovation funding, Vinnova:** Up to 75% of the applied research funding.  
**Maximum, total funding** from both agencies: 175 million SEK.



# Call for clusters of excellence 2026

## Who can apply?

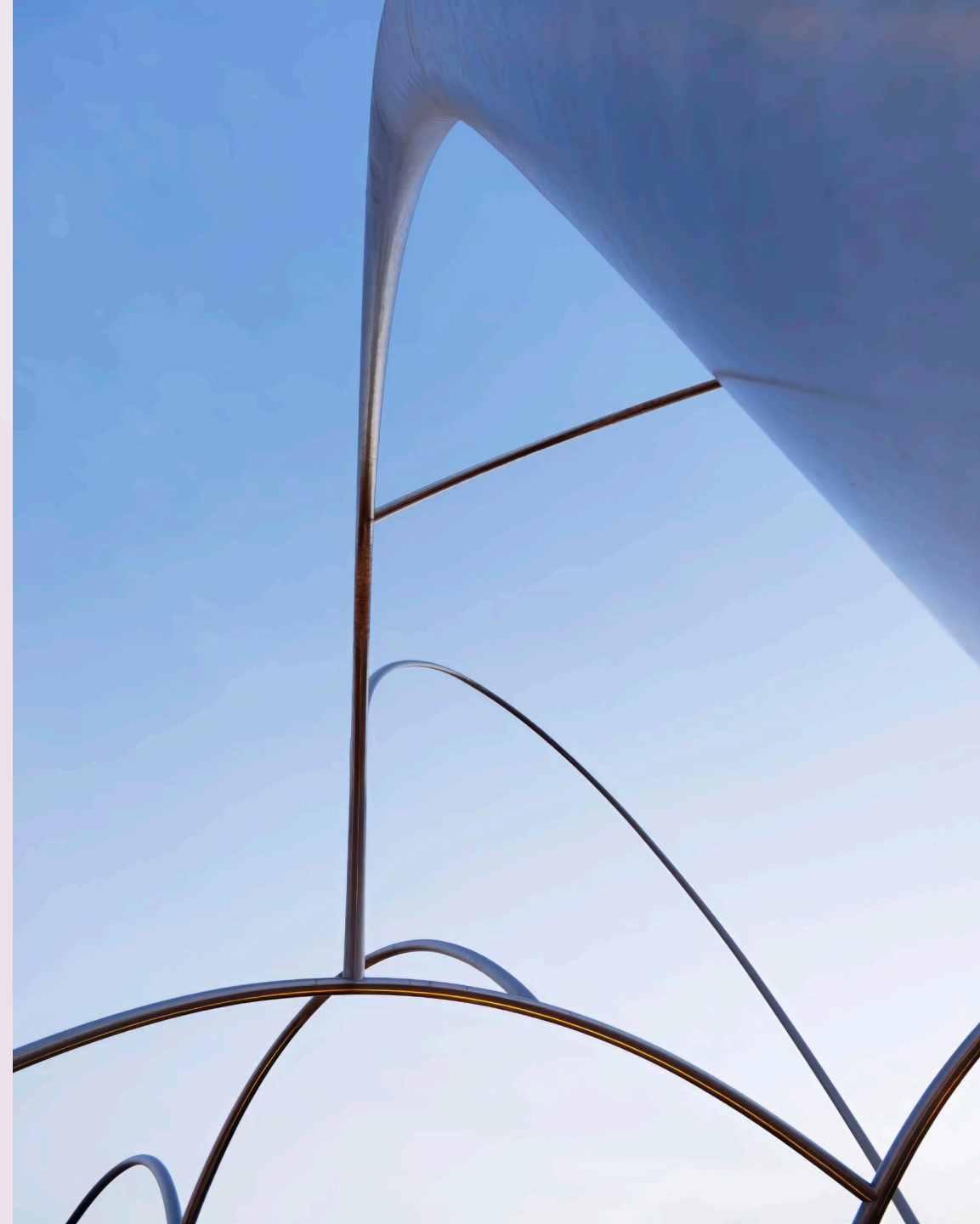
- Project leader (scientific leader) employed by an organization recognized to receive grants from the Swedish Research Council
- 5-15 co-applicants
- Project leader may only participate in one application
- Co-applicants may participate in up to two applications
- Project leader needs to be employed at the applying organization when the cluster starts



# Call for clusters of excellence 2026

## Other application participants

- Companies, entrepreneurs, other researchers, innovation support actors and others play a crucial role in the application
- Part of the cluster vision, governance and innovation & ecosystem plan
- Essential for proposal credibility
- CVs and Letters of intent are needed



# Call for clusters of excellence 2026

## Application contents

- Cluster vision and management
- Research plan
- Innovation and ecosystem plan

Vision, strategy, governance, leadership

Research



Innovation



Ecosystem



# What can be funded in this call?

- Excellent research
- Early innovation activities
- Cluster organization
- Infrastructure for research and early innovation
- Research school



# Humanities and social sciences research in all clusters

- Societies and people are the stakeholders
- Integration necessary to achieve the ambitious goals
- The HS research can have different roles
- Important perspectives to identify and solve risks, threats and other challenges

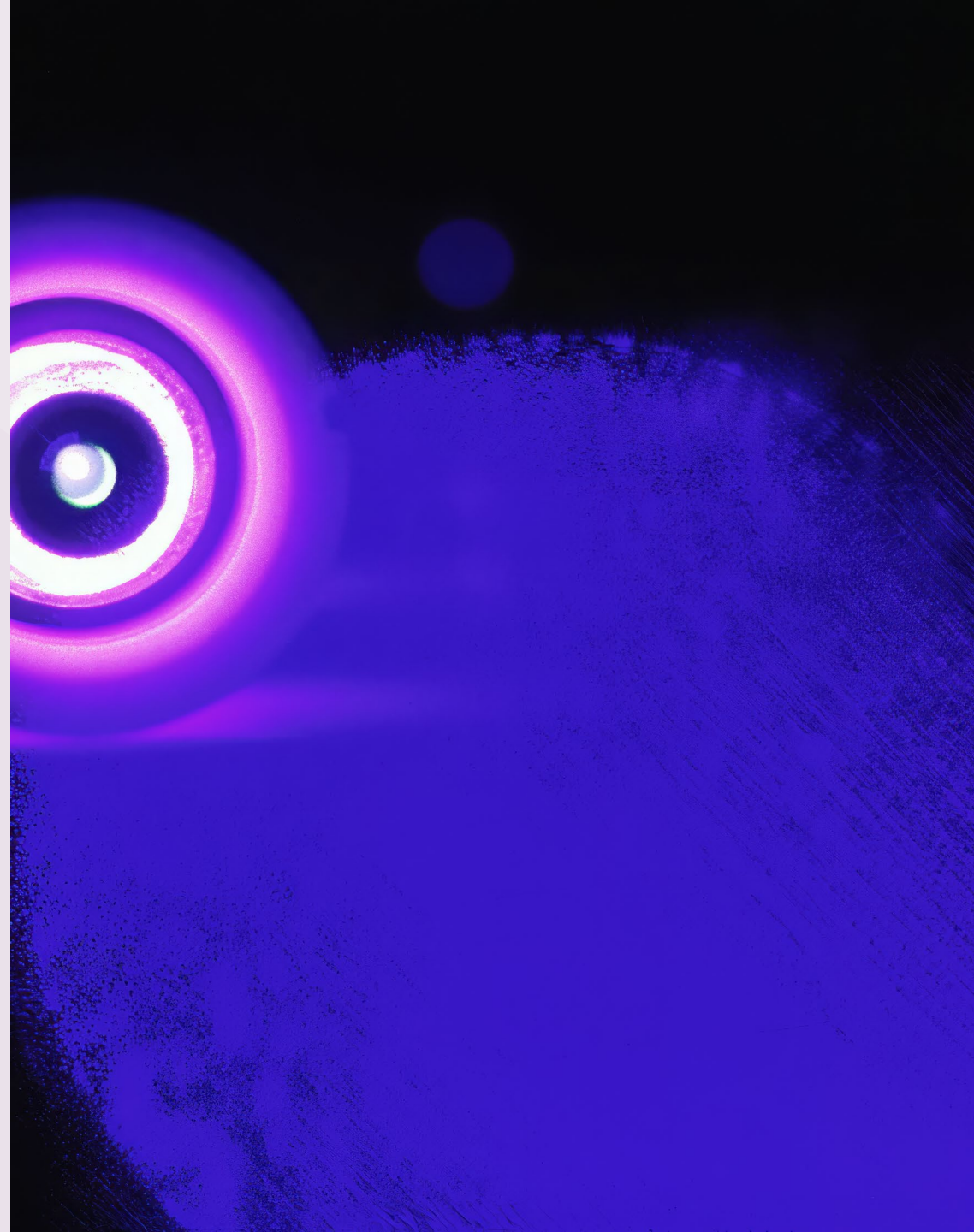
*In what way may the groundbreaking technology lead to prosperity, health, freedom, safety, security, resilience or other important personal and societal values?*

# What can be funded in the innovation plan?

Tailored funding process with Vinnova starts after cluster is selected

- Broad innovation project portfolio
- Funding for participation in EU-projects
- Range of alternatives to build innovation capabilities and environments
- Funding for ecosystem management

No immediate co-funding requirement but very strong capital attraction over time is a key performance indicator



# Evaluation of cluster applications

- Evaluation of research excellence - organized by Swedish Research Council
- Evaluation of innovation potential - organized by Vinnova
- About 20 applications get invited to interview



# Timeline for 2026 call



# Dialogue meetings

- Physical actor-driven matchmaking meetings
- Aiming to help actors strengthen their constellations
- Register on [Vinnova.se](https://www.vinnova.se) at latest four days before the event
- Do you want to arrange a meeting of your own, to discuss a topic or present your future application? We are happy to help with visibility and potentially a venue.

**March 23:  
AI**

**March 25:  
Connectivity,  
semiconductors  
and sensors**

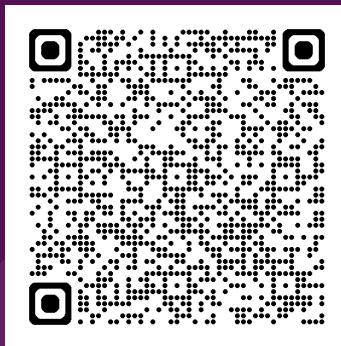
**March 26:  
Advanced  
biotechnology**

**March 30:  
Material  
technology**

# Get in touch

[excellenskluster@vr.se](mailto:excellenskluster@vr.se)  
[excellenskluster@vinnova.se](mailto:excellenskluster@vinnova.se)

Join our newsletter:



The background features a gradient from dark blue on the left to deep red on the right. Several thin, white, curved lines sweep across the frame, creating a sense of motion and depth. The text 'Q&A' is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Q&A**

**Thank you!**