**The Norwegian Seafood Research Fund (NSRF) issues a call for up to 8 million NOK for:**

**«Technology development of the future clipfish production line»**

The Norwegian Seafood Research Fund (NSRF), announce the availability of up to 8 million NOK for research, development and implementation under the NSRF’s «Industry projects» programme (IP).

The announcement is a part of NSRF’s strategic focus towards the development of «the future clipfish production line» with the following topics:

1. The development of technology for the automatic cutting of split clipfish.
2. The development of a full scale and fully automated pilot production line for desalting of clipfish/salted fish portions.

Applicants should be technology companies with close ties to the seafood industry. The applications received will be evaluated by the NSRF in conjunction with the reference group (RG) for “the future clipfish production line” before a final decision on grant allocation.

1. ***NSRF issues a call for up to 4 million NOK. for «the development of technology for the automatic cutting of split clipfish»***

**Application deadline 17th August 2018**

The current process for the cutting of clipfish and saltfish into portions are manual. This is time and resource consuming and produces large variances for weight and portion size. The market demands portions have a uniform weight. Variations in the raw ingredients used in the processes can be great, therefore a flexible and precise technological solution is required. The industry wishes, through the NSRF, to develop the technology to streamline and rationalise the processes.

The aim is to develop a flexible, automatic technology for the dynamic cutting of split clipfish and salted fish into portions of identical weight.

Guidelines

The new technology must:

* Accomodate different sizes of split clipfish and salted cod (*Gadus morhua*).
* Optimise cutting to maximise the utilisation of each individual fish.
* Dynamic portioning of fixed weight clipfish.
* Cut all bones (backbones, pinbone, collarbones, etc.)
* Have a minimum capacity of 15 fish/min.
* Produce cleanly cut surfaces.
* Be test run, error corrected and ready for implementation.
* The technology can either be a modification of existing technology or newly developed technology. It must meet all necessary HMS criteria.
1. ***NSRF issues a call for up to 4 million NOK. For* “*The development of a full scale and fully automated pilot production line for desalting of clipfish/saltedfish portions”***

**Application deadline 17th August 2018**

The processes for the desalted split clipfish/salted fish handles limited volume in Norway and increasing industrial desalting is occurring in important export markets. The processes are partly carried out manually and this is both time and resource consuming. The industry wishes, through the NSRF, to develop the technology to streamline and rationalise the processes.

The market increasingly demands portions to have a uniform weight and a uniform degree of desalting. Variations in the raw material used in the processes can also be great.

The aim is to develop a full scale and fully automated pilot production line for desalting specifically for Norwegian conditions.

Guidelines

The new technology must:

* Have technology and processes specifically for Norwegian conditions and able to use sea water for desalting.
* Fulfil requirements for minimum water usage and water treatment in relation to Norwegian regulations.
* Enable simple cleaning and maintenance.
* Process different raw materials (frozen/fresh, split salted fish/clipfish, different portions with skin and/or bone).
* Have automatic control of temperature, salt content etc. in respect of the water used in the process.
* Have a minimum production capacity of 1000kg/batch.
* Fulfil the necessary HMS requirements.
* The technology can either be a modification of existing technology or newly developed technology.
* Be test run, error corrected and ready for implementation in full scale production.

Application requirements:

A brief application must be sent to post@fhf.no within: August 17th, 2018.
The application must contain the following attachments: *Project description (see “*Template for project outline for NSRF’s Industry projects”)*, Budget and financing plan* (see “Template activities, budget, financing and work schedule”). A *Project Leader CV* and *Documentation* from all potential partners. The applicant must document the technical and financial capacity to complete the project.

* Project outlines must contain verifiable performance indicators and well-founded outcome measures.
* The project outline must not exceed 7 pages.
* To the extent possible, the project should be divided into phases that distinguish between:

1) Specifications preparation and the development of the basis of production.

2) Construction, function testing and error correction of the prototype.

3) Full scale testing including error correction.

Between phases, assessments in relation to continuation, clarification of ownership and cost of prototypes that will be developed in the project, should be undertaken.

* The Project outline must be so complete that it can be evaluated based on the criteria as stated below.

**The procedure for the assessment of applications:**

Applications will be assessed in relation to the following prioritised evaluation criteria:

* Relevance in relation to the announcement (call) criteria (Degree of match between required criteria and performance goals).
* Economic framework (Are the economic parameters in proportion to the task?).
* Executability (Financial strength, timeframe and the applicants’ degree of competence for the task).
* Value to the industry (for more detailed information see the separate document “Project outline NSRF’s industry projects.

The applicants that are rated the highest based on the above criteria will be invited to submit a complete project description where further objectives and specifications can be outlined. Additional information can be requested. The complete project description will be prepared in cooperation between the applicant, NSRF, reference group for “The future clipfish production line” and other relevant parties. A binding agreement between the technology company and the reference group for “The future clipfish production line” will then be formulated.

**NSRF reserves the right to:**

* Reject submitted project outlines that are not in line with the NSRF basic strategies, and the stated aim of this announcement.
* Request clarifications before and during the evaluation.
* Cancel the call or issue a new call

About the program “Industry Projects”

NSRF’s program “Industry Projects” will increase the level of Research and Development (R&D) through the direct involvement of companies in specific development projects within priority focus areas for NSRF.

The program is part of NSRF’s overall strategy and will help to strengthen the implementation of results from R&D in the seafood industry.

Applicants should be technology companies with seafood industry expertise.

Financial support may be allocated to preliminary projects, project phases or whole projects. Co-financing from other funds may be relevant. Total financial support shall be within the framework of The European Economic Area (EEA) Agreement. The grants will be clarified through the preparation of a final project description.

All received applications will be treated confidentially.

**Conditions:**

* Projects must comply with NSRF’s standard terms & conditions. If needed, the requirement stated in paragraph 4.2, may be omitted. Omissions will be specified in NSRF’s written confirmation of a grant.
* NSRF will establish reference groups (RG) for accepted projects, in dialogue with participating companies. NSRF expects that grant recipients discuss the project description with both RG and NSRF prior to any alteration of project description.
* Prior to the establishing of the project, a binding cooperation agreement between the applicant and the reference group, which regulates their respective rights and obligations, must be established.
* NSRF will publicize projects that have been given grants, on its website. Before NSRF approval, the applicant must deliver website information to NSRF. Further information on this will be given at a later stage during the project.
* NSRF is bound by law to publicize results from R&D projects funded by NSRF, so that they may benefit the whole industry. When a project is finalized a final report must therefore be submitted to NSRF to be published (see “*Guidelines for final project reports to FHFs PIB”*).

NSRF adheres to the Norwegian Administration Act:
“The contracting party shall prevent others from gaining access to, or knowledge of, information about technical devices and procedures or operational or business conditions which, from a competition point of view, should be kept confidential”.

Further information regarding the announcement can be obtained from:

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