MultiPark infrastructure support 2023 – Call for applications

<u>**Information about the call**</u>
Total budget available: up to 2 MSEK
Call announced: Feb 14
Application deadline: April 3
Review process: April 4-20
Decision: May 2 (Board Meeting)
Funding period*: May 8 – December 31, 2023
*period during which awarded funds must be spent.

<u>*Scope of the call:*</u>
The call is reserved to experimental infrastructures. The call is intended to support two types of applications:

<u>I.</u> **Improvements or upgrading of existing infrastructures to increase their accessibility and utilisation.**

<u>II.</u> **Establishment of a new infrastructure of strategic value.**
Given the limited funding available in relation to the potentially high number of applications, a plan of co-funding is recommended for new infrastructures that cost over 650-700 kSEK. Collaborations with other strategic research areas (SRA) or other infrastructure platforms at Lund University (e.g LBIC, CIPA, LP3, BioMS, etc.) is strongly encouraged to secure the additional funding needed.

<u>**Application guidelines:**</u>

- Applications should be submitted via email to Diana Jerman no later than **April 3**. Merge all the enclosures in a single searchable PDF (i.e. not a PDF scan). The PDF application should not exceed 4 pages, excluding equipment quotes if applicable.

- Applications should be submitted by a group of MP senior researchers (minimum requirement: 2 independent senior researchers representing different groups).

- Proposals involving improvements/upgrading of existing infrastructures should include the current academic manager of that infrastructure as a co-applicant.

- Proposal must present this information in the given order:

(a) <u>Name of the infrastructure(s)</u>, followed by one the two below general aims:
     General Aim I: to upgrade/improve existing MultiPark infrastructure.
- General Aim II: to establish a new infrastructure.

(b) <u>Name and group affiliation of the applicants.</u>

(c) <u>What is the unmet need addressed by this proposal, and what are the expected benefits of the new investment</u>.

(d) <u>User base.</u>
     All applications should provide information on the prospective number of senior researchers who are predicted to use the infrastructure, divided in two categories (i) within MultiPark; (ii) outside of MultiPark. Report the predicted number of senior researchers-users per calendar year.

     Proposals related to Aim I should include a description of the current user base.

(e) <u>Type of projects</u>

Outline the type of projects expected to benefit from this investment, linking this information to the predicted user base.

(f) <u>Information about potentially similar infrastructures</u>.
If the application pertains to a new infrastructure, please specify whether or not there are similar infrastructures within LU (or within BMC if the infrastructure is to be set up within animal-housing areas), and which these are. If similar infrastructures are already up and running, specify why MultiPark needs to set up an infrastructure of its own.

(g) <u>Management plan</u>.
Outline of steering group, prospective academic manager of the infrastructure, expected yearly service costs; how user fees will be charged if applicable, and outreaching plan (i.e. details on how the infrastructure will be advertised and promoted).

(h) <u>Budget computation and budget justification</u>
Eligible costs: Personnel (application expert, research engineer); Equipment; Rent of premises.
If these costs are intended to be co-funded, report the percent and source of co-funding.

For infrastructures that are already receiving funding, please also refer to the current level of support from MultiPark, support and income from other sources (incl. user fees) and how it has been spent.

(i) <u>Enclosures</u>: Quote for new equipment/parts thereof (if applicable).

Information about the reviewing procedure
Applications will be primarily reviewed by Kajsa M. Paulsson (MultiPark Board member with special expertise in research infrastructures) and by all MultiPark steering group members who have not submitted an application for this call nor have other conflicts of interest. Reviewers external to MultiPark may be invited where appropriate.

Reviewing system:
Each reviewer will rate each application on the 3 below-indicated items on a scale from 1 to 7, where:
7 = top grade, indicating that all quality criteria are amply fulfilled.
1 = the application is incomplete (does not fulfil the requirements set forth in this call).

Item 1: Added value for the MultiPark researchers and infrastructure park.

Item 2: Feasibility and management plan.

Item 3: Strategic value for MultiPark as a strategic research area (SRA).

Quality criteria:

(1) *Needs, expected benefits, user base:*
(I) The application brings about clear benefits in terms of increasing accessibility/usability/quality of the already existing MultiPark infrastructures.
(II) The new infrastructure addresses a well-justified need. There are no equivalent infrastructures within LU/BMC offering the same service at the same level of accessibility and cost-effectiveness.

(2) *Feasibility and management:*
- The infrastructure has a solid management plan (including a steering group, a steering document, clear access rules/user fees, and a manager providing tutorials to new users).
- A plan ensuring visibility and outreaching is well described and feasible.

- The budget computation is well justified.

(3) *Strategic value for the MultiPark SRA*:
The proposed infrastructure investment has a clear strategic value in relation to the MultiPark research programme and its mission as an SRA, including
- adherence to the MultiPark strategic goals,
- increased competitiveness of MultiPark-specific research,
- creation of synergies with important stakeholders at the local, national, international level (particularly regarding the prospect of potential joint grant applications that will secure additional funding and sustainability to the MultiPark infrastructure park),
- increased visibility, improved possibilities for outreaching and interactions with society.