

*Knut and Alice
Wallenberg
Foundation*



Wallenberg Initiative
Materials Science
for Sustainability

PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANT IN MATERIALS SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

→ OPEN SEPTEMBER 2 TO OCTOBER 11 ←

SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2024

SANDOR ALBRECHT, KNUT AND ALICE WALLEMBERG FOUNDATION

MAGNUS BERGGREN, WISE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

KNUT AND ALICE WALLENBERG FOUNDATION

- KAW, one of the largest private funders of research in Europe
- Free basic research beneficial to Sweden
 - Mainly within medicine, technology and natural sciences
- Long-term grants to excellent individual researchers and research projects
- Strategic projects and scholarship programs
 - Important for research, business and society

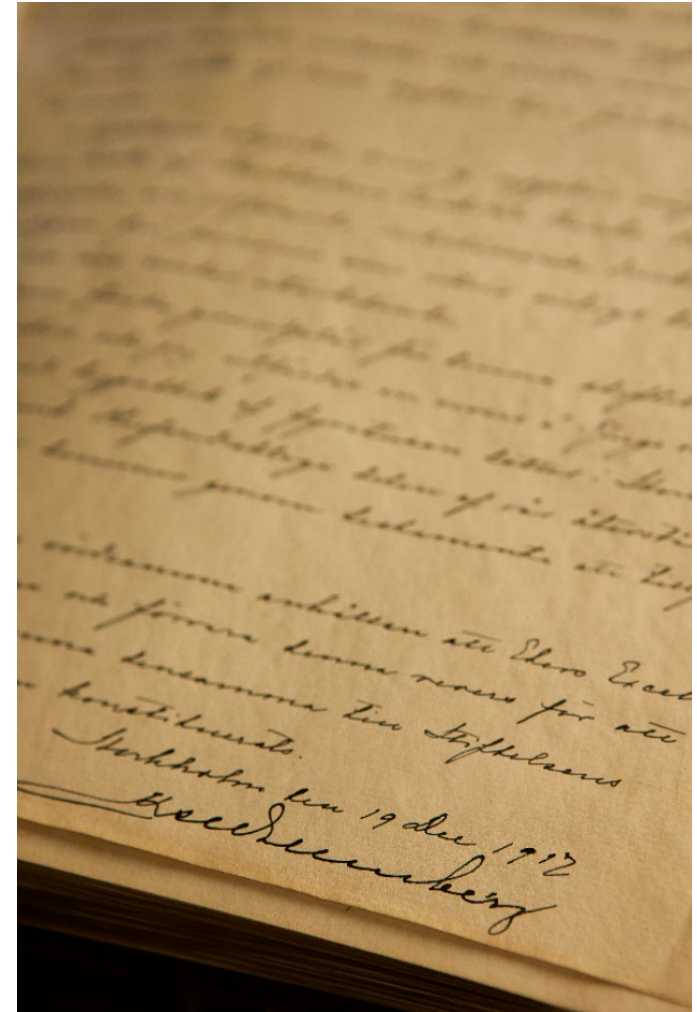
*Knut och Alice
Wallenbergs
Stiftelse*



STATUTES

”The Foundation’s main purpose is to support basic research and education beneficial to Sweden - *Landsgagneligt*”

For the betterment of Sweden



HOW WE DEFINE LANDSGAGNELIGT

BASIC SCIENCE



LONG-TERM



INNOVATION



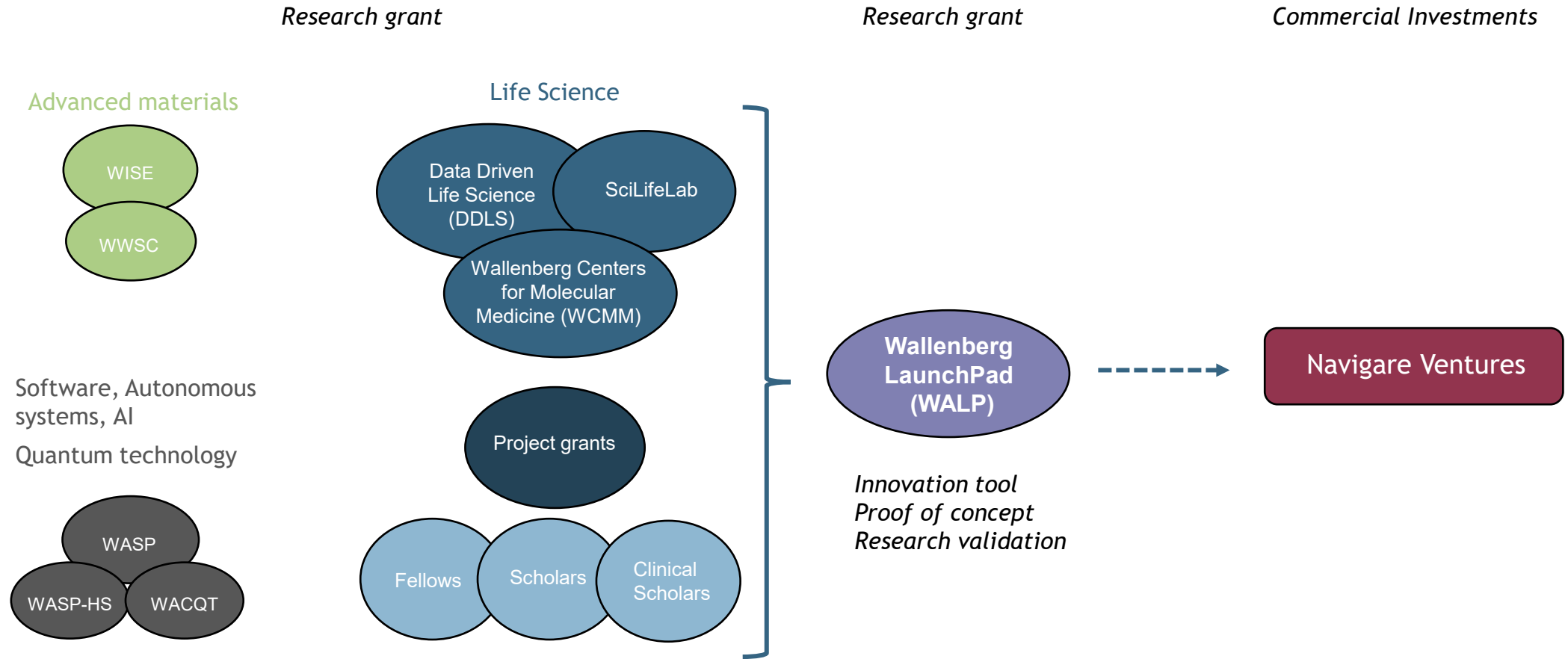
FREEDOM



COMPETENCE

KAW INNOVATION MECHANISM

Proof of Concept call in Materials Science for Sustainability



1ST KAW AND WISE PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANT IN MATERIALS SCIENCE

- The purpose of the grant is to **bridge the gap between basic research and utilization or commercialization** of research results in materials science for sustainability

Supports activities that **prepare** for innovation and commercialization of methods, products or processes

Eligible to apply are scientists employed at a Swedish University

- And have or have had grants from the Wallenberg foundations: Wallenberg Academy Fellows, Wallenberg Scholars, Wallenberg Clinical Scholars, PI and Co PIs in KAW projects
- Or are grant holders in KAWs strategic initiatives: Wallenberg Initiative Material Science for Sustainability (WISE), Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program (WASP), Wallenberg Centre for Quantum Technology (WACQT), Wallenberg Wood Science Centre (WWSC)
- Academic Research **grant** - no strings attached!
- Two-year grants of **1-4 million SEK**/application

TIMELINE 2024

Yearly call

- Opens September 2
- Closes October 11 at 13.00
- Review Panel meeting December
- WALP 1 coaching January-March 2025
- WALP pitches April
- WALP grant decisions May
- Project start June 2025



Proof of Concept grants in Materials Science

The purpose of the Proof of Concept grant is to bridge the gap from academic research to innovations. The grant gives researchers the opportunity to develop their early-stage discoveries towards validated methods, products or processes and provides the opportunity to carry out activities that validate and accelerate the development of the project and prepare for innovation and commercialization.

Call for: KAW and WISE Proof of Concept grants in Materials Science

The application period begins 2, September, 2024.

OVERVIEW OF THE PROCESS



Application and Expert panel Review:

- **Raise awareness** among the KAW scientist and **identify top candidates** for WALP

WALP Phase 1 main activities:

- **Coaching of candidates**, preparing them for the **WALP pitch** and (potential) grant recommendation

WALP Phase 2 main activities:

- Execute project plan
- Continue to **build the team** and complement it with e.g. experts, lab professionals, etc.
- Develop a **Minimum Viable Product** for research validation
- Establish deeper **relationship with potential users**

GRANT APPLICATION AND EVALUATION

Application

- **Project description and plan** (need, benefit, competition, approach, max 10 pages; follow instructions)
- **One-page project pitch** (important!)
- **Complete budget** (university)
- **CV**
- **Certificate** from the head of department
- **Verification(s) of interest** from external party(ies)

Evaluation criteria

- Does the proposed innovation solve a **persistent and important problem**?
- Is the potential **solution well defined**?
- Is the potential **solution novel and unique**?
- Is the potential solution a **sustainable solution**?
- Is there **interest from external partners**?
- Is the intellectual property (IP) protected and/or is there a plan for **protection**?
- Is the Proof of Concept project and its milestones **well defined and relevant**?
- Is the proposed **team** adequate?
- Is the **time plan and budget** realistic?

BUDGET AND COSTS

- The PoC grant can be between **1 and 4 million SEK**
- The PoC grant is usually covering costs for **up to 24 months** with check points every 6 months
- The PoC **grant** can **only** be used for **costs at a university** and should follow the university's processes and regulations and KAW regulations
- Costs that are allowed on a KAW PoC grant:
 - Salary of project members hired by the university
 - Infrastructure
 - Software licenses
 - Travel cost to attend conferences and fairs
 - Rent of office/lab space
 - Up to 20 % university indirect costs

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS...

- Define the Proof of Concept study: its **goal** and the well-defined and value-creating **work packages** and **milestones** needed to take you there
- Identify and engage with **external parties** (potential partners, customers, users, investors) - you need an interest verification for the project
- If relevant: contact your **innovation office** for business advice, support with market analysis, IP and/or regulatory strategy etc

*Knut and Alice
Wallenberg
Foundation*



Wallenberg Initiative
Materials Science
for Sustainability

Apply here:

[KAW and WISE Proof of Concept Grant in Materials Science for Sustainability](#)