

Call for proposals for access to SIOS research infrastructure

SIOS seeks proposals from scientists wishing to access SIOS infrastructure for the purposes of conducting Earth System Science research and monitoring.

Background

The Svalbard Integrated Arctic Earth Observing System ([SIOS](https://sios-svalbard.org)) is a regional observing system for long-term measurements in and around Svalbard, Norway, addressing Earth System Science (ESS) questions related to Global Change. The observing system builds on the extensive and diverse world class research infrastructure already established in Svalbard by institutions from many nations. This includes a substantial capability for utilising remote sensing resources to complement ground-based observations.

In order to promote more efficient use and better integration of the observing system, SIOS offers funded access to the research infrastructure (RI) owned by its members. Users may also access data, expertise and logistical support from members of the SIOS consortium.

Proposal submission opens **14th August 2020**

Deadline to submit a proposal is **30th September 2020**

Funds available are at least **2,4 million NOK**

Who can apply?

Researchers from any institution may apply, provided they meet the criteria outlined below.

Eligibility criteria

Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered:

- Proposals must be in line with the core scientific priorities of SIOS, as described in the SIOS Infrastructure Optimisation report (<https://sios-svalbard.org/Documents>) and State of Environmental Science in Svalbard (SESS) reports (<https://sios-svalbard.org/SESSreport>).
- Applicants must be able to adhere to SIOS data policy and SIOS access policy (www.sios-svalbard.org/Documents). This includes a requirement to submit both discovery metadata and the actual data generated using SIOS infrastructure to a data centre integrated with the SIOS Data Management System.
- Applicants must present their project at the SIOS Polar Night Week 2021 (<https://sios-svalbard.org/PolarNightWeek>). Participation in person is strongly encouraged and travel support is available. Remote participation is possible.

Evaluation criteria

Submitted proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality, innovation, and technical and logistical feasibility.
- Contribution to optimising the observing system and advancement in Arctic Earth System Science.
- Contribution towards one or more of the highlighted topics for this call:
 - Expanding existing measurement networks

- Integration of different disciplines and observations in existing locations
- New monitoring techniques, methodologies, and data harmonisation
- Linking existing datasets or using data in new ways (e.g. modelling)
- Specifically addressing recommendations from the SESS report

SIOS wishes to encourage:

- Teams that are diverse, include early career scientists and are gender balanced.
- Activities that strengthen international cooperation.
- Proposals from employees or students of SIOS member institutions.

Priority will be given to applications for physical and remote access.

Details of the call

SIOS aims to optimise the use of existing RI and is therefore offering funded access to facilities owned by SIOS members across Svalbard.¹

Access may be physical, remote, virtual, or a combination of these. The access types are defined in the guidelines.

A minimum of 500 days of physical or remote access are available in this call.

The fieldwork period must be between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021.

Full details of the conditions of the call and guidance on writing a proposal may be found in the document 'Guidelines for applicants to the SIOS Access Programme'.

Application procedure

Proposals must be submitted electronically at https://sios-svalbard.org/AccessCall2020_ApplicationForm. A project description (not exceeding 5 pages) and CVs of all partners must be attached.

More information on the procedures for the access programme may be found in the document 'Guidelines for applicants to the SIOS Access Programme'.

The deadline for this call is 30th September 2020. A decision on which proposals will be funded is expected by the end of October 2020.

Contact details

For further guidance, contact the SIOS access and logistics officer <https://sios-svalbard.org/Staff#LogisticsOfficer>.

Attachments:

- Guidelines: https://sios-svalbard.org/sites/sios-svalbard.org/files/common/Guidelines_AccessCall2020.pdf
- Available infrastructure: https://sios-svalbard.org/AccessCall2020_RIavailable
- SESS report: <https://sios-svalbard.org/SESSreport>
- Summary of SESS recommendations: https://sios-svalbard.org/sites/sios-svalbard.org/files/common/SESS_recommendations_summary.pdf

¹ Covid-19 has caused many projects that were due to conduct their fieldwork in 2020 to be postponed. This may reduce the capacity of SIOS members to host new projects in 2021.