

A programme to strengthen knowledge, collaboration and early-stage innovation across COWI

What is this programme?

The programme supports knowledge building and early-stage and pre-commercial innovation that can contribute to solving societal challenges and advancing the engineering profession. It enables COWI employees to develop and test promising ideas, deepen technical expertise, and share knowledge openly with society, academia, public authorities and industry. The programme welcomes initiatives and ideas throughout the year, with applications reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Why is it needed?

Many societal challenges require new knowledge, methods and solutions. However, promising ideas often struggle to progress beyond the earliest stages because there is limited funding available for exploration, testing and learning before commercial development becomes relevant.

Similarly, activities that create broader public value, such as developing industry standards, collaborating with universities, publishing research or advancing engineering practices, can be difficult to finance through conventional project work.

The programme helps bridge this gap by supporting activities that generate knowledge, strengthen technical understanding and create a foundation for future innovation.

How does it work?

The programme is centered around COWI employees and Professional Communities and is governed by COWI's Innovation Team together with a dedicated Steering Committee with two members appointed by COWIfonden. Funding is available for initiatives that generate new knowledge and benefit society through open sharing of results. All supported activities must remain non-commercial in nature.

The programme supports two types of initiatives:

- **Knowledge building and sharing**, including contributions to standards, scientific committees, lectures, publications, university collaboration, and dissemination of engineering knowledge.
- **Early-stage, pre-commercial innovation**, including proof-of-concept testing, feasibility studies, prototype development, experimental research, and collaboration with laboratories, universities and public institutions.

Who can benefit?

While the programme is open to all COWI employees, its ultimate beneficiaries are society, industry and academia. The knowledge, methods and insights generated through the programme can support researchers, educators, public authorities and engineering practitioners in addressing shared challenges.

What is the long-term perspective?

The programme aims to create methods, knowledge, prototypes and learning that can be openly shared and reused by practitioners, researchers and future technical leaders. By strengthening collaboration between COWI, academia and industry, it supports the development of pre-commercial innovative solutions to societal challenges while reinforcing technical excellence across the engineering profession.

Through this initiative, COWI and COWIfonden are investing in the ideas, knowledge and partnerships that will help shape the future of engineering and create lasting value for society.