MEDIA RELEASE
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Singapore and Norway Launch Joint Research Grant Call to Advance Greener Shipping

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA), the Research Council of Norway (RCN) and the Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI) have launched a joint research grant call to develop solutions to support the decarbonisation of international shipping.

2. The joint grant call brings together the research, technology and industry capabilities of Singapore's and Norway's maritime innovation ecosystems to address shared technological and operational challenges and develop solutions applicable across international shipping. The grant call builds on the MPA-RCN Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2024 on maritime research, development, education and training.

3. The grant call will focus on three areas:

- Alternative fuels and energy infrastructure: Improving the safety and handling of alternative marine fuels, developing bunkering and fuel storage technologies, and advancing charging infrastructure for electric vessels.

- Vessel energy efficiency and emissions reduction: Developing technologies to improve vessel performance, optimise onboard energy consumption and reduce fuel use.

- Digitalisation and greener shipping operations: Advancing voyage optimisation, just-in-time arrivals, autonomous operations and ship-port data exchange to improve operational efficiency and reduce emissions.

4. SMI will provide up to S$2.7 million for Singapore research partners, while RCN will make available up to NOK 20 million for Norwegian research partners. Each proposal must involve research institutions and industry partners from both countries to ensure that the research addresses practical industry needs. Selected projects may receive funding for up to four years.

5. This is the third Singapore–Norway joint research grant call, following earlier calls in 2015 and 2018 which supported four research projects in maritime energy efficiency, emissions reduction and emerging technologies.

6. Applications open on 2 December 2026 and close on 20 January 2027. Further information, including application requirements and the submission process, will be available at https://www.forskningsradet.no/en/call-for-proposals/2027/norway-and-singapore-joint-maritime-research-call/#tab

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About the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA)

MPA was established in 1996 with the mission to develop Singapore as a global hub port and international maritime centre, and to advance and safeguard Singapore's strategic maritime interests. MPA takes on multiple roles as Singapore's maritime and port regulator and planner, international maritime centre champion, national maritime representative, and champion of maritime digitalisation and decarbonisation efforts. MPA partners industry, research community and other agencies to enhance safety, security and environmental protection, facilitate maritime and port operations and growth, expand multi-domain capabilities, and support the cluster of maritime services and manpower development.

For more information, please visit www.mpa.gov.sg/.

About the Singapore Maritime Institute (SMI)

SMI is a joint effort by the MPA, the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and the Singapore Economic Development Board.

Established in April 2011, SMI develops strategies and programmes to achieve its mission with key focus areas in sectors such as port, shipping and maritime services. SMI charts the maritime research strategy and promotes greater industry-academia research and development (R&D) collaborations to be undertaken in Singapore.

Through a whole-of-government approach, SMI drives initiatives with industry-wide impacts to enhance the overall competitiveness of the local maritime industry, and to strengthen R&D capabilities in support of Singapore as a global maritime knowledge hub.

For more information, please visit www.maritimeinstitute.sg

About the Research Council of Norway (RCN)

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is the Norwegian government's primary agency for funding and promoting research and innovation. Established in 1993, RCN invests in basic research, applied research, and commercial innovation across all fields of science. Through competitive funding schemes and strategic initiatives, the Research Council contributes to addressing societal challenges, strengthening the competitiveness of Norwegian industry, and developing knowledge and technologies for a sustainable future.

The agency serves as a key strategic adviser to the government on research policy and works to strengthen Norway's participation in international research collaborations, such as the European Union's Horizon Europe framework.

For more information, please visit: www.forskningsradet.no

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