



Invitation

Towards a Nordic and Baltic Sea Region testbed infrastructure

28 February 2019

**Danish Technological Institute, Conference Room, Building 1
Gregersensvej 1, 2630 Tåstrup, Denmark**

There is a strong correlation between the competitiveness of technology-based SMEs and their access to specialised test and demonstration infrastructures.

In the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region there is an abundance of test and demonstration infrastructures – with partly overlapping, partly complementary areas of test excellence.

The project BSR STARS S3, co-financed by the EU Interreg Baltic Sea Region Programme, has over the past two years made a number of efforts to connect better Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) and their testbeds in the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region – including by offering SME's access testbeds across borders with the support from Innovation Vouchers.

As part of other collaboration efforts Nordic RTOs (GTS Denmark, RISE Sweden, VTT Finland and SINTEF and RISE Norway) have explored further opportunities for developing a Nordic testbed infrastructure that accelerates innovation and competitiveness and thereby provide improved opportunities for Nordic companies in global markets.

At the political level the Nordic Prime Ministers have called for increased cooperation on innovation and the Nordic Ministers for industry, business and growth have specifically called for increased macro-regional cooperation “to create conditions for a Nordic testbed infrastructure” – and this with a particular focus on the Bioeconomy, the Digital economy, and the Health Economy.

The matchmaking event 28 February 2019 aims to: 1) present and discuss lessons learned from practical cross-border cooperation between testbeds and SMEs, 2) present and discuss a number of critical barriers currently hindering cross border cooperation between RTOs and testbeds, and 3) propose a set of concrete actions that can pave the way for realising a Nordic and Baltic Sea Region testbed infrastructure.

RSVP 19. February 2019 to tw@innogate.net or torjoh@norden.org

Morning session

10:00 Welcome.

10:05 Priorities of Nordic RTOs and Nordic intergovernmental cooperation supporting increased cooperation between testbeds in the Nordic and Baltic Sea Region.

- Ragnar Heldt Nielsen, GTS Denmark.
- Torfi Jóhannesson, Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Elis Benediktsson, Nordic Innovation.

10:25 Lessons learned from practical cross-border cooperation between testbeds and SMEs.

Lessons learned from the pilot “BSR STARS S3 Bioeconomy Innovation Vouchers”.

- *Three sets of presentations by SMEs/RTOs benefitting from the Innovation Voucher.*

- *Rikke Miklos, Agrotech testbed.*
- *Laura Strömberg, Dagsmark Petfood (SME).*

- *Mika Härkönen, VTT testbed.*
- *Karita Kinnunen-Raudaskoski, Paptic Ltd (SME).*

- *Øyvind Eriksen, RISE PFI AS testbed.*
- *Jøran Bævre Brauten, Kvanne Industrier AS (SME), tbc.*

Lessons learned from other European Innovation Voucher schemes – and other efforts aiming to integrate testbed infrastructures across borders.

- *Lars Fremerey, GTS Denmark, ROBOTT-NET. Experiences from the ROBOTT-NET voucher scheme – the benefits for businesses and synergy in innovation efforts among RTOs.*
- *Brecht Vanlerberghe, R&D Manager, Bio Base Europe Pilot Plant in Flanders. Experiences from a “superbio voucher scheme” and other lessons learned on public programmes supporting shared test infrastructures.*

12:15 Drivers and bottlenecks for cross-border cooperation between RTOs and testbeds.

- *Facilitated discussion. Key issues include:*
 - *Responding to developments in technologies and market opportunities, in particular in areas of joint strategic interest such as the bio- and digital economy.*
 - *Benefitting from matchmaking complementarities in test excellence by understanding the unique innovation capabilities of partner RTOs and testbeds.*

- *Funding co-operation between RTOs and testbeds: Aligning macro-regional policy priorities with financial support measures and programmes.*

13.00 Lunch – in combination with site visit to DTI biorefining pilot plant.

Afternoon session

14.00 Presentation of proposal from Nordic RTOs for a joint framework and step-by-step approach to realise a Nordic and Baltic Sea Region testbed infrastructure before 2025.

Facilitated discussion.

14.45 Conclusions.

15.00 End of meeting.