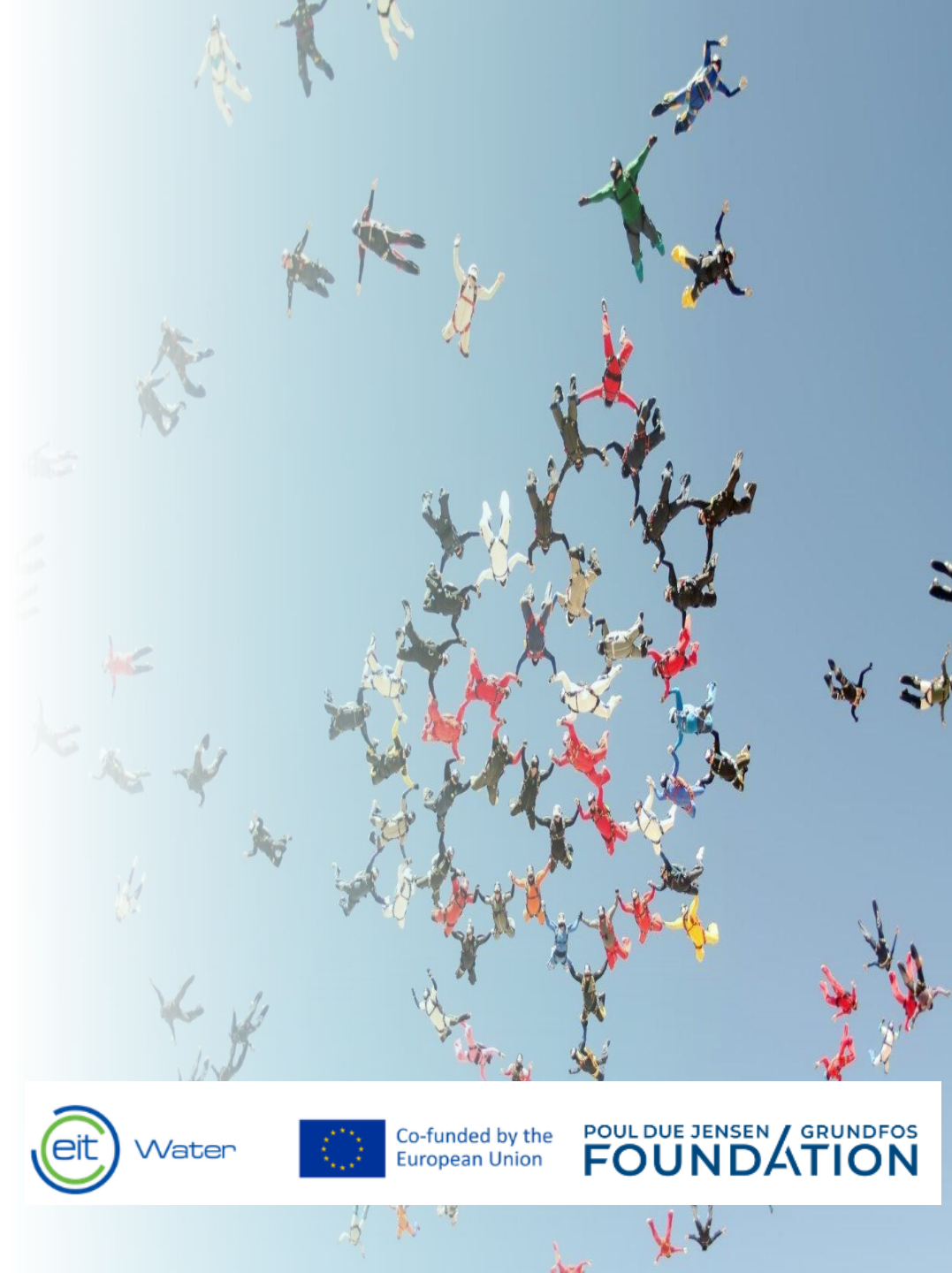


# Bridge4Water

Connecting Water Research  
through Open Innovation

Pilot call 2026

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# The Grundfos Foundation grants 40 million DKK to Aarhus University to support the launch of EIT Water

The Grundfos Foundation | PDJF has awarded 40 million DKK (5.35 million EUR) to Aarhus Universitet to support the launch of EIT Water, the newest Knowledge and Innovation Community of the EIT - European Institute of Innovation and Technology, a body of the European Union.



## Bridge4Water (2026-2027):

1st pilot call  
10 M DKK

4 partner institutions: AAU, AU, SDU, VIA UC

# 2026 Scope



## TRACK 1

### Industrial Water Efficiency and Circularity

Contribute to advancing circular water solutions in industrial contexts, including manufacturing, processing industries, utilities, and industrial parks.

1. Fit-for-Purpose Water Quality and Risk Frameworks
2. Advanced Separation and Resource Recovery
3. Resilient, Flexible and Adaptive Industrial Water Systems
4. Industrial-Utility Integration and Water Symbiosis
5. Enabling Conditions for Industrial Circularity

## TRACK 2

### Water Efficiency and Circularity in Urban Built Environments

Circular water solutions embedded in dense urban areas, neighborhoods, buildings, and public spaces.

1. Decentralised Water Reuse at Building or District Scale
2. Stormwater as a Resource in Urban Areas
3. Hybrid Nature-Based and Engineered Urban Systems
4. Digitalization and Smart Urban Water Management
5. Governance, Acceptance, and Transition Pathways

# Call details (2026)

<b>Total budget available for funding</b>	Up to DKK 10 Million
<b>Budget per project</b>	Up to DKK 2 Million
<b>Duration per project</b>	Up to 16 months (latest end date 31 dec 2027)

- **Main applicants:** AAU, AU, SDU, VIA University College
- **Co-applicants:** Any companies and knowledge institutions in the water sector as well as end users water water solutions (industry, utilities, developers etc.) - minimum 1 company
- Only **not-for-profit** organizations can receive funding.
- **No requirement** for cash contributions from companies.
- **Programme facilitators:** AU OIS & Water Valley DK

# Timeline

- 13 April 2026: Call launch through LinkedIn, Website, WorldLabs



- 1 Sept 2026: Earliest start date for awarded projects
- 31 Dec 2027: Latest end date for awarded projects

## GUIDELINES

Bridge4Water  
Call round 2026



**BRIDGE 4WATER**  
Connecting Water Research through Open Innovation



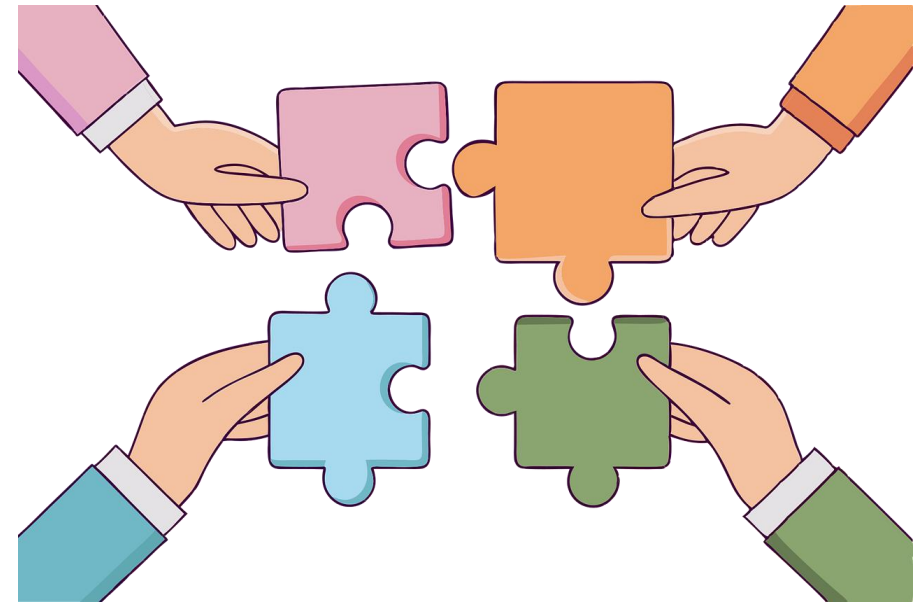
# What is Open Innovation in Science (OIS)?

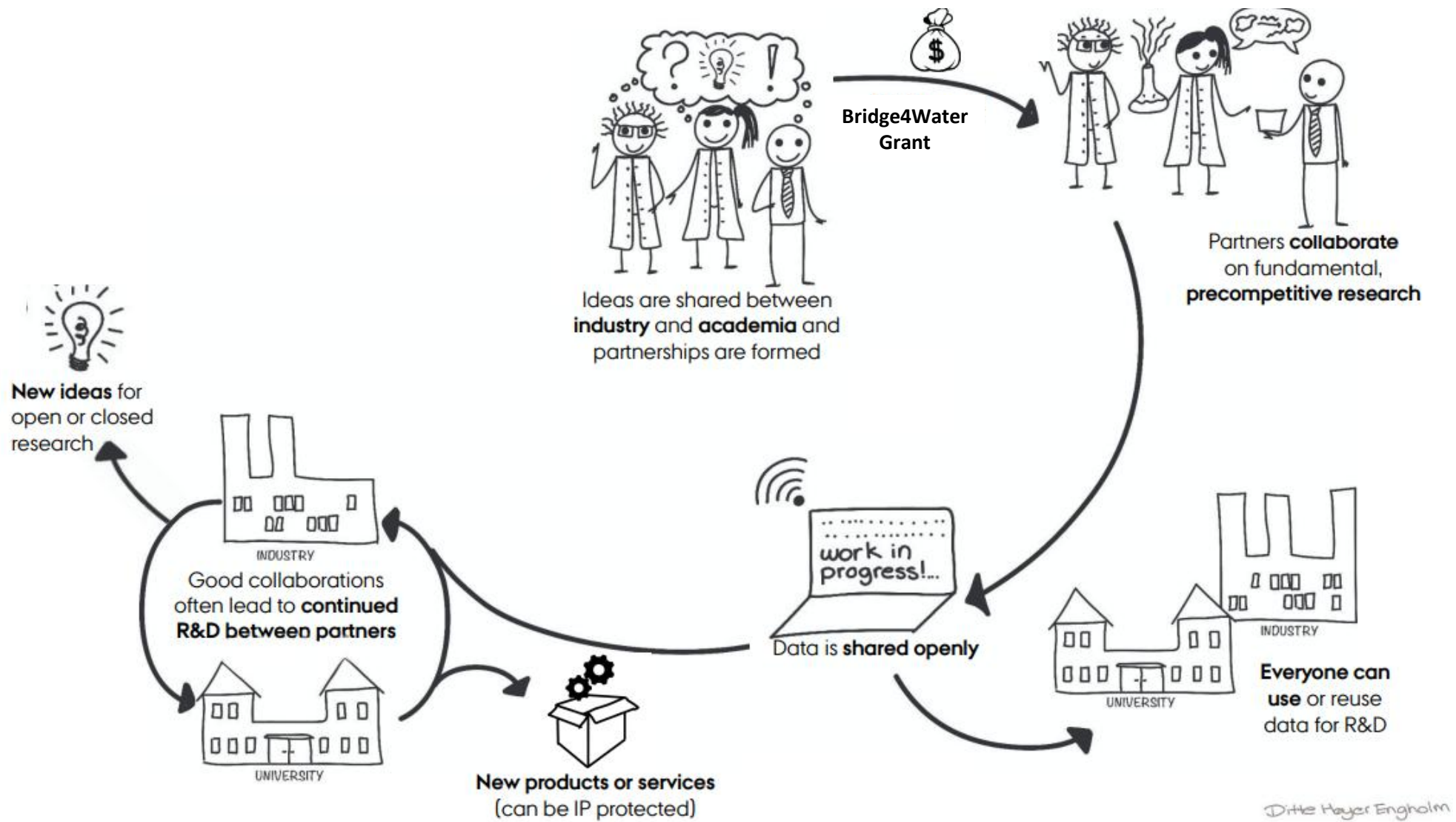
A precompetitive, **PATENT-FREE** collaboration model with cascade funding for **use-inspired research** projects

**PARTICIPANTS:** Universities/knowledge institutions, companies, and any other type of relevant stakeholders.

**MEMBERSHIP FEES:** None

**HANDLING OF IP IN PROJECTS:** Standard contract, co-created with industry





Ditte Hoyer Engholm

# WHY OPEN?



- To accelerate discovery through collective problem-solving
- To provide ease-of-collaboration with industry
- To create more impact from precompetitive, use-inspired university research



# Are all projects suited for openness?



- **No.** Different industries and activities have different sensitivities to openness.
- We need to find a "precompetitive niche" together.



# Examples of what can we do openly?



Closing knowledge gaps: From specific to generic



Developing new **research tools**



Developing new **quality standards**

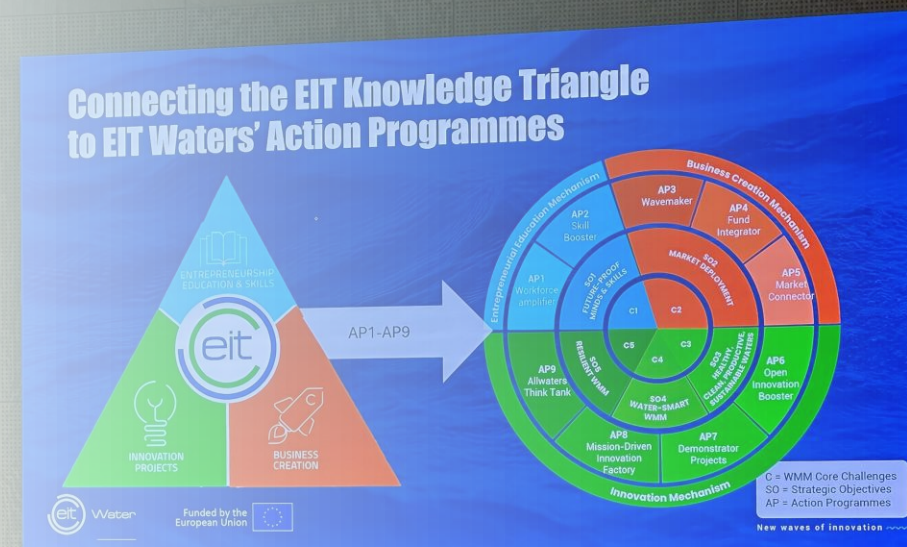
# WHAT OIS OFFERS INDUSTRY

- **Ease of collaboration**
  - No IP negotiations
  - Standard contract → quick project start
  - We'll help you find the right ideas and partners
- **Easy access to new knowledge**
  - Find solutions to your technical problems
  - Anyone can use our open knowledge for commercial purposes downstream. No strings attached.
  - 'De-risking wild ideas
- **Easy access to recruiting new talent**



# Upcoming Events

- Information meetings (to be announced)
  - Aalborg University
  - Aarhus University
  - University of Southern Denmark
  - VIA University College
- 22 April 2026: Online webinar, Water Valley Denmark
  - Sign up here:  
<https://watervalleydenmark.com/events/bridge4water/>
- 21 May 2026 (to be confirmed):
  - Physical workshop (Aarhus)



# Follow Bridge4Water

- LinkedIn:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/company/bridge4water>
- Website:  
<https://projects.au.dk/bridge4water>
- WorldLabs:  
<https://www.worldlabs.org/community/HScdSvNdysJ9vJs8j/explore>



Visit the BRIDGE4WATER marketplace and connect with the right team.

