



ZEP Briefing – 138 project proposals received under the Innovation Fund

Background

The European Commission received 138 project proposals after the Innovation Fund [closed](#) its second call for large-scale projects on 3 March 2022. A total of €1.5 billion is to be made available for projects supporting the European Green Deal. On 11 March, the Commission [reported](#) that the project submissions represented €12.1 billion in requested funding.

The proposals received are covering the following sectors:

- Renewable Energy Sources: 13
- Energy Storage: 21
- Energy Intensive Industries: 104 (including Carbon Capture, Use and Storage and hydrogen)

Most applications are located in Spain, but countries such as France, Germany, and the Netherlands, also see significant interest.

Next steps

The Commission will now verify the admissibility of all submissions ahead of approval. External evaluators will back the evaluation process, which will consider three main criteria:

- the degree of innovation;
- projected greenhouse gas emission reductions and maturity; and
- scalability and cost efficiency.

Results are expected by Q3 2022, and grants will be awarded by Q4 2022. Under the first large-scale call, seven projects were picked by the Commission to receive funding – with four of the seven employing significant CCS and/or CCU elements.