AU Innoexplorer panel

The Innoexplorer grant from Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD) is targeted at employees at public research and educational institutions and hospitals (hereafter referred to as institutions), who have achieved research results with commercial potential and who aim to establish a business based on these results.

IFD have asked the institutions to filter applications, in order to ensure that only applications that live up to the requirements from IFD are submitted. Furthermore, IFD have asked the institutions to limit the number of applications to a reasonable number. At Aarhus University the filtering of potential applications are performed by the Technology Transfer Office (TTO).

All applications from AU must be approved by TTO in order to apply for Innoexplorer. The initial assessment of a potential applications is made at a pitch, where the applicant will pitch their idea for the AU Innoexplorer Panel.

The AU Innoexplorer Panel consist of:

- Representatives from the TTO Business Development team
- A representative from the TTO Legal team
- A representative from the Research Support Office
- A researcher from one of the academic departments

Panel members will attend the pitches which takes place during one day, approximately 3 weeks ahead of the IFD submission deadline. Each applicants will deliver a 10 minute pitch followed by 10 minutes of feedback from the panel.

The role of the panel is to objectively assess all potential applications based on the pitch delivered by the main applicant. The panel will base their assessment on the IFD guidelines found at https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/innoexplorer as well as the experience in the panel from IFD’s evaluation of previous applications.

After pitches, the panel will recommend which projects should be approved. The final approval, will be made by the Head of TTO after further assessment of the actual written application and slide deck, performed by the TTO Business Development team.

The panel will also provide feedback for the individual applicants on how to improve their slide deck.