



# Smart Agriculture and Food Digitalization and Automation Challenge (SAFDAC)

Information Webinar  
Virginia Mulligan, PhD  
July 15, 2021



# Teams

## Please mute your microphones and turn off your video until the Q&A

- Click chat function at top of screen to type in questions and comments
- Or - unmute microphone and turn on video (optional) to ask questions during Q&A portion following presentation
- If you need help with Teams, contact Julia Necheff: [Julia.necheff@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:Julia.necheff@albertainnovates.ca)

# Alberta Innovates (AI)

- 2021 is the centennial of innovation in Alberta
- AI's predecessor org created by government in 1921. Since then, AI has had different forms and name changes, has been integral part of Alberta's scientific research and economic history
- Today, our vision is to be indisputably recognized provincially, nationally and internationally as a leader in catalyzing research and innovation in Alberta
- We are Alberta's largest research & innovation agency
- We work with our partners and clients across multiple sectors to create new opportunities and forge a healthy, sustainable and prosperous future for Albertans







### Digital Health

Advance digital health technologies to accelerate improvements in the quality and long-term sustainability of our health system and the health of Albertans.



### Clean Resource Technologies

Invest in R&I that transforms bitumen into non-combustion, value-added materials, and clean technologies that improve environmental sustainability and economic diversification.



### Smart Agriculture

Lead smart agriculture R&I and address food security challenges through adoption of technology for significant impact in Alberta and beyond.



### Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

Continue to support a growing entrepreneurial ecosystem in Alberta through the programs, networks and connections we provide to entrepreneurs and startups to commercialize their innovations and scale their businesses.



### Artificial Intelligence

Build on our past successes in creating world-recognized artificial intelligence capacity in Alberta by supporting further development and application across sectors.



# Why SAFDAC?

- Agriculture critical to every country's well-being by providing food and raw materials
- Sector challenges:
  - Feeding growing global population
  - Adapting to shifting consumer demands, changing regulations and environmental concerns
  - Effects of climate change
- Smart technologies have potential to: increase productivity; lessen environmental footprint of production; reduce waste; improve decision-making along agri-food value chain





# SAFDAC

- Supports development or advancement of smart technologies to:
  - Increase agricultural productivity
  - Reduce cost of production
  - increase value of commodities
- Eligible smart technologies must:
  - Provide solutions to challenges faced by Alberta's agri-food industry
  - Clearly demonstrate economic, environmental and/or social benefits for **Alberta**



# Competition Timelines

Activity	Date
Competition opens	July 7, 2021
Competition webinar	July 15, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. MDT
Expression of Interest (EOI) submission deadline	August 13, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. MDT
Invitations of selected EOIs to Full Proposal	September 13, 2021
Full Proposal submission deadline	October 22, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. MDT
Notification letters provided to Applicants	November 2021
Contracting	December 2021
Latest date for Project completion	December 31, 2023

*Note that Alberta Innovates, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to alter the currently anticipated timelines.*





# Available Funding

- **Total \$2 million CAD**
- Each grant up to \$500,000 CAD
- Applicants must provide *at least* 25% of total eligible costs
- *No limit* on amount of financial stacking toward Applicant's contribution
- See p. 7 in Program Guide for eligible expenses.
- Read sample Investment Agreements on SAFDAC **web page:** [Smart Agriculture and Food Digitalization and Automation Challenge - Alberta Innovates](#)



# Applicant Eligibility

- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in agri-food or technology industries; industry associations; post-secondary institutions; public and private R & D labs; not-for-profit orgs
- **Must be legally able to execute an Investment Agreement with Alberta Innovates**
- Applicants not required to be based in Alberta, but **must demonstrate a clear value proposition for the province**
- Must be in good financial standing with Alberta Innovates and its subsidiaries, InnoTech Alberta and C-FER Technologies
- **Alberta Innovates will perform a corporate search, may also carry out bankruptcy and litigation searches**
- **See pp 3-4 in Program Guide**

# Partner Eligibility

- Collaboration with Project Partners **is highly encouraged**, but not required
  - Industry, post-secondary institutions, government, non-for profit, etc.
- Partnership with potential end-users
- Applicants not based in Alberta are encouraged to have Alberta-based Project Partners
- Pages 3-4 in Program Guide



# Project Eligibility

- Must align with SAFDAC program objectives (Pages 4-5 in Program Guide)
- Already be between Technology Readiness Levels **3 and 7 at the start of the project**
  - Higher start-level TRL projects may also be considered
- Be stepped with milestones (grant payment is based on milestones)
- Be completed by December 31, 2023
- Comply with other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time to time



# In-Scope Projects

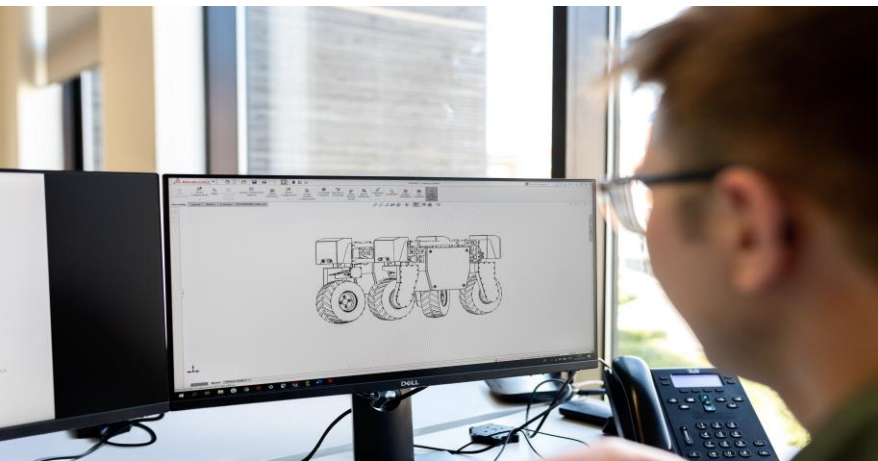
- Development of new applications for digitalization of the agri-food sector
- Autonomous systems and prototype development that reduce costs and/or improve quality and safety of ag and food products
- Development and validation of new smart technologies and solutions to mitigate impact of biotic and abiotic stress, increase farm productivity and supply chain functionality





# Out of Scope Projects

- Conventional agriculture research - including biotechnology, agronomy, demonstration and adaptation research
- Marketing or new agri-food product development
- Projects focusing on reduction of greenhouse emissions, mitigation, abatement or sequestration



# Expression of Interest

- EOI is different from SAFDAC 2020
- SAFDAC 2021 has same EOI form for all applicants; shorter and simpler
- No limit on submitted EOIs per applicant, but it is a highly **competitive process**
- Business Plans are not required
- You may attach supporting documents (e.g., business plans, letters of support)
- EOIs and supporting documents must be submitted in **Smart Simple**



## Login

Login

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## Welcome to Alberta Innovates Portal

Alberta Innovates delivers 21st-century solutions for the most compelling challenges facing Albertans. We work closely with government, industry, academia and others to support and accelerate innovation from the generation of ideas, through applied testing and validation, to commercialization or end use, across all of Alberta's key sectors. We enable researchers, entrepreneurs and industry to test and grow their ideas, products and businesses in lasting ways to positively impact the province's economy, the environment and the quality of life for all Albertans.

Our new Portal enables you to seamlessly manage and view all of your funding-related interactions with us, from creating and submitting your application, to reports on results easily and efficiently, and everything in between.

We recommend browsers such as Google Chrome, Firefox, Safari, or Microsoft Edge for the best experience. Internet Explorer is not supported.



## Welcome Vir Mullig



Organization Profile



Personal Profile



Change Password

## Applications

Click here to view all of your applications.



Funding Opportunities

1

Draft Applications

0

Submitted Applications

0

Approved/Declined  
Applications

## Requires Attention

Click here to submit your requested revisions, investment agreements, and progress reports.





## Funding Opportunities

**\*\* Please ensure you have read the Program Guide for the Program you are applying for, and that you meet the eligibility requirements of the Program, prior to starting your Application. \*\***

**NOTE:** Unsubmitted Applications to Continuous Intake Programs (i.e. Programs with no Competition Deadline) will be automatically deleted if not modified in 90 days. Unsubmitted Applications to Program Calls will be automatically deleted in 30 days after the Competition Deadline.

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Program Name	Competition Name	Competition Deadline	Program Guide	Program Home Page	
Smart Agriculture and Food Digitalization and Automation Challenge	Smart Agriculture and Food Digitization and Automation Challenge July 2021	13/08/2021	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Digital Traction	Digital Traction 2021	05/08/2021	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Chronic Wasting Disease Research	CWDRT 2021-2022	04/08/2021	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Campus Alberta Small Business Engagement	CASBE Streams I and II 2021-22		<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Postdoctoral Fellowships in Health Innovation 2+1	PFHI 2020/2021 Competition		<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Health Innovation Continuous Intake	Health Innovation Continuous Intake			<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Clean Resources Continuous Intake	Clean Resources Continuous Intake		<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Export Readiness Micro-Voucher	Export Readiness Micro-Voucher - Continuous Intake		<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>
Industry Commercialization Associates	Industry Commercialization Associates - Continuous Intake		<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Link</a>	<a href="#">Apply Now</a>



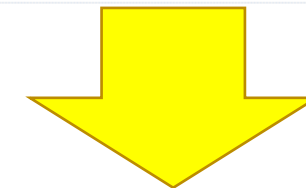


## New Grant



Program Name:

Cycle Name: [?(?object=utaproviderL2)\$Name\$#]



The red \* before a question indicates that it is mandatory for submission.



**\*\*\*\*Please click on Save Draft before beginning the Application\*\*\*\***

**Some functions of this Application, as well as any system generated fields, will not be present until a draft is saved.**

**Please Note:** the Application **DOES NOT** save automatically; remember to save early and save often.

[Generate Application PDF](#)[INSTRUCTIONS AND DISCLAIMER](#)[ELIGIBILITY](#)[APPLICANT INFORMATION](#)[REPRESENTATIVE INFORMATION](#)[NON-CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY](#)[PROJECT OVERVIEW](#)[PROJECT WORKPLAN, BUDGET >](#)

### Instructions and Disclaimer

This Application form collects pertinent information about the Investment being requested. This enables Alberta Innovates to assess the merits of the proposed Application and its fit with our strategic priorities and corporate goals. The Applicant must complete the Application in its entirety. Applicants that fail to complete all mandatory sections may not be considered. It is essential that you read and understand the Program Guide before completing this Application. All capitalized words or terms which are not defined within this Application have the respective meaning as set out in the Program Guide or Investment Agreement. In this Application, the term "you" and "Applicant" are used interchangeably.

To complete this Application, move from left to right through the tabs above. If you require assistance in completing your Application, please contact the Alberta Innovates' representative listed in the Program Guide. If you are unsure who to contact, please email [inbox\\_grants@albertainnovates.ca](mailto:inbox_grants@albertainnovates.ca).

The Application will be reviewed by experts who are within and potentially outside of Alberta Innovates. These experts will provide their recommendations to Alberta Innovates and Alberta Innovates may


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**Program Name:** SAFDAC**Cycle Name:** Smart Agriculture and Food Digitization and Automation Challenge July 2021

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In this section, describe the proposed Innovation related to this Application.

**\* Explain and quantify the seriousness of the problem/challenge, from a customer/end-user perspective, that this Innovation aims to address:**

Consider describing any current actions/initiatives addressing the problem. (300 Words Max)

300 words left

## ▼ Description of the Innovation

**\* Provide a detailed description of the Innovation and how it may resolve the problem stated above:**

Consider including results from literature reviews, previous studies and/or any previous use of the Innovation, along with an explanation of the uniqueness of the Innovation, what it does, who could use it, where it could be applied, and its competitive advantages.  
(750 Words Max)

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Criteria	Word Limit
Project Summary	300
<b>Innovation Opportunity</b>	
Seriousness of the problem/challenge	300
Description of the Innovation	750
TRL (select the TRL)	
<b>Proposed Commercialization Pathway</b>	
Pathway and resources to advance the Innovation Opportunity	300
Risk and risk mitigation	300
<b>Project Overview</b>	500
Summary Table (fill in table)	
<b>Impacts</b>	600

Criterion	Description	Score
Innovation Opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project's strengths and <b>competitive advantage</b> to address the sector challenge described and alignment to Alberta Innovates priorities.</li> <li>This includes the <b>relevance</b> and feasibility of the proposed work to the target industry as well as the expected <b>TRL advancement during the project</b>.</li> </ul>	25%
Market Opportunity/ Competitive Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>feasibility of the proposed pathway to commercialization</b> including consideration of technical, financial and/or regulatory hurdles and the resources required to achieve success.</li> <li><b>Risk mitigation strategies</b> should be outlined and the plan to achieve <b>market readiness and/or adoption should be realistic within the project timelines</b>.</li> </ul>	15%
Project Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The <b>quality</b> of the proposed <b>project design and methodology</b> while considering the proposed objectives and deliverables, outcomes and the <b>novelty</b> of the technology or intervention proposed.</li> <li>This includes the capacity of the project team including the addition of <b>relevant partners</b>, the <b>practicality of the timelines</b> proposed, the <b>feasibility of the budget</b>, and the achievability of the project plan.</li> </ul>	40%
Impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The environmental, economic, social and other proposed impacts of the work to <b>Alberta</b>.</li> <li><b>Estimated timelines</b> for the benefits of the work to be realized are within a reasonable range and the justification of any negative impacts are provided.</li> </ul>	20%



# Advice for your Submission

- Please read Program Guide on SAFDAC web page
- Read sample Investment Agreements
- Think what problem/challenge you are trying to address
- Identify potential end users
- Read EOI questions carefully and address *all* of them
- Attachments should not be use as a substitute for providing information requested directly in EOI form
- Please start your EOI(s) as early as possible
- **Late submissions will not be accepted**







# Review Process

- **Competitive review evaluation process** - internal and external reviewers in agriculture, science, engineering, digital transformation, business development and commercialization
- Identity of external reviewers is confidential
- Reviewers are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies
- Decisions are final
- You may schedule a feedback meeting

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# Thank you

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