

CCITF Webinar Q&A (April 25, 2018)

General

- 1. Is there a restriction on the number of applications submitted by one entity for different technologies?**

Answer: There are no restrictions on the number of applications submitted by one entity.

- 2. Is there a main contact to help you determine which program is best?**

Answer: The primary contacts and their contact information for each CCITF program are listed at <https://albertainnovates.ca/funding-clean-technology/climate-change-innovation-and-technology-framework-ccitf/>.

- 3. Who is eligible and how long will the projects run?**

Answer: The eligibility criteria and timelines vary among five CCITF programs. They are provided in the Program Guides for each CCITF program, available at the above-mentioned CCITF website.

- 4. Is this fund for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) or in favor of large Multi-National Enterprises (MNEs)?**

Answer: The CCITF funds are available for all types of organizations. We are looking for projects that will lead to GHG emission reduction and economic development in Alberta. Please check the Program Guide for each CCITF program.

- 5. What's the expected Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) level for different programs?**

Answer: The TRL levels are specified in the Program Guides for each CCITF program. Alberta Innovates' Clean Technology Development Program targets TRL 2-6 projects. ERA's Clean Technology Demonstration program targets TRL 7-9 projects.

- 6. How critical are the GHG emission calculations?**

Answer: Since CCITF is a strategic initiative of the Government of Alberta as part of its Climate Leadership Plan, GHG Emissions Reductions are a key evaluation criterion. At the proposal stage, the GHG emissions reductions calculations may be based on the literature, projections or a line-of-sight based on the projected technology and uptake. By the end of any approved project the data and GHG emissions reductions calculations must be accurate and evidence-based.

- 7. I would like to know some details about the matching funds. For any of the CCITF programs, does the 50% other funding have to be 'new' money or are existing funds from other programs eligible?**

Answer: Matching funding requirements vary among CCITF programs; they are specified in the Program Guides. There is no simple answer for the question if existing funds from other programs can be considered as matching fund. This will be a case-by-case situation. Please the primary contacts listed for each CCITF program.

- 8. For the researcher from a post-secondary institution, we are wondering if the industrial partner is necessary for the application of CCITF or the funding support from federal government has satisfied the requirement.**

Answer: Funding requirements for each CCITF program vary; they are specified in the Program Guides. For further clarification, please the primary contacts listed for each CCITF program. With or not you have an industrial partner, please make sure the technology can lead to GHG emission reduction in Alberta. You should provide that justification.

- 9. Can the program be stacked with other provincial or federal grants?**

Answer: Stacking requirements for each CCITF program vary; they are specified in the Program Guides. For further clarification, please the primary contacts listed for each CCITF program.

- 10. Who qualifies as Authorized Representative?**

Answer: An Authorized Representation is someone who has the authority to make a commitment on behalf of his organization. For example, Chief Executive Officers, Presidents and Vice-Presidents usually have this authority.

- 11. What are the key metrics of success for the program?**

Answer: Key Success Metrics for each CCITF program vary. We are looking for projects that will lead to GHG emission reduction and economic development in Alberta. For further clarification, please the primary contacts listed for each CCITF program.

- 12. Is CCITF linked in some ways to Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA), and to the NRCan Clean Growth Program? What is the difference between this and other emission-related funds (e.g. ERA)? Can NSERC CRD (funded) project be a considered as a project?**

Answer: The Government of Alberta (GoA) has provided Alberta Innovates with \$94.7 million dollars, over three years, to invest in the five CCITF programs listed on the Alberta Innovates CCITF website. GoA has provided ERA with \$80 million dollars, over three years, to invest in large demonstration and commercial initiatives which would result in GHG reductions in Alberta. If an NSERC CRD project has a direct line-of-sight to GHG emission reduction in Alberta, it may be considered. Please discuss with the primary contact for each CCITF program.

- 13. What is the synergy between CCITF and federally-administered SR&ED tax incentive program?**

Answer: While there no direct relationship between CCITF Programs and SR&ED program, CCITF funded projects should position the applicant well for SR&ED tax credit. Please consult taxation specialists.

- 14. What form of participation federal government researchers can have in this program? Are they eligible to receive funding from this program?**

Answer: Federal government researchers are eligible to receive funding support for some CCITF programs; please check with the primary contacts listed for each CCITF program.

15. What are the plans to promote diversification in Alberta's industry, particularly with regards to downstream and petrochemicals?

Answer: The Government of Alberta's Energy Diversification Advisory Committee (EDAC) has just released its final report (<https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=524693F8B3F60-9435-CB3A-7B51AD8788B610AC>) and the government is acting on it. The CCITF Programs are consistent with GoA's energy diversification strategy.

16. Will there be an opportunity to apply for long range funding for something like the development of fusion energy which has the potential to solve all our clean energy problems?

Answer: CCITF Programs are funded for three years and must be delivered over four years. The CCITF funding is provided on a competitive basis. The criteria are specified in each Program Guide.

17. I am curious whether methane capture/storage is something interesting to CCITF.

Answer: Methane emission reduction and the conversion of methane into value-added products are in scope of CCITF.

18. Does CCITF encourage international collaborations?

Answer: The CCITF funding is intended for Alberta-based organizations, who may or may not collaborate with international partners.

19. Will the Q&A presented this morning be included in the presentation when posted on the AI website?

Answer: The presentation slides are already posted on the AI CCITF website. The webinar was recorded and will be posted shortly.

20. Who to contact afterwards if there are other additional questions.

Answer: A website (www.CCITFQuestions.ca) has been set up for this purpose.

21. Where can we find information on AI base funding?

Answer: Please check our website (www.albertainnovates.ca).

Program 1: Clean Technology (CT) Development

1. I could use sources for gathering industry average GHG emissions for comparative purposes on the fracking industry and water transport, as well current heavy oil upgrading processes. This would aid immensely in my calculation of GHG reductions, among other benefits.

Answer: While providing GHG baselines would indeed be valuable to both parties, unfortunately it is not practical to generate one for every possible application, scale, timing, etc. Applicants should develop their own baseline and cite its source and assumptions.

2. Can you please elaborate on the fact that the grant is offered upon the successful completion of a milestone? I assume this means that the company has done its due diligence in demonstrating the technology, but it's not tied to the success of the technology itself, is that accurate?

Answer: Funds are paid based on the terms of the contribution agreement. Projects for technology development and application are not always successful at implementation. Risks and mitigation strategies will be required at the Full Project Proposal stage.

3. Is there any consideration being given to push back EOI deadline since we are doing webinar so close to deadline?

Answer: No, not now.

4. Would like to understand the probability of being funded and thereby the appropriate time and effort to be put into the application.

Answer: We cannot estimate probabilities as we do not know the quantity and quality of applications still to arrive; it is the applicant's decision to allocate resources.

Technology Areas

5. Does this funding support the novel technologies in heavy oil/bitumen upgrading, too (as clean technologies)?

Answer: Yes.

6. Is consideration given to recovering bitumen from FFT to recover hydrocarbon and to reduce emission of methane to the air?

Answer: Yes.

7. We have a technology in oil & gas, patent pending, with prototype manufactured. Does the program support the commercialization of the technology?

Answer: Prototype testing, yes. But deployment of a commercial size into operation (i.e. first commercial deployment) would exceed the TRL scope of the Clean Technology Development program.

8. Are hydrogen fuel cells included as part of the clean tech development program? Where is the EOI form?

Answer: Yes. EOI form is on the Alberta Innovates website, and the link was provided in the webinar presentation slides, which have been posted on the above-mentioned website.

9. Do projects evaluating green building products made in a more energy efficient, less GHG intensive manner than standard building products qualify under the green buildings portion of the CTD program?

Answer: Yes.

10. Will innovative well-abandonment methane reduction technologies qualify?

Answer: Probably – please discuss with the primary contact.

11. Interested in project support for concepts that include: Mass transit EV transformation; data monetization; energy analytics visualization; blockchain payment systems; and energy storage.

Answer: Yes, if there is a quantifiable and credible GHG reduction narrative.

- 12. Would you be willing to fund a technology demonstration project for a big data and machine learning platform that can record energy load profiles of a community and predict their future energy demands? A project like this would aim to effectively reduce the overall GHG emissions and carbon footprint of energy generation through energy forecasting, peak shaving and efficient use of distributed generation.**

Answer: It would be eligible; however, CCITF funding is based on a competitive process.

- 13. "Are retrofit technologies/engineering projects that allow the generation of additional electricity without the creation of additional emissions eligible for funding? (i.e. allowing for additional electrical generation while preventing the additional disturbance of land and increased emissions)"**

Answer: Yes.

- 14. Have livestock and crop industry contributions to reduced GHG emissions been considered as funding opportunities**

Answer: Yes, such proposals would be eligible. Note that projects should fit into CCITF Sector Focus areas (page 5, EOI).

- 15. Is there any flexibility for out-of-the-box submissions that are not foreseen by an EOI scope?**

Answer: All innovative ideas will be considered. Make clear links to areas in the CCITF Program Guide "Pathways to Outcomes" section page 5.

Potential Partners

- 16. Is an industry partner necessary for the CTD program? For instance, can a researcher team up with InnoTech Alberta to submit a proposal, or should we engage an industry partner?**

Answer: Industry partners are not required but are highly encouraged. It will reflect well on a research team to partner with InnoTech Alberta and with an end-user.

- 17. Do industry partners have to be Canadian-based?**

Answer: No. But projects are measured in terms of their potential benefits to Alberta.

- 18. Can some industrial partners join after the EOI has been submitted?**

Answer: Yes.

- 19. Do you need Letter of Support from industrial partners at the EOI stage?**

Answer: No, this is not required at the EOI stage

- 20. For small project, is it mandatory to have an industrial partner?**

Answer: No, but it is encouraged.

- 21. Can funding from CCITF projects be used to pay for analytical/technical services at InnoTech Alberta?**

Answer: Yes.

22. Is this funding going to largely support MME and large industrial organizations? How much of it is to support SME.?

Answer: There is no targeted split; projects will be selected based on their quality, not origin.

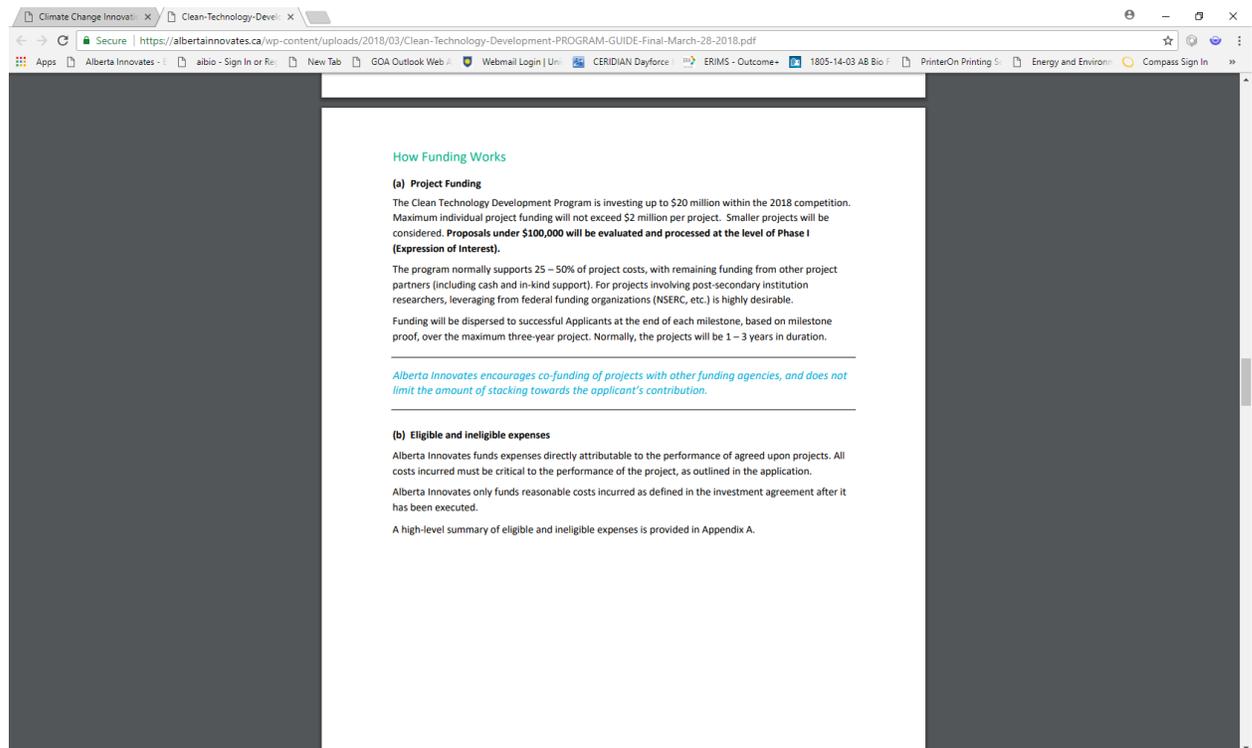
Funding and Stacking Rules

23. 50% is the maximum contribution from AI and can it be stacked with other funding?

Answer: Yes

24. Is there a minimum/maximum ratio of in-kind to cash contribution?

Answer: No – see the page from the Program Guide, below.



25. is the funding going to be claim-based or will a hold-back be involved?

Answer: It will depend upon the CCITF program. Please consult with the primary contact.

26. Does it support very early clean tech Startup?

Answer: Yes, provided it meets a minimum TRL 2 level.

27. For clean technology development program, does each partner need to provide cash and in-kind or some may only provide in-kind

Answer: It is acceptable for a partner to provide in-kind only.

28. For post secondary institute researchers, showing NSERC industrial grants (such as CRD) contributions, should the industrial contribution and NSERC contribution be shown separately?

Answer: It would be very useful to break out NSERC and industry contributions separately. However, there can be no double accounting of contributions. For example, if NSERC has matched industry amounts at a certain level. Requesting additional matching of those industry amounts does not qualify as industry funds.

29. Projects looking funding with other programs such as Clean growth program from the federal government can apply to this program?

Answer: Yes, it is encouraged.

Program 2: CT Networks

1. Is the deadline for the first call for EOIs over?

Answer: Yes, it is closed.

2. What role do non-profit/support organizations need to play as part of the application development process?

Answer: We cannot support non-profits if they are the (SME) applicant for funding. There is no direct requirement for the use of a non-profit as a service provider. There is no restriction for not-for-profits to apply; if they are registered provincially, they can participate as a lead or partner organization to the applicant. All service providers, non-profit or otherwise need to be clearly identified at the outset of the program.

Program 3: CT Commercialization (CTCOM)

1. You have currently allocated \$1 million (out of a budget of \$14 million) for your first CTCOM Call' when will the next CTCOM Challenge and future challenges be announced?

Answer: The CT Commercialization program is a market-pull program which seeks to identify industry-specific MNE "pain points" that might be solved using Alberta SME technological solutions. The funding is meant to help prepare these technologies for commercialization and use by the MNE or industry partner. The identification of these pain points is an ongoing process and once identified can have a challenge issued towards the problem at any time during the year. The challenges are broadcast province wide via social media, direct email, web sites, within the RIN and other outlets. We expect there will be at least 4 other challenges issued this year.

2. How can small to medium sized companies that do business primarily online contribute to environmental stewardship?

Answer: The intent of the CTCOM program is to commercialize technologies that could provide technological solutions for real-world problems, focused on or involved with the reduction of greenhouse gases. If such a solution is found within the applicant's online product offerings, this would certainly be acceptable.

3. Can SMEs applying for CTCOM have large industrial partner?

Answer: First, we would identify and collaborate with a large industrial partner which has a “pain point”. Then, we would issue a challenge to SMEs with potential solutions to such pain points. If the SME plans to collaborate with a large industrial partner as a service provider (as part of the provision of the technological solution), this is acceptable if all intellectual property issues are resolved prior to commencement of any work. The large industry partner working with the SME needs to be a fee-for-service partner.

Program 4: CT Business Innovation

- 1. For the Assess and Plan Stream 1, can the consultant be from outside Alberta if the SME is Alberta-based?**

Answer: Yes – there are no restrictions on the geographic location of the consultant. However, please be cognizant of potential higher costs (e.g. travel, foreign exchange) when engaging out-of-province or foreign consultants.

- 2. Will the CCITF voucher guide be updated to reflect the applicant eligibility presented here?**

Answer: The minimum \$3M annual revenues and 10 FTE employees that partly define what we call an established SME are not fixed criteria, but rather a benchmark. The idea is to deter start-ups from applying yet to provide sufficient flexibility to cater to smaller high growth companies. Currently, we do not anticipate these as fixed program criteria.

- 3. What role do non-profit/support organizations need to play as part of the application development process?**

Answer: Non-profit and support organizations can act as a consultant for Stream 1 or subcontractor for Stream 2.

- 4. How can small to medium sized companies that do business primarily online contribute to environmental stewardship?**

Answer: The answer would depend on the nature of the business. For further clarification, please contact the primary contact for this program.

Program 5: CT Facilities Support

- 1. I would like to know more about the new research centers (National Emission Research & Test Centre, Methane & Biowaste Conversion Test Centre).**

Answer: Program Guides will be available on the CCITF website, shortly.

Program 6: Emissions Reduction Alberta CCITF Initiatives

Q: What types of facilities are eligible? Can a list of the eligible LFEs be provided?

This funding opportunity requires that the project site be a Large Final Emitter facility in Alberta, defined as an industrial facility covered by the CCI regulation. These include facilities that emit more than 100kT/year OR facilities that choose to opt into the CCIR. ERA has posted a list of LFE facilities on the [ERA Industrial Efficiency Challenge website](#).

Q: How new or innovative do technologies need to be? Are off-the-shelf technologies eligible? What is meant by 'leading' technologies?

The guidelines contain details on how 'leading' is defined. A technology that is proven elsewhere but is being deployed at a specific plant for the first time could meet the definition of a leading technology. However, technologies that are already broadly deployed could present a less compelling project compared to technologies that represent a departure from business as usual. Leading technologies should represent a strong value proposition relative to competing technologies/opportunities.

Q: Are technologies that quantify or detect GHG emissions eligible if they do not inherently achieve GHG reductions?

All technologies in this call must lead to GHG reductions at LFE sites. For a detection or monitoring technology to be eligible the applicant would need to make a compelling case for how the technology would directly lead to emissions reductions.

Q: Does the applicant need to be a company incorporated in Alberta? Do all project partners need to be from Alberta?

No. The applicant, technology, and consortium partners can come from anywhere. However, an Alberta LFE site must be a project partner.

Q: Can you submit multiple applications?

Yes, there is no limit on the number of submissions from any party. However, we encourage applicants to be judicious and present their highest quality applications.

Q: Can ERA's Industrial Efficiency Challenge be used as provincial support for other programs (example: NRCan Clean Growth)? How should pending applications for other grants be addressed in the proposal—should the full amount be requested if a portion of the grant funding could come from elsewhere? Are projects that have received other government funding eligible?

Yes, ERA can fund projects in partnership with other organizations. ERA does not have a strict "stacking" limit for government funds provided that ERA's contribution is matched at least 1:1 by industry dollars. However, other funding organizations may restrict stacking of government funds. If the intent is to apply to other grant programs with the same project, ERA recommends that this is noted when completing the financing table in the ERA application. Having other grant proposals in progress can improve ERA's assessment of the project's financial viability.

ERA reserves the right to award less funding than was asked, so it is incumbent upon applicants to justify the amount requested from ERA, taking into consideration the likelihood of securing other grant funding.

Q: For calculating GHG reductions, what timeline should we consider (savings per year and cumulative to 2030?) or another date?

The specific elements of the GHG assertion that are needed are listed in the application template. Typically, ERA will base our assessment on annual emissions reductions for the project life, but including cumulative estimates by 2030 and (if applicable) 2050 can be helpful as well.

Q: If an idea is accepted, does the IP become public?

No, under normal circumstances all IP remains with the original owner. ERA does require public reporting of the project outcomes and learnings but business/competitive confidentiality is maintained.

Q: If an applicant has agreed to have their application shared with ERA's partners, should the applicant still submit independent applications to those partnering organizations?

Yes, applicants should still submit applications to other programs where appropriate.

Q: Is emissions reduction potential assessed for the project only or on a market basis?

ERA considers both the project-level emissions reductions as well as the potential for reductions from market adoption. Applicants must justify the assumptions used in all GHG reduction estimates.

Q: If an application is shared with a trusted partner who decides to fund the project, would the funding be additional to ERA's funding?

Generally, funding from ERA's trusted partners will be in addition to the amount awarded by ERA. However, there could be situations where a trusted partner's funding is used to offset a portion of the funding request to ERA, for example, if ERA is unable to fund the entire requested amount.

Q: What is meant by "enhancing carbon competitiveness?"

Many LFE facilities in Alberta must compete in Emissions Intensive Trade Exposed (EITE) sectors. Reducing the carbon footprint of these industries can allow them to maintain or enhance global competitiveness as the world moves to an increasingly carbon-constrained future. At the same time, reducing carbon intensity can also reduce the carbon compliance cost faced by LFE facilities under the CCIR.

Q: Can an Alberta-based company receive funding for a project at a facility located outside Alberta?

No. All projects must occur at an Alberta LFE facility.

Q: What criteria are used for decision making? Does ERA share the relevant Key Performance Indicators?

Proposals are assessed based on the criteria described in the "Call of Expressions of Interest Guidelines" document that is posted on ERA's website. Specific targets for key performance indicators are not used due to the diversity of proposals expected and the need for all proposals to stand on their own merits in addition to competing amongst each other.

Q: Can LFE’s participate in more than one EOI? Can projects occur at multiple LFE sites?

LFE’s are welcome to participate in more than one EOI. In addition, proposed projects may include demonstrations or installations at multiple sites provided that each site adds to the overall value proposition or advancement of the project.

Q: Would a portfolio of projects qualify or is it preferable to submit as individual projects?

ERA funds “projects”, with clear timelines, objectives, deliverables, and milestones. Proposals may include multiple technologies and multiple sites; however, ERA recommends that each proposal be kept as focused as possible, with a clear objective. Having a large “portfolio” of technologies within a single project risks “diluting” the value of the most compelling elements of the portfolio.

Q: Are project details kept confidential throughout the entire application process? Or does the project become public at some point?

Project details are kept confidential during the application process. When funding is announced, ERA will publicly share a non-confidential summary of only the projects selected for funding. At the end of the project, public reporting of outcomes and learnings is required.

Q: What constitutes 1:1 matching? As an example, can patents be considered a “matchable” contribution? Can debt financing be used to match ERA funds?

ERA will only match contributions related to actual eligible expenses incurred during the term of the project and related to the project. Use of patents would not be eligible for matching. Applicants may use debt or equity financing to provide their share of funds. Please refer to the eligible expense guidelines on the ERA website for more detail.

Q: If a pilot location has not been finalized for the technology can an EOI still be submitted for consideration or must it already be finalized?

Proposals may be submitted without a host site finalized, however applicants should be aware that having a site confirmed will be viewed positively during the review process. The potential sites and the plan to finalize the project site should be indicated in the proposal.

Q: Can projects funded by ERA also earn carbon offset credits? Does ERA claim ownership of carbon credits?

ERA funding does not preclude a project from applying for carbon credits. Ownership of offset credits from ERA funded projects will be discussed with successful applicants. However, due to the nature of these projects being located at LFE sites, it is anticipated that offset credits will not likely be involved in the proposed projects.

Q: Do all project team members, partners, and consultants need to be finalized prior to the application?

No, ERA recognizes that project elements may not be finalized at the time of EOI submission. Applicants are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible about the core project team, plans to acquire additional expertise where needed, and planned subcontracting to provide ERA's review team with confidence that the right expertise is available to successfully execute the project.

Q: Does ERA provide examples of strong proposals to guide EOI development?

No, currently ERA does not provide such example proposals.

Q: How long after project does the ERA monitor the facility? What ongoing verification and validation is required?

ERA requires that a third-party verification report be submitted one year after commissioning of the project technology/installation to verify the emissions reductions. In addition, ERA requires that funding recipients provide a short update annually for a brief period after the project is complete (typically three years). Details of the post-completion reporting requirements will be detailed in the contribution agreement between ERA and the successful recipients.

Additional (Post-Webinar) Questions

1. I am in process of formulating 3 years program for partial upgrading, by leveraging industry money and NSERC money. I have a couple of questions related to CCITF – CTD program:

- **You have mentioned that under \$100k, you may select the project with the EOI application alone. Does this mean under \$100k per year? For multiple year projects. Also, under \$100k per year for the whole project or AI portion only?**

Answer: The CTD Program Guide states, *“Proposals under \$100,000 will be evaluated and processed at the level of Phase I (Expression of Interest).”* Therefore, the one-stage application process is for proposals where the CCITF funding request for the complete project is below \$100,000. However, some complex proposals with CCITF funding requests below \$100,000 may be required to undergo the two-stage application process.

- **For 50% matching, only cash or combined Cash or In-kind?**

Answer: The CTD Program Guide states, *“The program normally supports 25 – 50% of project costs, with remaining funding from other project partners (including cash and in-kind support). For projects involving post-secondary institution researchers, leveraging from federal funding organizations (NSERC, etc.) is highly desirable.”*

2. For a specific project, can we apply for with more than one source, e.g., AI CTD program and ERA Industry Efficiency program?

Answer: The CTD Program Guide states, *“Alberta Innovates encourages co-funding of projects with other funding agencies, and does not limit the amount of stacking towards the applicant’s contribution.”* Since both AI and ERA have received CCITF funding, for a specific project such stacking is not allowed. However, once the CTD project has been successfully completed, the applicant may apply to ERA for a follow-up demonstration project.

3. Can aspects of the early stage part of the project scope of activities be undertaken interstate or in a US laboratory or US pilot site as specialized equipment is available there?

Answer: The CCITF funding is intended for Alberta-based organizations, who may or may not collaborate with international partners.

- 4. Can NRC be included as partner for the project as we are already in discussion with NRC researchers about scaling up the project from Lab to a GHG-emitting site in Alberta?**

Answer: Yes.

- 5. We have applied to Clean Growth program for project funding, we see an opportunity for this project under CCITF's Clean Technology Development Program. If our funding request to Clean Growth for this project was \$1.5M. Should we apply to CCITF for same, half or something less?**

Answer: The CTD Program Guide states, "The program normally supports 25 – 50% of project costs, with remaining funding from other project partners (including cash and in-kind support). For projects involving post-secondary institution researchers, leveraging from federal funding organizations (NSERC, etc.) is highly desirable." Therefore, your CCITF funding request would depend upon what your total budget for your proposed project is, and what percentage your \$1.5 million request from Natural Resource Canada's Clean Growth Program represents.

- 6. Our company is interested in applying for funding to develop our new product. We had a recorded revenue last year of ~\$1.7M and have 6 full time employees. Am I right in understanding that we do not meet the minimum requirements of \$3M and 10 - FTE to apply? This is regarding the Clean Technology Development program.**

Answer: The CTD program has no minimum requirements from SMEs; projects will be selected based on their quality, not origin.

- 7. I attended the CCIT webinar and I believe it was mentioned that there would be a distribution list for opening/closing dates for future call for proposals? I'm just wondering if I could please get added to that list.**

Answer: Yes, your name and email address will be added to the distribution list.