

NSERC Alliance – Alberta Innovates Advance grants

Merit indicators

	Exceptional (1)	Exceeds (2)	Meets (3)	Does not satisfy (4)
Relevance and outcomes	The proposed outcomes are of exceptional importance to Alberta/Canada and may be important globally, with potential to have the highest impact for Alberta and Canada. The proposed research is exceptionally innovative and required to advance and validate the proposed technology. A comprehensive strategy to translate research and advance the technology's readiness level makes intended outcomes and impacts very likely .	The proposed outcomes are very important to Alberta/Canada and may be important globally, with potential for high impact for Alberta and Canada. The proposed research is very original and required to advance and validate the proposed technology. A clear strategy to translate research and advance the technology's readiness level makes intended outcomes and impacts likely .	The proposed outcomes are important to Alberta/Canada, with potential for impact for Alberta and Canada. The proposed research is original and required to advance and validate the proposed technology. A strategy is in place to translate research and advance the technology's readiness level through which intended outcomes and impacts may happen .	The proposal does not adequately establish why the project will be important or impactful to Alberta/Canada. The proposed research is not original or is not well-positioned to advance the proposed technology. A strategy to translate research and advance the technology's readiness level is not convincingly presented such that intended outcomes and impacts are unlikely to happen.
Quality of proposal	The objectives and deliverables are comprehensive and planned activities are highly likely to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. Expenditures are clearly aligned with activities and justified. Indicators and methods are clearly defined and highly effective for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes. Where applicable, sex, gender and diversity considerations have been comprehensively addressed in the research design.	The objectives and deliverables are clear and planned activities are likely to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. Expenditures are aligned with activities and justified. Indicators and methods are defined and effective for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes. Where applicable, sex, gender and diversity considerations have been clearly addressed in the research design.	The objectives and deliverables are defined and planned activities are somewhat likely to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. Expenditures are reasonably aligned with activities and justified. Some indicators and methods for monitoring progress and assessing outcomes are proposed and appropriate . Where applicable, sex, gender and diversity considerations have been addressed in the research design.	The objectives and deliverables are not adequately defined or the planned activities are not appropriate to achieve the objectives and expected outcomes. Expenditures are not adequately aligned to activities or not adequately justified. Indicators and methods for monitoring progress/assessing outcomes are inappropriate or not adequately defined. Where applicable, sex, gender and diversity considerations have not been adequately addressed in the research design.
Project team and training opportunities	The collective expertise, including of the principal investigator, is highly appropriate to successfully carry out the activities. The project will provide an enriched training experience that leads to innovative and valuable skills appropriate to all level of trainees. Innovative practices support equity, diversity and inclusion.	The collective expertise, including of the principal investigator, is appropriate to successfully carry out the activities. The project will provide a training experience that leads to valuable skills appropriate to all level of trainees. Advanced practices support equity, diversity and inclusion.	The collective expertise, including of the principal investigator, is sufficient to successfully carry out the activities. The project will provide a training experience that leads to relevant skills appropriate to all level of trainees. The training plan includes practices that consider equity, diversity and inclusion.	The proposal does not adequately establish that participants have the required expertise to carry out the project. The proposal does not adequately establish that the project will provide a training experience that will develop relevant skills. The proposal does not outline that equity, diversity and inclusion have been taken into consideration.
Future market opportunity	The need, the representation of the final product/solution, the end-users, and the path to reach the end-users are very clearly defined. The competitive analysis shows the solution is exceptionally innovative, unique and potentially market-leading . The solution is clearly positioned to leverage strengths and advantages in Alberta towards a targeted future market opportunity.	The need, the representation of the final product/solution, the end-users, and the path to reach the end-users are well defined . The competitive analysis shows the solution is highly innovative and unique . The solution is well positioned to leverage strengths and advantages in Alberta towards a targeted future market opportunity.	The need, the representation of the final product/solution, the end-users, and the path to reach the end-users are adequately defined . The competitive analysis shows the solution is innovative and there is a reasonable competitive advantage over others . The solution is adequately positioned to leverage strengths and advantages in Alberta towards a targeted future market opportunity.	The need is not well defined and the representation of the final product/solution is not clear. The path defining how the solution would reach the end-users is not clear. Solution is not sufficiently innovative to have a competitive advantage. The proposal does not sufficiently demonstrate the potential strengths and advantages of an Alberta-developed solution.