

ALBERTA INNOVATES

Pilot to Pathway: Alberta Post Secondary Commercialization Pathway Ecosystem Development Program Call

Fact Sheet

Call Overview

Alberta's post-secondary institutions each hold a piece of what it takes to move applied research into commercial outcomes — strong research, promising technologies, and talented people. What's missing is not potential, it's intention: too often these pieces operate as disconnected programs rather than a system, and the people and ideas that could move furthest fall through the gaps between institutions.

This Call invites Alberta Post Secondary Institutions to close those gaps deliberately. Open to any Alberta post-secondary — university, college, or polytechnic — it funds proposals that treat research commercialization as a pathway to be designed, not a project to be funded. That might mean a genuinely new provincial-scale idea, like a shared commercialization space accessible to any student through a common voucher system. It might mean connecting dots that already exist — linking institutions, industry, and talent supports that have never been intentionally aligned before. The ambition here is not measured by novelty; it's measured by whether the idea moves the whole province forward, not just one campus.

We are seeking proposals built for durability, not a single funding cycle: pathways designed to keep working after the grant ends, tested and refined so they can inform how Alberta invests going forward. That can include foundational infrastructure — dedicated labs, shared space, core capacity — where that infrastructure is what makes a lasting, provincial-scale pathway possible.

Ultimately, this Call exists to test what individual institutions could not build alone — and to generate the evidence Alberta needs to know which ideas are worth scaling into permanent, province-wide investment.

Funding

The Program Call provides support for up to \$1,000,000 per project, for up to a two-year term.

- The funding amount for individual projects is based on the outcomes and quality of the proposed project.
- Funding is for projects with measurable outcomes within a set timeframe and not for ongoing base operations of an institution.

- Applicant contribution is not required for this Program Call. However, additional consideration will be given to applicants where it is demonstrated that the applicant contributes cash or in-kind funding or leverages funding from other sources.
- Funding is paid directly to the post-secondary applicant and disbursed upon receipt and approval of a milestone-based report. A payment upon execution of the investment agreement may be considered to accelerate the project.
- At Alberta Innovates' discretion and based on the project need, funding may exceed the maximum.

Alberta Innovates only funds reasonable costs incurred after an Investment Agreement is signed by Alberta Innovates and the Applicant. Any costs incurred before the Project Start Date defined in the Investment Agreement and costs greater than market prices are ineligible. Costs must be incurred between arm's-length entities. Please refer to the Investment Agreement on the Program website for detailed information, including eligible and ineligible expenses.

Eligibility

Applicant Eligibility

As this Call is focused on leveraging post-secondary commercialization opportunities, applicants must be:

- An Alberta post-secondary listed on the Government of Alberta publicly funded institution list. <https://www.alberta.ca/designated-post-secondary-institutions-alberta>

While one post-secondary is required to be the lead applicant, additional consideration will be given to applicants who have formed partnerships with other Alberta post secondaries.

Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all Projects must:

- Demonstrate a clear alignment to the Call objective.
- Include evaluation and sustainability plans to maximize project impact.
- Have an effective governance structure and management team in place to execute the project.
- Include critical "go/no go" milestones
- Be completed with a maximum of 24 months
- Comply with other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time to time

We encourage applicants to design pathways, not projects — additional considerations may include:

- Demonstrate how the proposal strengthens the broader provincial commercialization system, coordinating across universities, colleges, polytechnics, industry, and ecosystem partners —

the kind of initiative individual institutions couldn't deliver alone, rather than a single-campus solution.

- Show a clear connection to existing or emerging commercialization pathways and talent investments (e.g., GSS, Advance, CASBE, MITACS, Lab2Market, LABS4, other federal, etc) — this Call is meant to intentionally connect the system, not fund a stand-alone initiative that duplicates what already exists.
- Build in durability from the outset: describe how the pathway or capability will keep operating and generating value beyond the grant period, and what evidence it will produce to inform future provincial investment decisions.
- Where infrastructure is part of the proposal — dedicated labs, shared space, core equipment — show it's the foundation for a lasting, provincial-scale pathway, not a one-off buildout for a single institution.
- Be explicit about intentionality: whether the idea is genuinely new or connects dots that already exist, the proposal should show why this is the right way to close a specific gap in Alberta's talent-to-commercialization pipeline — not a rationale built to access available funding for work already underway.

How to Apply

STEP 1: ENGAGEMENT

Applicants are strongly encouraged to Connect with the Emerging Technology and Talent Team Call lead (Adam Brown at adam.brown@albertainnovates.ca) prior to completing a Full Proposal

STEP 2: FULL PROPOSAL

Access, complete and submit the Full Proposal form within the Funding Opportunities tab on the Portal dashboard.

The review process is highly competitive and only the highest-quality projects will be considered for funding. Applicants may be requested to present their proposed project and/or provide additional information throughout the review.

If the review is positive, a funding recommendation will be made to senior management and may include adjustments to the funding request and/or funding conditions.

STEP 3: AGREEMENT

Successful applicants will execute an agreement with Alberta Innovates to proceed with the Project.

Agreement will include details regarding:

- Reporting on progress to milestones and budget on an agreed timeline during the term of the Agreement; and
- Reporting on progress to outcomes on an agreed to timeline during and following the term of the Agreement.
- Project payments are based on milestone achievement and progress reporting.

Key Dates

Call Launch Date	September 14, 2026
Full Proposal Submission Closing Date	November 16, 2026, at 4:00 pm MST
Targeted Review Completion Date	January 31, 2027
Targeted Agreement Execution Date	February 28, 2027

Evaluation

All applications are reviewed and evaluated to determine if they fit the project call objectives and intended outcomes. Alberta Innovates staff and external expert reviewers are engaged to evaluate Applications.

Alberta Innovates retains the sole right to determine the evaluation process and assessment criteria and does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure their objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies set by Alberta Innovates.

All investment decisions are at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates.

Contact Information

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