ALBERTA INNOVATES

Application Guide

Strategic Industries Technology and Knowledge Development Grant

Last updated

August 17, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About Alberta Innovates

Innovation is the catalyst for sustainable jobs, economic and community strength, improved health, and environmental benefits. Alberta Innovates leads and accelerates innovation from discovery to use across all sectors in all parts of the province. As Alberta's largest research and innovation agency, we are uniquely positioned to propel great ideas forward to improve the lives of Albertans today and for generations to come.

The projects that our portfolios invest in are critical to how Alberta Innovates achieves positive impact for Albertans in alignment with the Government of Alberta's research and innovation priorities, as expressed in our corporate Business Plan. (See the most recent Business Plan in the Publications section of the Alberta Innovates website). Accordingly, it is essential for project outcomes to align with those of the portfolio.

Alberta Innovates believes the research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem is stronger and more sustainable when it is broadly representative of the overall diversity of our community. We strive to ensure that all interested and qualified parties have an equitable opportunity to participate and contribute to the ecosystem and that our processes are inclusive.

1 STRATEGIC INDUSTRIES

The Strategic Industries (SI) business unit supports researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs, industry partners, and post-secondary institutions in accelerating the development, demonstration, and deployment of transformative technologies that strengthen Alberta's economic competitiveness, industrial productivity, and innovation capacity. Through funding, strategic partnerships, and innovation ecosystem support, SI helps advance novel technologies, products, processes, materials, and platform innovations from concept through commercialization while fostering the growth of Alberta's knowledge workforce.

SI supports innovation across key sectors that align with Alberta's economic strengths and future growth opportunities, including energy, aerospace, defence, advanced materials and manufacturing, agriculture, and environmental technologies. The business unit also provides scientific, technical, and innovation expertise to support economic diversification, technology adoption, industry competitiveness, and sustainable development throughout the province.

The SI business unit has four portfolios: Energy; Aerospace, Defence, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing; Food and Agriculture; and Environment. Each portfolio has innovation areas for investment, and all four portfolios are open for funding applications through the Strategic Industries Innovation and Knowledge Development Process described in this document.

In addition to this continuous intake process, each portfolio may employ periodic calls for proposals (also called funding competitions) or other intake mechanisms to award grant funding. Each call for proposals or other intake mechanism will have its own application guide, process, timelines, and evaluation criteria.

Food & Agriculture Portfolio	Aerospace, Defence, Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Portfolio	Environment Portfolio	Energy Portfolio
• Sustainable AgTech • Food Technology	• Advanced Materials & Manufacturing • Aerospace & Defence	• Water • Land and Biodiversity	• Energy Sources • Energy Systems

Figure 1*: Innovation areas for the four Strategic Industries Portfolios using this continuous intake application process.*

Strategic innovation areas for SI portfolios using this intake process include:

1.1 Energy Portfolio

Through the Energy portfolio, Alberta Innovates supports the development and deployment of novel technologies, materials, components, and processes that improve the efficiency, reliability, sustainability, and competitiveness of Alberta's energy sector. The portfolio advances innovations that enable the generation, conversion, storage, transmission, and management of energy while supporting emissions reduction, energy security, and economic growth. Funding and innovation ecosystem supports are provided to the following two focus areas: **Energy Sources** and **Energy Systems**.

A detailed Energy Portfolio Description outlining the focus areas and investment priorities is available on the Alberta Innovates website.

1.1.1 Energy Sources Innovation Area

Energy Sources focuses on the development of innovative materials, components, processes, and technologies that enable the generation, conversion, and harvesting of energy. This includes advancements in photovoltaic materials, fuel cells, electrolyzers, catalysts, membranes, turbines, generators, reactor technologies, thermal energy systems, bioenergy conversion technologies, and other enabling technologies across renewable, hydrogen, nuclear, and emerging energy platforms. The focus area supports advancements that improve energy conversion efficiency, durability, reliability, scalability, and environmental performance through breakthroughs in materials science, manufacturing techniques, component design, system architectures, and novel energy conversion mechanisms. Investment priorities include next-generation energy-generating materials, advanced energy conversion technologies, reactor and fuel innovations, high-performance catalysts, next-generation electrolyzers, innovative component designs, advanced manufacturing approaches, integrated energy storage technologies, and digital solutions that improve efficiency, performance, scalability, and environmental sustainability.

1.1.2 Energy Systems Innovation Area

Energy Systems focuses on the development of technologies, infrastructure, components, and control architectures that enable the transmission, distribution, storage, management, and optimization of energy. This includes innovations in energy storage technologies, grid infrastructure, power electronics, microgrids, hydrogen distribution systems, sensors, communications technologies, monitoring platforms, digital energy management systems, and other enabling technologies that improve the performance and resilience of energy networks. The focus area supports advancements that improve reliability, flexibility, resilience, interoperability, efficiency, and cybersecurity through breakthroughs in energy storage materials, system integration, control systems, digital technologies, monitoring capabilities, and network optimization. Investment priorities include grid modernization technologies, advanced storage systems, artificial intelligence and optimization tools, digital twins, monitoring and diagnostic technologies, cybersecurity solutions, next-generation energy infrastructure, and innovative energy management technologies that enhance the performance, adaptability, and sustainability of integrated energy systems.

1.2 Aerospace, Defence and Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Portfolio

Through the Aerospace, Defence and Advanced Materials & Manufacturing portfolio, Alberta Innovates supports the development of advanced materials, manufacturing processes, aerospace technologies, autonomous systems, and enabling platform technologies that strengthen Alberta's industrial competitiveness and diversification. Funding and innovation ecosystem supports are provided to the following two focus areas: **Aerospace & Defence** and **Advanced Materials & Manufacturing**.

A detailed ADAMM Portfolio Description outlining the focus areas and investment priorities is available on the Alberta Innovates website.

1.2.1 Aerospace & Defence Innovation Area

Aerospace & Defence focuses on the development, demonstration, and commercialization of aerospace and aviation technologies, defence dual-use and security solutions, autonomous systems, and enabling advanced manufacturing and automation capabilities. Areas of interest include propulsion, lightweight materials and structures, avionics, robotics and unmanned platforms, satellites and space-enabled technologies, and integrated sensing, communications, navigation, surveillance, and secure digital systems.

The focus area supports high-impact innovations that improve operational performance, safety, reliability, resilience, autonomy, manufacturability, and sustainability while strengthening Alberta's industrial capacity, supply chains, economic diversification, and global competitiveness. Investment priorities include next-generation propulsion; aerospace-grade and novel materials; autonomous and unmanned systems; advanced sensing, surveillance, communications, navigation, and cybersecurity technologies; satellite and space-enabled solutions; digital engineering, artificial intelligence, and simulation; systems integration; and scalable manufacturing approaches that accelerate technology adoption, commercialization, and growth in Alberta.

1.2.2 Advanced Materials & Manufacturing Innovation Area

Advanced Materials & Manufacturing focuses on the development, demonstration, and commercialization of novel materials, material-enabled products, and advanced manufacturing and automation technologies with applications across Alberta's key and emerging industries. Areas of interest include bitumen-derived products, biomaterials, polymers, composites, coatings, nanomaterials, advanced alloys, specialty chemicals, additive manufacturing, robotics, digital manufacturing, and other technologies that improve product performance and production capability.

The focus area supports high-impact innovations that improve strength, durability, corrosion and wear resistance, thermal and electrical performance, weight, functionality, recyclability, manufacturability, and environmental performance.

Investment priorities include novel material synthesis and processing; smart and functional materials; advanced coatings and surfaces; low-carbon, circular, and bio-based materials; value-added resource utilization; additive and automated manufacturing; artificial intelligence, simulation, and digital engineering; scalable production methods; and solutions that accelerate technology adoption, commercialization, supply-chain resilience, economic diversification, and globally competitive growth in Alberta.

1.3 Food & Agriculture Portfolio

Through the Food & Agriculture portfolio, Alberta Innovates supports advancements that improve agricultural productivity, sustainability, resilience, and value-added production through the application of emerging technologies and scientific innovation. The portfolio promotes technologies that enhance resource efficiency, environmental performance, food production, and the growth of Alberta's agri-food economy. Funding and innovation ecosystem supports are provided to the following three focus areas: **Sustainable AgTech**, and **Food Technology**.

A detailed A&F Portfolio Description outlining the focus areas and investment priorities is available on the Alberta Innovates website.

1.3.1 Sustainable Agriculture Technology (AgTech) Innovation Area

Sustainable AgTech focuses on the development and application of innovative technologies, equipment, digital tools, materials, and production systems that improve agricultural productivity, efficiency, and sustainability. This includes advancements in precision agriculture, automation, robotics, sensors, remote sensing technologies, artificial intelligence, decision-support systems, controlled environment agriculture, and resource-efficient farming technologies. Investment priorities include technologies that reduce inputs, improve crop and livestock performance, enhance operational efficiency, enable data-driven decision making, strengthen resilience to environmental and market challenges, and support sustainable agricultural production across Alberta.

1.3.2 Food technology Innovation Area

Food Technology focuses on the development of innovative products, processes, ingredients, manufacturing technologies, and packaging solutions that enhance food production, quality, safety, nutrition, and sustainability. This includes advancements in food processing technologies, alternative proteins, functional ingredients, food preservation systems, smart packaging, waste reduction technologies, and value-added food products. Investment priorities include technologies that improve food quality and safety, increase processing efficiency, reduce waste, create value-added agricultural products, support commercialization of novel food innovations, and strengthen Alberta's competitive position within domestic and global food markets.

1.4 Environment Portfolio

Through the Environment Portfolio, Alberta Innovates supports the development and application of technologies, tools, and knowledge that protect and enhance Alberta's water, land, biodiversity, and natural resources. The portfolio advances innovations that improve environmental stewardship, resource management, monitoring capabilities, and long-term sustainability outcomes. Funding and innovation ecosystem supports are provided to the following two innovation areas: **Water Innovation** and **Land and Biodiversity**.

A detailed Environment Portfolio Description outlining the focus areas and investment priorities is available on the Alberta Innovates website.

1.4.1 Water Innovation Area

Water focuses on the development of technologies, tools, and approaches that improve the management, monitoring, treatment, conservation, and sustainable use of water resources. This includes advancements in water treatment systems, monitoring and sensing technologies, wastewater management, water reuse and recycling technologies, watershed management tools, and digital platforms that support informed water management decisions. Investment priorities include solutions that improve water quality, increase water use efficiency, strengthen monitoring and predictive capabilities, enhance infrastructure performance, support watershed resilience, and enable sustainable management of Alberta's water resources.

1.4.2 Land and Biodiversity Innovation Area

Land and Biodiversity focuses on the development and application of technologies, practices, and knowledge that improve land stewardship, ecosystem health, reclamation, conservation, and natural resource management. This includes advancements in environmental monitoring, remote sensing, ecological restoration, biodiversity assessment, reclamation technologies, landscape management tools, and decision-support systems. Investment priorities include solutions that improve land-use planning, support ecosystem restoration and biodiversity outcomes, enhance environmental monitoring and assessment capabilities, strengthen sustainable resource management practices, and improve resilience across natural and managed landscapes throughout Alberta.

2 FUNDING

2.1 Funding Available

This application process offers funding support to a maximum of $750,000 per project. Within this maximum, Alberta Innovates funding will be considered for up to 50% of total eligible project costs, with the remaining contributions from private, government, and select in-kind sources.

Alberta Innovates may consider at its sole discretion exceptions to this fund matching requirement or maximum funding amount based on: the potential impact of the project; the strategic importance of the project to the province of Alberta; whether the applicants represent marginalized communities or sectors; the project's stage of development; and the amount of funding requested from Alberta Innovates.

2.2 Fund Matching

Project funding from the applicant and/or project partners may consist of cash or in-kind contributions, with a strong preference for some level of cash support for all projects. Cash contributions to project funding can serve as evidence of market demand and end-user interest, providing a favorable factor in the evaluation of project budgets and financing. Collaboration with other funding agencies is highly encouraged; this application process imposes no strict limitation on the stacking of contributions from multiple sources. However, in addition to the note above regarding cash support serving as a market signal, reliance on uncommitted funding may result in delays or complications during the contracting process with Alberta Innovates.

2.3 Eligible Costs

Alberta Innovates will only contribute toward eligible and reasonable project costs incurred after the date of the funding approval letter, provided an Investment Agreement is signed by both Alberta Innovates and the Applicant. Any costs incurred prior to the project start date defined in the Investment Agreement and costs greater than market prices will be deemed ineligible. Additionally, all costs must be incurred between entities operating at arm's length.

Eligible Cash Costs include expenses for the direct costs of project-related activities that are directly related to achieving the objectives of the Project.

Eligible In-kind Costs are defined as the non-cash provision of essential goods or services that the applicant, partners, and/or sponsoring organizations provide to support the project, valued in monetary terms. In-kind contributions could be in the form of cash-equivalent goods or services, which, if not donated to the project, would have to be purchased with project funds. In-kind contributions could also include the time of individuals including staff from the applicant and partner organizations spent in providing direction and/or participating directly in the project. The value placed on in-kind contributions may not exceed the fair market value of the product or service. It should be noted that In-kind contributions fall within the purview of generally accepted accounting principles.

Please refer to the Investment Agreement available on the Alberta Innovates website and/or Appendix A in this document for further details on Eligible and Ineligible expenses.

3 ELIGIBILITY

This application intake process is for projects which support the development and advancement of technologies and knowledge to reduce costs, increase productivity, enhance competitiveness, boost the value of agriculture and forestry commodities, and reduce the environmental footprint (including GHGs) associated with natural resource development. It aims to build on the existing strengths of Alberta's natural resource industries and to develop new opportunities and markets. These portfolios also aim to develop, advance and commercialize innovative solutions that will be used by Alberta's industries for broad deployment in Alberta, Canada, and beyond.

3.1 Applicant Eligibility

Applications are open to all categories of lead applicant, including technology developers, industry, industrial associations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), research and development (R&D) organizations, post-secondary institutions, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, government research labs, and individuals.

For this application process, SMEs are defined as companies with fewer than 500 full-time employees and less than $50,000,000 in annual gross revenue.

Applicants are not required to be based in Alberta but must demonstrate a clear value proposition for Alberta. Projects that will be researched, piloted, demonstrated, and/or implemented in Alberta with long-term Alberta impact will be prioritized.

All Applicants must also:

- Exist as a corporate person, with up-to-date corporate filings and a corporate bank account;
- Be authorized to undertake the proposed project and execute a grant with Alberta Innovates on our standard terms; and
- Not otherwise be prohibited from receiving Alberta Innovates funding, for instance due to a past bad debt or otherwise not be in good financial standing with Alberta Innovates, InnoTech Alberta or C-FER Technologies.

Please note: For Applicants who are **not** post-secondary institutions, Alberta Innovates may perform corporate, bankruptcy, and litigation searches, and conduct other forms of due diligence on the applicant company and its principals.

3.2 Partners and/or End-User Criteria

Applicants are not required to have any project partners. However, technology development projects must clearly demonstrate that a market exists for commercialization of the technology. Similarly, knowledge generation projects must clearly demonstrate the value proposition for the end user of the knowledge solution. End-users must be identified and are preferably engaged with the project. Letters of support and/or confirmation of contributions from interested end-users are strongly encouraged to accompany the application.

Applicants with strong end-user partnerships and/or funding from other organizations are preferred. Collaboration between multiple organizations is encouraged to enhance and leverage the value proposition by demonstrating opportunities for technology validation, commercialization, and sharing of results.

Applicants are encouraged to engage and include Alberta's post-secondary and research institutions in the project consortium where appropriate. It is desirable for projects to attract and train highly qualified personnel.

Note: For partners who are **not** post-secondary institutions, Alberta Innovates may perform corporate, bankruptcy, and litigation searches, as well as other forms of due diligence.

3.3 Project Eligibility

To qualify for funding, all proposed projects must:

- Align with objectives of the portfolio for which funding is requested;

- Be between Technology Readiness Levels 3 and 7 at the start of the project for technology-development projects (higher start-level TRLs may be considered on a case-by-case basis);
- Demonstrate potential contributions to improved best practices, operations, or policy for knowledge-generation projects;
- Be staged with critical "go/no go" milestones; and
- Comply with other criteria that Alberta Innovates may develop from time to time.

Funding made available through this Process is provided to support execution of projects with well- defined objectives, milestones, deliverables, and timelines. Applicants must clearly delineate the scope of the project for which funding from the Process is being requested and impact potential associated with that scope of work. Any related work outside the scope of the project (e.g., before the project term or in parallel with the project) may be discussed in the application but should be clearly indicated as such.

3.4 Project Term

The maximum duration for projects funded through this intake process is four years from the project commencement date as defined in the Investment Agreement. Alberta Innovates, at its sole discretion, may consider projects with longer timeframes if a compelling value proposition is well justified. Applicants are encouraged to consult with their Alberta Innovates contact.

3.5 Project Type Definitions

Technology Development: Projects in this area focus on developing or advancing technology/innovation solutions that will be used by the applicant, their partners and/or identified end-users to advance commercialization and broad deployment of the solution in Alberta and elsewhere. The outcomes of the projects or the commercialization pathway of the technology/innovation solution should have direct impact resulting in economic, environmental and social benefits.

Knowledge Generation: Projects in this area focus on the development of knowledge to address a gap or bring new insights to help advance a technical, process or policy innovation. Projects may gather new scientific data and information that enable economic, environmental and social benefits for Albertans by: informing policy, best practices, and regulatory development; furthering understanding of emerging technology trends and opportunities; enhancing citizen engagement in the generation of new knowledge; and exploring market sector challenges and barriers to implementing technology. A key objective for these projects is to develop a plan to share the knowledge generated with appropriate stakeholders and end-users and ensure progress towards desired outcomes.

3.6 Project Examples

To better understand the types of projects funded by Alberta Innovates and through the Strategic Industries business unit portfolios, visit our online Project Library and use filters to identify relevant projects of interest.

4 APPLICATION PROCESS

This process accepts applications on a continuous basis, and consists of three primary phases, as described below. The timeline of each phase is project-specific and depends on timely submission of the required forms at each phase of the process.

Prospective applicants are encouraged to review this guide, along with portfolio-specific information outlining investment priorities, before initiating the first stage of submission, We recommend contacting an Alberta Innovates portfolio representative in advance.

Assigned portfolio representatives (project advisors) are available to assist both prospective and successful applicants. During the application process, project advisors provide support and guidance, including the review of draft applications prior to submission upon request. Additionally, they continue to offer advice and guidance to successful applicants throughout project execution.

Registration and application forms can be found in our online Application Portal.

4.1 Phase 1 - Engagement and Expression of Interest

Before submitting an application, please contact the Alberta Innovates Strategic Industries team to assess if the project scope aligns with Government of Alberta and Alberta Innovates priorities and meets the requirements for project eligibility.

To submit an application, an account will need to be registered via the online Application Portal, and an Expression of Interest (EOI) form will need to be completed. The EOI form is available through the portal to access, complete, and submit.

After submission through the portal, the EOI will be evaluated by Alberta Innovates based on the criteria outline in Section 5 below. Once an EOI is submitted, applicants will typically receive a decision within 2-4 weeks.

Note: Applications must be submitted through the online Application Portal. Applications submitted via email, print materials, or otherwise outside the portal will not be considered. However, at its sole discretion, Alberta Innovates may accept EOIs submitted through partnering organizations outside of the portal as long as sufficient information is available to conduct a review based on the criteria outlined below.

4.2 Phase 2 - Full Proposal

Applicants whose EOIs are reviewed and approved will be invited to submit a Full Proposal (FP) through the online application portal. This Phase is by invitation only; unsolicited FPs will not be accepted.

Submission instructions and guidance will be available to applicants in the portal. Please note that the FP forms and evaluation criteria may differ between the project types described in Section 3.4 above. Furthermore, the amount of information requested and level of detail required may differ for low-dollar projects ($250,000 or less) and high-dollar projects (greater than $250,000).

After submission through the portal, FPs will undergo a preliminary check for completeness and a comprehensive merit evaluation (see Section 5 below). Alberta Innovates may request clarification of submitted information or additional information from the applicant at any time during the application and evaluation process.

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

Following submission of FPs, applicants will usually receive a decision within 4-8 weeks.

Note: The application review process is highly competitive, highly selective, and only the highest-quality projects will be considered for funding.

4.3 Phase 3 - Agreement and Project Management

Successful applicants will be required to execute an Investment Agreement with Alberta Innovates to proceed with the project. The Investment Agreement will include details regarding reporting on milestone progress and budget on an agreed to timeline during the term of the agreement; and reporting on outcomes on an agreed to timeline during and following (up to 5 years) the term of the agreement.

Funding from Alberta Innovates will be disbursed based on milestone achievement and progress reporting. See Section 6 for further information about performance measurement, outcomes reporting and knowledge sharing, and Section 8 for further information about the Investment Agreement.

5 EVALUATION

Applications will be evaluated based on their merit, alignment with portfolio objectives, alignment with Alberta Innovates investment priorities, and potential to deliver positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes. Each application will be assessed using the evaluation criteria outlined below to determine alignment with the overarching objectives of Alberta Innovates and the respective portfolios.

Application evaluations will be conducted by Alberta Innovates staff and external experts. Alberta Innovates does not disclose the names of its reviewers to ensure objectivity and impartiality. Internal and external parties involved in the evaluation are subject to confidentiality and conflict-of-interest policies practiced by Alberta Innovates.

Final funding decisions are made at the sole discretion of Alberta Innovates based on the criteria outlined here, the recommendation made by the expert review team, and any additional considerations of pertinence to the Alberta Innovates board of directors and senior leaders in their duties.

All decisions made by Alberta Innovates are final and may not be appealed.

5.1 EOI Evaluation Criteria

EOIs submitted in Phase 1 of the application process will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. *Innovation Opportunity:* The relevance of the proposed work to the target industry / end-user, its advantage relative to current-state, alignment to Alberta Innovates and portfolio priorities, and the technology and/or knowledge advancement during the project.
2. *Proposed Commercialization Pathway:* The plan to advance technology or knowledge towards market readiness and/or end-user adoption as well as potential risk mitigation strategies.
3. *Project Overview:* The project design, methodology and team to achieve clearly identified objectives, deliverables and outcomes.
4. *Impact:* The environmental, economic, social, and other proposed impacts of the work to Alberta.

5.2 FP Evaluation Criteria

FPs submitted in Phase 2 of the application process will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Technology Development Projects	Knowledge Generation Projects
Opportunity	**Opportunity**
1 Innovation Opportunity	**1** Innovation Opportunity
2 Market Opportunity	**2** Knowledge Mobilization Pathway
3 Commercialization Pathway	
Implementation	**Implementation**
4 Project Overview	**3** Project Overview
5 Project Budget and Funding Commitment	**4** Project Budget and Funding Commitment
6 Project Team	**5** Project Team
Impact	**Impact**
7 Impacts	**6** Impacts

5.3 FP Evaluation Criteria Descriptions

Innovation Opportunity

FPs will be evaluated on the merits of the proposed opportunity to address a challenge, and its strengths and advantages relative to current state. The opportunity will need to be aligned with Alberta Innovates and portfolio priorities. The FP should clearly articulate how the proposed opportunity will help address the stated challenge. Applicants need to articulate relevance and feasibility to the target end-user / industry. TRL or knowledge advancement during the project is also important, including how existing and generated intellectual property related to this proposed work will be managed and protected (if applicable).

Market Opportunity (Technology Development Projects only)

FPs will be evaluated on the potential for the proposed work to be commercialized or adopted by end-users in Alberta's relevant sector(s). This includes: a) the estimation of the market (end-user) size both at the end of the project and five years after completion; b) the value proposition for the customer, early adopters and/or other end-users; and c) the description/comparison of the closest direct and indirect competitors for the proposed work. Please note that applicants may choose to attach a competitive analysis table.

Commercialization Pathway (Technology Development Projects only)

FPs will be evaluated on the feasibility of the proposed pathway to commercialization of the technology, including consideration of technical, financial and/or regulatory hurdles and the resources required to achieve success. Risk mitigation strategies should be appropriately identified and addressed. The plan to achieve market readiness and/or adoption should be realistic.

Knowledge Mobilization Pathway (Knowledge Generation Projects only)

FPs will be evaluated on the feasibility of the proposed knowledge mobilization pathway to support adoption / implementation of results in Alberta or target market(s); applicant description and understanding of potential end-users of project results; and the level of end-user interest and participation in the project. Barriers to adoption and mitigation strategies should be described.

Project Overview

FPs will be evaluated on clarity of objectives, deliverables and outcomes; quality of the proposed project design and methodology; practicality of proposed timelines; and achievability of the project plan. This criterion also includes an assessment of project performance measures, risk analysis, and mitigation strategies.

Project Budget and Funding Commitment

Full proposals will be evaluated on the clarity and feasibility of the project budget including reasonable explanation / justification for project costs, and the level and suitability of funding from other sources including cash and in-kind contributions.

Project Team

FPs will be evaluated on: the suitability of skills, expertise, and time commitment proposed for project team members; whether the team has access to appropriate facilities and resources to complete the project; and level of commitment / participation by project partners (where appropriate).

Impacts

FPs will be evaluated on their potential for significant, sustained, and measurable environmental, economic, social, and other identified impacts of the work to Alberta. Benefits should be realized beyond the applicant. Estimated timelines for the benefits of the work to be realized are within a reasonable range and the justification of any negative impacts are provided.

6 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

Alberta Innovates invests in research and innovation activities on behalf of and for the benefit of Albertans to build a prosperous, healthy, and sustainable future for the province.

To maximize the impact of these investments, funding is tied to the achievement of outcomes, and is disbursed on milestone completion basis. Funding recipients will be required to submit a progress report and/or final report demonstrating sufficient progress before Alberta Innovates will advance any given milestone payment. Project update meetings may be held with the applicant and the assigned project advisor to assess progress towards milestones. These meetings can include other funding partners and funding agencies as necessary.

Alberta Innovates has a common set of performance metrics it monitors, both at the individual project level and for each portfolio. Funding recipients will be required to report on project outcomes and impacts which include performance metrics associated with innovation, commercialization, knowledge mobilization, and economic, environmental and social measures. These metrics may evolve over time. Outcomes of funded projects will be monitored for up to five years after project completion to evaluate the economic, social, health and/or environmental benefits to the province and beyond resulting from Alberta Innovates investments.

Alberta Innovates is committed to knowledge sharing from funded projects to maximize investment impact. In addition to written reports, recipients may be required to commit to specific activities such as knowledge-sharing workshops, lessons-learned activities, or other knowledge sharing initiatives as determined by Alberta Innovates.

7 CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Alberta Innovates is committed to protecting the confidentiality of application details. External experts who act as reviewers must sign a confidentiality agreement.

Project details are kept confidential during the application process. Following funding announcements, Alberta Innovates will publicly share a non-confidential summary of approved projects. Public reporting of the final project outcomes and learnings is required while respecting business competitiveness and confidentiality.

As a provincial corporation, Alberta Innovates is subject to the protection and disclosure provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act. Personal information is collected pursuant to Section 33(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act as it relates to and is necessary for the portfolio.

8 INVESTMENT AGREEMENT

Once an application for funding has been approved, Alberta Innovates will require successful applicants to sign a standard-form Investment Agreement. A copy of the Investment Agreement is available on the Alberta Innovates website for reference.

The Investment Agreement sets out in detail the roles, responsibilities, and obligations of the various parties to ensure a successful project. Alberta Innovates will not provide any funding until the Investment Agreement has been signed by all parties and will only contribute toward costs incurred after the date of the Alberta Innovates funding approval letter.

Alberta Innovates will only fund applicants who have satisfied all eligibility criteria. Meeting the eligibility criteria does not guarantee access to funding, and all funding decisions will be made by Alberta Innovates at its sole discretion.

Alberta Innovates will only correspond in writing and provide copies of the funding application to the person named in the application form as the person authorized to speak for the applicant.

For any questions about this guide or application expectations, please contact Alberta Innovates using the contact information provided below. Please note that Alberta Innovates may modify this guide from time to time in keeping with any changes to the portfolio.

9 TRUSTED FUNDING PARTNERS

Alberta Innovates works closely with other funding organizations, often provincially or federally funded, that share similar goals and objectives. During the application process, applicants will be asked if Alberta Innovates can share the application with our trusted partners for the sole purpose of determining their interest in funding the project with us. If the trusted partner is interested, they may request additional information. These trusted partners adhere to strict confidentiality guidelines.

10 CONTACT INFORMATION

10.1 Aerospace, Defence, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing

Aerospace, Defence, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
Claude Ghazar, P.Eng.
Executive Director
Claude.Ghazar@albertainnovates.ca

Aerospace and Defence
Chioma Okoro, PhD
Senior Program Manager
Chioma.Okoro@albertainnovates.ca

Bio-based Materials, Manufacturing and Construction
Jelena Sapkovskaja, MAg
Technology Lead
Jelena.Sapkovskaja@albertainnovates.ca

Resource Utilization & Circularity, Advanced Manufacturing
Mehr Nikoo, MASc, P.Eng.
Program Director
Mehr.Nikoo@albertainnovates.ca

Bitumen Advanced Materials, Critical Minerals
Shunlan Liu, Phd
Program Director
Shunlan.Liu@albertainnovates.ca

Carbon Utilization and Conversion
Sanah Dar, MASc, P.Eng.
Program Manager

10.2 Energy

Energy:
Vanessa White, P.Eng.
Executive Director
Vanessa.White@albertainnovates.ca

Carbon Capture & Storage (CCS) and Hydrogen
David Van Den Assem, BSc., MEDes, MBA, LEED Green Associate
Program Director
David.VanDenAssem@albertainnovates.ca

Hydrocarbons and Geothermal
Mohammad Chowdhuri, PhD, P.Eng., PMP
Technology Lead
Mohammad.Chowdhuri@albertainnovates.ca

Hydrocarbons
Bruce Duong, P.Eng., M.Eng.
Senior Program Manager
Bruce.Duong@albertainnovates.ca

Electricity
Robert Baker, P.Eng.
Program Director
Robert.Baker@albertainnovates.ca

10.3 Environment

Environment:
Vicki Lightbown, P.Eng
Executive Director
Vicki.Lightbown@albertainnovates.ca

Water
Mark Donner, PhD, PAg

Program Director
Mark.Donner@albertainnovates.ca

Land and Biodiversity

Dallas Johnson, PhD
Program Director
Dallas.Johnson@albertainnovates.ca

10.4 Food & Agriculture

Food & Agriculture:

Dana Gibson
Executive Director
Dana.Gibson@albertainnovates.ca

Sustainable Agriculture

Virginia Mulligan, PhD
Program Director
Virginia.Mulligan@albertainnovates.ca

Food

Mahesh Sivakumar, Ph.D., P.Eng., PAg, ASQ CQE
Senior Program Manager
Mahesh.Sivakumar@albertainnovates.ca

11 APPENDIX A

11.1 Summary of Eligible and Ineligible Expenses:

Category	Eligible Expenses	Ineligible Expenses
Labour	✔ Salary and benefits for individuals who are specifically working on the project	✖ Overhead costs charged to employee labour rates ✖ Professional training & development ✖ Professional fees unless directly related to the project
Materials	✔ Reasonable material costs	
Capital Assets & Software	• Capital improvements • Capital equipment • Software or information databases Note: Eligible costs will be pro-rated to the project time frame based on the asset's expected economic life	✖ Acquisitions of land or buildings ✖ The undepreciated value of eligible capital costs which extends beyond the project timeframe
Travel	✔ Travel, including mileage, low economy airfare, meals, and accommodation for the purposes of executing the project	✖ Passport or immigration fees ✖ Reimbursement for airfare purchased with personal frequent flyer programs ✖ Commuting costs between place of residence and place of employment
Sub-contractors	✔ Services or products of another entity	✖ Costs associated with applying for government grants and programs ✖ Provisions for contingencies, technical or professional journals ✖ Routine testing and maintenance
Other	✔ Costs which Alberta Innovates pre-approves in writing as an eligible expense	✖ Collection charges, allowance for interest on debt, fines and penalties ✖ Federal and provincial income taxes, goods and services taxes ✖ Expenses for projects or activities outside the approved project scope

11.2 Detailed Summary - Eligible and Ineligible Expenses

The Agriculture & Environment Portfolios have the following definitions for Eligible Expenses and Ineligible Expenses. These are subject to periodic revisions. It is the Proponent's responsibility to ensure they are complying with the most recent version of these guidelines.

a) Eligible Expenses means:

i. labour costs (gross wages or salaries incurred at reasonable market rates) for those individuals, including technical personnel and graduate students, who are specifically identified as performing the service which is directly attributable to the Project and thereby quantifiable or measurable. Accordingly, general overhead is not considered an Eligible Expense;

ii. costs of materials, made at the lower of cost or fair market value, which can be specifically identified and quantified as having been incurred in the performance of the Project activities, and which are so identified and quantified consistently in the cost accounting practices of the Applicant;

iii. acquisitions of property including capital improvements to facility premises and capital equipment (but excluding land and buildings), made at the lower of cost or fair market value, that are critical to the performance of the Project will be considered on a case-by-case basis upon submission to Alberta Innovates by the Applicant. The contribution will be pro-rated to the Project Period based on asset's expected economic life, if purchased, at industry standard depreciation rates with any residual undepreciated value attributed to the economic life of the asset remaining after the Project Period being an Ineligible Expense;

iv. acquisitions of software or information databases, made at the lower of cost or fair market value, that are critical to the performance of the Project will be considered. The cost of such technology will be pro-rated over the Project Period;

v. additional direct operating costs (incurred at reasonable market rates), not falling within the categories of labour and materials, but which can be specifically identified and quantified as having been incurred, or to be incurred, in the performance of the Project activities and which are so identified and quantified consistently by the Applicant's cost accounting practices;

vi. if travel is a necessary part of accomplishing the Project and either: (i) Alberta Innovates has pre- approved such travel; or (ii) such travel is part of the approved Project budget included in Schedule A; then costs relating to travel Including mileage, airfare (only the lowest economy class/excursion or other promotional type of air fare available at the time of booking is eligible) and accommodation and meals at reasonable rates;

vii. For clarity: (i) travel is only eligible when it is part of the approved Project budget in Schedule A or has been pre-approved as being required for accomplishing the Project; (ii) travel expenses related to marketing and/or commercialization activities are outside the scope of the Portfolio and thus ineligible; and (iii) no first class or business class flights, or luxury accommodation or meals, will be eligible unless the Applicant can establish exceptional circumstances to justify such expenditures. Exceptional circumstances could Include the features of such flights, accommodation or meals being required to accommodate the traveler's physical disability and there being no other reasonable way to accommodate such needs for a lower cost;

viii. publishing costs for knowledge translation activities directly related to the Project;

ix. GST, but only where such GST is levied on costs which are themselves Eligible Expenses and solely to the extent such GST is unrecoverable and the Applicant is not otherwise reimbursed for same; and

x. any other cost which Alberta Innovates pre-approves in writing as an Eligible Expense.

b) Ineligible Expense means any cost that does not qualify as an Eligible Expense. For avoidance of doubt, Ineligible Expenses Includes any of the following:

i. any cost incurred prior to the Project Start Date, except where Alberta Innovates has provided written approval to include the cost as an Eligible Expense;

ii. transactions between Related Persons;

iii. provisions for contingencies;

iv. allowance for interest on debt;

v. losses on investments, bad debts and expenses for collection charges;

vi. losses on other projects or activities outside the approved Project;

vii. fines and penalties;

viii. unreasonable compensation for Project labour, including eligible time charged at rates above existing salary;

ix. costs for professional training & development;

x. Federal and Provincial income taxes, goods and services taxes, excepting only unrecoverable portions of the GST for which the Applicant is not otherwise reimbursed;

xi. costs related to land and buildings (for example, acquisitions, leases and/or leasehold improvements);

xii. depreciation and amortization charges;

xiii. advertising costs, except reasonable advertising of an industrial or institutional character placed in trade, technical or professional journals for the dissemination of information for the industry or institution;

xiv. costs associated with applying for government grants and programs;

xv. basic professional services, fees and disbursements, such as ongoing routine accounting, tax and legal business requirements and financing fees unless directly related to the Project;

xvi. passport or immigration fees;

xvii. routine testing and maintenance;
xviii. commuting costs between residence and place of employment; and
xix. any other costs deemed ineligible by Alberta Innovates.