2023 Innovation Fund

Information Session

December 2021
Agenda

Budget and Objectives

Timeline

Changes from 2020

EDI in the 2023 IF

Application Process

Review Process

Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis
Competition budget & objectives

OBJECTIVES

• Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members

• Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure

• Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians

$400 million
Capital

+ $120 million
Infrastructure Operating Fund
Competition timeline

- **Call for proposals**: November 24, 2021
- **Notice of intent**: February 23, 2022
- **Proposals**: June 15, 2022
- **Expert review**: August – November 2022
- **MAC / SMAC**: January – February 2023
- **Decisions**: March 2023
Changes from 2020

Removed Research Capacity criterion

Team Criterion is now assessed under two separate criteria

• Team expertise – focusing on expertise and experience

• Team composition – focusing on EDI considerations

Updated objectives to reflect changes to the assessment criteria

Increased the minimum institutional envelope to $2M

Reduced the page limit for projects less than $2M

Increased the page limit for proposals written in French
EDI in the 2023 IF

KEY CHANGES

New assessment criterion: Team composition

MAC determines if the Team composition criteria meets the competition threshold for funding

Assessing expertise more inclusively through traditional and non-traditional research outputs

- Also highlighted to reviewers in the guidelines and in training material
- “List of published contributions” section of the CV renamed “Most significant contributions”

Page limits have been increased by 20% for applications written in French
SSH in the 2023 IF

REMINDEERS

• SSH proposals are eligible and competitive
• Collaborative spaces are eligible for all CFI programs
• Computing and digital libraries are eligible
• Interdisciplinary research is eligible
Two-stage application process

Step 1 (mandatory)
Notice of intent

Step 2
Proposal
Institutional envelopes

At NOI submission
May exceed envelope up to 10%

At proposal submission
Must adhere to envelope
Notice of intent

SECTIONS

• Project information
• Project summary
• Collaborating institutions
• Team
• Project description (PDF attachment)
• At least six suggested reviewers

NOTE:

Advanced research computing infrastructure

• Consult with the Digital Research Alliance of Canada

Infrastructure located at national or international research facilities

• Consult host facility and obtain approval
Proposal

**M O D U L E S**

- Project
- Finance
- Suggested reviewers

- Project information
- Plain language summary
- Project summary (PDF)
- Team
- Other users
- Assessment criteria (PDF)
- Financial resources for operation and maintenance
- Enhancement of past CFI investment
- Collaborating institutions
CFI investments

Why?
To better understand CFI’s investments and the landscape and needs of the community.

Questions in the proposal
1. Does this proposal enhance research capacity in an area in which the CFI has made past investments at your institution?

2. Indicate if the requested infrastructure (check all that apply):
   - Will be stand alone
   - Will be integrated into a core facility (% of TPC)
   - Will be integrated into an MSI-funded facility (% of TPC)
# Objectives & assessment criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research or technology development**
- Team expertise
- Team composition

**Infrastructure sustainability**

**Benefits**
Research or technology development

The research or technology development program(s) are innovative, feasible and internationally competitive.

Team expertise

The team includes the breadth of experience and expertise needed to conduct the proposed program(s).

Team composition

Principles of equity and diversity were considered in the team composition including in its leadership. There is a commitment to create an inclusive environment where all team members are fully integrated and supported in the research team.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives &amp; assessment criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research or technology development</th>
<th>Team expertise</th>
<th>Team composition</th>
<th>Infrastructure</th>
<th>Sustainability</th>
<th>Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure.

Infrastructure
The requested infrastructure is necessary and appropriate to conduct the proposed research program(s) and optimally enhances existing capacity.

Sustainability
The infrastructure will be optimally used and maintained over its useful life through tangible commitments.
## Objectives & assessment criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Enable internationally competitive research or technology development through the equitable participation of expert team members</td>
<td>Enhance and optimize the capacity of institutions and research communities to conduct the proposed research or technology development program(s) over the useful life of the infrastructure</td>
<td>Lead to social, health, environmental and/or economic benefits for Canadians</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research or technology development**
- Team expertise
- Team composition

**Infrastructure**
- Sustainability

**Benefits**
Benefits

The team and its partners have a well-defined plan to transfer the results of the research or technology development program(s). The results are likely to lead to social, health, environmental or economic benefits for Canadians.
PROPOSAL

MODULES
- Project
- Finance
- Suggested reviewers

- Cost of individual items
- Construction/renovation plans (PDF), if applicable
- Contributions from eligible partners
- Infrastructure utilization
- Overview of infrastructure project funding
Tools & resources

CAMS
• Liaison contact information list
• Automatic CAMS notification for collaborating institutions
• Improved report repository:
  • Envelope management
  • Team member tracking

Innovation.ca
• Policy and program guide
• List of eligible institutions
• Strength and weaknesses analysis for 2020 IF

CARA resource library
• Best practices for preparing and managing multi-institutional projects
Liaison contact information list
Envelop management tools
# Envelope management tools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Institution Envelope ($)</th>
<th>Envelope Remaining ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution A</td>
<td>50900000</td>
<td>1376166</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generated on: 2021-12-06 14:06:09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaborating institution</th>
<th>Share from collaborator ($)</th>
<th>Collaboration accepted?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution D</td>
<td>464426</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution L</td>
<td>350000</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution A</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Generated on: 2021-12-06 14:06:09
Merit review process

Aug–Nov 2022

Expert Committees

Assess the strengths and weaknesses of proposals against the assessment criteria

Jan 2023

Multidisciplinary Assessment Committees

Assess proposals against the three competition objectives

Feb 2023

Special Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee

Recommends to the Board proposals that best meet the CFI’s mandate and competition objectives and would be the most beneficial portfolio of investments for Canada

March 2023

CFI Board of Directors

Makes final funding decision
Team composition

**Criterion standard**: Principles of equity and diversity were considered in the team composition including in its leadership. There is a commitment to create an inclusive environment where all team members are fully integrated and supported in the research team.

This criterion will focus on the team’s consideration of:
- Systemic barriers specific to the field of research
- Principles of equity and diversity in the team’s composition
- Way of ensuring an inclusive and collaborative research environment

How an individual self-identifies in terms of belonging to one or more underrepresented groups is considered personal information. Do not in any way provide the personal information of team members in the proposal.
Team composition

Analysis of specific challenges or systemic barriers

Describe the specific challenges or systemic barriers that exist in the context of your research program(s) that could prevent individuals from underrepresented groups from participating equitably within the team.

SA The proposal satisfies the criterion

- Clearly demonstrates understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) considerations/systemic barriers within the context of the research program(s).
- Provides a clear explanation of the team’s specific challenges related to EDI. Cites examples in the analysis.
- Demonstrates a strong, broad-based commitment to EDI.

NS The proposal does not satisfy the criterion due to major weaknesses

- Does not demonstrate an understanding of EDI considerations/systemic barriers within the context of the research program(s).
- Provides an analysis that is generic and/or not aligned with best practice and/or does not point to one or more systemic barriers.
- Lacks evidence of a commitment to and understanding of EDI overall.
Team composition

Concrete practice to overcome systemic barriers

Describe at least one concrete practice that you put in place to overcome the challenges or systemic barriers you have described and which demonstrates that equity and diversity were intentionally considered in the team composition.

SA - The proposal satisfies the criterion
  • Clearly identifies, at minimum, one concrete practice
  • The practice identified is relevant to the context of the research program(s)
  • Challenges are discussed

NS - The proposal does not satisfy the criterion due to major weaknesses
  • Does not provide a concrete practice
  • Provides concrete practices irrelevant to the context of the research program(s)
  • Challenges not discussed
Team composition

Concrete practice to ensure inclusion

Describe at least one concrete practice that you will adopt to facilitate the ongoing inclusion of underrepresented groups in the research team, and how you will implement that best practice given the challenges or systemic barriers you have described.

SA The proposal satisfies the criterion

- Clearly identifies, at minimum, one concrete practice to enable ongoing inclusion
- Positions the practice in the context of the team’s challenges
- Provides a clear description of the implementation plan, including potential obstacles to executing it

NS The proposal does not satisfy the criterion due to major weaknesses

- Does not provide a practice to ensure ongoing inclusion
- Provides a practice that is not relevant to the context of the research team
- Weak implementation plan
  - a) Lacks an implementation plan
  - b) Provides an unrealistic implementation plan
  - c) Does not consider the potential challenges to implementing the practice
Assessment of Team composition

We will leverage the Expert Committee members’ knowledge of the barriers and challenges of their field of research.

• Proposals must meet a threshold of excellence to progress to the Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee

Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee members will make use of their broader knowledge of EDI and the feedback provided by the EC to assess the degree to which the proposal satisfies the first objective.

• All MACs will include members that are well-versed in principles of equity, diversity and inclusion
• Proposals with significant weaknesses in the “Team composition” criterion will be removed from the competition
## Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis (Expert Committee)

### Major weaknesses – 2020 IF
1. Lack of details on methodology
2. Feasibility of the approach
3. Not innovative
4. Research plan lacks focus
5. Missing expertise
6. Missing evidence for track record of investment
7. Infrastructure not well justified
8. Issues regarding governance or management plan
9. Weak plan for technology transfer/clinical transfer/knowledge mobilization

### Major Strengths – 2020 IF
1. Outstanding research track record
2. Innovative research program
3. Impressive breadth and depth of expertise
4. Team leads the field internationally
5. Investments in people
6. Rare, world-class infrastructure
7. Strong governance/oversight plans
8. Strong O&M plan
Major weaknesses – 2020 IF

1. Lack of detail for RTD
2. Feasibility of the approach
3. Missing expertise
4. Not innovative
5. Weak justification for infrastructure
6. Weak plan for technology transfer/clinical transfer/knowledge mobilization
7. Sustainability planning
8. Management/governance/access plan
9. Overstated/weak benefits

Major Strengths – 2020 IF

1. Leading-edge and innovative research in area of global leadership
2. Leading researchers
3. Unique infrastructure
4. Integrated into sustainable existing facility
5. Strong plan for technology transfer/clinical transfer/knowledge mobilization
6. Unique HQP opportunities
Questions:
2023IF@innovation.ca
25 YEARS OF INVESTING IN

people

labs

partnerships

ideas

THAT CHANGE OUR WORLD

Follow #PromisingFutureNow to find out more