

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 2009 Competition Leading Edge Fund (LEF) and New Initiatives Fund (NIF)

#### Regional and National Projects

Please refer to the CFI web site for more details regarding how to apply for a regional project designation at <http://www.innovation.ca/programs/index.cfm?websiteid=521>

1. Can national projects include new and emerging partnerships?

*Yes. These partnerships can be pre-existing, new and emerging, or a combination thereof. Furthermore, a national project must also be consistent with each partner institution's strategic research plan and requires a tangible commitment from each institution to finding the requisite partner funding, as well as the long-term sustainability of the project.*

2. Why does the CFI require that regional projects be consistent with priority areas at both the federal and provincial levels?

*The excellence of any project is paramount in any CFI investment decision. By aligning regional investment decisions to federal and provincial priorities, the CFI is making every effort to build on regional capacities and strengths while ensuring the long-term sustainability of large and complex projects.*

3. How do I get a proposal designated as either a regional or national project?

*The lead institution must submit a 3-page letter to the CFI by **May 9, 2008** requesting national or regional project designation and outlining how the project meets the eligibility criteria (i.e. each of the requirements listed in Section 6 of the Call for Proposals). The submission must also include letters from the partner institutions confirming their commitment to help raise, or contribute to, partner and O&M funding. These letters are required by the May 9, 2008 deadline.*

*Regional projects must also be accompanied by a letter from the relevant provincial authority confirming the alignment of the project with their S&T priorities. Where partner institutions reside in more than one province, each relevant provincial authority must provide a letter.*

*The CFI will review the submission and determine the eligibility of proposals for regional or national designation. For more complex and ambiguous cases, an Infrastructure Advisory Group (IAG) will determine eligibility of proposals for the special designations. Institutions will be **notified by June 13, 2008** regarding regional and national project designations and will be required to submit a Notice of Intent for these projects by June 30, 2008.*

***Based on past experience, the CFI does not anticipate that many projects will meet the regional or national project requirements.***

4. If a project is not deemed to meet the national or regional designation, can it still be submitted to the appropriate LEF and NIF streams?

*Yes. Given we do not expect that many projects will meet the regional and national project requirements, a project may still be submitted but it will be counted towards the respective institutional envelopes.*

5. What institutions are considered eligible to apply for regional or national project designation?

*Any institution eligible to receive CFI funding can be part of a consortium seeking regional or national project designation. This includes universities, colleges, research hospitals, and not-for-profit organizations.*

6. Will regional or national projects follow a different application and review process?

*No. The primary purpose of providing special project designations is to encourage regional and national collaborations and platforms while providing an administrative mechanism to allow institutions to propose such projects outside of their envelope. Regional and national projects will still follow the same LEF/ NIF application procedures and merit review processes as all other proposals to this competition. This will ensure equity across all proposals.*

7. As the Federal S&T priority areas do not specifically include the social sciences and humanities, are those disciplines at a disadvantage for regional and national project designations?

*No. The federal S&T priorities are broadly defined as health and related life sciences and technologies, environmental science and technologies, natural resources and energy, and information and communications technologies. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of each of these fields, and critical need to undertake research into the social and human*

*dimensions within each priority area, they present opportunities for researchers in those domains.*

### **Multi-Institutional Projects**

8. Who should own the infrastructure where multiple envelopes are involved?

*A CFI-eligible institution must exercise de facto control over and hold a majority interest in the CFI-funded infrastructure. It is the responsibility of the partner institutions to determine the most effective use of the infrastructure, and thus where de facto control and location make the most sense.*

9. How does the CFI manage the split between each institution's allocations for multi-institutional projects?

*By October 3, 2008, the lead institution must provide details as to how and why the project will be allocated among institutions at the application deadline. The CFI will then adjust the envelopes accordingly.*

### **Notice of Intent**

10. Is there a limit to the number or value of the NOIs?

*No. There is no limit at this stage. However, given the short timeframe from NOI submission to the October 3, 2008 application deadline, where the institutional envelopes must be respected, we expect that the total amount requested from the CFI, as per the NOIs, will be representative of institutional envelopes.*

### **Review of LEF and NIF**

11. How will the LEF or NIF designations be determined?

*Generally speaking, a LEF proposal will build on a successful past major CFI investment and a NIF proposal will be a new CFI-investment that aligns with the institution's strategic research plan and where there is a demonstrated commitment to the project and area of research.*

*(See Annex 2 of the Call for Proposals -*

*<http://www.innovation.ca/programs/index.cfm?websiteid=521>)*

*The Notice of Intent (NOI) form asks institutions to provide their rationale for choice of either the LEF or NIF stream. Institutional liaisons may contact their respective CFI Coordinator for complex or ambiguous cases in advance of the NOI submission deadline.*

*The CFI will screen all proposals and strike an Infrastructure Advisory Group (IAG) to review ambiguous cases.*

12. Will LEFs and NIFs be reviewed separately, and are there separate allocations for each stream?

*No. There is no predetermined distribution between the LEF and NIF streams and both will follow the same timelines for submission and decision. Also, all LEF and NIF proposals follow the same assessment process and will be reviewed simultaneously to ensure equity across all proposals.*

13. The CFI will be using face-to-face meetings during the expert review process for proposals requesting over \$7 million from the CFI. Does this provide these proponents with an unfair advantage in the review process?

*Due to the complexity of these proposals a face-to-face meeting is warranted to provide additional information as may be required due to application guidelines and limits. Past experience has shown that such meetings do not impact on a project's review, either successful or not.*

14. How does the Special Committee (S-MAC) take into consideration alignment with the federal and provincial S&T priorities?

*Excellence is always paramount throughout the assessment process for any CFI-funded proposal. Where there are projects of equivalent merit, the S-MAC will consider, among other things, the relevance of the proposal to the four priority areas of the federal S&T Strategy, and provincial S&T priorities where they exist.*

*The federal S&T priorities are very broadly defined (i.e. health and related life sciences and technologies; environmental science and technologies; natural resources and energy; and, information and telecommunications technologies) and CFI-funded projects have traditionally been well-aligned with those areas.*

## **National Platforms**

15. Will the CFI coordinate with relevant authorities at the CFI-funded National Platforms to confirm that an applicant's needs cannot be met through the platform?

*No. It is the responsibility of each institution to demonstrate satisfactorily that their needs cannot be met through one of the three national platforms (i.e. Compute Canada, Synergies, and Canadian Research Knowledge Network).*

## Technology Development Projects

16. What is a technology development project?

*It is a project focused on systematic work, drawing on existing knowledge gained from research and/or practical experience, which is directed to producing new materials, products or devices, to installing new processes, systems and services, or improving substantially those already produced or installed.*

17. The submission of technology development proposals is something new to the CFI. How will they be evaluated?

*Both technology development and research proposals follow the same application procedures and assessment process. There is no pre-set allocation between the two types of proposals. Expert Committees will review a set of proposals within similar areas and thus may assess both research and technology development proposals. At the next stage of review, technology development proposals will be reviewed by the same Multidisciplinary Assessment Committee. Finally, research and technology development proposals will be reviewed simultaneously by the Special Committee (S-MAC).*