

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

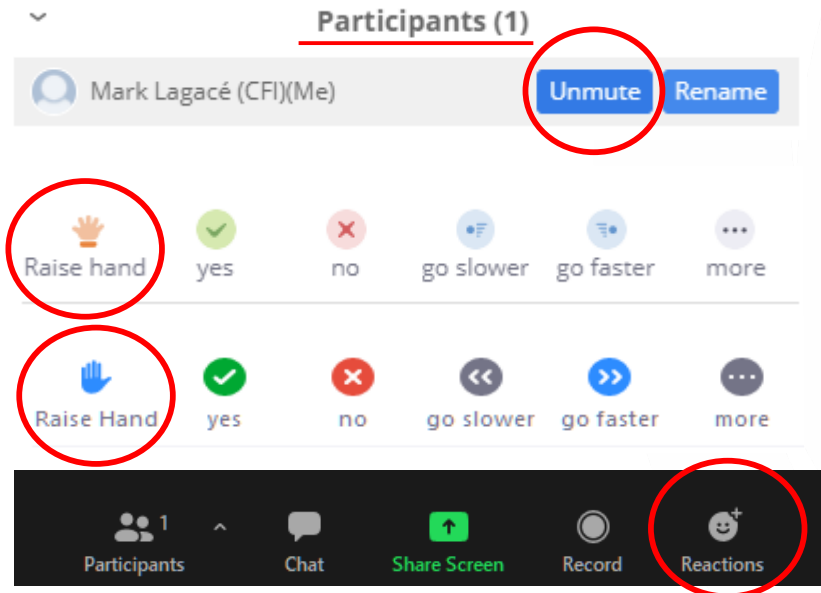
2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund

Call for Proposals
Information session for applicants
July 14th, 2021

<https://www.innovation.ca/awards/major-science-initiatives-fund>

Housekeeping items

- Recorded session
- Questions



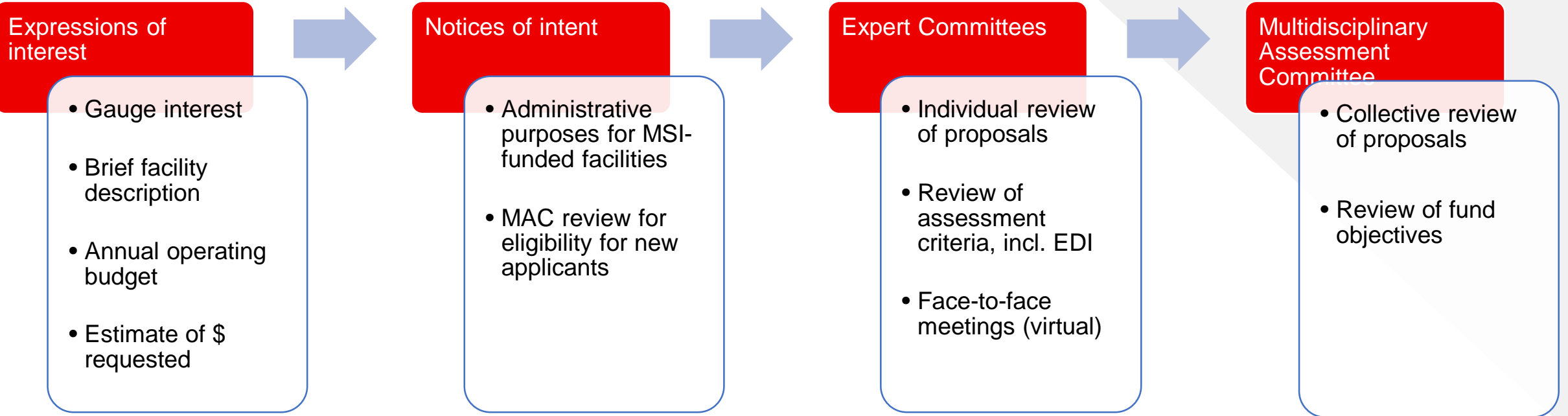


Agenda

- Overview of application and review processes
- Competition timeline – key dates
- Funds available
- Expressions of interest
- Notices of Intent – demonstration of eligibility
- Proposals
- Questions

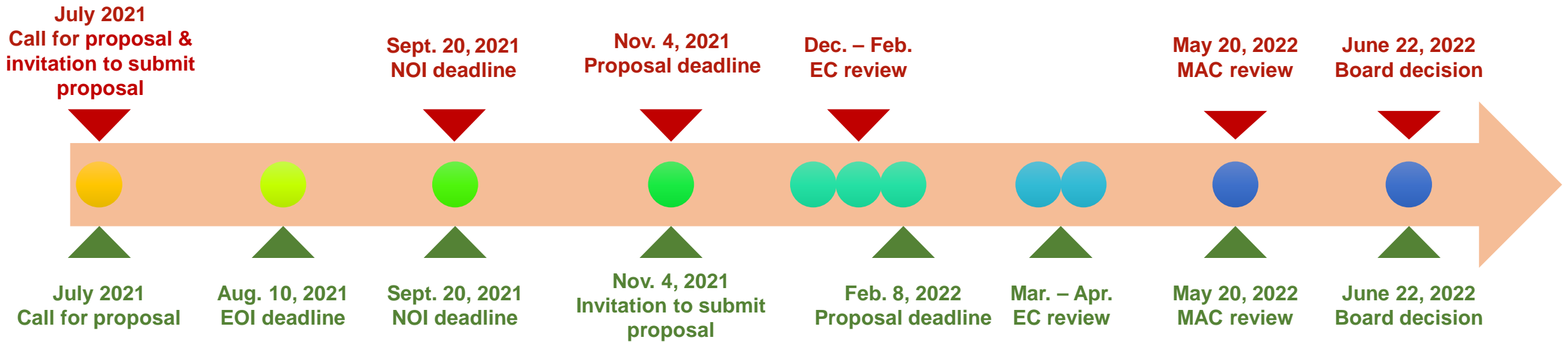


Overview of application and review process



Competition Timeline

Currently funded facilities



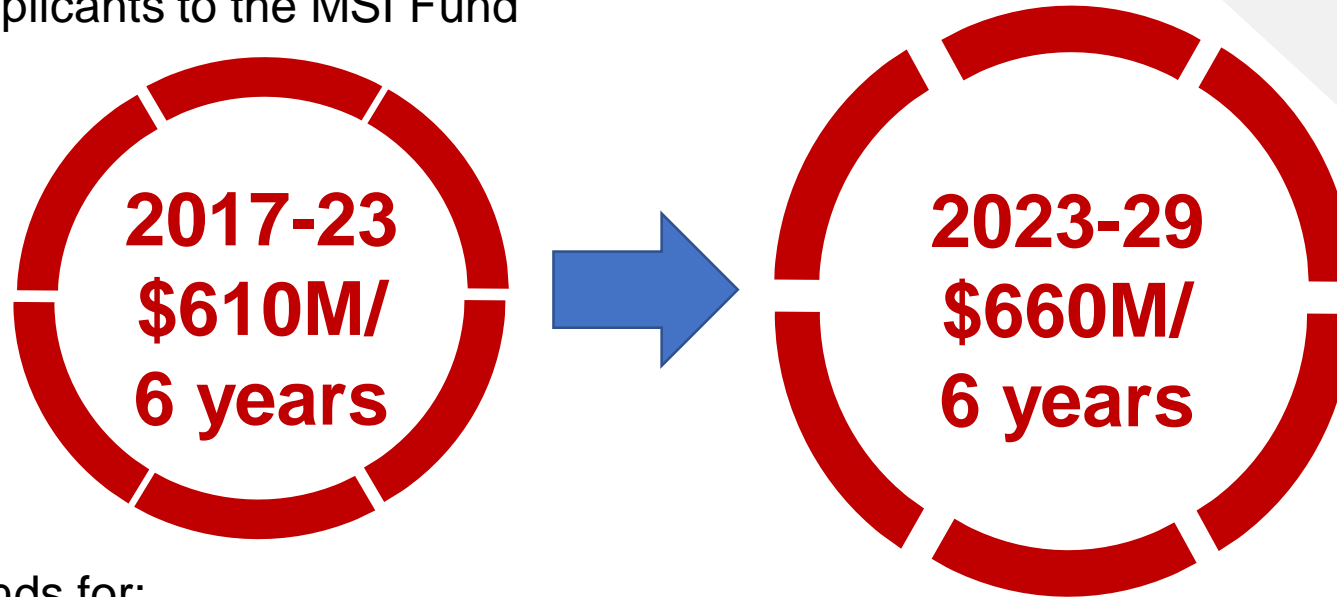
Facilities not currently funded

Funding will start April 1, 2023

Funds available

No significant increase to budget

Open competition for currently funded facilities and new applicants to the MSI Fund



Including funds for:

- MSI midterm (2025)
- Transitional funding for facilities funded in the 2017 competition (>\$2M/yr)

Note: MSI + IOF \leq 40% of facility's total eligible O&M costs (60% for a subset of facilities identified in the Fundamental Science Review report)



Eligible costs

Administrative, scientific and technical support personnel

E.g. Non academic staff, incl. trainees, involved in the in the governance, management, O&M, including technology development

Extended warranties/service contracts

Replacement parts and minor upgrades

Services e.g. Electricity, security, cleaning, telephone, internet, permits etc.

Supplies and consumables

Communications and outreach activities

Training and professional development

Contingency (10% maximum) for unforeseen events

Other e.g. ramp-down activities

Non-eligible costs

Faculty members' salaries

Scientific internships

Trainees not contributing to O&M

Equipment and major construction/renovation costs deemed eligible under an infrastructure award

Buying or leasing of real property

Housing and rental fees (e.g., facility-run lodging for users)

Any cost to conduct research activities

Expenses related to intellectual property

Transportation to and from the facility for users

Decommissioning costs of the facility infrastructure



Expressions of interest

Facilities not currently funded

- Name and website of the facility
- Brief description in 200 words as well as the website address of the facility
- Annual eligible O&M costs
- Amount requested from the CFI for the 6 years





To: MSI-ISM@innovation.ca by **August 10, 2021**.



Notices of Intent

All Facilities


- Project information **CAMS**
- Management Team : up to 3 in addition to facility Director or CEO **CAMS**
- Participating Institutions **CAMS**
- Suggested reviewers **CAMS**
- Budget ask overview (Tables 2.5 and 2.6) – no page limit 
- **Demonstration of Eligibility (5 pages)** (facilities currently not supported only) 
 - Historic budget (not counted in page limit)

Deadline : Sept. 20, 2021, for all facilities

Three different forms to choose from

Researcher dashboard

Researcher dashboard

 Through the researcher dashboard you can create and modify proposals, view competition results and complete post-award related tasks.

The CFI has adopted the [Canadian Research and Development Classification \(CRDC\)](#) standard, which provides a common approach to classifying research across institutions and governments. This new standard categorizes research projects or expertise by type of activity, field of research and socioeconomic objectives.

Curriculum vitae

Application

Read our [privacy notices](#) for researchers on Innovation.ca.

Create a new proposal

Fund

[John R. Evans Leaders Fund – Funding for research infrastructure associated with an application for research support funding from another program](#)


[John R. Evans Leaders Fund – Funding for research infrastructure](#)

[2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition – Renewal of funding for facilities funded in the 2017 competition \(eligible for maximum 40 percent from the CFI\)](#)

[2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition – Renewal of funding for facilities funded in the 2017 competition and identified in the Fundamental Science Review Report \(eligible for maximum 60 percent from the CFI\)](#)

[2023 Major Science Initiatives Fund competition – Funding for facilities not funded in the 2017 competition \(eligible for maximum 40 percent from the CFI\)](#)

Project leader

 You are the project leader for one or more proposals that are being prepared or are under review. Each proposal can consist of several modules. Click a module name to access a particular form.



Demonstration of eligibility : NOI review

CFI administrative review



Multidisciplinary assessment committee



Invitation to submit proposal
Communicated by **Nov. 4, 2021**

- 1 The facility is owned by one or more CFI-eligible institutions.
- 2 The facility is fully operational
- 3 Annual eligible O&M costs >\$1,000,000
- 4 Facility capabilities
- 5 User community
- 6 Governance
- 7 Management
- 8 Access policy

Supporting data: 4 years
of costs and revenues (19
-20 to 22-23)

Facilities not currently funded only



Demonstration of eligibility : requirements

4 Highly specialized capabilities

The facility provides highly specialized equipment, services, resources, or scientific and technical personnel that:

- Are not readily available at most institutions
- Serve both basic and applied research in multiple fields or offer discipline-specific infrastructure with specialized capabilities not offered elsewhere **in Canada**
- Would represent a serious setback for Canada if they were lost.

5 User community

There is a demonstrated demand for the facility's equipment, services, resources and scientific and technical personnel from a research community that:

- Represents a critical mass of researchers in an area of research strength for Canada and reflects the diversity of the country's research community
- Is typically pan-Canadian and multidisciplinary
- Can be multi-sectoral, including the private sector, and international in scope.

Required data (in addition to the 5-page narrative):

- Three years of user distribution (2019-20 to 2021-22)
- by type of user, geography, and sector

Demonstration of eligibility (cont'd)

6

Appropriate governance model

The facility has as an established governance model appropriate to its size and complexity, with a clearly defined national mandate, and a structure and procedures to address:

- Accountability, legal duties and responsibilities
- Financial controls
- Policy formulation and strategic planning, including stakeholder communications
- Oversight of facility performance.

7

Appropriate management structure and practices

The facility has a management structure and practices appropriate to its size and complexity to address:

- Operation and maintenance of the facility
- Human resources and succession planning
- Risks and risk mitigation
- Monitoring of performance
- Cybersecurity
- Data management.

Required data (in addition to the 5-page narrative):

Organizational charts



Demonstration of eligibility (cont'd)

8 Established access policy

Any interested user can request access to the facility through a publicly available user access policy. Access to limited resources is only granted following an appropriate selection process.

Additional supporting evidence:

- Access to limited resources is based on an open competition; the scientific excellence of the proposals is evaluated through independent merit review
- A defined fee schedule is publicly available
- Access to facility data is available to any interested researcher at no cost.

Required data (in addition to the 5-page narrative):

- Three years of requests for user access: (2019-20 to 2021-22)



Proposal forms

Project module

- Plain language summary (1500 words) **CAMS**

- Executive summary (2 pages)



- Assessment criteria and budget justification



Total CFI request (\$)	Maximum # of pages
≤ \$15 million	30 pages
> \$15 million	40 pages

- Project attachments in addition to page limits



Finance module **CAMS**



1 **Scientific Excellence**

The facility is used by researchers and highly qualified personnel of the highest calibre and enables innovative and leading-edge research that leads to social, health, economic or environmental benefits to Canadians. The research directions proposed in the facility's strategic plan are forward-looking and reflect the state-of-the-art in the supported fields.

Supporting evidence:

- Overview of scope and nature of research enabled by the facility
- Priority research directions envisioned for the next six years in relation to your strategic plan
- List of selected publications (19-20 to 22-23) (2 pages), and discuss significant accomplishments
- Descriptions and tables summarizing over 19-20 to 22-23:
 - Distribution of individuals trained at the facility or using data (Undergrads to postdocs to professionals)
 - Knowledge transfer activities
 - Technology transfer activities
- Description of benefits realized to date and the anticipated benefits to Canadians

2 International competitiveness

The facility's highly specialized equipment, services, resources, and scientific and technical personnel are internationally competitive and a high priority for the user community. The loss of these capabilities would be a setback to Canada.

Supporting evidence:

- Identify and compare to similar facilities worldwide
- Describe the facility's highly specialized equipment, services, resources, and scientific and technical personnel
- Demonstrate that the facilities' highly specialized equipment, services, resources, scientific and technical personnel are in demand by, and a high priority for, the research community it serves
- Describe how the facility collaborates with its users to define future needs to maintain its competitive edge

3 Need for CFI funding

The requested funding is necessary to allow the facility to fully exploit its scientific and technical capabilities and to operate at an optimal level to address the needs of the user community.

Supporting evidence:

- Budget justification for each expense outlined in the detailed CAMS budget
- Describe how the requested funding will allow the facility to fully exploit its capabilities, to operate at an optimal level and allow it to address the needs of the user community
- Describe the budgeting process and how the facility determines the level of funding requested from the CFI. Explain any variations in the budget compared to past years
- Describe the plan for maintaining, securing and diversifying funding sources as well as contingency plans for potential funding shortfalls. If applicable, describe the user fee structure and how anticipated revenues have been calculated
- For facilities currently receiving CFI funding (>\$2M/year), provide a plan for transitional funding if CFI funding is not renewed



Operations and user access

The facility is effectively and efficiently operated and has established mechanisms to ensure optimal use by the user community. **Access to limited resources is only granted following an appropriate selection process.**

Supporting evidence:

- Describe the expertise and specialized support available and planned
- Define the optimal level of use of the facility
- Demonstrate how the facility is being and will continue to be used effectively and efficiently
- Provide User distribution – same as NOI
- Describe the process to allocate access and the annual number of access requests received/accommodated (same as NOI). Describe any differences between academic, public and private users.
- Identify any barriers to access and what steps will be taken to ensure equitable and inclusive access to the facility



5 Excellence in governance

The facility adopts best practices in governance, including long-term strategic planning, as appropriate to its size and complexity. Its needs over the life of the facility in consultation with the user community.

Supporting evidence:

- Describe and contrast the governance structure of the facility and its committees against relevant best practices
- Describe the steps taken to apply the EDI principles to the Board composition
- Explain how the facility is accountable to its administrative and member institutions
- Using performance measures, explain how the facility will measure its success in achieving its objectives/research priorities
- Discuss the facility's strategic plan and process used to define the strategic directions
- Describe how the facility is integrating EDI best practices in strategic planning
- Describe the long-term vision for the facility and any major upgrades planned over the next 20 years



Excellence in management

The facility adopts best practices in the management of its operations and risk mitigation (including cybersecurity) and of its financial, data, and human resources, including equity, diversity and inclusion. The management team has the core competencies required.

Supporting evidence:

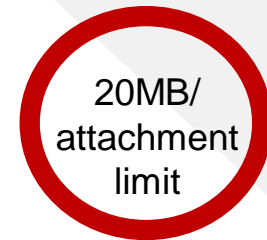
- Describe the current management structure, identify individuals in key roles and demonstrate that these individuals have the core competencies required to effectively manage the facility
- Explain how equity, diversity and inclusion principles are applied to the recruitment of staff.
- Describe how the facility tracks/measures outcomes enabled by the facility and how this information is integrated into decision-making processes
- Identify the facility's key risks and describe the strategies to mitigate these risks
- Provide the facility's management plan
- Provide a plan or policies describing the facilities' approach to data management, research security and cybersecurity



Proposal: Project module attachments



- In addition to the allotted pages to describe how the facility meets the assessment criteria established, the following additional documents will be requested:
- ✓ Facility's strategic plan
- ✓ Management CVs (2-3 pages x 4)
- ✓ List of selected publications (2 pages) in last three years
- ✓ Management plan
 - Decommissioning plans (or separate)
 - Equity, diversity and inclusion policy/plan (or separate up to 5 pages)
 - Data management and cyber security policies/plan (or separate up to 5 pages)
 - Organizational charts (or separate)
- ✓ Transitional funding plan, if the facility receives > \$2M/year from CFI (up to 3 pages)



Proposal : Finance module

The 2023-2039 MSI Fund competition will require a:

- ✓ high-level historical budget for the past 3 fiscal years, including contributions and expenses
- ✓ detailed forecasted budget (2023-2029), including contributions and expenses
- ✓ CFI ask not more than 10% of the amount requested in the NOI
- ✓ Now includes FTEs and flexibility to provide more detailed costs



	Historical Budget				Forecasted Budget						
Year	19-20	20-21	21-22	22-23	23-24	24-25	25-26	26-27	27-28	28-29	
Expenses (e.g. personnel)											



Review of Proposals

Competition objectives (reviewed by the MAC)

- 1 Enable pan-Canadian research communities to undertake world-class research and technology development that lead to social, health, economic or environmental benefits for Canadians

- 2 Enable facilities to operate at an optimal level to ensure the best use of their specialized equipment, services, resources, and technical and scientific personnel

- 3 Promote responsible stewardship by the adoption of best practices in governance and management

Assessment criteria (reviewed by an Expert Committee)

- 1 **Scientific excellence**
- 2 **International competitiveness**

- 3 **Need for CFI funding** - budget justification
- 4 **Operations and user access**

- 5 **Excellence in governance**
- 6 **Excellence in management**



Q&A



MSI-ISM@innovation.ca



CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

Thank you / Merci

<https://www.innovation.ca/awards/major-science-initiatives-fund>

INNOVATION.CA

How do we define a facility of national importance?

- Can be single-sited, distributed or virtual
- Addresses the needs of a community of Canadian researchers representing a **critical mass of users distributed across the country**
- Provides shared access to **substantial and advanced** specialized equipment, services, resources, and scientific and technical personnel
- Supports leading-edge research and technology development, and promotes the mobilization of knowledge and transfer of technology to society
- Requires resource **commitments well beyond the capacity of any one institution**
- Is specifically identified or recognized as serving pan-Canadian needs and its **governance and management structures reflect this mandate**



Equity, diversity and inclusion



The CFI is committed to the principles of equity, diversity and inclusion. In all our activities, we recognize that a breadth of perspectives, skills and experiences contributes to excellence in research. We believe that nurturing an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture is the responsibility of every member of the research ecosystem, including funders, institutions, researchers, experts and reviewers.

Equity: We aim to ensure all CFI-eligible institutions have opportunity to access and benefit from our programs and CFI-funded infrastructure through our well-established, fair and impartial practices.

Diversity: We value attributes that allow institutions and their researchers — from any background and from anywhere — to succeed. This includes individual attributes such as gender, language, culture and career stage; institutional attributes such as size, type and location; and attributes that encompass the full spectrum of research, from basic to applied and across all disciplines.

Inclusion: Our culture encourages collaboration, partnership, contributions and engagement among diverse groups of people, institutions and areas of research to maximize the potential of Canada's research ecosystem.



Equity, diversity and inclusion



As part of its commitment to EDI, the CFI is integrating EDI principles into its processes and evaluation criteria.

- review panel
- more inclusive language in our documentation
- flexibility in accommodating reviewer participation
- unconscious bias training for reviewers

In the next MSI competition, EDI considerations will be included as an element of existing assessment criteria.

Governance:

- Composition of the boards reflect EDI
- Strategic planning: understanding of EDI consideration/systemic barriers to access to the facility

Management:

- EDI in recruitment and staffing

Operations and user access:

- Equitable and inclusive access to the facility



Transitional funding

