



CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION

2023 Innovation Fund

Information Session

December 2021

INNOVATION

Canada Foundation
for Innovation

Fondation canadienne
pour l'innovation

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

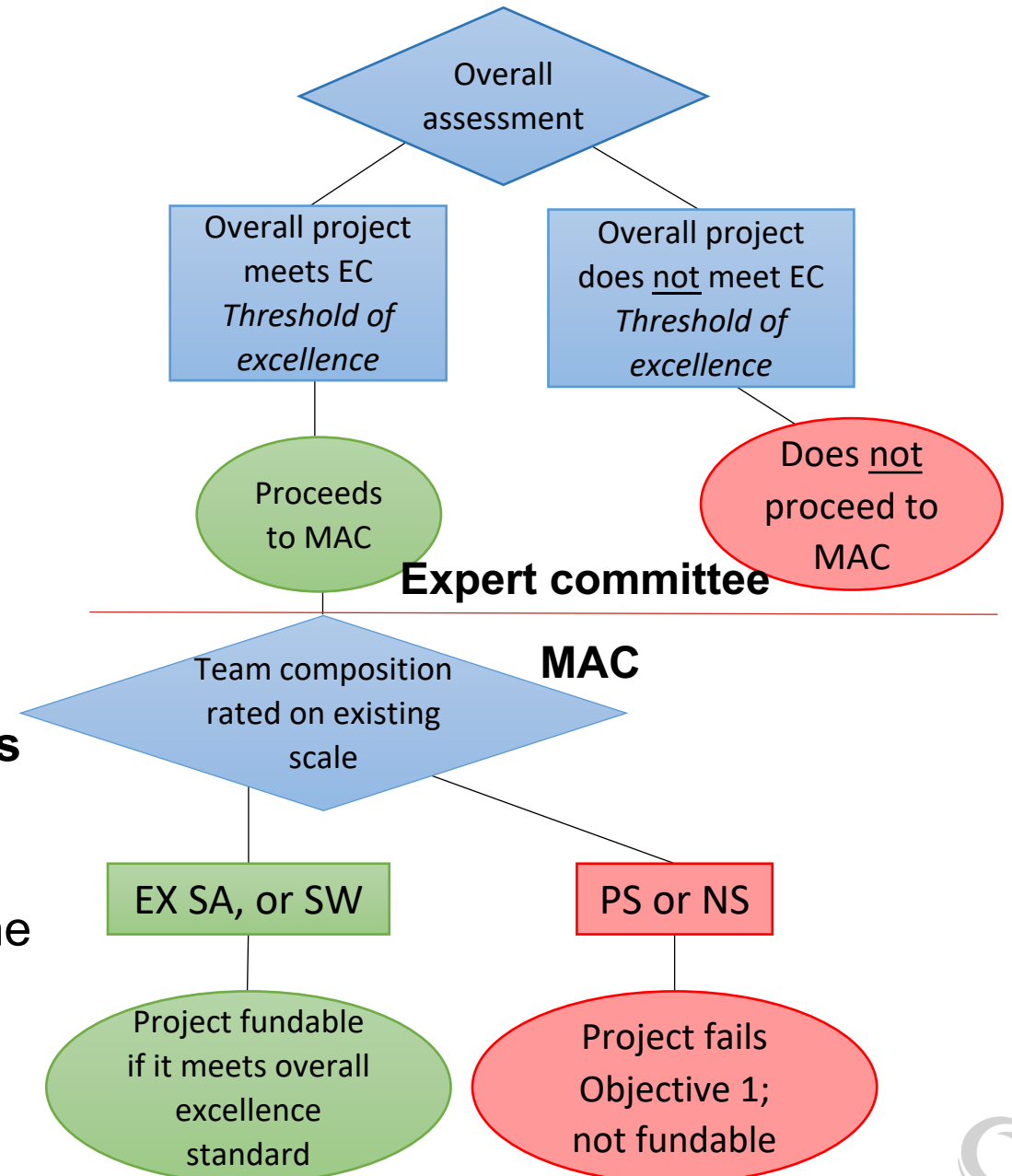
New assessment criterion: Team composition

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

REMINDERS

- **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

CAMS
KEY



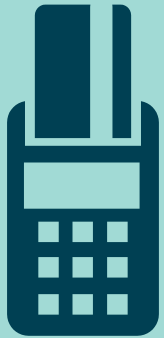
Step 2

Proposal

CAMS
KEY



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

MODULES

- 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

1

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

Research or technology development

Team expertise

Team composition

2

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

Sustainability

3

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

Benefits



1

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

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.

Objectives & assessment criteria

1

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

Research or technology development

Team expertise

Team composition

2

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

Sustainability

3

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

Benefits



2

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

1

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

Research or technology development

Team expertise

Team composition

2

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

Sustainability

3

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

Benefits

3

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

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

Institutional dashboard

- Overview information
 - Institutional overview
 - Project overview
 - Report repository
- Proposal management
- Decisions
 - View decision(s)
 - Competition document(s)
 - Award Finalization
 - Amendments
 - Payment information
 - Financial report
 - Project progress reports (PPR)
 - Infrastructure operating fund (OPF)
 - Institutional agreement and access privileges**
 - Strategic research plan summary

Institutional dashboard > Institutional agreement and access privileges

Institutional agreement and access privileges

The "institutional agreement" tab allows you to view the institutional agreements submitted to the CFI by your institution, and the list of individuals that have designated institutional agreement roles. The institution can also manage the CAMS access privileges for institutional administrators and project leaders by clicking on the appropriate tab below. Only the president, the account administrators and/or the liaison can manage or modify privileges assigned to the other institutional administrators and project leaders.

Institutional agreement | **Privileges** | Award agreements signed by | Project leader access

[Go to "Search for institutional administrators"](#)

Manage privileges for the selected individual

First name: Ryan
Family name: Gill
CAMS username: rg1@innovation.ca
CAMS account status: Active
Institutional agreement role: Liaison, Account administrator

Select privilege to assign:

Do you agree to share your contact information with other liaisons?

[List of institutional liaisons' contact details](#)

| Privilege | Revoke |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Amendment – Data capture and submit | <input type="button" value="X"/> |
| Amendment – Read-only | <input type="button" value="X"/> |
| Award finalization – Data capture and submit | <input type="button" value="X"/> |
| Financial report – Data capture and submit | <input type="button" value="X"/> |



Envelope management tools

Researcher dashboard

Reviewer dashboard

Institutional dashboard

- Overview information
 - Institutional overview
 - Project progress reports
 - Report repository**
 - JELP allocation
- Proposal management
- Decisions
 - View decision(s)
 - Competition document(s)
- Award Finalization
- Amendments
- Payment information
- Financial report
- Project progress reports (PPR)
- Infrastructure operating fund (IOF)
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- Strategic research plan summary

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Getting started with CAMS

Subscribe to our communications

[Institutional dashboard](#) > [Overview information](#) > Report repository

Report repository

The following is a list of reports related to your institution. Click on the report to view it.

Filter table by category: All

Show all Show pages

13 entry(ies) found displaying 5 entry(ies)

| Category | Report name | Report description | Date last updated |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-------------------|
| General project information | 2023 Innovation Fund competition envelope management tool (notices of intent) | This report includes all the notices of intent that have been created — whether submitted to the CFI or not — for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition.... | Real time |
| General project information | 2023 Innovation Fund competition envelope management tool (proposals) | This report includes all the proposals that have been created — whether submitted to the CFI or not — for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition. It... | Real time |
| General project information | 2023 Innovation Fund competition team member tracking (notices of intent) | This report includes all the notices of intent that have been created — whether submitted to the CFI or not — for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition.... | Real time |
| General project information | 2023 Innovation Fund competition team member tracking (proposals) | This report includes all the proposals that have been created — whether submitted to the CFI or not — for the 2023 Innovation Fund competition. It... | Real time |
| General project information | Projects awarded to your institution | This report includes key information for each project. | Real time |

13 entry(ies) found displaying 5 entry(ies)5



Envelope management tools

| Institution | Institution Envelope (\$) | Envelope Remaining (\$) | Project number | NOL status | Team leader(s) | Collaboration accepted? |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Institution A | 50900000 | | | | | |
| | 50900000 | 13756166 | | | | |

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

| Institution | Institution Envelope (\$) | Envelope Remaining (\$) | Administrative institution | Collaborating institution | Share from collaborator (\$) | Collaboration accepted? |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Institution A | 50900000 | | | | | |
| | 50900000 | 13756166 | | | | |
| | | | Institution A | | | |
| | | | | Institution D | 464426 | Yes |
| | | | | Institution L | 350000 | Yes |
| | | | Institution B | Institution A | | Yes |

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Merit review process

Aug–Nov 2022

Expert
Committees



Jan 2023

Multidisciplinary
Assessment
Committees



Feb 2023

Special
Multidisciplinary
Assessment
Committee



March 2023

CFI Board
of Directors



.....
Assess the strengths
and weaknesses of
proposals against the
assessment criteria

.....
Assess proposals
against the three
competition
objectives

.....
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

.....
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



Strengths and Weaknesses Analysis (MAC)

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



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Questions:

2023IF@innovation.ca

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25
YEARS
OF INVESTING IN

people

labs

partnerships

ideas

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OUR WORLD***

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