Building Research Partnerships Through NSERC

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University of Alberta Research Funding Fair
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My Goals Today

• Overview of NSERC
• Overview of current Research Partnerships Programs
• A look to the future
• Answer questions
NSERC’s Vision
A country of Discoverers and Innovators

DISCOVERY
69%

INNOVATION
31%

PEOPLE
+ 22,000 postsecondary students and PDFs
+ 11,000 research professionals
INNOVATION – Partnership Options

**ENGAGE**
- Connect with colleges & universities (Grant: Connect)
- Engage with colleges & universities (Grant: Engage)
- Student Training in Industry (Grants: Experience,)

**COLLABORATE**
- Collaborative R&D with colleges & universities (Grants: CRD, ARD, CU-I2I)
- Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and universities (Grants: IRC)
- Strategic Partnerships (Grants: Strategic Networks & Projects)
- Networks of Centres of Excellence (Grants: NCE, BL-NCE)

**COMMERCIALIZE**
- Idea to Innovation for colleges & universities (Grant: I2I)
- Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (Grant: CECR)
- College Technology Access Centres (Grant: TAC)

**CELEBRATE**
- Building College Capacity (Grants: IE, ARTI)
- Synergy Awards for Innovation
INNOVATION – Partnership Options

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**COLLABORATE**

- Collaborative R&D with colleges & universities (Grants: CRD)
- Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and universities (Grants: IRC)

No application deadlines
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Connect

Connect with Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities (Pre-R&D)
Explore opportunities for business-researcher collaborations.

Engage

Engage with Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities (R&D)
Address a short-term R&D challenge for a quick win.

Collaborate

Collaborative R&D for Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities
Collaborate to solve a specific, research-based industry problem.
Connect Grants:

Help companies and academic researchers meet to define priorities for future joint R&D projects.
Connect Grants

Level 1:
For academic travel costs related to the development of new academic-industry partnerships in natural sciences or engineering research

Level 2:
For activities aimed at developing or promoting:
• New academic-industry partnerships,
• Student-industry training opportunities,
Connect with Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities (Pre-R&D)

Explore opportunities for business-researcher collaborations.

Engage with Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities (R&D)

Address a short-term R&D challenge for a quick win.
Engage Grants

- Support new collaborations
- Aimed at solving company-specific problem
- Six-month project; up to $25,000 from NSERC
- No company cash required; just in-kind
- New IP owned by company
- Apply anytime; 4-6 week turnaround
Engage Plus Grants

• Awarded to a researcher and company that previously collaborated on an Engage Grant project

• Build on the results of the original Engage project

• NSERC matches company cash up to a maximum of $12,500

• Application submitted within six months after the original Engage project ends

• IP owned by the company; 4-6 week turnaround
Connect with Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities (Pre-R&D)
Explore opportunities for business-researcher collaborations.

Engage with Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities (R&D)
Address a short-term R&D challenge for a quick win.

Collaborative R&D for Colleges, Polytechnics and Universities
Collaborate to solve a specific, research-based industry problem.
Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) Grants

- Focused R&D projects
- Grants range from $10K to over $400K per year
- Industry cash required
- Flexible leverage:
- Apply anytime
- Peer-review; 3 to 5 month turnaround
Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) Grants

$1 of company cash + $1 of eligible in-kind = $2 from NSERC
Collaborative Research and Development (CRD) Grants

$1 of company cash + $1 of eligible in-kind = $2 from NSERC
Industrial Research Chairs (IRC)

Objectives
• Critical mass required for a major research endeavor of interest to industry and/or develop research efforts in new academic fields
• Enhanced training environment

Expectations
• 5 year terms, renewable indefinitely
• No minimum award, but must be enough to pay Chairholder salary and critical mass of research activities
• Minimum 50% cash from partner(s), in-kind not matched
Experience Awards

- Companies hire university undergraduates for a 16-week period to conduct research
- NSERC contribution: $4,500
- Company contribution: minimum of $1,125
- Up to 15 students per company per year
- Potential future employees
- Apply anytime; four-week turn-around
Some Notes on Eligibility

• Proposed research must be in a natural sciences or engineering field

• For health-related research, consult the "Addendum to the Guidelines for the Eligibility of Applications Related to Health" on the NSERC website under "policies and guidelines"

Partner Eligibility

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

Guidelines for Organizations Participating in Research Partnerships

- Description
- Conflict of interest guidelines for partner organizations
- Summary of participation by organization type
- Assessing receptor capacity
- Guidelines on eligibility and value of in-kind contributions

Description

NSERC offers funding opportunities to support academic research in partnership with private and/or public sector organizations. The intent is to support knowledge discovery and application by mobilizing the brain trust available in Canadian universities, colleges and polytechnics. Private and public sector partners can identify which funding opportunities they can participate in by referring to the Summary of participation by organization type. The specific objectives of the funding opportunity determine the most appropriate partner(s).
Partner Eligibility

Summary of participation by organization type

For funding opportunities that allow multiple partners, non-eligible partners are welcome, but only the cash and in-kind contributions from eligible partners will be taken into account to determine the matching funds that can be awarded by NSERC.

Select one of the following:

- Canadian public or private for-profit companies, including start-up companies
- Multinationals (with significant business operations in Canada)<sup>1</sup>
- Foreign companies
- Industrial associations, producer groups or formal consortiums in Canada
- Public utilities in Canada
- Canadian municipalities
- Government-owned organizations (includes Crown corporations) in Canada
- Government departments or agencies in Canada
- Not-for-profit organizations in Canada
- Canadian-based venture capital firms, angel investors, seed funds or other sources of investment
Looking to the Future...
NSERC’s New Research Partnerships Program

- Budget 2018 made significant investments in NSERC to support knowledge discovery

- The Federal Government also committed to simplify the landscape of federal grants in support of research and innovation to further accelerate the application of knowledge
• NSERC will lead in this effort by modernizing, simplifying and improving its Research Partnerships (RP) programs

• We are working to consolidate six existing research partnership grants into a single program
The new program will build on the strengths of our current partnerships grants.
In the meantime…

• NSERC will continue to administer and fulfill current awards and offer its existing RP programs until further notice.

• As soon as the details for the transition from our current Research Partnerships programs to the new Partnerships program are confirmed, NSERC will provide additional information on this topic.

• The College and Community Innovation (CCI) Program is not part of this consolidation.
Community briefing sessions:

- Nine sessions were held across the country
- Over 400 participants
- Representatives from academia, industry, government, and non-profit sector
- 63 universities were represented at the nine university-hosted engagements
- 69 companies, including 45 SMEs
Rich, constructive feedback from the community…

- the importance of in-kind contributions in the research proposals
- the ability of NSERC funding for projects such as the current Engage Grants and Strategic Partnership Grants
- the challenges in obtaining funding from partners from small organizations, from large organizations for exploratory research, and from some disciplines (such as environmental science)
- the high profile provided by the Industrial Research Chairs program
Have your say!

- Share your questions, comments and perspectives on the renewal of our partnership programs.

- Email us any time at: RPR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

For updates, please visit nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Questions?

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