

India-Canada Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme 2025



Name of the Programme	<p>India-Canada Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme - Request for Proposal (RFP) 2025</p> <p>[Between Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, Technology Development Board (TDB) at India's Department of Science & Technology and The National Research Council Canada (NRC) and Global Affairs Canada, Government of Canada]</p>
Important Dates	<p>Announcement Date of Request for Proposal (RFP): July 04, 2025</p> <p>Closing date of RFP : October 17, 2025</p> <p>Conditional Project Selection Notification : April 2026 (Tentative)</p>
Who Can Apply?	<p>Eligible <u>Indian Applicants</u></p> <p>An Indian company having requisite understanding and capability to undertake R&D activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Indian Project Lead (IPL) (i.e. lead company) must be a commercial (for profit) company under the Indian Companies Act 1956/2013, which operates in and is headquartered in India. At least 51% stake of the INPL Company must be owned by Indian citizens. The INPL should have the required expertise and team capacity to manage the proposed project. Sole proprietors, OPC and partnership firms are not eligible for support under this programme. Companies headquartered and owned outside India and their subsidiaries in India, or vice versa, are not eligible to receive funding from DST under this programme. INPL should lead the project from Indian side and if required bring in other Industry Partners or Academic/R&D Institutions as Consortium Partner. <p>Eligible <u>Canadian Applicants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canadian Project Lead (CPL) applicants must be a Canadian incorporated, profit-oriented small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), with 500 or fewer full-time equivalent employees; Be ready to collaborate with Indian partners on an industrial R&D project; and Be pursuing growth and profit generation through the development and commercialization of innovative, technology-driven, new or improved products, services, or processes. <p><i>[Refer Annex 1: Eligibility Criteria and Annex 2: Project Requirements for details]</i></p>
Eligible technology sectors	<p>The collaboration aims to promote projects that are innovative and reflecting consumer demands, so that they are market-oriented at the same time focused on creating a new product or process that will eventually lead to commercialization.</p> <p>On this basis, this RFP 2025 is open to the applied R&D projects in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced manufacturing, including smart factory and smart manufacturing, advanced materials, automotive manufacturing, robotics and automation, "Industry 4.0" enablers such as additive manufacturing, near net shape manufacturing, assistive robotics and process automation, and industrial IoT implementation

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean technologies and green technologies, including water and waste water management, smart grid and energy storage, battery-related technologies, renewable energy, smart cities, hydrogen technologies, waste management, waste-to-energy, electric vehicles, carbon capture, and energy storage • Digital technologies, including artificial intelligence for industry, cyber security, smart vehicle, and smart cities • Health and bio-sciences, including pharmaceuticals, health informatics, digital health, medical devices and mobile health • Food and agriculture technologies, including crop development, food processing, soil irrigation and monitoring, precision agriculture, and supply chain optimization • Smart infrastructure, including artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of things (IoT), geo-information systems, smart mobility, smart grids, and quantum technologies.
Project funding support	<p>Selected R&D project participants will receive funding from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology Development Board (TDB) on behalf of Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. • The Canadian International Innovation Program (CIIP), which is co-delivered by Global Affairs Canada and the National Research Council of Canada Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP). <p>Funds will be provided in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures established by each organization, and/or each jurisdiction/country. A maximum of Six projects may be funded (subject to the approval from Competent Authority, DST).</p> <p>Funding for R&D Project Participants in India</p> <p>TDB, on behalf of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, will fund the successful projects, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DST will support up to INR 1.5 crore per project or 50% of the Indian Project Cost whichever is lower as a Grant, for a maximum project period of 24 months. • Indian industry may receive up to 50% of their part of the eligible costs on a “Reimbursement Basis”, for costs already incurred on a proportionate basis. • Indian R&D organization/academic institution may receive up to 100% of their costs (within applicable range specified above and as per proposal) on a reimbursement/advance basis. • Funding from other public sector sources will be taken into account when awarding grant, and applicants will be asked to declare funding from other sources in the application. <p>Funding for R&D Project Participants in Canada</p> <p>NRC-IRAP, on behalf of CIIP, will fund successful projects as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRAP will reimburse selected Canadian SME project participants up to 50% of eligible project costs (to a maximum of \$600,000 CAD) over 12 to 24 months. <p><i>[Refer Annex 3: Project Funding Support for Indian Applicants]</i></p>
Types of projects to be supported	<p>Projects will be considered for program funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Full-Scale R&D Projects, focused on co-development of new products, processes or technologies, and/or validation of an innovative product, technologies demonstrating the advance level of innovation and higher commercialization potential. <p>The project must demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a complementary technological contribution from each partner • an obvious advantage and added value resulting from the cooperation between the participants • a balanced contribution between project partners and countries (i.e. no more than 60% of the effort contributed by any one partner or country)

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	<p><u>Note:</u> The project partners should agree in advance on the IP rights and on the commercialization strategy of the product or process.</p> <p><i>[Refer Annex 4: Application Submission Process and Annex 6: General Guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and Commercialization plan for more details]</i></p>
Selection Criteria	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Projects must be innovative and market-driven, leading to the proposed development of a new product or process or new/improved services, leading to commercialization.2. Proposals must demonstrate the joint India-Canada project team's capacity to manage the proposed project in their respective countries. The industry partners in India must contribute at-least 50% of the total industry project cost of the Indian participants. <p><i>[Refer Annex 5: Project Evaluation and Pre-Commencement Process for more details]</i></p>
Finding a Partner	Canadian and Indian actors looking for partner organizations for joint projects can also reach out to emails given in the contact details. Email: indo-canada@tdb.gov.in or Email: neil.kochar@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
Technical Development stage timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technical development stage should be no longer than 24 months.• Commercialization period will be in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures established by each organization, and/or each jurisdiction/country.
Project Evaluation stages and process	Projects will be evaluated according to the standard evaluation processes of NRC-IRAP and DST/TDB in Canada and in India, respectively.

Contact Information:

INDIA

Mr. Deepak Chaturvedi,
Project Manager,
Technology Development Board (TDB), GOI
Website: www.tdb.gov.in
Email: indo-canada@tdb.gov.in
Tel: 011-26511184

CANADA

Mr. Neil Kochar
Program Lead, CIIP - India, Singapore
CIIP - National Program Coordinator for India
Website: www.nrc-cnrc.gc.ca
Email: Neil.kochar@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

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For NRC IRAP:

Description	2025/26 Suggested dates
Call Launch	July 04
Registration Deadline	August 15, 2025
EOI Deadline (Application Deadline for TDB)	October 17
Joint Project Proposal Deadline	December 15
Negotiation and Project Selection (Joint Review)	March
Notification of Conditional Project Selection	April
National Funding Body - Due Diligence and Contract Sign-Off	
Projects Start	July

For TDB Tentative:

Description	2024/25 Suggested dates
Call Launch	July 04
EOI Deadline / Application Deadline for TDB	October 17
Negotiation and Project Selection (Joint Review)	march (Tentative)
Notification of Conditional Project Selection	April 2026 (Tentative)

India-Canada Collaborative Industrial Research & Development Programme Request for Proposal (RFP) 2024 Annexures for Indian Applicants

How to Use this Document?

This document contains the eligibility criteria, key dates, Request for Proposal (RFP) process and application form details specific to this RFP for Indian applicant. Canadian applicants should refer to the NRC IRAP call web page for further information on Canadian eligibility and call requirements.

This RFP aims at Industrial R&D Projects involving at least one Indian R&D performing company (as Indian Project Lead [IPL]) and one Canadian R&D performing company (as Canadian Project Lead [CPL]). Participation of research institutions/universities are highly encouraged as Project partner according to each country's funding regulations. Lead partners from both sides must be businesses/industries. Submission of the proposal under this mode will open and applications will be accepted and reviewed as submitted, per the "Key Dates", as indicated in the Executive Summary section in this document.

1. **Annexure 1** – Project Requirements
2. **Annexure 2** – Eligibility Criteria for Indian Applicants
3. **Annexure 3** – Project Funding Support for Indian Applicants
4. **Annexure 4** – Application Submission Process
5. **Annexure 5** – Project Evaluation Process
6. **Annexure 6** – General Guidelines on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) & Commercialization Plan
7. **Annexure 7** – Key Documents Required from Indian Applicants

Annexure 1: PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

The project content and budget should be well balanced between the Canadian and Indian partners.

Cost estimates must be congruous with the planned activities.

A collaboration proposing an R&D project that meets the requirements in this section is eligible to apply to this Request for Proposals and does so in accordance with the national laws, rules, regulations and procedures of their jurisdiction or country.

Any team proposing an R&D project that addresses the requirements detailed below is eligible to apply to this Request for Proposals:

- An Indian registered company Project Lead (**IPL**), responsible for the Indian application submission, leading the Indian part of the project and communicating with the Canadian Project Lead (**CPL**)
- A Canadian incorporated company Project Lead (**CPL**), responsible for the Canada application submission, leading the Canadian side of the project and communicating with the Indian Project Lead.
- A minimum of 50% of the total project costs must be incurred by the business partners in India and Canada.
- The duration of the Project should be between 18 and 24 months and should result in a commercialize/pre-commercialize product / service at the completion of the technical development stage.

Although it is not mandatory, projects that engage an end-user/first customer are strongly encouraged in either side of the consortium.

If successful, project consortia will be expected to demonstrate that all partners contributing to the R&D project have agreed on International Project Consortium Agreement, including for example, IP Rights and the commercialization plan as part of the final grant agreement process.

Any partner whose cooperative R&D project is consistent with the aforesaid criteria can apply to the present RFP in accordance with the national and/or regional Laws, Rules, Regulations and Procedures in effect.

Annexure 2: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INDIAN APPLICANTS

Applicants from India

The Indian Project Lead (IPL) (i.e. lead company) must be a commercial company that operates in and is headquartered in India. (We expect researchers or managers of these companies to be the nominated applicant.) Academic institutions, other R&D institutes that are headquartered and operate in India are encouraged to participate in the projects as co-investigators/Partners.

Specific criteria for eligible applicants are as follows:

1. The Indian Project Lead (IPL) company applying for the project must be incorporated in India under the Companies Act 1956/2013.
2. At least 51% stake of the IPL Company must be owned by Indian citizens.
3. The IPL should have the required expertise and team capacity to manage the proposed project.

Please note for Indian applicants:

- Sole proprietors, OPC and partnership firms are not eligible for support under this programme.
- Companies headquartered and owned outside India and their subsidiaries in India, or vice versa, are not eligible to receive funding from TDB under this program.

Preferences will be given to:

- Indian companies having partnership with government-funded Indian academic and R&D institutions.
- Indian companies having in-house R&D Centre which is recognized by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Government of India. For details, please refer to <http://www.dsir.gov.in/forms/irdpp/Application%20for%20R&D.pdf>.
- Companies that fall under the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) category, as defined by the Government of India. For definition of MSME, please refer to http://www.dcmsme.gov.in/ssiindia/defination_msme.htm.

In India, where business entities are participants in a project, but with no initial involvement in R&D activities, the project must show a plan of how capabilities are going to be developed in the business entity in the following years in order to:

- perform future R&D projects.
- develop the human resource capability within the business.
- take technologies that are being developed to market.
- develop new intellectual property, and
- enhance the Indian technology-based company's ecosystem.

Annexure 3: PROJECT FUNDING SUPPORT FOR INDIAN APPLICANTS

1.1. Funding Support for Successful Applicants

TDB and NRC IRAP will implement an integrated, merit-based project evaluation and selection process using their existing assessment processes. TDB and NRC IRAP will then together identify the final list of successful applicants. Funds will be provided in accordance with the applicable laws, rules, regulations and procedures established by each organization, and/or in each jurisdiction/country. Although the individual type and value of individual contributions allocated to an Indian / Canadian R&D project may vary, each bilateral project must demonstrate equivalent total effort from each participating country.

Technology Development Board (TDB) on behalf of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, will fund the successful projects, as follows:

- Total project funding of up to 50% of Indian Project budget as “Grant” for Indian applicants is a maximum of INR 150 lakhs per project.
- Indian industry may receive up to 50% of their part of the eligible cost on a reimbursement basis, for costs already incurred on a proportionate basis during the project implementation period after sanction of grant to the project.
- DST funding support for the project must be matched equally (1:1) by Indian Industry and R&D organization/academic institution.
- The funding award will be on the basis of appropriate due-diligence and experts’ evaluation.
- Funding from other public sector sources will be taken into account when awarding grant, and applicants will be asked to declare funding from other sources in the application.
- DST through TDB shall provide the funding in the following proportion to the Indian Applicants. These are indicative figures and are subject to change depending on the type of Project and recommendation by the Joint Project Evaluation Committee:
 1. Equipment (40%)
 2. Manpower (30%)
 3. Consumables (20%)
 4. Travel/Others (10%)

1.2. Administrative and legal requirements to be addressed by Indian Project Lead prior to the release of funds

Following award notification, TDB will advise the IPL in their jurisdiction of all administrative and legal requirements to be addressed prior to the start of projects and the release of funds.

Post project approval, as per the recommendations and approval on the project, the Indian Project Lead (IPL), as an Industry lead will be supported with grant as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

Grant will be in the form of reimbursement for costs already incurred. Project partners are expected to use their own funds for the project activity and seek milestone-based reimbursement of TDB committed fund on proportional basis.

The release of funding/ instalments to the Indian project partners will be as per the (a) agreed milestones and deliverables laid down in the agreement between TDB and IPL and (b) on-site periodic project review by experts nominated by DST/TDB.

1.3. Project Completion

For completion of project and final closure

- The project lead needs to complete the project within assigned duration of project.
- Both the IPL and CPL required to submit joint project technical report – highlighting the technical brief and outcome of the joint efforts at the same time to their funding agencies.

Annexure 4: APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Registration and submission of application

- The Indian Project Lead (IPL) visit TDB website under the “India-Canada CFP 2023”.
- Registration Process at TDB website: **www.tdb.gov.in**
 - Registration is two stage process
 - Stage I - Registrant needs to provide basic information.
 - Stage II – The system will send a Login ID and Password to the email ID provided, and ask for completion of registration.
 - Upon completion of registration, registrants will receive an auto-generated email acknowledgement shortly after, confirming the registration along with registration number.
- Application Submission Process:
 - Indian Project Lead needs to submit the Application online (no other mode of submission will be accepted) as per deadline.
 - Login with the User ID and password
 - Please upload the necessary documents as per requirements indicated in Online Application Form □ Documents Tab.
 - Complete and submit the desired Application Form by the deadline.
 - Upon Application submission, the system will send auto-generated email acknowledgement to IPL, along with application reference number.
 - For multiple applications, IPL needs to contact TDB Program Coordinator (Deepak Chaturvedi , Email: indo-canada@tdb.gov.in).
- The Indian project lead (IPL) must ensure that the content of the application form is identical to the one being submitted to NRC IRAP by the Canadian Project Lead (CPL).
- The application must reflect a combined effort from both the IPL and CPL, be written in English, and submitted using the prescribed process by the stated application submission.
- Only online mode of submission will be accepted.

Annexure 5: PROJECT EVALUATION PROCESS

Project Evaluation and Section in India

STEP 1

Eligibility check with complete set of documentation submission by the Indian Project Lead (IPL) and Indian Partners, if any.

STEP 2

Projects will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- (1) Technology maturity stage / proof of concept.
- (2) Technical capability of Indian Partner (team, infrastructure etc.).
- (3) Indian Partner's ability to deliver/complete the project.
- (4) Financial Capability / Health of the Indian Partner.
- (5) Project Balance in terms of costs and efforts between the Project Partners.
- (6) Pre- commercialization and Commercialisation capability of the project.
- (7) Novelty of Product / Technology.
- (8) Novelty of process / functionality /integration/service.
- (9) Potential of Business and Commercialization success with reference to Target Market.
- (10) Expected economic results from the accomplishment of the project including clear potential to significantly benefit the Canada or India economy or national productivity.
- (11) A clear, evidence-based plan to deliver significant economic impact, return on investment (ROI) and growth through commercialization, as soon as possible after project completion.

STEP 3

Onsite Techno-Financial Due-Diligence of the recommended projects. CPL and IPL visits and vice-versa.

STAGE 4

In India and Canada: a joint ranking list is produced based on the results of the national review processes.

STAGE 5

Announcement of awarded projects.

STAGE 6

In India: signing of Grant Agreement (GA).

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) & Commercialization Plan from the Project

The IPR agreement shall include the following:

- (i) The partner/s to a project from the India and the partner/s to the project from the Partner Country (each the "Party" and collectively the "Parties") will ensure appropriate protection of Intellectual Property Rights generated from cooperation pursuant to International Project Consortium Agreement, consistent with their respective laws, rules and regulations and multilateral agreements to which both Parties are party to.
- (ii) Each Party is and shall remain owner of its Background IP. For the purpose of these guidelines "Background IP" shall mean (a) the intellectual property rights of a Party that is owned or controlled by that Party prior to the execution of the cooperation agreement, or (b) created by a Party outside the scope of the International Project Consortium Agreement or without use or reliance on the confidential information or intellectual property rights of the other Party, as evidenced by written records.
- (iii) Access rights to background IP of one Party may be granted to the other Party only to the extent necessary for the execution and during term of the joint project.
- (iv) Ownership and rights to Foreground IP will be agreed upon by the Parties mutually. For the purpose of these guidelines, "Foreground IP" shall mean any invention conceived and reduced to practice, or know-how generated, solely by employees, agents, or independent contractors of a Party as a result of performing the activities under the cooperation agreement.
- (v) The IPR agreement should expressly reflect the contribution of each Party in the creation of the Foreground IP.
- (vi) Joint IP rights will be applicable only when both Parties have an inventive contribution to Foreground IP. The Parties shall not assign any rights and obligations arising out of the joint IPR generated to inventions/activities carried out under the International Project Consortium Agreement to any third Party without consent of the other Party. Both Parties should agree at the time of signing International Project Consortium Agreement, on the terms and conditions of IP sharing for any additional IP created, as a derivative of this co-development process.

Commercialization:

- (i) In case of Joint IP under this International Project Consortium Agreement both Indian and Partner Country parties will apply as co-applicants, subject to any respective field of use agreed upon, if applicable, for the protection of intellectual property rights subject to joint rights of both the Parties in accordance with the terms and conditions of the cooperation agreement.
- (ii) The Partner Country and Indian Parties shall agree in advance on the IP rights and on the ownership, management and commercialization strategy of the product or process prior to the creation of any Foreground IP.

- (iii) The relationship between the Parties must be clearly defined, including ownership of intellectual property rights for the technology proposed to be developed and commercialized. Therefore, partners must sign a formal company-company business agreement prior to the start of the Project to address issues relating to IP ownership, license rights, manufacturing rights, marketing responsibilities, ownership of technology, benefits to each Applicant during commercialization, as well as repayment to respective Government, if applicable.
- (iv) The Parties shall declare that to the best of their knowledge and belief, that the use of the Background IP or Foreground IP in connection with the cooperation agreement does not infringe any third party's valid patent right/intellectual Property rights. The validation and verification in context of the project, is to be carried out with much sensitivity and precaution by Parties to avoid all kinds of infringements rights. The Parties will be jointly responsible for the Joint IP and solely responsible on Background IP and/or Foreground IP for any kind of legal implications emanating from infringement by them, and as set forth in the cooperation agreement.
- (v) The Party/Parties from Canada will sign a separate agreement with the NRC IRAP and the Party/Parties from India will sign a separate agreement with TDB.

Confidential Information:

Subject to the respective applicable laws, regulations, rules, procedures, mechanisms programs or applicable in each state or of the Parties, as applicable or determined by the NRC IRAP Authority or TDB:

- (i) All information and documents to be exchanged pursuant to the International Project Consortium Agreement will be kept confidential by the Parties and will be used subject to such terms as each Party may specify. The Parties will not use the information for purposes other than that specified without the prior written consent of the other Party. The Parties shall set forth the exact terms and conditions for the protection of confidential Information under the cooperation agreement.
- (ii) All Confidential Information shall remain the exclusive property of the disclosing Party. The Parties agree that this agreement and the disclosure of the Confidential Information do not grant or imply any license, interest or right to the Recipient in respect to any intellectual property right of the other Party.
- (iii) Unpublished information, whether oral, in writing or otherwise, discovered or conceived by the scientists or technicians and exchanged under the provisions of this International Project Consortium Agreement will not be transmitted to a third party, unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Parties.

Annexure 7: Key Documents Required from Indian Applicants

List of supporting documents to be submitted along with the application submission by the Indian applicants only:

- 1) Covering letter.
- 2) Presentation for Evaluation Committee Meeting – add photographs in PPT.
- 3) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between All Consortium Partners. This MoU should basically cover the following points:
 - a) Percentage sharing of IP Rights on new product/process/knowledge being developed/ created/invented during this collaborative R&D Process.
 - b) Background IP's of the partnership (If Any) to be used for this project scope.
 - c) Probable/possible market for the new product/process/knowledge & rights to manufacture/License in the respective market for the period of Time (time span).
 - d) % sharing of Royalty.
 - e) Dispute and arbitration clause.
 - f) Exclusivity and Non-Exclusivity rights if any.
 - g) Duration of this agreement in force.
- 4) Registration Certificate of all project partners, including Academia/R&D Labs, issued by competent authority.
- 5) In case of in-house R&D Centres, all relevant certificates from stakeholders, competent authority relevant for in-house R&D, Defence Manufacturing & production should be submitted.
- 6) Audited Annual Reports (including Income Tax Return, Balance Sheet, and Profit & Loss Account & Auditor's Reports) of all Consortium partners for the last three Financial Years.
- 7) Know Your Customer (KYC) documents of all Consortium partner(s). KYC means Identity & Address proof of the organization which includes Company PAN Card, Electricity Bill, etc.)
- 8) Self-Declaration of Applicant on Company letterhead, signed by MD/CEO/Company Secretary, as all Statutory Norms are complied by the Applicant till date.
- 9) Share Holding Pattern of the Company (highlighting the Foreign Investment, if any)
- 10) Copy of all relevant Certification like Pollution board, ISO, etc. if any.