



# NSERC Alliance Grants

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## Agenda

- Creation
- Alliance
  - Objectives
  - Projects
  - Partnership
  - Cost sharing
  - Application
  - Review
  - Evaluation criteria
  - Transition

**One**  
New  
Flexible  
Simplified  
Enhanced  
Responsive  
**Partnerships**  
**Program**



# Creation

- Builds on the strengths of past programs
- Learning processes / expanding our vision
- Consultation / validation

## OVER 12 MONTHS OF WORK...

- Involving NSERC staff
- Professional consultants
- Members of the research community
- 9 national consultations (400 participants from 63 universities and 69 companies)
- 2 assessment workshops

... and much more



# Objectives for the New Program

IMPROVE - SIMPLIFY - MODERNIZE

## PLATFORM

- Responsive and flexible
- Open to new types of partners
- Create and grow strong and meaningful research partnerships
- Diversify perspectives and skills
- Scalable to achieve high impact results
- Develop meaningful knowledge and ideas
- Accelerate translation and application of results

## OUTCOME

Positive impact on economic, societal and environmental benefits for Canada and Canadians



# Alliance

## Benefits

### Prior Programs

- Engage Grants
- Collaborative Research & Development Grants
- Strategic Grants
- Industrial Research Chairs

### Alliance Grants

- one program
- more flexible
- scalable
- simpler processes
- no application deadlines
- faster decision times
- enhanced partnerships
- fewer restrictions on research topics within NSE



## Grant size and project duration

The minimum grant size is **\$20,000** per year

The maximum is **\$1 million** per year

Alliance Grant projects can range from **1 year** up to **5 years** in duration

Shorter projects can be scaled up or extended within the maximum 5-year period



# Partnerships

## Private - Public - Not for Profit

All organizations needed to achieve the research goals

- Active in research activities
- Collectively provide cash and in-kind support
- Utilize or mobilize the project's research results
- Achieve desired impact



# Partner organizations recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Private Sector

Cash contributions can be recognized*	Cash contributions <i>cannot</i> be recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canadian private companies</li><li>• Multinationals with a presence in Canada</li><li>• Foreign companies (but not as the sole partner organization)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Venture capital / Angel investors / Seed companies</li><li>• Holding companies</li><li>• Companies with less than two full-time employees</li></ul>

\*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met





# Partner organizations recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Canadian Public Sector

Cash contributions can be recognized*	Cash contributions <i>cannot</i> be recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Municipalities and local or regional governments established by or under provincial or territorial statute</li><li>• Provincial/territorial government departments</li><li>• Federal government departments</li><li>• Indigenous organizations</li><li>• Public utilities</li><li>• Crown corporations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding organizations (federal, provincial, territorial, international) whose primary mission is to fund R&amp;D</li><li>• Organizations whose primary mission is to perform R&amp;D and are funded or controlled primarily by government</li><li>• Foreign governments</li></ul>

\*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met



# Partner organizations recognized in cost-sharing calculations

## Canadian Not-for-Profit Sector

Cash contributions can be recognized*	Cash contributions <i>cannot</i> be recognized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Producer groups</li><li>• Industrial associations</li><li>• Registered charities that have a mandate to carry out and apply research (within natural sciences and engineering)</li><li>• Organizations whose primary mission is to maintain collections (e.g., historical, scientific, artistic, or cultural) for the public good, such as libraries, museums, zoos or aquariums</li><li>• Community organizations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not-for-profit organizations whose primary mission is to fund R&amp;D and are funded or controlled primarily by government</li><li>• Post-secondary institutions</li><li>• Incubators and accelerators</li><li>• Other registered charities</li><li>• Hospitals and medical/clinical research institutes</li><li>• Philanthropic organizations</li><li>• Consortia with the majority of their funding originating from government sources</li><li>• Foreign not-for-profit organizations</li><li>• Individuals</li></ul>

\*if NSERC cost-sharing requirements are met



# Cost sharing

OPTION 1		OPTION 2
50% 1:1 leverage ratio	66% 2:1 leverage ratio	90 to 100% of the shareable costs
Large partner organizations only	Small & medium sized partner organizations - Large organizations with SMEs (value chain) - Multisectoral partnership (private, public, not-for-profit)	100%: Public & not-for-profit 90%: Private sector - Limit of 2 applications per partner organization and per applicant per 12 months period - Grants limited to \$200k/year



# Cost-sharing example

## OPTION 1

**Small / medium-sized organizations\***

*\*public, private, or not-for-profit*

66% cost-sharing  
(2:1 ratio)

Total project cost: \$180,000

- **Partner cash contributions recognized for cost-sharing : \$60,000**
- **NSERC contribution: \$120,000**



# Cost-sharing example

## OPTION 1

**Small / medium-sized organizations\***

*\*public, private, or not-for-profit*

66% cost-sharing  
(2:1 ratio)

Total project cost: \$200,000

- **Partner cash contributions recognized for cost-sharing : \$60,000**
- **Partner cash contributions not recognized for cost-sharing : \$20,000**
- **NSERC contribution: \$120,000**



Total project cost	\$200,000
Partner(s)- contributions not recognized	\$20,000
<b>Cost-shared amount</b>	<b>\$180,000</b>
Partner(s) - contributions recognized	\$60,000
NSERC	\$120,000



## How to apply

### Alliance Grant applications are submitted using NSERC's online system

- Applicants fill out the proposal template and supporting documents and include their Common CV and the Common CVs of any co-applicants
- See the instructions for NSERC's online system



# Review

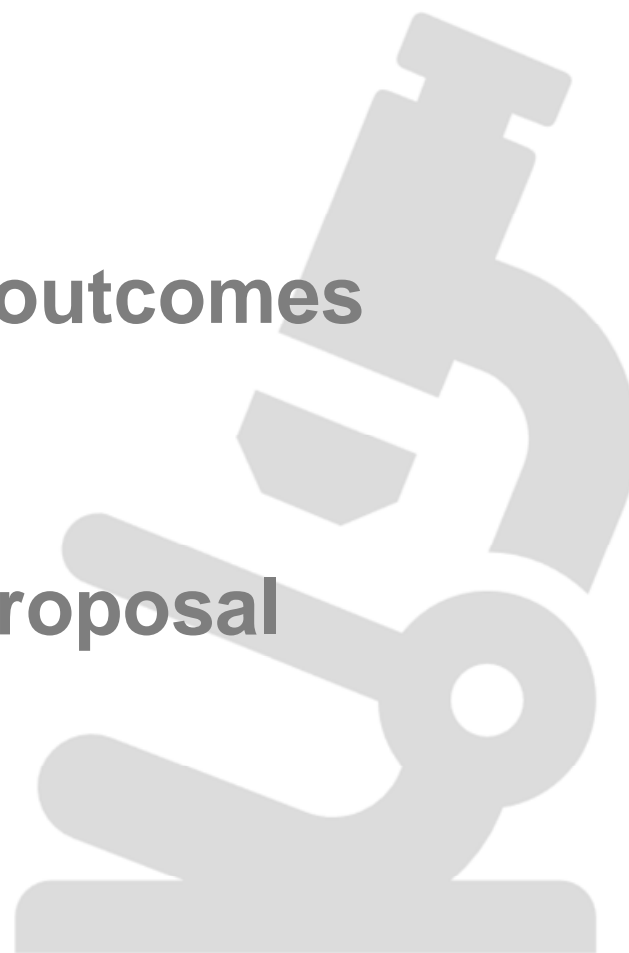
Financial risk-based approach - Simpler review format - Shorter processing time

Project Size	Small	Medium	Large
Avg. Annual Request	\$20,000 to \$30,000	\$30,000 to \$300,000	\$300,000 to \$1,000,000
Review mechanism	<b>NSERC File Managers</b> Supported by existing NSERC peer review	<b>External Reviewers</b> With expertise directly related to the proposal	<b>Ad hoc committee members</b> With expertise directly related to the proposal
Funding decisions	NSERC assigns merit indicators to determine priority for funding		
Expected decision time*	4 weeks	8-12 weeks	12-16 weeks



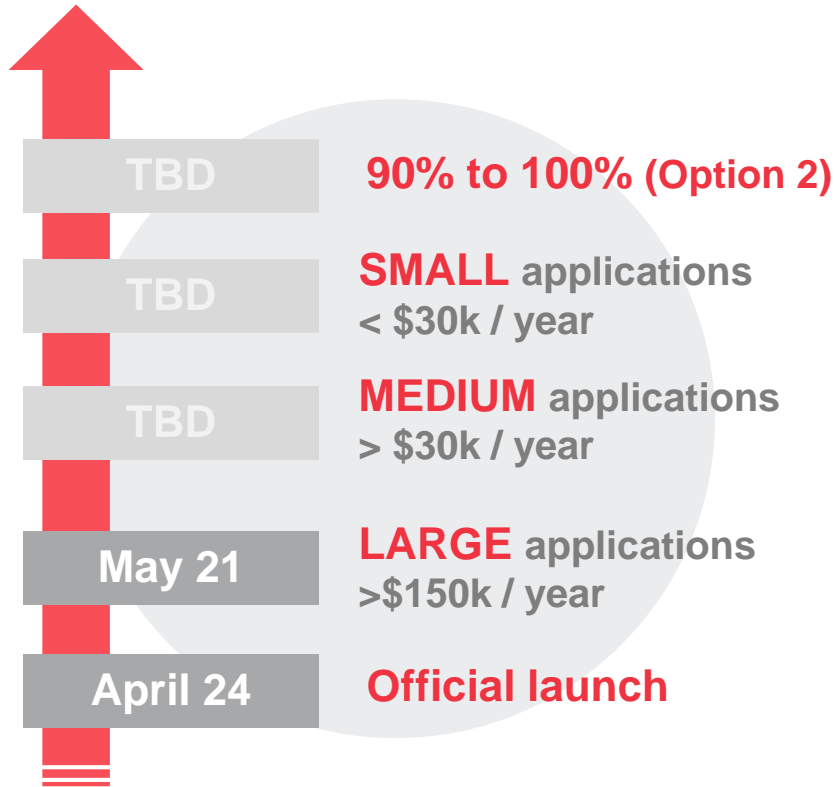
## Evaluation criteria

- 1 **Relevance and outcomes**
- 2 **Partnership**
- 3 **Quality of the Proposal**
- 4 **Training**





# Transition



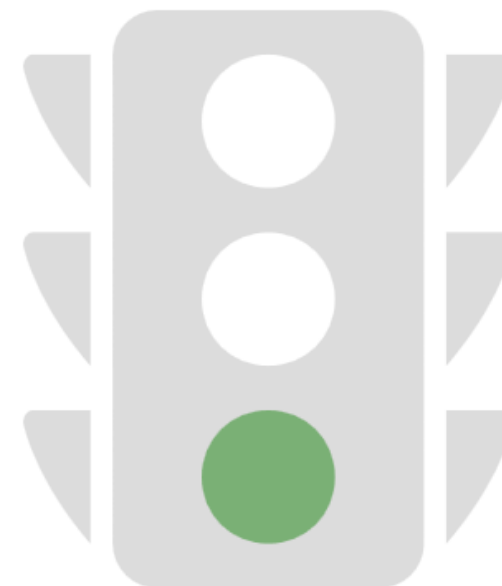
## Alliance Grants



## Prior Programs

## Transition

- All ongoing awards & all new commitments made before the launch of Alliance **will be honored**, as long as they continue to meet the T&C of the award
- All IRC, CRD, Engage applications received before deadline **will be evaluated according to the original rules and evaluation criteria**



# Useful Links

- [Alliance Grants Website](#)
- [Instructions for completing an Alliance Grant application](#)
- [Role of partner organizations](#)
- [Evaluation Criteria](#)
- [Merit Indicators](#)
- [Use of Grant Funds](#)
- [FAQ](#)





# Thank you!

Visit [nserc.ca/alliance](https://nserc.ca/alliance)  
to learn more about the  
new Alliance grants.

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