



Ontario Research Fund – Research Excellence Round 7 Competition

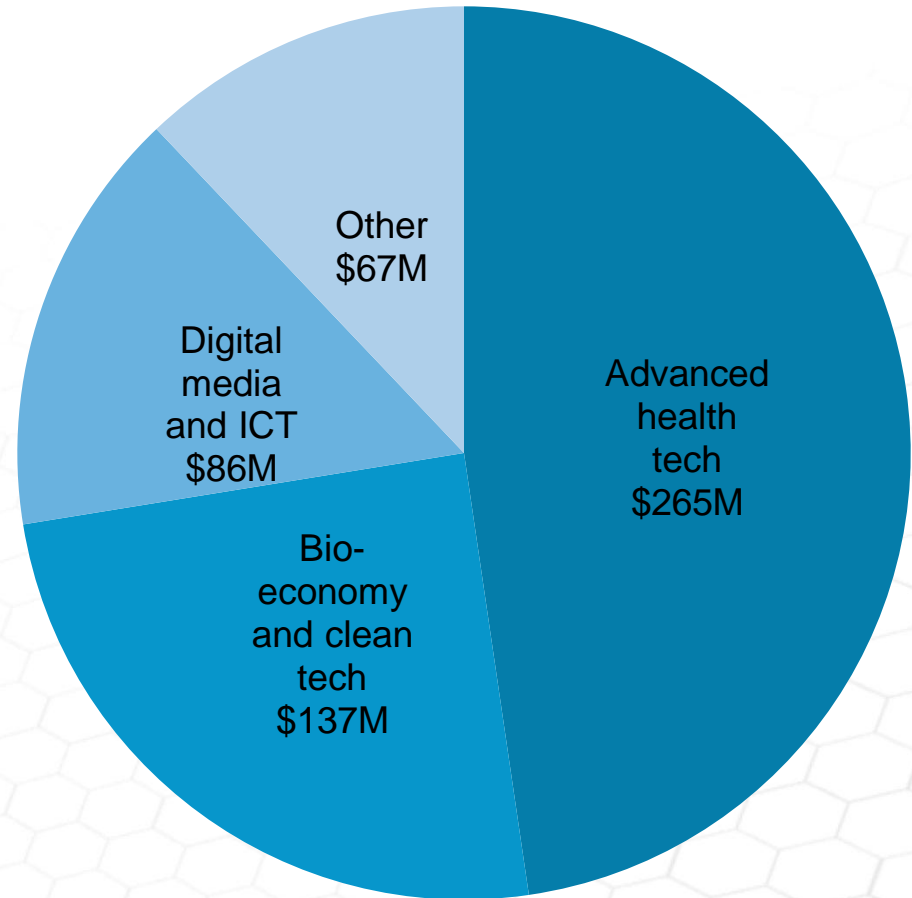
Ontario Information Sessions – February 2014

Overview

- The Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence (ORF-RE) program promotes research excellence in Ontario by supporting transformative, internationally significant research.
- The ORF-RE focuses on scientific excellence and benefits to Ontarians, and targets new leading-edge research initiatives
- \$65M allocated for ORF-RE Round 7

ORF-RE History

- Introduced in 2005, has held 5 general and 2 special rounds
- To date, \$556M committed for 140 projects, leveraging \$1.1B in private sector and institutional contributions
- Success rates in past rounds have been approximately 30%



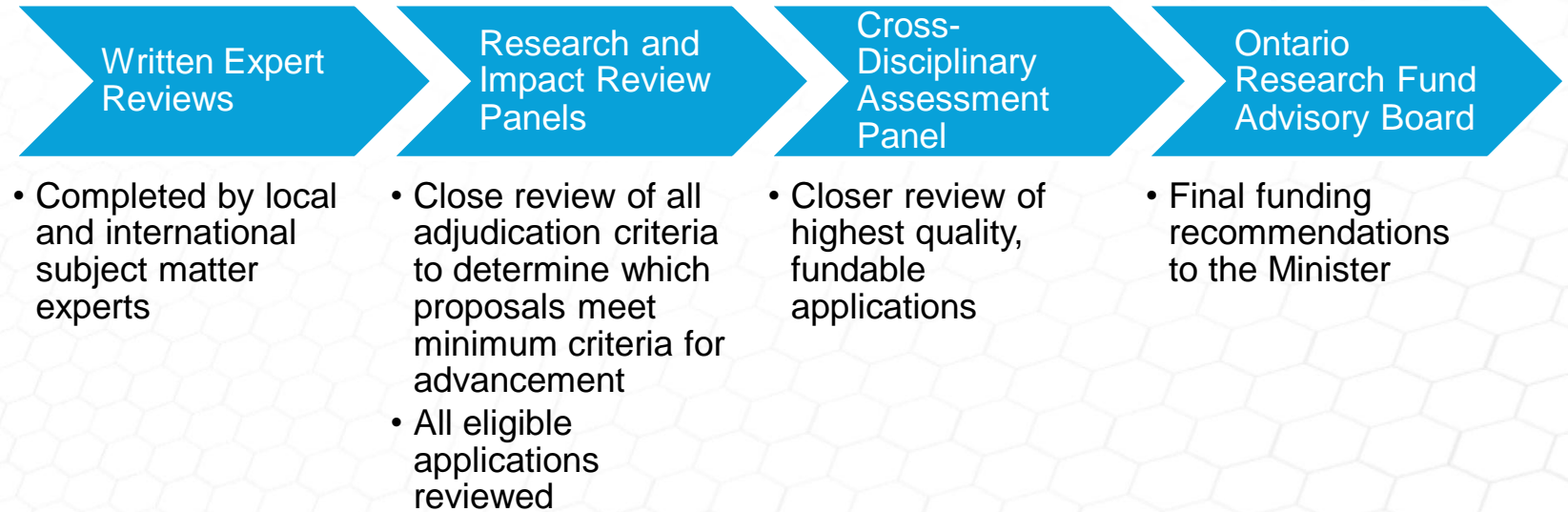
Eligibility

- Funding is open, on a competitive basis, to:
 - Ontario publicly assisted universities
 - Ontario colleges of applied arts and technology
 - Ontario hospital research institutes
 - not-for-profit research institutes affiliated with an Ontario university or hospital, excluding those funded primarily by business or industry
 - consortia of the above, with one institution as lead applicant, assuming responsibility and accountability for the consortium
 - other Ontario not-for-profit research institutions at the discretion of the ORF Advisory Board
- The ORF-RE grant can be used for the following direct costs of conducting research:
 - **Salaries and benefits**
 - **Facilities and equipment**
 - **Other direct research costs**
 - **Management and administration**

Application Process

- Institutions submit Notices of Intent (Nols) by February 12, 2014.
- Nols will be made available to help institutions identify opportunities for meaningful collaboration on projects with similar research topics or objectives.
- Institutions submit full applications by July 15, 2014.

Adjudication Process



Research Excellence

- All proposals must demonstrate leading edge scientific potential and the expertise to realize that potential through:
 - Scientific merit
 - Proposed innovation
 - Credentials and appropriateness of the research team
 - Where applicable, degree of inter-institutional and international research collaboration

Research Impact

- All proposals must demonstrate their anticipated value to Ontarians across three categories:
 - **Commercialization**
 - **Economic Benefits**
 - **Societal Benefits**
- Applications must address all three, but should emphasize the most relevant area
- All areas are viewed as equally valuable

Research Translation

- All proposals must demonstrate their ability to achieve the identified Research Impact through a plan and engagement with users of the research, including but not limited to:
 - Firms
 - Trade associations
 - Clinicians
 - Researchers in the scientific community
 - Non-profit organizations
 - Community groups
 - Government and agencies

Project Management

- All proposals must demonstrate the ability to manage a project of the scope and scale requested:
 - Business plan for the management of the project, including governance structure (i.e. management team, arm's length advisory board, scientific advisory committee, etc.)
 - Sustainability plan for the research capacity that is created
 - Project budget, budget justification and method for ensuring accurate forecasts
 - Clear, specific and measurable milestones and deliverables
 - If applicable, a data management plan

Funding Overview

- As a general rule, the minimum support provided to a project will be \$1 million. The maximum support provided will be \$4 million.
- ORF-RE will contribute a maximum of 1/3 of the total project value, with 1/3 of the project value coming from the applicant institution(s) and 1/3 from the private sector.
- Contributions from the ORF will start to flow to successful projects after execution of a grant agreement and not before April 1, 2015.
- The project start date will be negotiated as part of the grant agreement but may not be earlier than the date of the call for proposals, January 20, 2014.
- Every project, regardless of start date, will have a Year 1 end date of March 31, 2016.

Preparing the Budget

- The budget should be prepared as zero-based.
- Institutional and private sector contributions may be cash or in-kind.
- Eligible expenses include:
 - Salaries and benefits claimed in proportion to the time spent working on the project
 - Facilities and equipment: up to 10% of total direct costs
 - Other direct research costs including, but not limited to, materials fieldwork expenses, and dissemination of research
 - Management and administration: up to 5% of total direct costs
- Applicants should prepare a realistic budget that reflects the true rate of expenses.

Institutional Matches

- Expenses are only eligible after the project start date, therefore contributions to cover expenses can only be made after the project start date. Contributions may be secured as early as one year prior to the application deadline (July 15, 2013).
- In order to be eligible funding must be used to directly support the activities of the ORF project.
- Eligible sources of Institutional matching (not necessarily exhaustive):

Eligible Sources	Ineligible Sources
Tri-Council grants	CFI Infrastructure funds
CFI IOF funds	Any grants from the Ontario government or an Agency of the Ontario government
Any research funding, philanthropic gift, or grants and gifts directed in general to the research institution	

Private Sector Contribution

- Contributions from the private sector may be cash or in-kind
- Letters of support from private sector partners must accompany the full application and detail the type and amount of support and the interest that the private sector has in the project.
- Before finalization of the grant agreement after an award has been made, the private sector support letters must also clearly justify the valuation of any in-kind support.
- Similar to institutional contributions, private sector contributions are only to cover eligible expenses which are incurred after the start date. Funds may have been received at the institution prior to the start date (no earlier than July 15, 2013) but must be spent after the project start date to be considered eligible.

What has changed from previous rounds?

- **Pre-Award and Adjudication:**
 - Improved ability for applications to emphasize benefits to Ontarians that are not directly related to commercialization, as well as explain how those benefits are likely to be achieved
 - Increased emphasis on engagement with users of research
 - Introduction of Cross-Disciplinary Assessment Panel
- **Budget and Payments**
 - All project years will align with Ministry fiscal year (i.e. every project year will end of March 31)
 - New contract model is to be developed in consultation with institutions.

ORF-RE Competition Critical Dates

Dates	Activity
January 20, 2014	Issued call for proposals
February 12, 2014	Notices of intent due
July 15, 2014	Full applications due
October-December 2014	Review Panels
January 2015	Minister's approval of projects
February 2015	Decisions communicated to Institutions