



INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE

Up to **\$50 million** for game-changing
technology in existing and new industries

Online Submission:
ERAadmin.ca

Deadline:
January 19, 2023 at 5:00PM MDT

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
GUIDELINES

EMISSIONS
REDUCTION
ALBERTA 

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Legal Notice

Emissions Reduction Alberta is a registered tradename of the Climate Change and Emissions Management (CCEMC) Corporation and is referred to as ERA throughout this document. By submitting an Expression of Interest (“EOI”), you confirm that you have read, understand and accept the information contained in this Call for Expressions of Interest and, that each of you, the applicant (the “Proponent”), and any project partners agree as follows:

- a) ERA may at any time suspend, terminate, cancel, withdraw, amend or alter all or any portion of this request for proposals (“RFP”) EOI stage (“EOI Stage”), including but not limited to the EOI requirements, the EOI selection and review process and the EOI eligibility criteria.
- b) ERA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject any or all EOIs for any reason. ERA is not required to accept the highest ranked EOI nor is it required to accept any EOI recommended for advancement to the full project proposal (“Full Project Proposal”) stage (“FPP Stage”) by the applicable ERA evaluators.
- c) The final decision with respect to the projects to be included in the EOI short-list rests solely with ERA Board of Directors (“Board of Directors”). The Board of Directors’ evaluation of EOIs may be based on, but is not in any way limited to, the criteria set out in this RFP. The Board of Directors may consider any criteria determined by the Board of Directors to be relevant to ERA’s mandate, regardless of whether such additional criteria have been disclosed to the Proponent.
- d) EOIs that do not comply with the requirements described in this RFP may be rejected in whole or in part or not considered by ERA. ERA reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject a non-compliant EOI.
- e) This EOI Stage is an invitation for EOIs only. It is not an offer and the submission of an EOI does not create a contract or agreement of any kind between ERA and the Proponent.
- f) No conduct, act or omission of CCEMC, CCEMC operating as ERA, or its directors, officers, consultants, project advisors, agents, servants and their respective successors and assigns (collectively the “ERA Parties”), other than a written notice to the Proponent in writing signed by an authorized person for ERA, will constitute an acceptance of an EOI.
- g) Acceptance of an EOI does not create any binding contract between ERA and the Proponent. ERA shall not be obligated in any matter whatsoever to any Proponent until a written contribution agreement (“Contribution Agreement”) between CCEMC operating as ERA and the Proponent has been duly executed relating to an approved FPP.
- h) As between the parties, the EOI and all documents and materials you submit to ERA in connection with the EOI Stage and all intellectual property in and to the foregoing are the exclusive property of ERA immediately upon delivery to ERA. For clarity, this refers to the materials themselves, not to any technology or innovations disclosed or discussed in them.

Intellectual property developed during the course of the project will be addressed through the Contribution Agreement and will normally be owned by the Proponent.

- i) You, the Proponent and any project partners will keep this EOI Stage confidential and will not use, reproduce or distribute it, any portion of it, or any data, information, drawings, or specifications included in or provided with it except as necessary to prepare an FPP as requested by ERA.
- j) Neither ERA nor any of ERA Parties will have any liability whatsoever to you, the Proponent or any project partners, or any of them, in connection with this EOI Stage or any EOI prepared in response to it.
- k) You, the Proponent and any project partners will not make a claim against CCEMC, CCEMC operating as ERA, or ERA Parties for any reason whatsoever or howsoever relating to this EOI Stage. You are undertaking the expenditures required to prepare and submit an EOI entirely at your own risk, and you waive any right and release ERA and ERA Parties from any demands, liability, claim or recovery for costs, expenses, or damages incurred whatsoever or howsoever arising out of or relating to this EOI Stage or any EOI prepared in response to it, whether such right or claim arises in contract, negligence or otherwise.
- l) ERA takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied during this EOI Stage process by ERA or ERA Parties.

1 Introduction

1.1 ERA

Emissions Reduction Alberta (“ERA”) is a registered tradename of the Climate Change and Emissions Management (CCEMC) Corporation. For more than 12 years, ERA has invested revenues from the carbon price paid by large industrial emitters to accelerate the development and adoption of innovative clean technology solutions. Since inception in 2009, ERA has committed \$821 million to 231 projects worth about \$6.5 billion that are helping reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, create competitive industries, and lead to new business opportunities in Alberta. These projects are estimated to deliver cumulative GHG reductions of more than 40 million tonnes CO₂e by 2030.

1.2 Document Scope

This Call for Expressions of Interest (“Call”) is inviting project proposals to be evaluated in a competitive funding process. The process is divided into two stages, the Expression of Interest (“EOI”) stage and the Full Project Proposal (“FPP”) stage, followed by Contribution Agreement development and execution. These instructions provide information about the EOI stage only. Information specific to the FPP stage, including details regarding preparation and evaluation of FPPs, will be made available to shortlisted EOI applicants at the time of invitation to the FPP stage.

An overview of ERA’s overall funding process can be found on the ERA website at <https://eralberta.ca/apply-for-funding/>.

Note: Applicants who have questions about the EOI process or who wish to discuss their potential submission with ERA are invited to email applications@eralberta.ca. Inquiries will be directed to appropriate personnel within ERA.

2 Call for Proposals Scope

2.1 Background and Context

Approximately two thirds of Alberta’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from the industrial sector¹. Achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 will require major improvements in GHG

¹ Based on [Canada’s National Inventory Report 1990-2020](#)

performance and the rate of mitigation across Alberta's economy, particularly for industrial operations.

Industrial processes in use today are typically energy-intensive and many have inherent process emissions. Such industries also represent a significant existing asset base of legacy capital investments and may be exposed to global trade, commodity prices, and competitive pressures. These factors create fundamental barriers to achieving net zero emissions in industry; incremental improvements using existing technologies cannot deliver sufficient progress on their own, while potential step-change solutions face significant challenges in securing capital investment and market acceptance.

Despite these barriers, the magnitude of the potential benefits from transformative industrial technologies is significant. Investments in solutions that will help to reach net-zero can unlock significant first-mover advantages for Alberta's existing and emerging economic sectors while also contributing to improved competitiveness and resilience. In addition to direct savings on energy and carbon costs, novel industrial technologies can deliver indirect benefits including productivity and performance gains, improved product quality, reduced waste, customer attraction, improved market access, and diversification into higher-value products.

Many potential opportunities with the highest potential will need significant investment, testing, and scale-up to prove operational viability. This creates a demand for ERA investment to de-risk technologies and accelerate their implementation in Alberta.

By investing in this area, ERA hopes to support industries and technology developers in getting the best ideas for transformative industrial technologies to market faster. In turn, the success of such technologies has significant potential value for sustaining prosperity, capacity-building, economic diversification, and other environmental benefits beyond GHG reductions.

In addition to supporting industries to reach net-zero targets, this Call for Proposals aligns with provincial and federal initiatives. Through this Call, ERA will continue to support the mission of Government of Alberta's Technology and Innovation for Emissions Reduction (TIER) fund by supporting innovative technology solutions for industrial facilities in the province.

Canada's Emissions Reduction Plan commits to achieving 40-45% emissions reductions below 2005 levels by 2030 through various policy mechanisms including the Clean Fuel Regulation, Clean Electricity Regulation, carbon pricing system, oil and gas emissions cap, and various funding programs. This Call complements federal programming such as the Energy Innovation Program (EIP) from Natural Resources Canada (NRCan), the federal Strategic Innovation Fund's Net-Zero Accelerator (SIF-NZA), and the Low Carbon Economy Leadership Fund. This Call is also well-aligned with the mandates of several federal organizations including the Canada Infrastructure Bank (CIB),

the Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), Sustainable Development Technology Canada (SDTC), and others.

By aligning with existing provincial and federal supports for industrial decarbonization, ERA intends to leverage significant private and public funding commensurate with the scale of challenge and opportunity presented by industrial transformation.

2.2 Call Focus and Technology Areas

ERA's Industrial Transformation Challenge (the Call) is intended to support and accelerate the efforts of Alberta's industrial sector to achieve net-zero GHG emissions. The Call is focused on technology opportunities that will be key solutions for achieving net-zero emissions and are currently not in widespread commercial use. By moving such solutions from bench-scale demonstrations and prototypes through scale-up to field pilots and commercial demonstrations, the Call aims to unlock the potential for step-change emissions benefits across Alberta's industrial sector to secure the competitiveness of existing and new industries in an increasingly emissions-constrained future.

This Call is not technology prescriptive. The following list provides a non-exhaustive set of example technologies that ERA believes could represent compelling opportunities in this Call:

- Electric boilers, industrial heat pumps, and other means of electrifying industrial heat
- Onsite industrial clean heat production via geothermal, solar thermal, nuclear, etc.
- Thermal energy storage
- Hydrogen end uses in industry (i.e., hydrogen-driven equipment/processes)
- Process electrification
- Novel hydrocarbon extraction (including electrified and/or non-aqueous processes, application of small modular nuclear reactors, etc.)
- New processes, chemistries, etc. for cement (including novel clinker substitutes), fertilizer, plastics, pulp and paper, oil and gas upgrading/refining, and other industries
- Transformative agricultural technologies and practices including electrification, advanced fertilizers, and mitigation of agricultural methane emissions
- Novel alternative proteins
- Step-changes in fugitive methane management
- Solutions for high global warming potential gasses including climate-friendly refrigerants and fluorinated-gas reduction/substitution
- New industries and products, such as:
 - Hydrocarbons beyond combustion
 - Energy materials (i.e., lithium, vanadium, zircon, etc.)
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Inherently low-emissions greenfield developments

Opportunities that are **out of scope** for this Call include:

- GHG detection, quantification, measuring, and monitoring
- Incremental efficiency or fuel-switching improvements (i.e., reducing energy/emissions without a clear path to net zero)
- Digital solutions (improved controls, automation, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning, logistics, etc.)

This Call is seeking transformative opportunities to position Alberta's industries for success in the future global economy. All proposed solutions must be compatible with long-term net-zero goals. Applicants **must** clearly explain how the proposed solution contributes to and aligns with their organizational and facility plans to achieve net-zero, including interim targets and enabling measures.

2.3 Project Structure

Funding made available through this Call is provided for completion of projects with well-defined objectives, milestones, deliverables, and timelines. Applicants must clearly delineate the scope of the project for which ERA funding is being requested and the benefits associated with that scope of work. Any related work completed concurrently or before the project term but outside the scope of the project may be discussed in the proposal but should be clearly indicated as such.

ERA is seeking projects that involve field testing, piloting, demonstration, or first-of-kind implementation of novel technology (e.g., devices, equipment, systems, processes, or practices). Standalone pre-construction projects (e.g., FEED study, detailed engineering) will only be considered for funding in exceptional cases where such a project provides clear and significant value in advancing a particular technology with transformative potential (e.g., small modular nuclear reactors). All other projects must include field testing, piloting, demonstration, or first-of-kind implementation of novel technology, and must incorporate sufficient operational time to generate performance data and learnings. Projects may include late-stage pre-construction work as the initial stage of a technology demonstration/implementation, as long as the project is at an advanced state of readiness and can be completed within the project term described below.

Projects or portions thereof that have received ERA or CCEMC funding are not eligible to receive further ERA funding for the same development. However, applicants may request support for a new phase of development that builds on and sufficiently advances a previously funded project.

2.4 Stage of Development and Novelty

EOIs are invited for projects that will advance technology to the stages of field pilot, demonstration, or first-of-kind commercial implementation by project completion, as described below:

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- **Field Test/Pilot:** At this stage, the solution is ready to be field tested in an operational environment. Projects in this category include scale up of prototypes to representative pilot scale and subsequent in-field testing of pilot units.
 - **Demonstration:** At this stage of development, the technology or innovation is approaching the final commercial product and representative systems have been built. Projects in this category include demonstration of near- or fully-commercial scale systems in an operational environment.
 - **First-of-Kind Implementation:** At this stage, the technology is ready for first-of-kind commercial deployment. Projects in this category will involve design, construction, and operation of the technology in its final commercial form, with the intent to operate the technology for its full commercial life.

Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed technology or application thereof is an innovative solution for emissions reduction in Alberta. This may include elements such as first-of-kind demonstration of novel technological solutions, innovative adaptation of solutions that have been implemented outside of Alberta or in a different industry, or novel configurations of leading commercial technology for a new operational environment. In general, projects should include elements of technological advancement and de-risking rather than deployment of commercially available solutions. The presence of commercially available components in a project does not disqualify it from funding, as long as the primary focus of the ERA-funded scope of work is advancing novel technology.

This Call is only open to new developments that are additional to business-as-usual activities. For clarity, prior announcement or development of a project does not preclude it from receiving funding, but applicants must justify how ERA funding will lead to activities and developments that are additional to the business-as-usual case.

Note: It is incumbent upon applicants to justify how their project qualifies as a novel opportunity.

In the context of this Call, novelty is defined by:

- a) the additionality of the potential project outcomes relative to a reasonable future baseline condition;
- b) the incremental strategic value of the project relative to current/past investments in [ERA's portfolio](#); and
- c) the degree of technology/regulatory risk associated with the proposed project.

As such, ERA funding will not be provided to address only a financial barrier or for projects whose focus is implementation of business-as-usual technology.

2.5 Project Location

All projects supported through this Call must demonstrate a clear and justified value proposition for reducing GHG emissions in Alberta. Technology solutions can originate from anywhere globally but

must be demonstrated or implemented in Alberta during the project. Projects that involve demonstration or implementation of a technology at multiple Alberta sites are eligible for funding under this Call.

2.6 Eligible Applicants

This Call is open to all categories of lead applicant, including innovators, technology developers, Indigenous communities, industrial facility owners/operators, industrial associations, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), research and development (R&D) organizations, universities, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, government research labs, and individuals. Applicants are not required to be located in Alberta, but all applicants must demonstrate a clear value proposition for the province.

Collaboration between multiple organizations is eligible and encouraged for this opportunity. Collaboration between partners can often represent a strong value proposition by demonstrating opportunities for technology validation, commercialization, and sharing of results. This Call is focused on advancing transformative opportunities for Alberta's industrial sector. As such, involvement from industry members is critical to demonstrate market pull for proposed solutions.

Applicants are encouraged to partner with Alberta's post-secondary and research institutions, Indigenous communities, and municipalities where appropriate. These partnerships can offer significant benefits, including the attraction and training of highly skilled workers, increasing Alberta's innovation capacity, engagement of local communities, and leveraging complementary resources.

Note: There are no restrictions on the number of EOIs that can be submitted by any applicant. However, applicants are encouraged to be selective, bringing forward only the most promising and highest quality applications. ERA reserves the right to limit funding to any individual organization to ensure diversity of funding recipients, and may ask applicants to identify the highest priority projects for their organization. In this Call, ERA is unlikely to fund more than one proposal from any given organization.

3 Terms of Funding

3.1 Total Funds Available

The total funding available for projects supported through this Call is up to **\$50 million** Canadian Dollars (\$CAD), subject to the discretion of ERA and the availability of funds.

3.2 ERA Contribution Limits and Cost Sharing

The maximum funding request to ERA for any one project is **\$10 million CAD** and the minimum is **\$0.25 million CAD**.

Note: Applicants must justify the amount of funding requested. ERA may choose at its sole discretion to award project funding for less than the requested amount. For this call, ERA anticipates funding most projects at no more than \$7 million in order to optimize the total funding available. Projects will only be awarded the full \$10 million maximum funding amount in exceptional cases where strong justification and a compelling value proposition is provided.

ERA will only match contributions toward eligible expenses on a maximum one-to-one (1:1) basis. As such, the maximum ERA contribution to a single project will be no more than **50%** of the project's eligible expenses.

ERA funding is disbursed on a milestone completion basis after real expenses have been incurred toward specified tasks over the course of the project term. ERA's cost share on each milestone will be the same as the proportion of ERA funding relative to the total project budget.

ERA will only match unencumbered cash contributions for eligible expenses. ERA will not match other federal, provincial, or international government funds provided directly for the proposed project. ERA will not match future revenue associated with the outcomes of the project, including for example: offset/performance credits associated with the project; tax incentives associated with the project, such as Canadian SR&ED credits; and revenue from sale of the project's outputs or products. However, the presence of such revenue sources does not disqualify a project from eligibility and may be noted in the EOI to improve the risk profile of the proposal.

For information about eligible expenses and costs, please refer to the ERA *Eligible Expenses and Cost Instructions* document available at <http://eralberta.ca/apply-for-funding>.

3.3 Contribution Agreement

Successful applicants will enter into a contribution agreement ("Contribution Agreement") with ERA, which will address the project scope, work plan, milestones, deliverables, performance targets, payment schedule, reporting requirements, terms of funding, and other aspects related to ERA's funding contribution.

3.4 Outcomes Reporting and Knowledge Sharing

Funding recipients will be required to report on project outcomes, achievements, and lessons learned, including without limitation GHG reductions (actual and projected), job creation, and other environmental, economic, and social benefits.

ERA is committed to encouraging widespread knowledge dissemination from funded projects to maximize the benefit of our participation. In addition to written reports, ERA may require recipients to commit to specific activities such as hosting knowledge-sharing workshops or participation in ERA lessons-learned activities.

3.5 Project Term

The maximum length for projects funded under this Call is **three (3) years** from initiation, plus **one (1) year** additional for operational time where applicable. For clarity, all construction and commissioning activities must be completed within a three-year period, but up to one year of post-commissioning operational time must be incorporated in the project term where applicable to generate performance data and learnings for inclusion in final reporting and knowledge sharing activities.

3.6 Project Initiation

Applicants must clearly demonstrate in their proposal that the project is sufficiently advanced to initiate work within 120 days of funding approval. Successful applicants will be required to commence work on the proposed project **within 120 days** of ERA funding approval (engineering design, equipment procurement, construction, etc.). However, successful applicants may request a delayed start date of up to twelve (12) months after funding approval to allow for alignment with facility operations and scheduled facility turnarounds. Such requests will be at ERA's sole discretion to accept or decline.

ERA will only contribute toward project costs incurred after the date of ERA's FPP submission deadline, which is currently planned for mid-April 2023 and will be confirmed upon invitation to the FPP stage. Project-related costs incurred prior to ERA's FPP submission deadline will be considered out of scope, will not be considered eligible project costs, and are not eligible for fund matching from ERA. Furthermore, no disbursements will be made prior to execution of a contribution agreement with ERA, and any project costs incurred prior to execution of a contribution agreement will not be reimbursed by ERA in the event that an agreement is not executed.

3.7 Trusted Partner Funding Leverage

ERA is working in partnership with other funding organizations in Alberta and across Canada. In some cases, there may be an opportunity for ERA to share applicants' proposals with trusted partners and explore possibilities to leverage funding available from these organizations.

During the submission process, applicants will have the opportunity to give ERA permission to share their submissions with trusted funding partners of ERA, where applicable. Please note that ERA will only share applications for the purposes of exploring further funding and with partners where ERA has a non-disclosure agreement in place. An applicant’s preference regarding whether to allow sharing of their application will not influence ERA’s assessment of their proposal.

4 Submission Details

4.1 Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission of EOIs in response to this Call is **Thursday, January 19 at 5:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time (UTC-7h)**. Late submissions will **not** be accepted. Applicants are encouraged to complete their submissions well in advance of the deadline. Furthermore, ERA will not accept partial or incomplete submissions. All required content must be uploaded and inserted into ERA’s Emissions Reduction Information Management System (“ERIMS”) at <http://www.eraadmin.ca/> and the submission must be finalized by completing all necessary online steps in order for the EOI to be considered complete. Applicants will receive an automatically generated email confirming receipt of the proposal upon submission. If a confirmation email is not received, applicants should check their junk/spam folder and the ERIMS to ensure the submission was complete. If the problem persists, applicants may contact IMS@eralberta.ca for assistance.

4.2 Funding Process Timelines

The following timelines are anticipated for the full funding process. Note that ERA reserves the right to alter these timelines or cancel the Call.

Action	By Whom	Timing
EOI Submission Deadline	Applicants	January 19, 2023
EOI Shortlist Notification	ERA	Early March 2023
FPP Submission Deadline	Applicants	Late April 2023
FPP Oral Presentation	Applicants	May 2023
Funding Decision Notification	ERA	June 2023

4.3 Submission Content

EOIs must be submitted using the ERIMS at www.eraadmin.ca. Users must create an account and complete all mandatory forms to submit an application. Each submission must consist of the following:

- **Expression of Interest Document (Required):** This document will form the basis of ERA’s evaluation and must fully address each of the evaluation criteria.

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- **Letters of Support (Optional):** Letters of support from partnering organizations, funding sources, site hosts, etc., may be uploaded as an appendix to the EOI document. Please combine all letters of support into a single PDF attachment.
 - **Online Information (Required):** In addition to the documents outlined above, applicants are also required to enter general information about the project into the ERIMS online system.

Note: Only the required documents and information described above will be reviewed. Any additional attachments, materials or information appended to the required documents will not be considered during the evaluation.

4.4 Submission Standards

A response template will be provided on the ERIMS for the EOI document during the application process. Applicants must use the response template to ensure that all necessary information is provided in a consistent and practical manner. Applications that fail to use the template may not be considered.

Note on required file naming convention: All documents uploaded to the ERIMS will have the EOI number and applicant name automatically appended to the filename. Please do not include the EOI number or full corporate legal name in filenames. Applicants are encouraged to use short filenames (no more than 30 characters) with no special characters to ensure their files are processed correctly.

The final EOI document must be uploaded in PDF format and may be no more than ten (10) letter-sized (8.5" x 11") pages in length, including all text, graphics, and tables. **Any extra pages beyond the limit will be removed from the document and will not be considered by the evaluators.** The document must use Calibri (or Arial) 11-point font with a minimum of 1.0 line spacing. Margins must be no smaller than 2.54 cm (1"). Only one EOI document and one document with compiled letters of support may be uploaded per submission.

Note: The page limit does not include optional letters of support.

4.5 Applicant Support and Contact Information

Applicants are welcome to contact ERA at any time throughout the process for support and guidance on completing their application. ERA will answer questions regarding the guidelines, template, ERIMS, evaluation criteria/process, and technology/project alignment with the Call. ERA will not provide pre-reviews or feedback on proposal content. Before contacting ERA, applicants are encouraged to read the FAQ document available on the Call website and to carefully consult the guidelines and template.

The points of contact for this Call are as follows:

- Assistance with Call guidelines and template: applications@eralberta.ca
- Assistance with ERIMS online application system and submission: IMS@eralberta.ca
- Other information and general inquiries: applications@eralberta.ca

Please allow up to one week for responses to email inquiries due to high anticipated volumes. Use of alternate email addresses such as ERA's general information email or media contact email may result in a response to your request being delayed.

5 Evaluation

5.1 Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria. Each of the evaluation criteria below is assigned a relative weighting. Applicants are encouraged to consider these weightings when developing their proposals. The prompts and instructions found in the EOI template provide additional detail on the specific considerations within each criterion.

Criterion	Description	Weight
Innovation Opportunity	Proposals will be evaluated on the strength of the proposed solution and alignment of the opportunity with the Call for proposals, including the novelty of the technology or practice, the competitive advantages relative to existing technologies and practices, the expected technology advancement over the course of the project, and the potential for step-change performance improvements relative to current practice.	30
Implementation Plan	Proposals will be evaluated on the strength of the project implementation plan, including achievability of the work plan, the plan to obtain financing for the project, the capacity of the project team, and the strength of support from project partners, where applicable.	15
GHG and Non-GHG Benefits	Proposals will be evaluated on the potential for GHG reductions (project and market) in Alberta and on a lifecycle basis by 2030 and beyond. Socioeconomic, environmental, and sustainability benefits will also be considered. This includes near-term direct benefits from implementation of the project and longer-term benefits from future commercial implementations (e.g., benefits arising from market rollout.)	35
Market and Value Proposition	Proposals will be evaluated on the opportunity for commercialization and widespread market adoption of the innovation in Alberta and beyond, including the value proposition of the solution, alignment with market needs, the plan for knowledge transfer/sharing, and the quality of the proposed business plan and commercial pathway.	20

Note: ERA intends to fund a diverse portfolio representing a range of technology opportunities of various scales and commercial readiness levels. The size of opportunity and potential for widespread GHG and economic benefits will be taken into consideration during project selection. ERA reserves the right to consider optimal portfolio balance and strategic mandate alignment when selecting proposals for funding.

5.2 Eligibility Screening Criteria

In addition to the evaluation criteria described above, projects may be screened out based on one or more of the following factors:

- Insufficient alignment with the Call and/or ERA’s overall mandate:
 - Proposed project is inconsistent with the intent or scope of this Call.
 - Proposed development is assessed to be business as usual.
 - Risk of detrimental side effects (environmental, economic, social, etc.).
- Insufficient Alberta content:
 - Insufficient relevance of the technology or approach to Alberta.
 - Insufficient Alberta activities/sites in proposed project scope.
- Insufficient GHG reduction potential.
- Failure to meet minimum submission standards:
 - Insufficient information provided.
 - EOI not written in English.
 - EOI not sufficiently readable or comprehensible.
 - EOI does not conform to the submission requirements outlined in the Call guidelines.

5.3 Next Steps

Some applicants whose EOIs are best aligned with ERA’s mandate, the goals of the Call, and the evaluation criteria will be invited to submit a detailed Full Project Proposal (FPP.) Further information regarding FPP submission will be made available at the time FPP invitations are made.

All applicants who submit an EOI through this Call will be notified of ERA’s decision when the EOI review process is complete. Applicants whose proposals are not accepted may arrange a short debrief phone call with ERA to receive feedback. Information about arranging a debrief phone call will be provided in the notification letter.

5.4 Note on Proposal Quality

This is a highly competitive process, and not all projects will be shortlisted. Success at the EOI stage depends on the quality of the EOI submitted. Only the highest quality EOIs will be invited to submit

FPPs. In this regard, “quality” means both the quality of the proposed project relative to the evaluation criteria and the quality of the written proposal (clarity, completeness, etc.)

6 Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

ERA recognizes that it takes more than funding to achieve our mandate of a sustainable, lower-carbon future. In addition to creating, supporting, and implementing innovative technologies and solutions, people are critical in delivering our desired future. Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) within a diverse workforce will assist in reaching shared outcomes and promoting innovation. That is why ERA is drafting an EDI Strategy. A component of this strategy includes how ERA engages with a broad suite of audiences. To inform our EDI efforts and engagement, ERA must first gain an understanding of audiences reached through its suite of communication tools. This includes a set of voluntary EDI questions asked of applicants at the funding intake phase. These questions are located in the ERIMS application portal and are optional to complete. ERA requests that the questions be completed by the individual who will lead the project on behalf of the Lead Applicant. Responses will be kept confidential and will not be considered in proposal evaluation or adjudication processes.

7 Intellectual Property

Intellectual property will be addressed through a Contribution Agreement between ERA and each successful applicant, and will be specific to the circumstances of each project. However, a few general principles apply:

- Background IP (patents, copyrights, software, etc.) and third-party technology remains with its original owner(s).
- ERA retains rights to project results, including without limitation the technical data, reports, analysis, and discussion.
- Project outcomes, results, and learnings will normally be made publicly available at the conclusion of the project.
- Project technology (based on patent disclosures) developed as a part of the co-funded activities will be owned by the successful applicant and its partners, in accordance with the IP arrangement between project partners. However, successful applicants will be expected to commercialize and/or make the technology available through reasonable commercial terms for the benefit of Alberta.

8 Confidentiality

ERA is subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, RSA 2000, c.F-25 in the course of performing duties and functions and exercising powers delegated to it. All data and records in the custody or under the control of ERA that are required in the performance of duties or functions or the exercise of powers delegated to ERA are subject to the *Records Management Regulation*, Alberta Regulation 244/2001.

Subject to the requirements described above, ERA is governed by a comprehensive Privacy, Data Security and Confidentiality Policy (the “Policy”). The Policy requires that any and all information concerning the business affairs of ERA and its directors, officers, employees and applicants is to be kept private, secure and confidential. Confidential information that is collected, used or disclosed by ERA will be handled in a manner that recognizes both the right of the individual to have his or her confidential information protected and the need of ERA to collect, use and disclose such information for purposes that are reasonable.

To read the entire Policy, visit <http://eralberta.ca/privacy>.