Collaborate 2 Commercialize

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OCI
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OCI Collaborate to Commercialize (C2C) Program
Call for Proposals, Life Sciences and Health Technologies

The Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI) invites applications for a targeted call for the Collaborate to Commercialize program, focused on projects that accelerate the development and commercialization of innovative life sciences and human health technologies. This program aims to foster collaboration between industry and academia to drive impactful solutions that address critical health challenges and enhance Ontario's leadership in the life sciences sector.

Program Overview, The Collaborate to Commercialize program supports SME-led collaborations with academic institutions that advance life sciences and human health technologies from concept to commercialization. The focus is on projects that have the potential to improve patient outcomes, enhance healthcare delivery, and create economic value within Ontario.

Key Areas of Interest:
- Advanced medical devices and health technologies that address unmet clinical needs.
- Biotechnology innovations, including therapeutics, diagnostics, and regenerative medicine.
- Digital health solutions, including AI-driven diagnostics, telemedicine, and remote patient monitoring.
- Health data analytics and personalized medicine.
- Innovations that enhance health system efficiencies or patient experience.

The program supports efforts that have the potential to commercialize research results within three years post project.

Applicant:
- Principal investigator at an Ontario publicly funded university/research hospital, or applied research officer at Ontario publicly funded college

Industry Partner:
- Ontario based for-profit SME organization, with Canadian R&D and/or manufacturing operations related directly to the project, and the capability to exploit the research results.
- Has under 500 full-time employees globally and has been in operations for a minimum of two years with a minimum of 5 employees and can demonstrate they have the capacity to support the project.

Eligibility Criteria,

- Projects must be led by an Ontario-based SME in partnership with at least one Ontario-based academic institution (e.g. University, College or Teaching Hospital).
- Companies must demonstrate the ability to commercialize the technology within a reasonable timeframe.
- The collaboration should leverage unique capabilities and resources from both industry and academia.
- Projects should have a clear path to market and potential for significant economic and health impacts in Ontario. (e.g. <u>potential</u> to create jobs, attract investment, and contribute to Ontario's life sciences ecosystem).

Funding Details,
- Eligible projects can receive up to $300,000 in funding, which is shared equally between OCI and the SME. Specifically, OCI contributes $150,000, and the SME also contributes $150,000. The SME's contribution is divided into two parts: $75,000 is provided as cash directly to the institution, and the remaining $75,000 is used for in-house expenses at the company location.
- SME matching contributions cannot be leveraged with other federal or provincial grant programs
- Funding can be used for direct project costs, including research and development, clinical validation, regulatory support, and other commercialization activities. For more information, Eligible Expenditures Guidelines.
- ***Please note that funding is <u>not available</u> for early-stage research, such as efficacy studies.***
- Projects are expected to have a duration of up to 24 months and have the potential to commercialize research results within 3 years post project.
- NOTE: Applications submitted to this call follow the current Collaborate to Commercialize (C2C) program guidelines, including the reporting requirements should the project be approved for funding.

How to Apply
- Potential applicants should contact Jeff Peng, Program Manager at (jpeng@oc-innovation.ca) to request assistance from a Business Development and Commercialization Manager in developing an application for this call.
- OCI will conduct an initial vetting and due diligence assessment to ensure that opportunities meet all eligibility criteria and are suitable for the C2C program. Only opportunities deemed eligible and suitable will proceed.
- Eligible applicants will be invited to complete their application through AccessOCI, OCI's online application system. The final submission must include an endorsement from the institution's Research Office and must be submitted by the deadline of the respective call.

Key Timelines

Launch call for proposals	October 7, 2024
Application Submission Deadline	November 21, 2024, by 2PM
Decision on Application	December 2024
Expected Project Start Date	January 2025

General Information and Questions about the call

For further information on eligibility, application guidelines, or to discuss potential projects, please contact, Jeff Peng, Program Manager (jpeng@oc-innovation.ca).