**WCIO CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS**

WESTERN CANADIAN INNOVATION OFFICE CONSORTIUM

The goal of the Western Canadian Innovation Office Consortium (WCIO) is to increase the competitiveness of the Western Canadian energy sector through collaboration of industry with universities, colleges and polytechnics.  To do this, WCIO member organizations will match their available R&D capabilities, expertise, facilities, equipment and technologies to key industry challenges and opportunities.

WCIO will actively pursue precompetitive partnerships with industry through industry defined challenges and opportunities. This will have significant economic benefit and ultimately create jobs. WCIO will train HQP in the skill of interfacing, assessing and securing collaboration with industry.  WCIO member organizations will work effectively with industry to create collaborative consortia and facilitate partnering of companies with the best expertise, regardless of the geographic location or organization type.

This project has been funded by Western Economic Diversification for a 2 year period beginning July 2015 and is a pilot project focused on the energy sector.  Currently there are 36 institutions that are members of WCIO.

You are invited to submit project proposals in accordance with the criteria and information as shown on the next page.

Projects should be sent not later than **December 11, 2015** to Darren.fast@umanitoba.ca with the subject line: “WCIO Project Submission”

**WCIO Call for Project Proposals**

**Nov 13, 2015**

**Call for proposals**

Submit a non-confidential project proposal using the attached form outlining:

* the problem(s) being solved and the impact on Western Canada – projects should have an impact across an industry sector/subsector
* the participants identified to date (industry and academic)
* skills/expertise already identified
* skills/expertise required to enhance/complete the project
* specify the energy area focused on (refer to WCIO sub-sector definitions below)
* Project leads (industry and academic)

**Project Criteria:**

* Preference given to projects that involve more than 1 company
* Preference given to projects that are led by companies
* At least 2 institutions – ideally engaging different types of institutions
* Project partners should ideally cross provincial boundaries
* <18 months to clear deliverable
* maximum $250K/project from WCIO
* WCIO contribution limited to 25% of total project
* Matching funds of >3X the WCIO contribution are desired
	+ at least equivalent amounts to WCIO contribution in cash plus a minimum equal amount in kind.
	+ Leveraging of other programs (NSERC, NRC, Mitacs, provincial, etc) encouraged.
* Target value of projects of between $250K and $2M

**Gate 1: (Dec 11, 2015) Does the project meet our criteria?**

Review of proposals and preliminary ranking as per criteria;

Circulation to WCIO leads for identification of additional expertise that can be brought to bear on the project(s).

**Stage 1**

Proposals that meet the criteria will be circulated to WCIO leads for identification of additional expertise that can be brought to bear on the project(s). Project proposals will be refined with companies, WCIO leads and researchers. Revised project proposals will be due January 22, 2016.

**Gate 2: Review of projects by expert panel for ranking (Late January 2016)**

An independent expert panel will be created for each energy area to review projects for feasibility and impact

**Stage 2: Development of project agreements**

All project Statements of Work and agreements between parties developed and agreed upon

**Gate 3: All project agreements in place (March 2016)**

**Funding – Project Initiation (late March 2016)**

Questions should be addressed to Darren Fast at Darren.fast@umanitoba.ca

**DEFINITIONS:**

**ENERGY:**

activities related to acquisition, storage, transport or use of capacity to do work Energy is intended to be construed very broadly, including environmental, economic, or social impacts of such acquisition, storage, transport, use or alternative forms.

**SUB-SECTOR IDENTIFICATION:**

**Clean Technologies/ Alternative Energy**

recycling, renewable energy, including nuclear,and bioenergy, and strategies to reduce energy consumption

**Remediation/ Reclamation**

removal of pollution or contaminants from the environment and restoration of environments

**Hydrocarbons**

oil sands, conventional oil, natural gas, coal, pyrolysis oil

**Hydro-Electric**

production of electrical power through the use of the gravitational force of falling or flowing water

**Grid Design/ Distribution**

microgrid and distributed generation power system design and optimization

**Social & Economic Impact**

cost/benefit, employment, skills training, supply chains, investment in the energy sector