People. Discovery. Innovation.
Les gens. La découverte. L’innovation.
INNOVATION

**ENGAGE**
- Connect with colleges & universities (Grant: Connect)
- Engage with colleges & universities (Grant: Engage)
- Student Training in Industry (Grants: IUSRA, IPS & ICREATE)

**COLLABORATE**
- Collaborative R&D with colleges & universities (Grants: CRD, ARD, CU-I2I)
- Industrial Research Chairs at colleges and universities (Grants: IRC, IRCC, CDE)
- Strategic Partnerships with universities (Grants: Strategic Networks & Projects Strategic Initiatives (Grants: CHRP, APC)
- Networks of Centres of Excellence (Grants: NCE, BL-NCE)
- Building College Capacity (Grants: IE, ARTI)

**COMMERCIALIZIZE**
- Idea to Innovation for colleges & universities (Grant: I2I)
- Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (Grant: CECR)
- College Technology Access Centres (Grant: TAC)

**CELEBRATE**
- Synergy Awards for Innovation
Research Partnership Budget for 2015-2016

Total Budget: $298.5M

Engage 19%
Collaborate 32%
Industrial Research Chair 11%
Strategic Partnerships 27%
Building College Capacity 7%
Commercialize 4%
Celebrate 0%

Collaborative Research and Development 32%

Source: CCPP
Collaborative Research and Development Grants (CRD)

• 1 to 5 years duration, usually 2 to 3 years
• Average grant $55,000 per year, but can vary from $10K/year to > $400K/year
• *Industry responsible for at least 1/2 costs & must exploit results*
• Flexible leverage: cash and in-kind
• 80-85% success rate
• No fixed application deadlines
Strategic Partnership Grants

Objective

To increase research and training in targeted areas that could strongly influence Canada’s economy, society and/or environment within the next 10 years.
Why the Strategic Partnership Grants?

• Focus on specific areas

• Opportunity to take research beyond the university

• NSERC will fund direct costs of a 3-year project (students, post-docs, consumables, equipment)

• There must be significant involvement from the partner BUT a cash contribution is not required
Expected Results

• **New knowledge/technology** with strong potential to strengthen Canada’s industrial base, generate wealth, create employment and/or Canadian public policy

• Highly qualified **personnel trained** in the target areas

• Increased **participation of companies and/or government organizations** in academic research

• **Transfer of knowledge/technology** to Canadian-based organizations that are well positioned to apply the results for economic gain or to government organizations to strengthen public policy
The project must:

• Fall within one of the target areas (focused research)
• Have well-defined objectives, scope, milestones, and duration (1-3 yrs.)
• Have one or more supporting organizations that is actively involved in all stages of the project and can apply the results
• In-kind contributions (cash is not required)
Target Areas

Priority research within:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Environment and Agriculture
- Information and Communications Technologies
- Natural Resources and Energy
How NSERC Establishes Updated Target Areas and Research Topics

- Review of target areas and research topics undertaken every 5 years in order to align with current national priorities;
- Available budget requires supporting *focused* challenges (*SPG is the only Partnerships program with defined target areas*)
- Review process established in consultation with and approved by Committee on Research Partnerships and NSERC Council
- Broad consultation of research community within industry, academia and government
- Expert panel for each target area to define key research challenges
Focused Research

• There are priority research topics identified within each target area (80% of budget is used to fund projects in these research topics)

• Exceptional opportunities outside the research topics but within the target area (up to 20% of budget can be used to fund these projects)

• Research outside the 4 priority target areas will not be considered for funding
Non-Academic Supporting Organizations

• **Private sector**
  Canadian-based companies with Canadian operations (R&D or manufacturing) that can apply the research results for economic gain

• **Public sector**
  Canadian government organizations that can apply the research results to strengthen policies

• **Do not qualify as supporting organizations:**
  NGOs, venture capitalists, government research labs, foreign research institutions, potential customers
Supporting Organizations

A supporting organization must:

• Have a demonstrated interest in the project (letters of support, in-kind contributions)
• Be involved in all stages of the research (help to develop the proposal, interact with researchers and students, provide input to the project)
• Validate the results of the research
• Provide guidance concerning exploitation of results
What’s in it for the Partners?

Access to:

• Team of researchers with expertise in a desired area to solve a problem
• Technology/idea of commercial interest
• Research facilities and infrastructure that the industry lacks
• A potential source of highly qualified personnel
• Competitive edge in global markets
International Collaboration

- Agence nationale de la recherche (France)
- National Science Council (Taïwan)
- Research Foundation for the State of São Paulo (Brazil)

Canadian applications must meet all the requirements of the SPG Program including:

- Falling with the 4 target areas;
- NSERC applicant collaborating with at least one eligible supporting organization or manufacturing operations in Canada
The SPG Application

- Application for a Grant (Form 101) Parts I and II
- Personal Data Forms (Form 100) + CVs of collaborators
- Form 183a (partner’s information and contributions)
- Letter of support describing partner’s involvement (see instructions for specific items to be addressed)
Research Proposal- Format

• Introduction (1 page) – why is the research you propose strategic?
• Section 1 (7 pages) – objectives, approach, work plan, roles of team members
• Section 2 (1 page) – training plan
• Section 3 (1 page) – interactions with supporting organizations, intellectual property
• Section 4 (1 page) – benefits to Canada
• Additional pages – references, relationship to other research
Additional Points to Consider

• Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with experts outside the natural science and engineering, where appropriate. Can represent up to 30% of the project costs.

• Overlap of funds: the onus is on the applicant to provide as much information as to how/why the project differs from those currently funded.

• Provide as much detail as possible in the budget justification. Show all your calculations and how you arrived at totals presented.
Evaluation Process - Timeline

April 1
- Submission, pre-screening

May/June
- Pre-selection (if needed)

June/July
- External Reviews (3 per application)

Last 2 weeks of August
- Selection Panel (3 reviewers per app.)

October
- Results
Evaluation process

• Projects are evaluated against seven criteria
• Each criterion is graded from 1 (highest score) to 6 (lowest score)
• Each criterion is of equal weight
• Only projects that are strong in all 7 criteria are eligible for funding
Selection Criteria

- Originality of the research
- Quality of the research
- Project work plan
- Quality of the applicants as researchers
- Training potential
- Interactions with the supporting organizations
- Benefits to Canada and the supporting organizations
Evaluation Process

• A pre-selection process will (likely) be carried out by the selection panel members using the 7 evaluation criteria to retain the strongest proposals (50-60 applications per target area).

• Applications will be strictly screened for fit to program and target area and research topic. You must specifically address this in the “Introduction” section of the proposal.

• Applications targeting incremental improvements to existing technologies will not be accepted.
## Competition Statistics

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<th>Competition Year</th>
<th># of Applications</th>
<th># of Awards</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
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</table>
Signs of a Good Proposal

- All sections are clear and well described:
  - Clear summary, proposal easy to read
  - Roles well defined (students, applicants …)
  - Benefits to Canada clearly demonstrated
  - Guidelines followed and requirements addressed

- Strong partner(s):
  - Involvement from the start
  - Clear expectations (including IP)
  - Good communication
Top Ten Tips

1. Start early!

2. Take full advantage of the Research Office and NSERC staff. Their advice is invaluable.

3. Make the application comprehensible to people outside your field and position your project within the current literature/state of the art - Literature review should not be Task 1 of project!

4. Pay full attention to all aspects of the application, not just the research proposal (i.e., budget justification, in-kind contributions, relationship to other support).

5. Make sure the partner is going to benefit actively from the research and not just be an end user.
Top Ten Tips (continued)

6. Explain the fit to the target area clearly.
7. Ensure that all partners and co-applicants are fully involved.
8. Understand how your proposal will be evaluated (all Strategic evaluation criteria are equally weighted!).
9. Explain both the applied and basic aspects of the project.
10. Have a peer review your proposal against the evaluation criteria.
Resources

For questions relating to fit to target area, eligibility of partners or applicants or Program requirements, please send your query to:

STRGR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

For questions/support regarding the on-line application process, please contact:

Helpdesk:  (613) 995-4273
webapp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca