1. Will you be highlighting the changes to the guidelines with regards to last year's competition?
   A: There are 2 main changes relative to previous years:
   1. Target areas are no longer a part of the CREATE program
   2. Two of the external reviewers specified in the Letter of Intent (LOI) must be Canadian and one must be from abroad

2. Can you comment on how many CREATE programs are subject to reduced funding of early terminations following performance evaluations?
   A. The decision to terminate a CREATE program is not taken lightly by NSERC. Terminations usually occur because of the failure to deliver of the grantees on what was promised in their application, even after warnings from NSERC to this effect after examination of their reports. Grantees are given an opportunity to address these shortcomings and to report back to NSERC by submitting an improvement report. The number of terminations can vary considerably from year to year.

3. Are there any pre-requisite NSERC grants (DG etc.) for CREATE?
   A. No, there are no requirements for grantees to hold a DG (Discovery Grant) or other NSERC grant in order to be eligible to apply for a CREATE grant. However, they must be eligible to hold an NSERC grant and work in the NSE.

4. Just wondering if 'NSE' is defined by faculty/departments or the nature of the project (e.g. faculty member from business school but study optimization/management science)?
   A. NSE (Natural Sciences and Engineering) is defined by the nature of the activities that are taking place in the initiative and not by faculty/departments. For example, medical doctors working in a hospital are considered to be working in the NSE if the nature of their work fits within the guidelines for eligible research under NSERC’s mandate:

5. If I am applying in the German stream...would training the German students be of value? Or is this about the students at the Canadian institutes only?
   A. Yes. An important feature of the DFG International Stream is the student exchanges between Germany and Canada. It is meant to be completely reciprocal.

6. Research team excellence: does this mean a new investigator will likely have no chance in this call?
   A. No, not necessarily. The CREATE program is a team effort among investigators. NSERC encourages diversity in the team of grantees including early career investigators. That being said, please note that a CREATE grant may be a daunting challenge to manage as the Principal Investigator for an early career researcher. Being a co-grantee may be less a less stressful approach for an early career investigator. The selection committee members are the ones that decide on the excellence of the proposed team, and they may or may not take into consideration the relative inexperience of a young investigator as the Principal Investigator in judging the strength of the research team.

7. For DFG collaboration, when does the Canadian applicant have to submit the LOI?
   A. May 1st, just like for those submitting an LOI to the other streams of the CREATE program.

8. It is difficult for applicants to know whether or not they need to submit an LOI if the LOI is due right around the same time the results from the previous round are announced.
   A. The LOI is due May 1. The results from the preceding year’s competition is released in early March.

9. For industrial stream, is one company enough?
   A. Yes, one company is enough although it is difficult for one company to provide an internship for every single trainee, and this is an important requirement of the industrial stream.

10. Is there any advantage for multi university application?
    A. It depends on the initiative. For some initiatives a multi university application makes sense due to the
complementarities between the institutions. For others, a multi university application may not make sense or may be difficult to carry out because the relevant expertise only resides within one university or the relevant expertise does exist elsewhere, but the distance between institutions may make exchanges difficult. In general, multi-university applications do provide more opportunities to trainees to become exposed to different research environments, researchers, and fellow trainees.

11. What is the role of introducing new courses as part of the training?
A. CREATE initiatives are designed to provide technical training and relevant professional skills training in new areas of research that have not been addressed or partially addressed in existing curricula. Thus, the courses required to provide both types of training may not exist in the present curriculum or only partly. Therefore, the development of new courses and curriculum is important to delivering training in the new areas of research targeted by a CREATE initiative.

12. Can you please provide some successful cases which were funded before?
A. Please refer to our website for examples of funded initiatives: http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/Grants-Subs/CREATEResults-ResultatsFONCER_eng.asp

13. Are there differences in success rate between regular and industrial stream of NSERC CREATE?
A. Please contact me if you are interested in seeing statistics relevant to this question.

14. On average, how many institutions are involved in funded CREATE programs as co-applicants? (I.e., is there a benefit to multi-institutional proposals)?
A. Please contact me if you are interested in seeing statistics relevant to this question.

15. At full application, one of the evaluation criteria is program management and sustainability. What do you mean by sustainability? Continuation of the program even after the CREATE funding has expired?
A. Yes, this is what is meant by sustainability. Having a source of financing in place after the end of the grant is a definite strong point of a proposal.

16. Can American or other International organizations/academic institutions be collaborators on a CREATE?
A. Yes, collaborators can come from abroad and the practice is encouraged.

17. So for the DFG the proposal first needs to pass the LOI of the DFG? Can you please restate the requirement to submit the NSERC LOI placeholder? It has to be submitted only once the DFG LOI is submitted? Or once the DFG proposal is invited to the next round?
A. German researchers submit a pre-proposal to the DFG in the autumn of the previous year. If it is approved by the DFG in November (invited to the next round), then the Canadian researchers can submit an LOI in the DFG-International stream for the following CREATE LOI deadline (May 1).

18. Would a new investigator be likely a co-applicant not a lead app on the applicant?
A. A new investigator can definitely be the lead applicant on a proposal. Note that the evaluation committee evaluates the strength of the team as a whole. Some committee members may prefer to see an experienced researcher as the lead, as the position comes with much responsibility.

19. FOR THE JOINT GERMAN-CANADIAN PROGRAM, BECAUSE APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTDED TO EACH OF GERMAN RES INSTITUTE AND NSERC, WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE (SAYS THE CANADIAN APPLICANT) IS SUCCESSFUL AND THE OTHER (GERMANY IS NOT)?
A. Both the Canadian application and the German application need to be successful to receive funding.

20. Could you repeat the internship lengths? I believe you said 3-4 months for a Masters and 7-8 months for a PhD?
A. Yes, for the industrial stream the internship lengths are 3-4 months for a Masters and 7-8 months for a PhD.
21. Are hospitals in the position to hire NSERC CREATE graduates count as industry partners?
A. For the industrial stream a hospital can count as an internship location as some trainees will find work there after graduation and exposure to this milieu can be beneficial. However, the great majority of the internships in the industrial stream must take place in an industry and not in a government or hospital setting.

22. Who is assessing the budget of the proposals; NSERC (staff) or the Evaluation Committee?
A. Both NSERC and the Evaluation Committee

23. In industrial stream, who owns the IP when IP is developed during an internship?
A. This can be a complex question to answer. Please contact NSERC to discuss specifics.

24. What should the balance be in terms of training in technical skills and professional skills?
A. Professional skills development is an essential part of every CREATE initiative. The proponents should develop a program of study that provides both types of training, tailored to the needs of the trainees in their particular discipline. There is no pre-established ratio between times spent on professional skills versus other areas. The proponents need to present a compelling curriculum for both types of training.

25. As the time between results of LOI and full grant deadline are short, will the full proposal forms be available in May?
A. No, the invitation to submit a full application will be communicated by June 30. The forms will be made available at around that time or a little earlier.

26. In terms of institutional support at the LOI stage, what level/type of support are you looking for?
A. This could be financial, university policy, facilities, creation of certificate program, equipment…etc.

27. Who is checking on the novelty of the proposed training program; I mean the overlaps between previously funded programs?
A. The differences between the proposed initiative and any pre-existing initiative that may closely resemble it needs to be described in the LOI. The information will be verified by NSERC and also brought to the attention for the evaluation committee to discuss and recommend a course of action.

28. In industrial stream, partner companies don't have to provide cash (i.e. matching funds for student stipend) but offer internships and participate in the program committee?
A. Yes, this is correct. That being said, industrial financial contributions are a way of ensuring sustainability at the end of the grant.

29. How much detail are you looking for at LOI stage in terms of the describing the content and pedagogical approach of the training components?
A. Because of the 2 page limitation it is not possible to describe in great detail the training components. However, enough information should be included for the evaluation committee to understand what the initiative is trying to accomplish by launching this initiative.

30. What is your email address please?
A. CREATE@nserc-crsng.gc.ca or personal: guy.faubert@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

31. And how about German stream- one Canadian lead investigator and one German investigator?
A. Yes, that is correct