Strategic Project Grants-2013 Competition

Information and Requirements
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Research Partnerships Programs
rpp@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
RPP Programs

Strategic Partnerships
- Strategic Project Grants
- Strategic Network Grants
- Collaborative Health Research Projects
- Automotive Partnership Canada

Training in Industry
- Industrial Postgraduate Scholarships
- Industrial R&D Fellowships
- Industrial R&D Internships
- Industrial Undergraduate Student-Research Awards

Industry-Driven Collaborative R&D
- Collaborative R&D Grants
- Industrial Research Chairs
- Chairs in Design Engineering
- Interaction Grants
- Engage Grants
- Partnership Workshops Grants
- Innovation Frontiers

College and Community Innovation
- Applied R&D Grants
- Applied Research Tools & Instrument Grants
- College-University Idea to Innovation Grants
- Industrial Research Chairs for Colleges
- Innovation Enhancement Grants
- Technology Access Centres Grants

Commercialization
- Idea to Innovation Grants
2012-2013 RPP Budget
($284.4M)*

- Strategic Partnerships Program (39%)
- Industry-Driven Collaborative R&D Program (39%)
- College and Community Innovation Program (12%)
- Commercialization Program (3%)
- Training in Industry Program (7%)

*Does not include Networks of Centres of Excellence
Why Strategic Project 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 (purchase of major equipment items or systems is limited to a maximum of $150,000 total)).
• There must be significant involvement from the partner BUT a cash contribution is not required
## Competition Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th># of Applications</th>
<th># of Awards</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011*</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>352</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>309</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*First competition with new target areas
Eligibility of Applicants
Applicant and Co-applicants

• Must hold, or have a firm offer of, an academic appointment at an eligible Canadian university, for:
  - A tenured, tenure-track or life-time professor emeritus position; or
  - A term position of no less than three years

• College Faculty can be co-applicants (see NSERC Website for list of eligible colleges)

• Co-applicants outside NSE must meet NSERC eligibility requirements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-Applicant</th>
<th>vs.</th>
<th>Collaborator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible to hold NSERC funds and is an essential member of the team.</td>
<td></td>
<td><em>Not</em> eligible to hold NSERC funds and should be contributing to intellectual direction of the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Must be qualified to undertake research independently but bring their own funds to the project.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Can be members of the research team (i.e. government scientists, company staff members, research scientists from other countries).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Strategic Project Grants (SPG)

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.
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
Requirements

The project must:

• Fall within one of the target areas

• Have well-defined objectives, scope and duration (1-3 years)

• Have one or more supporting organizations, actively involved in all stages of the project and that can apply the results
  - In-kind contributions are required, but cash is not
Four Target Areas

Priority research topics within:

• Information and Communications Technologies
• Environmental Science and Technologies
• Manufacturing
• Natural Resources and Energy

Please note: Health and related life sciences and technologies are covered under the Collaborative Health Research Projects (CHRP) Program
Information and Communications Technologies

- ICT Devices and Systems
- Next-Generation Computing Platforms
- Advanced Communication Networks
- Application/Software Engineering
- From Data to Knowledge to Action
- Human Interaction with Digital Information
Environmental Science and Technologies

- Enhancing Aquatic Ecosystem Services
- Optimizing Water use in Industry
- Ensuring Secure Community Water Systems

Manufacturing

- Material Systems
- Automation, Process Improvement and Inspection/Measurement
- Process and Product Modeling
- Sustainable Manufacturing
Natural Resources and Energy

Natural Resources:
• Understanding Sources of Supply and Exploration for New Resources
• Optimizing Resource Extraction, Harvesting and Renewal
• Enhancing Resource Conversion and Processing
• Improving Environmental Performance

Energy:
• Cleaner Fossil Fuels
• Renewable Energy
• Energy Use
• Energy Systems
Focused Research

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

• Projects that fall outside of the research topics but fit the context of the target area are termed “Exceptional Opportunities outside the research topics”
  − 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 or multi-nationals 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 (the proposal must clearly show how the project relates to their public policy responsibilities)
Non-Academic Supporting Organizations

Do not qualify as **the only** supporting organization:

- NGO’s, venture capitalists, government research labs, foreign research institutions, implementation sites, potential customers, hospitals and clinics
A supporting organization must also:

• 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
Supporting Organizations (continued)

• Refer to Guidelines for Organizations Participating in Research Partnerships Programs

• **Note:** NSERC funds cannot flow to a supporting organization in any way (e.g. cannot purchase equipment or supplies (even at a discount) from the supporting organization)
Top Ten Tips

1. Start early! Take full advantage of the Research Office and NSERC staff. Their advice is invaluable.

2. 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!

3. 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).

4. Make sure the partner is going to benefit actively from the research and not just be an end user.

5. Explain the fit to the target area clearly.
Top Ten Tips (continued)

6. Ensure that all partners and co-applicants are fully involved.

7. Understand how your proposal will be evaluated (all criteria are equally weighted!).

8. Tailor your Form 100 to the Program you are applying to.

9. Explain both the applied and basic aspects of the project.

10. Have a peer review your proposal against the evaluation criteria.
Conclusion

• Strategic grants fund projects, not programs of research
• Provides opportunity for university researchers to carry out innovative science and engineering work with potential for commercialization
• Provides opportunity to introduce students to potential employers and for non-academic partners to access scientific expertise and specialized research equipment
Useful Links


Resources

For questions relating to fit to target area, eligibility of partners or applicants or 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