Strategic Partnership Grants for Projects
2018 Competition
Stage 1 – Letter of Intent
Strategic Partnership Grants for Projects

- Early stage university research with the potential to lead to breakthrough discoveries in the future (5-10 yrs)

- Active involvement of non-academic participants (government or industry) - no cash required

- Target areas of national importance and emerging areas of potential significance
Expected Results

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

- The **transfer of this 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.

- Highly qualified **personnel trained** in the target areas.
Strategic Target Areas

Priority research topics within:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Environment and Agriculture
- Information and Communications Technologies
- Natural Resources and Energy
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)
Typical Strategic Project Grant

• Maximum duration: 3 years

• Average grant: $187,000/year

• Teams of 3-4 members, often multidisciplinary

• 2018 competition budget is expected to be $15 million (16 to 20 awards per target area)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competition Year</th>
<th># of Applications</th>
<th># of Awards</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>198 (525 LOIs)</td>
<td>80 (205 Invited)</td>
<td>40.0% (39.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>25.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Competition Schedule

• **February 1** – deadline to submit LOI
• **February to March** – evaluation of LOIs by Strategic panels
• **April 1** – invitation to submit full application
• **June 7** – deadline to submit full application
• **June to August** – external review process
• **August 20 to 31** – Strategic selection panel meetings
• **September 30** – results announced
What’s New for 2018

• LOI applications are submitted to NSERC through the university research grants office;
• Proposals are 3 page free-form (no template);
• Form 183A for each supporting organization is required.
The SPG-P Letter of Intent

- Form 189 - SPG-P Letter of Intent
  - Proposal – 3 pages free-form (no template)
  - References – 1 page maximum
  - Appendix C – reviewer suggestions
- Personal Data Form (Form 100) for applicant only
- Form 183A and Letter of Support - New
- Cover letter – International agreements/reviewer exceptions
LOI – Proposal Format

- 3 pages total (free-form) with the following headings:
  - Objective and Expected Outcomes
  - Fit to Target Area
  - Originality of the Research
  - Quality of the Researchers as Applicants
  - Training Potential
  - Relevance of the Proposed Research to the Supporting Organizations
Form 183A and Letter of Support

- New for the 2018 competition: **Form 183A is required**;
- A Form 183A for SPG-P LOI (STPLI) **must** be linked to the LOI for each supporting organization and **must** include a dated, signed letter of support on letterhead providing the following information:
  - a concise statement describing the nature of their Canadian operations
  - support for and agreement with the proposal
  - the potential benefit arising from the research and the relevant timeframe
  - potential interactions between the organization’s personnel and the research team
- Letters of support from government organizations must be signed by Director General or equivalent level
Cover Letter

Cover letter only required for:

• LOIs submitted under an international agreement (ANR in France or MOST in Taiwan) must use the cover letter to provide the name and institution of the collaborating principal investigator

• To request that certain individuals not be used in the evaluation of the application
LOI – Evaluation Process

• Letters of intent will be evaluated by 3 members of a Strategic target area selection panel.

• Each reviewer will rate the LOI on the following scale: outstanding, excellent, very strong, strong, acceptable, inadequate.

• The highest rated LOIs in each target area will be invited to submit a full application. The number of invitations will be approximately twice the number of anticipated awards.

• LOIs submitted under an international agreement will automatically be invited to submit a full application provided that all the requirements for an SPG-P grant have been met.

• Appeals of the LOI results will not be accepted.
Evaluation of LOIs

Fit to target area

- The project must support the goal of Strategic Partnership Grants and fall within one of the target areas.
- The proposal must address all parts of the target area description – context and description of the research topic.
- For “exceptional opportunities”, the proposal must provide a compelling case for research within the Context section of a target area description.
Evaluation of LOIs - continued

Originality of the research
The project must promise to generate new knowledge or apply existing knowledge in an innovative manner. Consideration will be given to the following points:

✓ the novelty of the overall concepts and approach;
✓ how the research relates to the current scientific and/or technical developments in the field with references to the current literature and patents;
✓ the potential for developing new knowledge or technology, including innovative techniques, processes or products;
✓ the extent to which new knowledge or technology is expected to impact on the field of research; and
✓ the significance of the scientific issues and technical challenges.
Evaluation of LOIs - continued

Quality of the applicants as researchers

The research team must have the expertise required to address the defined objectives competently and to complete the project successfully. Consideration will be given to the following points:

✓ the breadth and complementarity of expertise available for the project; and
✓ the appropriateness of their expertise in the proposed research areas of the project.
Evaluation of LOIs - continued

Training potential

The project must provide opportunities to train students and other highly qualified personnel with skills relevant to the needs of Canadian organizations. Consideration will be given to the following points:

- the potential to provide highly qualified personnel with skills relevant to the needs of Canadian organizations;
- the roles of the students, postdoctoral fellows, research associates, technicians and, if applicable, the research staff of the supporting participants; and
- the extent to which all participants, including the supporting organizations, are involved in the training.
Evaluation of LOIs - continued

Relevance to the supporting organizations and potential interactions

The supporting organizations must be able to apply the results of the research and must be actively involved in all stages of the project. The proposal must demonstrate that exploitation of the research results will benefit Canada within a 10-year time frame. Consideration will be given to the following points:

- the fit between the project objectives and the priorities of the supporting organizations;
- the capacity of the supporting organizations to exploit the research results; and
- the researchers’ track record in transferring research results to a user sector.
Invitation for Full Application

• Invitations will be sent by **April 1** with full applications due **June 7**

• Some information from LOI will be transferred to the Form 101 application and cannot be changed
  – Principal investigator
  – Title of proposal
  – Target area and research topic

• It is expected that the research team will be the same but additions and deletions are allowed.

• It is expected that the supporting organizations will be the same but additions and deletions are allowed.

• International agreements: if the collaboration does not materialize, a stand-alone proposal will not be accepted
Final notes & reminders

- LOI proposal and all required documents must be submitted to NSERC by February 1st, 8:00 pm (ET);
- LOI proposals submitted through RGO - New;
- Resubmissions
  - Proposals are not required to be identified as a resubmission;
  - The outcome of a resubmitted proposal may be different from previous LOI or full application competitions as every year is a new competition;
  - Applicants are encouraged to take any comments from previous competitions into consideration in preparing LOIs and full applications;
Final notes & reminders

- Clearly describe how the project fits with the target area and research topic;
- Form 183A and Letter of Support are required for each supporting organization - New;
- ANR/MOST international collaborations must include a cover letter;
- All selection criteria are equally important;
- An information webinar for those invited to submit a full application will be held prior to the full application deadline.
Useful Links

• Program Description: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/SPG-SPS_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/SPG-SPS_eng.asp);
• LOI application instructions: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/189/SPGP-SPSP_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/189/SPGP-SPSP_eng.asp);
• International Collaborations: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/NSERCANR-CRSNGANR_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/NSERCANR-CRSNGANR_eng.asp);
• Target Area Descriptions: [http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/SPGTargetAreas-SPSDomainesCibles_eng.asp](http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/Professors-Professeurs/RPP-PP/SPGTargetAreas-SPSDomainesCibles_eng.asp);
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