Strategic Partnership Grants for Projects

SPG-P

2016 Competition

Western University

Lucia Martinez, Strategic Program Officer

Lucia.martinez@nserc-crsng.gc.ca
Agenda

• SPG-P program overview
  • Target Areas
  • Exceptional Opportunities
  • Supporting Organizations
  • Expected Results
• Competition Statistics
• International Collaborations
• Evaluation
  • Timelines
  • Preparation of proposal
  • Selection Criteria
• Tips
Strategic Partnership Grants for Projects (SPG-P)

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.
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
Four **Target Areas**

Priority research topics within:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Environment and Agriculture
- Information and Communications Technologies
- Natural Resources and Energy
Exceptional Opportunities (EO)

• Projects that make a compelling case for research within the Context section of a target area description, but are outside the research topics, will be considered “exceptional” and may be funded subject to the availability of funds

• No more than 20 percent of the competition budget will be allocated to exceptional opportunities
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)
Supporting Organizations (continued)

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
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

✓ Transfer of knowledge/technology to Canadian-based organizations that are well positioned to apply the results
Typical Strategic Partnership Grant

• Average grant: $173,000/year for 3 years

• Teams of 3-4 members, often multidisciplinary

• Success rate depends on number of applications (~25%)

• 2016 competition budget is expected to be $12 million (15 to 18 awards per target area)


## 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>2015</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>22.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>26.2%</td>
</tr>
<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>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>425</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>16.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Competition Year</td>
<td># of Applications</td>
<td># of Awards</td>
<td>Success Rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
International Collaborations

Concurrent call for joint research projects

- Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France), Ministry of Science and Technology (Taiwan) and Research Foundation for the State of São Paolo (Brazil) – For all target areas
- Two separate but linked proposals: one submitted to each agency
- Canadian applications must meet all Strategic Partnership Grants for Projects requirements
- International agency will fund its scientists
- NSERC has not reserved funds for applications related to international concurrent calls
- Up to 3 additional pages are allowed. See Detailed Instructions.
- There is no joint review
Evaluation Process - Timeline

• **April 1** - Submission of Applications

• **April/May – Prescreening and Pre-selection**
  - Prescreening review of topic, participants, organization(s)
  - Pre-selection (if necessary): strongest proposals selected for full review
  - **June/July** - External referee reports
    - Typically three reports per application from experts in the field.
    - Suggestions obtained from applicant’s Appendix C, as well as NSERC Panel members and staff

• **August/Sept. - Internal Selection Committee**
  - Proposals are assigned to three committee members
  - Discussion / Ranking amongst the whole group
Preparation of Proposal

• Start early! Read overview of Strategic Partnership Grants.

• Make sure your project fits the selected target area and research topic.

• Take full advantage of the Research Office and NSERC staff. Read and follow instructions.

• Position your project within the current literature.

• Beware of technical jargon, ensure that someone outside your field can understand the proposal.
Preparation of Proposal

• All aspects of the application are critical including:

  - Budget justification: required for each line item; show how the budget numbers and in-kind contributions were calculated

  - Activity Schedule: clear milestones; take October announcement of funding into account

  - Relationship to other support: not enough information could affect panel decision
Selection Criteria – Equal Weighting

Use 11 pages for the proposal section wisely:

1. Originality of the research
2. Quality of the research
3. Project work plan
4. Quality of the applicants as researchers
5. Training potential
6. Interactions with the supporting organizations
7. Benefits to Canada and the supporting organizations
Tips on Writing Proposal Sections

Section 1 – addressing criteria 1-4 (~7 pages)

- Objectives – clear goals *(where you want to be)*
- Current state of the art *(where you are now)*
- Methodology *(how you’re going to get there)*
- Roles and timelines *(who is doing what when)* – consider using a Gantt chart
Tips on Writing Continued

Section 2 – (~1 page) addressing criterion 5

- Outline clearly HQP interaction(s) with the partner(s)
- Relate the training of students and other research personnel provided to the needs of Canada
Tips on Writing Continued

Section 3 – (~1 page) addressing criterion 6

Select **appropriate** supporting organizations

- Canadian based company that can apply the results to generate wealth or employment
- Government organization that can apply the results in a way that strengthens public policy
- Quality of letter of support can vary greatly and influence funding outcome; avoid generic letters
- Clearly demonstrate the interactions – remember, in-kind is required
Tips on Writing Continued

Section 4 – (~1 page) addressing criterion 7

Benefits to the supporting organizations and to Canada

- Be as specific as possible – what kind of benefits and the time frame for realization
- Industry partners – economic benefit
- Government partners – strengthening public policy
Final Tip

- Self-evaluate your proposal
- All criteria are equal
- Each criterion has a statement set and an evaluation scale from 1 to 6 (available in the Instructions)
- Competitive competition; only proposals that score highly in all criteria are successful
Useful Links

Instructions
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/101/e.asp?prog=spg

Objectives

Selection Criteria:
Useful Links

Letter of support and F183A
http://www.nserc-crsng.gc.ca/OnlineServices-ServicesEnLigne/instructions/183A/e.asp

Use of Grant funds

Policy on Intellectual Property
Contact

For general inquiries, fit to target area, eligibility of partners or applicants:

STRGR@nserc-crsng.gc.ca

For on-line support:

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