

# EMERGING INNOVATORS CHALLENGE

*Alberta*



# Speaker introductions

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# Agenda

- About Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA)
- Emerging Innovators Challenge Overview
  - Scope and eligibility
  - Submission and evaluation process
  - Timelines
- Advice for preparing a successful submission
- Q&A



# About ERA

## MANDATE

Reduce GHG emissions and grow Alberta's economy by accelerating the development and adoption of innovative technology solutions.

## VISION

Alberta has competitive industries that deliver sustainable environmental outcomes, attract investment, and are building a diversified, lower carbon economy.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



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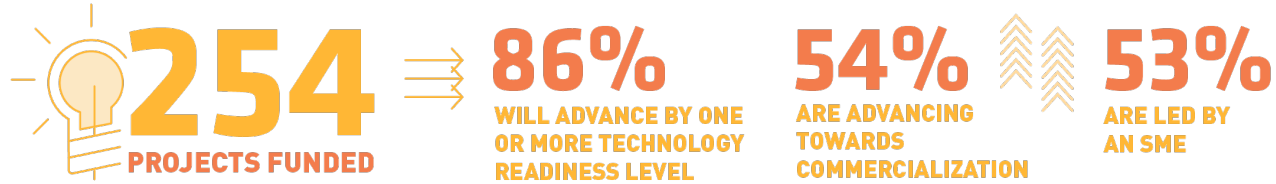
# Unique approach

- Respond quickly to the needs of Alberta's innovation system
- Carry funds from one budget year to the next
- Ensure multi-year projects are possible
- Reinvest funds when projects do not progress.



# Investment impact

## TECHNOLOGY SUPPORTED



## PROJECTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



## PROJECTED ECONOMIC OUTCOMES



## ACCELERATING UPTAKE OF COMMERCIAL-READY TECHNOLOGIES THROUGH THE ENERGY SAVINGS FOR BUSINESS PROGRAM

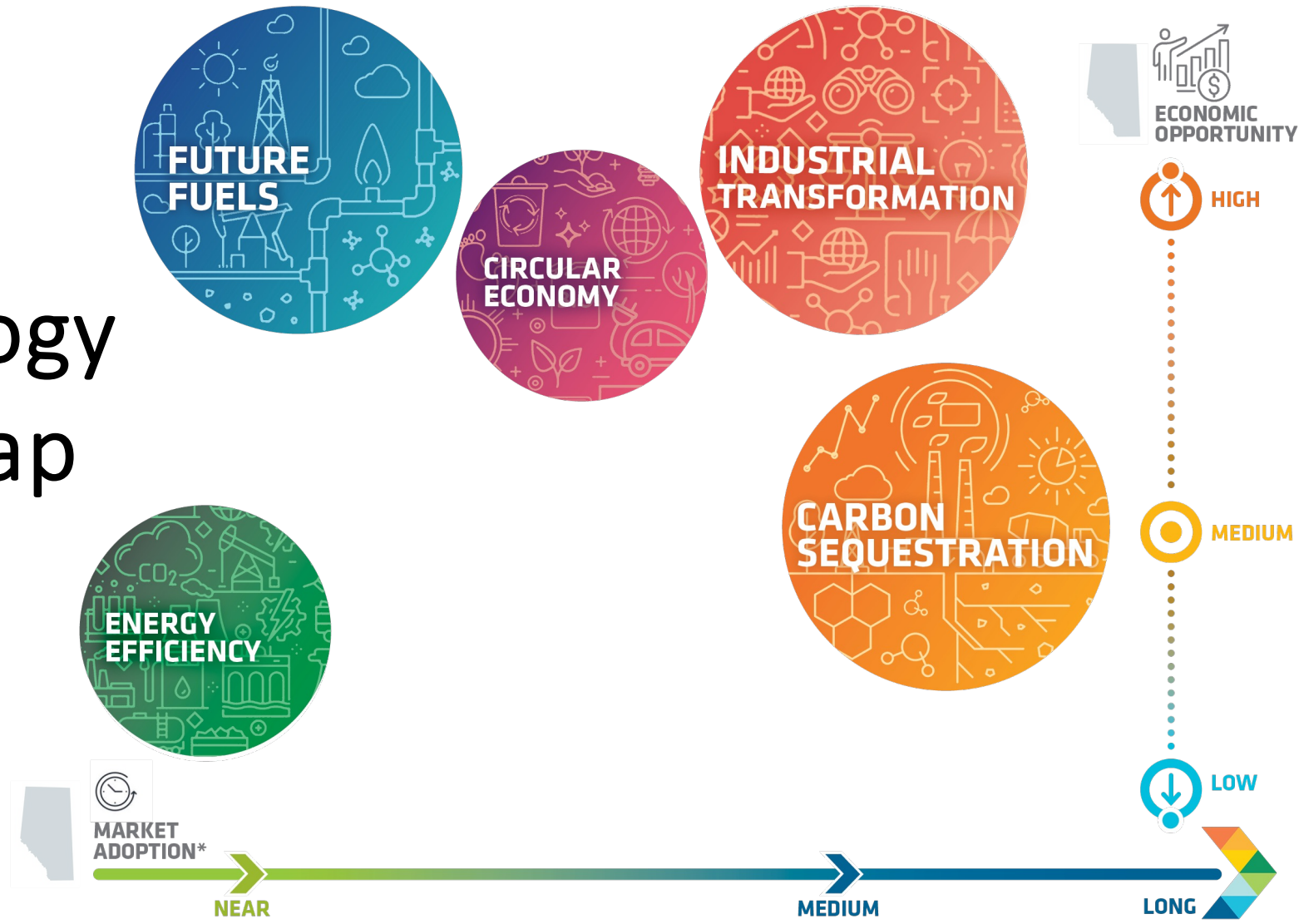




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# Technology Roadmap



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## RESHAPING ENERGY SYSTEMS

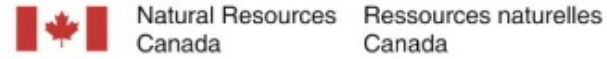


## INDUSTRIAL TRANSFORMATION CHALLENGE



## ACCELERATING HYDROGEN CHALLENGE

# Trusted Partners

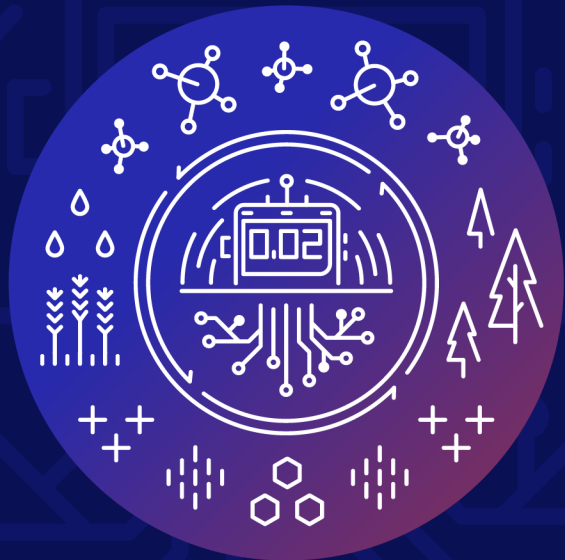


*(through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund)*



*(through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund)*





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# Context and Focus

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) represent the largest portion of companies in Alberta
- Many SMEs are working on technology to reduce emissions
- Alberta's cleantech SMEs face barriers to commercialization, which often stops the advancement of valuable technology
- This funding call will help SMEs advance their projects to market and advance Alberta's transition to a carbon neutral economy
- Focus on agriculture and forest products, digital solutions, commercial and residential buildings, critical minerals and materials, waste management, and environmental measurement and monitoring

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# What's new for this Call?

- Focus on SMEs as eligible applicants.
- Consideration for company size, revenue status, and other factors.
- Streamlining and reduced barriers.
- Flexibility on project initiation date.
- Flexibility on disbursement of grants and partial up front payment.
- Additional applicant supports.

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# Project structure and term

- ERA funds “Projects” with clear objectives, milestones, timelines, deliverables, and a budget
- Maximum length is three years, plus one year of operational time where applicable
- Projects must commence within 120 days of approval\*  
(potential for delayed start date of up to 12 months)
- Applicants with concerns or questions about the eligibility of their project timelines are encouraged to contact the ERA team for guidance

# Technology stage of development

- **Field Test / Pilot:**
  - Technology or innovation is ready to be field-tested in an operational environment.
  - Scale-up of prototypes to representative pilot scale and subsequent in-field testing of pilot units.
- **Commercial Demonstration:**
  - Technology or innovation is approaching the final commercial product and representative systems have been built.
  - Demonstration of near- or fully-commercial scale systems in an operational environment.
- **First-of-Kind Commercial Implementation:**
  - Technology is ready for first-of-kind commercial deployment.
  - Design, construction, and operation of the technology in its final commercial form, with the intent to operate the technology for its full commercial life.

# Technology examples

- Digital solutions for logistics, agriculture, energy, and industry
- Software-based solutions for managing energy and GHGs
- Technologies to reduce waste and enhance recycling/value recovery
- Advanced materials and manufacturing, biomaterials and critical materials
- Novel low-emission buildings technologies



# Technology examples

- Precision agriculture and other novel practice-based solutions
- Vented and fugitive methane abatement
- Omics and other life-sciences-based solutions to reduce GHGs
- Detection, measurement, and quantification of methane, N<sub>2</sub>O and other GHGs from agriculture, oil & gas, and other sectors
- Measurement and enhancement of nature-based carbon sequestration

# Eligible applicants

- SMEs are the only eligible applicants
  - Small enterprises: less than 49 employees
  - Medium enterprises: 50 to 499 employees
- Indigenous-owned and not-for-profit SMEs also eligible
- Partnerships encouraged but not mandatory
- Applicants may originate from anywhere
- Technology must be demonstrated/implemented in Alberta



# Funding overview

- Up to \$40 million available
- Maximum \$5 million per project
- Minimum of \$250,000
- Funding must be matched at least 1:1 with private cash/in-kind
- Leverage with funding partners where possible

See ***Eligible Expense and Cost Instructions*** for details regarding eligibility of costs

# 1 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) STAGE



# 2 FULL PROJECT PROPOSAL (FPP) STAGE



# 3 PROJECT EXECUTION STAGE



Submission  
and  
evaluation  
process

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# Timelines

Action	By whom	Timing
Expression of Interest Submission Deadline	Applicants	December 14, 2023
Expression of Interest Shortlist Notification	ERA	Early February 2024
Full Project Proposal Submission Deadline	Applicants	Late April 2024
Full Project Proposal Oral Presentation	Applicants	Late May 2024
Funding Decision Notification	ERA	June 2024



# Outcomes reporting and knowledge sharing



# Preparing a successful submission

- Start now: <http://eralberta.ca/apply-for-funding/>
- Register on ERIMS: <https://erims.outcome-plus.com/>
- Read the guidelines documents
  - Call for Expressions of Interest
  - Eligible Expense and Cost Instructions
- Review the evaluation criteria:
  - Technology opportunity
  - GHG and economic benefits
  - Adoption potential
  - Project implementation plan

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# Preparing a successful submission

- Use clear language and address each point in template
- Provide complete responses
- Don't wait until the last day to submit
- Increase your visibility through our trusted partners
- Content reminders:
  - Our mandate centers around GHG reductions
  - Technology advancement and commercialization
  - Identify your project site
  - Broader benefits



# Applicant support

- Support Inboxes:
  - General support : [applications@eralberta.ca](mailto:applications@eralberta.ca)
  - Support with GHG quantification: [GHG@eralberta.ca](mailto:GHG@eralberta.ca)
  - Support with the ERIMS application platform: [IMS@eralberta.ca](mailto:IMS@eralberta.ca)
- Ecosystem Partners: <https://www.eralberta.ca/trusted-partners/>
- Support for shortlisted/funded applicants

Questions?



# Wrap up and next steps

- Unanswered questions?
  1. Review the guidelines and supporting materials online, [eralberta.ca](https://www.eralberta.ca)
  2. Email remaining questions to [applications@eralberta.ca](mailto:applications@eralberta.ca)
- Begin your submission today

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Thank you!

