2026 Request for Proposals

Clean Industry Fund: Innovation Accelerator

Issue Date: April 1, 2026 **Closing Date: June 19, 2026**, at 23:59

DELIVERY OF PROPOSALS: Proposals must include the completed Innovation Accelerator Proposal Form and Innovation Accelerator Technical Appendix workbook in the format they were provided. All documents are available for download on the Clean Industry Fund website. Proposals must be submitted by email to the email address below.

ENQUIRIES: Enquiries related to this Request for Proposals (RFP), including any requests for information or clarification, should be directed to the Program Advisor via the email address below. The Clean Industry Fund website will be updated regularly as questions are received and responses provided. Questions submitted to the Program Advisor less than three **(3) business days** before the Closing Time may not be answered. Information obtained from any other source is not official and should not be relied upon. The Proponent should check the Clean Industry Fund website prior to submitting their proposal for any updated information.

Program Advisor and Proposal Email Address:

CleanBCIndustryFund@gov.bc.ca

Contents

1 CLEAN INDUSTRY FUND OVERVIEW 1

1.1 Program Advisor 1

2 Definitions 2

3 Scope and Eligibility 5

3.1 Program Objectives 5
3.2 Industrial Operation Eligibility 5
3.3 Project Eligibility 5
3.4 Project Timing 6
3.5 Funding Amount 6
3.6 Funding Terms 6

4 Emissions Reduction Quantification Guidelines 7

5 Evaluation Process 8

5.1 Initial Screening 8
5.2 Mandatory Criteria 8
5.3 Weighted Criteria 8
5.4 Presentations 10
5.5 Overall Score and Ranking 10

6 Measuring Project Success 11

6.1 Key Metrics 11
6.2 Project Summary Report 11

7 RFP Process Rules 12

7.1 Submission of Proposal does not create contract 12
7.2 Submission of Proposals 12
7.3 Additional Information 13
7.4 Late Proposals 13
7.5 Firm Pricing 13
7.6 Changes to Proposals 13
7.7 Conflict of Interest/No Lobbying 13
7.8 Project Partners 14
7.9 Evaluation 14
7.10 Negotiations toward Funding Agreements 14
7.11 Debriefing 15
7.12 Proponents' Expenses 15
7.13 Limitation of Damages 15
7.14 Liability for Errors 16
7.15 No Commitment to Award 16
7.16 No Implied Approvals 16
7.17 Legal Entities 16
7.18 Reservation of Rights 16
7.19 Ownership of Proposals 17
7.20 Copyright 17
7.21 Collection and Use of Personal Information 17
7.22 Sub-contractors 17

7.23 GGIRCA Compliance 18
7.24 In-kind Contributions..... 18
7.25 Proposal Eligibility for Government Funding Opportunities Beyond the Scope of this RFP 18

8 Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions 18

1 Clean Industry Fund Overview

The Clean Industry Fund (CIF) is intended to support the province's industrial operations in decarbonizing and adopting innovative clean technologies. Funding is provided for a range of projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and stimulate investment in developing technology, while supporting industrial competitiveness in British Columbia (B.C.).

CIF is available to Regulated Operations in B.C., as defined under the Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act (*GGIRCA*). Regulated Operations are controlled by industrial operators that participate in the B.C. Output-Based Pricing System (B.C. OBPS). Industry sectors that are excluded from the B.C. OBPS are also excluded from CIF, including electricity import operations, energy utilities, greenhouse growers, and waste management and remediation services. For further details regarding Regulated Operations, see Part Two of The B.C. Output-Based Pricing System Program and Reporting Guidance. For complete CIF Innovation Accelerator eligibility requirements, refer to Section 3 (*Scope and Eligibility*) below.

The Innovation Accelerator (IA) stream aims to enhance clean technology innovation by supporting projects that trial, pilot, or demonstrate novel clean technology at industrial facilities in B.C. The stream targets Projects utilizing pre-commercial technology in the technological readiness level (TRL) range 7-8 as defined by Innovation Canada. Novel pilot projects involving TRL 9 technologies that satisfy other eligibility requirements may be considered.

1.1 Program Advisor

A Program Advisor is available for support throughout the application process. This includes supplying information on requirements, including expectations of the Proposal content and eligibility criteria. They cannot however provide definitive statements about whether a given Proposal complies with these requirements.

Proponents are encouraged to contact the Program Advisor at any stage of the application process (CleanBCIndustryFund@gov.bc.ca) to address any questions or concerns related to this RFP, and prior to submitting a final Proposal.

2 Definitions

Throughout this RFP and all associated Proposal Forms, the following definitions apply:

"**Addenda**" means all additional information regarding this RFP including amendments to the RFP;

"**Adjusted Budget**" means the Budget with any adjustments made in accordance with section 6.3 of Innovation Accelerator (IA) Funding Agreement Template;

"Associated", in relation to emissions and a Regulated Operation, means emissions, other than carbon dioxide produced from biomass listed in item 1 of Schedule C of GGERR and emissions that are captured and are not emitted to the atmosphere as stipulated under Section 3(5) of GGERR, that are not Attributable to the Regulated Operation but originate from the operation or from mobile equipment or on-road vehicles used and owned by the Regulated Operation within BC;

"Attributable", in relation to emissions and a Regulated Operation, means emissions that are Attributable to the Regulated Operation under Section 3 of GGERR for the purpose of emission reporting, excluding carbon dioxide produced from biomass listed in item 1 of Schedule C of GGERR and excluding emissions that are captured and are not emitted to the atmosphere as stipulated under Section 3(5) of GGERR;

"B.C. OBPS" means the British Columbia Output-Based Pricing system;

"Budget Item" means a category of Eligible Expenses identified in the Budget or Adjusted Budget, but does not include subtotals or totals of such categories;

"**Budgeted Eligible Expenses**" means

(i) In respect of a Budget Item, Eligible Expenses that do not exceed the amounts set out in the Budget or Adjusted Budget for that Budget Item, and

(ii) In respect of the Project, means the total of amounts referred to in subparagraph (i) for the Project;

"**Certification"** means a statement that a Proponent has certified as being true in its Proposal;

"**Closing Time**" means the closing time and date for this RFP as set out on the cover page of this RFP;

"**Eligible Expenses"** means Eligible Expenses as defined in the Innovation Accelerator (IA) Funding Agreement Template;

"**Emissions Reduction Quantification Guidelines"** means the Emissions Reduction Quantification Guidelines set out in Section 4 (*Emissions Reduction Quantification Guidelines*) of this RFP;

"Fiscal Year" means the period from April 1 of a calendar year to March 31 of the following calendar year;

"**Funding Agreement**" means the written agreement resulting from the RFP executed by the Province and a successful Proponent;

"Funds Available" means funds available to be disbursed by the Province under Funding Agreements within a Fiscal Year in accordance with all applicable appropriations, Treasury Board directions or policies of the Province;

"GGERR" means the *Greenhouse Gas Emission Reporting Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 249/2015, as amended from time to time;

"GGIRCA" means the *Greenhouse Gas Industrial Reporting and Control Act,* S.B.C. 2014, c. 29, as amended from time to time*;*

"**Government Electronic Mail System**" or "**GEMS**" means the electronic mail system of the Province;

"**Greenhouse Gas**" or "**GHG**" means the gases listed in the Schedule to the *Carbon Neutral Government Regulation*, B.C. Reg 392/2008, as amended from time to time;

"**Ineligible Expenses"** means Ineligible Expenses as defined in the Innovation Accelerator (IA) Funding Agreement Template;

"**Maximum Amount**" means the amount of funding requested in a Proposal from the Clean Industry Fund (not to exceed 75% of budgeted Eligible Expenses.)

"**must**", or "**mandatory**" means a requirement that must be met in order for a Proposal to receive consideration;

"New Entrant" means a new entrant as defined under GGIRCA;

"Notification Date" means the date on which Proponents are notified of the outcome of their Proposal;

"**Operator"** means an operator as defined under GGIRCA;

"Opted-In Operation" means an industrial operation that is designated under section 20.1 of GGIRCA as a Regulated Operation;

"Primary Contact" means the individual identified in Section 1 (*Project Profile*) of the Proposal Form as the person responsible for Proposal submission and review;

"**Primary Regulated Operation(s)**" means one or more Regulated Operations operated by the Proponent and identified in the Proposal as the Primary Regulated Operation;

"**Program**" means the Clean Industry Fund;

"Program Advisor" means the individual identified in Section 1.1 (*Program Advisor*) of this RFP, who Proponents or potential Proponents may contact for information and support in how to respond to the RFP as well as guidance regarding RFP scope and criteria to clarify eligibility requirements;

"**Project**" means various related capital expenditures, facility improvements or software improvements that, based on calculations made in accordance with the Emissions Reduction Quantification Guidelines, will lead to a reduction in the quantity, measured in tCO_2e, of GHG emissions;

"Project Partner" means a person or entity who will implement the Project with the Proponent, other than a Sub-contractor;

"Project Summary Report" means the document submitted by the Proponent to the Province at the end of the Project summarizing the Project's performance relative to intended outcomes and other knowledge gained through the Project in relation to the implementation and operation of the Project technology, as further set out in Schedule G of Emission Performance (IA) Funding Agreement Template.

"Project Team" means the persons acting on behalf of the Proponent to implement the Project who have discretionary authority to determine or influence the means by which the Project is implemented and operated.

"**Proponent**", with respect to a Proposal, means the person or entity (excluding its parent, subsidiaries or other affiliates) with the legal capacity to contract, named as the Proponent in the Proposal;

"**Proposal**" means a written response to the RFP that is submitted by or on behalf of a Proponent. This includes the Proposal Form, Technical Appendix, and any optional supplementary appendices submitted by the Proponent;

"**Province**" means His Majesty the King in Right of the Province of British Columbia;

"**Recipient"** means a Proponent who has entered into a Funding Agreement;

"Regulated Operation" means a regulated operation as defined under GGIRCA;

"**Reporting Operation"** means a Reporting Operation as defined under GGIRCA;

"**Request for Proposals**" or "**RFP**" means the solicitation described in this document, including any attached or referenced appendices, schedules or exhibits and as may be modified in writing from time to time by the Province by Addenda;

"**should**", "**may**" or "**weighted**" means a requirement having a significant degree of importance to the objectives of the Request for Proposals;

"**Sub-contractor"** means a person or entity retained by the Proponent to implement some or all of the Project;

and "**tCO_2e**" means metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

3 Scope and Eligibility

3.1 Program Objectives

The Innovation Accelerator Stream has the following objectives:

- To support new pathways for industrial emissions reductions in B.C.
- To support industry-led innovation in clean technology solutions.
- To support partnerships between industry and clean technology providers.

3.2 Industrial Operation Eligibility

To be eligible for funding:

- The Proponent must be the Operator of the Regulated Operation. Industrial Reporting Operations that are not a Regulated Operation are not eligible.
- The Regulated Operation may not be designated as a New Entrant.
- Opted-In Operations are eligible if they have been designated as a Regulated Operation at the time of application.
- The Operator of each Regulated Operation identified in the Proposal must have submitted a GGIRCA emission report for the 2024 reporting period for the Regulated Operation. The Operator of each Regulated Operation identified in the Proposal must also have submitted a GGIRCA emission report for the 2023 and 2022 reporting periods for the Regulated Operation or must have included in the Proposal a Certification that it was, at the relevant time, either not the Operator of the Reporting Operation required to submit a report or that the operation was not a Reporting Operation during the relevant calendar year.

3.3 Project Eligibility

To be eligible for funding:

- Projects must contribute to innovation by trialing, demonstrating or piloting a new or adapted clean technology or clean industrial process at a Regulated Operation. These are generally assumed to be pre-commercial technologies at TRL 7 or 8, as defined by Innovation Canada[1], but can also include pilot projects for TRL 9 technologies.
- Project technology must have the potential to result in a net reduction of Attributable or Associated emissions at the primary Regulated Operation associated with the Project.
- Project technologies or processes must have a credible path to commercial adoption if proven viable.
- The project must be supported by sufficient planning and resources to enable implementation as described in the proposal.
- Projects may not be undertaken at greenfield operations.
- Projects must be unlikely to proceed in the absence of CIF funding. Proposals that do not convincingly demonstrate in Section 6 (*Business Case*) of the IA Proposal Form that the Project is unlikely to proceed without CIF funding will be disqualified.

[1] https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/080.nsf/eng/00002.html

Each Proposal may describe only one Project. Multiple Proposals may be submitted for distinct Projects. If Proposals are submitted for multiple Projects, any potential or actual interdependencies affecting GHG quantification must be disclosed and quantified to the fullest extent practicable in Section 3 (*Emissions Reductions Quantification*) of the Proposal Form. A Proposal for a given Project may only be submitted to one CIF stream per funding year. If the Province determines that Proposals have been submitted for substantively the same Project to more than one funding stream, it may disqualify that Project from consideration in one or all streams.

3.4 Project Timing

- The Project must not have started. Investment in preliminary engineering work does not disqualify a Project from consideration as this inherently reduces Project risk. Typically, Projects where construction and equipment/material procurement has occurred are considered "started" and are ineligible to apply under CIF.
- Projects must be completed by March 31, 2031. Projects with earlier start and completion dates are preferred.

3.5 Funding Amount

- There is no per project funding cap on the Maximum Amount for IA projects.
- Proposals must identify an amount of funding sought for the Project that does not exceed 75% of the Proposal's Budgeted Eligible Expenses.
- Projects may stack funding from other external sources up to 75% of Budgeted Eligible Expenses. In cases where additional funding sources for the Project exist, the Proponent's proportion of Eligible Expenses must be at least 25% of Budgeted Eligible Expenses.
- Proponents are advised to consider scalable options for their Projects that could be implemented in the event that the amount of funding offered is less than that requested (in accordance with the scenario outlined in Section 7.10 (*Negotiations toward Funding Agreements*) of this document).

3.6 Funding Terms

Proponents will only be eligible to receive CIF funding after the date on which a Funding Agreement is signed with the Province and only for Eligible Expenses that are incurred after the date the Proponent is notified in writing of its success (the "Notification Date").

- Funding terms are set out in the IA Funding Agreement Template.
- Total funding will not exceed the maximum amount of Provincial funding as set out in the Funding Agreement.
- The Funding Agreement includes terms that require repayment of some or all funds if the Recipient fails to substantially complete a milestone by the milestone deadline, if a Project is abandoned, or if assets improved or acquired under the Funding Agreement are not operated in the manner contemplated in the Proposal.

4 Emissions Reduction Quantification Guidelines

Proposals are required to provide quantified emissions reductions estimated to result through the realized implementation of the Project technology. Ideally, estimates will be produced in accordance with ISO 14064-2[2] guidelines; however, the Province acknowledges that this may not be possible for all Projects. The methodology employed in producing emissions reductions estimates must be comprehensible, and reproducible by technical reviewers for the Proposal to meet the minimum standards for consideration. Submissions should describe the method and the rationale used to produce these estimates.

[2] International Organization for Standardization. ISO14064-2:2019. Greenhouse Gases- Part 2: Specification with Guidance at the Project Level for Quantification, Monitoring, and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions or Removal Enhancements. Available: https://www.iso.org/standard/66454.html

5 Evaluation Process

The IA stream employs a competitive RFP evaluation process. Following the close of Proposal intake, potential projects will be evaluated and ranked based on the information provided in the IA Proposal Form. Proponents must ensure that all relevant information is clearly described in the proposal form responses for it to be considered during evaluation. Top-ranking proposals will be invited to give a presentation about their Project. Projects will only be considered for funding once they have completed both the IA Proposal and the panel presentation.

Evaluation of Proposals will be conducted by an evaluation team formed by the Province that may include technical program staff, contractors of the Province with specific technical expertise, and other appropriate participants. Any contractors of the Province hired to evaluate Proposals will be required to sign confidentiality acknowledgements or agreements and provide conflict declarations as a condition of participation as an evaluator.

Proponents may be disqualified from competing if a relationship with a member of the evaluation team gives rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest or may give the Proponent an unfair advantage.

5.1 Initial Screening

Proposals will be subject to an initial screening process to ensure that the following conditions are satisfied:

- The Project is aligned with the Program Objectives specified in Section 3.1 (*Program Objectives*);
- The Proponent and Project meet the eligibility criteria specified in Sections 3.2 (*Industrial Operation Eligibility*) through 3.6 (*Funding Terms*);

Proposals that satisfy the conditions of the screening process will be evaluated for Mandatory Criteria.

5.2 Mandatory Criteria

For a Proposal to be considered, a Proponent must clearly demonstrate that they meet the following mandatory criteria, which are evaluated on a Pass/Fail basis. Proposals not clearly demonstrating that they meet these criteria will be excluded from further consideration.

Mandatory Criteria	Points
1. The total funding requested from the Clean Industry Fund is less than or equal to 75% of the Proposal's budget of Eligible Expenses.	**Pass/Fail**
2. The Proposal is submitted as set out in the Instructions of the Proposal Form and in accordance with Section 7.2 (*Submission of Proposals*) of the RFP.	
3. The Proponent certifies that the Certifications in Section 9 (*Certifications and Information Sharing*) of the Proposal form are true	
4. It is demonstrated that the Project is unlikely to proceed in the absence of CIF funding.	
5. The Project has not started and is not scheduled to start before the Notification Date	
6. The Proposal adequately addresses how expected and potential Project impacts to Indigenous interests have been considered in question 2.9 of the Proposal Form.	

5.3 Weighted Criteria

Proposals that meet all mandatory criteria in Section 5 (*Evaluation Process*) will then be assessed using the Weighted Criteria below. Proposals with sections that do not meet the minimum scores indicated will be

eliminated from the competition. The scores from each section of weighted criteria will be added together to give a total pre-presentation score.

Weighted Criteria	Weight *(minimum score)*
Technology and Innovation • The Project meaningfully contributes to the advancement of innovation. Novel technology is preferred. • Unknowns and barriers to Project implementation have been identified. • Major budget items and in-kind contributions have been appropriately valued.	**16** *(3)*
Economic, Environmental, and Associated Benefits • The calculation methodology for emissions reductions is conservative, appropriate, clearly articulated, and reproducible. • The magnitude of potential emissions reductions at the Regulated Operation, and in B.C. more broadly, resulting from the commercial adoption of the Project process or technology is identified. • Benefits associated with the economy, environment, Indigenous involvement, and the promotion of innovation and technological advancement resulting from Project implementation are identified. • The Project highlights or develops a clear competitive advantage for B.C. industry.	**35** *(2)*
Project Implementation • The Project is feasible, innovative, timely, and is expected to result in emissions reductions. • The key metrics for assessing the success of the Project and the method by which they will be measured have been identified. The Proposal explains how these metrics will be used to improve the process or technology or support its commercial adoption. • Project completion milestone dates are realistic. Funding for Projects will not be provided beyond March 31, 2031. Projects with earlier start and completion dates are preferred. • The Project Team has the requisite qualifications and expertise to implement the Project. • Projects utilizing partnerships with B.C.-based clean technology companies are preferred. • Significant consideration has been given to Project implementation, including timelines and regulatory hurdles. • Project risks have been identified, as have risk mitigation or management measures.	**23** *(4)*

Weighted Criteria	Weight *(minimum score)*
Post-Project Deployment Plan and Market Potential • The potential market in B.C. for commercial adoption of successful Project technology or process has been appropriately estimated. Broader market potential is preferred. • Projects with the potential for B.C.-based commercial development are preferred. • Next steps post-Project (whether successful or unsuccessful) have been identified. • Timelines for commercial adoption of successful Project technology have been identified and are realistic. Projects with faster timelines to commercial-scale emissions reductions are preferred.	**13** *(0)*
TOTAL PRE-PRESENTATION SCORE	**87** *(9)*

5.4 Presentations

Proposals that meet the minimum score threshold in each Weighted Criteria category and that rank among the top scoring Proposals will be invited to give a brief presentation to the technical reviewers. Project presentations will occur by invitation only and are a required component of the evaluation for a Proponent to be successful and receive funding.

Only Proposals that have Project Teams invited to give presentations will be eligible for funding. Should additional funding become available, additional Project Teams may be invited to give presentations on their Projects at any point before January 31, 2027.

Presentation Evaluation	Weight
• Project presentations provide a clear and concise summary of the Project and demonstrate an appropriate understanding of the associated risks	**13**

5.5 Overall Score and Ranking

Proposals will then be ranked based on their overall scores, (weighted criteria, including the presentation) out of a possible 100 points. The highest-ranking Proponents will be selected to enter into a Funding Agreement with the Province, until funding is exhausted. Proponents – successful, waitlisted, and unsuccessful – will be notified regarding the outcome of the evaluation process.

6 Measuring Project Success

6.1 Key Metrics

Proposals must identify the key metrics by which the proponent will evaluate the Project's performance. This must include, but may not be limited to, emissions reductions as a result of the Project. The key metrics will be agreed upon by successful Proponents and the Province prior to signing a Funding Agreement. The performance of the Project against these metrics will be presented in the Project Summary Report.

6.2 Project Summary Report

Successful Proponents must provide the Province with a Project Summary Report at the end of the Project. This report should summarize Project performance in relation to the key metrics, any barriers to implementation or operation that were encountered, and any other key takeaways that may advance the overall knowledge base for entities seeking to implement the same or similar technologies at their facilities. Payment of the final funding amount will be issued to the Proponent upon submission of a Project Summary Report that the Province deems satisfactory (i.e., provides a complete and adequate response to the requirements outlined in Schedule G of the IA Funding Agreement Template).

If the Proponent submits a Project Summary Report that the Province deems unsatisfactory, the Province will notify the Proponent of which sections do not meet the requirements outlined in Schedule G of IA Funding Agreement Template and the Proponent will have the opportunity to amend these sections. Failure to submit an amended Project Summary Report that the Province deems satisfactory in a timeframe prescribed by the Province may result in an event of default depending on the degree to which the unsatisfactory Project Summary Report does not comply with the requirements of Schedule G of IA Funding Agreement Template.

The Province will make Project Summary Reports publicly available so as to maximize the benefit of the knowledge gained through the Project. Proponents may propose redactions to the public version of the Project Summary Report if there is a reasonable risk of financial harm to the Proponent if the redactions are publicly released. The Proponent must explain the basis for such proposed redactions.

The Province will accept or reject the proposed redactions based on the strength of the Proponent's rationale.

7 RFP Process Rules

7.1 Submission of Proposal does not create contract

Submission of a Proposal does not create any contractual or equitable rights in relation to the conduct of the RFP. Having said this, Proponents should not submit a Proposal unless they are willing to enter into a Funding Agreement as described in the IA Funding Agreement Template. The Province reserves the right to accept or reject funding for non-compliant proposals.

7.2 Submission of Proposals

a) Proposals must be submitted before Closing Time to the email address indicated on the cover page of this RFP. Proposals must not be sent by fax or mail. The Proponent is solely responsible for ensuring that the Province receives a complete Proposal, including all attachments, before the Closing Time.

b) The maximum size of each attachment must be 20 MB or less (Proponents are solely responsible for ensuring that submissions comply with any size restrictions imposed by the Proponent's internet service provider).

c) Proponents should submit Proposals in a single email. If the file size exceeds the size limit, the Proponent may submit their Proposal across multiple emails. Proponents should identify the order and number of emails making up the email Proposal submission (e.g. "email 1 of 3, email 2 of 3…").

d) Proponents submitting more than one Proposal should submit the Proposals separately and ensure that each respective Proposal is clearly distinguished from other Proposals of the Proponent with unique project titles and descriptions.

e) For submissions sent through multiple emails the Province reserves the right to seek clarification or reject the Proposal if the Province is unable to determine what documents constitute the complete Proposal.

f) Attachments must not be compressed, must not contain a virus or malware, must not be corrupted, and must be able to be opened. Proponents are solely responsible for ensuring that any emails or attachments are not corrupted. The Province may reject Proposals that are compressed, cannot be opened or that contain viruses or malware or corrupted attachments or files.

g) The subject line of any email, including any notices of amendment or withdrawal referred to in Section 7.6 (*Changes to Proposals*), and any attachments should be clearly marked with the name of the Proponent, the RFP issue date, and the Project title. Attachments must be labelled in accordance with the Instructions in the IA Proposal Form.

h) The Proponent bears all risk associated with delivering its Proposal, including but not limited to delays in transmission between the Proponent's computer and the Government Electronic Mail System.

i) The Proponent acknowledges that email transmissions are inherently unreliable. The Proponent is solely responsible for ensuring that its complete email Proposal submission and all attachments have been received before Closing Time. If the Government Electronic Mail System rejects an email Proposal submission for any reason, and the Proponent does not resubmit its Proposal before Closing Time, the Proponent will not be permitted to resubmit its Proposal after Closing Time without incurring associated late submission penalties detailed in Section 7.4 (*Late Proposals*) of this document.

j) If the Proponent's email Proposal submission is rejected by the Government Electronic Mail System; or the Proponent does not receive an automated response email from the Province confirming receipt of the email within a half hour of the time the email Proposal submission was sent by the Proponent

the Proponent is strongly advised to contact CIF at CleanBCIndustryFund@gov.bc.ca prior to the Closing Time.

7.3 Additional Information

All Addenda will be posted on the Clean Industry Fund website or sent to Proponents at the contact information provided in the Proposal. Proponents are strongly encouraged to ensure that contact information is up to date.

7.4 Late Proposals

Proposals will be marked with their receipt time. Only complete Proposals received and marked before the Closing Time will be considered to have been received on time. Proposals received late will be marked late and may be considered or evaluated at the Province's discretion, subject to a 5-point deduction in the Proposal's overall score. The Province will not evaluate Proposals received more than two (2) business days late under this RFP.

In case of a dispute with respect to Proposal submission, the Proposal receipt time as recorded in the Government Electronic Mail System email address for delivery of Proposals will prevail whether accurate or not.

7.5 Firm Pricing

During the negotiation of Funding Agreements, the Province will not agree to any increases in total funding above the amount requested in the respective Proposal except as set out in this RFP. Funding Agreements may include changes from Proposals in relation to the timing of when funding is provided.

7.6 Changes to Proposals

By submitting a clear and detailed written notice, the Proponent may withdraw its Proposal before or after the Closing Time. The Proponent will not be permitted to change any part of its Proposal after the Closing Time unless requested by the Province for purposes of clarification. The Province will take into account the effect any change would have had on proposal eligibility, evaluation, and ranking were the change included in the original proposal; the Province reserves the right to not accept any change, require changes to funding agreement terms, or immediately withdraw the offer to enter into a funding agreement with the Province.

7.7 Conflict of Interest/No Lobbying

a) A Proponent may be disqualified if the Proponent's current or past corporate or other interests, those of an employee, director or officer of the Proponent, or a proposed Project Partner or Sub-contractor, may, in the Province's opinion, give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest in connection with the funding described in the RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement by a Proponent in the preparation of the RFP or a relationship with any employee, contractor, or representative of the Province involved in preparation of the RFP, preparation of evaluation guidelines, participating on the evaluation committee or in the negotiations or administration of the Funding Agreements. If a Proponent is in doubt as to whether there might be a conflict of interest, the Proponent should consult with the Program Advisor prior to submitting a Proposal. By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent represents that it is not aware of any circumstances that would give rise to a conflict of interest that is actual or potential, in respect of the RFP.

b) A Proponent must not attempt to influence the outcome of the RFP process by engaging in lobbying activities. Any attempt by the Proponent to communicate for this purpose directly or indirectly with any employee, contractor, or representative of the Province, including members of the evaluation committee and any elected officials of the Province, or with the media, may result in disqualification of the Proponent.

c) The Proponent may contact the Program Advisor to discuss Project Proposals and for clarification and guidance on requirements of the RFP process. The Program Advisor is not involved in the evaluation of Proposals.

7.8 Project Partners

a) The Province will accept Proposals where more than one organization or individual is proposed to deliver the Project, so long as the Proposal identifies the lead entity that will be the Proponent (note the requirements specified in Sections 3.2 (*Industrial Operation Eligibility*) and 7.17 (*Legal Entities*)) and that will have sole responsibility to implement the Project under the Funding Agreement. The Province will enter into a Funding Agreement with the Proponent only, but may require additional contractual representations, warranties and covenants from other parties involved in implementation of the Project, including persons who are the owners or operators of facilities or equipment where the Project includes capital expenditures, facility improvements, or software improvement at Regulated Operations that are not owned and operated by the Proponent, or in relation to equipment that is not owned and operated by the Proponent.

b) All Project Partners, including affiliates of the Proponent, should be clearly identified in the Proposal.

c) A Proponent may not enter into a partnership with a firm or individual whose current or past corporate or other interests, may, in the Province's opinion, give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest in connection with the funding described in the RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement by the firm or individual in the preparation of the RFP or a relationship with any employee, contractor or representative of the Province involved in the preparation of the RFP, participating on the evaluation team or in the administration of the Funding Agreement. If a Proponent is in doubt as to whether a proposed Project Partner might be in a conflict of interest, the Proponent should consult with the Program Advisor prior to submitting a Proposal. By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent represents that it is not aware of any circumstances that would give rise to a conflict of interest that is actual or potential, in respect of the RFP. All Project Partners, including affiliates of the Proponent, should be clearly identified in the Project Proposal.

7.9 Evaluation

Proposals will be assessed in accordance with the evaluation criteria. The Province will be under no obligation to receive further information, whether written or oral, from any Proponent. The Province is under no obligation to perform any investigations or to otherwise verify any statements or representations made in a Proposal. The Proposal should include substantive information to allow for independent evaluation, without requiring additional information. If the Province deems it necessary to verify any statements or representations made in a Proposal the Province may take this into account in evaluating the Proposal if, in the Province's sole discretion, the information should reasonably have been provided in the submitted Proposal.

7.10 Negotiations toward Funding Agreements

a) After evaluating all submitted Proposals, the Province intends to enter into Funding Agreements with the Proponents whose Proposals receive the highest rankings. The number of Proposals selected for Funding Agreements will depend on the Province's assessment of whether sufficient funds are available in each Fiscal Year to support the maximum funding amounts requested. This decision will also consider whether the proposed payment schedules and related security arrangements are acceptable to the Province for each individual Proponent.

b) If a written Funding Agreement cannot be finalized with provisions satisfactory to the Province within thirty days of notification of a successful Proponent, the Province may, at its sole discretion at any time thereafter, or earlier if the successful Proponent is unwilling or unable to enter into or continue negotiations, terminate discussions with that Proponent. The Province may terminate negotiations with a Proponent immediately if the Proponent indicates that it is unwilling to enter into a Funding Agreement that provides for payment of the Maximum Amount structured on terms, including security provisions, acceptable to the Province.

c) If, after initial negotiations have concluded, the Province deems there is sufficient funds available, the Province may choose to fund the next highest ranked Proposal subject to the successful negotiation of a Funding Agreement.

d) If, after funding has been allocated to the highest-ranking Projects, some amount of funds remains that is less than the funding amount requested by the next highest-ranking Project, then the Project Proponent may be offered an opportunity to enter into a Funding Agreement for the remainder of the funds available.

e) If, subsequent to offering Funding Agreements that provide for a reduction in overall funding below levels that would otherwise apply, the Province determines that there are additional Funds Available, the Province will offer to Proponents with the highest ranked Proposal that were offered an opportunity to enter into a Funding Agreement that provides for a reduction in overall funding, the opportunity to enter into a Funding Agreement for funding with what the Province considers commensurate with Funds Available;

f) Funding Agreements will include provisions generally described in the IA Funding Agreement Template and include such other terms and conditions to be finalized to the satisfaction of the Province, if applicable.

g) A Proponent will not acquire any legal or equitable rights or privileges relative to funding from the Fund by virtue of having been identified as a successful Proponent to the RFP.

7.11 Debriefing

At the conclusion of the RFP process, all Proponents will be notified. Proponents may request a debriefing meeting with the Province within 4 weeks of receipt of an unsuccessful notification.

7.12 Proponents' Expenses

Proponents are solely responsible for their own expenses in participating in the RFP process, including costs in preparing a Proposal and for subsequent finalizations with the Province, if any. The Province will not be liable to any Proponent for any claims, whether for costs, expenses, damages or losses incurred by the Proponent in preparing its Proposal, loss of anticipated profit in connection with any final Funding Agreement, or any other matter whatsoever.

7.13 Limitation of Damages

By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent releases the Province from any claim for damages, for whatever reason, relating directly or indirectly to the competitive process set out in this RFP but excluding any claims based on breach of Funding Agreements.

7.14 Liability for Errors

While the Province has used considerable efforts to ensure information in the RFP is accurate, the information contained in the RFP is supplied solely as a guideline for Proponents. The information is not guaranteed or warranted to be accurate by the Province, nor is it necessarily comprehensive or exhaustive. Nothing in the RFP is intended to relieve Proponents from forming their own opinions and conclusions with respect to the matters addressed in the RFP.

7.15 No Commitment to Award

The RFP should not be construed as an agreement to provide funding. The RFP does not commit the Province in any way to award a Funding Agreement.

7.16 No Implied Approvals

Neither acceptance of a Proposal nor execution of a Funding Agreement will constitute approval of any activity or development contemplated in any Proposal that requires any approval, permit or license pursuant to any federal, provincial, regional district or municipal statute, regulation or by-law.

7.17 Legal Entities

The Province reserves the right in its sole discretion to:

a) Disqualify a Proposal if the Province is not satisfied that the Proponent is clearly identified;

b) Prior to entering into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent, request that the Proponent provide confirmation of the Proponent's legal status (or in the case of a sole proprietorship, the Proponent's legal name and identification) and Certification in a form satisfactory to the Province that the Proponent has the power and capacity to enter into a Funding Agreement;

c) Not enter into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent if the Proponent cannot satisfy the Province that it is the same legal entity that is the Operator of the Regulated Operation; and

d) Require security screenings for a Proponent who is a natural person, Project Partners, Sub-contractors and key personnel before entering into a Funding Agreement and decline to enter into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent or to approve a Sub-contractor or key personnel that fail to pass the security screenings to the Province's satisfaction.

7.18 Reservation of Rights

In addition to any other reservation of rights set out in the RFP, the Province reserves the right, in its sole discretion:

a) To modify the terms of the RFP at any time prior to the Closing Time;

b) To cancel the RFP at any time prior to entering into a Funding Agreement with a Proponent;

c) In accordance with the terms of the RFP, to accept the Proposal or Proposals that it deems most advantageous to itself;

d) To waive any non-material irregularity, defect or deficiency in a Proposal;

e) To request clarifications from a Proponent with respect to its Proposal, including clarifications as to provisions in its Proposal that are conditional or that may be inconsistent with the terms and conditions

of the RFP, without any obligation to make such a request to all Proponents, and consider such clarifications in evaluating the Proposal;

f) To reject any Proposal due to unsatisfactory references or unsatisfactory past performance under contracts with the Province, or any material error, omission, or misrepresentation in the Proposal;

g) To reject any Proposal where the Operator of the Regulated Operations associated with the Project is out of compliance with GGIRCA or is determined to not be a Regulated Operation;

h) To reject any Proposal that the Province determines in its sole discretion contains a false Certification;

i) At any time, to reject any or all Proposals; and

j) At any time, to terminate the competition without award and provide funding by other means or do nothing.

7.19 Ownership of Proposals

All Proposals and other records submitted to the Province in relation to the RFP become the property of the Province and, subject to the provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and the RFP, will be held in confidence. For more information on the application of the Act, go to Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (gov.bc.ca).

Project Summary Reports submitted to the Province become the property of the Province and will be made publicly available. Components of the reports may be temporarily or permanently redacted if requested by the Proponent and agreed upon by the Province to avoid a reasonable risk of financial harm to the Proponent. Project Summary Reports are subject to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

7.20 Copyright

This document is subject to copyright and may be used, reproduced, modified, and distributed to the extent necessary for the Proponent to prepare and submit a Proposal.

7.21 Collection and Use of Personal Information

Proponents are solely responsible for familiarizing themselves, and ensuring that they comply, with the laws applicable to the collection and dissemination of information, including resumes and other personal information concerning employees and employees of any Sub-contractors. If the RFP requires Proponents to provide the Province with personal information of employees who have been included as resources in response to the RFP, Proponents will ensure that they have obtained written consent from each of those employees before forwarding such personal information to the Province. Such written consents should specify that the personal information may be forwarded to the Province for the purposes of responding to the RFP and used by the Province for the purposes set out in the RFP. The Province may, at any time, request the original consents or copies of the original consents from Proponents, and upon such request being made, Proponents will immediately supply such originals or copies to the Province. For more information, Proponents may contact the Program Advisor.

7.22 Sub-contractors

A Proponent may not subcontract to a firm or individual whose current or past corporate or other interests, may, in the Province's opinion, give rise to an actual or potential conflict of interest in connection with the funding described in the RFP. This includes, but is not limited to, involvement by the firm or individual in the preparation of the RFP or a relationship with any employee, contractor, or representative of the Province involved in the

preparation of the RFP, participating on the evaluation committee or in the administration of the Funding Agreement. If a Proponent is in doubt as to whether a proposed Sub-contractor might be in a conflict of interest, the Proponent should consult with the Program Advisor prior to submitting a Proposal. By submitting a Proposal, the Proponent represents that it is not aware of any circumstances that would give rise to a conflict of interest that is actual or potential, in respect of the RFP.

7.23 GGIRCA Compliance

Prior to entering into a Funding Agreement, the Operator of each Regulated Operation identified in the Proposal must be in compliance with GGIRCA, unless waived at the discretion of the Province.

If any documents required under GGIRCA have not been submitted, then the Province may terminate negotiations with the successful Proponent as described in Section 7.10 (*Negotiations toward Funding Agreements*).

7.24 In-kind Contributions

In-kind contributions by the Proponent or Project Partners that pertain directly to the Project may be considered as Eligible Expenses, subject to the terms of the Funding Agreement. These non-cash contributions can form part of the 25% minimum Proponent contribution and must be contributed by the Proponent or a Project Partner listed in the application. In-kind expenses must be incremental to normal operations and incurred for the sole purpose of the completion of the Project. In-kind expenses will be included in the total project budget and must be tracked and reported on as with all other expenses.

If a Proponent is claiming in-kind contributions for the Project, the Proponent must identify those contributions in the Proposal, as well as the methods for determining the fair market value of the contributions. The Proponent will not be able to claim any in-kind contributions or use any valuation methods not listed in the Proposal.

7.25 Proposal Eligibility for Government Funding Opportunities Beyond the Scope of this RFP

In exceptional circumstances, including if future funding becomes available, the Province may award funding outside of the scope of this RFP to a submitted Proposal. In such an instance, the Province reserves the right to publish project information, funding amount and the basis for providing the project funding. The intent of awarding funding in this manner is to allow submitted Proposals to be eligible for other funding opportunities that may be time-limited and/or were unanticipated at time this RFP was issued.

8 Funding Agreement Terms and Conditions

The Province intends to enter into Funding Agreement negotiations with the Proponents whose Proposals meet all mandatory criteria and receive the highest total scores (weighted criteria and presentation evaluation combined). Proponents should carefully review the terms and conditions described in IA Funding Agreement Template, including the Schedules.

As a condition of finalization of the Funding Agreement, a successful Proponent must ensure that the documents required under Section 7.23 (*GGIRCA Compliance*) have been submitted to the Province.