

Ekona Power Inc.

INNOVATIVE CLEAN ENERGY (ICE) FUND

Open Call for Innovation and Partnerships

Program Guide



Ministry of
Energy, Mines and
Low Carbon Innovation

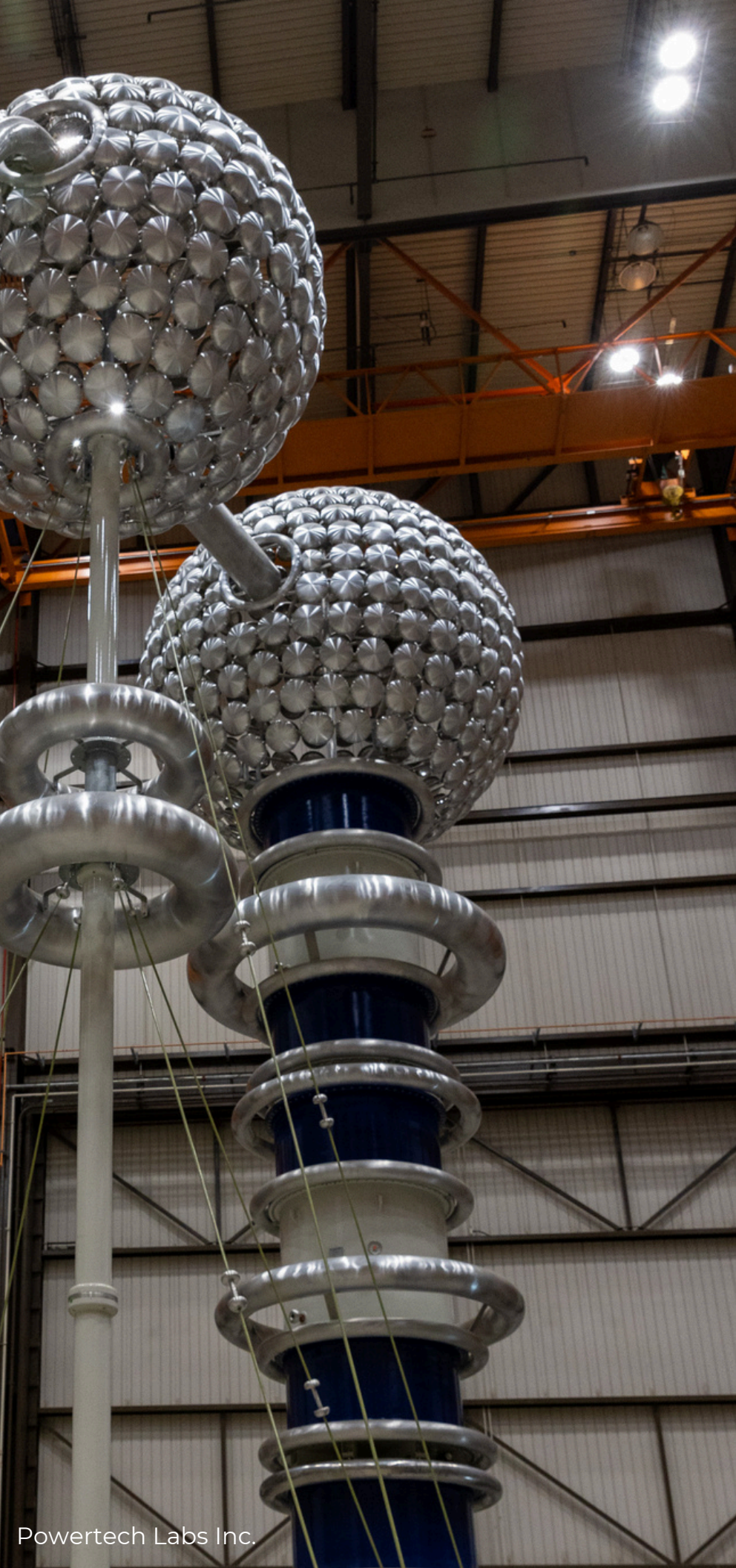


Table of Contents

03.

Program Overview

04.

Program Information

05.

Project Eligibility

06.

Funding Terms

07.

Evaluation Criteria

09.

Application Process

10.

Reporting

Multiple fund options

Intellectual Property

Legal and Confidentiality

11.

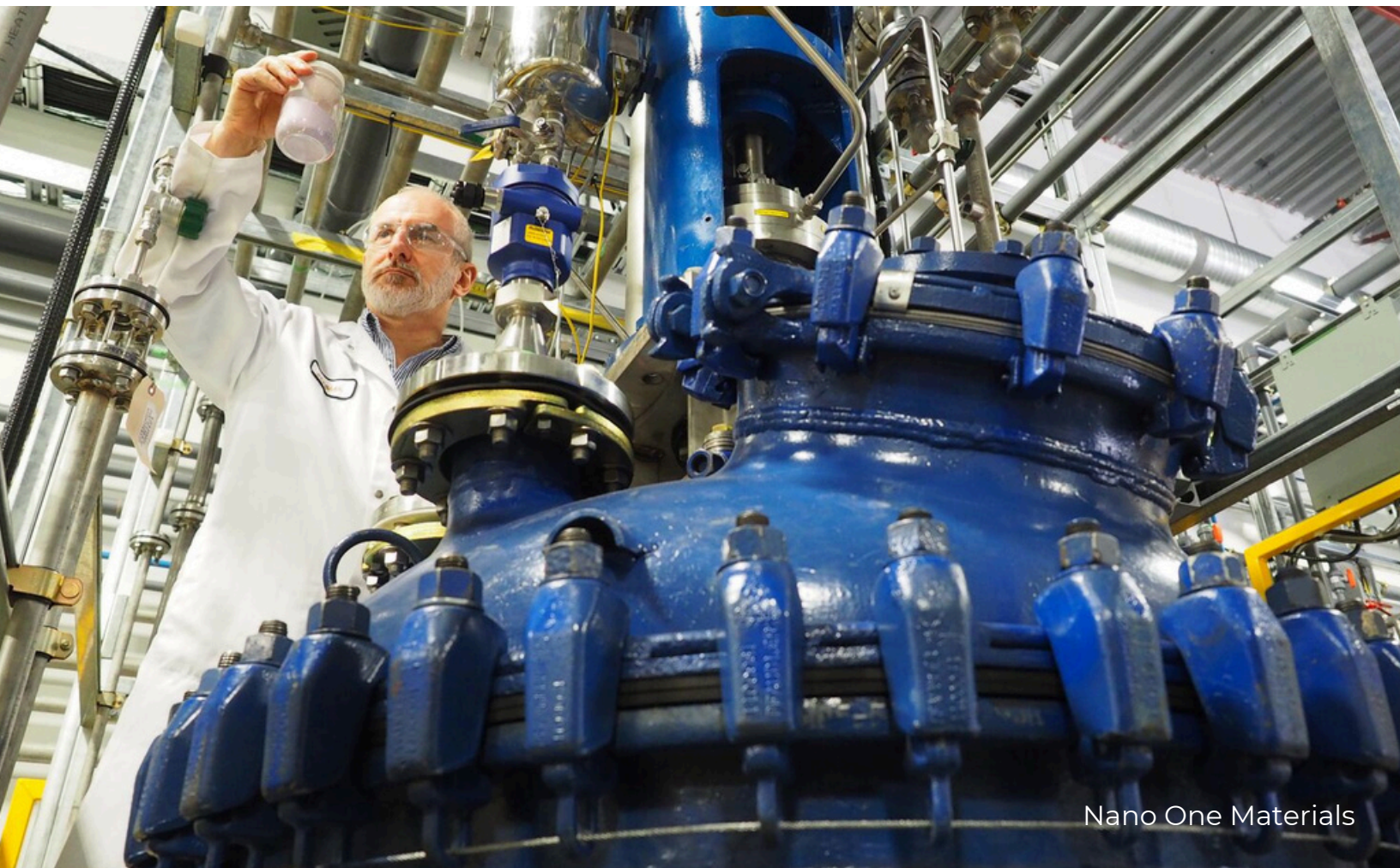
Contact Information

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

British Columbia's Innovative Clean Energy Fund ("ICE Fund") is designed to support the British Columbia (B.C.) government's energy, economic, environmental and greenhouse gas reduction priorities and advance B.C.'s clean energy sector. Since 2008, the ICE Fund has committed over \$114 million in funding to support pre-commercial clean energy technology projects and energy efficiency programs.

Successful ICE Fund partnerships have included universities, First Nations, municipalities, and many emerging clean technology companies across B.C. Technology demonstrations have included bioenergy, solar, ocean wave and tidal, geo exchange, desalination, energy management, smart grid and waste-to-energy.

The ICE Fund supports the Province's CleanBC plan which helps B.C. meet its legislated GHG emissions reduction targets by 2030, while supporting job growth and economic development opportunities in B.C.



PROGRAM INFORMATION



OPEN CALL

Applications can be submitted to the ICE Fund at any time.

FUNDING AMOUNTS AND LIMITS

Generally between \$50,000 and \$3,000,000 and up to 75% of eligible costs are allocated for projects.

- Total government funding for the project must not exceed 75%.
- The ICE Fund reserves the right to offer less funding than requested.
- Applicants are advised that funding availability varies by fiscal year based on available budget.

PROCESS AND TIMELINES*

- Inquiry Stage (2 weeks)
- Application Stage (3-6 weeks)
- Proposal Stage (4-8 weeks)
- Final Evaluation (2-4 weeks)
- Contract Finalization (2 weeks)

**Typical project timelines. Progression through process will vary based on project characteristics and applicant response time. Applicant are advised that the process is competitive; projects are evaluated against set criteria; and funding availability is limited.*



Two Project Types

Project Stream

Projects that advance clean energy technology towards commercialization.

Partnership Stream

- Projects by, or supported by a partner organization that advance the broader clean energy innovation ecosystem
- Projects that advance a specific clean energy technology towards commercialization by an applicant to a partner organization funding program.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Clean energy projects and technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fall within the mandate of the ICE Fund are eligible. Only the most competitive projects are funded.

Stages of Development

The project must clearly demonstrate how it will progress the technology towards commercialization. At the time of the application, projects should be in the range of [Technology Readiness Levels \(TRL\) 4-7](#).

Connection to British Columbia

The project under an application must take place within British Columbia.

Previously Funded Projects

Projects or portions thereof that have previously received funding from the ICE Fund are not eligible to receive further funding for that project under this Call. However, a new project that builds on and sufficiently advances a previously funded project is eligible for funding under this call

Project Term

The maximum length of a project is five (5) years.

Applicant Eligibility

Any Canadian legal entity is eligible to be an applicant for funding of projects under this fund. The ICE Fund may, in its sole discretion, determine whether an entity is eligible or ineligible.

FUNDING TERMS

- Total government funding at the time of application and through the term of the project must not exceed 75%
- The application and/or consortium partner* must contribute a minimum of 25% to eligible project costs
- Funding amounts and availability are limited. The ICE Fund reserves the right to not fund a project or offer less funding than requested.



Eligible Expenses

"Eligible Costs" are cash and in-kind eligible expenses incurred by the applicant for the project during the term of the project funding agreement.

In general, Eligible Costs include goods, services, professional and technical costs required to plan and conduct project activities, the cost of capital items that have no residual value beyond the scope of the project, and the depreciation cost of capital items that have a residual value beyond the scope of the project.

The majority of eligible project costs (>50%) must be incurred in British Columbia, and at a minimum, an amount of eligible project costs equal to the funding from the ICE Fund for the project must be incurred in British Columbia.

**A consortium partner is a non-related partner who has committed to providing cash and/or in-kind contributions to the project. Consortium partners may include entities such as potential customer of the applicant, technology co-developers and academic institutions.*

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Weighted Criteria: The following criteria are used to evaluate projects

Criteria	Description
Strength and Innovation of the Clean Energy Technology	<p>The strength of the clean energy technology involved, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The scientific basis for the technology• The expected technology advancement over the course of the project• How innovative or new the technology or application of the technology is• The strength of the applicant's intellectual property strategy for maintaining a sustainable advantage over competitors• Extent to which intellectual property is based in B.C., with B.C. benefits, and the goal of keeping intellectual property in B.C. post-project
Management and Team Capacity	<p>How well-suited and committed the project team is to carry out the proposed work, including the management and technical capacity of the applicant. Project consortium includes external partners contributing towards commercialization.</p>
Budget and Funding	<p>How well developed and realistic the budget is, and the applicant's ability to obtain financing for the project and technology development. The applicant's need for funding as well as the availability of other funding sources to fund the project.</p>
Project Scope and Plan	<p>How well developed, achievable, and impactful the scope of work and work plan is.</p>
Market and Value Proposition	<p>The opportunity for commercialization and market adoption of the technology, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value proposition to end-users• Competitiveness with existing commercial technologies/processes• The market size and market value associated the the technology and its products• The commercialization plan and expected pathway for commercial deployment and market adoption in B.C. and Canada, with deployment priority in B.C.• Potential for economic development and job growth in B.C. and Canada from the project and from the commercialization plan
Greenhouse Gas Reduction and other Clean Energy Co-Benefits Potential	<p>The potential for the clean energy projects and technologies to deliver significant and sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The GHG reductions per unit of technology output/throughput• The immediate GHG emissions reductions upon project completion• The GHG reductions that would result from commercial-scale deployment of the proposed technology in B.C.• The broader potential for GHG emissions reductions throughout B.C., Canada and the rest of the world from widespread adoption of the proposed technology• Clean energy co-benefits in the areas of clean air, water and soil• Energy system transformation• Energy efficiency and conservation benefits
Ecosystem Development Potential (Partnership Stream projects Only)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of the initiative in supporting clean energy ecosystems including increased capacity and outcomes in support of technology development and commercialization• The sustainability of the initiative to have an impact beyond the term of the project funding• The need for funding and the project's fit in meeting an unmet or under-serviced areas in the broader clean energy technology ecosystem

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Desirable Project Attributes: Projects with the following attributes are encouraged and recognizes in application scoring

Criteria	Description
Indigenous Benefit	Projects that have Indigenous benefit could include, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects that are Indigenous-led• Have the opportunity to advance reconciliation in B.C. and Canada• Project has the opportunity to generate social and economic opportunities for Indigenous Peoples
Leadership Diversity	The ICE Fund is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and improving representation amongst entity leadership. Applicants may choose to self-identify when applying.
Regional Economic Benefit	Projects and companies located in regions of British Columbia that are not as well represented by clean energy technology development.
Consortium Strength	The strength of the project consortium, including existing and potential relationships with clean energy technology adopters, customers, and other partners. Strength of a consortium partner will be measured by a consortium partner's financial and non-financial commitments to both the project and post-project commercialization of the technology.
Priority Themes	Projects in priority themes are preferred: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clean energy solutions that support the clean energy supply chain, including critical minerals• Clean energy solutions that support clean energy transition pathways for substantive sources of GHG emissions• Clean energy solutions that build on existing sectoral strengths in B.C. including, but not limited to: bioenergy, water or marine tech, hydrogen, fuel cells

An application may be screened out immediately (i.e. the application will not be reviewed) based on one or more of the following factors:

- *The application is not written in english or french*
- *The application is not sufficiently comprehensible or easy to read*
- *The application is incomplete and/or does not provide sufficient information for a proper evaluation*
- *The proposed project does not meet the eligibility criteria*
- *The applicant does not meet the eligibility criteria*
- *The proposed project carries substantial risk of detrimental side effect (e.g. environmental impacts)*

APPLICATION PROCESS

01

Inquiry Stage

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the ICE Fund team to get feedback on project fit with the ICE Fund requirements. Applicants may be requested to submit a short inquiry form.

02

Application Stage

Applications will be reviewed by members of the ICE Fund to assess fit with criteria. Applications that meet criteria will be asked to present their applications in a structured online meeting. Applications that pass the online presentation session will be offered the opportunity to submit a full project proposal.

03

Proposal Stage

Applicants will submit a detailed full project proposal including supporting documentation, budgets and company financial information.

04

Contract Stage

Applicants will sign a contract with the Province that includes terms on milestone reporting.

At each stage the ICE Fund may use technical and business reviewers to support evaluation and due diligence. Applicants that do not receive funding may request feedback.

The ICE Fund, in its sole discretion, reserves the right to not fund a project for reasons including, but not limited to: budget availability, allocation of budget and fit of the project within the Ministry's mandate or ICE Fund portfolio of projects.

Reporting

All projects are required to comply with progress, annual, metrics and post-completion reporting, as detailed in the funding agreement. This includes reporting against milestones and reporting on the use of funds. Templates will be provided.

Opportunity to Receive Funding from Multiple Funds

Applicants may be eligible to have their application reviewed concurrently by another Fund which supports additional funding opportunities for an applicant's project. Applicants may be informed of potential opportunities and their consent will be sought before sharing application information with another fund. For example, this approach has resulted in funding to multiple projects by both the ICE Fund and Sustainable Development Technology Canada under the Partnership stream.

Intellectual Property

Intellectual property will be addressed through the funding agreement between the ICE Fund and each successful applicant and will be specific to the circumstances of each project. However, a few general principles apply:

- Background intellectual property (patents, copyright, software) and third-party technology remains with its original owner(s).
- The ICE Fund retain rights to the project results, including the technical data, reports, analysis, and discussion.
- Project technology (based on patent disclosures) developed as a part of the co-funded activities will be owned by the successful applicant. However, successful applicants will be expected to use and/or make the technology available through reasonable commercial terms for the benefit of British Columbia and Canada.

Legal and Confidentiality Notices

The ICE Fund will maintain the confidentiality of information when it has been clearly marked as confidential at the time of disclosure and when in oral form, has been clearly identified as confidential at the time of disclosure and is then followed by written confirmation within 7 days, except information which:

- Is part of the public domain;
- Becomes part of the public domain other than as a result of a breach of these provisions;
- The Province is required to disclose pursuant to applicable laws or any rule or regulation of any government entity of competent jurisdiction;
- Is already known or available to the Province or independently developed by the Province;
- Was received in good faith from an independent person who was lawfully in possession of such information free of any obligation of confidence;
- Is aggregated and used for purposes related to statistical analysis and reporting in a manner that does not identify individual applicants; or
- Is agreed upon by the applicant to be acceptable for release, including information provided in sections of the application indicated as non-confidential.

Notwithstanding the above, applicants hereby acknowledge that the British Columbia Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (R.S.B.C. 1996, c.165) may apply to all information and records provided by the applicant to the ICE Fund and to any information records which are in the custody or under the control of the ICE Fund.



MineSense Technologies Ltd.

CONTACT INFORMATION

ICEFUND@GOV.BC.CA



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