



Critical Industrial Technologies Sector Adoption Program

Driving Improved Productivity for Ontario Manufacturers Using Critical Technologies

Challenge Launch Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> September 4, 2024
Challenge Deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> October 4, 2024
Info Webinar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday September 10, 2024 at 11am. Register.
Available funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$500,000 Funding must be matched 2:1 by the Applicant Company and Industry Partners by cash or cash equivalent.
Challenge Statement	<p>The Ontario manufacturing sector has seen a steady decline of productivity in recent years. A key reason for this decline results from reduced investment in innovation due to market uncertainty as well as concern over other international factors.</p> <p>Manufacturers across the province are recognizing the need to increase investment in technology to reverse this concerning trend in order to remain competitive and profitable. Increased investment in technology provides a unique opportunity for the supply of leading-edge innovative solutions to be implemented with manufacturers looking to improve productivity.</p> <p>The Critical Industrial Technologies Initiative is looking to support partnerships of progressive companies that are seeking to develop and implement transformative solutions that utilize and/or adopt Critical Technologies to enhance productivity in Ontario’s manufacturing sector.</p> <p>Solutions developed and implemented through the challenge must have a significant impact on productivity in the manufacturing sector and must be capable of being adopted by multiple stakeholders throughout the province. Some examples of suitable solutions include but not limited to new innovative IIoT devices that harness AI to allow for optimized predictive maintenance schedules, collaborative robots that works safely and efficiently with workers to decrease cycle time or computer vision technology to speed up the quality assurance process. Solutions developed through the challenge must have a significant impact on productivity in the manufacturing sector and must be capable of being adopted by multiple stakeholders throughout the province.</p>
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum Project duration is up to 1 year

<p>Project Details</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applications MUST come from a consortia of partners who will work collaboratively to develop and demonstrate a solution that will have widespread adoption and impact on the Ontario manufacturing sector. • The lead applicant MUST be an Ontario-based SME and must meet the requirements identified in the Sector Adoption Program Guidelines. • At least one of the project partners MUST be an end user/customer of the resultant product/service • Projects must involve the integration, development, adoption and/or acceleration of at least one of the following critical technologies - 5G, AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics, Quantum. • Proposed projects can be enhancements to existing products/services or new products/services. • At least one Primary Partner should exhibit market ‘pull’ to help validate the readiness of the sector to adopt the demonstrated solution. • Project partners will be required to sign a letter of support and if approved the OCI project funding agreement. • Project activities need to be carried out in Ontario. • The Project partner consortia will be required to present to an external review panel as part of the full application process.
<p>Project Outcome and Participation Benefits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects MUST demonstrate how the project partners are making a significant impact on moving the advanced manufacturing sector forward in Ontario. • Create scalable solutions that can be easily replicated and deployed across multiple stakeholders -thus fostering widespread adoption and impact. • Successfully integrate one or more Critical Technologies, including 5G, AI, Blockchain, Cybersecurity, Robotics and Quantum into solutions supporting enhanced safety in the mining supply chain. • Demonstrate the solution(s) with an end user/customer to show industry acceptance and suitability for widespread adoption. • Foster collaborative partnerships between Ontario-based SMEs and industry partners, leveraging diverse expertise and resources to drive innovation and achieve shared goals. • Generate significant job creation and economic growth for the applicant companies and related industries, supporting Ontario’s broader economic development objectives. • Create opportunities for market expansion and business growth by introducing innovative solutions that meet evolving market demands and customer needs, both within Ontario and beyond.