

IM: Early-Stage Demonstration Call - Eligibility Checklist

Before applying, confirm that your organization and project meet all eligibility requirements. Only eligible applicants will be considered for funding. *Please refer to the Program Guidelines for in-depth requirements.*

Organization Eligibility

- ☐ The applicant is a for-profit company legally incorporated and in good standing in British Columbia.
- ☐ The company qualifies as a small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) with fewer than 500 employees.
- ☐ The applicant has active operations in B.C. and is capable of delivering the proposed pilot in BC.
- ☐ The company can demonstrate financial and operational capacity to complete the project (e.g., previous project delivery, sufficient cash flow, or confirmed matching funds).
- ☐ The applicant is not currently in default under any funding agreement with Innovate BC or another government agency.

Technology Readiness

- ☐ The proposed technology is at a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6 or higher.
- ☐ The innovation represents a new or significantly improved product, process, or service that addresses a clear market or sector need.
- ☐ The applicant can describe the intellectual property ownership or access rights necessary to execute the project.

Project Requirements

- ☐ The project will be carried out in BC, with a pilot implementation site confirmed.
- ☐ The project involves a committed early adopter (e.g., customer, industry partner, or operator) who will host or evaluate the technology under real-world conditions.
- ☐ The applicant has a signed Letter of Intent (LOI) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) from the early adopter, signed by an executive or authorized representative.
- ☐ The project will be completed within 12-18 months.
- ☐ The project includes a minimum 25% cash contribution from non-government sources.

Strategic Alignment

- ☐ Projects must align with one or more of the following innovation themes:
 - **Health:** anchored by the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA), this theme supports innovations that improve patient care, clinical outcomes, and overall health system efficiency.

- **Aviation:** In partnership with Vancouver International Airport (YVR), this theme supports technologies that enhance operational performance, safety, sustainability, logistics, and passenger services within the YVR airport environment.
- **Marine & Coastal:** supports innovations that enhance maritime sustainability, safety, and operational resilience. Projects may address vessel and port optimization, environmental monitoring, renewable marine energy, robotics, coastal resilience, or digital transformation in supply chain and transportation operations.
- **Forestry Innovation & Emergency Management:** supports innovations addressing wildfire and flood management, digital permitting, forestry data systems, and predictive tools such as AI and digital twins to improve emergency response and resource management.
- **Mining & Critical Minerals:** Accelerates the validation and deployment of technologies that enhance productivity, renewable energy use, traceability, and mineral processing to improve sustainability and supply chain efficiency.
- **Defence & Dual-Use Technologies:** Supports innovations for secure, high-reliability, or mission-critical environments — including applications in cybersecurity, remote operations, disaster response, and environmental monitoring — with potential dual-use or defence applications.
- Projects with the following attributes may be favourably adjudicated:
 - **Regional Implementation** – Projects led by regional B.C. SMEs and/or pilots located in B.C. communities outside the Lower Mainland.
 - **Indigenous Participation** – Projects developed in partnership with, or directly benefitting, Indigenous communities or organizations.
 - **Collaborative Partnerships** – Projects that bring together multiple sectors or organizations to scale impact and advance provincial innovation goals.