

INDUSTRY GRANTS PROGRAM

GLOBAL GAS INNOVATION CALL

Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.)



1. What is NGIF Accelerator and the Industry Grants Program?

NGIF Accelerator is the not-for-profit arm of NGIF Capital and operates all technology and innovation programs. Its mandate is to de-risk and accelerate technology development and commercial deployment by supporting startups through their pilot projects, field trials, and industry validation. The goal is to accelerate the development and commercial deployment of new products or technologies to market by providing access to capital, resources, and expertise.

NGIF Accelerator currently operates the Industry Grants (IG) program and administers the NGIF Emissions Testing Centre (ETC) program.

Industry Grants Program

The IG program is industry-led and funded and offers non-dilutive grants to fund early-stage startups for technology development and field demonstration. The program specifically de-risks pre-commercial technology solutions that have the potential to increase the environmental performance of the natural gas sector. Each project in the program will accelerate technology readiness level progressions through pilot testing and field trials to advance commercialization.

To date, the fund has provided over \$30+MM in direct industry grant funding to more than 110 cleantech organizations in Canada and around the world. Our portfolio's total project budget exceeds \$350 MM dollars.

2. When was the Industry Grants program started?

The Industry Grants program was originally called the Natural Gas Innovation Fund which was created by the Canadian Gas Association (CGA) in 2016 to advance clean technologies in the natural gas industry. Due to rapid growth within the fund and the demand for clean technologies, in 2021, the Natural Gas Innovation Fund branched out and formed its own organization NGIF Capital, which also manages Cleantech Ventures Fund I. Later in 2023, NGIF Capital created a subsidiary, not-for profit organization NGIF Accelerator that operates all NGIF's technology and innovation programs. For information on our initiatives, please visit our website [here](#).

3. Who are the Industry Grants program participants?

The IG program has 10 Canadian energy participants, committed to driving cleantech innovation and solutions for the natural gas industry. Our participants include Apex Utilities, ARC Resources, ATCO Gas, Birchcliff Energy Ltd., Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., Enbridge Gas Inc., Fortis BC, Pacific Northern Gas, SaskEnergy, and Tourmaline Oil Corp.

4. Why should I apply for funding through NGIF Accelerator Industry Grants Program?

The IG program is a market centric initiative where organizations across the natural gas value chain pool their innovation funding and leverage their intelligence to field test innovation across Canada. You have an opportunity to receive direct feedback and support from your potential customers to advance your innovative technology. Your application will undergo an industry and independent peer review process where committees comprising of industry experts selects, undertakes due diligence, and advances methane projects that could benefit the industry. Your innovative technology could also be field piloted at one of the member sites (host site), where you have an opportunity to demonstrate and interact closely with potential market leaders across the natural gas value chain.

5. How do I know if I am eligible for funding?

To determine eligibility for funding, please review the eligibility criteria in the Intake Guidelines Document, which can be found on the competition website page and the application portal. It is recommended that all applicants review it before submitting their application.

6. What is the Investment Process for the Industry Grants Program?

The IG program offers a de-risking funding model of Intake, Evaluation, and Project Management. The investment process is divided into three stages: Stage 1 Intake Stage, Stage 2 Evaluation Stage, and Stage 3 Project Management Stage. Applicants must go through BOTH stages (Stage 1 and Stage 2) of evaluation before being approved for funding. A fully executed Contribution Agreement will be required before funds are released.

7. How do you define an innovative technology?

Innovative technology should be novel, pre-commercial and demonstrated to be better than incumbent technologies on key metrics such as emissions reduction potential, cost competitiveness, or lower impact on the environment. Additionally, the technology should present a strong value proposition relative to other new technologies.

8. Do I need to be a company incorporated in Canada to apply to the Industry Grants Program?

No. The applicant and the technology can come from any country; however, the project must preferentially occur Canada at a qualifying NGIF IG industry member site.

9. Is it mandatory for the technology to generate environmental benefits?

Yes. Environmental benefits will be established at the project demonstration site. Applicants must also be able to demonstrate that their technology will be able to generate substantial environmental performance improvements over the business-as-usual case when deployed commercially.

10. What timeline should be considered for calculating environmental performance reductions (e.g., savings per year and cumulative to 2030?) or another date?

The IG program will base its assessment on annual environmental performance for the life of the project, as well as the greenhouse gas (GHG) intensity relative to other technologies. Applicants are encouraged to include estimates of cumulative benefits by 2030 and 2035 from the date of commercialization in their application.

11. Does the project IP go to NGIF Accelerator at the completion of the project?

No. All background and project IP remain vested with the applicant. NGIF Accelerator will require data, reports, and project documents throughout the project. The applicant will compile the requested information into reports and share it with all industry and independent reviewers who have chosen to support the project.

12. What types of demonstration host facilities are eligible?

Facilities include well sites, compressor stations, gathering systems, gas processing plants, pipelines, distribution network or consumer sites. The funding opportunity requires all upstream natural gas applications to be demonstrated/tested at one of NGIF Accelerator's IG program member sites in Canada. NGIF Accelerator will help and facilitate applicants to engage with its eligible members to secure a demonstration site for their technologies. Applicants are not expected to have secured demonstrations hosts to be eligible for the competition but are encouraged to have conversations with IG Members companies to better streamline the process in the event an applicant is chosen for funding.

13. Can the Industry Grants Program's funding be used as project support for Federal or Provincial funding programs?

Yes, the program can fund projects in partnership with other organizations that require matching dollars. All funding calls provide an opportunity to applicants for project co-funding consideration by the IG program's Trusted Partners. For more information, please refer to the Intake Guidelines Document.

14. Is a collaboration with an academic institution an eligible use of funds?

Yes, applicants are welcome to collaborate with academic institutions, including universities, colleges, and schools. Applications where academic institutions are the primary applicant will have to elaborate on a plan where a spin-off company for the technology is in the works.

15. If an application is shared with a Trusted Partner who decides to fund the project, would the funding be in addition to the Industry Grants Program's funding?

Trusted Partners will follow their own evaluation and governance model to review and make decisions.

Generally, funding from Trusted Partners will be in addition to the amount awarded by the IG program. However, there could be situations where a Trusted Partner's funding is used to offset a portion of the funding request to the IG program, for example, if the program is unable to fund the entire requested amount.

16. How much funding can I apply for through the Industry Grants Program for my project?

Eligible projects can apply for up to **\$500,000 (CAD)** per project, representing up to **50%** of the total project cost. The maximum amount that will be awarded to any project can vary.

17. If NGIF Accelerator approves our funding, do we get approved for the full amount?

Generally, yes. However, the program reserves the right to award less funding than initially requested.

18. What criteria are used for decision-making at Investment Intake Stage 1? Does the Industry Grants Program share the relevant Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for its competition?

Applications are assessed on the criteria described in the Intake Guidelines Document that is posted on the program's competition website. Specific key performance indicators are not used due to the variety of proposals we receive and the fact that all applications are evaluated on their own merit.

19. Are project details kept confidential throughout the entire application process?

Project applications, reports and other proprietary details are kept confidential. When a project is announced to proceed in Stage 2, NGIF Accelerator will publicly share a non-confidential summary of the project.

At the end of the project, reports of outcomes and learnings from the project are treated as confidential and shared only with the project funders and members. A non-confidential report will also be generated at the end of the project for public reporting.

20. Can a project be started prior to being approved for funding with the Industry Grants Program?

Yes, a project can start prior to being awarded for funding by NGIF Accelerator. However, only project related eligible expenses incurred after the funding approval letter are eligible for payment using the approved IG program funds.

21. How can I stay apprised of the NGIF Accelerator's funding opportunities?

Stay updated on the NGIF Accelerator's funding opportunities and new competitions/programs by visiting our website at <https://www.ngif.ca> and subscribing to our mailing list. You can also follow us on Twitter @NGIFCapital and LinkedIn at [NGIF Accelerator](#).

22. Where do I go if I have any further questions?

If you have reviewed the Industry Grants Program webpage and documentation and still have unanswered questions, please contact us at: application@ngif.ca.

23. Can I meet with the NGIF Accelerator's evaluation and approval committees to discuss my project prior to submitting an application?

NGIF Accelerator's committees do not meet directly with applicants. NGIF Accelerator Industry Grants Program is designated to be the sole interface with potential applicants. If you wish to discuss your project prior to making a submission, please contact us at application@ngif.ca.

24. Who can participate in the Industry Grants Program?

The competition is open to start-ups and SMEs from all over the world. It is not a requirement for any applicant to have a physical presence in Canada. However, as stated in competition guidelines, it is expected that the applicant will demonstrate or deploy the project in Canada either as part of a pilot project or once the technology is commercially available.

25. What are the technology categories for the competition?

The Global Gas Innovation Call is looking for applications in the following focus areas serving Natural Gas Production, Natural Gas Transmission and Distribution market sectors in Canada:

Sustainable Energy Innovations

- Energy efficiency (TRL 5+)
- Waste heat utilization (TRL 5+)
- Natural gas heat pumps (TRL 6+)
- Heating, cooling and power generation solutions (TRL 5+)
- Natural gas resiliency for end-use residential appliances (TRL 5+)

Low-Emission Gas Innovations

- Carbon capture, utilization and storage (TRL 7+)
- Renewable natural gas (TRL 5+)

Open Category (TRL 6+)

- Other impactful clean technologies relevant to the natural gas sector, such as water management, pyrolysis, multiphase leak detection, and LNG-related innovations, etc

Applicants are advised to review the **Challenge Statement** in the application portal to see a more granulated list of technology areas of interest. Please note that it isn't a requirement for your solution to be a part of the list to apply.

26. Can projects at TRL 4 apply to the competition?

No. Only projects from TRL 5 to TRL 8 will be considered for this competition. If achieving TRL 5 is imminent, then late TRL 4 technologies will be considered. For further information please find the Intake Guidelines Document at our website [here](#).

27. What is the timeline for the competition?

The deadline for submitting your Expression of Interest (EOI) is February 17th, 2026, at 7 PM EST. Applications can be sent on a rolling basis through our online portal, which can be accessed [here](#).

