INDUSTRY GRANTS PROGRAM

GLOBAL GAS INNOVATION CALL

INTAKE GUIDELINES

Submission Deadline: February 17st, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. EST

NGIF ACCELERATOR

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1. Legal Notice

The Industry Grants program is a not-for-profit program operated by NGIF Accelerator ("**NGIF Accelerator**") and is referred to as the "**IG program**" throughout this document. By applying to Global Gas Innovation Call (the "**Application**"), you confirm that you read, understood, and accepted the information contained in this call for applications (this "**RFP**") and that each of you, the applicant (the "**Applicant**"), and any Project Partners (as defined below), agree as follows:

a) NGIF Accelerator may at any time suspend, terminate, cancel, withdraw, amend, or alter all or any portion of this RFP or any subsequent step in this Application process, including but not limited to application requirements, the selection and review process, and the eligibility criteria.

b) NGIF Accelerator reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject any or all Applications for any reason. NGIF Accelerator is not required to accept any Application recommended for advancement through to any subsequent step in the Application process by the applicable evaluators.

c) The final decision with respect to the Applications to be included in the Application shortlist in this RFP and the decision to advance any Applications to any subsequent step in the Application process rests solely with the IG Program's innovation committee ("**Innovation Committee**"). The Innovation Committee's evaluation of all Applications may be based on, but is not in any way limited to, the criteria set out in this RFP. The Innovation Committee may consider any criteria relevant to the IG Program mandate, regardless of whether such additional criteria have been disclosed to the Applicant.

d) Applications that do not comply with the requirements described in this RFP may be rejected in whole or in part or not considered by NGIF Accelerator. NGIF Accelerator reserves the unqualified right to accept or reject a non-compliant Application.

e) This RFP is not an offer, and submitting an Application does not create a contract or agreement of any kind between NGIF Accelerator and the Applicant.

f) No conduct, act, or omission of NGIF Accelerator or their directors, officers, consultants, project advisors, agents, servants and their respective successors and assigns, other than a notice to the Applicant in writing signed by an authorized person for NGIF Accelerator, will constitute approval of an Application.

g) Approval of an Application does not create any binding contract between NGIF Accelerator and the Applicant. NGIF Accelerator shall not be obligated to the Applicant, and the Applicant shall have no rights in respect of NGIF Accelerator, in any matter whatsoever until a written contribution agreement ("**Contribution Agreement**") between NGIF Accelerator and the Applicant has been duly executed in respect of an approved Application.

h) As between the parties, the Application and all documents and materials the Applicant submits to NGIF Accelerator in connection with this RFP or any subsequent step in the Application process (other than information relating to the Applicant incorporated into the

Application but not directly connected to this RFP) are the exclusive property of NGIF Accelerator immediately upon delivery to NGIF Accelerator. For clarity, this refers to the submitted documents and materials, not to any technology or innovations disclosed or discussed in them. Intellectual property developed during the project will be addressed through the Contribution Agreement and will normally be owned by the Applicant.

i) You, the Applicant, and any **"Project Partners**," being organizations responsible for carrying out specific project activities in the manner and scope as agreed between partners, with the lead partner being the Applicant, will keep this application confidential and will not use, reproduce or distribute it, any portion of it, or any data, information, drawings, or specifications included in or provided with it except as necessary to prepare any materials in connection with the IG Program, as requested by NGIF Accelerator. Any breach of the terms of this RFP by an Applicant's Project Partners will be considered a breach by the Applicant.

j) NGIF Accelerator will not have any liability whatsoever to you, the Applicant or any of the Applicant's Project Partners in connection with this RFP or any subsequent stage in the Application process.

k) You, the Applicant, and any Project Partners will not make a claim against NGIF Accelerator for any reason whatsoever or howsoever relating to this RFP or any subsequent stage in the Application process. You are undertaking the expenditures required to prepare and submit an application and you agree that you are making an application at your own risk. You waive any right relating to, and release NGIF Accelerator (and its affiliates) from, any demand, liability, claim, or recovery for costs, expenses, or damages incurred whatsoever or howsoever arising out of or relating to this RFP or any subsequent stage in the Application process, whether such right or claim arises in contract, negligence or otherwise.

l) NGIF Accelerator takes no responsibility for the accuracy of the information supplied in this RFP.

2. Introduction

2.1 NGIF Accelerator

NGIF Accelerator is the not-for-profit arm of NGIF Capital and operates all technology and innovation programs. The NGIF Accelerator mandate is to de-risk and accelerate technology development by supporting startups through their pilot projects, field trials, and industry validation. It coordinates with federal and provincial governments to co-fund projects to advance market commercialization. NGIF Accelerator currently operates the Industry Grants program and administers the NGIF Emissions Testing Centre program.

2.2 Industry Grants Program

The Industry Grants program is industry-led 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.

The Industry Grants program is operated by the NGIF Accelerator. 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 Limited, Enbridge Gas Inc., Fortis BC, Pacific Northern Gas, SaskEnergy, and Tourmaline Oil Corp.

2.3 Value Proposition – Why You Should Apply

Canada is the 5th largest producer of natural gas producer. The Industry Grants Program membership represents some of the largest natural gas producers and distribution/ utilities organizations in Canada. The NGIF Accelerator Industry Grants program offers successful applicants access to pooled industry capital, feedback on their technology development efforts from industry experts, and industry resources to field test and de-risk their innovations, creating potential future customers. The Global Gas Innovation Call will support NGIF Accelerator's mandate to fill the technology development gap for the natural gas sector by identifying and supporting the acceleration of cleantech projects led by start-ups and SMEs organizations with innovative solutions for market uptake and commercial deployment.

3. Global Gas Innovation Call

The Global Gas Innovation Call is a **$2 million CAD** global funding call that offers technology innovators developing cleantech solutions for the Canadian Natural Gas industry. Each selected project is eligible to receive up to **$500,000 CAD**, representing up to **50% percent** of qualifying project costs. This funding Call will operate through a single intake window with a stage gated industry peer review process. Following evaluation process and selection, successful applicants will proceed to a contracting phase where project scopes may be further refined based on due diligence outcomes.

Each proposal submitted to the Global Gas Innovation Call will undergo a rigorous evaluation, screening, and selection process. This document provides information, guidance, and requirements for submitting an application under **Stage 1 Intake** of the Call. Only successful applicants from Stage 1 will be invited to submit a formal project proposal under **Stage 2 Evaluation**. Unsolicited Stage 2 proposals will not be accepted.

The Call is designed to accelerate technology development and commercialization of high-impact cleantech innovations that advance environmental performance, operational efficiency, and emissions reductions across the natural gas value chain - spanning production (upstream sector), transmission (mid-stream sector), and end-use applications (downstream sector). Technology solutions supported under this Call align with three strategic categories:

Sustainable Energy Innovations

- Energy efficiency
- Waste heat utilization
- Natural gas heat pumps
- Heating, cooling and power generation solutions
- Natural gas resiliency for end-use residential appliances

Low-Emission Gas Innovations

- Carbon capture, utilization and storage
- Renewable natural gas

Open Category

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

For the purposes of this funding Call, clean technologies (Cleantech) refer to any process, product, or service that reduces negative environmental impacts and is economically competitive with, if not superior to, its conventional counterparts and "beyond business as usual."

By leveraging a market-driven, competitive selection process, the Global Gas Innovation Call aims to advance most promising technologies from development or pilot-scale readiness toward demonstration and early commercial deployment. Supported solutions are expected to deliver measurable environmental benefits, improved economic value, and scalability across Canada's natural gas industry. Through this structure, the NGIF Accelerator serves as a critical catalyst for accelerating cleantech commercialization and positioning innovative solutions for the natural gas industry.

3.1 Application Submissions

The Global Gas Innovation Call will operate through a single intake window. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from the Call launch date; however, applicants must apply online before the submission deadline, February 17th, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. EST.

Global Gas Innovation Call: https://www.ngif.ca/industry-grants/global-gas-innovation-call/

Application portal: SmartSimple

3.2 Finalist Announcements

The finalists for the Global Gas Innovation Call will be announced in July 2026.

Please refer to Section 8.3 for the full timeline of the program.

4. Technology Priority Areas

NGIF Accelerator aims to advance leading clean technologies for natural production (upstream), transmission (midstream), distribution, and end-use applications (downstream). The Global Gas Innovation Call intends to accelerate cleantech technologies with near to mid-term market potential (less than 3 to 5 years) in the following three strategic categories: **Sustainable Energy Innovations Low-Emission Gas Innovations** and an **Open Category** for other impactful technologies relevant to the natural gas sector.

Each of the following sections outlines priority areas and a non-exhaustive list of relevant technology classes. Detailed target metrics, performance expectations, and additional requirements are provided in the **Challenge Statements**.

Proposed innovations do not need to meet the guiding criteria at the time of application; however, priority will be given to applicants who can demonstrate their current performance and articulate a clear plan to meet the target criteria through their proposed project activities.

4.3 Sustainable Energy Innovations

Technologies in this category aim to improve energy efficiency, enhance heating and cooling performance, optimize power generation, recover waste heat, and strengthen natural gas end-use system resiliency. These solutions should demonstrate measurable efficiency gains, reduced energy waste, improved operational performance, and/or economic benefits compared to conventional systems. The following subsections outline specific areas of interest.

Energy Efficiency (TRL 5+)

This subcategory includes transformative technologies that enhance process, equipment, or appliance efficiency across upstream, midstream, and downstream natural gas operations. Technologies may include but not limited to:

- Advanced materials and system designs
- Combustion optimization systems
- Monitoring, automation, and control technologies
- Process optimization and efficiency-enhancing equipment

Criteria and performance expectations are provided in the Challenge Statement document.

Waste Heat Utilization (TRL 5+)

Technologies that recover waste heat from low-grade heat sources for use in power generation, thermal applications, or other forms of energy recovery are of interest. Solutions may include but not limited to:

- Heat recovery from exhaust streams (e.g., compressor station exhaust)
- Systems that outperform traditional Organic Rankine Cycle (ORC) technology
- Technologies using working fluids with lower environmental impacts
- Solutions with fewer mechanical maintenance requirements or reduced turbine replacement needs

Innovations should demonstrate strong technical performance, modularity, and integration potential in natural gas operations. Detailed target KPIs are provided in the Challenge Statement document.

Natural Gas Heat Pumps (TRL 6+)

The Call seeks advanced natural gas–fueled heat pump technologies that can deliver heat and power without requiring additional equipment, while operating effectively in colder Canadian climates. Target design criteria include:

- Residential (≤ 25 kW) and commercial (50–100 kW) natural gas heat pump systems
- High coefficient of performance (COP > 1.3)
- Reliable operation in low ambient temperatures (targeting –40°C)
- Hybrid natural gas–electric systems and/or systems capable of operating with hydrogen/natural gas blends

Solutions should offer improved system efficiency, lower operating costs, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Further target criteria are detailed in the Challenge Statement for this technology class.

Heat, Cooling & Power Generation (TRL 5+)
This area focuses on emerging natural gas–based technologies that deliver higher performance, improved reliability, and enhanced economic value across the natural gas value chain.
Technologies of interest include:

- Expander Technologies (example: turbo expanders)
- Cogeneration and trigeneration systems
- Novel furnace and combustion systems
- Integrated heat. cooling and power generation units designed for higher efficiency and remote areas
- Cooling solutions for Data Centres
- Self-powered systems for gas-fired appliances, including fuel cells or microgeneration technologies

Technologies should demonstrate improved thermal efficiency, superior reliability, and cost competitiveness. Additional target metrics are outlined in the Challenge Statement document.

Natural Gas Resiliency of End-Use Residential Appliances (TRL 5+)
Technologies that strengthen the resiliency, reliability, and efficiency of natural gas end-use appliances or integrated natural gas–electric systems are of interest. Examples include:

- Systems that maintain performance during grid disturbances
- Hybrid energy systems that integrate electricity and natural gas
- Innovations that improve durability, reliability, or operational flexibility

Guidance for system resiliency targets can be found in the Challenge Statement document.

4.1 Low-Emission Gas Innovations

This category includes Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) and Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) technologies.

Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (TRL 7+)
Guiding criteria emphasize performance, cost efficiency, and environmental impact. Target criteria include:

- Performance 50% better than benchmark amine-based post-combustion systems
- CO_2 purity > 95%
- > 90% CO_2 capture rates (lower capture rates may be acceptable if significantly lower capital/operating costs are achieved)
- Minimal site footprint
- Seamless integration with existing natural gas operations

Target technologies include breakthrough capture solutions and business models for small to mid-sized natural gas point sources (1 to 1,000 tCO_2/day), including:

- Membrane or adsorption-based separation
- Cryogenic separation
- Oxy-fired systems
- CO_2 utilization for fuels, chemicals, or other value-added products

Exclusions:

- Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)
- Projects focused solely on sequestration
- Direct Air Capture (DAC)

Further CCUS performance targets are detailed in the Challenge Statement.

Renewable Natural Gas (TRL 5+)
Emerging RNG technologies aimed at achieving carbon neutrality in natural gas production, transmission, and distribution networks are of interest. Areas include:

- Disruptive RNG production or processing pathways (e.g., agricultural waste, organics, landfills, biosolids)
- Advanced anaerobic digestion
- Advanced gasification processes
- New compression and purification technologies to reduce production and upgrading cost

Additional KPIs and requirements are included in the Challenge Statement.

4.2 Open Category (TRL 6+)

This category welcomes innovative, high-impact cleantech solutions relevant to the natural gas industry that do not fall neatly within Categories 1 or 2. Technologies may include, but are not limited to:

- Water management solutions
- Pyrolysis technologies
- Multiphase leak detection for pipelines
- LNG technologies or related innovations
- Digital Solutions for the NG applications (AI & Software)

NGIF Accelerator encourages applicants to demonstrate the environmental and economic benefits of their solutions, the scalability of the technology, and its relevance to natural gas operations.

Applicants proposing methane detection, quantification, or mitigation technologies are encouraged to apply to the Methane Reduction Demonstration Program, which focuses specifically on high-impact methane solutions.

Further details and technology target key performance indicators are listed in the **Challenge Statement**.

Please note that the technology solutions of interest indicated in the Challenge Statement and above <u>are not limited to</u> the examples specified. If you are uncertain about your technology's suitability and relevance, please contact us at application@ngif.ca.

5. Stage of Development – Technology Readiness Level

This call for proposals seeks projects to advance technologies currently at the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) between 5 and 9. Only technologies with a minimum TRL 5 will be considered. For the purpose of this call for proposals, the TRL is defined as below:

- **Prototype Development (TRL 5):** At this stage of development, the technological components have been integrated, and the overall concept has been proven. Projects in this category include technology improvement, the development of an early prototype system, and prototype testing in a lab environment.
- **Prototype Testing in relevant environment (TRL 6):** At this stage of development, the technology is tested in a relevant environment. Projects in this category include testing a prototype integrated with existing systems, if applicable, in a simulated operational environment. Engineering feasibility is demonstrated.
- **Field Pilot (TRL 7):** At this stage of development, the technology is ready to be field tested in a controlled operational environment. Projects in this category include the scale up of prototypes to representative pilot scale demonstration and subsequent in-field demonstration testing of pilot units under controlled conditions.
- **Demonstration (TRL 8):** At this stage of development, the technology is approaching the final commercial product, and representative commercial-ready systems have been built. Projects in this category include a demonstration of near or fully commercial-scale systems in an operational environment to support ultimate full commercial, long-term operations.
- **Commercial Implementation (TRL 9):** At this stage, the technology is ready for commercial deployment. Projects in this category will involve the design, construction, and operation of the technology in its final commercial form, with the intent to operate the technology for its full commercial life.

6. Funding Terms & Eligibility

NGIF Accelerator funding is provided for the completion of a project with well-defined objectives, milestones, deliverables, and timelines. Applicants must delineate the scope of the project for which the funding is being requested. Any related work completed before the project term or concurrently

but outside the scope of the proposed project may be discussed in the proposal but should be clearly indicated as such.

6.1 Total Funds and Project Term

The Global Gas Innovation Call is **offering up to a total of $2MM (CAD) in grants** to support innovative cleantech technologies serving the natural gas value chain in Canada - production (upstream sector), transmission (mid-stream sector), and distribution and end-use applications (downstream sector).

6.2 Funds per Project

Eligible projects can apply for up to $500,000 (CAD) per project, representing 50% of the total project cost. Final approval of funding is made at the sole discretion of the NGIF Accelerator's Industry Grants program and the availability of funds.

6.3 Cost Sharing

The maximum contribution to a single project will be no more than **50%** of the project's eligible expenses, excluding in-kind contributions.

There must be a minimum contribution from the Applicant to the project-eligible cost in the form of cash, in-kind goods or services, or the combination thereof that demonstrates the capacity and financial commitment of the Applicant to their project.

For information about eligible expenses and costs, please refer to the NGIF Accelerator Industry Grants program's *Eligible Expenses and Cost Instructions* document.

Note: Applicants must justify the amount of funding requested. NGIF Accelerator may choose to award project funding for less than the requested amount at its sole discretion.

6.4 Project Term

A funded project can last up to **three (3) years** from the execution of the Contribution Agreement.

6.5 Project Financial Requirement

Upon successful selection after Stage 2, NGIF Accelerator will execute a Contribution Agreement with the Applicant once the Applicant demonstrates that the balance of project funds is committed and other conditions related to funding are fulfilled. The Applicant shall submit contribution agreements, financial statements, bank statements, and any other information requested by the

NGIF Accelerator to establish whether this balance funding is secured and whether other required conditions are met.

6.6 Project Partner Guidelines

The Applicant can partner with other organizations to carry out specific project activities in the manner and scope agreed upon between parties. In such a case, the applicant shall always be the lead partner. Partners can represent companies in the value chain of the technology to be developed and demonstrated.

Collaboration between multiple organizations is eligible and encouraged for this opportunity. Collaboration between partners can often represent a strong value proposition by demonstrating opportunities for technology validation, commercialization, and sharing of results. As such, involvement from industry members is highly encouraged to demonstrate market pull for proposed solutions. Applicants are encouraged to partner with academic and other research institutions where appropriate. These partnerships can offer significant benefits, including the attraction and training of highly skilled workers, increasing Canada's innovation capacity, engagement of the broader innovation ecosystem, and leveraging complementary resources. The ability to build effective and mutually beneficial relationships with Indigenous Peoples is considered an asset for project evaluations. Thus, NGIF Accelerator encourages projects led by or partnered with First Nations, Inuit, or Métis organizations or communities to apply.

6.7 Eligibility

The Global Gas Innovation Call is open to Canadian as well as international small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), including technology development start-ups. The following definitions are used to define SMEs and start-ups:

- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are non-subsidiary, independent technology development firms that employ fewer than 500 employees.
- Technology development start-ups are non-subsidiary, independent technology development firms that employ fewer than 100 employees, generate less than CAD $25 million in annual revenues, and are primarily focused on developing and scaling up pre-commercial technologies.

6.8 International Applicants

The NGIF Accelerator welcomes and encourages applications from innovators and entrepreneurs from all over the world who are developing clean technologies and have a solution that can be directed to the Canadian natural gas industry. By applying to this Call, international applications will have the opportunity to showcase their solutions to Canadian natural gas energy industry leaders

and potential customers and receive direct industry feedback, mentoring, and project funding support.

Through this Call, international applicants will be able to test, validate, and de-risk their technologies in Canada, which may include projects focused on demonstrating the effectiveness of the technology in the Canadian environment. International applicants without a prior presence in Canada must demonstrate how their proposed project, commercialization plan, and market strategy will lead to deploying solutions in Canada, especially in Alberta. It is not a requirement for any applicant to be a Canadian citizen or have offices in Canada to participate in this Call.

Exclusions: The NGIF Accelerator is currently not accepting applications from countries sanctioned by the Government of Canada *under the United Nations Act (UNA) and Special Economic Measures Act (SEMA)*. Applicants are requested to contact NGIF Accelerator if they plan to subcontract any portion of their work on their project to any countries on the list.

6.9 Project Location

Approved projects may carry out part of the technology de-risking efforts in any global location, though Canada is the preferred jurisdiction. Technology must be demonstrated in Canada. All projects that are directed at natural gas upstream operations must be demonstrated at a site owned by one of the following IG program industry participants:

- Arc Resources Limited
- Birchcliff Energy Limited
- Canadian Natural Resources Limited
- Tourmaline Oil Corporation

Applicants do not need to have identified a project location during Stage 1 (Intake phase) of the evaluation process. Discussions on the project location are introduced in Stage 2 (Evaluation phase) of the evaluation process by NGIF Accelerator. However, applicants are encouraged to establish relationships with potential demonstration sites and indicate their preference for a project partner in their application if one is available.

7. Funding Leverage through Trusted Partners

The NGIF Accelerator has working relationships with other federal and provincial funding organizations across Canada. In some cases, the NGIF Accelerator may be able to share Applicants' proposals with trusted partners and explore possibilities for leveraging funding available from these organizations. The NGIF Accelerator has a “Trusted Partnership” with the following organizations:

- Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)

- Emissions Reduction Alberta (ERA)
- Alberta Innovates (AI)
- Province of British Columbia Innovative Clean Energy ICE Fund (ICE Fund)
- Geoscience BC
- Innovation Saskatchewan
- Ontario Centre of Innovation

8. Submission Details

8.1 Submission Deadline

Applicants can submit an online application on a rolling basis. All applications must be submitted before the following deadlines to be considered for evaluation:

Submission Deadline: February 17th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST)

The online application portal can be accessed at the NGIF website here.

8.2 Submission Standards

Applicants shall submit a complete and comprehensive online application. As this is a competitive process, the quality of submission in terms of innovation, clarity, completeness, and relevance to the natural gas sector will be assessed. Applicants with incomplete and non-clear submissions will be rejected at the sole discretion of the NGIF Accelerator.

8.3 Timeline

The following timelines are anticipated on the funding Call. Note that IG program reserves the right to alter or cancel the currently anticipated process and deadlines.

Process Step	By Whom	Date
COHORT I		
Program launch	NGIF Accelerator	17th Dec, 2025
Informational webinar	NGIF Accelerator	8th, January 2026 29th, Jan 2026 19th Feb, 2026
Deadline: Expression of Interest applications due	**Applicant**	**17th Feb , 2026**

Application Notification for Accept/Non-Accept to progress to Stage 2	NGIF Accelerator	Mar, 2026
Deadline: Stage 2 full proposal submission	**Applicant**	**Apr, 2026**
Site Visits for successful Stage 2 applicants	NGIF Accelerator / Applicant	Apr, 2026
Stage 2 finalist selection	NGIF Accelerator	Jul, 2026
Funding decision announcements	NGIF Accelerator	Jul, 2026

9. Evaluation Framework

9.1 Project Screening

Applications for Stage 1 will be screened to ensure they meet the following factors:

- The project is innovative and advances beyond business as usual for the natural gas sector.
- The proposed technology development has sufficient potential for demonstration or deployment for application in Canada's natural gas sector.
- The Applicant meets the Program's eligibility criteria
- Sufficient information is provided for proper evaluation.
- The project's Technology Readiness Level (TRL) (beginning and end) is provided. Applicants are highly recommended to establish their technology's current TRL.
- The written application is comprehensible and provides a compelling case for the commercialization potential of the technology.

9.2 Project Evaluation – Intake Stage 1

Screened applications in Stage 1 will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Project objective and scope including: Technology innovation (scientific basis, intellectual property, and the unique value proposition compared to incumbent competing technologies).
2. Relevance to the natural gas value chain (value proposition for the end-user, environmental benefits, business case – economics of the technology and the addressable market).
3. Project work plan - a clear and appropriate work plan indicating how key technology development and commercialization success levers and constraints will be identified, prioritized, and addressed through the work plan.
4. Demonstration of the technology pathway to commercial deployment.
5. Project financing and budget (project funding and financial strength).
6. Management capability of the company and the project partners:

- Strong and relevant technical and commercial experience, a track record of attracting investors and strategic partners, managing projects of similar size and complexity.
- Robust project management team with all relevant project delivery resources and partners.

9.3 Evaluation Process and Next Steps

The NGIF Accelerator Industry Grants program follows a stage gated evaluation process to fast-track innovative technologies from pilot to commercial stage. The evaluation process entails an Intake Stage (Stage 1) where an Expression of Interest is submitted, followed by an Evaluation Stage (Stage 2) where a detailed Investment Proposal and an in-person Site Visit is conducted.

Applicants who are rated highly in Stage 1 Intake are determined to be of sufficient quality, and are well aligned with the Call's mandate will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application.

Further information regarding the Stage 2 submission, including evaluation criteria and timelines, will be made available at the time the Stage 2 invitations are made.

Note on Proposal Quality:

This is a highly competitive process, and not all projects will be short-listed for Stage 2. Success at Stage 1 depends on the quality of the application submitted. Only high-quality applications will be invited to submit Stage 2 proposals. In this regard, "quality" means both the quality of the proposed project relative to the evaluation criteria and the quality of the written proposal (clarity, completeness, etc.).

The following will also be reviewed when determining whether to approve the application for the next stage of evaluation:

- The rubric on the online application portal is followed.
- Complete information is provided as per this guidelines document.
- The project plan is comprehensively laid out in the online application.
- The cost and the budget for the project are outlined and justified.

10. Intellectual Property

Intellectual property will be addressed through the Contribution Agreement negotiated between NGIF Accelerator and the successful Applicant and will be specific to the circumstances of each project. However, a few general principles apply:

- Background IP (patents, copyright, software) and third-party technology remain with its original owner(s);

- All IP Rights in Project IP remains vested in the Applicant; and
- NGIF Accelerator retains non-exclusive use rights to the project research results, including, without limitation, the technical data, reports, analysis, and discussion.

11. Confidentiality

NGIF Accelerator shall keep confidential all information disclosed to them by the other party relating to this invitation or approved project, 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 by either party.
- either party is required to disclose pursuant to applicable Laws or by a Governmental Authority.
- can be demonstrated to have been known or available to either party or independently developed by either party.
- was received in good faith from an independent person who was lawfully in possession of such information free of any obligation of confidence; or
- is released in accordance with the provisions of the Industry Grants Program Contribution Agreement or by the written authorization of both parties.

12. Additional Information

For more information on NGIF Accelerator, the Industry Grants program or Global Gas Innovation Call, please visit ngif.ca. Questions for the Global Gas Innovation Call can be sent to application@ngif.ca.

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